

4-17-2000

Bard Free Press, Vol. 1, No. 3 (April 17, 2000)

Bard College

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/bardfreepress>

Recommended Citation

Bard College, "Bard Free Press, Vol. 1, No. 3 (April 17, 2000)" (2000). *Bard Free Press - All Issues (2000-2018)*. 3.

<https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/bardfreepress/3>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Bard Free Press, 2000-2018 at Bard Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Bard Free Press - All Issues (2000-2018) by an authorized administrator of Bard Digital Commons. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@bard.edu.



T H E B A R D FREE PRESS

An Official Student Publication of Bard College

Volume I Number 3

Monday, April 17 2000

Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

Taking Washington D.C. by Storm

Bard students join thousands in DC IMF-World Bank protest



Bring the Ruckus: Bard Students mix with the general DC protest

VINCENT VALDMANIS

WASHINGTON D.C. April 16 2000-

Thousands gathered in the nation's capitol to protest the policies of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund at the spring meeting of the two organizations yesterday. Activists from all over the world streamed into the city during the week to campaign against a global economic order they believe is unfairly structured. Culminating in a five hour march on the headquarters of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund, demonstrators -- the vast majority non-violent -- delivered their message resoundingly: issues of worker rights, environmental degradation, international debt, cultural preservation, and other implications

of global free trade need to be given as much thought as interest rates and currency valuations. Hardliners called for outright abolishment of the two institutions.

While earlier in the week groups such as The People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, which dumped four tons of manure in front of the World Bank, experienced the usual police scrutiny, the protests took a violent turn Sunday afternoon as police beat back crowds attempting to barricade the World Bank building. Police on motorcycles charged into a crowded park near the White House and another group was hit with pepper spray and tear gas.

As finance ministers from the G7 set of industrialized nations met with

Continued on page 4...



The Fuzz: Police look on. photos by Vincent Valdmanis

Changes Brewing in Student Gov't

The Central Committee's radical plan to expand student influence

KERRY CHANCE

At a meeting on Tuesday, April 11, the Student Government outlined extensive plans to expand the influence of student government and organizations, and redefine the relationship between students and administrators. The government raised concerns about Security, the Educational Policy Committee, the Student Judiciary Board, and, more generally, the power of student voices in major decision-making on campus.

The push for change was prompted in part by the nearing of graduation, as five out of the six members of the Central Committee are graduating

seniors. According to Planning Committee Chair Max Kenner, between the graduating class, and lack of experienced underclassman, the student government runs the risk of temporary dissolution, or at the least a reduction in the government's sphere of influence.

Of concerns internal and external to the government, Treasurer Brianna Norton said, "There has been very distinct changes made that do not necessarily give power to the students."

One such change is the shifting of Security positions, that the student government identifies as creating an uncomfortable and ever widening rift between the Bard community and Security. As Norton said, "Historically speaking, security on this campus were people that students knew. [The security officers] were aware of Bard culture, and were not outside members of the community." According to Norton, the problem stems from the recent hiring of local police officers, and others from neighboring communities as a result of the high rate of turnovers.

Vice President Jim Brudvig said, "The turnovers were mainly during

the 11 PM to 7 AM shift. Its a difficult time to work." The Security Office is having difficulties recruiting for that shift, "because people are able to find jobs where they don't have to work during those late hours." Aggravating the situation, according to Norton, is the demotion of former Head Guard Max Dube. Head of Security, Bob Brock has consequently been charged with racial discrimination. In Dube's new position, he no longer trains the incoming security guards. Now, Norton said, "[Officers] are not being trained by an insider...Outsiders are training outsiders."

According to the government, the Security Officers have a different attitude toward students. They claim that some treat students like "children" rather than respecting them as adults. But Norton points out that the problems with the attitude is not necessarily "in terms of leniency but in terms of respect."

The government also criticized a lack of student power in tenure and hiring decisions. The Educational Policies Committee (EPC) is a central part of the student government that

continued on page 2...

John Turturro Reads at Bard

JONAH WEINER

This past Friday, the Italian Studies Program at Bard brought actors John Turturro and Katherine Borowitz to Olin Auditorium for "An Evening of Story Telling." The event, which followed an earlier screening and discussion at Upstate Theaters of Turturro's 1997 film *Illuminata*, drew on the short works of Italo Calvino, Primo Levi, and John Fante.

Starting the event was Italo Calvino's "Cico Petrillo." A simple, clever story, taken from the author's *Italian Folktales* and approached lightheartedly by Turturro and Borowitz, the piece set the tone of the evening. Characteristic of Calvino's writing in its surreality, "Cico Petrillo"'s comical aspects were brought to the fore by the performers, who played the roles with the spirit and sense of humor of animated characters.

This spirit was no less present in the next selection, another Calvino story entitled "Conscience," and was maintained through most of the night. Turturro, reading the role of Luigi in "Conscience," laid it on delightfully

continued on page 5...

TO THE COMMUNITY:
The Bard Free Press would like to express our condolences to the family and friends of Bard Senior Nick Gagne. Due to the delicacy of the situation, and out of respect for those close to Nick, we chose not to print an article. We send our support to the community, and hope that everyone is finding the help they need in this difficult time for all of us.

Inside this Issue of the Free Press...



exclusive IMF coverage pages 1,3,4,9



john turturro reviewed pages 1,5



arson in the old gym page 11



famous artist jim shaw back page

Breaking News: Student Gov't launches plan to expand student rights on campus. pages 1,2,6,7

Bard Establishes Joint Masters Program in Budapest

LYDIA WILLOUGHBY

Bard College has recently united with the Central European University (CEU) in an undergraduate exchange program. Central European University is one of the few schools in Central and Eastern Europe to offer a liberal arts program within a university setting. It features an open environment for learning within a former communist country. CEU's main campus is located in Budapest, Hungary, and there is a second campus in Warsaw, Poland. The main function, of course, of the University is to educate its students, however the CEU also attempts to, "service the region" by reaching out to the surrounding communities, do not have access to universities with a wide ranging liberal arts curriculum.

CEU staffs over 60 professors from 26 different countries. Students at CEU come from 40 different nations, including all 27 post-communist nations in Eastern and Central Europe. Students hail from many countries outside central Europe as well. There are students from Asia, the former USSR, western Europe, and a small percentage from North America. This program will certainly increase the number of North Americans at the Budapest campus. The countries with the largest percentages of students at CEU include Hungary and Russia, with 15% of the student population coming from each of these nations, respectively.

Bard will be a host to all other

Students' Rights continued...

continued from page 1

provides input on whether or not a professor should be rehired or given tenure. While at most colleges and universities students have no voice in the process of hiring, members of government are concerned that the influence students are guaranteed by the Bard Constitution is not being honored by administrators. Chair of the EPC, Anu Kumar said of the Committee, "Ideally, [students] should have a lot of power on this campus. As it stands now, they do not."

The student government intends to continue its efforts throughout this semester, and under a new government next year. For some of the changes they are working with administrators, though many members of the student government are wary of the "large middle administration". Of the government's work Dean of Student's Erin Cannan said, "I think they have a lot of really great ideas, and some of them can be easily implemented."

The student government hopes that the sum of these changes will maintain, "separate power from the administration" as well as more power in campus life. As Kenner said, "Traditionally Bard students have had a tremendous power in day to day activities...We are trying to speak to younger students and make them

North American schools and students who would like to study at CEU. This means that, though the students may be attending any school, their transcripts will be from Bard. Bard will also be in charge of advertising and recruiting North American students for this new exchange program. The program itself will begin in spring of '01. Dean of Studies Jonathan Becker, who formally worked at CEU, said of the union, "Bard's reputation and expertise in recruiting students will be beneficial to both institutions." Further, President Leon Botstein is a member of the CEU's Board of Trustees.

Another aspect, which may be beneficial to both Bard and any students going through Bard to CEU, is the University's connection to the Open Society. The Open Society is a philanthropic organization in Budapest that focuses its energies on exploring relevant social issues in Central and Eastern Europe. Recently, this organization has explored women's and gypsy rights. Students may work in

conjunction with the Open Society and the university.

CEU also has a master's program which grants successful undergraduate university students automatic admittance. The M.A. program at CEU includes economics, comparative constitutional law, political science, environmental science and policy, international relations, and European studies. Most of the students enrolled in the graduate school at CEU are involved in the master's program, but the more newly formed doctoral program has increased its enrollment by a third in the last 3 years, from 430 in 1997, to 630 in 1999. The doctoral program began in 1997 and includes history, international business law, medieval studies, and sociology.

Becker stated that there is "real support among Bard faculty" for this upcoming undergraduate exchange program. He feels that this is just "another opportunity for Bard students to enhance their education."

Future Professor Speaks on Humanitarian Aid

RAFI ROM

Political Science professors James Chace and Sanjib Baruah will both be on leave next year, so Bard College has invited David Rieff, a journalist turned academic, to teach two courses on his findings in third world countries. One course-"Humanitarianism and it's Discontents"-was outlined in a forum last Wednesday.

David Rieff, dressed in a black leather jacket and tie, opened his speech saying, "The one thing I've prided myself on is not writing about places I haven't been to, and not get-

ting caught up in abstract thoughts." He backed all his statements with examples from the war zones he covered as a journalist, including areas of sub-Saharan Africa and Kosovo.

Rieff tracked the way in which third world countries have seen less and less capital entering their economies. For instance, Africa gets one percent of all the capital in the world. These areas were greatly affected by wars incited by western governments. "If you were in Europe [during the Cold War] it looked cold, but if you were in the

continued on Page 5...

Dorms Under Construction on Main Campus

LYDIA WILLOUGHBY
KERRY CHANCE

Bard often looks more like a construction site than a college, and this semester is no exception. As the new Crueger dorm neared completion, a site was located for six new Toasters that would stand in front of the Ravines and Trailers, completing a quadrangle with the student center, Tewksbury, and the old trailers.

On April 15th, a naming ceremony was held at the construction site to commemorate the naming of these new buildings. One building will be named in honor of alumnus Sidney Shelov, and the others will carry the names of the Ravine Houses, which were named for admired professors at Bard (including Bleucher, Bourne, Leonard, Obreshkove, and Wolff). The new dorm is expected to be finished for the Spring semester of 2001.

