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THE BARD free press

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY

October 17, 2006

"it's been six years" since 2000

Volume VIII, Issue 2



Peruvian writer Mario Vargas Llosa signs books after delivering his lecture "Cervantes and the Craft of Fiction" in Olin Hall last Thursday evening. Vargas Llosa spoke about Miguel Cervantes' *Don Quijote*, which he uses to exemplify the impact of fiction as an escape and substitute for reality. For more, turn to page three.

Lancet Study Reassesses Iraq War Death Count

655,000 deaths from US invasion and occupation
by kate crockford

American and Iraqi researchers recently released a study, published in *The Lancet*, a UK science journal, that estimates Iraqi deaths from US invasion and occupation policies are now anywhere from 400,000 to 900,000, with the most plausible estimate at 655,000. This number amounts to approximately 2.5% of the total pre-war Iraqi population.

The study is the second of its kind. In 2004, this group of researchers published a study in *The Lancet*, citing that over 100,000 Iraqis had died or been killed as a result of the US invasion and occupation within the occupation's first eighteen months. One of the researchers involved with the project, American Les Roberts, noted to Democracy

Now!'s Amy Goodman that this second study represents a quadrupling of deaths at the hands of American actions in Iraq since 2004. There are currently 150,000 US troops stationed in Iraq, and another 100,000 stationed in bases in surrounding countries, Afghanistan, and on ships throughout the region. Some estimate that the US will have spent trillions of dollars fighting in Iraq by war's end.

Due to the nature of the conflict on the ground there, it is difficult to make precise statements on the number of Iraqi war casualties. The US military has put absolutely no money or human power towards exacting this figure from the chaos they have created in the country. The story is

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Bard Blotter: Root Cellar and Bike Co-op Reopen, Lice, SMOG Update

by owen conlow

BRAVE (Bard's Response to Rape and Associated Violence Education) director, Jennifer Strano, recently resigned from both that position and her counseling job at Health Services. According to David Shein, Strano resigned because she received a job offer that was closer to home. BRAVE members declined to comment on her resignation because they had not yet met as a group to discuss the issue. According to Shein, BRAVE will continue to function in

its normal capacity under the guidance of a qualified MSW (Master of Social Work) who has worked with them in the past, but is not affiliated with the campus. A search will begin this semester for a replacement, hopefully someone that can start next semester.

Strano had been working as a counselor at Health Services for several years and took on directorship of BRAVE at the beginning of last fall. Students may remember that shortly after

she replaced the previous director, the BRAVE staff resigned over irreconcilable differences with Strano. The current staff revived the program last semester with an influx of new members who trained under Strano's supervision.

Richard D. Griffiths, Special Assistant to the President and a Red Hook Judge, passed away at the age of 73 after a battle with a particularly extreme case of leukemia. Although the current student body did not have much occasion to meet him, Dick Griffiths had been an integral part of this campus' infrastructure for over 40 years. President Botstein was quoted in the Poughkeepsie Journal, "He was one of Bard's most loyal employees. He was a link between town and gown relations and was responsible for building nearly the entire campus." In an October 2002 Free Press profile of the Judge, a student described him: "even though you'll probably never encounter Mr. Dick Griffiths during your stay here at Bard, be assured by his presence, and know that he's the reason that anything actually works around here."

Investment Class at Bard

Too focused on profit, say some of class' students
by brenden beck

The Economics department is offering a finance course this semester, which emphasizes maximizing personal monetary gain, say some students enrolled and formerly enrolled in Foundations of Finance and Investment.

The class professor, Tsu-Yu Tsao, says the class does not dole out practical advice for money managing, but "covers basic areas of finance, especially investment." The semester-long project involves students investing an imaginary \$200,000 in a stock market simulator.

Bard's liberal arts tradition had, in the past, prevented professors from offering vocational and professional courses like ceramics and journalism. Bard EMS students cannot transfer the credits they receive in EMT classes to Bard credits.

"Though class discussion would never start as what would make the most money," says Andy Kopas '08, who was part of the class for three sessions before dropping it, "the student emphasis, examples, and questions would steer the conversation towards, 'what do I have to do to make more money?'"

Another student, who is still enrolled and wishes to remain anonymous while the class is ongoing, agreed. "I'd say many of the students are

very concerned about making profit and little else, which is sickening, at least to me."

Professor Tsao, who joined Bard six years ago, describes Foundations of Finance and Investment differently. "I would not categorize the course as a 'personal finance' course since it is much more than that," says Tsao. "If one is purely interested in learning how to accumulate personal wealth, the course will actually not be very helpful. The course is mainly about understanding the investment environment at a theoretical level."

"There's not much theory at all," says the enrolled student. "So far it's mostly about figuring out how much a stock is worth, calculating interest, growth rates, among other things. I would say the main focus of the class is to see what happens to money when you put it in the stock exchange."

"The class material is a set of theories whose ends are definitely to acquire profit," says Abhay Puskoor '08, who took the class two years ago and tutors this semester's section. "That said, the models and theories behind it all can be intellectually challenging and fascinating."

Classes like Finance and Investment represent

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How democracy spreads in Michael Winterbottom's *The Road to Guantanamo*

Guantanamo Bay and the New Patriotism

Forty-four states and over 200 schools participate in teach-in by lee cholodenko

Thomas Wilner, who spoke to the "Insults of Religion" in the live broadcast of the Guantanamo Bay Teach-In last week, stated, "I can't imagine America torturing. I thought it was something we didn't do." In some ways, Thomas Wilner represents a popular American belief – the now "un-PC" notion that only foreign countries participate in torture. Our "we-know-better" mentality has been struck down by the crisis in Guantanamo Bay. The sense of surprise in Mr. Wilner's language again illustrates the general sentiment of Americans who perceived our nation as the most just and honorable country in the world.

