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# the bard Free Press

## Expansion of SMOG Neglected

Construction projects: subject to the new incomplete policy?  
by owen conlow

SMOG, the two-car-plus garage located behind the gym on the road to the dump, was built around 1990 to provide a home for the club titled Student Mechanics' Open Garage. According to coverage in the November 1990 issue of the Bard Observer, "... certain important necessities were neglected such as running water and heat." The building was erected in three weeks, and although some improvements have been made since then, the SMOG still reeks of a slipshod building project. Originally the building was used by students to service vehicles in a co-operative fashion. More recently the Surrealist Training Circus was using the space to rehearse, as well as store and service apparati. When the Old Gym was closed two years ago, the circus offered the space as a temporary replacement for the Red Room, a small venue in the basement of the Old Gym.

At the end of last semester, students voted to allot \$50,000 from the Reserve Fund to expand and improve SMOG and make it a more worthy performance venue, as well as a general club space. The intention was to expand the western, dump-facing side of the building, and generally make the space less of a garage and more of a venue. The construction was supposed to begin this summer so that the new space would be ready for use when students returned in the fall.

The only visible changes were a few measurements spray-painted on the wall and a few arrows; the brush was not even cleared on the western side of the building. Brandon Rosenbluth, who is involved with both SMOG and the Audio Coop, met with Paul Marienthal, head of TLS, and John Gall, head of B&G, prior to the semester's end to discuss the plans, and was under the impression that the construction was scheduled to begin this summer.

However, Rosenbluth says that he had difficulty contacting Gall this summer, and when he did return an e-mail, he informed Rosenbluth that the school would have to hire an architect and apply for a building permit, neither of which had been discussed previously. Later on this summer, Rosenbluth was informed that the permit was ready to be picked up in Red Hook, but apparently had not — and may still not have — been retrieved. John Gall did not reply to e-mails requesting an interview for this article and the Red Hook Zoning & Planning Board was unavailable for questioning, leaving students in the all too familiar dark about the future of student space.

While many students have interpreted the delayed construction as another sign of administrative hesitance to give students any autonomous space, several developments last week served to quell those fears. Most notably, through some persistence on the part of Oliver Traldi, Secretary of

— allocation details on page five —



A bird's eye view of this year's sprawling book exchange. Over 300 students traded this semester. For more, turn to page three.

## Harvard Trades Early Action for Fairness

Bard process has always prized equality, says admissions  
by peter neely

Under the leadership of interim president Derek Bok, Harvard University announced this week that they will end their early action program next year in an attempt to equalize the admissions process, which they say places low income and minority applicants at a distinct disadvantage.

"The early decision process worked at a certain point in the history of American colleges as a way to encourage students to think about going to college earlier... at that time they were not seeing record number of students applying to schools," says Geneva Foster, Bard's Assistant Dean of Students and Director of Multicultural Affairs. The early action process increases chances of admission and informs students of their admissions status by December, rather than May.

"[Harvard] has been making an effort to recruit economically disadvantaged students and students of color, who are not their main group of applicants," said Bonnie Marcus, Bard's Senior Associate Director of Admissions, when contacted for comment in her Chicago office. "It is at best another action to broaden diversity."

The early decision program at Harvard, which does not require a student decision until May 1, does limit students to one school application, which is more similar to the binding early decision option offered at many other colleges and universities. Bard only offers non-

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## Upstate NY Jails Boom Despite Crime Decline

Some in Dutchess Fight the Greater New York Trend

by brenden beck

Statisticians studying patterns of incarceration in upstate New York have met with a strange arithmetic. Crime rates are decreasing. State Prison capacity has declined. Yet the same number of people are incarcerated in New York as were ten years ago.

This is because county jail expansion has boomed since 1995. Making up one third of people incarcerated in New York, county jails are run by the elected county sheriff and house those awaiting trial or serving short sentences. Most of those not in county jails are serving sentences in state run prisons.

The numbers reveal a startling dichotomy. In 2005, 30% fewer crimes were reported than in 1995, yet the total capacity of upstate New York Jails (upstate being those outside the five city boroughs) has increased 20% during that same time to total 19,986 beds. Thirty-six counties, just over half of those in New York, have expanded their jails since 1995 or have plans to soon. These numbers, compiled from data provided by the New York State Department of Correctional Services and Commission of Correction, reflect a national

trend that many are trying to explain.

"Some of the factors driving up New York's jail populations are similar to those affecting jail populations throughout the country," says Dana Kaplan of the New York State Network for Jail Alternatives and Safer Communities. The factors are "increased arrest rates for low level crimes, particularly in poor neighborhoods where many residents fail to meet bail, increased detention of non-citizen immigrants in county facilities; and a rising number of mentally ill persons formerly residing in mental health facilities."

Though this increase is most startling upstate because of the number of counties expanding, this is not a uniquely upstate phenomenon. The New York City Department of Correction has proposed three new jails in the Bronx, Brooklyn, and Queens despite the crime rates drastically lower than a decade ago.

Right here in Dutchess County, Sheriff Adrian Anderson oversaw the building of 100 new beds for the Dutchess Jail, and county legislators are debating

a new 300-bed addition. The potential \$60 million price tag has been a source of much controversy, but the county might not have a choice.

That choice may ultimately be up to the State Commission on Correction (COC), which is a small state agency charged with overseeing prison and jail conditions in New York. The problem of crowding "has forced the COC to mandate the construction of larger facilities that are more substantial than counties need or, in some instances, can pay for," says Adriano Bongiorno, the Legislative Representative to the New York State Association of Counties. He says that jail expansion has cost taxpayers of upstate counties approximately \$1 billion.

Proponents of the new

and bigger jails say that they will help combat the overcrowding that, in Dutchess' case, means sometimes dozens of people need to be "boarded out" to



Dutchess Justice rallies to stop jail expansion in our county

other county jails because Dutchess cannot hold them.

County legislators like Sandy Goldberg of Dutchess County District #14 and groups such as Poughkeepsie-based Dutchess Justice propose solutions to overcrowding other

— continued on page three —

Read on for: The New Old Gym, Official Statement on Smog Expansion, Dispatch from the University of Texas, Budget Allocations, NY State Democratic Primaries, Science Column, and more



# "Eco-terrorism" and the Green Scare

by lauren perlstein

As I write this article, six animal rights activists are on trial for their part in what the government has dubbed "eco-terrorist" activities. These people, more commonly known as the SHAC (Stop Huntingdon Animal Cruelty) 7, are a group of students and organizers who are each facing between two and a half and 13 years in prison for campaigning to shut down Huntingdon Life Sciences, a notorious animal-testing laboratory in New Jersey. These activists, however, did not break into the laboratory, or liberate animals, or destroy property. What they are being tried for is running a website that openly supported those who did.

How, one might ask, is it possible to be faced with such stiff penalties for doing something as innocuous as running a website? The answer is simple: this new wave of legal action on the part of the government is part of the Green Scare, a war on dissent that targets and classifies militant environmentalists, animal rights activists, and those who support them as terrorists. In fact, according to senior officials from the FBI, environmental and animal rights groups (which range from the Animal and Earth Liberation Fronts to PETA) account for the greatest domestic terrorist threat to the United States.

As a primer, the Animal and Earth Liberation Fronts (ALF and ELF respectively) are

underground networks of activists committed to property destruction (as well as animal liberation) as a means by which to impart economic injury on companies who benefit from the exploitation of animals and the earth. While many activists are split regarding the necessity and ethics of these methods, it should be noted that both the ELF and the ALF explicitly denounce harming any living thing in the execution of

to deliberately damage property with which animal enterprises conduct business. It also outlines sentencing guidelines, which suggest anywhere from six months in prison for causing less than \$10,000 in damages to twenty years in prison for causing "serious bodily injury."

Another operation put in place by the government to apprehend activists who engage in property destruction is Operation Backfire. Led by the FBI, this investigation has arrested over 20 activists and subpoenaed many more within the past nine months. Despite the fact that neither the Animal nor

the Earth Liberation Front have ever harmed or even committed an action against a human, activists motivated by ideological reasons are finding themselves threatened with sentences of up to life imprisonment while those who commit far more egregious crimes for non-political reasons are receiving lighter sentences. This can be seen in the case of environmental activist Jeff "Free" Luers, who is currently serving a 22.8 year-long jail sentence (a sentence tantamount to what a second-degree murderer would receive) for burning three SUVs at a dealership in Oregon to bring attention to the problem of the destructive effect of oil consumption on the earth. Furthermore, it is of great interest that in at least one of its pending "eco-terror" cases, the government has utilized the testimony of a paid-

informant as the only evidence linking the activists to the crime for which they are being charged.

While it may seem painfully obvious that those convicted of a crime will be sentenced and denounced as criminals, the problem is that activists rounded up in this governmental sweep are also being subject to another label - terrorists. Never mind the fact that the whole concept of "eco-terrorism" was made popular by Ron Arnold, a virulent anti-environmentalist; or the fact that over 3000 hate crimes are perpetrated against African Americans alone every year; or the fact that in 2003 the FBI Office of the Inspector General suggested transferring the money spent on thwarting "eco-terrorists" to efforts to pursue threats by Islamic fundamentalists—the government persists in its practice of presumed guilt and baseless convictions.

According to John Lewis, the FBI's Deputy Assistant Director, the Animal and Earth Liberation fronts have been responsible for \$110 million dollars

worth of damage by way of 1,200 acts of "eco-terrorism" over the last 15 years. If this seems like terrorism, compare it to the \$110 million dollars worth of trees that multi-national timber companies steal from national forests every year. Or the \$110 million cut by the Bush administration from Native American housing programs last year. Or the fact that those associated with white-supremacist groups who have killed six and injured more than 135 people are viewed as less of a priority than non-violent environmentalists. The list goes on.

It is no secret that successful social movements have used all means by which to exact change, no matter how illegal or illegitimate the government claims them to be. If the government wants to retain any clout with the American people, it must stop denouncing everything and everyone that harms its interests as "terrorists," and must start analyzing and being realistic about the breadth of the threat posed by groups it sees as challenging the status quo.