Together the buildings will form an "S" shape, and as architect Robert Siegel said, "act as a filter between main campus and the woods [behind

the Ravines]." In their design, they tried to maximize the intimacy and community, for which the Ravines and Toasters are known. The architects also took into consideration comments and critiques from Peer Counselors. Each of the buildings will have living rooms and trellises that face the quadrangle.

Though there has been concern about the growth of the student population, these housing projects are intended as replacements for old dorms, rather than as preparation for a larger student body. According to Dean Levine, the College is growing slightly but only because more students are attending Bard, not because admissions is accepting more students. The new dorms will absorb the number of students formerly living in the Ravines and Albee. According to Vice President Jim Brudvig, only 80 more beds will be created as a result of the construction, and "part of those 80 will hopefully attract off campus students."

In addition to the new Toasters, a

Bard Faculty Undergoing Renovation

LUKE COHEN

Bard College is known for its small classes and opportunities for student-teacher interaction. As Bard gradually gains popularity among applying freshman, thus having to deal with the possibility of expansion, the college is working to maintain these aspects of the school. 1250 students are expected to attend Bard next semester, given Bard's consistent growth in the past years, much has been done to maintain the standards of a Bard education.

While Bard has always tried to facilitate a balance between the influx of students and teachers to accommodate them, as of late academic departments are making many changes to the faculty. Over fifteen departments have set up search committees to hire new professors. Some of these positions have been created to accommodate for increased interest in the college amongst applicants. On these matters Dean Stuart Levine commented, "We have more applications than ever. Highest number of applications Bard College has ever had. Most schools, including Bard, are getting harder to get into, therefore when you accept a student the likelihood of their coming is higher. We have tried to regulate it to be a school of about 1200 students. In order to accommodate that you need a few more faculty."

The growing notoriety of Bard is not the only reason for these changes. Many of these developments have come in response to the number of teachers who will not be in attendance in the next semesters. The *continued on Page 5...*

site has just been selected for the construction of three small houses, and one larger house between the Tennis Courts and Crueger Village. The smaller buildings will be apartment style and will house 16 students each. The larger building will house 30 students. The plans, however, are still in the design phase and administrators hope for student feedback about the plans as they develop. The construction begins in the Fall 2000, and the dorm is expected to be opened to students in the Fall of 2001. "I think it will be a vast improvement," said Brudvig.

Because of zoning costs, the Ravines will not be used as offices, and due to renovation expenses, will probably not be used as dorms again either. The phasing out of the Ravines is expected to be complete by January of 2001. Albee will also be replaced and used as a science building, possibly by the Spring of 2001. Manor and Robbins will also undergo renovations in the next few years.



Word on the Street: Protestor chalks anti-IMF slogans in today's DC rally.

National News Analysis: IMF Controversy Explained

JOSH MILLER

Supporters of the IMF like to emphasize what bad shape the world was in before the Fund began operation. Considering the fact that it set up shop in 1946, one has to admit they have a point. The two bloodiest wars in history had bookended a devastating depression, and there is every reason to believe the political breakdown was related to an economic one. In the wake of these events, the United States found itself in a unique position; mostly unruffled by its efforts on behalf of the Allies, it was the only nation in a position to rebuild Europe and to guard against the rekindling of hostilities. The initial idea was to repair and stabilize the fragile economies of Europe by fixing the structural problem that was barring international trade: the incommensurability of currencies and the lack of faith in paper money. In order to change this, every currency was pegged to the US dollar at a standard exchange rate, and the US agreed to exchange dollars for gold at \$35 dollars an ounce. This created the necessary confidence to bolster global trade, since it meant that, in principle at least, any piece of paper currency could be exchanged for gold. And, it was reasoned, creating interdependency amongst nations by integrating their economies into the world system would prevent any military or political activity that might put them at odds. The logic of such "economic statecraft" is that war is an extension of politics, which is in turn directed by economics.

The IMF maintains that its role in global trade is primarily to "coordinate efforts to achieve greater cooperation in the formulation of economic policies." However, its current image problem stems from a function that, though perhaps not primary, gets all the press. This is its role as "lender of last resort." When a country is in very deep trouble, such as Mexico in 1994 or Thailand in 1998, the IMF can provide billions of dollars in loans to save these countries from economic collapse. But these loans come with conditions since the IMF is not an aid institution. In order to ensure the repayment of loans, the IMF demands that reforms be made, that the borrowing nation "reduce government expen-

diture, tighten monetary policy, and deal with certain 'structural' weaknesses." These reforms are called structural adjustment programs (SAPs), and though they vary from country to country, the emphasis is always on dealing with the "structural" problems that necessitated the loan in the first place: typically "overspending" on social services. "Severely and adversely affected" by SAPs are "women, youths, the disabled, and the aged," points out the UN Report on Human Development.

Criticism of the IMF comes in two flavors. The moderate critique is that SAPs, combined with crushing debt, have put some countries in such dire straits that they will never buy themselves out of something strangely akin to permanent indentured servitude. A large majority of these countries are in sub-Saharan Africa, a situation with unsettling symmetry to the outright slavery of colonialism. Usually, however, this is seen as the wholly unintended consequence of shortsighted planning and the unpredictable character of markets. The more radical critique sees the IMF as an important mechanism in the world capitalist system, an order that treats Africa, Central America, and South America especially like a sort of global working class to be oppressed and exploited. The complicated economic language of the IMF is seen as an ideological mystification used to obscure both the true situation and the ultimate solution: global worker solidarity and resistance. Depending on who is wielding it, this critique may or may not involve a conspiracy of the world's elites. This critique of the IMF goes hand in glove with a critical view of capitalism, meaning its proponents tend to be Marxists, anarchists, and primitivists. The first criticism, on the other hand, has been leveled by just about everyone on the left, though they can't agree on a fix.

Protesters in Washington D.C. are from both camps, though the second group gets more attention. The protest's ultimate success or failure, however, depends entirely on its ability not just to make the public listen, but to convince the experts that they have something reasonable to say.



Where is the Capitol Be At?: Protesters march in Washington.

Turning Point Reached in Microsoft Antitrust Case

BRYAN GUNDERSON

The Microsoft antitrust case has revolved around the inclusion of the Explorer web browser in Windows 2000. The prosecution charges that because the browser is part of the Windows operating system itself, it discourages the use of Microsoft's rival, Netscape. Although this assumption is central to the case and has fueled Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson's recent decision against Microsoft, controversy remains. Netscape, now owned by America Online, still has a 29% stake of the browser market, a fact that casts doubt on the nature of Microsoft's monopoly.

Nevertheless, on April 3rd Judge Jackson ruled that Microsoft engaged in "exclusionary, anticompetitive and predatory acts to maintain its monopoly power." Later in the ruling, Judge Jackson said that Microsoft had its "oppressive thumb on the scale of competitive fortune." Hours after the decision, Microsoft stock began to plummet. By the following day, Bill Gates was short \$12 billion dollars and had lost 15% of his shareholders.

Still optimistic, Bill Gates and CEO Steve Ballmer immediately decided to take the case to the court of appeals. But this optimism is by no means infallible; Jackson's decision is a pivotal point in the growth or deterioration of the software giant. If decisions in the court of appeals prove as dreary as Jackson's, a 15% stock drop may just be the beginning.

Nonetheless, few legal analysts think that interim remedies will be imposed before the case is completed. Most likely the consequences facing Microsoft will not surface until after the court of appeals process is over, which, much to Microsoft's advantage, can be drawn out as long as needed. This means Microsoft remains virtually undaunted and will continue business as usual, at least for the foreseeable future.

Although Microsoft may be free from any legally mandated reform for a while, it still has to worry about its competition, which has seen the Jackson decision as an opportunity to restart the dormant browser battles. AOL just introduced a new version of Netscape Navigator, while Sony will introduce its new Playstation 2 this fall (it will still play Playstation 1 games), and Sun Microsystems is planning to combine the Jini and Java computer languages to create an operating system that could make Windows obsolete.

Microsoft is fighting back.

Hardly worried by Sun Microsystems because of its hegemonic dominance of the operating system market (and the pending introduction of Windows Millennium Edition), Microsoft will soon introduce the X-Box, set to arrive around the same time as the Playstation 2 and meant to compete against the Nintendo, Sega, and Sony systems. Microsoft will also introduce a new palm computer operating system in an attempt to knock out 3Com and other major contenders. But Bill Gates' biggest development is what he calls "the next generation of Internet."

Microsoft intends to refocus the entire company on this next generation, which could either be the ace in Bill Gates' sleeve or a permanent hole in his pocket. The current outline for the program is called "Next Generation Windows Services." The emphasis will be on service. Currently the Internet is comparable to a never-ending magazine in pixel form; essentially, it just displays text and pictures on a page with little opportunity for the user to do much with it. Gates' idea is to make the Internet more interactive. Users will be able to manipulate information and use it to their benefit.

This new way of using the Internet is made possible by the recent surge in web pages made with XML, the new industry standard that Bill Gates believes has potential for huge development. The user would have a small database stored in the depths of his computer, which in turn would be connect to a larger web database, forming a system that would be integrated into everyday life. For example, a user could have dinner reservations at a three star restaurant for Friday, but on Wednesday his stocks skyrocket and the dinner reservations are automatically changed to the five star place uptown. Or, if the price went up on an American Airlines ticket the user's computer would automatically switch the flight to Delta. The possibilities are limitless.

Microsoft has not lost faith in its profitability and its extensive customer base, and its momentum continues to push on like a freight train. Nonetheless, Microsoft still wants to mollify any legal charges in the future. To this end, it hired Ralph Reed, a senior consultant for George W. Bush and former head of the Christian Coalition of America, to lobby Bush in opposition of the antitrust case. Microsoft hopes that if Bush gets elected he will be able to soften the blow for Microsoft, so it is in the company's interest that Bush win.

