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the bard

Free Press

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The \$100,000

Question Answered
Student Spaces, Newspapers
Beat Out Sports

by lauren kitz

The Planning Committee recently uncovered \$100,000 accrued from mismanagement of the convocation fund, the destination of which has been an issue of much debate and some contention these past months. Following an Open Forum to discuss the best way to use these funds (see Bard Free Press, March 21), a series of emails were sent out to gauge student response. The Planning Committee called for proposals from existing clubs for ways to use the money; they were specifically asking for large-scale, one-time projects that would be of a lasting and inclusive benefit to the whole college community. A summary of these proposals was then emailed to the student body, approximately 130 members of which voted on the club projects they thought deserved the money. Amongst this scant number of voters, some did not weigh in on all the club proposals and instead only cast their vote for a few of the ten allocations.

The final result allocated requested funding to the Free Press, Old Gym, Hurricane Relief, Sound Crew, The Observer, and SMOG. The Boxing Club, Cycling Club, Bard Democrats, and Social Space were denied funding. According to Adam Lundquist-Baz, Chair of the Planning Committee, it was student votes and not the Planning Committee that determined where most of the money went. Only proposal votes that lingered around the fifty percent range were up for debate during the Planning Committee's process. This was the case in the SMOG allocation, whose tally lingered in the middle due in large part to many voters' belief that, according to Baz, "it conflicted with the creation of a new student space, which it in fact does not." SMOG plans to use its money to improve the existing space, a process which should begin towards the beginning of the summer. This renovation is slated to include painting the interior and tearing down the western-most wall in order to add two more garage doors, which will extend outward towards the woods and create more space. The driveway and area in front of SMOG is scheduled to be paved, which should eliminate some of the dust which has been a consistent problem, especially this past school year.

On the other end of the spectrum, the Hurricane Relief Club received the greatest percentage of votes and was thus automatically granted their money. Says Baz, "Some of the proposals ended up being not unviable but rather unfavorable to the student body, as seen in the survey. The Boxing and Cycling Clubs had legitimate expenditures, but were not attractive to the Bard community, whereas two multi-functional student spaces were attractive." The New Social Space proposal, one of the most talked-about and controversial of the proposals, asked for "all or nothing or something in between" to be used as a symbolic offering to the administration to show that the student body was serious about the issue of student space. However, although this proposal did fairly well in the polls, the Planning Committee exercised the most authority over the final decision, due to the belief that it was not only unfair to make the money inaccessible to clubs, but that it was also "hopeless" to believe that a \$50,000 offering would become \$2.8 million over the next year. The total amount approved this semester was \$70,904.95. Approximately \$20,000 is left in the fund and will be allocated next semester.

— allocation details on page three —



Tuition, budgets — a focus as the year comes to a close



Bard Updates: Smoking, Barnes, Admissions, Assassins

by owen conlow

The Smoking Ban, which will officially prohibit students from smoking in residence halls and dorm rooms, goes into effect next semester. Erin Cannan, when questioned about the ban, cited the uncertainty over the legality of permitting smoking in residence halls in the wake of the 2003 legislation that put the Kline smoking section out of its cancerous misery. The relevant portion of the law refers only to public spaces and not the private dorm rooms which the new policy would affect. Article 13-E Section 1399-o, 2.a. states, "... smoking shall not be permitted and no person shall smoke in any indoor area open to the public, including but not limited to any indoor area open to the public in: (a) all public and private colleges..." Cannan admits that the administration does not support the amount of smoking that students partake in, especially with the policy change in fire alarm protocol that requires local volunteers to respond to every false alarm. Bard College, although soon to be a school of smoke-free residences, is reported to be by

Erin Cannan the last liberal arts school to enact such a change: the last bastion, if you will, for the late-night-nicotine-crazed student to be permitted to work straight through without having to take a "break" for a cigarette. Sarah Lawrence College — the second-to-last such bastion — went smoke free last year. Yet Reed College notably does not mention dorm rooms in their smoking policy.

Although Cannan spoke of students' appreciation of the policy change, one student, Cotty Katzenbach, spoke on behalf of students who are negatively affected by the change at the "How to Make Bard Better" presentation by Bill Mullen's public speaking class. Out of respect for such students who suffer from nicotine addiction, Buildings and Grounds plans to erect three kiosks, located near highly populated areas of campus, where smokers may congregate. The exact locations and design plans for these structures will be determined this summer. The Dean of Students Office will also be including information about

smoking cessation in the handbook for the upcoming year because, according to former Bard professor Nancy Darling, Bard is one of the few institutions—aside from the Army—where people develop cigarette addictions after they get here.

Midnight Breakfast will be held on Wednesday, May 10th from 11:30 pm to 1:00 am in Kline Commons. Students can expect the same karaoke and goody bags that have carried them through final exams in previous years.

Staff Changes for the upcoming semester are as follows: Eileen Hilbrandt left the Office of Student Activities last month; a search committee composed of students and staff will form this summer to find a replacement. The office is taking the opportunity to reorganize and will be creating the position of Assistant Director of Student Activities and the Campus Center. The person who fills this position will be working directly under Andrea Conner to assist with her growing responsibilities. According to Conner, Hilbrandt loves to garden and is now working

at a local nursery.

Erin Cannan, Dean of Students, will be on maternity leave until the Spring '07 semester. David Shein, Dean of Lower College Studies, will serve as the acting Dean of Students until her return. Shein filled the position several years ago when Cannan took her first maternity leave.

Dick Griffiths, Special Assistant to the President, has been diagnosed with leukemia, and will no longer be working at the college. Griffiths was overseeing the construction of the new science center and was the Director of the Physical Plant for 42 years before that. On the Saturday of Commencement, the walkway from Ludlow to the library will be dedicated as the Richard D. Griffiths Main Campus Walk, at one end of which an installation piece will be built by Judy Pfaff, Co-Director of the Studio Arts Department. Griffiths also plans to donate money to the school for scholarships.

Paul Genthner, one of Bard Security's late shift guards, resigned last week

— continued on page four —

Read on for: Online Registration report, Weird News Bites, Tribeca And Philadelphia Film Festivals, Cell Phones in the Library, Bard Housekeepers Overlooked, music reviews, and more...

Weird News Bites

compiled by peter weinberg

SUNY New Paltz Students to Bear Arms
New Paltz – A shattering blow has been struck to SUNY New Paltz's "hippie-dippie" image by its current student body in the past few weeks. A small group of student leaders, including the student association president (who describes himself as a "near-pacifist"), have proposed a plan for the development of a student militia that would be armed with firearms and video cameras. The purpose of such a militia would be to protect students from all enemies, "both internal and external." The student body has expressed a variety of opinions

at the idea of students being permitted to carry firearms. The idea appears to be catching on at other SUNY schools as well: the leaders of the planned New Paltz militia have received inquiries from important student officials at SUNY Potsdam. Fortunately, Bard has already drawn up plans for a pre-emptive strike. Visit www.wikipaltz.com for more information.

Don't Get Married in Texas

Fort Worth, TX – A bridesmaid at a wedding in North Texas was shot recently as she attempted to catch the bouquet—with a

bullet fired about a mile away. The shooter, who was never identified, appears to have shot his or her weapon directly upward into the air. The bullet, unable to resist the inexorable pull of gravity, came crashing to the ground in the middle of the wedding party, but not before tearing through one poor Texan's arm.

Evolution Inaction

LaBelle, FL – A wealthy man who tried to show off for his friends at a nature preserve ended up being bitten on the hand and dragged into 15 feet of water by an alligator. Ronald Bergeron, who occasionally takes time out of his busy schedule to wrestle alligators and compete in rodeos, jumped on the back of an alligator after telling his friends he was going to take a ride. Unfortunately for Bergeron, the alligator did not take kindly to being ridden and promptly attempted to eat him. He was only saved thanks to the clear thinking of his friends, who rushed into the water and tugged on the alligator's tail. The only lesson that seems to have been learned here is that if an alligator grabs your friend, grab its tail and everything will work itself out.

Donald Rumsfeld's Definition of Torture

Anchorage, AK – An Alaska man who has admitted to beating, shaving the head of, raping, and killing his girlfriend may or may not be guilty of torture, according to an Alaska judge.

Jerry McClain, who suffered a traumatic cranial injury that damaged his ability to control his impulses some weeks prior to committing the above-mentioned crimes, may be subject to a seldom-used Alaska law that deals specifically with torture. Although McClain punched his girlfriend, struck her with a baseball bat, raped her with a shampoo bottle and forced her to look at herself in a mirror after shaving her head, the judge in his case has not decided whether his behavior constitutes torture, which carries a minimum mandatory sentence of ninety-nine years without the possibility of parole in Alaska.

We Promise It's Not True

Toronto, Canada – A malicious hacker vandalized electronic marquees on Toronto's mass transit system recently with slurs against the country's prime minister. By using an unknown but highly sophisticated wireless device, possibly some sort of computer, this unidentified hacker tricked the equally sophisticated marquees of the Toronto transit system's trains into displaying the message "Stephen Harper eats babies" continually on at least five different trains. The marquees have since been shut down and special software has been hand-couriered from the United States to protect the system from further attacks, leaving citizens of yet another country wide open to witty "we saved your asses" comments from patriotic Americans.



Registration: Online and In Person

by jesse crooks

When the Office of the Registrar announced last semester that Bard would begin to use an on-line system for course registration, the campus was split on how to react. While many students were relieved that they would no longer have to claw their way through the bloodied hallways of Olin to get into Light and Color, others were concerned that moving registration into a technological abyss would destroy the relationship between students and faculty, ruining yet another Bard tradition. Personally, I sympathize with the latter sentiment, and I was concerned that simply putting your name on an on-line cue would cripple a registration system that has traditionally relied on face-to-face contact.