The human rights violations at the US Naval Base in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba have since challenged these patriotic beliefs, being called a "concentration camp" as detainees (persons who are suspected terrorists) are subjected to torture along with inhuman and degrading treatment without fair and legal representation. The Military Commissions Act has allowed the US Congress to approve the human rights violations committed by the US in the "War on Terror."

This Act has, unsurprisingly, created an upheaval of moral, ethical, and legal debate. The prisoners have been called "the worst of the worst," "hardcore terrorists," and other names which assert their extreme "evilness." However, the facts conclude that only two to four percent of detainees are convicted, while all are subjected to torture. This calls into question just how "evil" these "terrorists" truly are.

To prepare Bardians for the nation-wide Teach-In, the film *Road to Guantanamo*, directed by Michael Winterbottom, was screened in Olin 102 on Tuesday, October 3rd. The film is part drama and part documentary, chronicling the experience of three Muslims who were held

for two years in Guantanamo Bay and then released without ever being charged. Ruhul Ahmed, Asif Iqbal and Shafiq Rasul's experiences in the camp are re-created by actors in contrived situations, while Ruhul, Asif and Shafiq narrate in interviews. The utilization of both drama and documentary styles clearly illustrates the treatment of prisoners in the camp. The film re-creates a situation in which a prisoner's hands were strapped to the floor in a small room, forcing him into a squatting position. He would remain there for hours with a strobe light flashing in front of him and death metal blaring from oversized speakers. Another depiction of torture shows prisoners trapped in a hot metal truck until becoming incapacitated or dying.

On the following Thursday the Teach-In moved to Weis Cinema, continuing throughout the day from 10am to 7pm. The panel held was comprised of experts who debated various issues regarding the Naval Base at Guantanamo and was broadcasted from the Seton Hall School of Law at NYU live across the US. Some 230

universities participated in the broadcast by screening the debates on campuses.

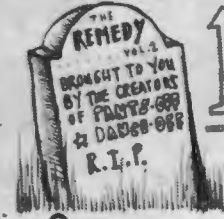
The topics included the ethical and legal problems facing the media, the functions of physicians at Guantanamo Bay, matters of faith and religion, and how government responses to terrorism bear on the nation's reaction to what is now called "asymmetric warfare." At 7pm, Bard held its very own Teach-In where Bard professors discussed the central issues surrounding the human rights violations at Guantanamo Bay.

The inhumane treatment of detainees in Guantanamo Bay has raised questions among the student body. Many students are now questioning the moral and ethical code of their nation. The reality that the United States is not the epitome of political perfection is beginning to settle in. What has occurred at the US Naval base in Guantanamo Bay serves as a point of departure for us to reconsider our own notions about ethical standards, and how our citizenship to a now seemingly "immoral" nation shapes the way we perceive patriotism.



DRESS: SUEDE SHOES
BOOTS
GLOVES

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 21



10 P.M. AT SMOG

A PRE-HALLOWEEN DANCE EXTRAVAGANZA

The Bard Free Press clip-n-save recipe #23 Tahini-Glazed Eggplant

by foster itter

Here's a little recipe that's just what you want as these last sunny days slip away into fall. This dish would be delicious with a chickpea salad, or if you're feeling a bit more ambitious, homemade hummus. You can email me with questions and comments (I can give you some other recipes I love) at fi721@bard.edu.

INGREDIENTS

2 large slender eggplants (about 2 1/2 pounds total), peeled and sliced lengthwise 1 1/4 inches thick
1/4 cup plus 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1/2 cup tahini, at room temperature
1 tablespoon honey
2 teaspoons fresh lemon juice
1 large garlic clove, minced

Lemon wedges, for serving
DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 500°. Brush the eggplant slices with 1/4 cup of the olive oil and arrange them on a large rimmed baking sheet. Season the eggplant with salt and pepper and roast on the bottom shelf of the oven for about 15 minutes, until tender and browned on the bottom.

Meanwhile, in a small bowl, whisk the tahini with the honey, lemon juice, garlic and the remaining 1 tablespoon of olive oil. Season with salt and pepper.

Preheat the broiler. Flip the eggplant slices so the browned side is up and spread them with an even layer of the tahini mixture. Broil the eggplant, rotating the pan as necessary, until the tahini sauce is browned. Serve at once with lemon wedges.

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Green Bites: Ecological Steps We Must Take

by alana buonaguro

Bard College is progressive in many areas, but could definitely use a green makeover. Below is general information about some programs already in place at Bard, as well as some upcoming events and future initiatives. I will be covering environmental issues throughout the semester, so please email me (ab489@bard.edu) with any questions, concerns or ideas you may have.

Events!

- * **October 25th** ~ Campus Sustainability Day! Find out more about greening your campus at greencampus.forumer.com, an online forum, created by the Climate Institute.
- * **December 8th** ~ The Bard Film Committee will be screening *An Inconvenient Truth* and *Who Killed the Electric Car?* Don't miss it!

General Happenings:

- * **Compost Commandos** ~ Bard's composting program has been extremely successful. Keep filling up those bins and the Compost Commandos (a paid position) will come by each week to take those nutrients away and use them to help things grow at Bard. If you make the most awesome and beautiful compost around, your dorm could win the prized Mold of the Week award, or get an Honorable Mention for the most compost in volume. If you're not sure what should and should not be composted, please ask someone, so as not to disturb this very special process.
- * **More BERPs!** ~ BERD (Bard Environmental Resources Dept.) is seeking more Bard Environmental Resources Dept. People (BERPs). These student volunteers will act as liaisons between BERD and the student body. The goal is to have a BERP in each residence hall who

can distribute information, hang up signs, and answer questions about the latest environmental policies on campus. Email reduce@bard.edu to volunteer!