*** ATTEND THE FORUM ***

EMERGENCY DISCUSSION OF:

- THE DECREASE OF STUDENT-RUN SPACE
- STUDENT AUTONOMY FROM THE ADMINISTRATION
- STUDENT VOICE IN TENURE AND HIRING DECISIONS
- THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SECURITY AND THE STUDENT BODY

MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT REGARDING UPCOMING STUDENT ACTION TO PRESERVE OUR SPACE, OUR STUDENT GOVERNMENT, AND OUR FREEDOMS ON OUR CAMPUS

WEDNESDAY, 4.19.00, 7:30 KLINE

Thousands Descend on Capitol for Two Day IMF Protest

continued from page 1...

the IMF and World Bank in Washington, the Group of 77 - the G7's counterpart representing 77 underdeveloped countries and 80 percent of the world's population - endorsed the demonstrations as it convened at a summit in Havana. Protesters charge the IMF and World Bank have developed a modern day form of colonialism through structural adjustment programs (SAPs) that demand the elimination of subsidized programs, the devaluation of national currencies, and the privatization of state assets. These policies, generally implemented in underdeveloped countries, are seen by protesters as reducing a nation's autonomy and creating a system dependent on the will of wealthy nations.

Ali Muhammad, among the few who kept their downtown businesses open during the protests, echoed the sentiment of many when he blamed the IMF for the disparities of wealth in his native Saudi Arabia: "When you go in the Middle East or Africa or in a poor country, you find the truth there. You find people suffer a lot; there are two kinds of people: rich people who collect money from the government, and poor people who have nothing." The bank and fund counter by stressing the need for global institutions aimed at reducing poverty, a mission both organizations declare they are committed to. The World Bank reported in an April 15th press release that it had received "a boost from a coalition of 22 aid agencies" in a letter that applauded "recent efforts to make



Rumble on the streets: IMF protestors run into a wall of riot police.

the alleviation of poverty a priority." With the vehemence of the protests in Seattle still fresh in everyone's minds, the D.C. police turned out in force, arresting 600 people six blocks from the White House on Saturday evening. The police, clad in riot gear and backed by hovering helicopters and armored vehicles, herded the crowd (which included bystanders and a photographer from the Washington Post) into buses. Tourists and protesters reported the police did not order the gathering to disperse and even blocked the crowd from escaping, despite D.C. Police Chief Charles Ramsey's claim that "They had been given several opportunities [to leave]."

The warehouse serving as the demonstration's headquarters was raided the same day by fire marshals

and police who charged the building violated fire codes. Later, police marked a 50 block area off-limits and erected metal fences in advance of the large crowds on Sunday. Skepticism ran high among protesters, who felt these were preemptive steps to disband them in advance of the expected large turnout on Sunday. "Clearly it was an attempt at trying to disrupt our organizing," said Andy Major, a demonstrator from Syracuse, NY. Though individual police officers refused comment, spokesmen for D.C. officials stressed at a news conference they were concerned for the safety of the 200 people inside the headquarters and worried that bomb-making materials may have been present.

Bard students could be seen throughout downtown picketing in

both the "legal protest" groups and doing civil disobedience. First year student Ben Dangle, who drove a van load of "direct action" demonstrators to the World Bank building at sunrise on Sunday, described the scene as "Scary at times because there's police everywhere, but on the other hand it's great to see so many people out here." Brian Yanity, also a first year, said, "It kind of feels like a big state fair," referring to the giant puppets demonstrators paraded through the streets and the numerous troupes of dancing musicians. The weekend capped many days of on-campus organizing, from preparing medical kits to collecting food and arranging transportation.

The protests did not shut down the meetings of the World Bank and IMF, as many demonstrators had hoped would happen. Ministers from France, Brazil and Thailand, however, were stuck at the Watergate hotel for hours while buses to the official meetings never arrived to pick them up. Major was optimistic that change will come. "It appears that we've had some success at shutting down - or at a minimum, disrupting - the IMF meeting today," he said. Already some demands of demonstrators are being considered. Debt relief for impoverished nations has become a priority, while the World Bank and IMF announced last week they intend to better monitor the global economy to head-off economic crises in the future. At the very least, the two institutions now understand they must closely examine the effects of their policies and respond more closely to the pressures of the public.

Two Prominent State Officials Visit Bard for Discussion of Student Voting Rights

RAFI ROM

As the ongoing battle for student's voting rights continues, two prominent state officials visited Bard to state their positions on the issue. David Gamache, the recently elected Elections Chairman, and State Senator Stephen Saland addressed students at two separate events during the day.

On Friday Morning, Gamache met with SAVE officer Monica Elkinton and the *Bard Free Press*. He pledged his commitment to student voting rights, saying, "There will be no blanket explanation with students. There are certain laws that have to be followed to register. If you meet the qualifications, you will be allowed to vote." The five criteria in order to vote are that one has to be a resident for 30 days, not in jail, over 18, not registered in another county, and citizen of the US.

Gamache also promised that he would not send the same lengthy questionnaire to all students. "Questionnaires are constitutionally allowed. [Paroli's] questionnaire will no longer be used. It's much too invasive. I'm not going to say that there will never be a questionnaire, but it won't be discriminating. I found the last questionnaire offen-

sive."

Elkinton informed Gamache that SAVE would continue to pursue their lawsuit, despite his promise to cease discrimination against students. According to Elkinton, this is to insure that there will never be any discrimination again in Dutchess County's election board, under any commissioners.

"Who are you suing, me?", Gamache responded with a laugh. "If you want to serve [Paroli] you'll need to soon," alluding to Paroli's expected conviction to one count of extortion.

Gamache is not alone in the registration process. The Democratic Elections Commissioner, William Egan, has already said he thinks students should have the right to vote. According to Gamache, "There hasn't been any type of agreement. This is my first week and there hasn't been a lot of discussion. We'll have further discussion, but I think we're basically on the same page."

Gamache's road to the Elections Board was not easy. It took three closed ballots to secure the nomination as Elections Commissioner. And William R. Steinhaus, the Republican County Executive in Dutchess County, was ardently opposed to Gamache, calling him a tool of the

Paroli faction.

"That was all part of an attempt to block me from being a commissioner," Gamache said. "I was never part of the Paroli machine." As proof, Gamache pointed out that when William Paroli Jr. was up for town clerk, he nominated someone else.

Gamache repeatedly stressed his willingness to come to Bard on several occasions. When Dean of

Studies Jonathan Becker invited Gamache to come to Bard to over see voter registration on the first day of school,

Gamache said, "I think the commissioner has to be tied to the public...anytime you want me I'm here. I'll be there for any group that wants to talk to me."

Later that day Republican State Senator Saland, of District 41, spoke in the Kline Committee room on his role as Senator, and his views on hate crimes and student voting rights. His views sparked an unusually controversial discourse between him and the students present.

Saland does not support the pending hate crime legislation in the State

Senate. "I find it hard to differentiate crimes and 'hate crimes.' All crimes of the same stature should be treated equally. I honestly don't believe people should be treated differently based on victimization."

Yet his blunt rejection of introducing legislation in the Senate to guarantee student-voting rights caused all present to voice their disagree with him.

"IF YOU MEET THE QUALIFICATIONS, YOU WILL BE ALLOWED TO VOTE" -GAMACHE

Although he thinks the "Elections Commissioner should adapt a more even handed approach," he felt that introducing such legislation

would be impossible and would only further muddle New York State's rules on registration.

Without any political lingo, he stated his stance was that this is a non-issue in the political world. "I don't think your presence in this town will swing the election," he said.

These two events mark the beginning of a series of forums designed to bring political issues to Bard. Administrators, faculty, and students are all working to make sure that the upcoming election year will not be ignored on Bard's campus.

John Turturro and Katherine Borowitz Read at Bard

Short Stories of Calvino, Levi, and Fante are Brought to Life on Olin Stage

...continued from page 1

thick, his reading complete with the booming, accented speech and dramatic gesture of a Scorsese gangster caricature. This is not to suggest at all, though, that Turturro's performance was without depth and range of emotion. In "Conscience" we follow Luigi as he enlists in the army just so he can kill Alberto, a man who we know only as having betrayed him. Forced to fight others by his superiors ("You do not join the army just to kill one man"), Luigi kills and kills, hoping to stumble on his enemy. Rewarded for this military 'success', Luigi finally finds Alberto, kills him, and is ironically tried and hanged for murder. At this point the overtly comical spirit of "Conscience" dropped away suddenly, and the audience was left to hang on the story's powerful last words, delivered by Turturro, that Luigi *had* to kill Alberto because "He wanted to settle his conscience."

This approach of capitalizing on the comic aspect and, while doing so, heightening the serious emotional undercurrent also integral to the works—persisted throughout the night, and was especially moving in the readings of Fante's "A Kidnapping in the Family," Levi's "A Monkey's Wrench," and Calvino's "Winter 4.

Future Professor Speaks at Bard

Continued from page 2...

third world it didn't look cold at all. It looked like a war."

Rieff traces the gradual change from political action towards alleviation to contemporary media, which he calls "the CNN effect." Sound bytes and sharp images dominate the present media, with the stereotypical "disaster pornography of the starving African child" capturing the attention of the world. "The language of humanitarianism evolved from natural disasters, where it is appropriate to speak in the language of victims, the impersonal, patronizing way."

"The UN is now a giant alleviation machine. There is a sense of needing to get the starving images of these babies off the front pages, and humanitarianism can do that.

Present humanitarian crises are not easily solved by aid. There are no humanitarian solutions to humanitarian crises. There are only political solutions."

Rieff feels that humanitarian aid lengthens global crises. Moreover, it diverts attention from the political conflict that caused the problem. For instance, when thousands died of starvation in Ethiopia, it was deemed a natural disaster. "You had rock stars all over the planet linked up by video communications, all 'Live Aid'. What they were doing was covering up the traces of this mammoth crime of social engineering."

Rieff repeatedly stated that he is



Capeesh? Borowitz (left) and Turturro in a still from *Illuminata*

The City Lost in the Snow." In the former a mother, defeated by her domesticated life as a homemaker, is subjected to the overimagination of her adolescent son, who insists on there being some fantastic adventure hidden in her past. Accommodating his imaginings, she goes along with all of her son's wild suggestions (that his father kidnapped her against her will, that the story of their courting was one of intrigue and excitement). The split between the son's cartoonish delight and the reality of his mother's circumstance was powerfully captured as the story ended with the image of tears on the mother's cheeks.