When I met with Peter Gadsby earlier this semester, however, I was relieved to find out that he created the new on-line system as a pretext to get students and faculty back in contact. In recent semesters, the registration process has become increasingly chaotic. Faculty have complained that registration has become rushed and impersonal, and the new system is meant as a means of returning direct contact between students and faculty back to the center of the registration process. According to Gadsby, the purpose of the new on-line registration system is to reduce the stress, lines, and fruitless running around on registration day without reducing contact between students and faculty. Ideally, on-line registration is intended for freshmen and sophomores taking introductory level classes with no prerequisites, and juniors and seniors taking upper level courses that they likewise don't have to prove themselves for. Courses in the "gray zone," according to Gadsby, should always be registered in person, on registration day. In the long term, Gadsby hopes to bring registration out of the mobbed Olin classrooms and into faculty offices.

So did it work for this semester? Of the 1080 students who

used the on-line system coming into this semester, 1073 got at least one of the courses they requested. Of these students, 208 got one class, 402 got two classes, and 403 got 3-4 classes that they requested. Out of a total of 3076 requests, 2227 were granted, meaning that students got into 72% of the courses they requested. Out of 353 courses registered on-line, only twenty one received more requests than they could accommodate. About half of the courses that received too many requests were math or science classes. According to Gadsby, this is not because more students want to major in math or science, but because the college does not offer enough math and science courses to allow students outside of the major to fulfill their distribution requirements.

Student responses to the new on-line system were a bit varied. According to an EPC (Educational Policies Committee) survey conducted on registration day, 75% of students polled liked the new system, and 18% responded negatively. Opposition to the new system was stronger among juniors and seniors, while 60% of both juniors and seniors liked the new system, 34% of juniors and 25% of seniors didn't like the new system. Among sophomores polled, 82% were in favor and 15% opposed. In the freshman class, 88% were in favor while only 9% disliked on-line registration.

Among those who reacted positively, the most common reason for liking the new system was that it made registration less stressful, and they were able to get the classes they wanted minus the tears and stampedes. Those who responded negatively to the new system, however, provided a number of reasonable concerns. One common concern was that the system favored wealthier students, and those who weren't financially cleared a week before registration day were unable to register. When I mentioned this concern to Peter

Gadsby, he suggested that students who were not financially cleared could ask their professors (in person) to hold a spot for them. Another frequent concern was that students could only register for four classes, even if these classes did not constitute a full course load. This could be remedied by allowing students to request up to sixteen credits, instead. Other negative respondents questioned whether the internet was the proper medium for registration. Many complained that the on-line system was inferior to face-to-face contact, and were specifically concerned that some professors accepted requests on a first come, first serve basis. Some students were also concerned that you can register for four courses on-line even if these are backups that you intend to drop later. According to the statistics provided by the registrar, this may have been an issue during the last registration, though not very pronounced. On the day of registration, students dropped 200 classes, up from an average of 80-90 in past semesters. By the end of the drop-add period this spring, 1097 courses were dropped, up from 732 last year. According to Peter Gadsby, however, this increase is probably related to the increase in the student population, rather than the exploitation of the mixed registration system.

While the new system is not without problems, most of the concerns raised by students could be ironed out in the next few semesters. The best way that we can make registration more effective, however, is to clarify the expectations of students and faculty regarding the new system. If we treat on-line registration as a way of getting classes without leaving our dorm rooms, registration will become alienating and impersonal. On the other hand, if we spend the week before registration visiting our professors to work out our schedules, the on-line system can be fair and effective.

The Bard Free Press

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All articles in the Opinions and xtra sections reflect the opinions of the author, not necessarily those of the Free Press staff. Responses to Opinions articles are welcome, and can be sent to freepress@bard.edu

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Tuition Increases (contd. from front page)

"There's no link between tuition and building projects," emphasized Gadsby. Papadimitriou explained that the rise in tuition is due mainly to the fact that "every year the amount of faculty increases...in addition to the need to pay and accommodate new faculty, we are making increases in Building and Grounds employees as well as to their compensation. We are not making a profit."

"Bard doesn't have a large endowment," explained Wing. "Every year tuition goes up for every college," said Wing, whose tuition in 2002 was \$35,000.

The lack of a significant endowment is evident, especially in the amount of students at Bard

on scholarships, which used to be 65 percent, but has now decreased to 51 percent.

"Most alumni give on regular basis—but most alumni don't make a lot of money. Many alumni become artists, teachers, social workers, that type of thing, not lawyers and large income owners," commented Wing. Wing also commented, "We pay professors more than anyone."

At the Board of Trustees meetings, Wing explained, he and Ran Tao, a member of the Socially Responsible Investing Committee, represent the issues relevant to the student body. "We're witnesses mainly," said Wing about himself and Ran Tao as representatives. He said

basic student issues tend to be overlooked at these meetings. "We have ugly, temporary student housing with walls that are paper-thin, we have a campus center without a TV lounge and offices squished there due to lack of space, SMOG which sucks during the winter...we're getting so big but the college is turning a blind eye to the little things. To Leon [Botstein, President of Bard College], academic life is more important than catered food, which is understandable, but I don't think one thing negates the other."

"I don't know if tuition increases will cause a change in the type of students who come to Bard depending on their family's income," Wing wondered.

Approved Uses For \$100,000 Surplus

Free Press – Requested: \$3404.00, Approved

Old Gym – Requested: \$8259.95, Approved: \$9359.95

Hurricane Relief – Requested: \$5700.00, Approved

Boxing Club – Requested: \$900, Not Approved

Bard Cycling Club – Requested: \$19,752, Not Approved

Sound Crew – Requested: \$1041.00, Approved

Observer – Requested: \$2500.00, Approved: \$2600

Bard Democrats – Requested: \$5000, Not Approved

SMOG – Requested: \$50-60K, Approved: Up to \$50,000 (Finalized figure TBA)

Social Space – Requested: "all or nothing or something in between", Not Approved

TOTAL AMOUNT APPROVED - \$70,904.95

Housekeeping and Race Relations at Marist

by samuel lang budin

"Why is she still here, Bruce?" Louise Maxey, Northern Dutchess NAACP President asked her fellow panelist, Bruce Wagner, at a May 3rd open forum at Marist College in Poughkeepsie, NY. Bruce Wagner, Marist's Assistant Vice President of Human Resources, was attempting to justify Marist's decision not to fire housekeeping supervisor Connie McCaffrey.

Ms. McCaffrey, who has been employed by Marist for twenty-three years, is alleged to have a long history of psychologically abusing those under her supervision. She has thrown erasers at employees, forced employees to their knees to scrub in corners, and used racial slurs repeatedly against employees of color, said Gerard Lyons, SEIU Local 200 United Chapter Chair, who was one of the other panelists at the event. Mr. Lyons said that Marist has a tendency to "sweep such things under the rug."

Marist housekeepers in attendance affirmed that Ms. McCaffrey had used racial slurs against them. One also said that he had been threatened that they would punitively have his vacation time taken away. If he had called Ms. McCaffrey a name, he asked, would he still be working at Marist?

The open forum was called after an investigation by the Human Resources Department found that it could not be proven that Ms. McCaffrey did, in fact, use slurs against any particular employee. Ms. Maxey registered doubt about the efficacy of the investigation, which Mr. Lyons seconded. He observed that the employees interviewed by Human Resources have not been willing

to come out with information, even if they had it, because they were worried about repercussions. Additionally, Ms. Maxey said, anyone against whom so many complaints have been brought over such a long period of time must be guilty of something—poor managerial skills, at the very least. Why, she asked, would the college choose to retain a bad manager?

Marist first-year and BSO President Victoria Banks was the fourth panelist. Mr. Wagner was not solely to be blamed, she said, and expressed regret that Marist President Dennis J. Murray was not there. Mr. Murray was invited, but a previous engagement prevented him from attending, Mr. Wagner said.

The meeting was moderated by Mike Lonigro, SEIU Local 200 United Vice President. Among the audience, which numbered at least fifty, were Marist students, faculty, administration, and staff members, and representatives of the Bard community: student members of the Student Labor Dialogue, and officers and members of the Bard SEIU Local 200 Chapter, which organizes Buildings and Grounds.

Ms. Maxey is, as far as is known, still waiting for an answer to her question.

For more on these topics, join in the Student Labor Dialogue, a group that meets Mondays at 4:30 in the Root Cellar.

HOW DOES FREE BEER SOUND?



FOR INFO ABOUT JOINING A NEW BARD HOMEBREWING CLUB NEXT YEAR E-MAIL DA845@BARD.EDU

BRING BOOKS.
GET POINTS. THIS
SPRING: GET BOOKS.

BOOK EXCHANGE
SAT-TUES
2-6
CAMPUS CENTER

Aramark Makes Dialogue Hard, Makes Money Easily

Bard's housekeepers experience same problems that led to two-month strike at U of Miami.

by brenden beck

Though tactics like the hunger strike, student sit-in, and numerous protests of the recent University of Miami housekeepers' strike have not been seen in Bard's labor disputes, the Florida school's experience sheds light on our own.

A two-month strike ended last week after the University of Miami, the union trying to organize the housekeepers, and the university contractor, Unico, reached an agreement. The agreement means a 25% raise and benefits for the workers.

The University of Miami's cleaning services are organized in the same way as Bard's: the school subcontracts the cleaning duties to a third party. Both University of Miami and Bard's subcontractors, Unico and Aramark, are giant facility service companies, and it is these companies that employ the housekeepers. The Service Employees International Union (SEIU), the union to which Bard Housekeeping and Building and Grounds belong, is trying to organize the University of Miami housekeepers.

Schools subcontract cleaning services to save money and trouble, but critics claim that the practice hurts both workers and cleanliness.

