

9-7-2000

Bard Free Press, Vol. 2, No. 1 (September 7, 2000)

Bard College

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

Recommended Citation

Bard College, "Bard Free Press, Vol. 2, No. 1 (September 7, 2000)" (2000). *Bard Free Press - All Issues (2000-2018)*. 6.

<https://digitalcommons.bard.edu/bardfreepress/6>

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.



the bard FREE PRESS

Volume II Number 1

Annandale-on-Hudson, NY

**Convention
Craziness!**
pages 5, 6, 7



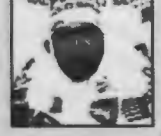
**3rd Party
Thunder!**
page 8



**Mainstream
Movie
Madness!**
page 13



**Hip Hop
Hijinks!**
page 12



**Snack Six:
discovered!**
page 16



Feeling the Housing Crunch

Doubles become triples; students outnumber rooms; construction marks the campus from North to South: What does the near future hold for Bard's ailing housing situation?

GILLIAN MEANS

If you live in Tewksbury, the Ravines, the Studio Dorms, or anywhere else in the vicinity of the Campus Center, there have likely been both weekend and weekday mornings when you have been woken up much earlier than you prefer by the loud sounds of construction equipment.

That equipment is working on what are being called the "New Toasters," the dorms where current Ravine residents will be relocated at the beginning of the spring semester. They compose only one part of Bard's response to the recent housing crunch.

Students presently attending college, as well as those on their way in the coming few years, are, for the most part, children of the Baby Boomers. There are a lot of us, to say the least, and almost every college in the country is feeling the crunch.

At Bard the problem manifests



Body storage: The shape of the New Toasters can be made out, but the construction is far from complete.

itself in the form of doubles converted to triples in the Studio Dorms, as well as the questionable safety of the Ravines. Despite these housing drawbacks, Director of Residence Life Fred Barnes had only received four complaints by the second week of L&T, a number he was rather happy with.

Said Barnes, "The dorms are all in very good condition, all very clean." As for the cramped Studio Dorm triples, spots have opened up elsewhere, but according to Barnes, students do not want to move.

Vivian Harakas is one such student. *continued page 3*

Tenure Decisions Announced by EPC

KERRY CHANCE

At the close of July, tenure and rehiring decisions were made public, announcing that all six candidates received tenure and ten professors were granted rehire. Two professors from the French department, Marina van Zuylen and Andre Aciman were tenured, as well as Religion Professor Richard Davis. From the Math department, Lauren Rose was awarded tenure and from the Film Department, Peggy Ahwesh.

"All were outstanding candidates," said Dean Stuart Levine, "they embody what the College represents."

Only two professors, Anne Bertrand and Carolyn Miller, were not rehired for reasons ranging

from a lack of field and research experience to weak student evaluations. Psychology Professor Tracy Stewart was also not rehired but was given a two-year grant for research in what Levine calls a "mutual agreement between her and the College."

Still, it is exceptional for that many professors to receive tenure and rehire status in the same year at Bard, considering the College's reputation for exacting tenure/hiring practices. As Levine said, "It is unusual for the outcome to be as unanimous as it was. That has not happened in a long time."

The Educational Policies Committee (EPC), the branch of student government that provides input into tenure/rehiring, is gener-

continued page 4

Hate Crime on Campus

KERRY CHANCE

On the night of the 2000 commencement, academic sites were vandalized and defaced with racist and homophobic language. Police and a Bard-hired private investigator have been working on the case since last spring and expect to continue through the fall semester. Bard students have been questioned, and one student has been suspended pending the outcome of the investigation. The College is considering the act a "hate crime" and, as Dean of Students Erin Cannan said, "we are taking this very seriously."

Head of Security, Bob Brock, was asked to resign partially due to what Dean Stewart Levine described as "sloppy handling of the case" as it relates to the student suspected of the crime.

Bard has also hired a private New York City investigator, Roberta Tarshis, a lawyer with many years experience in cases of discrimination. This investigation

is being conducted independently of the police in an attempt to better piece together what happened on the night of May 27th. "This is something that shook everyone's world here...and will continue to do so for a long time," said Cannan.

In an effort to recognize the effects of hate crime in America, Nicole Woods, Director of Multicultural Affairs, is working with Cannan and various student organizations to, as Woods said, "develop a positive and productive approach to helping the community understand hate crimes and examine their impact on the community." Planning Committee Chair Max Kenner, who has been working with Woods, said, "We are making a real, conscientious effort to include student input about how to deal with this situation."

Students with information about the case should contact the Dean of Students Office.

Beethoven at Bard

A Review of this year's Music Festival

MATTHEW RICHARDS

Bard College celebrated the beginning of the new millennium in characteristic fashion -- late. The brochure for the eleventh Bard Music Festival, held in August, proclaimed it would "inaugurate its second decade (and, by coincidence, the twenty-first century)." Besides lateness, the festival was typical of Bard in other ways. It

offered an enlightening blend of the liberal arts, with music, philosophy, history and (unintended) drama served up by consummate



professionals for the audience's delight. All this was supposed to make you a fuller, better-educated person, provided you could afford to attend in the first place. And, of course, President Leon Botstein was in charge.

continued page 11

Verdict is In: Dutchess County Students Win Right to Vote

At long last, stalled registration process gets on its feet

MICHAEL CHAMEIDES

Bard and Vassar students won the right to vote in Dutchess County, after a two-year battle inside and outside the courts. In the past, the Republican Elections Commissioner, with the support of many local Republicans, argued that students are "similar to tourists" (as far as their transient residential status) and could not vote in Dutchess County. In response, a grassroots campaign mobilized local activists and pressured local officials to follow state and national election laws. Over the summer, the newly appointed Election Commissioner, David Gamache, began registering students in Dutchess County. Student Activists for Voting Equality (SAVE) leader Monica Elkington said, "I applaud Gamache for registering some Bard students over the summer, but there are hundreds more who wish to be included."

Last year, students formed SAVE and were joined by a broad coalition of local, state, and national groups, including the New York Civil Liberties Union (NYCLU), New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG), New York League of

Women Voters, College Republicans of America, the Presidents of Bard, Vassar, and the SUNY New Paltz Colleges, and several local politicians.

The student campaign also received frequent coverage in the local media. SAVE was on the front page of the *Poughkeepsie Journal* several times and sympathetic editorials were published by the editors of the *Journal* and the *Gazette Advertiser*. Eventually, SAVE filed a law suit against Dutchess County, arguing that Dutchess County was violating students constitutional right to vote. As Elkington said, "Bard and Vassar students' right to vote is our right to political representation in Dutchess County."

Members of the Bard administration and faculty participated in the student-led campaign, as well. In particular, Dean of Studies Jonathan Becker and Political Studies Professor Joseph Luders worked to support student initia-

tives and campaign ideas. During this time, phone calls and letters helped to pressure local officials to address the issue.

Woody Klose, a Republican resident of Red Hook, called for an investigation and public hearings at Bard and Vassar. Klose, Mark Molinaro (R-Tivoli), and Christen Jamillio (D-Poughkeepsie)

sat on the commission. The hearing at Bard was more hostile than Klose had expected, as students, professors, faculty, community members, and SAVE's lawyer from the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) testified about the situation and called for the members of the commission to take a stand for student voting rights. At the end of the hearing, Jamillio signed on as a coalition partner and Mark Molinaro pledged to write a personal letter of support for student voting rights.

The Vassar public forum was held the next week and two weeks *continued page 2*

Faced with the ever-increasing threat of ACLU litigation, Elections Commissioner David Gamache finally began the registration process

Bard Students and Faculty Organize in Local Protest to End the Iraqi Economic Sanctions

MICHAEL CHAMEIDES

Over the weekend of August 26th to 27th, seven Bard students and one faculty member joined a local protest against the trade sanctions imposed on Iraq. The rally was organized by Rhinebeck resident Joel Tyner and was supported by several religious organizations as well as Bard students and New Paltz residents.

At the rally activists handed out literature, held signs, and talked to the media.

The protest focused on the two million people who have died as a result of the U.S. sanctions and the over 200 children who die every day from lack of food, water, and supplies because of the economic blockades.

"We were out there to cut

through the propaganda. The fact is that the U.S. is murdering millions of people. Everyone in Iraq has become a victim of U.S. foreign policy, and we need a politically active public that forces our government to stop," said Emma Kreyche of Bard's Student Action Collective (SAC).

This semester SAC plans to continue its campaign against the sanctions. In the last few years, the group has organized four educational events, collected hundreds of signatures, attended rallies, and sent one student to Iraq (currently an illegal destination for a U.S. citizen).

This semester, SAC plans to organize with local activists, organizations, and churches to form a coalition from Dutchess and Ulster counties called the Mid-Hudson Coalition Against the Sanctions on Iraq.

Background on the Sanctions:

The United Nations Security Council implemented sanctions -- an economic

blockade that halts all foreign trade, exports, and imports -- on Iraq in 1990 after Iraq invaded Kuwait. In the last ten years, a worldwide movement has arisen against the sanctions.

Millions of people and organizations have spoken out against the sanctions, including The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Health Organization, Pope John Paul II, the U.N. Committee on the Rights of the Child, 70 U.S. representatives, as well as the governments of France, China, and Russia. The U.S. and Great Britain, however, hold strong that the sanctions are necessary in an effort to destabilize Saddam Hussein's regime.

Members of the U.S. government have stated that the U.S. will veto any Security Council resolution that advocates lifting the sanctions.

In recent months, the U.S. and Britain have made plans to escalate measures against Iraq. While they bomb Iraq once every three days, the U.S. is making moves for a more intense bombing campaign similar to the one in 1998 when Iraq was bombed for four consecutive days.

The U.S. asserts that Saddam Hussein is harboring chemical weapons, but several U.N. weapons inspectors have said that Iraq is not a threat. The U.S. also claims that Saddam is hoarding food, although the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Health Organization, and the World Food Programs' research

reports suggest the contrary.

Iraq has agreed to allow U.N. weapons inspectors into the country if the U.S. agrees to lift sanctions; the U.S. government, however, pledges to hold the sanctions indefinitely. The U.S. has never clearly defined what Iraq must do for the sanctions to be lifted.

The Bard SAC offers more information about the sanctions and methods for direct action on the issue.