In Calvino's "Winter 4. The City Lost in the Snow," Marcovaldo is buried in falling snow in a courtyard and mistaken by children for a snowman. When he sneezes the spell is broken and all of the snow, magically,

not against humanitarian aid. He sees it as a Catch 22 situation: saving immediate lives yet prolonging wars and covering up war crimes. If humanitarians did "not raise a lot of money, more would have died."

He ended his forum with a question and answer session, explaining his positions on various solutions offered by the crowd. When one student said more regulation in foreign countries would alleviate the arms problem, Rieff said, "border controls, satellites, and other regulations, your talking the USA imposing this arms embargo. I'm not sure this would be even worse. I'm not so sure we should be in it, much as were we already...be careful how much outsiders can do."

Rieff is the author of several books, including "The Killing Fields," on the Bosnian Crisis. He has previously taught at Skidmore College and CUNY. As a freelance journalist, he has been published in a countless number of newspapers, magazines, and journals. Rieff will also be teaching a course titled "The Rise and Fall of Development."

not against humanitarian aid. He sees it as a Catch 22 situation: saving immediate lives yet prolonging wars and covering up war crimes. If humanitarians did "not raise a lot of money, more would have died."

flies away, leaving the courtyard's architecture bare, "sharp and hostile." The city, with its harsh lines of demarcation, has reasserted itself oppressively around Marcovaldo: the comic has again been made subordinate to an almost tragic resolution.

Speaking of the actors themselves, Turturro gave an marvelously expressive performance, his speech shifting from second to second as he assumed the voices of narrators, Italian toughs, and even an old Italian matriarch. His limbs came alive as well—when describing a car crash in "A Monkey's Wrench," Turturro's forearm pivoted on his elbow like a swishing windshield wiper. When he described the tilting over of an oil derrick above water, his whole body tilted too.

Katherine Borowitz, certainly a talented actor, was less successful in entering into the texts. While this did not so much harm her collaborations with Turturro (in these readings Borowitz was often cast as a sort of 'straight man') it detracted notably from the power of "The Flash," a short Calvino story about a character's dramatic but ephemeral encounter with a burst of consciousness that Borowitz

read on her own.

Interestingly, both the event at Olin and at Upstate, made possible by a grant given to the Italian Studies Program, came about as result of a friendship between Turturro and Bard literature professor William Weaver-Illuminata was influenced greatly, in fact, by Weaver's own work as a well-known translator and biographer of Italian authors.



Man of Many Faces: The versatile John Turturro

Search Committees Continue at Bard

Continued from page 2...

coming year shows a number of teachers who will be either on sabbatical or on leave for research fellowships. This has opened up slots for many visiting professors who will be filling temporary positions. Of the fluctuation of the Bard faculty, Philosophy Professor and Chair of the Social Studies Division, Garry Hagberg noted positively of that these give, "an opportunity for students to hear a new voice." The Philosophy Department is one that will be effected by such diversification, as professor Hagberg will be on leave for sabbatical for the upcoming semester as will professor William Griffith for the following. Likewise the Anthropology department will be needing temporary assistance as professor Michele Dominy joins the many other professors on sabbatical in the upcoming year.

Permanent changes are also being undergone. This semester will be the last for some of Bard's most appreciated staff. Of those leaving, John

Fout of the European History Department will be retiring, and Eric Orlin of Classical Studies will be leaving for University of Puget Sound, Tacoma Washington. Such changes have opened up stable positions, as some of those hired in the next year are eligible for tenure-track positions. Of other permanent additions Dean Levine has mentioned that the college is considering the founding of European Political Studies, a branch of study now overlooked by the Bard curriculum.

In the course of the next few years, Bard will see many additions and losses to the faculty. Even though some may be only temporary these changes have been already apparent. To this Dean Stuart Levine reassures us that Bard is still the "Same old school that I have been at for a long time, maybe a little bit larger, maybe a little bit more selective in the incoming class; more selective simply as a result of wanting to stay the same size."



THE ATTICA REBELLION

A look back and discussion of America's prisons

Frank "Big Black" Smith

-Attica Brother, Rebellion Leader, para-legal investigator

Eddie Ellis

-ex-Panther, Attica inmate, President of Harlem's Community Justice Center

Edward Kimanthi Dengele

-Attica Brother

Elizabeth Fink

-Attorney, Attica Brothers' Legal Defense

Tuesday, April 18 // Olin LC 115 // Free & Open to all

Letters to the Editor: A Debate Over Student's Rights

Performance of Dean of Students is Unsatisfactory

Dear Bard Community,

My name is Emily Liechty and last year I was elected by the student body as the chairperson of the Student Judiciary Board (SJB). A part of my duties as chairperson is to keep the Bard community aware of SJB decisions. This year only one case has come before the board and I am deeply concerned about its outcome. Because of Erin Cannan's inaction and disregard for student government, the rights of every Bard student have been violated.

After a series of meetings at the end of last semester, the SJB came to a decision concerning the case before us and what sanctions were appropriate. First we decided, because of the wishes of the students involved, to not hold an official hearing, instead we worked with written statements from the students involved to come to a decision concerning sanctions. The Dean of Students was part of this decision and it was decided that Erin Cannan would be in charge of implementing the sanctions and overseeing their outcome.

The SJB decided, in part, that a mediation between the parties involved would be a valuable and appropriate step and thus specified its completion as one of the sanctions in a letter that was sent to all parties involved. Erin Cannan and I were to direct the mediation. Erin was to talk with the students involved and arrange a time for this mediation. I met with Erin on February 23rd to check on the status of this case and

she told me that the students had been contacted concerning the other sanctions but she had never gotten around to scheduling the mediation and at this point she thought that too much time had passed for it to still be effective. I acknowledged that at this point the mediation did seem pointless, but I was upset about the lack of follow through. When I asked what I should tell the other members of the SJB about this decision, she pointed out that the SJB sanctions were recommendations, she did not have to implement them.

In this matter I freely admit that I could have done more. I should have made sure that Erin had scheduled the mediation before it was too late for it to be effective. I should have also contacted the Bard community as soon as Erin decided to not follow through on the mediation. There is no excuse for my inaction. But more importantly, I feel that Erin Cannan failed in her job as Dean of Students when she did not schedule the mediation.

In the *Student Handbook* (page 52 section 2. (g)) it states: "Sanctions shall be enforced by the appropriate authority. The SJB shall ensure the details of the sanctions are communicated to the appropriate bodies and shall monitor the enforcement of the sanctions." As the Dean of Students member of the SJB, Erin Cannan's responsibility (as specifically outlined to the SJB during our training and implied by the handbook) is the enforcement of sanctions. By forget-

ting to schedule the recommended mediation, Erin Cannan fell greatly short of her duties as Dean of Students. I also feel that it is wrong and arrogant of her to state that she has the power to decide which SJB sanctions will be implemented. The SJB is a group of Bard students, professors, and administrators whose purpose is to "enforce, protect and, preserve, within the limits of its jurisdiction, the rights of all Bard students" and requiring the attendance at a mediation was well within our jurisdiction.

The whole point of the SJB is that we are an alternative to the Dean of Students office; not a single administrator making a decision but representatives of the Bard community coming to a mutual decision about sanctions.

I find it laughable that Bard Administrators lament the lack of student involvement on campus. The members of the SJB are deeply involved. They spent a considerable amount of time at the end of last semester demonstrating their commitment to student government, community based justice, and student involvement with administration. It seems that student involvement is simply ignored when it is convenient.

I am pleased that the other sanctions recommended by the SJB were implemented. Erin has been in contact with the students involved in the case and the issue that brought them to our attention has been resolved, but by picking and choosing among

the recommended sanctions Erin not only completely invalidated the SJB process and ignored her duties as Dean of Students she also violated the rights of the students involved and the rights of all members of the Bard community.

The Dean of Students Office, Erin in particular, is working with me and other members of the student government to make sure that this kind of situation does not occur again but this is not a problem that can be fixed without the attention and input of the student body. The Dean of Students Office needs to be reminded that they are not an all powerful body operating independently of the student community. The root of their power lies, ideally, with the student body. We need to make sure that they are working to preserve our rights and have to answer to us when they make mistakes. If they want us to be involved, then let's be involved, not as a rubber stamp on administrative decisions, but as a powerful, forceful community voice that cannot be ignored or escaped. If we continue to turn our heads and mutter quietly about our concerns without coming together to demand change, then we will never be heard and, more importantly, we will never even notice as our rights vanish.

Emily Liechty
SJB Chairperson

The Response: An Attempt to Clarify

To the community:

In a meeting with the central committee of the student government on April 11, Emily Liechty, Student Judiciary Board (SJB) Chair, showed me a letter she drafted for public consumption regarding an SJB case from last semester. In the letter she outlined her concerns regarding my actions following the sanctioning portion of this case.

Cases can be referred to the SJB by the Dean of Students or by a student-initiated complaint (*Student Handbook*, page 51). In my first year as dean, my goal was to better utilize the SJB and to that end I brought this case to the board. The board spent many hours laboring over the written statements and concluded, as is their right, that they would not hear the case, but would recommend sanctions to the dean of students office.

I implemented three of the four sanctions. I consulted Emily prior to arriving at any conclusions regarding the recommendation for the mediation. Several reasons influenced my decision to not implement the mediation, but forgetfulness was not one of them. Time was a factor, mediation must occur in a reasonably quick fashion. After break it appeared to me that not only was the efficacy of such a process minimal, but that it

would potentially negatively affect the students involved in the case.

I have great respect and regard for the accomplished work of Emily, as Chair, and the other students, staff and faculty members. I apologize to the community, and particularly, to the members of the SJB for my perceived actions or inactions.

Ironically my criticism of this situation involves time and communication as well. The Chair of the SJB is charged with the responsibility to ensure (as stated in Emily's letter) that "sanctions shall be enforced by the appropriate authority...and shall monitor the enforcement of the sanctions". If Emily were to have expressed her concerns during the beginning of the semester, during the very meeting to which she refers, I believe it would have allowed the board a tremendous opportunity to discuss the decision and more effectively speak to the concerns expressed. Five weeks, at the end of a spring semester, does not allow us much time.