"With Aramark being so large, we're a pin drop in their corporation. I don't get the feeling they care about 48 employees at Bard College," says Sue LaPierre, housekeeper for Tremblay and the Barracks and SEIU Local 200D chairperson. Paralleling a common criticism of Unico, LaPierre does not feel Aramark is responsive to Bard's housekeepers' concerns. "Aramark has a bad reputation for dragging their feet."

When Bard housekeepers have a concern (which have recently included problems with their healthcare, not enough holidays, and an over-stretched staff), they have to appeal to a corporate headquarters hundreds of miles away from where they work. The removal of the employer from the employed, and the Bard administration's distance from the

whole employment relationship, makes resolving these concerns difficult and convoluted. "A good portion of the responsibilities and blame get passed back and forth like a hot potato from Bard to Aramark, leaving everything muddled in perpetual confusion and frustration and pain," says Brittany Porter '07, a member of the Student-Labor dialogue. The Student-Labor dialogue is a group of Bard staff and students who meet regularly to discuss what students can do to support campus labor's needs.

The University of Miami Administration played a key role in resolving the dispute between the workers and Unico, ultimately advocating the workers' position. The strike began after the administration created a commission to analyze labor issues. LaPierre notes a general reluctance by Bard's administration to make demands of Aramark, but when they do, Aramark listens. "When we were having trouble with our health care we went to Jim Brudvig, he made a call to Aramark, and they turned around," says LaPierre.

Such scenarios lead housekeepers to wonder why Bard does not just directly employ the housekeepers like they do the Buildings and Grounds workers.

Unlike the University of Miami janitors, all of Bard's housekeepers belong to SEIU as a condition of their employment, and most, if not all, would prefer direct employment by Bard. When the Aramark/Bard contract expires in June of 2007, Porter expects there to be a big push not to renew contract but hire the housekeepers directly.

Aramark must maintain a profit to make the contract worthwhile, and that profit is not going to either housekeepers or Bard. Aramark's involvement removes the relationship between the housekeepers, the students, and the administration, housekeepers say. LaPierre describes the division: "if they have unhappy housekeepers they have unhealthy buildings. The housekeepers should feel involved with Bard if they're going to care about Bard."



Urgent! Calling All Bardians: End Cell Phone Abuse Now!

by liv carrow

Many of you may remember my insane diatribe against flagrant cell phone use in the library published last semester. I have decided to write another one, given the fact that this problem has not only continued, but worsened, in recent months. Perhaps a more studious and formal approach will help to convince my peers that cell phone use is an urgent and real problem on this campus, which is creating conditions harmful to the academic and social environment.

Everyone knows that talking is highly discouraged in the library, and should only be done with the utmost caution and consideration for others who use the library to quietly read and study. Even if you had never seen a library before Bard (unlikely), you have probably been exposed to stereotypes of grouchy librarians shushing people. Libraries are the closest thing to sacred spaces that godless quasi-intellectuals like myself have, and should be places where people can come to escape the incessant noise pollution that defines our modern landscape.

When I came to the woodland idyll of Annandale as a freshman, long ago in 2002, almost no one on campus carried or even owned a cell phone. Those of us who made the faux-pas of owning one kept it out of sight, using it only to call home occasionally. As fellow senior and zombie warrior Owen Conlow reminisced, "I used to keep it in my desk drawer. It was useless here, there was no reception and nobody else used one. If I needed to get in touch with someone I'd just call their room phone or bump into them on campus."

Things have changed. It seems like everyone on campus now carries these devices everywhere they go, including Charles P. Stevenson. Not only do they bring them around all the time, but they leave them on and use them whenever someone calls or they are moved to remotely communicate, regardless of whether they are in a classroom, the library, a computer lab, or in bed. Aside from the fact that this is just plain crazy, it is extremely rude and disruptive. The introduction to the Community Standards of Behavior in the Handbook states that "The nature of interaction between community members at a small liberal arts college in general, and at Bard College in particular, is different from that found at other types of educational institutions. Living and working within a residential community allows each of us, perhaps for the first time, to realize that the quality of our words and actions contributes directly to the quality of campus life." Campus life is being significantly degraded by the

alienating, thoughtless behavior of many cell phone users and I would like to call for a re-evaluation of those standards which considers this recent change.

I am definitely not alone here. Many students express visible irritation when a cell phone goes off in the library or in

students, faculty and staff brought together in an intimate setting." That means there are no people stationed about to police you, everyone knows who you are, and the desire to yell at you is often hampered by the knowledge that you will be encountered many more times on campus. You must

Standards, with punitive measures in place, such as fines or compulsory volunteer hours on campus. I propose that this is immediately prioritized and carried out—the draping of signal blocking material over buildings would not be out of the question. Short of that measure, I would like to see "No Cell Phones" and "Quiet Please" signs posted visibly all over the library and in the computer labs. I would also like students to vocally police each other on the matter until the matter resumes its appropriate status as socially unacceptable.

Regarding rules and regs, I am not usually one to champion any of them, and I feel that self-regulation and understood standards of behavior are the best way to maintain peace and comfort of a community. However, it seems that most people are operating under the assumption that unless they are yelled at and punished, they are not doing anything wrong. Therefore this issue needs to be bumped from an etiquette problem to a serious impediment on learning and health.

The campus administration is already proposing several degrees of punishment for students who smoke indoors, starting next semester, in order to comply with new laws (that's right, no more smoking inside, ever). We have been benevolently given the opportunity to vote on which measures we consider appropriate. While we are on the collective topic of passing new rules, perhaps some sort of student forum should be held to discuss cell phone use on campus and ways in which to make it less of a problem without resorting to official punishment. As we are all presumably intelligent people, it should not be difficult to implement more considerate and healthy standards of cell phone use. I think we will all find our lives less frustrating, noisy, cluttered and distracting if we can agree, as a campus, to turn the damn things off sometimes, especially when they are completely offending and disturbing others.

The Handbook states that "the formulation of detailed procedures for securing the student's freedom to learn is the responsibility of each institution, must be in harmony with the educational purposes of the institution." Therefore, I am calling on the students, faculty and staff of this institution to engage in a discussion on the appropriate use of cell phones, with the intent of setting a specific standards and regulations of use, whose intent is the end of rude interference in learning and academic work being caused by inconsiderate and ubiquitous cell phone use.



Henderson. This problem, if not addressed officially, will soon inspire vigilante action, perhaps verbal abuse and violence. There are not enough people who work in these spaces to constantly enforce this, and indeed many of the library's student staff can be heard yakking at full volume to their phones and to each other. The real librarians, on the other hand, can be seen clenching their jaws and calmly, professionally shushing the increasing population of inconsiderate people who come into the library to have conversations. The librarians' jobs include duties which are much more important than babysitting a campus of adults, and should not be responsible for monitoring manners. Indeed, the handbook asserts that "People with integrity monitor themselves, acknowledge when they have breached trust with another individual or with the collective, and they seek ways to mend the ruptures. When this does not happen, behavior alleged to violate the spirit and intent embodied in this general statement or found elsewhere in the Student Handbook."

Yet for some reason, students who are behaving disruptively continue to do so brazenly, without remorse or any noticeable change in behavior. "Unlike the often adversarial and disciplinary nature of high school or the impersonal nature of a large university, the Bard community consists of

police yourself and behave in a way that does not seriously disrupt others' attempts to learn or do their schoolwork in what is perhaps the last environment on campus conducive to such activity.

As in my previous diatribe, I will invoke the comparison to cigarette smoking. If I decided that no one was looking and lit up in the library, it would be deemed totally rude and inappropriate and would violate the community standards of behavior, subjecting me to punishment. But many of us do not seem to have reached an understanding that cell phone use in the library is equally disruptive and obnoxious. "Conduct that deliberately causes embarrassment, discomfort, or injury to other individuals or to the community as a whole is explicitly not allowed," says the handbook. But the hundreds of students who choose to use their cell phones in totally inappropriate places do not seem to grasp that discomfort is being caused. Well, here it is folks: you are causing discomfort and obstructing the academic work of your peers. It is unacceptable, and it violates the mission of the college and the very basic standards of community interaction set down in the handbook.

I am concretely proposing that the campus administration and the librarians ban cell phone use in the library and make it an official offense of the Community

Community Updates (contd. from front page)

due to health reasons. Genthner will be devoting more time to his other job as a carpenter and independent contractor in the Kingston/Saugerties area. Bard Security is currently looking for a replacement.

Fred Barnes, Director of Residence Life and Assistant Dean of Students, will be leaving the college at the end of this semester. As Oliver Traldi demonstrated so well in the latest issue of the Observer, the circumstances of his departure are vague, at best. The administration has chosen to treat the issue in the same manner, and with the same level of secrecy, as they would thebardfreepress.vol7.issue10

handle a student's dismissal despite student criticism and the fact that Barnes is a public figure. Although answers are sparse, Dean Cannan asserted that, "he hasn't done anything wrong." In an interview, Barnes declined to explain the abrupt circumstances of his departure, saying, "I'd rather not talk about it." In a later discussion of the school in general, he truthfully commented, "sometimes you don't get answers." When asked about the relatively wild rumors that have been circulating the student body, he said that they are "definitely not true."

It looks like students may never be privy to any of the

information surrounding this case, but it is fairly certain that Fred Barnes will no longer work at Bard College, and his future is uncertain. Although students seem to vary on whether or not they believe the rumors, many have expressed frustration at the lack of transparency that seems to mark administrative changes such as this one. Michael Ginsburg, currently a Residence Director, will be stepping up to take on the responsibilities of the Res Life directorship.