# SHAC

their actions. To this day, no animal (human or non-human) has ever been physically harmed by either the ELF or the ALF.

The main method by which the government has been indicting activists has been through the use of a little-known law called the Animal Enterprise Terrorism Act. This law, whose stated goal is to "provide the Department of Justice the necessary authority to apprehend, prosecute, and convict individuals committing animal enterprise terror," was created in 1992 by biomedical interest groups and has been utilized more and more frequently by the government to classify the direct action carried out by environmental and animal rights groups as both felonies and terrorist acts. The law specifically makes it a crime to travel in "interstate or foreign commerce"

## Social Forum to be Held at US-Mexico Border

by emma friedland

The idea of a Border Social Forum (Foro Social Fronterizo) was born at the 2006 World Social Forum in Caracas, Venezuela, which some Bard students attended. A handful of organizations from Mexico and the U.S. met in Caracas to design a forum concerned with issues surrounding the "Wall of Death" on the US-Mexico border.

The Border Social

Forum is set to happen in Chihuahua, Mexico, in the border town of Ciudad Juarez, located just across from El Paso, Texas. The event is scheduled for October 13-15, of 2006. The Border Social Forum will be held at the campus of the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez (UACJ).

As a geographical point and psychological space, CD

Juarez is an important place for the discussion of US-Mexican relations, as it represents the division between the global north and south---where the wealthy and impoverished countries confront. CD Juarez is also the site of numerous American factories, or maquiladoras, that are implicit not only in the controversy surrounding NAFTA, but also in the disappearance and deaths of hundreds of female workers in the city. Also, all of the law enforcement policing the US-Mexico border is coordinated from El Paso.

For these reasons, CD Juarez is a logical backdrop for discussions encompassing the themes of labor and work, US-Mexico relations, human rights and gender. Among the goals of the Border Social Forum, one is to have participating delegations from each border state. The Forum then is intent on assessing the current situation along the US-Mexico border and agreeing on plan of actions and solutions to the problems faced.

The border plan of action will be integrated into this year's World Social Forum that will be held in Kenya, and the US Social Forum in Atlanta in 2007.

For more information, visit <http://forosocialfronterizo.blogspot.com/>



## The Bard Free Press

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## Old Gym Comm Creates New Gym Style

by amy mackay for the new old gym committee

The legendary Old Gym, though no longer providing us with wild parties and raucous rock n' roll, persists in its attempt to remain a vital student autonomous space on campus. With a new agenda to encourage collaboration and integration across divisions in the art departments at Bard, the New Old Gym Committee composed of student artists has facilitated the development of the gym into a functional, multi-media artist space. It is available to all students for musical shows, theatrical performances, art viewings and installations. The space is intended to run as a co-operative, meaning that in order to use the space, we ask that you also participate or assist

someone else in another project or production. Students interested in utilizing the Old Gym must submit a detailed proposal to the Committee, outlining specifically the technical or spatial needs of the production or project.

We strongly urge all students interested to really push their ideas and broaden the scope of their project to see how to fully maximize all that the space has to offer. Priority will be granted to projects that require the use of the space and whose production/aesthetic values enhance the character of the space (and vice-versa). There are very few rules, most importantly no drinking or smoking in the space (during performances and openings as well as during

production time) and there can be no more than 120 people admitted into the space for a production. The sooner you get your proposal form (available in the campus center post office) into the committee, the sooner we can distribute a schedule for the upcoming events for the semester. For more information, you can contact department representatives on the committee: Maggie Carson (lighting), Alex Davis (Dance/Theater), Brel Froebe (Theater), Alex Eaton (Theater), Amy MacKay (Studio Arts), Daniel Pierce (Music), Chris Rice (Photography), Emma Skove-Epes (Dance). For those interested in looking at the space, we will host an open house in the near future.



## Book Exchange Sticks it to the Man, Again

Hundreds get free class books at the bi-annual swap  
by paige deal

Four years after the founding of Bard's unique textbook cooperative, the Book Exchange is still running strong. Last week the student run organization gave or received books from over 300 of Bard's best and brightest, trading thousands of used class books. Though they have a small, damp closet in the basement of Albee to store the books, they trade out of the Campus Center lobby to attract the maximum of foot traffic. "Our closet isn't nearly big enough to operate the trade out of," says Abbie Weil '08, one of the Book Exchange's dedicated workers. "We're grateful for the space, but it's difficult to lug the books back and forth."

The Exchange happens at the beginning and end of every semester, trading only books Bard students have used for classes. Points are assigned to the books based on their initial

price and condition, but the exchange doesn't use money (\$1-\$20 is one point, \$20-\$50 is two points, and \$50+ is three points). "Sometimes people will ask to buy the books, but we were founded because some students were tired of paying for books that their predecessors used," says Brenden Beck '07, who has worked with the Book Exchange since its inception in fall of 2003.

Even though freshmen don't have any class books to exchange, having never take a class, the Book Exchange offers them a "loan" of four points worth of books so they can get started. "We trust that freshmen will bring us four points worth at the end of the semester. It doesn't have to be the books we gave them, just any ones they don't need anymore." As always, upper classmen can trade as many books as they want with their no longer wanted tomes.

Noticeable to anyone who walked through the Campus Center last week, the books in the Exchange are not organized into any order. This has lead many to avoid taking advantage of the exchange, but organizing the collection is a goal of the Exchange. "We'd love to categorize the books, but at this point we just don't have the manpower to order them and keep them that way. But if people would like to get involved they can email aw928@bard.edu to help out," says Beck.

Though the Exchange workers haven't heard of any similar programs at other schools, they are hoping to spread the idea. "We wrote a 'How to Book Exchange' pamphlet and are hoping to get it to industrious kids at other schools," says Beck. "It's easy in the college setting. Who doesn't love free books?"

## New York Jail Expansion (cont'd. from front page)

than new construction. Adding to Dutchess' already robust "Alternative to Incarceration" programs is one such remedy that might stop crowding. Reforming bail practices that keep the poor in jail longer than their counterparts who can meet bail is another possible solution. Changing arrest practices to more closely reflect the decreasing crime rate would also cut back on the numbers

entering jail in many counties. These remedies would also save tax dollars not spent on a new jail.

It is just those tax dollars that draw so many companies to the business of jail expansion. The \$1 billion that went to build New York's county jails mostly ended up in the hands of private contractors, whose ads peppered the winter edition of the New York State Association of Counties' newsletter. Companies

like the Pike Company, Labella Associates, and BBL Construction Services boast of their experience in building correctional facilities. One such Pike Company ad, formatted to look like an article, encourages the county legislator readership considering jail expansion to, "Have Fun. You will probably not have another chance to design and build a new jail!"

## Anti-War Candidate Loses

### Among Democrats

FOxy former first female fights for suppositional second senate seat

by kendra shirmer

On the night of September 12th, voters in New York State Democratic party's primary election turned in their ballots to determine the all-star line-up of November's general election. Hillary Rodham Clinton, Eliot Spitzer, John Spencer and Andrew Cuomo were declared victors after the polls closed at 9 pm.

Clinton won her nomination to run for her Senate seat over anti-war challenger Jonathan Tasini. Tasini, former head of the National Writer's Union, got into the race despite being a no-name outside of the labor movement. He was outspent by all. Estimates are said to be in the range of one hundred to one or higher. As a stranger in an unknown in the political realm he didn't get much publicity and was blocked out of the televised debate because the station's criteria said he hadn't raised enough money to satisfy the station's criteria in campaigning. However after Tuesday, he got almost the exact same percentage as Eliot Spitzer's challenger in the gubernatorial primary, a county executive from a large county in NY, who got front-page attention and participated in high profile debates. Overall Tasini garnered 17% of the vote. In a public statement, he had this to say: "People throughout this campaign have come up to me and said that they were so grateful they had a choice—a choice that they could express their opposition to this illegal and immoral war, their frustration that in

this county 40 million people don't have health care, and their anger that corporations are waging a class warfare against their workers. I am proud that we have given them that choice." (democracynow.org)

Unlike Connecticut's Ned Lamont, Tasini was unable to secure the anti-war momentum that fueled Lamont's upset victory over incumbent Dem. Joe Lieberman last month. Much like Lieberman, Clinton voted yes on the Iraq war and hasn't called out for a date specific troop withdrawal, though she has publicly criticized the administration's conduct of the war and called for Rummy's resignation. In November Clinton will face John Spencer, former mayor of Yonkers. Spencer won his primary over K.T. McFarland, who was a Pentagon spokeswoman during Reagan's reign. While Clinton has raised over \$44 million for her campaign, Spencer begins with little money, lacks name recognition, and has a political profile that is much more conservative than most New York voters.

With 60 days until the general election, the four big name winners vowed to hit the campaign trail immediately after Tuesday's victories and hope to draw out more voters for participation on November 7th. Initial numbers indicated a record all-time low for voter turnout. Similarly, Bard College voter participation is historically shabby. Now

- continued on next page -

## The Questions

For the full text of the questions we asked candidates [click here](#).

1. What are your views on Election Day registration in New York State?
2. What are your views on people in prison or on parole voting in New York State?
3. What are your views on the U.S. Census Bureau's method of assigning residence to incarcerated people?
4. What are your views on the Rockefeller Drug Laws?
5. How should the state or federal government address reentry for people who have completed their sentences and are seeking employment and/or housing?
6. What are your views on this contract between Verizon/MCI and the New York State Department of Correctional Services?

www.betterballotsny.org provides guide to socially conscious NY voters.