Stop the Genocide: The issue of the US sanctions on Iraq did not go unnoticed at August's Democratic National Convention.

Voting Rights Granted for Community

...continued from page 1
later the commission issued a report in favor of student voting rights.

Last year, then-Elections Commissioner and leader of the Dutchess County Republican Party, Bill Paroli, was arrested for alleged extortion, fraud, and several other corruption charges. In March, Paroli stepped down from his position as part of a plea bargain with the District Attorney. SAVE's campaign then shifted its focus, attempting to ensure that the next commissioner would support student voting.

Dutchess County has two elections commissioners. The Democrats and Republicans each appoint one person. Although no one took a public stand, Mark Molinaro, Woody Klose, and other Republicans told SAVE activists that the new Commissioner, Dave Gamache, would support student voting rights.

After being appointed,

Gamache was hesitant to take a definite position on student voting rights. Initially he refused to clearly give an opinion and generally avoided SAVE activists. SAVE activists continued to pressure Gamache until he eventually agreed to register students. However, Gamache continued to stall on the actual registration process. As pressure mounted with the continuation of litigation by the ACLU, Gamache began registering students. "I am thankful a lawsuit was not necessary," said Elkington, but added, "Students need to keep constant watch over the Board of Elections to protect our right to vote."

Gamache has instructed that students put their Bard address, including dorm name and room number, on the voter registration cards. Throughout the year, SAVE will be tabling for voter registration as well as providing transportation to the polls on election day.



Sugar and Spice and Everything Nice. Sugar-Free and Wheat-Free too!

-Bard student special! Homemade Donut & Coffee, \$1.00
-Cakes & Care Packages! Delivered to Bard Students
-Special Orders Welcome! We Mail Anywhere

	-Homemade Pies	-Croissants	-Cookies
	-Gift Baskets	-Scones	-Breads
	-All-occasion Cakes	-Donuts	-Muffins

Open Wednesday to Sunday, 7-6

46 West Market Street, Red Hook, NY 12571
 (800) 914-BAKE • (914) 758-BAKE
 FAX (914) 758-9124



Gi Gi Manager

7479, South Broadway Red Hook, NY 12571 TEL 914-758-6868 FAX: 914-758-3776

Bard Housing Problems Anger Students

Construction continues across Bard campus from the New Toasters to the Performing Arts Center; Administrators tell students to grin and bear it.

...continued from page 1
dent. Because of differing schedules among herself and her two roommates, privacy has not been an issue. She even considers her personal space to be "enough."

Harakas' only complaints stem from the lack of dorm amenities and cleanliness. Upon moving in, she found the floor had not been washed and her bed smelled of vomit. As her room was not built for three people, there are only two ethernet hook-ups, forcing the roommates to share the outlets.

The absence of ethernet access was also an issue when Bard decided to close the Ravines as dormitories. It would not have been cost effective to run cables into every room. This, coupled with concerns for fire safety, caused the College to decide it

would be best if students did not live in them. Instead, once students have moved into the New Toasters, the Ravines will be renovated for other uses, such as music practice rooms or art studios.

The other dorms currently without ethernet access are Robbins and Manor on North Campus. Instead of wiring every room, downstairs study lounges have been installed with internet-capable computers.

While the New Toasters will be ready for this Spring, another new dormitory project broke ground

this August. Called the Green Dorms, they are going to be environmentally friendly, house approximately 100 people, and be ready for the Fall 2001 Semester.

Despite all the new construction, Bard's capacity to house students will only be slightly increased, especially if Albee goes off-line as a dormitory, a plan being considered to provide more room for offices, labs, studios, and meeting rooms.

Barnes considers the housing problem to be an admissions question. When President Botstein addressed L&T students and their parents on August 5th, he briefly discussed the problem and the role admissions policies play in it.

Although the college has not increased the number of applicants it accepts, the number of applicants who decide to attend

Once students move into the New Toasters the Ravines will be renovated for other uses, such as music practice rooms or art studios.



Pick up and move: Sawkill was moved to a different spot on North Campus, to clear the scenic quadrangle of the new Cruger dorm.



The Not-So-Temp. Studio Dorm: Affectionately named Hotel Ugly by its initial residents and B&G alike, this dorm has been converted into first-year triples.

the College has risen. This is how the recent increase in students has occurred, and would be the easiest thing to change if Bard desires to keep its community small and intimate.

Of all the concerns administrators are juggling, Barnes considers student happiness, safety, and comfort among the most important. Both President Botstein and Resident Directors Eva Bodula and Won Kang have met with peer coun-

selors to get feedback. In addition, Office of Residence Life staff are always around and eager to hear suggestions and concerns. Lastly,

Despite all the new construction, Bard's capacity to house students will be only slightly increased, especially if Albee goes off-line as a dormitory...

the student government has formed a Housing Committee to examine the state of Bard's accommodations. Living arrangements are one of the most important aspects of "being a part of the community," said Barnes, so everyone should feel at home.

Northern Dutchess Pharmacy, Inc.

18 East Market Street
Rhinebeck, New York

"Your Prescription Drug Store"

WALTER CZAJKA · GEORGE VERVEN · STEVE AQUILINO

(914) 876-3939

Announcements

From the Office of the Dean

A new Campus Safety and Policy Review Board is being organized to look at a variety of campus issues. The chairs of the Student Life Committee, BRAVE, and EMS have each been requested to appoint two student representatives to participate in this committee. The group will meet the first Friday of every month (9/1, 10/6, 11/3, 12/1) in the College Room of Kline beginning at 11:45 A.M. Lunch will be provided. If you have questions or are interested in participating, please contact John Kelly, ext. 7454 or Allen Josey, ext. 7099 for more information about the group.

-John Kelly, Dean of First Year Students

BETTY...Exposed!

Who is Betty and why is she organizing so many events?

Some of you may already have heard about BETTY (Bard Events to Thrill You), but for those of you who haven't, here is a quick explanation and an open invitation to get involved.

BETTY is a student run, administratively funded group that organizes a wide variety of campus events throughout the academic year for the Bard Community. We are looking for new members and new ideas about what events to bring to campus. If you are interested in getting involved, have questions or just want to suggest activity events, send an email to betty@bard.edu and we will send you information about our meeting times so you can check it out.

VILLAGE BOOKS OF TIVOLI

48 Broadway, Tivoli

Wed-Sat 1-8 pm

Sun 1-7 pm

e-mail: village-books@webjogger.net



New, Used and
Rare Books

Book Searches

914/757-BOOK

Northern Dutchess County's Largest Bookseller

Student Role in Tenure Decisions Remains Uncertain

...continued from page 1
ally satisfied with the outcome of the process, although not all the decisions are consistent with EPC recommendations. Chair of the EPC, Malini Ranganathan, cites the EPC's lack of self-definition as an impediment to its participation in the decisions.

"Our role has not really been identified in the past," she said. "And we do not know the extent to which our evaluations are considered."

Part of the student government's agenda this semester is to better use the EPC's influence. As President Leon Botstein said, "Bard is one of the few institutions left in the country where students are active in the decision-making process."

Still, the government argued last semester that student evaluations and recommendations should carry more weight. During the sixties, students were actually voting members of the tenure committee, until the faculty elected to change the policy and create the EPC. "The reason is quite simple," said Botstein, "students are a crucial part of the process and have a very different point of view partially because they are transitory. A current student body does not have a permanent interest for a long period of time. Members of faculty who have tenure for upwards of thirty years have a permanent interest."

The government is now working on maximizing the EPC's potential. Planning Committee Chair, Max Kenner, said, "The EPC is granted specific powers in the student constitution, and, I think, those powers are fair and should be respected. Whether

or not they have seems to waver back and forth over the years."

As Ranganathan said, "We felt our evaluations were not taken into consideration in the past."

In the future, the EPC hopes to tighten its own procedural initiatives and carve out its position in the decision making process.

Presently, the EPC's role in the processes of tenure/rehire begins with gathering written and oral testimonies from students and entering a summary report of their findings into the faculty member's file.

The entire process begins with full-force in May, continues through the middle of the summer, and concludes in late July. After the EPC submits its report, the Faculty Evaluation and Recommendation Committee (FERC) files an independent recommendation, which takes into consideration student and faculty reports, as well as their own

In this round of decisions, most of the results were consistent with the EPC and FERC recommendations, with a few exceptions.

research. After the FERC votes for or against a tenure recommendation, all materials are given to Botstein, who ultimately makes the final decision.

In this round of decisions, most of the results were consistent with the EPC and FERC recommendations, with a few exceptions. "The end of the evaluation is a subjective evaluation," said Botstein. As tenure, specifically, may mean a professor will teach at Bard for

thirty years or more, tenure decisions have the ability to effect academics at Bard for many classes to come. "I am required to make an intelligent decision about something for which probably no intelligent decision can be made," said Botstein.

Botstein tries to consider independence of mind in his tenure decisions. "We don't want all faculty to think alike, teach the same way, or have the same ideology."

The standards by which the President, FERC, and EPC evaluate the candidates include excellent teaching abilities, progress and potential in the field, significant published work, satisfactory internal and external reviews of publications, as well as contributions to the Bard community. Though the degree to which

candidates fulfill these requirements varies by reports, as Botstein said, "Each candidate brings different strengths to the table." In terms of published work, according to Levine, all tenure candidates had excellent reviews from inside and outside the College.

Botstein emphasizes that the tenure decision-making process is made as apolitical as possible.

"You don't want to turn tenure into a political game," he said, "where the only people who succeed are the people who play by the rules." In this light, Botstein also tries to consider independence of mind in his tenure decisions. "We don't want all faculty to think alike, teach the same way, or have the same ideology," he said.

With many of the same goals in mind, the EPC hopes to continue to expand its sphere of influence in tenure and rehiring decisions. As Max Kenner said, "The EPC is definitely a branch of student government we have the most to work with in terms of student power."