Alan Fong, another Residence Director, will be leaving as well at the end of this semester to pursue other career opportunities. These

two departures, coupled with Michael Ginsburg's move to Director, leave only one Residence Director, Sabra Dingman, to assist in the training of the three new R.D.s that Bard plans to hire for the upcoming semester. According to Erin Cannan, the new R.D.s will undergo a week of training and orientation before planning P.C. training for the upcoming semester. The school will form a search committee comprised of P.C.s and staff to hire the three R.D.s.

The Admissions Office has admitted 1,352 students for the upcoming year, with another 600 on the waitlist

out of the 5000 applications they received. This number is down from last year's roughly 1500 admitted, which Admissions Counselors hope will prevent the overflow that occurred last year. Mary Backlund, Vice President of Student Affairs, attributes the increase to the incrementally higher number of high school graduates every year; "it's no bubble effect," she points out. Applications to Bard are up 30% in recent years, but it's true that applications are up all over the country, which Backlund explains is due to an institutionally driven trend. "There are more high school

- continued on next page -

Prison is Real and You're Not That Funny

by noah weston

Whether or not you know it, there are Bard students at a satellite campus located less than forty miles away. However, they enjoy far fewer of the privileges we do, aside from education, because they are incarcerated in the Eastern Correctional Facility. Like many other men in the facility studying at different academic levels, they are working with a kind of zeal that you do not find often enough here at Bard, all to secure something that the prison system can never take away from them: knowledge, and the pride that comes with it. With this in mind, I wonder how these incarcerated students would feel if they read Jon Dame and Leah Finnegan's most recent "So Hot" column, in which their unenviable circumstances become joke fodder. My guess is that they would not feel so welcome among their fellow Bard students, and understandably so, because, in short, there is no excuse for the kind of irresponsibly crass humor Dame and Finnegan tried to pass off as satire.

In case you did not

catch the column in question, the offending passage went like so: "Where can you get a Bard education for \$40,000 off? That's right, prison. The civilian life is overrated and taxes suck. Catch the receiving end of those dollars for a while and get yourself three hots and a cot." Oh, how ironic, Dame and Finnegan! If only you had some crushing hardship of your own to trivialize! More to the point, I have never met a person in prison who would take a free Bard education in exchange for the deprivation of their freedom and civil liberties, but I guess that was not the aim of the joke. Sure, it might strike you as "funny" that we have to pay \$40,000 for what some people are getting for free at Eastern, but the real cost for those folks incarcerated is nothing to take lightly.

After all, imagine what it would be like to have your world narrowed to a building not much larger than the Fisher Center. Imagine having no control over how you dress, what you eat, when you sleep, whom you see. Imagine not

being able to walk fifty feet in any direction without seeing an armed guard. Imagine having little or no access to the outside world except through small talk and periodicals. Worse yet, imagine knowing that your children are growing up without you there to see them, that life is still moving while you sleep in a cell. I have trouble seeing the humor in any of that, but maybe I am being too uptight.

By making a joke out of these men's incarceration, even without any ill intent, Dame and Finnegan deal them an ugly slight. They exploit another person's pain for the sake of a punch line, and unrepentantly at that. The callous smirk about Dame and Finnegan's joke is gut-wrenching when I think of the men I have met in the time I have volunteered for the Bard Prison Initiative, some of them younger than myself and looking at years waiting to be stolen from them, and others who have already seen those same years pass by. No matter their age, though, we at the very least owe these men respect, not just as educational peers, but

also as people facing an ordeal that we would be soulless to ignore, or worse yet, trivialize.

But I grant that you can make offensive jokes, ones about tragedy, that have a positive net effect because they have another redeeming value, like some social insight or cathartic effect. In this case, Dame and Finnegan offer neither enough insight nor even enough wit to make up for the fact that they make light of the prison system's victims as if they were some disembodied abstracts rather than human beings. Many of them are, again, quite close to our age, although diverge in terms of race, class, and the appreciation for an education that society practically guarantees most of us by dint of whiteness, wealth, or both. While we are so "burdened" by a \$40,000 education, the majority of Bard students enjoy a range of privilege that more than compensate for our money spent. That said, Dame and Finnegan made not only a cruel joke, but a shitty one at that.

Am I making too big a deal out of this one? Why hone

in on something so minute in a college newspaper? Well, it's mostly because I have yet to hear anyone else say anything about it, which makes me worry that my college does not really care when someone shits on other people's honest efforts at self-improvement, and the efforts of those who help them. It could also be the case that you did not notice Dame and Finnegan's joke in the first place, but even then, it still deserves criticism. If we do not have the will to take ourselves to task on every scale, from the smallest off-hand remark to Dame and Finnegan's tiresome attempt at Bard's "Best Week Ever," then we lack the moral authority to call ourselves a socially responsible student body, if we even still dream of doing so.

care about something?
don't wait to get offended
and respond; share your
interests now. or rather,
next fall.

send your contributions to
freepress@bard.edu

Community Updates (contd.)

graduates every year, especially in the southwest ... the press is talking about college more and more, and high school grads are individually applying to more colleges every year." So rather than each person applying to a handful of schools, some high school seniors are applying to as many as 20 schools, making the jobs of admissions offices even more difficult because they are dealing with high numbers of well-qualified applicants and there is less guarantee that each student they accept is actually interested. Bard, however, has experienced a higher "yield" than other schools recently. "Yield" refers to the number of accepted applicants who ultimately choose to come to the school; Bard's yield has increased each year recently. "Bard is beyond the normal arc of the curve [nationwide]," Backlund says. She attributes this to many factors, including, but not limited to, the Gehry building, Bard High School Early College, the Music Festival, the Bard Prison Initiative, the new Conservatory Program, the Human Rights Project, and other Bard programs that have created a buzz in the news lately. This buzz, coupled with the perception that our area is geographically less remote than it once seemed, has made Bard quite a hotspot among liberal arts colleges. Just to offer some perspective, the incoming class is expected to be roughly 500 students, while this year's graduating class was 343 at its outset. Of course, this reflects the fact that, in 2002, only 3200 students applied. So the ratio of applicants to incoming students remains roughly 10 to 1, but applicants continue to rise, and according to Backlund, "it's not going away."

The Assassins Game,

after two weeks, is in its final throes, with only 13 assassins remaining. Initially, there were 110 players involved in the game and, although the game has slowed down as less careful assassins are eliminated, Walker Pett, the organizer, has taken steps to speed the game so it concludes before the end of the semester.

The Students Resources Group, also known as the SRG, will be providing most of the staff for the upcoming Commencement ceremonies with student workers. Fifty-two students have undergone some special training for the various positions they will be filling during the commencement weekend. The SRG was developed by Ken Cooper, Director of Security, in an effort to give students more of a hand in running events and organizing on campus; recently, Laura Bomyea '07 has been responsible for organizing the group.

In addition to the SRG, Bard Security will have its normal number of guards on duty. Deputies from the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department will be on campus during Tent Party and Commencement, monitoring traffic on Annandale Rd. The sheriff's department also informed Cooper that they would increase DWI patrols and traffic checkpoints during the weekend, although there has been no public notification as of yet.

The Student Judiciary Board, or SJB, plans to have a website available next semester to provide students with information. The site will have resources for students involved in SJB cases, both defendants and witnesses, as well as small summaries of past cases that have been brought to the SJB.

So Hot Right Now

Cinco de Mayo - The perfect opportunity to discover and indulge in authentic Mexican culture. Kick back with some Tostitos and Corona and before you know it, you're Vicente Fox and offending black people/reversing your position on cool drug laws.

Ward Churchill - Is so white he intimidates himself when he poses for photos with an AK-47 like he's about to shoot some neo-Custer cracker bitches in the coming Indian/inner-city/Appalachian-hill revolution.

Avery Courtyard - Formed by a asteroid impact during the remodeling period. It's nice because it's like, tank in. It's like a Tupperware bowl of happiness. Surrounded by music. And Mac Labs. Shows here have an intimate yet otherworldly feel. Let's do this. Avery courtyard.

Photo Shows - Nothing like getting your cracker-and-cheese on and getting your keg on while perusing the visual stylings of Bard's budding Ansel Adams and Eves. No classier way to pre-game your party night, and watch out for the wildcat photo show dance breakdown!

This Column - This whole campus is like, awkwardly riding our jock for writing such a kick-ass humor column that's, like, the highlight of their tragic existences. Even freestyle! with beads, objections aside, bow down to our superior absurdist disdain. And we're graduating/ taking a leave of absence, so this is the last one. Savor it. Remember it. Never forget.

Not So Hot

Urban Cowboy Night - Listen, we enjoy a rotating pig carcass as much as the next column. And the mechanical bull is fun for, like, ten minutes. But the Multi-Purpose Room is about as far from the Old West as you can get without a seaworthy vessel.

Just Wearing Tights - Okay, so you have nice legs. You must realize that you are also not the Black Power Ranger. Unless you're about to call on the power of the Mastodon, please lay off the skin-tight shit and branch out.

Cookout - Is it just us, or is there some sort of cookout on campus every other night? I mean, what's wrong with eating food inside? Ward would approve, as Native American Indians ate outside a lot. But, see, they didn't have AC and a variety of beverages besides iced tea and lemonade.

The Library - Lately the library has been looking more like the Bard Graveyard. And I swear, the ghost of Hannah Arendt keeps stealing the latest Rolling Stone.

Rape T-Shirts - I'm not buying one. I don't even like rape.

Day of Silence - What is this about again? Excuse me? I'm sorry, can't hear you. No, I don't want to read that. Just tell me, seriously, what's this shit about? Don't look at me like that, just explain please. Use your words. Okay, I'm out of here.

Ask the Ethicist

With:
Michael
Goldman

Dear Ethicist,

I am in a moral quandary. I was under the impression that making a name for oneself by insulting and slandering another individual [Randy Cohen, the NY Times Magazine ethicist - The Ethicist] was unethical. However, you, a self-proclaimed ethicist, seem to be doing just that. Would you care to defend your actions with an ethical line of reasoning?