# Don't Fear the Reaper

New coma case leads to probing mind questions

by andy kopas

Vocabularies can be funny things. Think back a few years, and consider whether anyone would know what a "blog" is. You wouldn't have to go much farther back to find people with no clue what a "podcast" is. And everyone can probably remember when the phrase "persistent vegetative state" was forced into our vernacular. Everyday vocabulary can always say a little bit about our changing social psyche; just as "blog" and "podcast" signify a new era of communication and information dissemination, "persistent vegetative state" speaks volumes about the our gradual redefining of "life" and "death." Thanks to advancements in neural biotechnology, these notions, which have been with us for as long as we have been cognitive, are beginning to shift from a distinct dichotomy to something far less clear. And decisions surrounding them, which have, historically, been relatively simple, are becoming much more complex.

Can a mind still be alive separate from a functioning body? Many grieving parents, children, and spouses have always wanted to believe so, but scientific opinion has been skeptical at best. This, however, might be changing. In the most recent issue of the journal *Science*, a University of Cambridge research team reported finding some striking similarities between the brain activity of a woman who has been in a vegetative state for the past five months and that of a healthy, conscious volunteer.

The woman, a 23-year old who had been injured in a car accident and met all the clinical criteria for a vegetative state, including persistent unrespon-

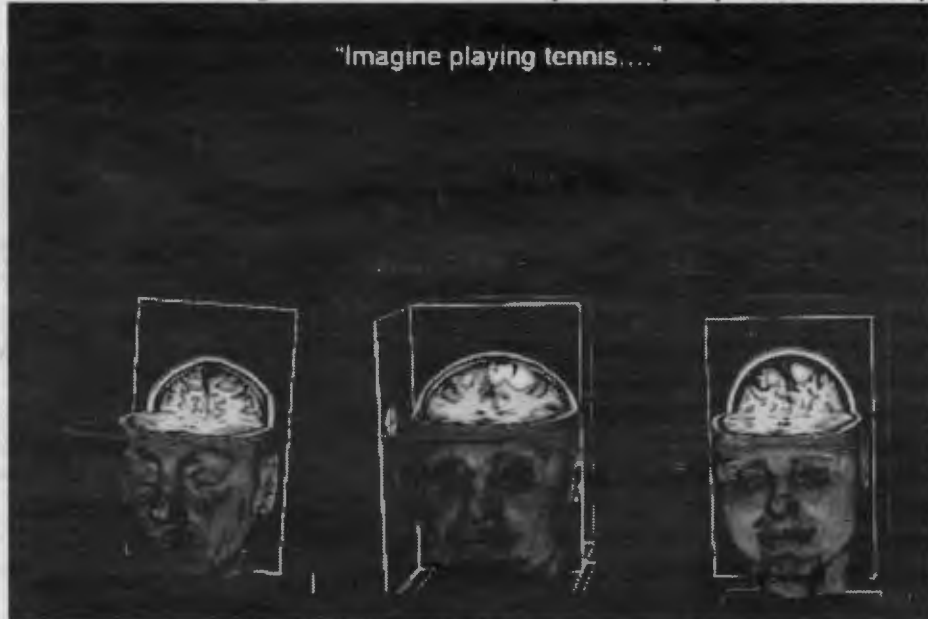
siveness and inability to communicate in any fashion, was first told some simple statements, including "There was milk and sugar in his coffee." Dr. Adrian Owen and his colleagues then moni-

death? The patient clearly demonstrated a will to cooperate, and that alone will no doubt be enough proof for many of the mind's ability to survive. The researchers were quick to try to prevent controversy

in a withered body, all traditional forms of communication lost, but flashes on a brain scan ringing through loud and clear.

Of course, it seems appropriate to ask what kind of things might be done for such a person, one whom traditional medicine has no conception of how to treat. No doubt many would like to say that there is hope of the patient recovering, if enough time is given. However, history seems to think this is unlikely, at least when the body is left to heal on its own. But given the amount of research being done in fields like cybernetics, and news of quadriplegics playing Pong with their brains, it's hard not to wonder. How long might it be before comatose and PVS patients are able to simply wire into a computer and live their lives ex machina?

The eager futurist would be quick to take this even further, leaping past all of these cases of a life that was nearly cut short being prolonged or restored. Many could see this as taking back what was rightfully theirs. But what about claiming the prize so many have lusted for? What about the possibility of immortality? Might it be the case a century from now that death is simply an option, a choice one can make if a more mechanical existence just doesn't hold the right poetic appeal. No doubt life and death will have even more radically different connotations by then, with the potential for death to even be totally phased out of our minds. But chances are good that even with all of these medical technologies trying to end its life, death will find a way to survive.



Three people, some in comas, display similar brain patterns

tored her brain activity via functional magnetic resonance imaging, or fMRI, and found it to be surprisingly similar to that of a healthy person told the same statement. While the brain activity was not necessarily on the same scale as that of the healthy person, the important part was that it was in the same areas. The researchers then proceeded to ask her to imagine a range of activities, including walking about her house and playing a game of tennis. Once again, her neural activity matched that of the volunteer.

So do these results herald the oncoming of a new definition of life and

though, adding "This is unlikely the case for all vegetative patients." But the dam has already been broken in many ways. Are patients in a persistent vegetative state, or PVS, to be seen as prisoners in the worst of cells, where there is no overt torture, but something far more frightening? Is it possible to continue living in this world given such circumstances? No doubt these will be the kinds of questions asked the next time a Terry Schiavo pops up, but this time there will be more proof presented than a few bats of an eyelid. One can imagine elaborate images being invoked of a stoic soul clinging to life

## NY Primaries (contd. from page three)

depending on whether or not your radical political views restrict any cooperation with the State, you probably have weak excuses for being too lazy to fill out the single form that will get your name on file at our Dutchess County polling place. Whether you like Hilary Clinton or not, and "lesser of two evils" business aside, I suggest you check out [www.betterballotsny.org](http://www.betterballotsny.org) to survey the names of the women and men running for positions not as glamorous as Senate but still integral to the legislation forming decisions that affect us all. The folks that put together this website include the Voter Enfranchisement Project, the Bronx Defenders,

Prison Policy Initiative, and others. They compiled a list of questions they shot at the candidates in all statewide primary and general elections for many districts of New York. They asked such questions as: "What are your views on the U.S. Census Bureau's method of assigning residence to incarcerated people?" and posted the responses of those who chose to respond. Further down the main page is an option to custom design a voter guide for the region in which you reside. Check for updates closer to election dates. The General Election is November 7th but the cut-off for registration is October 13th.

## "Zuck You!" Say Students to Disgracebook

Our generation's Vietnam receives much needed attention by max stahl

In September of 2006 over 700,000 young people joined the fastest growing protest movement in American history. If our generation were to protest in such numbers it must have been against some grave injustice. The disastrous Iraq War? Our quickly eroding civil liberties? Kline's lack of cones for the soft serve machine? No, unfortunately our generation sucks. We mobilized in large numbers against the tyranny that is... facebook.com.

The omnipresent social networking site last week introduced a new feature called "News Feed" that basically forces users to stalk their friends. The "News Feed" was happy to let me know every time anyone so much as sneezed and wrote a 1,000 word note to tell how they feel about it. More stupid

than scary really, but Northwestern's Ben Parr was mad as hell and he just wasn't going to take it anymore, so in the legacy of Thomas Jefferson's call for "the right of people to alter or abolish" any tyrannical government he set up the "revolutionary" "Students Against Facebook News Feed." What he didn't expect was that in two days it would become the fastest growing protest movement in American History.

The question as to why our generation feels more aggrieved by a website designed so that college kids can swap generic drinking stories than, say, the imminent global destruction that is global warming is a disturbing one. But when you take a step back and get some perspective you come away with a bit of hope. The most ironic thing about this whole story is that without the

News Feed, the protest group would never have gotten a tenth as big. It only grew because every time someone joined, the News Feed informed all of their friends, thereby creating a gigantic ripple effect throughout the entire network. This means that other protests can be organized in a similar way, reaching vast amounts of people with almost no resources or effort, merely a good idea. This represents the problem of our time - we have for the first time the potential of mass communication without going through any cultural gatekeepers, the potential to effect real change without being co-opted in the slightest. Unfortunately, all we care about is getting shit and winning the competition of who can most closely model their life after a beer commercial. God Bless America.

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# Democracy Distorted: Census Counts Motivate Prison Expansion

by emma friedland

In an uneven trade-off, the Census counts convicted felons (who are kept by law in 48 states from voting) as constituents of the place where they are jailed, not the cities they come from. This quirk in districting procedure serves to augment the populations of rural areas in which most prisons are located, and drain political clout from the urban neighborhoods that the majority of the New York State prison population is drawn from.

When the state legislature uses Census statistics to redraw district lines every ten years, and thus attributes a "phantom" population of urban prisoners to rural counties (like Dutchess or Ulster), the value of rural votes goes up and democracy gets the shitty end of the deal.

The concept of one vote per person is ruined, as urban voters lose legislators while rural voters gain representation. The agenda pushed in Albany becomes slanted towards the priorities of those that reside in rural prison-hosting counties, and away from the

needs of urban dwellers.

42 percent of New York State resides in New York City, yet city dwellers account for 66% of the state's prison population. Almost every one (91%) of the state's prisoners are housed in upstate prisons, where they count for Census and political representation as residents of upstate districts. New York City loses some 43,740 residents to the districts of upstate legislators (who are overwhelmingly Republican).

By way of these counting procedures, rural prison-hosting communities import an extra population on paper to deter the effects of an otherwise declining rural population. Likewise, urban districts that export prisoners end up losing population and representation. The advent of a prison in a rural area can have

a gigantic effect on Census Bureau statistics about the town or county. Just across the river from Bard, in the town of Cox-

and incorporated into other districts.

Ironically, convicted constituents also count for the

biased punishment, are upstate Senators Dale Volker (R) and Michael Nozzolio (R), heads of the Committees on Codes and Crime. The prisons in their two respective districts account for more than 17 percent of the state's prisoners.

This discrepant democracy is not unique to New York State, however. The number of prisoners originating from cities like Chicago, Los Angeles, Philadelphia, and Detroit is staggeringly disproportionate to the rest of those states. In fact, many states, like New York, have a huge geographic disparity between where convicted

persons live and where they are jailed. Counting the Census along these uneven lines distorts our democracy.