This situation clearly does not help the image of the SJB, and for

that I apologize. I believe that the Student Judiciary Board procedures are some of the most refined, clear and helpful rights outlined in the Student Handbook. The SJB has not heard many cases over the last five years; the board averages only two hearings per year. This case fell under my jurisdiction, but I chose to bring the case to the board. I hoped to work more closely with the board

and increase the number of peer reviewed cases. If my intentions were to "violate the rights of the students involved and the rights of all members of the Bard community", I simply would not have brought the case to the attention of the Student Judiciary Board.

Where do we go from here? My concern is that people will be uncomfortable utilizing the SJB after this debate. I am calling an immediate meeting with the board members to review the case and the sanctioning portion of the SJB process. Emily intends to update the Bard community on our progress within the next few weeks. Although I am upset about the timing of these letters, I

hope the debate will infuse renewed energy and use of the SJB.

As always, I want to make myself available for any discussion regarding this or other matters.

Thank you.
Erin Cannan

Got an ad?

Need space?

Send your advertisement in JPEG format to the Bard Free Press.

bardfreepress@hushmail.com

Student Government Outlines their Concerns About Students Position on Campus

On Tuesday, April 11 the Central Committee met with Erin Canaan to discuss a number of concerns we have regarding the future and direction of the college and, in particular, a trend we see at Bard toward a decrease in student initiative autonomous of the administration, student participation in major institutional decisions, and a drastic reduction of space, both physical and meta-physical, for students to make use of while here. While these different concerns vary from academic to social in nature they are all fundamentally linked and affect all students who set foot on our campus. Whether for the future of student government, students' day-to-day autonomy from mid-level administrators, their space to live and learn, or their level of personal freedom in the very place that they live, these concerns are based in an affirmation of the basic ideological tenet of this school. That it is not only just to allow students - indeed people - to make their own decisions and to run their own lives, but it is also the best way of fostering tolerant and well-rounded individuals.

For those who don't know, the Central Committee is a collective made up of six students selected in campus-wide elections for specific governmental positions. Unlike Vassar or most other colleges, at Bard we have no president of the student body, the highest level of our student government is the Central Committee which consists of the chairpersons of the Planning Committee, the Student Judiciary Board (SJB), the Educational Policies Committee (EPC), and the Student Life Committee (SLC), the Treasurer, and the Secretary.

A primary grievance of ours is the recent decrease in student and student-run space as well as the quality of that space which we do still have. Due to this decline in the quality of living and academic space (i.e., studios for art majors, an after-hours studying space), we feel that in the last two years Bard has become a

place less livable and suitable for learning. The trailers, the Studio Dorm, and particularly the conversion of the Tewksbury lounges to housing are all unacceptable. The opening of the new studio space, the Universal Building Supply, has been a fiasco. Each of these examples have left students with the impression that our academic and social conditions are somehow not the primary concern of the administration. Second, is the relationship between Security and the student body. We view that relationship to be increasingly impersonal and see Security functioning more

and more as a police-type of unit rather than one meant to help insure our safety. Security in the recent past has involved itself more than it should in students' personal space and decisions. An effective Security

would, as it has in the past, have knowledge of how this campus functions, understand its differences from the outside world, and have a personal knowledge of the student body. We feel that the members of Security who have been here longest and understand the campus most should be the ones to receive promotions and make procedural decisions.

These issues of space and Security, along with new hyper-sensitive smoke alarms, have made it virtually impossible to have parties on campus, effectively pushing Bard social life to off-campus bars. It is both egregious and unnecessary for Security or the administration to restrict us from using our living space in any way we deem reasonable. However, the dangers created by making campus a place void of a decent nightlife are greater and more immediate than simply limiting our freedom to make our own decisions

in the places which we live. Both the students and administration are well aware of this school's drinking-and-driving problem. It is past time for this problem to be confronted directly before the unspeakable inevitably occurs. By impeding our freedom to gather and socialize in our own dorms, by forcing us off campus, the school is only worsening its DWI problems.

Finally, what triggered our meeting with the Dean of Students and public pronouncements of our concerns at this time was the precarious state of Bard's student government.

The maintenance, and ideally exercise, of the powers students currently possess at Bard is our only agenda. In many ways Bard is and has been a progressive college where students are granted a remarkable amount of control over the institu-

tion and their lives within it. A great majority of the students would be amazed, we think, to find out how true this is. However, five of the six members of the Central Committee will graduate this semester and it is not clear that we will have a group of committed and informed underclassmen, if anyone at all, to fill the void. If students understood how much power and influence they have at this school we doubt that we would have any trouble replacing the graduating seniors.

However, not only the students are to blame. Both the higher levels of the administration and the Dean of Students' office have shown an increasing disregard for the student government. This is exhibited not only by a disregard for the process' students have for running and funding student clubs, but also violations of the powers of different branches of the student government as they our

outlined in the student handbook.

The letter that Emily Liechty, chairperson of the Student Judiciary Board, has submitted to The Free Press and the Observer presents one example. Also the Education Policies Committee, which is responsible for collecting student feedback on professors who are either tenure track or up for rehire, has been consistently ignored by members of the administration, while its impact on final decisions has been nil. How can we be expected to maintain a working student government when the powers that we have, which are made explicit in the student handbook, are ignored by the administration? The administration has recently behaved in a way that assumes that they can ignore our powers and make major institutional decisions without our input. That it can disregard student government and our needs for adequate living and academic space without us responding as our rights are violated. Students must be made aware of the powers and freedoms that they have at this school, and we must exercise them before they are forgotten. We must not allow the administration to proceed with their business, unaware of student dissatisfaction, and expecting never hear an organized voice of student criticism.

A more complete version of this letter will be submitted, alongside others, to the Observer and the Free Press later this week. Also, we greatly encourage any students who share our concerns or are even vaguely interested in student government to attend the forum this Wednesday at 7:30 in Kline.

Max Kenner (Planning Committee)
Anuradha Kumar (Educational Policies Committee)
Emily Liechty (Student Judiciary Board)
Mary Molina (Student Life Committee)
Brianna Norton (Treasurer)
Chris Pappas (Secretary)

A primary grievance of ours is the recent decrease in student and student-run space as well as the quality of that space which we do still have.

The Bard Free Press

Box 71, Bard College
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504
bardfreepress@hushmail.com

Editor-in-chief
Executive Editor and Local News
National News Editor
Opinions Editor
A&E Editors

Design Managers

Photo Manager

Contributors and Copy Editors

Willoughby, Max Kenner, Anu Kumar, Emily Liechty, Mary Molina, Brianna Norton, Chris Pappas, Luke Cohen, Rob Ponce, JR Valenzuela, Jonny Cristol, Mike Marlin Jr., Dave Hassinger, Kat Gabrieshki, Sean Sullivan, Joshua Kingsbury, Rusty Drake, Jackie La Duke

Kerry Chance
Rafi Rom
Vincent Valdmanis
Bryan Gunderson
Huffa Frobess-Cross
Jonah Weiner
Daniel Lichtblau
Chris Downing
Jonah Weiner
Daniel Lichtblau
Matt Ayres, Joshua Miller, Lydia

RED HOOK NATURAL FOODS



We offer a fine selection of:

- Natural Foods
- Vitamins
- Homeopathic
- Oriental Products
- Herbs
- Body Care Products
- Specialty Products
- Educational Materials

9A SOUTH BROADWAY, RED HOOK, NY 12571
(914) 758-9230

RED HOOK NATURAL FOODS

(914) 758-9230. Rt 199 & Rte 9 Opp. Mobil Gas Station

THE VITAMIN CLUB

Completed cards allow you to save \$10 off your next supplement purchase of \$20 or more. This card must be presented at each transaction.

1.	4.
2.	5.
3.	6.
	7.

RED HOOK

Socialist Conference Lacks Direction

DAVID HASSINGER

The 22nd Socialist Scholar's Conference (SSC) was perhaps the least important conference ever convened to discuss "transforming the social nature of America." Underbilled, overenrolled, and uncomfortably located in NYPD's Anti-Gang Zone Red, the conference flagged through three days of divisive cross-fire between labor- and eco-socialist elements. The flanneled, beet-cheeked Zapatistas in charge of the main event caricatured traditional leftist appeals to ORGANIZE MOBILIZE EDUCATE AND AGITATE! by hymnifying them at the close of every discussion. Adding to the confused feeling of the three-day conference, each booster was appended with the labor and ecology camps' respective post-scripts: "Up With 'By American!'" and "Down With Consumerism!"

If the Battle in Seattle was a paradigm case for the cooperation of workplace reform and environmental reform factions, then the events at the conference were disappointing in comparison. Neither group could trust the other's use of buzz language. When Uri Heety spoke of "labor market flexibility", labor socialists were quick to interpret this as a euphemism for undermining unions. "Globalization in the trade of sustainable technologies" - labor's slogan for millennial discourse regarding post-GATT AGB - was denounced by The Nader Delegation as unsafe promotional stuntsmanship for genetic everything. Cries for detente by exas-

perated moderates were out-shouted by dipshits with Incite the Fight tees and Che lunchboxes in the chorus who confused the general anarchy of the conference with "democracy as a living document."

During the plenary conference, just about the only issue on which both sides had a similar reaction was Howard Zinn's in absentia plea for collectivizing intellectual capital (Pixels and Widgets): they treated it as radioactive. That such a venerable comrade's suggestion would go ignored or treated as a marginal insight in order to mollify the conference of its self-conscious divisions was a dead give that sectarian prejudice was at the locus of Heety's conference. Instead of adducing to Zinn, many participants rallied behind the formulaic anthem "Building an alternative society involves building coalitions between alternative thinkers." What a contemporary and challenging concept! Too bad Heety could not reword his slogan to confront Issue One for American Socialists: Socialism in America is a very diffuse, essentially middle-class movement that can't survive in the infertile territory of Alternative Identity Politics. It needs mainstream political and academic endorsement, which can only proceed from new coalitions within the matrix of a two-party system. Only when parties from both sides of the labor-ecology rift cross-pollinate their mission with the prevalent centrist idiom of Daddy's Politics can conferences like Heety's make socialism less freakish.