Sincerely,

Guy Who Thinks You're An
Unethical Ethicist

P.S. My housemates don't clean up after themselves, and I used to do all of the house cleaning until I silently stopped recently. Is it fair of me to believe they will catch the hint and start pitching in, or am I just dreaming? Is my action unethical, or should the blame lay with my lazy housemates? What can I do?

Thanks for interrupting the writing of my Kant paper. I'm sure this is a much more pressing matter, anyway.

Apparently you haven't been to grad school, kid. Libel (slander is spoken defamation and in grad school no one can

hear you talking) and insult are the meat and potatoes of intellectual careers. All condescension aside, I don't think I've been particularly unfair to Randy Cohen, ho-hum ethicist extraordinaire. When he's right he's boring and when he's wrong he deserves a verbal lashing in just proportion to his mediocrity.

As for your next question, you ask if it is fair of you to assume your housemates will pick up their load of the cleaning, but whether you make the assumption or not has nothing to do with fairness. Instead, it's about the facts on the ground and the history that got you there. Although (the late? can anybody tell me?) Ann Landers is the noted professional of two paragraph interpersonal solutions, I wouldn't mind taking over her job as well as Randy's.

Continuing to ignore your household duties would be ineffective. It's plain by your letter that your living companions have a much higher tolerance for filth than you. What will happen is that the cleanliness of the house will come to some sort of natural filth rhythm congruent with the sanitary will of your housemates. Don't expect them to all of a sudden wake up and realize GWTYAUE isn't doing the dishes anymore and if they want to live in a clean house they're going to have to clean them themselves. They probably don't even notice the difference, and if they do they wouldn't want to expend the effort to bring things up to your standards. Such is the tragedy of the commons, which is why Communism is a superior system of living to Anarchism.

So here's what you do, GWTYAUE. What you need is some outside authority to compel each member to work in rotating eight-hour shifts (according to his or her abilities, of course) until cleanliness is restored... perhaps a landlord?

Economics, Moralizing, and Vegans

by morgon kanter

One would think that after a couple decades of spinning one's wheels and not getting anywhere, one would realize that he should probably take a new approach to whatever problem he's trying to solve. Of course, some are slower to realize this than others. Some even keep their heads in the sand.

This is the impasse that PETA and the various independent militant vegans find themselves at in this day and age. After decades of lettering, leafletting, guilt tripping, moralizing, and various othering, it is becoming apparent that they are really just spinning their wheels and not getting anywhere. Though I don't pretend to have truly accurate statistics on how many people they manage to convert (no one has these statistics), I do know from a quick survey that most people in this country are still happily munching on their hamburgers.

This fact brings us to the reality that such moralizing simply does not work. One would think that this would be patently obvious to anyone who has grown up with other human beings, but somehow the show still goes on. Hilarious pamphlets and posters continue to show up across the world year-round (Kline seems to have a disproportionately large number of these). Yelling at people just puts their back up; add to that fact that most people simply don't value animals in the same way that militant vegans do, and you have a recipe for uselessness.

This is where economic sense needs to step in. People enjoy meat; they get a certain

amount of value from its consumption. Raise the abstract concept of price and less meat will be consumed. That's great, but what does this have to do with anything, you ask? Well, a simple analysis of these facts yields where PETA is going wrong, and also where a good solution is.

Most people don't value animals like they do humans. All these displays of propaganda do barely anything to raise the abstract price of meat (the little bit it is raised counts for the few converts, but this is only a few). The increase in the abstract cost of meat is miniscule, and the actual cost of the leafletting and lettering is quite high. It is clear that this is not a good solution.

So what is a solution? Substitutes. With perfect, and cheaper, substitutes for meat, there will be no obstacle in getting people to stop eating meat. This is a relatively unexplored area; there are a few

substitutes already, but they mostly taste nothing like what they are trying to replicate. Not dogs are nothing like hot dogs; tofu, to many people, is just flat-out disgusting. Veggie burgers are a bit better, but someone needs to try harder.

So please, PETA, step up to the plate. If you're serious about stopping us from eating animals, start doing something that will actually work. Develop cheap, exact substitutes for the oh-so-tasty meat that we all love to eat. Then people may start switching over to your cause. It won't be easy, but hey, what's another couple of decades? Better than not getting anywhere.



PUNK ROCK



clockwise from top: "Rancid," "the Buzzcocks," Millionaires, Friendly Deadlies, Those Fuckin' Kids, Vedder Off Dead, Dave End



music reviews



Lyric Goes Here



Built to Spill You in Reverse Warner Bros.

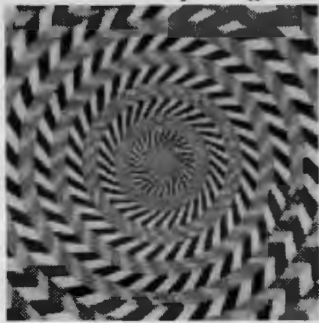
For some discriminating tastes, the guitar solo is the definition of rock. Built to Spill are subscribers to this ideology on *You in Reverse*, where the shredding borders on indulgent meandering but manages to avoid overcooking the idea.

The band admits to having a different method with the new album, building off of jam sessions and avoiding headman "Doug [Martsch's] former reliance on extensive overdubs." The opening track, "Goin Against Your Mind" best exemplifies this, beginning with chugging drums and having the rest of the instruments steadily build on Martsch's soloing. Having such a thumping, declarative song as the opener belies the pace of the rest of the album, where the band slows it down for a bit of artistic introspection but never abandons their initial approach.

However, the result

is an album that presents a smattering of ideas, some explored by the band on previous albums, like on the apologetic "Liar," while others fully embrace the new improvisational technique. On "Conventional Wisdom," the band sounds spot-on like Dinosaur Jr.'s later work, with whom Built to Spill is often compared. This is ironic because with those albums J. Mascis had taken full control of his band's direction, while on *You in Reverse*, Doug Martsch democratizes the group and lets each instrument make a contribution on an appetizing, if scatterbrained, album.

-peter haffner



Audion Suckfish Spectral

If you pay any attention to the American House scene, then you've probably stumbled across Spectral Sounds, a record label out of Ann Arbor, Michigan that features a roster of some of today's most forward-thinking house producers who take the best elements of . If you're familiar with Spectral,

then you've certainly heard the music of Matthew Dear, the artist whose record sales pay the bills for this small imprint. Dear's bizarre music is one part Frank Sinatra and two parts Chicago House. Audion is one of a handful of Dear's side-project/alter-egos—a departure from his typical approach to song writing. On his debut LP, *Suckfish*, he does away with the stripped-down, artful production, characteristic of his Matthew Dear projects in exchange for a genuine exploration of loud and hard-hitting house music.

As Audion, Dear pulls out all the stops. He throws into the mix all of the trashy rave synths and chuggy drum machine sounds that we've come to think of as the uninspiring and unsophisticated set of tools employed by your average European trance producer. On *Suckfish*, Audion attempts to make thumping party-techno smart again.

The album begins with an impossibly low-pitched synth drone that slowly becomes digitally warped and stretched, exposing Audion's fetishistic obsession with computer processing and noisy—almost grating—electronics.

Each track is built on only a few staccato loops and stilted drum sounds that misanthropically drone on for minutes on end. Yet Audion obsessively grooms each of his synthesizer lines with a great deal of care, neurotically tweaking the overdrive on his leads, the decay of his claps and hi-hats, and the shape of his waveforms. Listening to *Suckfish*, as a result, becomes a voyeuristic foray into Audion's production process. He violates the electronic musician's unspoken rule that hides from the listener the producer's bag of digital tricks and sound effects to unabashedly reveal his schizophrenic techniques and methods. His use of classic trance leads and house drum-loops feels like both an homage to, and parody of, the Chicago and Detroit techno scenes. With song titles like "Your Place or Mine," "Titty Fuck," and "Just Fucking," it becomes apparent

that Audion is channeling the spirit of the sweaty raver who's mind reels with ecstasy-driven eroticisms.

The album's highlight, "Kisses," is a sweaty club banger. For six minutes, Audion patiently manipulates the same acerbic, squarewave drone over a tongue-in-cheek house beat. The song slowly swells into a terrifying wall of distortion and mind-numbing drones that, at the right moment, collapses under its own sonic-weight and returns to the eerie minimalist groove it began with.

Unlike the narcotized crooning that can be found on any Matthew Dear record, there is no singing on *Suckfish*. Behind most of these tracks, however, lurks a quiet and ominous voice, presumably Audion himself, that mumbles unintelligibly like a drunkard talking to himself in his sleep, casting a haunting aura over this otherwise club banging LP.

Besides being the soundtrack to any ecstatic rave, *Suckfish* is at its core a brilliant pop record. As each section patiently builds—the music slowly becoming more distorted and urgent—the tracks anxiously cascade and then resolve with satisfying consonance and pop-blissfulness that would make Kraftwerk proud. But unlike Kraftwerk's spacey and discursive production, Audion's beats are incredibly hard and concise; not to mention incredibly hot, booty-bouncin' party jams.

For the listener who pays no mind to techno, this record might come off as a mindless derivation of the same dumb trance that bumps from BMWs throughout the Euro-trash enclaves of most American cities. But with a patient ear, *Suckfish* is a pop/techno masterpiece that breathes new life into the weathered sounds of 303s and 808s whose indelicate abuse by many Berliners is responsible for the genre's bad reputation in the first place.

-jeff brodsky



Human Television Look At Who You're Talking To Gigantic Music

So far, 2006 has brought a deluge of releases from established musical giants such as Built to Spill, the Flaming Lips, Belle & Sebastian, Morrissey, Fiery Furnaces, and even Tool. You'd think the world was coming to an end the way these bands have been pumping out the jams.