* **ReFuckingCycle!** ~ It seems obvious, but most people don't recycle as much as they could be. Visit the Bard website, listed below, for a chart that explains, in detail, all the things you can and cannot recycle at Bard, and where to dispose of them. For example: Look for the drop boxes around campus for ink jet and toner cartridges, which are reused and can help earn money for Bard programs.

* **But first, ReUse!** ~ Put the things that you



don't

need, but are too good to throw out, in the blue reuse bins—it might just make another Bard student's day! Laurie Husted, director of BERD, is excited for the "Grand Re-Opening of our campus Thrift Store," which is in the process of being repainted and revamped. More updates to come about the Re-Use program, which Ms. Husted hopes will "make people think twice before they toss. What is one person's trash is useful to another. What is trash to many may be recyclable. We need to think a little more about what we generate, and the long chain of what happens to it after it leaves our hands." Indeed.

* **Get a Wallet-Sized Shuttle Schedule** ~ Or just

memorize the freaking schedule. But at least, use the shuttle! Or carpool. But it's running all the time anyway, so don't waste gas just because it is more convenient, because that is whack.

What's Next?

* **About the shuttle** ~ How sweet would it be if all of the Bard shuttles ran on biodiesel? Wouldn't you feel much better coming home from Tivoli at 2am knowing that your school was not supporting foreign oil? And wouldn't it be safer for the drivers, and less toxic for you—breathing in those exhaust fumes as you are running

frantically to catch your last ride home? With the cost of biodiesel rivaling that of petrodiesel, there seems little reason not to switch.

Apparently, this was tried in the past with mixed results, so what we need now is a revitalized effort. Contact or join the Environmental Collective (EC) to work on this project.

* **Yeah Tuesdays** ~ The EC will be meeting each week, outside or inside of the Root Cellar, every Tuesday at 7:30pm. This semester they will be working on bringing more local foods to Kline and hosting an on-campus farmers market. The EC is also spearheading a campaign insisting on the removal of dangerous pesticides from the campus, which are potentially harmful to people and the environment. This is a serious issue that affects everyone on campus. The most harmful products used include Scotts Turf Builder Plus Weed Control (which contains a possible endocrine disrupter and carcinogen) and Tordon RTU Herbicide (contains compounds linked to

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"Fleeting Relief from Existential Dissatisfaction"

Mario Vargas Llosa Comes to Bard

by lauren kitz

continued from cover photo

"Men do not live by truth alone – they also need lies." So spoke Mario Vargas Llosa, famed Peruvian-Spanish writer during his presentation last Thursday, October 12th. Llosa delivered a speech entitled "Cervantes and the Craft of Fiction" to a packed Olin Hall as part of Professor Norman Manea's "Contemporary Masters" series. Manea is currently teaching a class by the same name, in which students read works by Llosa and fellow Spanish-language writer Antonio Muñoz Molina, who will also be visiting Bard this semester.

Llosa's speech attested to the necessity of fiction as the "fleeting relief from existential dissatisfaction" that readers find in Cervantes' *Don Quijote*, a novel he dubbed "a fiction about fiction." In the canonic book, the protagonist is convinced that he is a knight-errant after reading too many stories about them, and sets off to right wrongs and rescue damsels. As Don Quijote rejects the real world, the results of which are outrageous and catastrophic, he crosses the line from fact into fiction and doesn't turn back. This willing immersion of the reader into the fantasy of fiction, argued Llosa, is a testament that fiction's purpose is not to represent reality, but to deny it.

Llosa explored the purpose of fiction in the context of the novel format and

beyond, making analogies to closed societies that invent and reinvent history at the whim and convenience of those in power. These closed societies, who "feed and provide for subjects at the cost of freedom," transformed the past into literature by constantly rewriting it. Llosa cited the Incas, the ancient civilization of modern-day Peru, as an example. He also spoke of how fiction is historically valuable, revealing not what we were, but what we would have liked to have been.

Llosa first achieved success with his 1962 novel *La Ciudad y los Perros* (known in English as *The Time of the Hero*) and then went on in 1967 to win the first Rómulo Gallegos International Novel Prize. During the 1980s Llosa became involved in politics, and ran for president of Peru in 1990. He lost to Alberto Fujimori, who ran on a leftist-populist platform but once elected swung sharply right, implementing neo-liberal policies. Fujimori resigned in 2000 and fled to Japan after being exposed in a corruption scandal. In the same year Llosa published *The Feast of the Goat*, one of his most popular and acclaimed novels, which chronicles the supposed personal life of Dominican Republican dictator Raphael Trujillo. He is the recipient of the Jerusalem Prize, and the Cervantes Award, among others.



NYC Rally to Stop Genocide in Sudan

by anneka olson

The Bard Darfur Action Alliance transported a group of about 30 students to the Rally to Stop Genocide in Central Park, New York City, on September 17, 2006. Sponsored by the Save Darfur Coalition and SaveDarfur.org, the rally marked another call for the US government to put pressure on the United Nations and send peacekeeping troops to Darfur, Sudan in order to relieve the 7,000 African Union Monitors that are currently stationed there. The attendance was over 30,000, and it included speakers such as former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

The US has taken some steps in the last two

months toward diplomacy with the Sudanese government, including appointing a special Envoy, led by Jendayi Frazer, the secretary of African Affairs. Additionally, the UN passed a resolution in early September that mandating that peacekeepers be sent into the Darfur region, despite the Sudanese government stating that it will view any foreign troops as foreign invaders. But the African Union mandate expires in the end of October, and it remains to be seen whether they will transfer power to the UN.