For more information, visit [PrisonersoftheCensus.org](http://PrisonersoftheCensus.org) or [prisonpolicy.org](http://prisonpolicy.org).



Locations of state and federal prisons across the US

sackie, almost half of the town's 7,000 citizens are incarcerated. Without the prisoners counted as part of their "population," seven upstate state senate districts are lacking more than five percent of their required size, and ought to be dissolved

mandate that allow "tough on crime" legislators to defend and renew the most draconian policies toward crime. The leading proponents of the Rockefeller Drug Laws, which require long mandatory prison sentences and promote racially

## SMOG Growth (contd. from front page)

the Student Association (the position formerly held by Matt Wing), President Botsein was informed of student discontent and took steps to see that the construction continued to move forward. Although Traldi reported being optimistic after his meeting with the President, he was reluctant to say that he had received a guarantee that the project would be completed. Botstein did tell Traldi that Gall informed him that the construction would begin in the next couple weeks.

Additionally, Traldi was told that a new student space would be included in the college's next capital campaign along with a proposal for two more village dorms. A capital campaign refers to the President's proposal to the Board of Trustees of various potential spending plans, for which they then cast a vote. If this proposal were to be approved, it is possible that the school may begin fundraising for a new student space, although this is clearly a long-term project, unlike the SMOG expansion.

In true administrative fashion, delays in the

construction have been attributed to the New Robbins construction, and it is important to note that the school also undertook construction of a new Nursery School this summer. While the administration frequently complained of students' poor treatment of autonomous concert facilities like the Old Gym in the dialogue about student space, it is hard to dispute that the buildings provided for such purposes are already in poor shape. The SMOG is cleaned thoroughly several times each semester in addition to smaller cleanings after each event, but no amount of cleaning can remove the dust that permeates the building, never mind fixing broken windows or preventing flooding. There is no guarantee that a new student space wouldn't be treated poorly, but it is realistic to assume that students would have more respect for a building that was provided with appropriate facilities, especially if students had a hand in its construction, as was proposed.

## Early Action College Admissions (contd. from front page)

binding early action that gives students the time compare financial aid packages.

"High school students from underrepresented populations . . . are often not in a position to be in a binding relationship with colleges without knowing their financial aid packages," adds Foster.

Early application programs can be confusing, says Marcus, who describes the process as benefiting those who have no financial needs or access to good college counseling.

"At Bard our selectivity has increased," says Marcus. "But we wouldn't quite have to [end early action programs] . . . because I think decisions we make in the early application pool are the same as in the general pool," adding that the process is only a problem if it changes the process of selection in the general applicant pool.

Bard Direction of Admissions Mary Backlund also supports Harvard's decision and its impact on the admissions process. In an email said, "Harvard's move is symbolically a healthy one, I believe, as it is a nod to lessening the admission frenzy." Combining

all applicants in one pool will likely reduce the rush to begin the college application process, which for many students begins early in Junior year, said Marcus.

At Harvard this decision is coupled with a recent scholarship program that offers students with family incomes

below \$60,000 free tuition, as well as recruiting in schools across the country - a process that Bard also actively pursues.

"Everyone wants to increase diversity: economic, geographic and academic," say Marcus. "We all try and figure ways to make that happen."



SMOG circa 1980

# SURREALIST TRAINING CIRCUS

mondays at 7 in SMOG  
 contact [fi721@bard.edu](mailto:fi721@bard.edu)  
 (631) 219-8085



# Dispatch from UT; Bard Student Transfers to Texas, Messes

by leah finnegan

God. Texas is Hot. Seriously hot. Also: hilly! Riding a bike is not easy in Texas. While riding a bike in Texas, I often find myself rolling backwards down steep hills, falling down at traffic stops, colliding with sharp shrubs, and losing my shoes because of the unbelievable sweat factor. So I have taken to navigating the vast bureaucracy of The University (of Texas) by foot. After a few days of wandering around, I end up in the me-and-my-dachshund themed office of my advisor, as they are called here, not advisors, no sir. It only takes twenty minutes for me to transfer colleges within the university, change my major, and acquire two minors (English and Geography! Who knew?) that I do not have to do any more work for. Advisor also tells me of some unique programs Texas offers, like one for motivated students where you can write a special thesis your senior year under the guidance of a real-life UT

professor. I tell him I'll think about it. I don't want to over-extend myself!

Transfer orientation at a large school is not as much of a cattle call as I expect it to be, even at Texas where they love cattle so much that their mascot is cattle. The orientation is actually kind of cheeky. The two-hour power Point Presentation has a Beatles motif; our College of Liberal Arts t-shirts look like the album cover of Sergeant Pepper. I doze off during the White Album/Health Services portion of orientation and eavesdrop on other people's conversations, which consist of guys talking about Texas. Most of the other trannies are males. Jamie is from San Antonio, Paul is from Lubbock, Chad from Sugar Land, Tanto from Beaumont. I am totally exotic. People don't understand why anyone from outside of Texas would come to Texas. I don't quite know how to justify my situation, so I stop talk-

ing to people. This is difficult to do because there are so many people at Texas! All different kinds of people, too. People with brown hair, people with black and blonde hair, Americans, Asians, amputees, Bible-beaters, wife-beaters... diversity is alive and well!

The first day of classes is amazing! In my "crazy elective" class, "The 1970s in America," Professor Melton, a green wisp of a man, asks us the age-old inquiry: "why did you take this class?" Bettina, to my left, shoots her hand up. "To satisfy my writing requirement!" she squeals. Another hand shoots up. In fact, practically everyone's hand is up and waving. The room becomes windy. Lorelei says, "There's this show on T.V. called 'That 70s Show.' It's my favorite show! So that's why I took this class." A dozen heads nod in agreement. "Cool!" says Professor M. Such honesty! Such

earnestness! I can't believe it. I drop the class.

I am starting to see how my life will be here. My schedule of classes is unspecific yet direct: GOVERNMENT. PHYSICAL SCIENCE. AMERICAN CULTURE. MATH. It is a strong, Puritan schedule. It knows what

it wants. I feel as if it leaves me ample room to grow, to create! However, there is also digital cable in my little efficiency, which means nonstop Dharma and Greg. Which is what I will be doing until November, when temperatures return to the eighties. Stay tuned!



## Teenage Mutant Ninja First-Years

Ninja role-playing takes over south campus

by josh sorell

A brief flicker of black swiftly runs across the field. You look around; it is gone. A rustling comes from the bushes. Next thing you hear is an epic sounding "GAAAAAAAH" from someone getting their rib cage sliced open with a shuriken.

Ninjas - they're fast, sneaky, snappy dressers and thoroughly enjoy kicking ass. For centuries they were the scourge of old Japan. They would zip around the fortresses of Iga Province (that's in Japan for the geographically challenged) unsheathe their katanas and unhinge any bothersome lords from the mortal coil. Ah, good times.

These days, Ninjas are a celebrated as being "totally bad ass" and are a great staple of the entertainment industry. Websites such as realultimatepower.com and askaninja.com have become famous for their display of incredible ninja prowess. On another note, the great debate of "who would win - ninjas or pirates?" still continues without any clear winner.

Meanwhile, students at Bard College walk amongst the campus; reading their books and chomping on cheap Ramen, unaware of the danger that lurks in the shadows. No, it isn't another edition of The Epicurus Reader and no, it's not President Botstein; it's ninjas. Bard College does have its share of pirates, ghosts, zombies, were-

wolves, "man-bear-pigs," robots and superheroes (watch out for Kiteman!) but ninjas are also a very important part of the Bard community.

A couple of weeks ago, a very successful game of "Ninja Capture the Flag" was sponsored and operated by the Wayfinder Experience club.



The game was quite successful and despite misunderstandings about the rules and "ninja etiquette," a good time was had by all. Various screams of "ARG," "YAAH," and "OW, MY KIDNEYS" could be heard from various victims all over South Campus. The number of people who participated was pretty high at the beginning of the game around 9:00 pm or so, but by the end of the night

it had dwindled down to just over a dozen. This can be accounted for by the high kill count of the game. The Wayfinder Experience plans to have more dramatic activities over the semester and is looking for more staff if anyone is interested (see Patrick Paglen for info).

However, the clubs have not been the only ones with an abundance of ninjas around. As of recent weeks, the Toasters have had a series of brief incidents involving ninja raids around the various dorms. After an episode involving two of the dorms which are harboring ninjas (here's a hint: they rhyme with Williams and Deonard) and one or two other buildings, a treaty was proposed by some of the ninjas from "Deonard." The treaty lists a series of rules of engagement for any future ninja assaults between the dormitories. A few of the regulations are: no kicking, biting, stabbing and general bodily harm (this includes shurikens and poison darts), no destruction of property (by katana, death-chop or otherwise), owners of stolen property must be notified (pay the ransom or the Wilco CDs get it!) and several other general mandates to ensure that no ninja-on-ninja violence ensues, causing a massive battle that may spread to one of the other genres (the last thing we need is a ninja-pirate-zombie-robot-communist battle).

For the moment, things seemed to have quieted down. Ninja sightings have declined in the last few days. The local Pirates or zombies have yet to comment on the ninjas.

That's all from me for the moment, folks. Join me next time when I report on the War on Lice from deep inside Williams. Jaa Ne (See you later.)

EAT AT  
KLINE

STAY TUNED  
FOR THESE  
WEEKS!