Human Television seems to have snuck into record stores

underneath the nuclear glow of adoration surrounding other major label sweethearts. The band's first infectious hit, "Saw You Walking By" (2004) set a standard of simple, celebratory indie whirlwinds of tambourine and wound-up guitar riffs, and the band's new thirty-six minute effort does not disappoint. Finally, two years after the release of their debut EP, *Look At Who You're Talking To*, the first full-length from the Florida quartet has emerged.

The Gainesville music scene is still something of a joke to Floridians, but Bard favorites such as Hot Water Music and Less Than Jake put it on the map. A few years before Against Me! blew up, the Soft Abuse label was helping Florida bands such as Old Bombs and Bad Animal get their footing. I interviewed Chris Berry, founder of the Brooklyn-based label (Frog Eyes, Destroyer, Old Bombs), who put out Human Television's first record, the *Orange* EP. According to Berry, "One great thing about Human Television is the fact that they have not and will not succumb to the fashion-rock genre of style or substance. It's truly about the music."

The band spent two full years assembling *Look At Who You're Talking To*, which features some early work—including the first song the band ever recorded, "I'm Moving On"—much of which finds its inspiration in Human Television's sleazy Florida surroundings. The band claims, "I Laughed" is actually a Miami Booty Bass song in disguise. Thankfully, each melodic pop bite on the album is naturally danceable, contrary to other pop albums of 2006, such as the Yeah Yeah Yeahs' "Show Your Bones," which reeks of Gwen Stefani's backwash. Frontman Downing says of Human Television's debut, "At least it's disco-beat free."

"Look At Who You're Talking To" is a genuine, jangly summer treat calling forth the very finest musical influences from '80s twee and indie pop, including Felt, the Wedding Present, New Order, the Sea Urchins, and early REM. "Mars Red Rust" is reminiscent of the '90s band Polaris; in fact, if Pete & Pete had been made in 2006, Human Television might be playing at the school dance instead of Luscious Jackson. Soft Abuse's Berry recommends the songs "Ten Minutes" and "People Talking," whereas my stand-out pick is the untitled track, which begins with lead vocalist Billy Downing timidly warbling behind an acoustic guitar, a violin, and a spitting drum. After two minutes the song transforms into a supercharged synth and cannon battle that would bring any headbanger out of a coma.

-karen saskin

PROM



AND OTHER SHOW



How to Be Alone; Reflections on a Semester Abroad

by johanna hauser

Six months ago, being alone was a little awkward for me. I'd find myself standing in front of the fridge or in a parking lot somewhere and I'd feel like I was in one of those language classes where you have to turn to your neighbor and talk about your hobby or favorite food. Sometimes I'd say to myself out loud just for giggles, "rock collecting" or "beef jerky." It's always funny and awkward when you say random words just because you're alone, but my hobby isn't rock collecting and I don't like beef jerky. And the silence that followed afterwards made me feel like I needed a few cigarettes or a jar of pickles. And then it all came to me, as if in a dream: Berlin.

I had to go on one of those soul quests like the one Julia Roberts does in Runaway Bride when she realizes she doesn't know how she likes her eggs cooked because she always gets what her stupid fiancée gets. I had to do the fast forward inspirational scene where I rollerblade in the park and read the paper with smart glasses and finally end up alone in a cute little diner wearing sweatpants and a baseball cap and saying to the waitress with a coy smile, "scrambled with tomatoes and cheddar."

I was a paranoid and underweight eight year old. I thought OJ Simpson was going to kill me and my parents. It kept me up at night, every night, for about a year. I can't really say why, but I decided that part of my journey was going to have to involve my eight-year old self. She was the one that liked rocks and beef jerky, so I took her to Berlin with me. From now on I'll call her Shannon. I also took my favorite animal friend Lamar with me. To most people,

neither of these friends is real. But I'm not one for imaginary friends.

So what do we do together now that I'm in the midst of my sojourn? With Shannon; I take pictures of doll and other toy faces that I find in flea markets and in trash piles. With Lamar, I mostly just stare at my hands. Both of these activities make me feel pretty good. We also listen to that Bob Dylan song "Shelter From the Storm" a lot. Lamar likes this line the best: "Try imagining a place where it's always safe and warm. Come in, she said, I'll give you shelter from the storm." Besides taking pictures of doll faces, I've also grown to love the classic aerial view food photo. I take these kinds of pictures by myself. I like shots that look both appetizing and

Since then, I've enjoyed living my life in the context of this title, just for giggles.

What's your hobby now, Johanna? Myself. I like thinking about myself. I like talking to myself. I like

I felt them behind me as I transferred trains. I felt their words pushing into my brain and I was actually furious. I screamed in my head "Why can't I ever just go somewhere by myself?!"



disgusting.

Right before I left for Berlin I read How to be Alone by Jonathan Franzen. I saw it on the shelf in a bookstore right after Christmas and it seemed like the instructional manual of a lifetime. It's a collection of essays that

feeding myself. I like to imagine great aerial shots of myself eating. I like picturing the parts of my body that are just out of my sight. I like thinking about how to be alone. But I'm never alone. You can't be alone. That's not how it works.

On Monday I was on the train with my I-know-where-I'm-going-I'm-not-American-don't-talk-to-me face on. I was on my way to a giant May Day party and I was planning to wander around through the crowds looking for doll faces and food. I didn't invite Shannon or Lamar along, and I was feeling totally alone. It's pretty easy to do that when everyone's speaking a language you don't really understand. But then out of the shadows came these two American college girls. I could hear and understand every word they were saying. They were going to the party too, which shocked me even though everyone in the city was going there.

I lost them when we got off the train and wandered around with thousands of drunken German people feeling a little awkward but mostly great. But I couldn't find any good trash piles to dig through, and all the food was surrounded by people. At one point I looked up and on top of this really tall building there were two tiny police officers in riot gear staring down at the people below.

They were probably conferencing about security measures, and they looked really menacing and important to me. But when I pointed my camera up, everyone around me just looked at them and laughed and cheered each other.

I did a mock language class interview with myself yesterday and I've decided that if I could be any character from a book right now it would be whoever ends up alone tending to the garden at the end of Candide. I think I'd just spend my time taking pictures of the cabbage heads until they looked like real people.

It's a Big World Out There

by riley wise

I hate being asked about my future. I hate it so much that when an adult asks me I close up immediately and give them curt, outrageously empty answers: "We'll see, won't we!"

Lately I've been getting asked about my future a lot and I've gotten really good at directing my resentment towards the person asking. I love saying things like "It's all up in the air" and "It's a big world out there" to my optometrist, my gynecologist, my masseuse. I use all my resentment towards them to make a very serious face. Right away they know this is not a matter I'd like to discuss any further.

Attempting to write an article about the graduating class this week, the tables have suddenly turned. Walking up to kids in Kline and the Campus Center, now I'm that awful adult trying to pry into the lives of my peers, I'm the one who's resented!

Sidling up to Jon Dame (who's trying very hard to get some work done on the circus set-up down the hill from Ludlow) with my pocket notebook and pencil, I casually ask how he feels about graduating: "You can't be serious—what are you, taking a poll?"

I try a new approach. This time, I start talking to two girls sitting outside Kline. Then, out of nowhere, I whip out my notebook and ask, as though it were an addendum to our conversation, what they're planning on doing after graduation. One of them, Georgia, quickly tries to escape, standing up with her empty cereal bowl in hand. The other looks

to tell me she's going to Florida to do community organizing.

For the next few days I almost give up completely. I tell my editor, Lauren Kitz, that this is going to be a terrible article: graduating from college is the most anti-climactic time; everyone gives me the same answer. Kitz, of course, won't let me off the hook. And so I

the same about it, I might as well just start asking juniors, sophomores, even freshman how they feel about graduating! Gordon Bell, my sophomore roommate, is sitting on his bed in front of his Powerbook. When I ask him how he feels about graduating, he gives me the most innocent smile and says, "I'm not graduating." At the senior photo

want me to print it: "I'm moving to Chicago where I'll have a shitty apartment, a shitty job and a shitty life." Has Bard prepared him for life? "For a shitty life, yeah."

Still feeling discouraged about the article, I ask Ian Samuels for a suggestion, how would he go about it. "Just add a lot of exclamation points."

Presents! I'll ask about graduation presents! Braden Marks is "getting the condo in Switzerland." Jenny Hendrix's mom is sponsoring a trip to Costa Rica. Peter Weinberg asked for a Macbook Pro.

No! Jobs! Sam Kraft is going to Teach For America in NYC. Sarah Elia might babysit for that little devil, Diego Carrión. Kate Waters says she's going to set herself up with some "half-ass, part-time work in Bermuda." Eric Baldetti isn't too thrilled about moving home to LA, but he's going to "pursue work in film" there, anyway. Patricia No is going to Portland to work for a PR firm—but just long enough to save up for a world-traveling stint.

The interviewing process was almost over, I had over seven pages of notes. Then Jonah Adels looked me straight in the eye and said, "World?"