Despite the good turnout of the rally, the actions of concerned citizens, and political

headway, lots of good work remains to be accomplished.

Here on the Bard campus, actions are taking place throughout the semester, beginning with a teach-in on Tuesday, October 24th, which will include a movie screening and discussion. The Darfur Action Alliance also has plans to be involved in a New York State divestment campaign and to collaborate with the Bard Journal of Social Sciences on an edition focusing solely on the Darfur crisis. For more information on getting involved, contact Erica Cohen-Taub of the Darfur Action alliance at et186@bard.edu, or show up to the teach-in on October 24th.

Why General Rios Montt is Lucky He Never Struck Oil

Guatemalan impunity, US apathy and a few Spanish judges

by jon leslie

While Saddam Hussein's madhouse trial stumbles into its fourth month of testimony, prosecuting the disoriented ex-dictator on behalf of some 190,000 dead Kurds in Iraq, Guatemalan & international human rights activists are fighting uphill battles for justice & reconciliation on the same fundamental counts of genocide, war crimes, and "crimes against humanity." However, unlike the expensive, heavily guarded legal process underway in Baghdad, justice for the victims in Guatemala lacks even the visage of US support. Nevertheless, Rigoberta Menchú, an indigenous rights activist from Quiché, Guatemala, has successfully filed a case for the indictment of several generals and ex-presidents in the Spanish Supreme Court.



General Rios Montt

Among them, General Rios Montt, who seized presidency for a brief but superlatively bloody couple of years ('82-'83), is considered largely responsible for the bulk of atrocities committed in Guatemala, and is the current speaker of house as well as ventriloquist of violent clandestine organizations. His party, the Guatemalan Republican Front, still has a persuasive presence in Guatemala; the acronym, FRG, is scribbled on nearly every street corner. Though he was barred from ever running for president, in 2003 he orchestrated a violent protest now known as Jueves Negro (Black Thursday). Montt was nearly convicted of manslaughter for this, but pulled some strings, killed some people, ultimately seizing, as it were, his ability to run for office. He was eventually (gracias a Dios) defeated in an atypically clean election by current president Oscar Berger.

But to back up, as some of you probably know quite little about the genocide (the liberal media having published next-to-nothing on it since at least the first wave of the Jon Benét scandal) I should review the ABCs real quick. Guatemala's massacre consisted largely of student activists, campesinos, and indigenous men, women, and children. The toll measured ultimately around 200,000 dead and 50,000 desaparecidos - "disappeared ones" kidnapped in the dead of night, tortured, and then supposedly disposed of from planes over the Pacific Ocean. These heinous crimes spiraled out of an ambition to quell as rapidly as possible an ever-burgeoning civil war. The enemy in this war, according

to General Montt as well as his US allies, was nothing less than Soviet-funded communism. In actuality, it consisted of a few loosely connected guerrilla groups fighting to reinstall

agrarian reform a la not-so-much Karl Marx but rather Jacobo Arbenz, Guatemala's one true democratic president, overthrown (along with his democracy) by a CIA-instituted coup in the early '50s.

To cut to the chase: Rios Montt is Guatemala's Saddam Hussein. Although this trope probably offends somebody for some reason, and clearly any genocide requires the collective mastermind of a whole smoke-filled room of horrific individuals, Montt is the clear symbolic figurehead for the genocide, and implicatively, the cultural fear that carries from it. So besides the infernal immorality of letting any mass-murderer run freely, the successful indictment of this Montt could prove iconic. And as is often said, just as often history proves true: symbolic change must precede actual, systemic change.

On this note, upon Menchú's return home from Spain, she was promptly charged with treason. That she's still alive (her family members are not so lucky) is a sign of hopeful progress in a country that lacks even the crudest witness protection program. That is to say, in Guatemala, truth-telling is usually a death wish. I'm hardly exaggerating to say that this criminal attitude of automatic impunity has infected every court case, corrupted every police officer.

To paint a statistical picture of this bleak reality, I'll appeal to a household-term in Latin America: femicidio, whose English equivalent, "femicide," interestingly enough, Microsoft

Word claims to not even own part of the English lexicon. Roughly defined, it signifies the systemic savage raping & killing of women who have literally no means of legal protection. In 2003-04, over 2,000 women were killed in Guatemala, according to Amnesty International. Of these reported cases, only three were successfully prosecuted.

So the imperative to do something is grave; evidence against Mr. Montt is overwhelming; the process is already underway—so then why is nothing going to happen? Quite simply, the US, historic overseer of the region, refuses to cooperate in the legal process, to seize Montt's assets in US banks, or even to offer a written statement of support. There are several reasons for this, none of them admirable. Firstly, General Rios Montt has those handy connections in the US. To name a few: he was trained

at the School of the Americas, has a daughter who's married to a Congressman from Illinois, made a great impression on Reagan, and is friends with Jerry Falwell and Pat Robertson. One might here point out that our leaders were at one point good political pals with Saddam, and in fact militarily aided the atrocities he's now being prosecuted for. However, Montt's amity seems of a somewhat different nature, i.e. he lacks the means to invade Kuwait or anything analogous anytime soon, which is probably the stakes the unofficial friendship's official dissolution would require.