2000 Faculty Status

Granted Tenure

Andre Aciman - French
Peggy Ahwesh - Film and Electronic Media
Richard Davis - Religion
Lauren Rose - Mathematics
Marina van Zuylen - French

Faculty Leaving the College

Lourdes Alvarez
Tatiana Boborykina
Steven Colatrella
Alice Dark
Matthias Goeritz
Gevork Hartoonian
Ken Kobland
Les LeVeque
Oren Levin-Waldman
Zara Martirosova
Michael Moore
Debra Noble
Eric Orlin
Amina Steinfelds
Oliver Wasow

Rehired

Laurie Dahlberg
Kyle Gann
Jeffrey Sichel
Alan Klima
David Lopez
Garry Reigenborn
Edward Smith
Susan Bernofsky
Omar Encarnacion
Christopher Magee

To Emeritus Status

John Fout
Frank Oja
Clark Rodewald
Suzanne Vromen

Not Rehired

Anne Bertrand
Carolyn Miller

The Budget Forum

**Wednesday, September 13th
in the Kline Committee Rooms
7:30 p.m.**

All Budgets are due **Thursday, Sept. 7th.**

A club may only receive money IF:

1. The proposed budgets are submitted by 5 p.m. today (Thursday) . . .
2. ...And defended on Saturday, September 9th

(Sign-up sheets for the budget defense are located next to the Kline Committee Rooms.)

Nice Guy Von's 
TATTOOS & PIERCINGS

57 Broadway
Tivoli, NY

757.XXXX

From PA to LA, Dissecting the 2000 Conventions

GILLIAN MEANS

One needs only look at a partial list of speakers and guests at the 2000 Republican and Democratic National Conventions to see how different the two events were. In Philadelphia from July 29th to August 3rd, the Republicans included, among others, The Rock of the World Wrestling Federation and African American choirs. The Democrats, who wrapped up their four-day convention on August 17th, gave Reverend Jesse Jackson and Caroline Kennedy-Schlossberg the floor.

These severely abbreviated lists are indicative of the character of each convention. Philadelphia overflowed with entertainment but lacked substance, while the Democratic National Convention Committee (DNCC) put on a comparatively serious and substantive show.

Political analyst David Corn of *The Nation* called the Republican Convention a "political infomercial" with "too much blending of entertainment and politics." Desperately wanting to win back the White House after eight years of the Clinton-Gore administration,

Republicans consolidated to back candidate George W. Bush and his running mate Dick Cheney.

Even many middle-of-the-road delegates who oppose Bush's platform on abortion rights, taxes and other issues barely even hinted at their dissent. Polls show Bush to be getting nine out of ten Republican votes, showing great party solidarity.

Missing from the Philadelphia convention was much mention of the other team. Delegates were instructed not to be goaded by the press into making negative statements about Vice-President Al Gore or the current administration.

Democratic presidential candidate Gore was finally mentioned in Bush's address,

but his comments were largely tempered by his typical attacks -- a rare instance in a week of feel-good speeches. The Bush campaign attempted, and succeeded, in bathing the entire convention in a positive and upbeat light.

The idea was to go after Independents and other swing votes with a big, multicultural, non-confrontational smile. In addition to the lack of the more extreme and vocal Republicans such as Jesse Helms, Strom



Bottom Line: Cheney agrees



Get on the Float: City streets around the conventions were crowded with protestors and...their creations.

Thurmond, Bob Barr, and Tom DeLay, another marked difference between this and past Republican conventions was the plethora of non-white speakers and performers. Many noticed, however, that

there were many more on stage than among the delegates on the convention floor. On this Corn had this to say: "But if you can decry affirmative action and then load up the schedule with people selected, in part, due to their skin color, why not try to sell the GOP as a bastion of working-class populism?"

Compared with the four nights of entertainment during the Republican National Convention, the week of August 14-17 in Los Angeles was starkly traditional. The Democratic Convention was the capping event for the days since Gore named Joseph Lieberman his running mate.

The team is using Lieberman's background to the best of their advantage. The Democratic nominee for vice-president is the first Jewish person to be nominated for the position, and his wife,

Hadassah, is a Czechoslovakian immigrant, providing the Democratic party with solid ground from which to espouse ideals of equality.

Healthcare was one of the biggest issues at the convention, and Gore was able to build upon the "prosperity" of the last eight years. Whereas Bush's

Republican base is firmly behind him, Gore has only the loyalty of eight out of ten registered Democrats. For this reason, instead of focusing on winning independent voters, the majority of the convention was spent solidifying the liberal Democratic base by discussing issues such as abortion rights, tax cuts, and healthcare.

According to polls, Gore gained few Independents and even lost some conservative Democrats,

changing the situation of the race little. Unlike Bush, however, who received a bit of a bump after his convention but then saw his numbers return to his normal lead of approximately ten points, poll analysts believe Gore will likely see a rise later as voters have a chance to consider his positions.

It is, in essence, the home stretch. Voters can now look forward to a more serious discussion of issues and a bombardment of character attacks before November.



Top O' the World: The nomination



"Peace and prosperity in all 52 states!" GWB confuses USA with a deck of cards

GOP Convention, Bard Arrests

Even Annandalers couldn't escape the cuffs of the Philly PD

JEFF FERGUSON

Five Bard students and one recent Bard alumnus were among the hundreds arrested during the protests at the Republican National Convention in Philadelphia. Four were arrested in a massive police raid on a building being used to make puppets, banners, and other political art. Two more were arrested while demonstrating in the streets.

The six were among thousands of activists who, during the last week of July and the first few days of August, converged on the city with the purpose of sending a message to the Republican Party and the whole of the American political elite. The mobilization -- dubbed 'R2K' by the organizers -- included protesters representing a broad spectrum of social justice issues. Causes they came to fight for included the implementation of economic human rights, protests

against police brutality, and demands to end the expansion and privatization of the prison-industrial complex. These are issues, activists claim, that fall between the cracks of two-party partisanship and that Republican and Democratic parties decline to give substantive consideration in the formation of their platforms.

Pervasive among all protesters was the sentiment that the two-party system does not represent -- and, to many who came to R2K, is not capable of representing -- the needs of a large and growing segment of the American population. This sentiment is clearly expressed in the "Call to Action" of the Philadelphia Direct Action Group: "Both parties have been pushing a racist and sexist corporate agenda which benefits the few at the expense of the many [and] that is destroying hundreds of millions of lives worldwide [and] wrecking the planet."

On August 1st, after several days of protests largely unimpeded by police intervention, the police staged a massive raid on a privately owned building that was being used to make banners and puppets for the protests. Seventy-five people, including the three Bard students and one recent alumnus, were inside the building at the time of the raid. Everyone in the building was arrested, including the owner of the building, who, though uninvolved with the R2K mobilization, was on the site at the time of the police blockade.

The police surrounded the building at 41st St. and Haverford Ave. at approximately 2:00 P.M. Included in the blockading force were two police helicopters, between 100 and 150 police officers, two empty buses for transportation of prisoners, and at least a dozen other miscellaneous police vehicles. Police officers were sta-

continued page 6



The Phantom Menace: This effigy in Philly cast Bush as Han Solo.

Bard Students Arrested at Republican Nat'l Convention

...continued from page 5

tioned on the roof of the building within minutes of arriving on the scene. The officers then used a video camera to record through a skylight the activities of those trapped within the building. They also spit through an opening in the skylight onto the people gathered below.

According to the police themselves, the police did not have a warrant at the time of the blockade, but assured those trapped within that they were "about to get one." In fact, the protesters were blockaded within the site for three hours. At this time, approximately 5:00 P.M., police outside started chainsaws, and the owner of the building decided it was necessary

to allow the police to access the site. No one, including the owner, saw a warrant, and the Philadelphia District Attorney's office has ordered the file sealed

due to 'sensitive' content. Police claim that the building contained C4 plastic explosives and was being used as a weapons factory.

Despite a thorough search, in which all of the protest art in the building was destroyed, the police found no weapons. None of the activists received weapons-related charges.

Activists were charged with nine misdemeanors and spent at least 2-5 days in jail. Many activists remained in jail for

protests -- from \$10,000 up to \$1,000,000 for misdemeanors.

While in jail, puppeteers and other protesters were given similarly questionable treatment. Access to the customary and legally-guaranteed single phone call was severely restricted. Many were not allowed access to a phone until after anywhere from three days to over a week in confinement. All were denied access to the legal counsel of their choice. The R2K Legal Collective -- an all-volunteer organization of lawyers, paralegals, and assorted others -- was barred from the jail. Only public defenders were allowed to see the prisoners. Prisoners in the

'Roundhouse' were kept six to a six foot by seven foot cell. Most were not arraigned -- and thus not informed of their legal status or their charges -- until well after the federally mandated 72 hour deadline. Access to medical treatment was

severely restricted. Numerous reports of a variety of physical attacks and abuses were recorded, including the handcuffing of a prisoner's wrist to opposite ankle

Activists were charged with 9 misdemeanors seemingly unrelated to the circumstances of their arrests...



Wall of Jiggles: Philly cops hold their ground in the face of pure teen fury.

several weeks, due in part to extremely high bail. In perhaps a politically-motivated maneuver, bail was set unusually high for all of those arrested during the R2K



Who are those guys? Despite face masks, these two protesters were easily recognizable as fashionable Bard students.

(called "hobbling"), the tightening of handcuffs sufficient to cause bleeding and turn extremities blue, and rough treatment entailing prisoners being roughly picked up by their necks and handcuffs while having their neck stepped on until their faces turned blue and punching and kicking.

As of August 20th, all those jailed had been released. Most will have to return to Philadelphia in

September for their court dates. The R2K Legal Collective and many of the defendants are currently engaged in developing a coordinated strategy for all those arrested during R2K.

Democratic Party isn't Exactly off the Hook Either

Emma Kreyche

From August 14th to 17th, Bard students and graduates joined thousands of other demonstrators from across the country to protest the Democratic National Convention (DNC) in Los Angeles in an attempt to challenge corporate control in the Democratic Party. Actions throughout the downtown area were organized by a coalition of local and national organizations in cooperation with Rise Up and the LA chapter of the Direct Action Network. Activists rallied around a variety of causes throughout the course of the week, including environmental concerns, labor rights, the death penalty, and immigration policy, among others.

After months of organizing, protesters kicked off the week of action on the Sunday before the Convention with a large-scale anti-death penalty march to the Staples Center, where the Convention was to be held the following day. Marchers focused particular attention on Al Gore's pro-death penalty stance in light of growing opposition to a system in which low-income citizens and people of color find themselves disproportionately targeted.