READ THE  
FREE PRESS

EVERY  
FEW  
WEEKS!



by jesse malméd



PETER HUTTON



TIME AND TIDE



THE SILENT CARTOON

helped along the way by jesse malméd



by alex houstoun

# A DEBATE



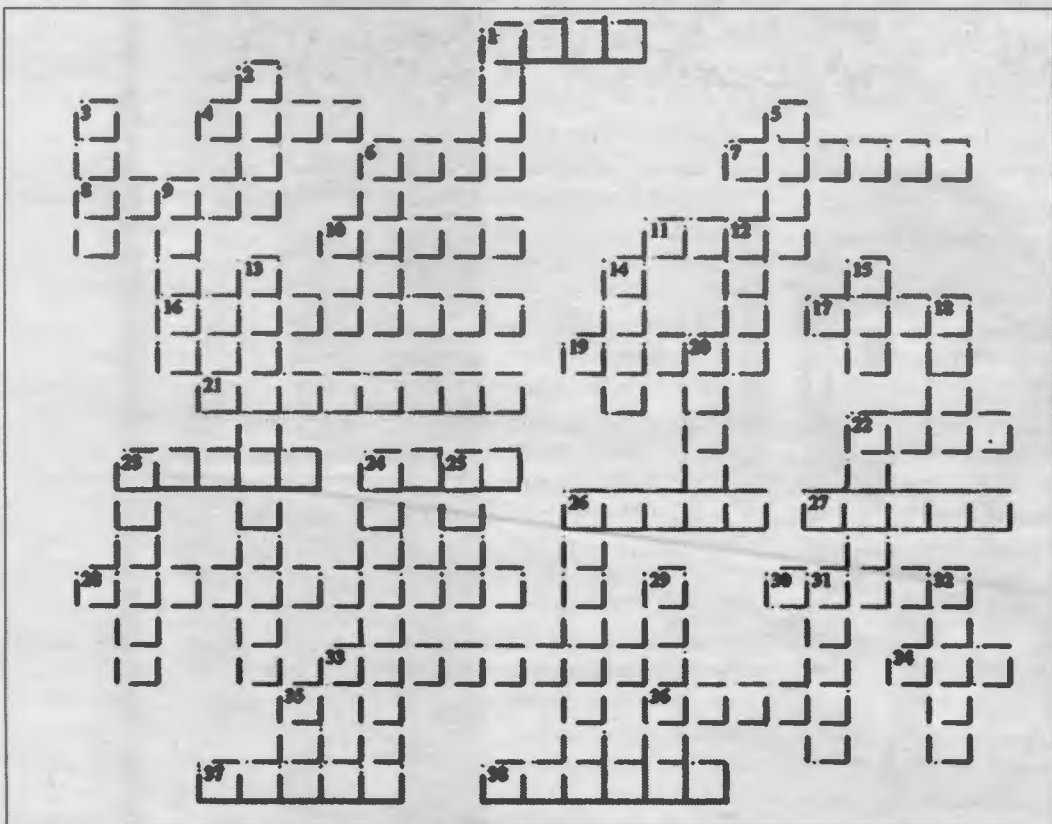
WALKER SCHIFF



by owen conlow



# CROSSWORD BY ABBIE PARIS



## DOWN

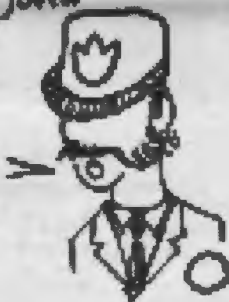
- 1 Pregnant goldfish
- 2 In the greatest degree
- 3 Very small quantity
- 5 Witches
- 6 Rasp
- 9 Era
- 12 Soothe
- 13 Word beginning and ending in "und"
- 14 Thick slice
- 15 Jack could not eat
- 18 Letter opener
- 20 Mistake
- 22 Fabric of jeans
- 23 Angel of the highest order
- 24 Fit of uncontrollable laughter
- 25 Shower
- 26 Least dense substance in the world
- 29 Arm cover
- 31 Master of ceremonies
- 32 Passes over
- 35 Litigate Against

## ACROSS

- 1 Fraternal or identical
- 4 Prolonged unconsciousness
- 6 Capricorn's Animal
- 7 Twinned
- 8 Chirp
- 10 Unadorned
- 11 Friends
- 16 Victor
- 17 Sudden assault
- 19 Humped ruminant
- 21 First state in US
- 22 Whale's penis
- 23 Rolling swell of the sea
- 24 Lost to the tortoise
- 26 Accumulate
- 27 Pungent Bulb
- 28 Shrewd
- 30 Band's sample tapes
- 33 Flower with edible leaves and heart
- 34 Latin word meaning "nothing"
- 36 Strange and mysterious
- 37 Numbers 13 through 19
- 38 Mile high city



ME CALL THE JOHN  
"CAGE" + ALL  
YOU NEEDS  
A SOCIETY OF  
SPECTACLES



one way to describe  
the night watchman  
at the gifted  
-ster academy:

SHURTH  
OOOOO

SHTANG  
OOOOO

DAVEED  
OOOOO

GRAPSN  
OOOOO

\* Anoptics allusion



pics from recent smog shows,  
left: millionaires, right: holi-  
day maker, above: the dirty looks

# music reviews

*I love the city and the city rain / suburban kids with biblical names*



**Defiance, Ohio**  
**The Great Depression**  
No Idea Records

The latest release from Defiance, Ohio, *The Great Depression* marks their second full-length album and their first label release in their four years of existence. The album came out this summer on No Idea Records, a decision that the band made in order to afford them more time to tour and write, instead of spending their energy on production and distribution. The fact that they joined a label—regardless of relative obscurity—shows in the production of this album and the more polished sound that comes through on tracks like “Trip & Stumble” and “Condition 11:11.” This album still holds to the band’s folk-punk status, retaining some elements of disarray despite the cleaner recording quality and smoother sound. Although this album does put forth a few songs with that fist-in-the-air, fight-song quality that stood out so much on their past releases, *The Great Depression* seems to pay specific attention to songs about the little things as well. All the same, Defiance, Ohio’s sound appears to be evolving at a very comfortable rate, with enough changes in style to make it interesting but not so many that it’s alienating. No Idea Records boasts other releases of this nature, namely *Reinventing Axle Rose* by Against Me!, and while *The Great Depression* may not sell as many copies or draw as large of a following as that album, it certainly won’t stand in its shadow either.

Oh, did I mention that it’s all free at defianceohio.terrorwave.com? It is.

—owen conlow



**The Mountain Goats**  
**Get Lonely**  
4AD

Having been on an autobiographical bent for three albums now, John Darnielle (who is, in effect, The Mountain Goats) chose to devote *Get Lonely* to the timeless and infinitely song-worthy process of breaking up. Instead of trying to express his feelings about getting

dumped in the traditional manner, (high-pitched whining/screaming, dissonant guitars and bad haircuts), Darnielle instead chooses to remind us of how very sad it is to be all alone, concentrating not on anger or regret but loneliness and confusion. Every song on the album is sparse, even by Mountain Goats’ standards. Darnielle’s once frenetic guitar strumming has slowed considerably, while the admittedly harsh and nasal voice which graced his pre-studio albums has grown much softer. Most songs are accompanied only by piano or strings, an arrangement which only further emphasizes the lyrical content of the album. It is comprised almost entirely of simple first person accounts of Darnielle’s attempts to make it through a day alone, trying to clean his house, making too much coffee for one person, or just going for a walk and being cold (he does a whole lot of walking somewhere in the cold on this album, and he lies down in the weeds at least twice, I counted). At the end of the day, a Mountains Goats album is still a Mountain Goats album, and as long as you know that John Darnielle gave up on recording his songs on boomboxes four albums ago, there are few surprises to be found on *Get Lonely*. That is not to say that it is not an extraordinary album; it is a champion of an album. While it clearly does not stand out in terms of its format or topic, it is remarkable in its ability to sincerely articulate and evoke emotions which we’ve all dealt with and which very few musicians treat with such honesty.

—patrick reilly



**Corinne Bailey Rae**  
**Corinne Bailey Rae**  
Capitol

When I first read about Corinne Bailey Rae, she was heralded as “the new Norah Jones.” You might think it to be different, but I found this statement to be positively false. Rae has a mixture of many musical genres in her sound, including soul, rhythm and blues, and acoustic jazz. As you can imagine, these combine to create an extremely pleasurable musical experience. Similarly to Norah Jones, however, Corinne Bailey Rae’s sultry voice exudes incredible pathos which interests the listener in what she has to sing about. If forced to relate her to other artists, I would say she is a healthy combination of Marvin

Gaye, KT Tunstall, Fiest, and Al Green. The album ranges through a variety of musical tempos and styles, from the semi-disco sounding “Call Me When You Get This,” to the piano ballad “Choux Pastry Heart.” The album evokes images of a sunny summer day – short sleeves, iced tea, flying kites, and bike rides. Taking Rae’s songwriting to a higher level is the production of the songs; for example, the use of a brass section on track five, “Trouble Sleeping.” The production gives the album a full-bodied sound without detracting from the heart and soul of the songs. Even though the album walks through a variety of musical styles, the composition of the songs starts to become familiar from track to track, but never to the extent of boredom. Overall, I greatly enjoyed the album. It is the perfect album to put a smile on your face while making you want to sit next to the fireplace with a cup of hot chocolate.

—perry allen



**Erase Errata**  
**Nightlife**  
Kill Rock Stars

Erase Errata’s third full-length album, *Nightlife*, is one of the only albums of the new millennium post-riot grrrl era to successfully fuse aggressive politics and unstoppable dance grooves. Erase Errata forces their confrontational brand of experimental rock into still darker territory with this release, juxtaposing infectious dance riffs with repeated slogans such as “Murder with your tax dollars!” On *Nightlife*, Erase Errata proves that they are the masters of putting the ironic edge on the Emma Goldman-inspired breed of political dance music that screams, “If I can’t dance, I don’t want to be part of your revolution!”

*Nightlife* marks Erase Errata’s first album as a trio after witnessing the departure of guitarist Sara Jaffe. Lead singer Jenny Hoyston now pulls her weight on the strings, rhythmically strangling the instrument which shrieks discordantly against her low, androgynous vocals. Frankly, *Nightlife* is a very unsettling album; Erickson’s merciless basslines wreak havoc when paired with Sparta’s frantic, red-faced drumming and Hoyston’s untamed trumpet, a signature sound of Erase Errata albums, which schizophrenically bubbles forth on “Another Genius Idea From Our Government.”