Most broadly, the hopelessness of US support carries from our lack of vested interest in the region. Upon my meeting with the US ambassador to Guatemala, in lieu of the lofty idealistic rhetoric the neo-cons throw around about the Middle East these days, the party-line I got as regards to that whole-genocide-thing was something I'm hardly paraphrasing as, "Too bad... Clinton apologized... can we talk about something else now... maybe the drug trade?" This is a brilliant apotheosis of the current attitude towards Latin America—characterized by apathy with intermittent allusions to the "War on Drugs" or "Free Trade."

Ay hombre, neo-conservatism is brilliantly economical - overwhelmingly ideological and compelling when it matters to them, but not even so much as a rhetorical glaze on the realpolitik cake, a half-hearted statement of interest, or even an ambassador who can speak Spanish, when there's really no oil to be rescued.

Investment Class, cont'd

— continued from cover —
a tension that underscores many of Bard's disparate activities. While students in the class studied the theories of the stock market, actors in this semester's large student-acted play "Serious Money" performed Caryl Churchill's satirical critique of morally dubious stockbrokers and money managers in Thatcher-era Britain.

Bard's ethos, described in the Community Standards of Behavior as "sensitive to issues of justice and injustice," is sometimes at odds with some students' profit motive and desire for functional learning. "It's really kind of sick to me to hear guys talking about how great the oil stocks are doing," says the enrolled student.

This class might have been a way to bridge the gap between human rights and economics, but ultimately pushed one student away. "I wanted to take the class because I'm on the Socially Responsible Investing Committee," says Kopas, "I wanted to fortify my knowledge about foundational investment." The prominence of profit ultimately factored into Kopas dropping the class.

Professor Tsao does not see the class as being opposed to social justice work. "Several financial economists have been awarded Nobel prizes for their studies in the field of financial investment," says Tsao. "I do not see anything wrong with personal gains as long as they do not conflict with the general social welfare." The Nobel peace prize awarded past over the weekend went to a

Bangladeshi economist who pioneered the giving of small loans to people below the poverty line: Professor Tsao's class does not cover such non-stock market investment or socially responsible market investing.

The finance class echoes the investment strategy of Bard's endowment. Atlanta-Sosnoff invests Bard's endowment money with no consideration for social responsibility.

The Socially Responsible Investing Committee, established three years ago in the student constitution to influence Bard's endowment in a socially and environmentally conscious way, is working with the class of '07 Senior Representatives to create a class gift to the school that would be invested in socially responsible mutual funds. "One proposal the class of '07 is considering is a fund, invested responsibly, that would bring speakers and political debate to campus for years to come," says Ethan Porter, senior class president.

Though there will not be a finance or business major in Bard's near future, Professor Tsao "would like to see finance offered at least as a concentration. Finance is an incredibly challenging discipline." All the students interviewed for this piece agreed that the class, with its intense quantitative elements, was one of the hardest 100 level economics courses at Bard.

Offering such a concentration might also help the endowment grow. "The class is probably good for nurturing future alumni donors," one student observed.

"My Country, My Country"

with the director, Laura Poitras



"The definitive non-fiction film about the occupation of Iraq! Indispensable, heartbreaking, and ferociously wise. Time and again Poitras manages to be where platoons of U.S. telejournalists were afraid to go... The most valuable piece of film to emerge about the war in all of its three years."

—Michael Atkinson, THE VILLAGE VOICE

Tuesday, Oct. 31
Olin 102
6pm

Sponsored by the Human Rights Project and the Film and Electronic Arts Department

Panel Warms Bard Audience

Pollutants warm globe

by peter neely

This week the Bard Environmental Resources Department and community advocacy groups Network of Spiritual Progressives and Neighborhood Earth Watch brought together faculty, students, staff, and community members to watch Al Gore's film *An Inconvenient Truth* and open a dialogue about global warming. A slide show and panel discussion followed the film, offering participants the chance to direct questions at a well-attended panel that included Bard professors and community leaders. Initiated through the efforts of Neighborhood Earth Watch, a Red Hook community environmental advocacy group, member and Bard Environmental Resources Auditor Laurie Husted encouraged the group to bring the film to Bard.

"Two months ago one of our members said 'my husband can get a copy [of *An Inconvenient Truth*],' Husted relayed in her office Friday afternoon. "So we said, 'that's our next project.'"

Coordinated with the efforts of Focus the Nation, a nationwide educational program centered on the theme "Stabilizing the Climate in the 21st Century," Network of Spiritual Progressives acquired a copy of the film - one of 4,000 copies sent to educational, religious, civic, and business organizations in hopes of organizing millions of participants across the country to open dialogue on climate stabilization. The co-sponsored effort at Bard brought three separate screenings of *An Inconvenient Truth* to campus last Wednesday. The screenings culminated in a panel discussion and question and answer forum.

The forum, held in Weis, offered the crowd of about thirty participants the chance to ask questions of a panel that included economics professor Gautam Sethi, biology professor Catherine O'Reilly, Residential Solar Panel Installation business owner Ron Kamen, Queens College professor Stephen Pekar, and Sustainable Hudson Valley Executive Director Melissa Everett.

"The social cost of energy production by

fossil fuels is far above the cost the consumer sees," said professor Sethi, who responded to a question about externalities associated with fossil fuel consumption. Sethi emphasized that new technological advancements available to facilitate cleaner energy production and suggested that these technologies will soon have the economic strength to move into a wider market.

"Sometimesthe economics shows us that infant industries need a push to get into low cost . . . it is beginning to happen and states are taking action," said Sethi, who also described economic tools such as carbon trading systems and tradable pollution permits optimistically, adding, "the cost is next to nothing and the benefits are enormous."