Monday's theme was "Human Need Not Corporate Greed," and thousands gathered in objection to Gore's involvement with Occidental Petroleum. The demonstrators wanted to highlight that the Democratic presidential candidate, while attempting to attract the environmental and human

rights vote, at the same time controls up to \$1,000,000 in stock with the company familiarly referred to as "Oxy." He has enjoyed the oil company's sponsorship throughout his career and in exchange, activists charge, Gore has remained silent regarding Oxy's oil project in northeastern Colombia.

For almost a decade Oxy has been attempting to gain access to the ancestral lands of the native U'wa people. Meanwhile, the U'wa threaten mass suicide upon the commencement of drilling in the region. Martin Wagner, of the Earth

Justice Legal Defense Fund, articulated the sentiments of many demonstrators by saying, "In the Case of the U'wa, the exploitation of natural resource will result in the destruction of the lives and culture of indigenous peoples."

The rest of the week followed in a similar vein, with demonstrators taking to the streets on Tuesday in opposition to what they saw as the Democratic party's lack of attention to vital issues on the progressive agenda. A women's rally and march in the morning addressed welfare reform, universal healthcare, and living wages for working mothers. In the afternoon, demonstrations called attention to the party's neglect of issues

specifically concerning the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered community. Activists from the organization "Queers and Allies" labled as unacceptable the Clinton-Gore administration's record on the Federal Employment Non-Discrimination Act, Federal Hate Crimes Legislation, funding



Not happy with either option: Many protestors found no meaningful difference between Al Gore and George W. Bush

for HIV/AIDS research, and domestic partnership issues, as well as the infamous "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

On Wednesday, demonstrators focused attention on local concerns, voicing a demand to end the criminalization of youth, especially those of immigrant backgrounds and youth of color. Many consider this to be an epidemic on a national scale; the Rampart Division of the Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) has come under particular scrutiny after accounts of horrific police brutality and corruption have come to light. A march on the Rampart Station, as well as non-violent civil disobedience at the entrance to the sta-

tion, was an attempt by activists to demonstrate solidarity with their host community. Much of the organizing for the demonstrations during the week took place in a neighborhood where residents struggle with a police department many believe plants evidence, murders unarmed victims, and targets people for political reasons and immigration status.

Thursday concluded the weeks of actions with a march protesting Citigroup's sponsorship of the Democratic Party. Citigroup is the largest private finance institution in the U.S., noted among demonstrators for its

discriminatory lending practices, redlining, and the development of corporate prisons. Citigroup, the activists charged, has also been responsible for implementing destructive environmental projects, contributing to increasing Third World debt, and promoting genetic engineering.

Other actions coinciding with the Convention targeted the Gap for its role in the destruction of redwood forests, a march in support of a local bus riders union, and direct action by animal rights activists. Events included a teach-in and march regarding the dangers of genetically-engineered foods, a march against sweatshop labor in the LA garment district, and a rally

against the U.S. war on Iraq -- estimated to have killed 2 million people in the last ten years. Activists were supported in their efforts by a number of musicians and enjoyed performances by Rage Against the Machine, Bonnie Raitt, and Michael Franti with Spearhead.

Demonstrators did not receive such a warm welcome from city officials and the LAPD. By Thursday evening, 198 people had been arrested, including several for jaywalking; the last of those arrested were released Tuesday, August 22nd. A number of protesters did suffer from police violence and harassment, although no serious injuries were reported.

In spite of these infringements on protesters' right to free speech and assembly, most demonstrators chose to remain focused on the issue of the Democratic party's relationship with large corporations, which, they maintain, play a large role in shaping U.S. national and foreign policy. When asked why she participated in protests against the Democratic party, Bard junior Rayna Matthews responded by saying, "Both the Republican and Democratic parties have shown a far stronger commitment to corporations which fund their campaigns than to the people of this country who they claim to represent. We came to LA because we are building a movement of liberation that puts human need before corporate greed."

Bard Bookstore = Bad Business

Campus bookstore values its sales over its students' interests

RENATA RUTMAN

On the morning of August 10th, I stopped by the campus bookstore in hopes of finding out the titles of the books I needed for the fall semester. As a full time college sophomore with limited resources and basic knowledge of the Internet, I decided that rather than being overcharged by Bard's Barnes and Noble franchise, I could easily order my books from websites like www.bibliofind.com or www.BookFinder.com for at least half the price.

When I came into the store I saw that the shelf with the fall semester's books was barricaded with a painted wooden wall to hide the books. I was shocked when a bookstore employee told me that at the professors' requests, the bookstore was not allowing anyone to see the book titles, and that they wanted students to purchase their books at this store. I mean, did they really just admit to me that the bookstore was intentionally trying



Time to pay 10 dollars for Elmer's Glue: A student at the Bard bookstore, scene of the crime.

to rip off Bard students? I couldn't make sense of what difference it made to professors where or how their students obtained books as long as they had them, period.

Later in the afternoon I ran into one of my professors at the library, and that same evening I received an email from him listing the required books. Apparently neither he, nor any of my professors in the past, had a problem with their students purchasing books elsewhere. Not every professor, however, spends his or her time in the library waiting for students to approach him or her. Just like students, many professors leave Bard for the summer and do not want to be bothered with requests for book lists. After all, they supply the bookstore with the lists ahead of time, perhaps hoping that it will be made available to students upon request.

The bookstore exists so that students have the option and convenience of buying books and school supplies without leaving campus. This store offers a variety of useful day planners, notebooks, Bard

memorabilia, and all that other good stuff that we all have and love, and that service should by no means be taken away. Although their prices are, in my opinion, ridiculously high, the Barnes and Noble franchise is doing nothing wrong by setting them at that level as long as there exists a market for them. If Bard students do not want to save money by taking the extra few hours and

finding the books online and instead want to purchase them conveniently at the campus bookstore, no one is stopping them, and both the students and the bookstore benefit from the exchange.

The problem for me lies not so much with the bookstore's high prices as with the bookstore actually taking steps to prevent students from obtaining their books elsewhere. By not opening the fall semester section until August 28th,

two days before the beginning of classes, the bookstore is not allowing students to find out what books they need, and is thus creating a situation in which students are left with no

choice but to buy books from them if they want to be prepared for the beginning of the semester. Now, I don't know the first thing about economics, but it seems to me that by making it virtually impossible for students to order books online or anywhere else (online delivery takes usually 10 or more days) the bookstore is creating a kind of de facto monopoly by limiting the places where students can obtain books.

So why exactly am I being forced to buy my books for 50% more than I have to and why should I be penalized if I don't? Why are the bookstore's prices so high? If the bookstore's policy were such a principle-driven decision, I would have much less of a problem buying books there. However, since used books compose such a substantial proportion of the bookstore's sales, and the profits benefit only the bookstore itself, it would seem unreasonable to view this policy in such a way.

Like most Bard students, I would rather buy used than new-

and this decision is more practical than moral. If I have already decided to buy used books, and I know that I can save at least 50% over Bard's used book prices (I won't even mention how much I saved over their new book prices), and the Bard bookstore knows that

The bookstore actually takes steps to prevent students from obtaining books elsewhere.

what books are required for my classes? Does the bookstore really resent me that much, and would it benefit so greatly from the two hundred dollars I would spend there on used books? What would the bookstore think if they found out that I could get some of the books for my classes for free simply by looking through the unwanted books at the Red Hook Dump? Well, I can, and I encourage anyone else who finds the bookstore's prices and policies more than a little unreasonable to consider this option as well.

While the bookstore does not make it impossible for students to find out what books they need, its employees go further than necessary to make this a difficult task, as if the fact that there is only one bookstore on campus (and very limited resources for books in the area) were not enough to guarantee them sufficient business from students. There is literally a barricade in place in each of the aisles containing books required for classes, as if to prevent frustrated students such as myself from sneaking between them in order to secretly gather the information needed to purchase books elsewhere. I find not only the bookstore's policy of withholding book lists, but also the tone in which it was explained to me, to be offensive and insulting. The direct, almost hostile tone in which the words "because we want you to buy the books here" were spoken indicates an assumption that students can and will be forced to buy their books from the campus bookstore regardless of the quality and nature of the treatment and service the bookstore's employees provide. I sincerely hope that this is not so. I also hope that other students are aware of the fact that they do have the option of purchasing their books outside of the campus bookstore, and that the prices they would be paying if they chose to do so would make them regret not having realized this earlier.

there is no way I will ever buy from them again, what sense does it make to put off telling me

Bush's Speech a Bust

JASON SCHWARTZ

On both sides of the aisle, the acceptance speeches for the presidency and vice presidency at the Republican National Convention were poor in quality. Staged as if they were companion pieces to the Grammy awards, the speeches ran an average of forty minutes to an hour in length and were composed of little more than fuzzy sentimentality, rhetoric, and the occasional patriotic declaration. The whole thing was far more of a pageant than a political event, complete with streamers, costumes, and flashy colors. What's even worse, despite the tremendous efforts the organizers went to in an attempt to make it enter-



tainingly 'hip' in a focus group sort of way, the conventions were dull and repetitive, so much so that a C-Span junkie such as myself found them rather difficult to concentrate on. As a result, according to the mainstream media, the American people tuned the whole affair out and watched *Survivor* instead. This is a pity, because underneath the layers of artificiality there were some significant, and, to a bleeding heart liberal like myself, rather disturbing shifts in the political dialogue that came out over the course of the last two weeks on the parts of both parties.

In this piece, part one in a two part examination of the continuing realignment of the Left and Right evident at both National Conventions, I will briefly cover a couple of features in George W. Bush's acceptance speech that the private media passed over with indifference. Individuals interested in reading the complete text of the speech can visit the official George W. Bush web site located at <http://www.georgewbush.com/Action/Action.asp> where they can not only find the document itself but also can take the daily "GW Trivia quiz" and potentially win neat campaign prizes, such as an "I love GWB tax calculator" or a "No more beating around the Bush" coffee mug.

Bush's speech was as vapid as it was vague. Not only did it lack any discussion of a single concrete policy that the administration would attempt to adopt, it did not even put forth a coherent political philosophy. There was little, if any, mention of the dangers of big government, of the need to repeal abortion rights, or of a crisis in culture, the classic Republican issues that in the past two elections have kept Republicans out of the White House. A spirit of inclusiveness appeared to dominate the proceedings -- though, as the media was quick to point out, the multi-culturalism was safely segregated from the actual delegates, who were mostly the typical upper class white males one expects to see as the dominant constituency within the Grand Old Party.