While Erase Errata does not pretend to be the first to call attention to problems such as capital punishment, homelessness,

gun control, poverty, and rape, the San Francisco area band specializes in crafting songs which affirm the crippling effect of these modern-day issues and rallying troops behind the question, “What to do?” The tight-knit album is packed with uncompromising anthems such as “Wasteland” and “Tax Dollar,” while the most dynamic and addictive track, “Rider,” combines the theme of self-defense with tap-dancing. While the band sounds exceptionally good on record, the urgency of Erase Errata’s live show is not to be missed – if you missed them last Monday at SMOG, you still have a few months to check them out on tour with Mika Miko and the Gossip.

—karen soskin



**Girl Talk**  
**Night Ripper**  
Illegal Art

Greg Gillis (aka Girl Talk) is a genuine pop music enthusiast who began his career in music as an experimental laptop DJ. He even collaborated on his first record with our very own Matt Wellins, ’05. Oddly enough, Matt was more anti-mainstream about music than anyone who has attended Bard over the past 4 years (and that’s saying a lot, take it from me). However, I imagine that those two aren’t talking much these days because of the success of Greg’s new Girl Talk LP, *Night Ripper*. The album came out in May, but it only began getting attention over the past two months. By mid-July, Pitchfork and some other blogs caught on to the record and the rest was history.

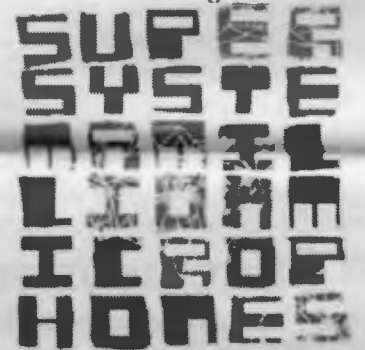
However, before giving my two cents on the album I just want to emphasize that Greg is by no means a sassy hipster who is trying to make music that is “ironic” or post-modern. In fact, he probably loves to listen Mariah Carey just as much as a high school cheerleader. Nevertheless, Greg is also a man of taste who spends most of his free time mastering the art of sampling with digital software rather than going to the mall. *Night Ripper* is a consummation of these long hours of long tedious work in front of a laptop and listening to a lot of blazing hip-hop on the radio. This album is intensely meticulous. All of the 167 (that he gives credit to in the liner notes) samples are pieced together with razor-sharp precision with by simply using a wav-editor and a calculator. On top of all this number crunching, Greg even manages to keep

the rhythm and tonality of the songs “in time and in tune” (as his contemporary, DJ Shadow says in regard to his own work).

*Night Ripper* is far more ambitious and catholic in his choice of sampling than Girl Talk’s previous work. The samples themselves are also more blatantly recognizable and pieced together more smoothly and thus more danceable. Certain juxtapositions between the samples on album are just silly (i.e. 2 Live Crew’s “We Want Some Pussy!” and Wings’ “Silly Love Songs”) while others are more triumphant and even uplifting (i.e. Notorious B.I.G.’s “Juicy” and Elton John’s “Tiny Dancer”).

However, this is only speaking from a technical point of view. The bottom line is that *Night Ripper* is an invigorating record that’s addicting to listen to. I wouldn’t go as far to say that the album is “flawless.” In fact, I wouldn’t even give it an 8.0 if this were a review for Pitchfork. However, the album includes some incredible moments makes it all worthwhile to listen through to pick out the gems. Or to make a long review short-7.1.

—matthew garklavs



**Supersystem**  
**A Million Microphones**  
Touch and Go Records

At its best, *A Million Microphones* is imaginative, taut, dance-rock music—music that makes you want to dance frantically, that makes you feel like it has meaning even if the lyrics are terrible (which they are). At its worst, it’s tired, cheesy, faux-arty, electro-rock. The track “Prophets” works as a microcosm for the record as a whole. Inventive world guitar and danceable bass lines are sparsely placed, which gives them greater impact. The space that Supersystem leaves, however, becomes a problem when ineptly carried by bland synthesizers, sparse drumming and bass, and the overproduced monotone of lead singer Pete Cafarella. Nevertheless, if Supersystem could figure out how to reproduce and extend the highs in the inventive percussion chorus of “Prophets” and the harp-driven “Eagles Fleeing Eyries,” they would really be onto something. They would be well served by continuing to experiment with this kind of less likely instrumentation, and use fewer synthesizers that serve as a crutch in the weakest parts of their songs.

—ben seligman



# Artist William Christenberry Speaks About Art, Racism, and the South

by daniel terna and lee cholodenko

"Santa brought me a little Brownie camera, which was nothing more than a box and a shutter." With the point-and-shoot device in his hand and an appreciative eye for the landscape of his hometown, William Christenberry unwittingly began his career in photography. At a lecture on Wednesday, September 13th, at Preston, Christenberry, photographer, painter, and sculptor, presented a retrospective of his work to Bard students and faculty. "I only photograph once a year" said Christenberry, who takes an annual trip to his birthplace in Hale County, Alabama, the focus of James Agee and Walker Evans' *Let Us Now Praise Famous Men* (1939). Christenberry's work is almost diary-esque, which at the same time recounts fragments of contemporary Southern history.

In his gentle Southern drawl, Christenberry accompanied the slide presentation of his work with poignant stories that highlighted aspects of his subject matter. "I've always loved a good story," Christenberry stated in an interview. "I think the anecdote makes the point better than some who attempt to be esoteric."

Unlike many art lectures at Bard, students were highly impressed by the affability and camp-fire vibe of Christenberry's presentation. It's unusual to have a visiting artist disclose so much of his or her artistic identity while managing to provide a historical background to fur-



ther underline the context of the work. Christenberry was confronted by so many impressed students after his lecture that Stephen Shore, Director of the Photo program and close friend of Christenberry, had to urge him out of Preston to make their dinner arrangement on time.

A powerful element in Christenberry's work deals with racism in the South. It is through his vivid oral and visual narratives of racial hatred that so deeply impacts his audience. One photograph, *The*

*Klub*, depicts a Ku Klux Klan bar Christenberry unknowingly stumbled into. It was the first of many chilling confrontations he has had with the Klan. "I was shaking so hard I had trouble turning on the engine," he described tensely. Christenberry consistently alludes to images and symbols of the Klan, saying "I will not turn a blind eye to the terrible issue of racism and the KKK." The relationship Christenberry has with his subject matter is so strong it is as if, in some photographs, that they are

self-portraits. These stories add pathos and ethos to his logo-heavy work.

There are two strong elements to Christenberry's work: racism in the South, and memory. "I am fascinated by time passing," Christenberry said. "The need to make stab at recording the passage of time occurred to me less than ten years ago when I had my *Green Warehouse* images in front of me," Christenberry explained about the images he has taken of the same green warehouse for over

twenty years. "You can't record the passing of time," Christenberry continued, "but [the collection] comes pretty darn close. As long as I live I will continue to go back to this place."

Christenberry rejects the way the modern landscape has taken the place of southern-charm. "Most of the new structures are cookie cutter things—they're so similar," Christenberry said disappointedly. "There's no character. The vernacular architecture that was so common in [the South] is rapidly disappearing. And that's true pretty much of America...so few of my subjects are still there," he said referring to homes that have burned down or churches that have been drastically renovated.

Christenberry's work is literally and metaphorically memory-focused. *Memory Farm*, a recent sculpture, represents a tomb made of wax with a small coffin resting inside. The choice of wax as a medium represents the idea of "melting away."

Christenberry constructs his detailed sculptures of southern architecture purely by memory. Many sculptures are extremely detailed, and rest atop actual Alabama soil. When asked if he had the patience to construct such things as a child, he said he never managed to finish his wooden model airplanes. "I'd be so bored; I'd just light the tails on fire and throw the planes of my roof."

## Statement on the SMOG Expansion

by brandon rosenbluth (SMOG club head), karen soskin (planning committee rep. to SMOG expansion)

Last Spring, the Student Association of Bard College discovered that \$100,000 of unspent Student Activities fees had accumulated over the past nine years. Students voted on the allocation of this "Reserve Fund." Brandon Rosenbluth proposed a \$50,000 expansion project of SMOG (the only student-run social space on campus) to the student body.

The roof was to be extended on the west side, the ground was to be leveled and paved, and a new wall-length garage door was to be installed. In April, an itemized

construction budget was created by Brandon and John Gall, the head of Buildings & Grounds (B&G).

The SMOG proposal, including this itemized budget, was approved in a campus-wide electronic vote. Brandon Rosenbluth agreed to head the expansion project. Karen Soskin, head of the Planning Committee, agreed to monitor the appropriate allocation of the \$50,000 from the Reserve Fund. Paul Marienthal, head of TLS (SMOG is a TLS building), agreed to act as a liaison between the students and staff throughout the expansion process.

During these meetings, in the weeks prior to summer break, John Gall and Dan Decuitis, also of B&G, assured us that the SMOG expansion was a simple project that would take about two weeks to complete, and would be finished by the end of summer break.

Multiple requests for updates from John Gall on the project's status went unanswered throughout the summer. On July 5, he did respond and inform Brandon that an architect had been hired in order to obtain a zoning permit from the town of Red Hook, a step that B&G must undertake for all construction projects

on Bard campus. Securing a permit and hiring an architect were not mentioned to Brandon in the planning discussions.

Towards the end of summer, Brandon was successful in reaching John again, and he said that the SMOG construction permit was sitting in Red Hook and had never been picked up. However, in conversation earlier this week, Paul Marienthal implied that the permit application had not yet been filed. We have asked John Gall to create a more realistic construction timeline and to answer some clarifying questions. As of this writing, John has not responded definitively to us.