"The technology is here," said Kamen, who later added, "there is no future without clean energy sources, there is no doubt about it."

After bouncing back and forth between economics, technology and policy questions, the discussion turned toward individual action and lifestyle change. Following a description of carbon trading by Sethi, Everett described how the consumer has the responsibility and opportunity, "to make all of the lifestyle changes that show political will . . . this tends not to happen in isolation." This also means encouraging friends and family to take action and encourage mutual support, said Everett.

Kamen also emphasized the importance of making small, individual changes such as switching to EnergyStar certified light bulbs, and, in the larger scale, incorporating new, cleaner energy generating technologies to utilities companies. "Us pushing them will generate the leadership," said Kamen.

And there are certainly things to be done on campus and in dorm rooms, said Husted, who offered the inserted list of suggestions to green-up our personal choices and encouraged students to take the shuttle. "My focus is walk, bike, and ride the shuttle," Said Husted, adding, "It runs all the time."

Five Things You Can Do at Bard to be Eco-Friendly

1. Let your computer monitor sleep through your power save settings. Screen savers do not save energy.
2. Introduce yourself to your servicemaster and ask him or her how your dorm can recycle better.
3. Walk, bike or ride the Bard shuttle. Mini shuttle schedules are available at the Transportation website (and the fit in your wallet, so no confusion this week at the Swan).
4. Take only the food you can eat and help keep food waste down.
5. Be a Bard Environmental Resource Person (BERP) and help your dorm be green.

Death Count Study, cont'd

— continued from cover —

quite different for American soldiers. Exact death figures are maintained. As of October 12, 2006, there have been over 150,000 soldiers wounded (many of whom are permanently disabled) and 2,754 have died in the US war on terror.

When the first *Lancet* study came out in 2004, it was virtually ignored by the American media. The first time a question related to the first *Lancet* report was raised was fourteen months after it had been published, and the question was posed to President Bush at an open meeting in Philadelphia by a citizen unaffiliated with the press. The media, it seemed, would not touch such a story at a time when the president's approval ratings were still hovering above fifty percent.

The second *Lancet* study, published this month, has received much more attention. President Bush was asked to address the report at a White House press conference this week. He said that the report was "not credible" because its methodology was "not credible," and that his administration sticks by the figure of 30,000 Iraqi casualties that he and other



administration officials have presented to the public for the past year or so. With hundreds of Iraqi casualties reported each week, it is unlikely that the administration's estimate holds true in light of the continuation of explosive violence throughout much of Iraq.

In defense of *The Lancet* study's findings, Roberts explained to Goodman that the president's denial of the report's credibility is fallacious on various counts. First of all, Roberts said, the "cluster" method from which the figures were derived is the methodology used by all US organizations, government and non, to determine casualty figures in war-zones and in poorer countries where records are not kept or are destroyed. The US government itself trains various organizations throughout the world in the

"cluster" method, and it is the most widely respected method to date at the disposal of researchers. This method was used and continues to be used by the US government in many cases abroad, notably in the aftermath of the bloodshed in Serbia in the 1990s. It is, therefore, highly disingenuous of the US president to suggest that the methodology is "not credible."

To learn more about the study, and "cluster" methodology and visit www.democracynow.org, it contains an interview with Les Roberts and various links to other sites, which further explain the study, its implications, and its methodology.

The author is a graduate of the class of '06 and currently works for the Bard Human Rights Project.

Talk on Living Wage Raises Concerns, Hopefully Salaries

by lauren perlstein

Although the federal minimum wage (currently residing at \$5.15/hr) was also at one point in history a living wage, much has changed since then. Today, a living wage (while dependent on family size, allotted healthcare benefits, and presence of a partner/spouse) can range anywhere from two to five times this number. While living wage campaigns are being fought in numerous states and at many universities, employers are still resisting the call to raise wages to a minimum standard at which their workers can live.

Historically, living wage has been defined as the hourly wage needed for one full-time worker to bring her family above the poverty line. In 2005, this number (for a family of three) was \$16,090, or \$9.19 an hour. Later living wage campaigns have recognized the need to consider other facets of a family's makeup: for example, number of dependents (children), whether or not a partner is also providing financially, and location of family (a family on a farm would be more self-sufficient than a family living in the city and thus would need to bring in less money to survive) are all important considerations when figuring how much a person needs to subsist. In calculating

a living wage, it must also be remembered that the level of income needed to live without any government support is nearly double (and in the case of Dutchess County, triple) the rate provided by most living wage calculations.

While living wage campaigns have been passed in over 123 US regions, they are also being fought at institutions much closer to us: universities and colleges. Started at Ivy League and private colleges, these campaigns (which currently number over 50) have broadened to include public institutions of higher education as well. At Georgetown University, for example, an eight-day hunger strike was undertaken in order to pressure the school to raise wages for service workers to \$13 (a promise on which the administration later reneged). A more successful campaign took place at the University of Miami when professors, students, and workers signed petitions, undertook hunger strikes, and organized sit-ins to eventually win janitors the right to unionize.

Even closer to home is the struggle between Bard's administration and the Buildings and Grounds workers, who have been without a contract since its expiration in

June. Because the local cost of living has outpaced the wages being offered to the workers by the college, students have united with B&G employees to insist that the administration take the steps promised and accounted for last year and raise the workers' salary to a livable one. If they do not make substantial progress within the next few days, the Student/Labor Dialogue and SEIU 200, B&G's union, have supported a campaign consisting of three rallies that are scheduled for October 12, 19, and 27 to show the administration the breadth of support for a living wage.