By the fifth plenum, field organizers were desperate for tips on how to enfranchise and restore peace to the conference. As to the first problem - enfranchisement - I had a few suggestions.

Recruit More Attractive Candidates: People will begin to believe in American Socialism when its primary figures (candidates, scholars, activists) look less like losers, and more like the polished, Whartburg phenotypes that ascend the Ivory Podium to address the other party's national conventions. Some racists have a point when they attribute Che's lasting controversy less to his revolutionary politics, than to his book-jacket friendly Spanish visage.

Be Profoundly Ambiguous: George Meredith gave the Ducacus campaign valuable advice when he told the governor to be profound but avoid specifics. The SSC was full of detailed affidavits to be presented post-haste to various public works commissions. But this eagerness to baptize New York with "a ruthless criticism of everything existing" made the conference's Socialism too blatant, too unsympathetic, too easily ignored. Instead of being Big Red and demanding a 3% tariff clip on TRIPS (trade-

related intellectual properties) from the NY Customs and Commerce Commission, it would behoove the conference to call for a temporary eclipse of TRIP tariffs under the auspices of promoting global trade or inviting virtual business.

Avoid Democracy Within The Movement: It would be better to sacrifice equity in order to achieve efficiency at this point. Allow one or two

If the Battle in Seattle was a paradigm case for the cooperation of workplace reform and environmental reform factions, then the events at the conference were disappointing in comparison.

strong personalities to appoint a central leadership and affect cabalistic voting quorums. Clark Johnson, Hoffa IV, Ralph Nader, Mumia if he ever survives to be acquitted...these should be the elect faces of American Socialism whose viability demon-

strates a political truth: every radical social movement - in order to be effective - has been internally undemocratic since the French Revolution.

These suggestions could help salvage the next SSC's relevance and sustainability for students of socialism. The next generation of people who would explore plurality in the forms of ownership, and the democracy and freedom of occupation implicit in socialism, could use some reform and peace and a sense of community before they get involved in revolution.

Bush's Educational Proposals Transparently Political

ROB PONCE

Apparently trying to appeal to democrats and independents, George W. Bush, the presumed presidential nominee of the Republican Party, recently unleashed his own education proposal. For months we have heard Bush talking about his excellent track record with education in Texas and how he wants to bring that record to Washington so that he can "leave no child behind."

However, only recently has Bush released figures on how the federal government under a Bush administration would help fund education. Not only are Bush's proposals a fraction of those Vice President Gore has made, but also the proposal seems miniscule when compared to Bush's \$483 billion tax cut, undeniably his top incentive.

The Texas governor has proposed, if elected President, to write an education plan that would cost approximately \$13 billion over the next five years. Among Bush's top priorities would be a tax credit for teachers who have to buy their own supplies, funding literacy programs so that all third graders can read, and the recruitment of retired military personnel to fill teacher positions.

According to Bush, education is a top priority and the nation would do

well to adapt some of his plans that have worked so well in Texas. The problem is that the governor's record on education in Texas is among the lowest in the country. During Bush's first term as governor, teacher's pay fell from 36th in the country to 38th. Overall teacher compensation fell to 50th nationwide. Also in Texas, only 3 out of every 5 high school students actually complete secondary school. Texas has a 41% drop out rate.

How can education be falling apart in Texas when the economy is booming? The answer is that Governor Bush thinks it is more important to spend the state's surplus on tax cuts than education. Now that Bush is running for President, it leaves people perplexed as to why his education proposals are so small.

While Bush would spend \$13 billion on education, he is planning on proposing a \$483 billion tax cut, ignoring the fact that in his state of Texas opinion polls show that Texans

favor spending the state surplus on education rather than on tax cuts by a ratio of 10 to 1.

According to President Leon Botstein, educational reform should be concerned with teacher training, an increase in teachers across the board, building new school structures in inner cities, investing in pre-school, and primarily on adolescents between the ages of 12 and 18. Botstein says "If it were up to me, I would pour enormous sums of money into teacher training and hiring more teachers to lower class sizes in public schools."

Vice President Gore's education proposal would not

achieve the education reform that President Botstein is talking about but it would make a much bigger difference than Bush's. Gore would not use the national surplus for a huge tax cut, instead he would increase government spending on education by \$115 billion over the next ten years, spending approximately 5 times more money

on education than Bush would if elected President.

Unlike Bush, Gore promises to extend funds to younger students, giving \$5 billion a year to pre-schools across the country. He has also promised funding to hire more teachers in an effort to reduce class sizes, particularly in inner cities.

Neither one of these education plans really boggle the mind but Gore's does seem to at least be an attempt to achieve some of the objectives a true education reformer would advocate. Bush's proposal seems to leave America as a whole headed for the same educational fate as Texas.

During a campaign speech in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Governor Bush called teachers "the engine of education." It is amusing that the Governor would use those words considering he would only give the "engine" a tiny fraction of money when compared to how much money Bush would set aside for his unnecessary tax cut. You would think that proposing a tax cut, which mostly benefits the wealthy, during a time of incredible prosperity, would be secondary to ensuring that the "engine of education" is one of the highest quality that it can possibly be.



Our Hopes and Dreams: A frowning George W. Bush looks to the horizon.

IMF Eliminates Jobs in Third World Nations

KAT GABRIESHESKI

I was visiting a sugarcane plantation along the border of the Dominican Republic and Haiti when I asked this question. It was January, "zafra" or harvest time in the cane fields. But no one was working. There wasn't any they told me. The cane was almost all gone. As was the water from the community tank. And the medicine in the clinic five miles away. I had no response; I had come to the cane fields to study the patterns of migration of Haitian cane cutters into the Dominican Republic. But there was no longer any migration into this area, and those who hadn't left, probably thousands, were simply waiting. Waiting for what? Had anyone from the government, who previously owned the fields as well as the houses, the land, and the now defunct water tank, been out here? I asked. No, they have forgotten us. What is happening? All anyone knew was that the fields were being left to die and that there would be no more harvests.

Back in the capital of Santo Domingo I learned what had happened. The IMF's latest stipulation for further loans to the already debt-laden country included the selling-off of all the national industries, including the sugarcane fields. The land has been bought by various trans-national corporations who will turn the border

region into a "free trade zone". This means that the companies will be able to set up large factories in the area without having to pay taxes. They will also be able to take advantage of the Haitian migrant labour in this area, and the cheap wages that the starving ex-cane workers will be grateful for after months of waiting without accessible water, food or work.

The Dominican Republic's economy and social welfare has been tied to international loans for over a century. In the past the U.S. used its Marines to take control of the Caribbean country's finances and tie them to imports of U.S. goods and loans. However, after WWII the IMF took over the job of keeping the DR open to all foreign investment, no matter how detrimental it is to their own people and economy. The country is forced to export over 75% of its food products and other goods, and must import more expensive grains and packaged foods from the U.S. and other countries. In 1998 the DR imported \$5.3 billion worth of goods (44% from US), but was only able to get \$3.1 billion for its exports, and a large percentage of that money must go towards debt payments. This creates a "balance of payments" problem, leading to even greater debt.

The loans that are given by the IMF are given to whomever is in the current government, and many times that

money has been filtered into the personal bank accounts of officials, as during Rafael Trujillo's dictatorship. The payment of the loans and the accrued interest is then hoisted onto the people of the DR, 60% of whom are considered to be living in poverty.

This is accomplished by the SAPs and austerity measures initiated by foreign (usually US) economic "experts." The SAPs take away the DR's ability to govern itself and decide on its own methods of gaining economic stability. These measures have entailed price hikes of basic food items and petroleum products, privatization of national industries, cuts in school and hospital funding, and high taxes and export tariffs. All of these measures disproportionately affect the masses of poor. It is the poverty stricken, the old, and the young who are paying for their government's loans and yet they are not the ones benefiting by them.

Another aspect of the DR's SAPs has been the insistence of the IMF that tourism should be the DR's largest industry, which it now is. This furthers the DR's dependence on foreign money. Some service jobs have been created in the tourist areas, but almost all of the hotels, casinos, and resorts are foreign-owned. However, one day is enough time in "Boca Chica" or any other tourist zone to see that there is plenty of work for Dominicans and

Haitians in the sex and drug industries, which have been growing in proportion to the influx of foreign tourists.

IMF loans are collaborations by the rich of the core lender nations with those in power in the debtor nation, for their own benefit. The investors not only get plenty of interest on their loans, but the SAPs and the uses of the loans work for them as well. They can set up hotels in the tourist zones that were called for in their SAP, and these hotels are then aided by the construction of new highways and billion dollar museums to Columbus, paid for by the IMF loans. The DR then has to pay them back, with interest, after helping them make lots of money off of the DR's tourist industry.

There has been resistance to this type of external oppression; food riots that have left over 100 people dead from police brutality and general strikes over rising petroleum prices. But, it is up to us, whose government and corporations are at the head of this international oppression, to Stand Up with our sisters and brothers from across the world. TO BE UNITED and let them know that we will NOT allow the IMF and World Bank to continue its policies of economic, political, social and environmental destruction just to fill the pockets of the world's rich and powerful.

IMF Reconsidered

JONNY CRISTOL

I do not consider myself a supporter of the International Monetary Fund or the World Bank (the WTO is another matter). So why I am not in Washington protesting these organizations? The answer is that I believe that the goals of the IMF and World Bank are sound, I just feel that they don't go about them in the smartest ways.

Reading over the Saturday evening news I have seen what I expected to see, protesters carrying signs that basically say, "Smash Capitalism!". Well, to me, capitalism is not really the problem.

One thing I do have a problem with is the unofficial agreement that gives the directorship of the IMF to a European and the World Bank to an American. Though the more economically powerful nations do contribute more, a truly international organization should have truly international leadership.

I am also somewhat uncomfortable with some of the results of austerity measures imposed as conditions for Structural Adjustment Loans. What makes me even more uncomfortable, however, is Middle and Upper-Middle Class America, thinking that it knows what is best for the developing world.

One can only guess what the conditions would be like in a country such as Thailand where in 1975, according to the New York Times, only one rural Thai in six had access to safe drinking water and now four in five do. This achievement is not the result of Westerners coming in and doing it for the Thai people. It is the result of hard work by that nation. However, I seriously doubt if the money to build infrastructure in Thailand would have been available without some form of export-led substitution.