According to Paul Marienthal and John Gall, the SMOG expansion was delayed mainly due to the over-extension of B&G resources on five separate projects, most notably the New Robbins dormitory and the unforeseen summer construction of a day care center on Annandale Road. We appreciate that B&G worked overtime this summer to complete their other projects on campus. However, we are frustrated that the Director of Buildings and Grounds made such an optimistic promise in regards to SMOG's completion, given B&G's already hectic summer construction schedule.

Upon returning to Bard, we have worked extensively with the administration to make progress on the plan to spend \$50,000 from the Reserve Fund - which is sitting in a TLS SMOG account - on the intended expansion. Paul Marienthal has assured us that construction will begin as soon as John Gall and B&G have the resources to devote to the SMOG project. Given that the majority of construction on the day care project was completed as of Tuesday, September 12, we do hope that the SMOG expansion will be the next priority on B&G's list of projects. On Wednesday, September 14, President Botstein informed Student Government Secretary Oliver Traldi that he had contacted John Gall and the project would start in the next couple of weeks.

We hope that the student body will contribute to our ongoing effort to ensure that the SMOG expansion is a campus-wide priority. Send any questions to Brandon Rosenbluth (smog@bard.edu). His answers will be in the next Free Press.

# SMOGFEST

FRI SEPT 22 and SAT SEPT 23

day one

circles  
christy & emily  
damon mcMahon  
tomorrow's friend  
animal  
archaeopteryx  
meneguar  
bunny brains

+ 1AM LATE NIGHT  
CIRCUS PUPPET SHOW  
DANCE PARTY

thebardfreepress.vol8.issue1

day two

more teeth  
lidia stone  
these are powers  
taigaa!  
animental  
high places  
knyfe hyts  
Aa/Big A little a  
dirty projectors  
ex models

+special guests TBA



# Crank: The Movie That Crosses Speed With Osmosis Jones

by justin leigh

You've seen Crank before, even if you don't know it. The story-line is simple: you have a guy named Chev Chelios (Jason Statham) who is a professional hit man and has just been poisoned with some exotic drug—exotic because it's from China, of course—that will eventually kill him if his adrenaline drops too low. So the only way Chelios can stay alive to avenge his death (even though he's still alive) is to keep his adrenaline pumping. And this is where the film pierces the threshold of awesomely-badness.

The movie is like Speed, but on speed. Take that further. Crank is more like Dead Man, but on meth. Like in Speed, where a bus will blow up if it slows down too much, Chelios is constantly faced with the dilemma of finding the appropriate quick fix to keep him going. At the same time, Crank emulates aspects of Dead Man in that the story follows the path of a man who in some way is already dead. So we know Chelios is going to die, but the frustratingly fun part is seeing how he is able to evade this fact, and to a greater extent, keep the movie going.

Mark Neveldine and Brain Taylor, who wrote and directed the film, seem to have affection toward overly done montage sequences that leave the viewer in a semi-hallucinatory state similar to the dying anti-hero. Despite the abundance of cinematic misjudgment, the duo has accomplished the task of creating a film version of the Grand Theft Auto video game. This, however, might not be a good thing. Then again, it's

not everyday that you see a car chase where the driver, besides busting caps in asses with his glock, gets road-head. But I guess when you're a dead man life's just a little more interesting.

Crank also presents the viewer with a character—that is, Chelios—who embodies some of that good ol' protagonist nihilism that we love. Though we have no clear picture of Chelios before he was drugged (before the film started), we do know that he was a hit man who decided to call it quits, and in doing so, landed himself in his current dilemma. Luckily for Chelios, killing cops and cutting off dudes' hands with butcher knives aren't outside of his occupational capabilities. I mean, cutting off limbs is, like, the first thing you learn at hit man school.

Just to make the plot seem a little more interesting, there is also Chelios' girlfriend, Eve (Amy Smart), who is caught in the middle of this 83-minute escapade. Nevertheless, Chelios

makes admitting to your girlfriend that you are not in fact a video game programmer (with a British accent), but a professional hit man, easy. Eve is present for most of the second half of the film, shifting personas from an

oblivious valley-girl to a heartwarming exhibitionist (via some doggie-style on the street in Chinatown in front of, what else, Japanese school girls).

Crank is like a lot of "shoot-'em-up" movies in that, well, a lot of people get shot. The action sequences, although lacking the creative direction that someone like John Woo would provide, amount to an overall sense of befuddled amusement. Cinematic expectations aside, Crank goes above and beyond the expectations of a sane and rational moviegoer unaccustomed to the traditional thin-plotted action film. A lot of things happen in Crank with little explanation, but then again, how does one justify driving a car up a shopping mall escalator, even if he or she is talking on a cell phone. The film is a non-stop thrill-ride of sorts that has few dull moments. Capitalizing on the success of The Transporter and The Transporter II, Statham's presence in Crank is chock-full of his consistent British wryness and condescension. Neveldine and Taylor provide Statham with the necessary dialogical weaponry to adhere to the typecast expectations. They also deliver impressively original plot-scenarios from what seems to be a concoction of action-movie premises. Still, Crank stands alone; it exceeds the awesomely-badness embodied most recently by Snakes on a Plane and enters a new dimension of cinemazone that, if filmmakers like Neveldine and Taylor aren't careful, might convince people to take them seriously.



## Once, Weis, Three Times the Fun

Previews of movies coming to Bard and American theatres near, nearer you

by josh sorell

Although I have only been at Bard for a short time now, I am incredibly happy to have had the opportunity to visit Weis Cinema quite often since I've been here. I've seen more films there this semester than I have all year at any multiplex. What could be better than a John Woo marathon and a Batman marathon on the same weekend? The students who have shown up to the theater at late hours of the evening have had a very interesting experience, to say the least. I know there is already a small cult of David Cronenberg fans forming after the showings of eXistenZ and Videodrome (lets hope there's A History of Violence coming soon.) However, for those who haven't gone to Weis yet this semester, I'm going to give you a few good reasons as to why you should. These are just a few comments on the posted roster for the fall lineup.

On Wednesday, September 22, Terminator 2: Judgment Day and Apocalypse Now (Redux) will be the evening's double feature. Bring something soft to sit on, because your ass will be kicked... very hard.

On Friday, October 6, Weis will be showing cult favorite The Warriors, Gangs of New York and Menace II Society.

The following Sunday, October 8, will give way to a full-out B-movie monster brawl with Godzilla vs. King Kong (one of the most hilariously bad movies of all time), Freddy vs. Jason and Godzilla vs. Smog Monster (which, despite my Godzilla geek-factor, I have never seen or heard of).

Friday, October 20 will be a very big day for 80s cartoon fans. The night's triple feature

will be Transformers (featuring the voices of Orson Welles and Leonard Nimoy), Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles and Masters of the Universe.

The weekend of November 17 will be filled with rotting flesh and brain buffets. Friday night has horror classics Night of the Living Dead, Dawn of the Dead and Zombie while Sunday evening will feature more modern flesh eaters in Sean of the Dead (one of my personal favorites), the Dawn of the Dead remake and 28 Days Later.

Finally, just in time for the holidays, we will all get a big present of bad ass martial arts films. On Sunday, December 17, the triple feature triple threat will be Ong Bak: The Tai Warrior (featuring Tony Jaa kicking the crap out of EVERYONE in the entire city of Bangkok), Drunken Master and Enter the Dragon.

It's going to be a good semester.

Meanwhile, if you really want to see new flicks at the multiplex, here are a few upcoming titles to keep you happy.

On the week of October 6, The Chinese cops and robbers classic Infernal Affairs gets Americanized. Martin Scorsese's remake entitled The Departed stars Jack Nicholson, Matt Damon, Leonardo DiCaprio and Alec Baldwin. It all sounds good to me.

On October 20, Clint Eastwood's Flags of Our Fathers, about the battle of Iwo Jima, opens in theaters. Eastwood doing a war film. Enough said.

The same week, Christopher Nolan's new film, The Prestige, opens. The story is based on the novel of the same

name by Christopher Priest. It stars Christian Bale and Hugh Jackman as two rival magicians in turn-of-the-century London. Michael Caine also has a large supporting role and David Bowie stars as Nikola Tesla. I really don't know what to think about this one. Actors I like, a director I love, yet somehow my skepticism is getting the best of me. Oh well. If this falls through I'll still have The Dark Knight and Wolverine to look forward to.

On a small note, Internet Movie Database lists this same week for the re-release of Tim Burton's the Nightmare before Christmas in 3-D. Make plans if you're a Burton fan.

November 3 marks the premier of the Borat movie. Ready to learn about the glorious nation of Kazakhstan? Ready to learn about cultural differences between Americans and Kazakhs? Ready to laugh at horrid anti-Semitic remarks? Yup, me too.

On November 10, a documentary opens entitled Fuck, about the origins of the expletive. Showings only in NYC.

The world finally gets a new James Bond when Daniel Craig stars

in Casino Royale. We can finally forget about Tomorrow Never Dies! If you still don't understand why Daniel Craig was chosen as Bond, see The Layer Cake or Munich. You will understand, you will see the light.

November 24 will be big for fans of Pi and Requiem for a Dream. Darren Aronofsky's new movie opens entitled The Fountain. Based on his own graphic novel, Aronofsky intertwines three stories about the same man (Hugh Jackman) trying to save his love (Rachel Weisz) in three different periods of time. Weird, passionate, awesome.

For the last week of

the year, I have two choices that look optimistic. Children of Men stars Clive Owen and Julianne Moore as a divorced couple in a world where women have lost their fertility.

Pan's Labyrinth is a freaky-looking fantasy from Guillermo Del Toro, director of Hellboy and Blade 1&2. I don't know what to expect from the story, but if it's from Del Toro, so be it.

That's all I got for the last few months of the year. These are all just guesses, so don't blame me if you end up getting cold turkey. I'll be just as surprised as you. Catch you next time folks. See you in the pictures.