According to Trudi Renwick, senior economist from the Fiscal Policy Institute, a single parent in Dutchess County would require a salary of \$21.55 an hour to live self-sufficiently (that is, without government assistance). While this may seem an elevated estimate, many assert that this figure is, in fact, too conservative; by the Institute's calculations, the fair market rent for a 2-bedroom apartment in the county is \$998, a number many say is unrealistically low. Additionally, the estimate utilizes the USDA's second-to-lowest cost (and quality) food plan and provides

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Congress Expands Definition of Enemy Combatants

by kate crockford

On September 27th, Congress passed the Military Commissions Act, a document that justifies and legalizes the US government's designation of human beings as "unlawful enemy combatants" (UEC). The Act broadens the definition of a UEC to include anyone, US citizens included, whom secret military tribunals and government organizations such as Homeland Security, the CIA, and the FBI deem to be a threat to the US or its interests. So-called UECs, if they are non-citizens, can now legally be held without rights of habeus corpus, one of the founding rights granted to white citizens of the United States of America and later extended, in theory if not in practice, to all citizens, residents, or persons residing in the United States. These UECs can also be prosecuted in secret trials, where they and their lawyers can be denied access to the actual trial itself, and no evidence of any purported crime will ever be released to the public or to the defendant.

The defining characteristics of UECs are as follows: someone who has (1) "engaged in hostilities

Bill Goodman, legal director at the Center for Constitutional Rights (CCR), put it in these simple terms: "The first definition is so sweeping that it could be read to include anyone who has donated money to a charity for orphans in Afghanistan that turns out to have some connection to the Taliban, or a person organizing an anti-war protest in Washington, D.C. The second definition could supersede the first entirely, granting the President shockingly wide latitude to declare anyone a UEC."

The Act not only spells out a new definition of US law with regard to the rights of defendants in the US "justice" system. It also further defines their rights not through a constricting of the rights of interrogators, but instead through a detraction from the rights of detainees and defendants protection against torture and sexual abuse. In the new law, according to Goodman, "Rape would no longer qualify as torture unless the intent of the rapist to torture his victim could be proven. This regressive definition has been repeatedly rejected internationally. The MCA also narrowly defines coercion and sexual abuse, effectively making many of the crimes perpetrated at Abu Ghraib legal." Like the US government's treatment of



Wood-cut water torture, circa 1556, a tactic that will be legal under new law

or who has purposefully and materially supported hostilities against the United States" or its allies, or (2) has been deemed an enemy combatant by a Combatant Status Review Tribunal or "another competent tribunal" established by the President or the Secretary of Defense. This open-ended definition of an UEC grants the administration and the Secretary of Defense the freedom to condemn, for life, any person on this earth who allegedly "supports hostilities against the US" or its allies.

Under this definition, this author, who has traveled to the West Bank three times to work with Palestinians resisting Israeli occupation, could be snatched away by the US government, kept in secret detention facilities and denied rights to a fair and open trial in accordance with her rights under the US Constitution.

and legal decisions binding black people in America for the past 400 years, this law retroactively makes legal distinctions deciding who has rights, who does not, and who can be flagrantly abused by the US or its allies under the banner of what is deemed legal and just.

The Act passed in the Senate 65 to 34, with Senator Snowe (R-ME) abstaining. Twelve Democratic Senators voted in favor of the bill. They are: Carper (Delaware), Lieberman (Connecticut), Lautenberg (New Jersey), Landrieu (Louisiana), Johnson (South Dakota), Menendez (New Jersey), Nelson (Florida), Nelson (Nebraska), Pryor (Arkansas), Rockefeller (West Virginia), Salazar (Colorado), and Stabenow (Michigan).

The author is a graduate of the class of 2006 and works for the Bard Human Rights Project.

Wal-Mart: A Case for the World's Largest Retailer

by blaine keller and rob ross

It is a sad irony that the poorest people in our nation's cities pay more for everything than the richest do. In "The Price is Wrong," a recent report by the Brookings Institute, analysts described how poor, inner city residents of Philadelphia pay more for loans because they have shadier credit records, more for insurance because their neighborhoods are rougher, more to cash checks because they don't have bank accounts with major consumer banks, more, even, to buy groceries. Usurious check cashing stores take almost \$450 a year out of a \$15,000 salary, or 3% in fees alone, and so-called "thrift" and "discount" stores are anything but; the owners are hostile to their non-white customers and the prices can be 50% higher than those in similar stores located in richer communities.

Why doesn't someone undercut Check 'n Go, Thrift Discount and the like? Residents of poor urban communities stand to benefit the most from lower consumer prices and better quality products, but, at present, they are one of the most underserved groups in the country. Can any company step up to this challenge? To understand why poor urban dwellers are not cashing in when it comes to retailing, one must look no further than their enemies in city hall.

Last year, United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) and two teachers unions joined the growing, nation-wide movement against Wal-Mart. They urged parents not to shop for back-to-school supplies at the retailer because, as UFCW's local chief said, "low prices mean low wages." Across the country, activist groups have risen against the retailer and have been most successful in cities. Chicago recently passed a city ordinance raising minimum wage for all retail locations larger than 90,000 square feet to \$10 an hour, with \$3 an hour's worth of benefits. Though this probably won't stop Wal-Mart from opening stores in the city, it will have a significant effect on its prices, and a significant effect on its consumers. This begs the question of whether the government (local, state, or national) really has the right to force the underprivileged to pay more for necessities.