Besides an obligatory nod to the religious right, at first glance there was little in the speech to which one could object. The effect was George W. Bush sounding like a reasonable human being. If he can continue this ruse of rationality, he may very well

become our next president, a thought that makes the blood of sensible people run cold.

A particularly interesting feature of the speech, which unsurprisingly was never mentioned by the media, is that it managed to distort and manipulate American history in a manner that would make Oliver Stone proud. It appears on the surface level that the Republican party has finally come to terms with the fact that it was on the side that lost the battle for public opinion during the Vietnam era. Consequently, Republican propagandists are beginning to appropriate the legacy of the activist movements of the mid-sixties, completely unconcerned with the fact that

the party idol, Ronald Reagan, on numerous occasions during his presidency very publicly stated that he would have voted against the Civil Rights Act of 1964 if he had been given the opportunity. Nevertheless, the Bush speech paints the party as an active partner, with some qualifications, in that great era of social reform. Bush even had the audacity to chide the Clinton administration's frequent waffling by using the words of Pete Seeger:

"My generation tested limits -- and our country, in some ways, is better for it. Women are now treated more equally. Racial progress has been steady, if still too slow. We are learning to protect the natural world around us. We will continue this progress, and we will not turn back. At times, we lost our way. But we are coming home... We heard it in the civil rights movement, when brave men and women did not say ... 'We shall cope,' or 'We shall see.' They said 'We shall overcome.'"

If this were not outrageous enough, Bush then proceeded to criticize Al Gore for not staying true to the spirit of his party, for selling out on the issues that ordinary Americans hold dear, and alluding at numerous points to the very New Deal liberalism that the Republican Party has spent the past twenty years trying to eradicate from memory. The fact that the following particularly inane soundbite was quoted favorably by a number of pundits in the days following the speech shows how successful they have been at achieving this goal. Bush said of Gore that "He now leads the party of Franklin Delano Roosevelt. But the only thing he has to offer is fear itself."

What could be more unsettling than the fact that not a single member of the Democratic political establishment objected to this blatant misuse of one of the most impressive social legislative records in recorded history? How about that at the Democratic National Convention the following week a century of relative political success was essentially ignored, as the middle of the road Democratic party focused all of its attention on taking credit for an economy that according to every principle of classical economics could not possibly exist, and, through the nomination of Joseph Lieberman, the Orthodox Jewish Senator from Connecticut, the Party continued its ever increasing drift towards the right.

STUDENT ACTION COLLECTIVE

Interested in activism at Bard?

Join the Student Action Collective, formerly the Student Labor Coalition (SLC). We are non-hierarchical, anti-racist, anti-war, and anti-oppression. We support indigenous people's struggles around the world.

ORGANIZE AGAINST IRAQI SANCTIONS - END THE DEATH PENALTY AND POLICE BRUTALITY - STOP SWEATSHOPS - RESIST INSTITUTIONS SUCH AS MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS AND THE WTO

COME TO OUR NEXT TUESDAY MEETING

"The Fishing Line" by Eric Hinton

The Death Penalty: A Perspective from Prison

No one on death row owns or controls a Multi-national Corporation, in fact 99% of the people on death row are poor, and like all cases dealing with indigent defendants the court appoints a public defender to represent the defendant.

It's a well know fact that public defenders have the Herculean task of representing numerous defendants whose crimes range from misdemeanors to felonies. But counsel for those facing death have an even greater task, which public defenders are ill equip and inexperienced to handle.

Even if someone gets lucky and is appointed a public defender who is competent, overcoming the hurdle of being granted the funds to try a death penalty case is slim to none. Evaluating all the evidence; hiring an investigator, interviewing defense and prosecution witnesses,

locating potential witnesses, hiring experts and conducting a exhaustive inquiry into the client background (his upbringing, education, traumatic experiences, psychological profile and the present feelings of the client). Developing an adequate defense costs money that the courts are unwilling to part with.

Every criminal case is factually and contextually unique and many variables affect the verdict; the weight and quality of the physical and testimonial evidence, the credibility of witnesses on both sides, the character and abilities of the prosecutor, defense counsel and trial judge; the composition of the jury and the character of each juror are all significant factors in determining the course and outcome of a trial.

However, many death row inmates are not afforded this oppor-

tunity to a meaningful defense and without competent appellate counsel most people on the row will be put to death regardless of "innocence."

Since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976 over 80 people have been released because of innocence, and hundreds more have been given life sentences due to incompetent counsel or overzealous prosecutors who often suppress evidence in order to obtain a conviction.

A great majority of capital cases are overturned in federal court by way of petition for writ of habeas corpus, however in 1996 the Anti Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act was passed into law by the U.S. Supreme Court who ruled narrowly in two cases reviewing the constitutionality of this bill. Habeas corpus is such a fundamental right that it is in the body of the constitution, not the Bill of Rights.

It is the only right so noted. It allows federal courts to determine whether someone is being held in an unconstitutional way.

The first federal statute passed to show how habeas corpus should be applied was passed by congress in 1867 to protect black freed men from local courts in the south. The greatest renaissance of habeas corpus took place during the civil rights movement of the 1960's where the federal courts were forced to step in to overturn racial injustice in the south.

In 1996 the bipartisan law that was mentioned was signed into law by President Bill Clinton. It gutted the right of habeas corpus by saying that prisoners in America could have only one habeas corpus petition; they must do it within one year of the final state action in the case and most incredibly, federal courts must give a presumption of correct-

ness to decisions made by a conservative state court. Not only that, but it's no longer enough that it must be "wrong and unconstitutional" but unreasonably constitutional.

The Anti Terrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act will put death row inmates on the fast track to the execution chamber, however, in light of the moratorium on the death penalty in Illinois by Governor George Ryan, many people are seeing capital punishment for what it really is- politics and vengeance, not justice.

Why speed up the process and limit prisoners petition for writ of habeas corpus the means in which a prisoner has for relief? Is this politics or justice, is this the American way of covering up the malfeasance it's doing by killing innocent men and women?

Without competent appellate counsel and a strong voice from the people, those who are innocent will die, not because they're guilty but because they're poor and the poor are voiceless.

Eric Hinton
J-04000
San Quentin State Prison

Even if someone gets lucky and is appointed a public defender who is competent, overcoming the hurdle of being granted the funds to try a death penalty case is slim to none.

Is this politics or justice, is this the American way of covering up the malfeasance it's doing by killing innocent men and women?

Survey: Bard College Students like Third Parties

Large number of students questioned say two-party system is outmoded; one student admits being Republican

AMBER BUCHHOLZ

After several days of listening to passing conversations with my fellow students, I found myself surprised by how many people I encountered making references to third party politics. Being a member of the Green Party myself, I am always keeping my ears open for clues as to who my fellow political compatriots are. However, in my past two and a half years as a registered voter, I don't think I've run into as many third party or independent voters as I have in my weeks at Bard.

This observation fueled my curiosity to take a more formal survey of Bardian political perspectives. Since it was an election year, I felt the issue was particularly pertinent. I talked to a large number of first-year students, and what I found simultaneously confirmed a few conceptions I held, and presented several contradictions I found alarming.

Half of the students I interviewed were registered with a third party or claimed no allegiance to any party. I only ran across one Republican, which left the rest of the students members of the Democratic Party. I wouldn't cate-

gorize all the Democrats together, however: as a group their responses were the most varied and unpredictable. Some I found to be deeply allegiant to the Democratic Party and its ideals, not to mention highly critical of third parties. Still others held views on specific issues that ran contrary to the party line, and expressed feelings ranging from ambivalence to contempt for Al Gore.

Only about a third of the registered Democrats I spoke to seemed optimistic about the idea of a Gore presidency. The general consensus seemed to be that although they

istered Democrat, was not so certain she was willing to cast her ballot for Gore. "I'm mad at him," she said, "he sounds more and more like Bush every day." Indeed, there are several key issues where the two frontrunners align. What I was surprised to find was how many students planning to vote for Gore disagreed with him on not just one, but often three or four major issues. For instance, I found only one Democrat in support of capital punishment, an issue Gore has expressed unwavering support for. Students unanimously condemned the notion of mandating prayer in school, but seemed unaware of the fact that Gore has tap-danced around the idea of leaving it up to individual school districts and communities, the equivalent of sacrificing a separation of church and state in favor of placating the moral majority in the nation's Bible Belt. Roughly two thirds of Democrats I interviewed were not in support of establishing a "voucher system" in an attempt to improve our public schools, however, Gore's running-mate Joseph Lieberman has on several occasions supported their use.

Among those students I interviewed who registered as an independent or third party member, there seemed to be a general feeling that the two party system should change, but there was still cynicism about whether or not it ever would. It was widely recognized among nearly all surveyed students that money is the leading reason third party politicians remain obscure, either because third parties don't have enough, or because the mainstream politicians have too much and don't want to give it up. Many claimed the media purposely chooses to ignore third party can-

didates on the campaign trail and debate circuit, or chooses to report only on the sensational candidates when they make tabloid-style headlines.

Many of those registered with a third party claimed that ignorance and complacency on the part of the American people were to blame. Jonathan Foltz, a member of Oregon's Pacific Green Party, recollected the welcoming speech made by President Botstein, blaming our "anti-intellectual culture" for what Foltz sees as political stagnation. "People aren't willing to think outside the box. Ralph Nader is not a spoiler, that's just what the Democrats want you to think. Anyone who believes that is just voting for the 'evil of two lessers,'" he said, borrowing a quote from Michael Moore's *The Big One*. Marcy Carlson, a registered independent, echoed that sentiment when she pointed out that there not only needs to be a wider variety of political candidates, but more people willing to think independently of their parties. "Too many people just agree with whatever their party tells them is right," she said.

Another trend I noticed pertained to people's awareness of world trade. I found in my survey that nearly every person registered with a third party or as an independent voter had strong feelings in opposition to world trade in general or to the World Trade Organization

I don't think I've ever run into as many third party or independent voters as I have in the few weeks I've been at Bard

If voters are so concerned with keeping a conservative out of office, why are they set on casting a vote for Gore?