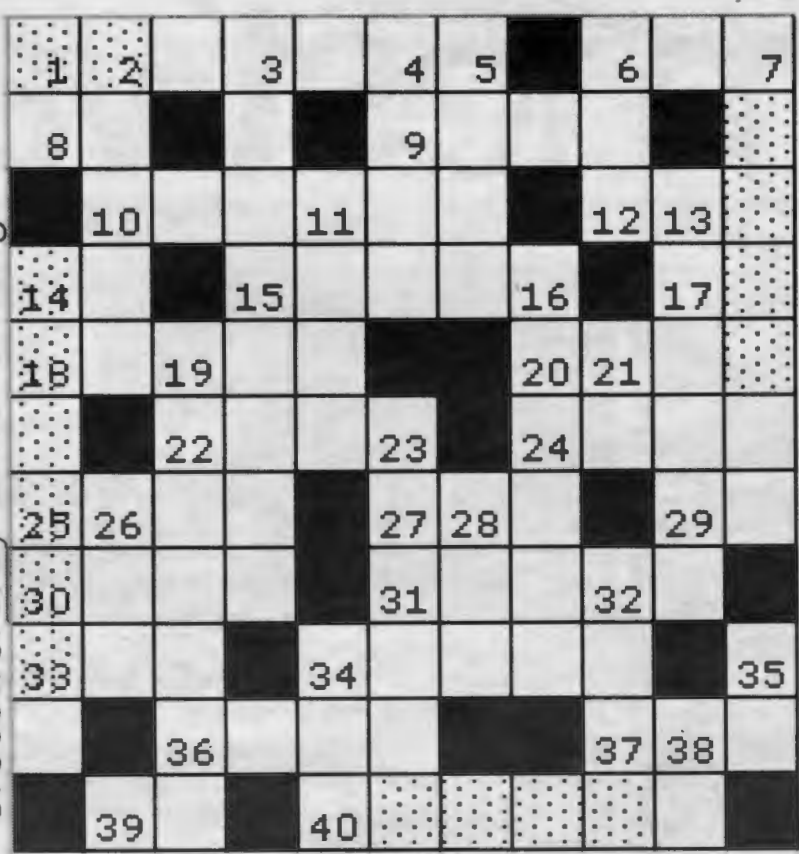
at me with resentment. Flagging, I up my cheer and ask again. Jessica Blau almost rolls her eyes and then resigns

keep trying.

The next day I get a great idea. If everyone feels more or less

so great that he immediately feels self-conscious about it and doesn't

The End of the Road
Crossword by Simone Kung



- Across**
- 1. Medicine to take for a sour stomach
 - 6. _____ v. Wade
 - 8. Just _____ it
 - 9. Exclusively
 - 10. Type of girl who has been living in her white bread world
 - 12. Christy Whitman org.
 - 14. Mr. Barnum
 - 15. Word frequently preceding "repeat"
 - 17. Not them
 - 18. Ryder competitor
 - 20. Tape type
 - 22. Twice, a mild scolding
 - 24. Sushi roll
 - 25. Places with many cages
 - 27. Pittsburgh university, abbrev.
 - 29. The morning after pill, e.g.
 - 30. Fasting period
 - 31. Tool used by the Navy and whales
 - 33. MRI on rave drug
 - 34. Usually, hot alcoholic beverage
 - 36. Midday
 - 37. Ruff Ryder's first lady
 - 39. Cell phone brand
 - 40. Harsh
- Down**
- 1. Doctor, briefly
 - 2. The promise of a much sought after fountain
 - 3. One with high regard for the welfare of others
 - 4. _____ & Country
 - 5. Taylor and Frank
 - 6. BLT bread
 - 7. Underwear material
 - 11. Frequently used in massages
 - 13. With "up," kiss me
 - 14. Confused
 - 16. Boat SS. _____ Fitzgerald
 - 19. Yom Kippur activity
 - 21. Place of higher learning in, say, Alabama or Arizona
 - 23. The Mix Tape rapper
 - 26. _____ the ramparts...
 - 28. _____ Squad
 - 32. Yesterday, to a Spaniard
 - 34. Words found on letters
 - 35. Email subject line acronym
 - 38. With apostrophe, by contraction

WORDS IN THE DOTTED BOXES:

Sad but true!

JESBLE by Jumse Malmmed

WHAT THE CANAL SAW
WHEN IT LOOKED IN
THE PUNHOUSE MIRROR:

□○○○○□
CANEDD

○○○○○○○
GREAME

○○○○○○□
GNATLAL

:A ○○○○○○○○○○○○



CONFIDENTIAL
TO BENNY
NO MATTER
HOW LONG
YOU GROW
IT, THEY'LL
NEVER
NOTICE THE
"D"

COME TO
THE BARD '06
Science
Faire
(cause film and photo can't teach you how
to make drugs)
TUESDAY MPR



A) Middle School

B) High School

C) College



POP QUIZ!

WASNT THE BEST TIME TO BE IN
OUR YOUNG VEGETARIANISM? *By: [unclear]*

ANSWER: None. Keep it to yourself, pinko

tribeca film festival



I'm Reed Fish – Bard grad Zackary Adler hits all the wrong notes in his directorial debut starring Undeclared's Jay Baruchel as a small town boy wondering if there is more for him out there. Baruchel's competent performance isn't enough to hold up this unfunny script with the worst case of self-reflexive blues and a predictability sure to annoy even the most affable moviegoer. Adolphas Mekas is cringing from miles away.

Jesus Camp – Heidi Ewing and Rachel Grady's second feature, after the heartwarming Boys of Baraka, is an in-depth portrait of a true piece of Americana: The Christian Right Wing. Removing any judgment from this perfectly haunting film, Ewing and Grady follow a group of children as they are "saved" at a three-day camp run by the fanatical Becky Fisher in North Dakota. Along the way, the audience is both amused and horrified as the kids pray to a cardboard cut-out of George Bush, discuss separate views on Harry Potter, and search for spiritual enlightenment through many even more adult pressures.



The Bridge – This breathtaking new documentary, one of the highlights of the Tribeca Film Festival, allows you to witness a truly new perspective on life through the eyes of filmmaker Eric Steel. By filming the Golden Gate Bridge for an entire year, Steel was able to capture 24 actual suicides on camera, each of which he followed up on with interviews with the friends and family of the victim in question. The result is far from the snuff film you might expect here. Instead, it is a beautiful meditation on life and death that humbles the viewer as it forces us to confront the truth about what happened in every situation, even with all the ethical controversies – all of which, I assure you, Steel acquitted himself from admirably. You have to see it to believe it.




I Want Someone To Eat Cheese With – Jeff Garlin's (Curb Your Enthusiasm) directorial debut is an enjoyable, downbeat comedy about one man's search for love in Chicago. Forget the trite plotline and believe me when I tell you that the film plays out like a hilarious, haphazard mix of Seinfeld and Annie Hall with Garlin playing the lead and Sarah Silverman playing the romantic interest. Who can argue with that?

Compiled by Mike Lerman

YOU ARE A
GENIUS!
LAYOUT KINGS
NEEDED

COME TO THE FREEPRESS AND
LEARN THE ROPES OF LAYOUT
FREEPRESS@BARD.EDU



Bard Comicbook Club!

Do you read comics?


ummm.....

Do you want to?

by Olin 101 on some

Wednesday @ 7 PM

and hang out with us!



philly Film Festival

compiled by fariha zaman

The Sun — The third in the much lauded director Alexander Sokurov's series of largely biographical histories, this film explores the final days before Emperor Hirohito's capitulation to America and his relationship with General Douglas MacArthur. Like many of the films in Sokurov's repertoire, *The Sun* is gorgeously shot and meditatively paced, creating a story through a collection of quiet yet telling moments rather than surface dialogue and points of high action, such as Hirohito examining

a crab the day before surrender, or sharing a cigar with the General. Despite its subtle rhythm and limited scope, lurking within the film is a wry and brutal humor as well as a deeply moving quality that would be impossible were it not for his attention to detail and the close, complex depiction of his clearly beloved characters.



Texture of Skin — A challenging meditation on isolation and the difficulty of forming meaningful relationships — a theme that seemed to be rather prevalent in this year's festival, particularly among several of the East Asian entries — disguised as a ghost story. Min-Woo is a photojournalist living a quiet, largely voyeuristic life staking out and drinking with friends until two things shake up his routine — a doomed affair with an ex-girlfriend and an increasingly lucid vision of the former tenant of his new apartment. The film is intelligent, atmospheric, and quite adept at subtly emphasizing the ironic contrast between the almost expressly physical moments he spends with his lover and the deeply haunting psychological connection he has with someone who does not even exist in his physical reality. There is the interesting suggestion that this "new woman" in his life is not so much a spirit as a force created of his desperately unmet need for intimate human contact beyond sex, one which propels the confrontation between his dream world and his waking life until they reach a tangible, if mysterious, collision.



Noriko's Dinner Table — A sort-of sequel to Sion Sono's infamous *Suicide Circle* that depicts the emotional side of the story conspicuously lacking in the original, this nearly three hour long film runs concurrently to its predecessor. It centers around a family destroyed by the flight of two sisters, their quest to lose and redefine themselves by acting as family members for hire by the lonely, and their father's search to retrieve his possibly irrevocably changed girls. Although the film does have a fair few valuable comments on the negligence present in most relationships and the prevalence of isolation, this cannot quite hold together a meandering, slightly indulgent plot that starts to fall apart by the end. Also, those looking for answers to this film's companion piece may be frustrated—despite the numerous narrative connections and insider nods to the original, the revelations in this film might simply make the overall story more mystifying than ever. The most lucid "answer" that this film may provide is the idea that Sono is more interested in focusing on the feelings and patterns created by events than the solid logic of the events themselves.



Brothers of the Head In this fictional documentary from the directors of *Lost in La Mancha*, two physically and emotionally dependent yet fiercely individual conjoined twins become unlikely rock stars in 70's era London. Initially recruited for their inherent shock value and expected to end up victims of their helpers and haters alike, the twins prove to have real talent and enough feisty intelligence to mock even those who attempt to exploit them. As time goes on, however, they find their tentatively functional relationship eroded by the strain of jealousy, heartbreak, and the industry. The film definitely has a few flaws, most notably the overly ambitious inclusion of far too many interviewees, which at some points convolute the story and prove to be very distracting. However, it is a generally enjoyable film with a solid story, great performances, and skillfully woven together "archival footage" created entirely by the filmmakers. The twins in the title roles (Luke and Harry Treadaway) give a particularly good turn, and this is highlighted by the rockin' soundtrack and well shot concert footage.