## Rwanda Alive: Those Who Listen

September 24<sup>th</sup> @ 1pm  
Rosendale Theatre

Tickets are \$12 adults/ \$8 students in advance and \$15 adults /\$10 students at the door. All proceeds to benefit Rwandan youth projects.

Post-screening discussion with:

Albert Nzamukwera  
Secretary General  
Never Again-Rwanda

Jennifer Kloes  
Executive Director  
Global Youth Connect

[www.globalyouthconnect.org/rwandafilm](http://www.globalyouthconnect.org/rwandafilm)



# STUDENT CLUB BUDGET ALLOCATIONS, FALL 2006

CLUB	SPRING '06	MIN. REQ.	MAX REQ.	AMT. GIVEN
AASO	\$2,750	\$3,125	\$3,885.00	\$200
Amnesty International	n/a	\$5,205	\$5,585	\$250
Animal Rights Group	\$700	\$730	\$780	\$400
Anti-Racist Dialogue	\$350	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$1,500
Antisthetic	n/a	\$250	\$500	\$0
Art Co-op	\$50.00	\$300	\$523.41	\$300
Bard Acapella Group	n/a	\$208	\$308	\$150
Bard Baseball Club	n/a	\$350	\$770	\$350
Bard Co-opcycle	\$600	\$680	\$745	\$700
Bard Cycling	\$800	\$220	\$327	\$225
Bard Democrats	\$1,000	\$1,650	\$2,300	\$1,050
Bard EMS	\$2,137	\$2,002	\$2,480	\$2,002
Bard Film Committee	\$9,000	\$7,543.82	\$8,179.73	\$6,500
Bard Free Press	\$5,000	\$4,579	\$5,931.80	\$5,000
Bard Ice Hockey Club	n/a	\$909	\$925	\$0
Bard Mock Trial	n/a	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.01
Bard Musical Theater	\$1,500	\$1,331	\$1,643	\$1,200
Bard Outdoors Club	\$2,000	\$980	\$2,081	\$700
Bard Prison Initiative	\$2,200	\$4,849	\$5,399	\$2,200
Bard Writing Club	n/a	\$75.00	\$230	\$0
BBQ Club	\$800	\$1,250	\$1,750	\$1,500
BCSQ	\$110	\$0	\$0	\$0
Belly Dance Collective	n/a	\$200	\$350	\$130
Boxing Club	\$100	\$300	\$500	\$250
BSO	\$3,500	\$4,000	\$4,100	\$3,100
Christian Student Fellowship	\$400	\$850	\$850	\$300
Coalition of Cool Kids	n/a	\$350	\$350	\$50
Contact Improv	300	\$300	\$600	\$350
Contra Dance Club	\$1,070	\$900	\$1,200	\$900
Dance Club	\$3,000	\$2,950	\$3,850	\$2,950
Darfur Action Campaign	\$0.00	\$417.45	\$627.45	\$200.00
Dimestore	\$600	\$621	\$621	\$621
Entertainment Committee	\$16,000	\$10,000	\$18,550	\$18,550
Environmental Collective	\$200	\$375	\$575	\$250
Feminist Alliance	\$1,000	\$502	\$1,512	\$325
Flying Eagle Falcon Squad	\$270	\$0	\$500	\$0
High Tea	\$356.28	\$212	\$347	\$125
Icarus Project	n/a	\$158	\$262	\$100
Info Shoppe	\$370	\$400	\$600	\$200
ISO	\$4,000	\$2,930	\$3,560	\$0
Jewish Student Organization	\$600	\$1,000	\$1,750	\$450
Journal of Social Sciences	\$500	\$1,653	\$3,174.01	\$1,653
LASO	\$3,000	\$3,600	\$3,770.59	\$2,100
Migrant Labor Project	\$1,800	\$1,950	\$2,700	\$1,900
Mind's Eye Theater	\$360	\$223	\$546	\$200
Model United Nations	\$800	\$1,000	\$1,900	\$1,000
Muslim Student Organization	\$1,100	\$2,000	\$2,650	\$1,400
New Orleans Project	\$1,200	\$2,700	\$3,980	\$500
Old Gym	\$350	\$1,090	\$1,300	\$1,090
P.O.C.O.	\$150	\$205	\$350	\$150
Preston Theater Revit. Club	n/a	\$39.96	\$100	\$0
Prison Activist Coalition	\$1,200	\$1,670	\$1,670	\$900
Public Journal	n/a	\$1,097.05	\$1,218.87	\$0.01
QSA	\$2,200	\$3,675	\$4,805	\$3,800
Radical Wimmin's Collective	\$250	\$50	\$50	\$25
Rock & Roll Society	\$1,400	\$1,800	\$2,000	\$1,800
Rough Draft	n/a	\$350	\$800	\$350
S.T.A.R.G.Y.M	n/a	\$70	\$200	\$50
SAC	\$5,000	\$5,795	\$7,805	\$5,000
SMOG/Audio Co-op	\$650/\$850	\$2,260	\$2,610	\$1,500
Squeegie Collective	\$680	\$440	\$1,121.10	\$750
SSTOP	\$300	\$1,435	\$1,805	\$675
Student Government	\$3,000	\$3,200	\$3,400	\$3,300
Student Labor Dialogue	\$20.00	\$36	\$436	\$240
Student Theater Collective	\$902	\$1,000	\$1,200	\$700
Student-Run Darkroom	\$600	\$700	\$800	\$700
Surrealist Training Circus	\$750	\$1,000	\$2,000	\$1,200
Sweat Lodge	\$450	\$675	\$1,350	\$900
The Body Dialogue	n/a	\$275	\$350	\$100
The Circle	\$500	\$500	\$900	\$450
The Moderator	\$0.00	\$1,000	\$3,000	\$1,000
The Observer	\$5,000	\$5,376	\$5,772	\$5,476
The Root Cellar	\$860	\$1,250	\$1,250	\$800
Verse Noire	\$750	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$1,100
Wayfinder Experience	\$118	\$2,200	\$2,400	\$100
WXBC Radio	\$950	\$1,469.12	\$1,607.12	\$1,682.12
<b>TOTALS:</b>	<b>\$94,952.66</b>	<b>\$116,987</b>	<b>\$157,568</b>	<b>\$95,669</b>

**GO TO BUDGET FORUM!  
THIS WEDNESDAY, 8PM, KLINE**



## The Bard Free Press Classifieds

to run an ad for free,  
email [freeads@bard.edu](mailto:freeads@bard.edu)

### AVAILABLE

**FOUR SNOW TIRES** for a Honda or other small car (175/65R14); used one season. \$20 for all four. Greg Armbruster, ext. 7091.

**CRIB** for sale: solid maple, Italian made; all hardware & instructions incl. \$300 OBO. Contact: [jmur-ray@bard.edu](mailto:jmur-ray@bard.edu).

**ROOM FOR RENT** in a private house only minutes (walking and biking distance) from Bard College Campus. Closer than Red Hook or Tivoli! Room is very spacious with walk-in closet, and full private bathroom. Wonderful house with full kitchen and finished basement, Washer/Dryer, private back yard, pets allowed. \$550 a month. For more information [thebardfreepress.vol8.issue1](http://thebardfreepress.vol8.issue1)

please contact Jami Landry: (845) 702-8590.

**SUBLET AVAILABLE FOR SPRING SEMESTER** An amazing & huge room in the upstairs of 30 E. Market Street in Red Hook. Furnished, beautiful apartment in the center of town. \$625/month. Contact Camilla Aikin (ca879@bard.edu or 251-709-7441) or Emily Brennan (eb472@bard.edu or 413-374-3082).

**SUBLET AVAILABLE JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2007** (or portion thereof). Off Route 9 in Upper Red Hook, ten minutes east of the Bard campus. Beautiful location across the road from Greig Farm with a view of the Catskills. Large, sunny duplex with high ceilings. First floor has kitchen, dining area, sitting room, and one bedroom. Open

second floor has a large office area, with an additional sitting area that could be configured as a second bedroom. Washer and dryer on premises. Asking \$1000/month. Please contact Cecile at 758-9671 or [kuznitz@bard.edu](mailto:kuznitz@bard.edu) if interested..

**T-SHIRTS AND SHOES** I make custom T-shirts! \$15 a pop! I also import rare Nike shoes! Very nice! Contact me with requests or to check out what I have. Or, see my website: [www.red-pillproductions.com](http://www.red-pillproductions.com) Thanks! Kalki Gillespie, [red-pill@red-pillproductions.com](mailto:red-pill@red-pillproductions.com). (347) 251-5528, x4932.

### SEEKING

**SMALL COUCH, LOVE SEAT OR ARMCHAIR** for a

currently unexciting room. Cheapness and comfort preferred; ugliness OK. Mysterious stains at a minimum. email [the-girlsidekick@gmail.com](mailto:the-girlsidekick@gmail.com).

**HOME FOR A 4 YEAR\_OLD ALBINO AFRICAN CLAWED FROG** Small tank needs a new filter but he also survives in plain water without filtering (but water needs changing more often). Great pet for young boy or girl who doesn't expect much communication. email: [nash@bard.edu](mailto:nash@bard.edu).

**RIDE TO BOSTON** I go to Boston almost every weekend and the train/bus is very expensive. If you're driving to Boston, I'd be very willing to share expenses. Let me know a few days ahead of time. [md775@bard.edu](mailto:md775@bard.edu).

**USED CAR** (maximum \$4,000)

in good condition. 4WD would be great. Manual shift is no problem. Write me an email: [petri@bard.edu](mailto:petri@bard.edu).

**ANONYMOUS PEN PAL** Send your very interesting anonymous letter to P.O. Box 263.

**BICYCLE AND/OR MICROPHONE** Will pay cash money. Call Thomas Martinez (310) 951-3985 or email. Thank You..

**FEMALE VOCALIST** interested in trying new things in "song" composition with someone trying strange things on acoustic guitar. Contact: James Molloy, [jm314@bard.edu](mailto:jm314@bard.edu).

**SHOE RACK** I have lots of shoes. call Mikaela (917) 697-5248