Buchanan, Perot, Nader: Above are pictures, of Buchanon, Perot, and Nader.

may find the man severely lacking in charisma or a backbone, at least he isn't George W. Bush. "I don't like him personally," said Ana Rocadas, "but politically he is right on. It's a case of voting for the lesser of two evils. That's not ideally what democracy should be about, in fact I find it frustrating and undignified, but realistically there's no other option. Voting for a third party candidate is the equivalent of throwing away your vote."

Brianna Grohman, another reg-

Differing Perceptions

This all left me wondering, if voters are so concerned with keeping a conservative out of office, why are they set on casting a vote for Gore? My hypothesis is, we can blame this trend on the fact that third party politics are either

Third Parties Register with Bard

continued from page 8
specifically. I can't believe it is a coincidence that anyone who takes such a stance would not be a member of the Democratic Party, especially considering Al Gore has been an outspoken advocate of free trade since helping NAFTA come into existence early in his Vice-Presidency.

World trade has been an issue keeping many major American unions from jumping forward with an endorsement for Gore, and what prompted James P. Hoffa, current leader of the Teamsters Union, to cite Ralph Nader as the only presidential candidate who understands the catastrophic effect free trade is having on blue-collar workers in this country, and the only candidate with those workers' best interests at heart. The vast majority of people I interviewed who expressed strong anti-WTO sentiments also planned to vote for Nader in the upcoming elections, and most of the students who admitted they didn't understand the issue of world trade or felt uneducated on the subject were the same voters who felt ambivalent about

who they planned to vote for in the upcoming elections.

The Big Picture

Ralph Nader is not going to win the elections this November; it doesn't take a genius to draw that conclusion. Why, then, are there so many students on this campus

planning to vote for him, and doing so passionately? What exactly is at stake in this election, and what can be accomplished by voting for a candidate everyone knows is going to lose? Although many people see the outcome of an election solely in terms of who will take office as a result of the votes cast, there is a bigger picture to look at, and I believe it is unfortunate that many people have stopped paying attention to the far reaching results of voting for a third party candidate, or the historical elections that

prove it has a value.

Jesse Allen, who has in the past taken an interest in third party politics but has recently decided to register as a Democrat, said he would still consider voting for a third party candidate if that candidate spoke out loud and clear on an issue he felt was of major importance, such as campaign finance reform. The point of doing so would not be to get that candidate into office, but to get the major politicians in this country to recognize how many people feel strongly that reform is necessary. "Take the Populists in the 1890s,"

The point of voting for a third party is not necessarily to get that candidate in office, but to get major politicians to recognize the need for reform.

said Allen, "they didn't win any major offices, but they garnered so much support that the mainstream politicians adopted many of the Populists' philosophies in an attempt to win back votes. It's in this way that voting for a third party candidate can be extremely powerful."

From the Student Judiciary Board

The purpose of the Bard Student Judiciary Board (SJB) is to enforce, protect, and preserve the rights of all Bard students.

The SJB is composed of student representatives elected at campus-wide forums, as well as representatives from the faculty and staff.

The SJB hears cases regarding student violations of college policies and regulations. Cases may be referred to the SJB by the Dean of Students Office or initiated through a written complaint to the chair of the board.

The SJB decides whether disciplinary action is appropriate and imposes sanctions, including suspension or expulsion, which are implemented and enforced by the Dean of Students.

Members of the Bard Community may file complaints against students by writing to the chair of the board at sjb@bard.edu or via campus mail.

Keep an eye out for more info from your SJB.

-Elizabeth Murray
SJB Chair

Who Makes up Bard's Student Government?

Treasurer: Imran Ahmed	Sarah Shapiro	Hirsch and Rachel Mahoney
Secretary: Cinta Conti-Cook	Dumaine Williams	The Arts-Stephanie Rabins and
Student Life Committee	Alternates: John Garrett	Ting Ting Cheng
Katherine Gulley, Chair	Student Judiciary Board	Natural Sciences & Mathematics-
Jamie Martin	Elizabeth Murphy, Chair	Katheryn Ross and Lynne Purvis
Elizabeth Murphy	Toni Fortini	Sexual Harassment Board
Nusha	Bernie Geohagan	Alyn Pearson
Rafi Rom	Juliet Morrison	Shonali Choudhury
Vincent Valdmanis	Mehnaz Rabbini	EMS Council
Stan Vaugner	Alternates: Monica Elkinton and	Ruhul Chowdhury
Planning Committee	Angela Ross	Babacar Cisse
Max Kenner, Chair	Educational Policies Committee	Poughkeepsie Institute Board
Imran Ahmed	Malini Ranganathan, Chair	Monica Elkinton
Bianca D'Allesandro	Social Studies-Maria Halkias	
Julissa Santos	Languages and Literature-Bradley	

Who Makes up the Bard Free Press?

Editor in Chief: Kerry Chance	Photography: KC Serota and	Valenzuela, Elizabeth Murray,
News Editors: Rafi Rom	Maggie	Emma Kreyche, Jeff Ferguson,
Vincent Valdmanis	Support: Glen Knoch at the	Cinta Conti-Cook, Renata Rutman,
Arts and Entertainment	Henderson Computer Center, Paul	Eric Hinton, Bridget Hannah
Editors: Huffa Frobes-Cross	Vranicar for Ad Design	Corrections: Last issue Nili
Jonah Weiner	Contributors: Matt Richards,	Chernikoff took several photos for
Daniel Lichtblau	Xiaoyu Zhang, Jean-Marc	the Poughkeepsie Institute article.
Associate Editors: Gillian Means	Gorelick, Matthew Goldenberg,	She was not credited as such. We
Amber Buchholz	Connor Gaudet, Adam Howard,	apologize for the mistake.
Design Managers: Chris Downing	Rebecca Favorito, Jean Klasovsky,	
Bridget Hannah	Elton Gutura, Jason Schwartz,	
Jonah Weiner	Amber Buchholz, Gillian Means,	
Copy Editing: Jean Klasovsky	Michael Chameides, JR	

Writing a Club's Budget 101

from the STUDENT GOVERNMENT

If you are interested in initiating an organization at Bard, here are a few things you should keep in mind, (that is, if you need money for your given organization to run). This is a brief outline of how to start a club. For more in depth information, look up the CONSTITUTION OF THE BARD COLLEGE STUDENT ASSOCIATION in your Student Handbooks.

WRITING A BUDGET:

It is required that there be at least 5 signatures of those who will be actively involved, preferably including club officers and/or names of people representing a club to the Planning Committee. When submitting a budget request, eight copies are required to be sent by the specified deadline to the Chair of the Planning Committee (Max Kenner).

Prior to allocation of funds, the Planning Committee schedules interview times for club heads to explain the purpose and rationale behind their club and budget request. A list of available time slots for interviews is posted in Kline by the committee rooms prior to the meeting date. It is highly recommended that students requesting that students requesting funds attend this meeting.

Below is a copy of the guidelines that the Planning Committee uses when determining the allocation of student activity funds to student clubs. These are not hard and fast rules-they are merely guidelines that are helpful to keep in mind when submitting a budget.

The Planning Committee shall take into consideration when allocating funds, the unique nature of each organization, i.e. to what extent the activities of a club are not available through other campus resources (including other clubs), the level of interest, the past activities of each organization, etc. etc.

Clubs shall be encouraged to avail themselves of all possible non-convocation sources of both revenue and administrative/technical support. Clubs shall also be encouraged to seek co-sponsorships of events and activities.

A limit of \$350.00 shall be established for all new clubs.

Sports clubs shall be considered as all other clubs, with the proviso that, in the past, the athletic department has been willing to provide support to these clubs.

All clubs receiving budgets of over \$5,000 or more shall consult the Treasurer before making verbal or written commitments of convocation funds to performers or other organizations.

The convocation shall make no loan to any student or other organization.

The above guidelines may be overruled, except where otherwise noted by a supermajority (6 of 7 members) of the planning committee. The General Forum will be informed at the earliest possible opportunity by the head of the planning committee if this should occur.

A SAMPLE BUDGET:

(copies of all budgets are kept on reserve at the reference desk on the third floor and are available for all students to review)

--WRITE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE THAT OUTLINES SPECIFIC REASONS FOR OPERATING THE CLUB, SUCH AS WHAT IT WILL BRING TO THE CAMPUS OR HOW YOUR PURPOSES ARE NEEDED.

Bard Debating Society
September 9, 2000

To the members of the Planning Committee:

The Bard Debating society is an inter-collegiate competitive Parliamentary Debate Society. Parliamentary Debate is a forum in which the most elite schools from the United States and abroad interact to enhance the intellectual stature and rhetorical skills of its participants. For the schools themselves, reputation is built and fortified through continuous engagement in the activity. (etc., etc.)

--AFTER YOU HAVE WRITTEN A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, EXPLAIN EVENTS THAT TOOK PLACE IN THE PREVIOUS SEMESTER (IF PREVIOUSLY ESTABLISHED) AND DETAIL HOW THE CLUB WORKS.

e.g.

Since its inception, the society has traveled to ten tournaments.

--THE NEXT THING THAT YOU SHOULD DO IS TO OUTLINE WHAT ACTIVITIES YOUR CLUB PLANS TO DO IN THE UPCOMING SEMESTER. BE SPECIFIC.

The Bard Debating Society will attend four more tournaments over the semester. (etc., etc.)

--NEXT, GIVE A DETAILED ACCOUNT OF YOUR PROJECTED EXPENSES FOR THE UPCOMING SEMESTER.

Entry costs

\$360 per Bard team of eight

\$20 per Bard team of eight for judging

\$380 total

Travel costs

\$50 travel per tournament (gas, tolls, parking)

Other Costs

\$30 phone and mail costs

\$50 for debate and instructional material

\$20 advertisement

\$2798.00 TOTAL

Sincerely, Bard Debating Society

--SO HOPE YOU'RE ALL EXCITED ABOUT THE BARD DEBATING SOCIETY, AND PSYCHED ABOUT STARTING YOUR OWN STUDENT-RUN CLUB/ORGANIZATION.

From the Front Lines:

Disarming an Uncertain Future

Part One of a series: The future of Zimbabwe is grim. The government must overcome years of corruption and a cynical, despondent population.

ELTON GUTURA

The task I have at hand is to describe the problems of Zimbabwe. Our numerous national vices make the list of usable adjectives inexhaustible. But then again, patriots are not nurtured through self-abasement. I am not at all suggesting that we should bask in the usual illusions of grandeur that are incompatible with reality. No!