SENIOR FILM SCREENINGS

MAY 9, 10, 11 (OLD GYM)

JONAH ADELS "WORLDMAKE"

MAY 12 7:00

SASCHA GOLDHOR

"ESCAPE TO HORSE ISLAND"

ALEX FRANKEL

"TRAUMA TOLLING"

PATRICK HEBRON

"THE FALCON CANNOT HEAR THE FALCONER"

MAY 13 7:30

GABE KOLODNY "BIRTHRIGHT"

ED HELLMAN "ELEPHANT IN LOVE"

MAY 14 4:00

JADE UTCIK-ASHCROFT

"GROWING AWARENESS"

MAY 15 9:00

ERIK LARSEN

"THE NINTH CONFIGURATION DANCERS"

KATHERINE BAUER

"SEKNMET'S BETRAYAL: PSYCHO PUSSY SLAUGHTER"

MAY 16 6:00

JESSE CAIN

"PROSE OF THE TRANS-SIBERIAN"

MAY 19 6:00

CHARLOTTE GREVILLE "ZAYDE"

ETHAN JOHNSON "SHOTGUN"

ALL SCREENINGS IN AVERY UNLESS NOTED

LOGG
AND PALS
by Michael "Dudczak"

HAPPY
Graduation

CLASS of '06!



MASH RESULTS

2005-6 FREE PRESS

circle your picks and send it to: FREE PRESS

MOST OF THE "WINNERS" ACTUALLY RECEIVED VERY FEW VOTES. FOR "ACTUAL" RESULTS, SEE BELOW.

Tallest Male

1. Henry Gwazda
2. Jon Leale
3. Trevor McGinn
4. Josef Woldence
5. Jack Woodruff

Best Nearby Town

1. Germantown
2. New York
3. Red Hook
4. Rhinecliff
5. Tivoli

Baldest Professor

1. Jim Brudvig
2. Peter Gadsby
3. Bill Mullen
4. Geoffrey Sanborn

Best Name

1. Monroe Ellenbogen
2. Sky Ferrara
3. Dimitri Papadimitriou
4. Misty Autumn Seemans
5. Hannah Sunshine

Best Professor Crush

1. Gale Heinowitz
2. Felicia Keesing
3. Gregory Moynahan
4. Eric Trudel
5. Your foreign language tutor

Best Spot on Campus

1. Abandoned pool
2. Amongst the columns outside Hoffman
3. Hannah Arendt's grave
4. John Bard's tomb
5. Treehouse on the Hudson

Best Bard/Celeb Name

1. Robert Kelly
2. Dave Matthews
3. Joseph McCarthy
4. H. Potter
5. Patrick Stewart

Best West

1. West African
2. Kanye West
3. Western Civilization
4. West Side Story
5. The Westing Game

Best

1. Ben Stevens
2. The Burrito Stand
3. The Planning Committee
4. Weed
5. Wikipedia

TALLEST MALE: Henry Gwazda; BEST NEARBY TOWN: Tivoli; BALDEST PROF: Bill Mullen; BEST NAME: Misty Autumn Seemans; BEST PROF. CRUSH: Your foreign language tutor; BEST SPOT: Treehouse on the Hudson; BEST BARD/CELEB: R. Kelly & Patrick Stewart; BEST WEST: (tie) R. Kelly & Patrick Stewart; BEST WEST: (tie) Western Civ + West Side Story (seriously??); BEST: Wikipedia.

The Bard Free Press Classifieds

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HOUSING AVAILABLE

SPRING '07 SUBLET, TIVOLI

Going abroad in the fall? Need a place to stay when you get back? Sublet my room for the Spring '07 semester! It's a spacious bedroom in a 4 person house on Broadway in Tivoli, next to the shuttle stop. Nice kitchen, front porch, and backyard. Really great location. Fully furnished. \$430/Month + Utilities. Call Diya: (203) 521-3060.

SPRING '07 SUBLET, TIVOLI

Available for spring 2007 in a spacious house on 9G, Tivoli. Shared kitchen, living room, porch, beautiful backyard, basement, 4 min. from campus. Contact Gus Hoffman at ah389@bard.edu or (845) 594-7545.

SUMMER SUBLET, RED HOOK

Beautiful 2-3 br house on Elizabeth St. in Red Hook available for sublet June to August. The house is in a quiet location in the center of town, within walking distance of the grocery store, pharmacy, bookstore, etc. Great backyard, deck, front porch, clean kitchen and bathroom. Fully furnished. \$1300/month, \$650 per room. Contact (484) 356-6154 or mc667@bard.edu. photo available.

SUMMER SUBLET, RED HOOK

Looking For Summer Subletters! the upstairs of 30 E. Market Street in the center of bustling Red Hook. 2 br, cozy kitchen and living room, bath with neat tub. \$1250/month, June 1st- end of August. contact Emily and Camilla at 251-709-

7441 or eb472@bard.edu.

SUMMER SUBLET, TIVOLI

4 br apartment on Broadway in center of Tivoli, \$1000 a month plus electricity for all rooms (inc. kitchen/living room, bathroom), renting single rooms negotiable. Good light, front porch, organic garden. From June 1 to late August. Call Zara at (845) 752-4357 or e-mail zd963@bard.edu.

SUMMER SUBLET, TIVOLI

Available from June 1 (or May 31) to August 23: 1-br apartment in Tivoli Garden complex. Newly renovated, parquet floors, modern designer furniture. Large sitting room and dining area, generous bedroom w/ queen bed, walk-in closet, workspace by the window. Spacious kitchen w/ dishwasher, microwave etc. Washer-dryer. High-speed internet, basic cable, air-conditioning included in rent. 5 minutes from Bard by car, or a pleasant 7-minute walk to Tivoli shops and to the Bard Campus shuttle. Deal for individual or couple. Efficient central AC! \$850 per month (negotiable, depending on length of stay). Please contact Florian Becker, fnbecker@bard.edu.

AVAILABLE

FURNITURE FOR SALE

I need to sell all my furniture to one person needs a nice apartment in a nice view, just 12 minutes away of Bard. The apartment has a big kitchen and two rooms. The light inter the apartment from all sides. I bought my furniture 2 years ago, all new. If anybody is interested please con-

tact me through e-mail sgad-gad67@hotmail.com.

MISCELLANEOUS COLLEGE THINGS including: a little fridge, white, barely used, a luxurious mattress pad, an ornate full-length mirror, and various sociology and roman architecture textbooks. email lf358@bard.edu if you have interest in any of these things. Prices negotiable. everything must go.

SMALL HEARTY SPIDER PLANT in fetching green pot. free to a good home. lf358@bard.edu.

USEFUL ITEMS NEED A NEW HOME microwave. bookshelf (red hot!). vacuum. metal hanging closet. boom box. microwave stand. mini ironing board. cappuccino machine. email: mh767@bard.edu.

QUEEN SIZE BED AND FORD RANGER for sale. contact Anya Rosenfeld at (310) 889-4928 or anya.rosenfeld@mac.com.

2001 ISUZU RODEO LS white w/grey int, roof rack, 4WD, CD player, 85K miles-\$6,500. Call (845) 758-7957.

1994 CHEVROLET CAVALLIER 174,000 miles, fair condition. \$600 o.b.o. Contact Ryan at rpmccann@yahoo.com or (845) 518-3839.

SEEKING

ART STORAGE I have some art sculptures that I must store

really soon! I will pay you for some space, I just don't wanna pay for storage in Kingston. Contact sd794@bard.edu.

BABYSITTER Do you love children? Are you responsible, playful, imaginative? Might you also be a great driver? Do you have great references? We're looking for someone who will be here next year as well who has time available now until, preferably, June 1 or June 10, to begin a (babysitting) bond with a 3-year-old girl. (driving part is not so necessary.) Email emanuela12@aol.com with the subject heading **BABYSITTING**.

A DIESEL CAR Preferably in good condition, and definitely cheap. I will trade you a beat-up, but good condition '95 Jeep with new tires if it's of similar value, and you want it. But cheap is also good. e-mail me at ar653@bard.edu.

JOB Looking for well-paying, rewarding, low-stress, ethically-responsible job/grant in the arts or something do-goodery for the summer in Santa Fe. please reply to Jesse: jm759@bard.edu. Red Hook snobs need not reply.

MISC. FURNITURE Wanted for trade, for free, or cheap: A twin-sized bed or mattress, desk, bookshelves, clothing drawers. I would really prefer a trade - need something knitted? clothes? crafts? I can do it for you! e-mail me at ar653@bard.edu.

TRAVELING COMPANION 21 year old female soon to be Bard grad seeks a traveling companion to travel in India from

approximately July 20th (But perhaps as early as July 1) to August 14th. I am going to Sri Lanka on an economics class trip in June and teaching English in Hong Kong starting mid August, would like to travel in India in between but don't want to go alone. Adventurous yet responsible individual may be either gender and need not have been to India before or speak native languages. Itinerary flexible. I will probably be flying in to southern India. If interested, please contact Andrea at am844@bard.edu as soon as possible!

YOUR OLD BOOKS, FOR THE BOOK EXCHANGE

Give your books to the Book Exchange, get free books next semester. Saturday 13 through Tuesday 16 in the Campus Center.

MISSED CONNECTIONS

To my target: I've been watching you so long, I even know what kind of underwear you own. Consider yourself dead. -Assassin p.s.- your room needs to be cleaned.

abe- you are still great at laying a. (as in fucking) and b. out (as in making this newspaper everybody's favorite). have fun being an iAlum.

declassified: playwright writes, copyrights play, plays

shot-out to HTC (THC 1337) for kind words, sick torrentz. -kitz0frenikk