After globalization everyone has turned into slaughterhouse workers, tobacco farmers, and sweatshop workers toiling away so that someone like me can wear a Gap sweater. What people need to do is look at the economic indicators of nations before IMF loans and the World Bank stepped in. People were not better off than they are now, they were worse off. This is not to say that every person was worse off, but generally speaking. Granted, the IMF shifts the resources of a country to meat production, however, if we stop eating meat it will stop being produced. All in all, though, I hope the protests succeed in bringing these issues into the public view.

What people need to do is look at the economic indicators of nations before IMF loans and the World Bank stepped in.

A Broke College Student's Dream

How to surf the internet and make money the easy way

MIKE MARLIN JR.

Here's the basic idea of AllAdvantage.com: You get paid for doing almost nothing. AllAdvantage.com and other "surf for money" Internet companies pride themselves on their legitimacy. The companies will pay you money for visiting Websites on the Internet that you would normally visit.

After registering with one of these companies, you will be asked to download a program that will display advertisements for different businesses as you surf. This is where the money comes in: these businesses are paying the Internet companies for using their advertisements, and so those companies may then pay you for simply looking at them (whether you actually look at them or not).

AllAdvantage.com, for example, pays you 50 cents for every hour you spend on the Internet, as long as you are moving your mouse around and visiting other sites every few minutes. The maximum amount of hours that can be credited to your account per month is 25. This may seem like a disappointment because that means you can only make \$12.50 a month. Fortunately, you can have an infinite amount of referrals that will also make money for you as they surf, which is how you can make significant amounts of money.

Every person that you refer to Alladvantage.com will allow you to

make 10 cents for every hour that they spend using the Internet. Also, members receive 5 cents an hour for every person that your original referral refers. And because you can have as many referrals as you want, the amount of money you can make is limitless.

Because you can get paid for simply checking your email or researching for a project as you normally would, companies like AllAdvantage have become extremely popular among college students.

On the other hand, some members who choose not to cheat the company also find fault in the whole process. Jeff Davis adds, "I think it's a good idea, both for the consumer and the company. But if you only use the Internet for a little bit each day, then there's no real point in getting involved."

Despite the problems with AllAdvantage.com and other such "surf for money" companies, there is no denying the fact that members get paid for simply browsing the Web. For frequent computer users with a lot of friends, it's an easy way to make a lot of money and not have to worry about finding other jobs while at school. For the sporadic Internet users and those who spend more time using Instant Messenger Services than browsing Web sites, there's definitely no harm in receiving a 25 dollar check in the mail every couple months.

Formula and Fluff in *Keeping the Faith*

Edward Norton Tries his Hand at Generic Romantic Comedy

JONAH WEINER

As it turns out, the biggest surprise in *Keeping the Faith* comes early on, during the opening credits in fact, when none other than Edward Norton is named not only for acting in the film but for directing it as well. In his first major role in a Hollywood picture (1996's *Primal Fear*), Norton was excellent as the film's evidently schizophrenic murder suspect. There has been a consistent intensity to most, if not all, of the films he has acted in since (*People vs. Larry Flint*, *American History X* and *Fight Club* being at the top of the list), and so the question of what Norton is doing anywhere near a film so vacuous and formulaic as *Keeping the Faith* is a good one, to say the least.

To the film's credit, it has no pretensions about what it is trying to accomplish. *Keeping the Faith* is a run-of-the-mill romantic comedy through and through. Unfortunately, run-of-the-mill romantic comedies are, by definition almost, no more than fluff-unwatchable when approached on any level higher than the semi-conscious.

From the beginning *Keeping the Faith* defies any discrimination on the part of its viewers. We need go no further than the premise-promising in



Black Sabbath: Decked out in their Sunday Best, Ben Stiller (left) and Edward Norton make stupidity a religion in *Keeping the Faith*.

and of itself perhaps but, here, exploited and ridiculously implausible—that Brian Finn (Norton) and Jake Schram (Ben Stiller), best friends since childhood, have grown up to become a Catholic Priest and a Rabbi, respectively. Norton and Stiller, both dressed and groomed so that it seems the holiest text for either one is not the Old or New Testament but the J. Crew catalogue, are about as unconvincing in these theologically discrete roles as can be. To account for this incongruity between actor and role, both characters are introduced as ultra-liberal men of the cloth: they throw tradition to the wind and preach to their congregations with microphones held

casually in hand like they're rapping. And in one of the film's most ridiculous and, pardon the expression, sub-retarded sequences (there are many to choose from, really), Schram invites the Harlem Gospel Choir to lead his temple in Hebrew song, trying to get "a little more soul into the prayer." The choir members spill into the aisles and raise the rafters, prompting the congregants to—that's right—get up and dance.

The gag, wholly nonessential to the plot (a flimsy love triangle scenario established between Finn, Schram, and Jenna Elfman's Anna Riley) might be written off as a silly non-sequitur, a detour into 'wackiness'.

However, like most other attempts at wackiness in the film, this one comes off as stilted and simply falls flat. Even in *Keeping the Faith*'s supposedly offbeat moments we feel too much the manipulative intention of its filmmakers—plainly speaking, they try to be 'heartwarming' before they try to be funny.

But to dismiss a generic romantic comedy for following formula is like dismissing a supermarket romance novel for lacking emotional depth. This having been said a discussion of the standard complications that arise when Elfman's Riley enters the story can be skipped.

What might be mourned then, when talking about *Keeping the Faith*, is not its failure as a piece of film, but the failure of the otherwise talented Edward Norton, in the director's seat now, to produce something even remotely interesting. In the face of such cinematic WonderBread as *Keeping the Faith* it is only natural—recalling that long train of Hollywood figures who have traded more intelligent work for the status of surefire box-office commodities—to wonder in what direction Norton's career could be headed.

Changing the Viewer's World: Gabriel Orozco at CCS

JR VALENZUELA

Gabriel Orozco has said, "what is most important is what people see after looking at these things, how they confront reality again...really great art regenerates the perception of reality...the reality becomes richer, better or not, just different." Orozco, a photographer and sculptor is currently showing a series of color photographs and drawings at the Center for Curatorial Studies. Throughout these works it is clear that he wants the viewer to come away with a different capacity for understanding and appreciating their particular environment and reality, or at the very least, follow the artist's documentation of his own.

His photographs are not radically unique in their composition or visual approach; he doesn't rely on camera angle or manipulations of perspective to forcibly effect a change in the viewer. Instead, Orozco employs a relaxed observational method, with keen use of color and structure. *Stained Glass*, a photo taken while in India, shows a leafless tree against a sky, with a multitude of kites caught in its branches. The shoes are all different colors and mangled and torn to different degrees. *Blue Sandals* shows a sandbar framed by dark rock, with a patch of blue thong sandals with their soles facing up in the middle. They are all roughly the same size and are all well worn. Many are partially buried. In a trip-

tych entitled *Portable Puddle*, each consecutive photograph, from top to bottom, gets closer to a large pool of water in a city that has translucent white circles floating on the surface, overlapping each other. As the camera gets closer and the circles begin to dominate, reflections of surrounding structures become more prominent as well. In this way, the viewer can follow the artist from figuration to abstraction without an abrupt removal of context.

In these and the rest of the photographs, Orozco's role as a manipulator and arranger of the objects remains undefined. This is not a detriment to the exhibition by any stretch. The scenes and arrangements, while not common, are plausible, and in every piece, human involvement and action, whether by accident or design, is never in question. His unassuming approach to the scenes, both in terms of framing and distance, is ultimately a close and intimate one as well. One does not get the sense that something is being excluded, or that some theory is dictating his compositional choices. Orozco's aim is to acknowledge these visual instances that both define and change his own perceptions, and by presenting them clearly and accessibly, to impress upon the viewer the possibilities of reality.



Have you seen this man? *Black Kites*, a work by Orozco who is now showing at the Center for Curatorial Studies.



hey,
are you angry
about something?

Student Life Committee
e-mail ideas, problems,
questions to:
studentlife@bard.edu
we're trying to make it all better...

As the Old Gym Burns: An Evening with The Arsonists

J.P. KINGSBURY

Last Friday, NYC hip-hop crew The Arsonists came to the Old Gym and blessed the Bard population with an explosive set of raw lyrical skills and stage presence. The evening opened up with dj sets by Bard students DJ Nathan Corbin and DJ Buddafingers. Around 12:30 The Arsonists, comprised of D-Stroy, Jise One, Q-Unique, Freestyle, and Swel Boogie stormed the stage with more energy than little kids who had eaten too much sugar. They proceeded to educate the extremely large audience on how to rock a crowd.

The crew performed numerous songs from their recent Matador Records release, *As The World Burns*, including "Halloween," "The Session," and "Underground Vandal."

As with any tight hip-hop

show, a large part of the success of the Arsonists' performance depended on audience participation, which the crowd enthusiastically delivered. At numerous points during their set, hands were in the air and people in the crowd sang along with the lyrics.

The Arsonists are renowned for being enthusiasts of the "forgotten" elements of hip-hop--breaking, DJing, and graffiti writing. The crew also demonstrated unity with the hip-hop community at large by paying tribute to the recently deceased Big Punisher, and rocking rhymes over instrumentals of Tribe Called Quest's "Can I Kick It" and "Scenario".

At the end of the performance Q-Unique reminded the crowd that hip hop is all about fun and NOT about money, women, or guns, and that the hip hop community is repre-



Underground Vandals: Matador Rap act The Arsonists (pictured above in front of Tewksbury) blew the spot up this Friday in Bard's Old Gym, performing from their *As the World Burns* LP

senting for peace and love. Above all, the evening provided education in what true MC's are and how to truly rock a show. Despite the late start, The Arsonists lived up to their name

and set the place --and the Entertainment Committee's only hip-hop night planned for this semester--on fire.

Breaking Hardcore Stereotypes Grey Area's *Fan Belt Algebra*

SEAN SULLIVAN

Fan Belt Algebra is NY based Grey Area's second release. Although a solid album, it does not supply many memorable tracks a la Grey Area's first, a self titled LP. Each song comes packed with a catchy tune and positive message, all written by drummer Vinny Value, dealing with issues with which one can easily relate.