I sincerely believe that the trouble with Zimbabwe is that we have evolved into a nation of skeptics who perpetually live in hopeless expectation of destruction and degeneration. The trouble with Zimbabwe is that we seem to have accepted that our problems are much larger than our destiny and that they are, therefore, insoluble. The trouble with Zimbabwe is that we do not celebrate and value enough our own contribution to our own liberation. We trash the intrinsic worth of "people resistance" to "power foolishness".

The starting point in dealing with the Zimbabwean

problem is to appreciate all its facets and to discern its root causes. We are where we are today because of ignorance, indifference, procrastination and passivity. There are only a few things things we need to learn; yet they are issues we must all take an active interest in and also participate in. Yet still, there are things we must never postpone and one of these is change. Change to our institutions and change to our constitution. Yes! Change to our political culture and indeed change to our political leadership.

Background to the Political Drama in Zimbabwe

The rampant mediocrity in the Zimbabwe government today represents the fruition of the peoples' naive indifference and complacency. As a nation we naively believed that some "common sense" would reduce the myopia among our politicians forgetting, of course, that the clown at the circus makes it his enterprise to grow sillier by the hour - as the audience cheers him on. Our people reduced the grave concerns of our nation in daily talk and thereby trivialized their magnitude. For two decades, we observed the gravediggers in government shoveling the hole in the heart and pocket of our nation and little did we suspect that we would be buried there.

Lawlessness on Farms

Land reform is necessary. But land invasions are inexplicable after the government has ear-

marked in excess of five million hectares of land for resettlement. It is clear that the state sponsored lawlessness on the farms and in the rural areas and townships cannot continue and political criminals who disrupt the normal functioning of our economy are committing treason against the sovereign people of Zimbabwe. If the "land is the economy", why on earth do we draw lots on it and parcel it out for as little as five dollars?

Is our economy that cheap? Do we have such a low regard for it? Before the world can take us seriously, we must take ourselves seriously. Foolishness, no matter how perfected or well packaged, can never be revolutionary.

Of course, I admire the courage that the ex-combatants exhibited in liberating my country from colonialism. I am, however, not persuaded that this necessarily gives

them a divine right to hold the national economy and our future for ransom. What is now needed is yet another phase of liberation that needs another type of combat and new combatants.

There are vacancies for a third generation of freedom fighters who will use their heads and hearts to liberate our nation from its present foolishness. In this regard, therefore, the necessity of land reform must always be juxtaposed against the wisdom of a sound economy and a credit-worthy country.

Relationship with the IMF

Our President traded insults with America, Britain and other parts of Europe. The world was entertained by the wealth of derogatory words in our vocabulary. We even insulted the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. The entire Southern African region chuckled with amusement at our performance. However, when we fail to feed ourselves as a nation the region will not be cheering us on. Many will jeer at our foolishness.

Our President tempted us to believe that scarcity in freedom is better than abundance in bondage. Yet it is also true that there can never be freedom in abject poverty. I very often have to remind

myself that freedom is not an event but a strategic process. In fact, one could assert the right of babies to be independent of their mothers only if one was willing to ignore that babies need the paternal care of their mother for some time before they can really be independent.

Thus, the survival of a nation or even a liberation process depends as much on benevolent assistance as it does on the commitment of the liberators.

Building a new nation after the ballot

The rural people betrayed the cause of true freedom in Zimbabwe for which many of the Movement For Democratic Change (MDC) supporters had suffered so much. Zimbabweans sincerely believed the nonsense that the ZANU PF (ruling party) had computers that were capable of detecting by name and address those who had voted for the opposition party (MDC). Moreover, they were told and convinced that the machines also established the identities of those who had not bothered to vote.

Furthermore, they succumbed to beatings by ZANU PF thugs and voted for the party. Our rural people are like the wife who gets beaten regularly by her errant husband and it seems that every time she gets beaten, she loves him more. Now we have a political set up which is much the same - intimidate, beat, kill, and you get the votes. The rural people have, in fact, taught the ruling party and their thugs that it works well and every time there is stiff competition, they will face the same ordeal. Had they had more moral fiber and stood up as the people in the urban areas did, it would have put out all future thuggery.

Nevertheless, it is my belief that the large voter turnout in the recently ended poll is an indication that Zimbabweans want a particular Zimbabwe or, at least, they are clear about the Zimbabwe that they do not want. One irrefutable fact is that Zimbabweans have finally figured out how to redeem the

nations destiny from the clutches of bankrupt politics and economic mismanagement. The new legislature assumes office during a time when romantic and almost terminal levels of expectation consume the entire nation - all this unfortunately in the face of an impending economic holocaust.

We are where we are today because of ignorance, indifference, procrastination and passivity.

...the survival of a nation or even a liberation process depends as much on benevolent assistance as it does on the commitment of the liberators.

Our President tempted us to believe that scarcity in freedom is better than abundance in bondage. Yet it is also true that there can never be freedom in abject poverty.

Announcements

B. BARD

organizational meeting/potluck

A. ANIMAL

Sun. 8:00pm in Manor Lounge

R. RIGHTS

Bring a vegan dish to share

C. COALITION



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...

Update from the SLC

The Student Life Committee had its first meeting Monday night. Members discussed new and old issues and brainstormed methods of raising the SLC's profile and effectiveness.

The Student Life Committee is a branch of the student government that acts as a liaison between the student body and the administration. Elections were held last May for the six committee openings and one chair position. An unusually high student turnout saw four first years elected to the group, along with three juniors, one of which sits as chair.

The committee this year is devoted to voicing the concerns of Bardians, who, after perusing their Student Handbooks, will be suprised to learn the level of influence they have over campus policies. All students are strongly encouraged to contact SLC members by phone or in person, or via email at studentl@bard.edu, with concerns regarding food services, security, buildings and grounds, and anything else related to quality of life at Bard.

BARD PRISON INITIATIVE

Prison Industrial Complex	October 4 7:00PM
<i>Columbia U. Professor and journalist Beverly Goge and Amherst Professor Max Wolff</i>	
Drug Laws	October 25 7:00PM
<i>Randy Creditor, Kunstler Foundation, artist Anthony Pappas and other activists</i>	
Supreme Court	November 1 7:00PM
TBA	
Juvenile Justice	November 15 7:00PM
<i>Youth Law Center expert and Bronx Youth Force members</i>	
Death Penalty	TBA
<i>anti vs. pro debate</i>	
for info contact max (mk426@bard.edu), Raffi (ar638@bard.edu) or Cinta (cc472@bard.edu).	

Bard Students Register to Vote

RAFI ROM

Following SAVE's campaign for voting rights, students filed into the Campus Center yesterday to register to vote in Dutchess County. In a short two hours, over 120 students filled in the necessary paperwork to register.

Dean of Studies Jonathan Becker joined Republican and Democratic Commissioners Dave Gamache and Bill Egan and David Dengel, Dutchess County Election Specialist. The three answered students voting questions and reviewed all the applications to make sure no mistakes were made.

The two voting drives at Bard, the first being on registration day, are unusual. Gamache said, "Usually registration drives aren't done in the fall, because the primaries are over. But we do go to all the high schools in the county during the spring."

The 200 students who registered should receive confirmation in the next two weeks. As long as the commissioners stick to their promise, the lawsuit filed last year will be dropped. Gamache "has indicated that there will be no need for a law suit because students appear to be able to register."

Botstein's Beethoven Bonanza

From obscure works to last-minute on-stage seating, the Bard Music Festival continues its tradition of, well, being not-quite-traditional

continued from first page

Each year the festival devotes itself entirely to one composer, and this year it was Beethoven's turn. Chamber concerts, orchestral concerts, panel discussions and symposia were arranged around the theme of *Beethoven and His World*. This theme is close to Botstein's heart, judging by the way he decorates his home -- an imposing bust of Beethoven stands in the entrance hall of the President's House, and something resembling Beethoven's death mask peers out of a wall in the living room.

Beginning the festival with the first pre-concert talk, Botstein told the audience why he and other musicians hold Beethoven in such high regard. Beethoven, he said, remains the most important figure in classical music, not only through his own works but also due to his unmatched influence on later composers. Since his death, the great composers and performers have defined themselves in terms of their relationship to Beethoven. Therefore, Botstein argued, a thorough reassessment of Beethoven's life and times is of the utmost importance.

To that end, the festival presented some lesser-known works of Beethoven's along with favorites like the Pastoral Symphony. Botstein warned his audience what was in store for them -- Beethoven wrote a lot of music, he said, and some of it was bad. But, on the grounds that experiencing the bad enhances one's enjoyment of the good, the festival program included some of both. So we were treated to such delights as Folksong Arrangements of

"Faithful Johnnie" and "Sally in our Alley," the comically named Birthday Cantata for Prince Lobkowitz, and a canon entitled "Esel aller Esel." The latter, meaning "Asses, all Asses," had the chorus singing "hi ha" to imitate the animal's braying.

Despite the comedy value of

some of the lesser-known works, the serious Beethoven buffs were probably the ones who benefitted most from their inclusion in the program. Those who know the nine symphonies inside out, for example, could consider them in a new light, having heard some of the composer's rarely performed

octets, fugues and cantatas. But arranging the concert series chronologically made it more accessible -- in the penultimate concert, for example, one was struck that in the last years of his life, Beethoven was composing frivolous choral pieces alongside sublime string quartets.

For me, the wisdom of choosing lesser-known works was confirmed when I heard the opening of the Cantata on the Death of Emperor Joseph II. The work sets a splendid text to stirring music, and the effect reminded me of

Mozart's Requiem, which was written the following year. This was the first time I heard the cantata, and as I listened to the Bard Festival Orchestra's rousing performance I soon felt the piece

deserved a place in the canon of Beethoven's great works.

The chamber concerts were held in the Olin Auditorium, the orchestral concerts in a cavernous tent on the Seth Godfine Memorial Field. Olin, with a seating capacity of 350, proved inadequate for this highly popular festival -- the seats sold out well in advance, and people had to be turned away. The situation was exacerbated by Bard's overbooking of the chamber concerts, which meant that dozens of chairs had to be put on stage to accommodate all the people with tickets.

The seating arrangements for the orchestral concerts were much more congenial -- those who wanted to could lounge on the grass outside the tent, and listen to beautiful music while soaking up the sunshine or lying under the stars. I couldn't help thinking that the people sitting outside for free were having more fun than those who paid to sit inside. Some friends of mine came up from the city for the festival, and added to the luxurious scattering of picnic hampers on the lawn. Lying on the grass, looking up at the trees and stars on a warm

summer's night, this seemed to be the perfect way to listen to the Pastoral Symphony.

The festival had its hairy moments. There was the temperamental cellist who halted a performance by storming off stage to complain that her seat was too high.

There was the devastating review in *The New York Times* that complained that the festival musicians were not good enough. There was the lecherous Bard student whose amorous pursuit of Botstein's underage daughter aroused the protective instincts of her father. But during the idyllic Pastoral Symphony none of this seemed to matter. As we lay back listening to the "Scene by the Stream," drinking champagne and feeding each other grapes, all seemed right with the world.

Beethoven remains the most important figure in classical music, not only through his own works but also due to his unmatched influence on later composers.



Representing for every real MC: As the millennium turns, Beethoven remains a constant presence--the far reach of both his music and his influence was evident at the festival.

interview interview interview interview interview interview interview interview interview interview

Leon talks with the Free Press about Music Festival

Bard Free Press: How was the Bard Music Festival originally conceived?

Leon Botstein: Many institutions invest in big time sports. This is part of a larger agenda of how to create a name in front of a philanthropic public, a general public. We've decided to do that in the arts. The festival, our two museums, the literary publication

Conjunctions, etc. are all part of a strategy to

strengthen the reputation and recognition of the College. This is our 'public side'. The Festival and these other artistic venues help to raise money for the College and foster the general sense that we contribute to the public through the arts and letters.

BFP: How is the theme of the festival selected?

LB: The Bard Music Festival Board of Trustees decides. Their

decision is influenced by practical, feasible factors. You want people to come to the festival. We also want to make a contribution.

BFP: Why is the festival performed during the summer?

LB: We need housing for the musicians and the festival season is in July and August. There is no audience for this kind of thing after Labor Day. **BFP:** What is

the relationship between the student body and the festival?

LB: We already employ undergraduates in the current festival, and in the new arts center we'll employ even more. Eventually, the festival will be integrated into MFA (Bard's Master of Fine Arts Program).

BFP: How would you compare the Bard Music Festival with Tanglewood (another summer



Yo. Yo. Check this, fools! Performers break into a dope freestyle session in a rare behind the scenes Music Fest moment

music festival in Massachusetts)?

LB: Tanglewood is different because it is a training program. It is much longer - an extensive 9 week program that serves as a school as well as a festival. I was a student there in '67. Our festival is different because we focus on a single composer and add an academic component.

BFP: Did you attend many classi-

cal music concerts when you were younger?

LB: Yes. I can't go much anymore because I'm so busy, but I used to go with my musician friends 3 or 4 times a week. I love concerts.

BFP: What is the current demand for a concert of this kind?

LB: There's been a growth in festivals. This region is becoming

more sought after, more popular. People from New York city are buying more land up here than they used to.

BFP: What to you hope will be the future of the music festival?

LB: The new building opens up new possibilities for the Music Festival. We hope to have a parallel jazz festival a few weeks before the classical one. It will be structured the same way, focussing on one jazz figure. Secondly, we hope to add a week to the current festival to perform an opera or other larger works in the new space.

"Many institutions invest in big time sports...We've decided to do that in the arts."

Prints 2000 Exhibition: Pushing limits of Lithography

JR VALENZUELA

Currently showing at the Fisher Studio Arts Center through September 22nd is the *Prints 2000* exhibition, comprised of six artists working in lithography and derivative media.

Judith Mohns' work occupies the first hallway after the main entryway. Interested in showing various levels of imagery simultaneously, she sees the many layers of her work—a layer being a particular image, material, or process—as a way of demonstrating the multi-dimensional nature of memory and personal experience. The way these layers interact, the way they obscure or accentuate one another are a manifestation of what she calls the "evaporation of memory, the disintegrating, transforming quality of the past". The piece *France, 1944* is a 30"x44" photo silkscreen covered by found photographs arranged in a well-spaced grid. The smaller photographs are black and white snapshots taken by U.S. soldiers in World War II of European land-

marks, seascapes, soldiers on board ships, and serve as isolated moments superimposed on the larger image of a soldier standing in front of a concentration camp. The viewer's distance becomes another layer, one that determines the scope of what they see, the overall or the particular; at a certain point, both.

Ken Gray began working with print making primarily out of his interest in the "machine shop environment of the press room", as opposed to the unique aesthetic properties of the medium. His thinking is similar to Mohns' concern for the interaction of different layers in that he sees "pressure" as a primary social force, and the

printing press as a literal manifestation of this. It is a tool that takes many different elements and syn-

thesizes them into an end product. Several of his works incorporate hardbound book covers laid out onto the paper, which is then run through the press. The

titles are still discernable, and he often carves into the covers, creating other textures and relationships that work within the arrangement of the covers themselves and the inked areas.

Hitoshi Nakazato's prints focus on a foreground/ background relationship between two colors. A thin layer of fine sand covers the print paper, with the color of that paper coming through in areas where the

sand has been omitted to create words, shapes, lines. The technique seems to lend itself well to the artist's efforts, inspired by the 17th century Buddhist monk and artist Sengai, to employ his artwork to achieve a "state of sublime, free from constraint".

In *Don't Forget to Write* and *Accuracy*, two five-print series by Laura Moriarty, the artist asserts that the serial format is an essential element in her work. It is what allows her to "juxtapose repeat images and privileged fragments" while still maintaining coherence and a sense of fluidity within her overall statement. In both, she prints on paper made from shredded dictionary pages. Some of the former definitions show through to intermingle with other more dominant text and images quite effectively.

"*Micro macro* is an invitation to move from freezer to microwave" Marko Maggi proclaims in the statement accompanying his work. While he doesn't seem to be terribly concerned with giving the

average viewer a clear idea of his artistic aims, his words are worth reading simply because of their contrast to the others in the show, and they certainly don't detract from his work. Incorporating large color photographs, lithographs, apples, pencil drawings, and aluminum foil, Maggi works at steadily recontextualizing an intricate design motif that resembles a combination of a printed circuit board and the aerial view of a dense city street system. In *Micro and Soft on Macintosh Apple V*, he has inscribed this motif on a series of apples that incrementally decrease in size and integrity. On either end are color photographs of similar apples, one covered in aluminum foil, mounted close to, and on the floor. Most impressive are those where using dry point, Maggi imprints sections of aluminum foil with the most detailed and ambitious rendering of the patterns thus seen. The end result is nothing short of an "illuminated blueprint".



Levels of imagery: A detail from Judith Mohns' *France, 1944*

Thirsty to the Third Power: Most Wanted Polo Rican

Thirstin Howl III's new release, Skillosopher, and the changing face of the hip-hop landscape

JONAH WEINER

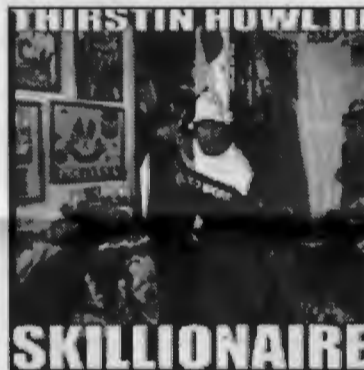
Hip hop isn't about love and anyone who says it is listens to something else. Much more, it's about competition, about battling other mc's, with the goal in mind not warm spirits so much as an impressed audience, jaws dropped to the ground, unable to say a thing except "ohh shit." Thirstin Howl III (his name taken from the Gilligan's Island character) is no exception to this rule. On his new *Skillosopher* LP the first thing Howl does is to

force comparison with other artists, stealing almost all of his beats from fairly established acts. It was the same on his 1998 self-release *Skillionaire*, which, among

other sources, drew heavily from Wu Tang solo projects. This technique of jacking beats worked well on *Skillionaire*, sustaining a lo fi feel throughout the album (its liner proudly announces that all the tracks were "Recorded on a Motherfucken 4-track at Skilligans Island"). This time around the result is drastically worse. One big problem *Skillosopher* necessarily suffers from is that the hip-hop

Thirstin Howl III is able to mock other wack mc's and, at the same time, he doesn't take himself completely seriously either.

landscape at large simply isn't as good as it was in '98. Remember, two years ago the Puff Daddy explosion hadn't yet patented that alchemist's trick of turning flamboyant dance beats, laundry list-style rhyming, and Versace sunglasses into multi-platinum records. As these records have saturated the industry, then, they satu-



rate *Skillosopher*, and detract from it.

Skillosopher's track list also includes a few good songs that have appeared before on Rawkus Records releases, Rawkus being the closest thing Howl has to a label. "Watch Deez," produced by DJ Spinna, has both a dope beat (it sounds like a horror moviesound-track gone hip hop) and a comparably intense appearance by Eminem, but you're better off get-



This is now: Howl has gained a few pounds in the years.

ting the Spinna disc itself. And *Skillosopher's* "Open Mic Night," which first appeared on the High and Mighty's solid *Home Field Advantage*, is here cut down to just Howl's verse. The result is strange (and not to mention incomplete), as "Open Mic Night" was recorded, originally, with verses from Mister Eon and Wordsworth as well.

Howl's rhyming has also changed a bit,—he had a better

sense of humor on *Skillionaire*, delivering ridiculously ill lines ("When it comes to sex in the ear drums/ I freak the track worse than two Korean lesbians with pierced tongues") in a self-conscious, deliberately loud and articulated voice. *Skillosopher's* "Polo Rican" (a full-length track devoted to rejecting every brand of clothing but Ralph Lauren's Polo line) is, thankfully, a song in this same mold. When Howl tells us "Me rock Fubu? Man listen/ That's like the Marlboro Man smoking a Winston!" we're almost ready to forgive the album's otherwise generally un-unique, essentially un-Howlish feel.

It's good for him, I guess, that Howl included a few reminders of his history on *Skillosopher*—it's his past record and not too much else that, in the end, makes the album worth listening to at all.

The Creative Plunge.

Tivoli Art Supply

pAints bRushes pApeR pEnciLs CaNvAseS cHArCoAl...eTc.

61 Broadway
Tivoli, NY 12583
Phone/Fax 845.75.PAINT