Grey Area's music is a combination of melodic and aggressive styles. It brings back the old school style of hardcore with punk roots. On the album the group collaborates with former members of legendary hardcore acts, Warzone and Black Train Jack. Those who are not fans of hardcore music will still enjoy this album as it breaks from stereotypes that people tend to associate with the genre.

The album begins with intro of sirens and goes into a strong first track called "Reminder." It holds this strength consistently through many of the twelve songs. However, *Fan Belt Algebra*

does not end with a song of the intensity and energy which characterizes the rest of the album portrays.

Despite its shortcomings, *Fan Belt Algebra* is still a worthy effort. Those who are fans of Grey Area should definitely pick this one up. And for those who don't know too much about this band, I would recommend getting Grey Area's self-titled first album before *Fan Belt Algebra*.

Electra Complex, pictured in DC, featured on new Bard Band Collection



Photo: Vincent Valdmanis

Not Available in Stores *The Bard Band CD Reviewed*

DANIEL LICHTBLAU

Living directly across the street from the Old Gym, it is often impossible to avoid the music of many Bard bands that use it as their practice space. Although the Old Gym's constant flow of music from bands of various proficiencies can often be trying, the soon to be released Bard band CD, comprised of twenty of Bard's musical projects, makes sense of this apparent madness.

Although the as of yet untitled Bard CD is a valiant effort at diversity, it fails to accurately cross section the musical styles found at Bard. The majority of the CD covers folk and indie rock genres with a small amount of electronic, experimental, and jazz. The CD's complete lack of any hip-hop or punk is especially surprising in light of the amount of interest in those styles at Bard.

Some songs on the Bard CD that best exemplify the creativity and talent of the students involved include DJ Nathan

Corbin's opening electro track, "No Proper Time of Day", Old Crooked and the Moose's "All These Different Women", Luke Venezia's "The Junglist", and Mangerine's "Migration By Moonlight". The CD unquestionably has its fair share of garbage, but for the most part the songs are unique and intelligent. Furthermore, the CD's sound quality is great and it sounds as though it was recorded professionally.

The Bard CD was organized by BETTY and members of the senior class. The CD goes on sale at the end of April at the cost of \$7.00, the profit of which will go the senior class. Asked about the possibility of more Bard collections in the future, Lauren Atlas of BETTY says that, "BETTY hopes to continue to do this [put out the CD] each year, but obviously that will depend on the community's response to it." It seems safe to say that the Bard community is bound to have a positive one.

Jim Shaw Interviewed:

L.A. Based Artist Speaks to *The Free Press* About his Recent & Upcoming Work

HUFFA FROBES-CROSS

Jim Shaw has worked as an artist in LA over the past two decades creating work which draws on and makes use of many often forgotten aspects of art and culture. He has avoided the creation of a personal style throughout his career. The several projects which Shaw has worked on over the past few years form a series of consequential ideas related at points but essentially distinct. His most recent works are *My Mirage* and *Dreams*. The *My Mirage* series follows the life of Billy, a boy growing up in the sixties and seventies, and his attempts to construct his identity and belief system from the often suspect sources which surround him. The dream objects and dream drawings are direct translations of Shaw's own dreams. The drawings present his dreams in a picture narrative while the objects function as artifacts from the dreams themselves. Most recently Shaw has begun work on a project in which he intends to create a fake religion complete with gospels, historical figure, and even music. Shaw has also gained much attention for curating a show of thrift store paintings drawn from his collection and the collections of his friends.

BFP: You have talked before about wanting to reclaim the deception of dreams from the Surrealist European imagery that has dominated them. That aside, how would you characterize your relationship to the Surrealists and the way in which many of them dealt with dreams?

I think of surrealism kind of like post-modernism in the sense that a lot of people were quoting European intellectuals in the mid-80's and European intellectuals would often say, "That wasn't what I meant." I guess, to say that the Surrealists were kind of misinterpreting Freud...Still even if they got it wrong they got some pretty interesting stuff out of it. I've been thinking a long time about American culture's reaction to Surrealism. It's like a typical element of advertising right now, especially beer advertisements. Anything that is off kilter in a sense owes a debt to Surrealism. I also think of thing like Ray Harehausen as a thing I experienced before Surrealism, because it was a disjuncture of reality to see these monsters walking around in the broad daylight, which is what I wanted there to be. I wanted some disruption of consensus reality as a little kid.

BFP: Do you continue to have that need for a disruption of reality in your work?

JS: Yeah I guess. The dreams thing just kind of overtook me in a way, because my original intention was to make the art works not to draw the dreams so I did the dreams and I had to set the situation in which the artworks would be experienced. When I began drawing the dreams my intention was as I said to decolonize the European imagery that is so stereo-

typically Surreal...The dreams themselves being set in the offices, and the schools was very important. They're pretty mundane and they're rarely about wish fulfilment. They're usually about frustration and self-effacement, embarrassment...In humans (dreams) become this playing out of the frustrations of civilized behaviour most of the time. Because basically civilized life means you can't do everything what you want to do. I think that that is a lot of what goes on,



Who's that Lady? Untitled, 1975.

discontents in dreams.

BFP: Someone like Lacan might argue that dreams are structured like language, and that the language which one would use to describe the images in dreams is actually forms the real subtext of dreams themselves. The thing that to a large extent determines their form and content.

JS: I agree to some extent. I think that the opposite is also true there is a language to images that underwrites the language in dreams I think that the dreamer accesses semi-randomly things that have some sort of punning relationship to the central subject matter of the dream. It's aided me to draw them because in recounting the dream you sometimes don't get the visual aspects.

BFP: In what sense do you think there is a hierarchy to the interpretations of your work? You've mentioned the different reactions of, say, a comic book fan and an art critic is one in a sense better or more accurate than the other?

JS: I know there's a hierarchy but I'd like to pretend that there isn't. I know where the money lies. I know if I'm referencing art historical aspects that it's more likely to stand me in the good graces of critics. Not that I'm going to go out of my way to do that, but there are times when it is a necessary element...Hopefully there's a shitload of elements. I'm interested in

complicated things. I'm not very good at paired down things which puts me somewhere in left field. Because paired down has been the basic paradigm of the art world for a long long time.

BFP: How would you characterize the relationship which theory, specifically art theory, has to art itself? What effect do you think it has and how possible is an accurate theoretical depiction of art practice?

JS: Unlike the physical sciences, and theoretical physics there may be a limit to the actual need for art theory. But that doesn't mean that people will stop producing it because people have to keep publishing papers... At the same time (art theorists) are employed in the same departments as those who teach art. So you have a new class of academic artists that replaced the old beaux arts tradition.

BFP: Throughout your career, especially since you began the *My Mirage*, you have constantly tried on and imitated different styles. To what extent do you feel that is a way of effacing your own presence in the work, by working through a character or through a particular style?

JS: That was originally probably my subconscious motivation. I mean I had the one motivation that I didn't want to be like my undergraduate teachers and I didn't want to end up like my favorite Pop artists and repeat myself over and over again. I wanted to keep changing. And the adaption of styles, it had something to do with postmodernism since that was in the air at the time although it was something that had already existed in comic books or things like the Firesign Theatre or the Beatles. It seemed like an interesting thing for me to do.

BFP: How have fringe religions influenced you work? Especially now since you've begun work on the fake religion project.

JS: When I was a kid you just kind of laughed at it. I knew a kid who was a mormon but I didn't know what they did.

There was this Holy Roller church somewhere out there but all we knew was that they acted wierd. But then they started with the 700 club and religious broadcasters and we recieved this stuff full on...I stopped going to church when I was twelve I didn't believe anymore. I don't know if I ever did believe but as soon as I had any beliefs I didn't believe. And I sort of adopted a hippy humanism

and after I ran out of that I had no beliefs left So I decided to make a religion that I could believe in.

BFP: What originally attracted you to the use of narrative structures in your work?

JS: I don't really know why I was interested in using narrative. I think I've always been interested in comics and movies and TV and narrative thoughts. And maybe I just instinctively new that narrative was the most neglected aspect (in visual art)...There were prominent aspects of narrative art that got eclipsed by the triumph of abstract expressionism. A lot of what passed for mainstream modern art, even before abstract expressionism became the end all be all, was narrative and was not purist...As far as me I'm sort of torn between narratives like some Suicide songs that tell the whole story straight out versus ones that are more oblique. I probably tend towards the more oblique just because its easier than laying everything out. I like the idea of laying everything out but the art world's more interested in the most oblique, the most obtuse. I'd like more complexity myself. That's what I'd like to see I'm not going to see it, but I'd like to see it.

BFP: How would you describe your relation to Pop Art?

JS: I guess I do relate to it cause it was the first art that awakened me to wanting to be an artist. Pop art came along, I was ten or eleven, and I was like "Oh this is great." Then I found Surrelism and that was great too. I like the gaudy stuff. I liked the stuff that stuck out. If all I saw was Robert Ryman I don't think I would have become an artist. Some people graduate from liking Magritte, M.C. Escher and Salvador Dali and all that stuff. I'm stuck in adolescence I guess.

BFP: Do you think there's a parallel between Billy's quest for meaning in *My Mirage* and the way in which many artists, but most importantly yourself, approach the creation of art by finding complex meanings in various pop and subcultures?

JS: I guess, yeah there's a parallel. I mean, not that I wasn't like Billy. I was trying to figure out what these important rock gods were saying. And especially when you're an adolescent who hasn't gotten laid yet and you're listening to people who get laid no matter how ugly they are you're really getting advice from the wrong person...I think it's like a pathological thing that myself and my sisters and my family wants things to be right and they aren't right so we look for answers. I think a lot of Americans do that.

BFP: What was it about these thrift store paintings that you had begun collecting that originally made you want to show them in a gallery?

JS: I think people wanted to see them and that was part of it. It was a search for that wierdness. I sort of saw this American underbelly. If there's something I've done in putting it together, it not like I made any of those paintings. I just put them together into some kind of incoherent narrative.



Lost Issue: *The Temptation of Jimmy Olsen*, 1990, from the *My Mirage* series.