The arguments against Wal-Mart are as varied as its opponents. Wal-Mart's policy of "always low prices, always" destroys hard working mom-and-pop businesses, detractors cry. However, it is often these mom-and-pop businesses that buy from Sam's Club, a Wal-Mart affiliate, to stock their shelves. It exploits its 1.6 million employees, flaunts labor laws, disregards

environmental regulations, crushes its suppliers with overbearing demands and fuels our trade deficit with China, critics claim. Wal-Mart is, to many, both on and off this campus, the embodiment of evil: that smily face symbol has invisible horns. Wal-Mart is destroying small towns--hamlets Ronald Reagan would pull himself up from the ground to rescue. But, while these allegations make for moving slogans, they are about as truthful as Blaine's favorite pick up line involving his fight with a bear while delivering pizza in Germantown.

Wal-Mart is one of the great American success stories, unlike Blaine's pizza delivery career. Beginning as a small dry goods store in rural Arkansas by an entrepreneurial shopkeeper, Wal-Mart has grown into the largest company in the world. Leading the retail industry, even the world, in innovative business techniques, Wal-Mart has pushed consumer prices down, benefitting millions of lower and middle class wage earners.

For an example of Wal-Mart's innovation, look to its approach regarding the environment. In the "documentary" Wal-Mart: the high cost of low prices, the viewer is led to believe that Wal-Mart is environmentally negligent. But this is simply not true. According to

biggest reason that we love Wal-Mart. No, it is not those awesome sweat pants that keep Blaine's figure after a trip to the Golden Corral Family Buffet, and it's not the bad ass scooter spoilers that make Rob look sooo cool; it's Wal-Mart's obsession with cutting costs and passing the savings along to the consumer, helping millions of underprivileged Americans stretch their budgets further to provide more for their families. After Chicago passed the Big Box Retailer ordinance, John Kass, longtime columnist for The Chicago Tribune, wrote that the city council had done a disservice to the city's poor. Wal-Mart's groceries, he wrote, were 15 to 20 percent cheaper than Jewel's or Dominicks (the two major grocery stores in the city), probably comparable to beer prices at Bev-Way versus the Madalin Hotel in Tivoli. By passing the ordinance, Chicago's city council put the interests of the retail lobby ahead of the interests of the city's working poor.

Some Bard students don't appreciate what 15 to 20 percent can mean to someone with an income of \$800 a month. Suppose that a single mother with two kids living in the Robert Taylor homes (LIH) budgets \$200 a month for groceries. If they shop at Wal-Mart instead of Jewel, they can save \$30 a month or more.



Environmental Defense, a New York based non-profit, Wal-Mart has worked to reduce pre-consumer packaging, it has reorganized delivery procedures to reduce emissions by idling trucks, and it is working with Fed-Ex to put 10,000 hybrid delivery trucks on the road. Aside from saving the company and consumers millions of dollars, these innovations will reduce greenhouse gas emissions and landfill waste by countless tons per year. The simple fact is that waste, in all forms, costs money, and Wal-Mart is always looking for ways to cut costs.

This leads us to the

That \$30 could be a yearly dental checkup for the kids, a tank of gas to get to work on, a nice Christmas present, or, over time, something bigger. The fact is that consumers with the lowest incomes benefit the most from Wal-Mart's lower prices. And while most of us at Bard have the luxury to turn up our noses in snobbish indignation at Wal-Mart's "dirty" aisles and "capitalistic materialism," there are those less fortunate who would beg for the chance to benefit from always low prices, always.

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OTA to SEA; Try as They Might, Scientists Area Living-Don't Inform Lawmakers Wages Prove Insufficient

by andy kopas

So apparently it's an election year this year. I was totally unaware until I overheard a conversation about some congressional election in Ohio, which I only really noticed since I am from Ohio. As a scientist, an aspiring one at least, these petty electoral matters hardly concern me. Politics? Irrelevant in the face of scientific progress. How can I find time to worry about governmental issues when there were breakthroughs in actual matter teleportation last week?

tend to not only strike personal chords with the average scientist, but raise professional issues as well.

Information is the first and foremost concern when it comes to the interaction between science and government. If politicians have no idea, or worse yet the wrong idea, about the issues they are regulating, how can their decisions be taken seriously? The internet is like a series of tubes, eh Senator Stevens? (For those who have not heard the Alaskan senator's

at hand was left up to the legislators themselves – a noble ideal, but ultimately a flawed one.

Would the OTA's existence have prevented something like the federal suppression of the Thomas Knutson's global warming research? While a direct casual relationship could not be drawn between the closing of the OTA and the resulting decline in governmental support for the scientific community, both fiscally and ideologically, losing such an asset undoubtedly had some

campaign manager Mike Brown and touting a "Scientific Bill of Rights," SEA has begun targeting congressional races across the country and is attempting to mobilize the "science bloc" to swing their perceived weight around a little bit.

But ultimately, is that bloc there to be mobilized? I, for one, hope and think so. There has begun, quietly at first but quickly growing, a siege on the very definition of science. Theory, method,

— continued from page 5 —

zero opportunity for the accumulation of savings.

At Bard, for example, one B&G worker is making \$15.95 an hour with an annual pay of \$25,337 (or \$2,115 a month). As a parent with a spouse and small child, this person's monthly expenses (which amount to approximately \$2,531) exceed the pay being brought in from the job at Bard. Consequently, both parents are forced to work (and consign their young child to daycare) in order to account for the \$416 dollar debt that is incurred each month. Although this case is an objectionable one, it is also unfortunately more common than we would be led to believe.

With local median house values having doubled within the past five years and the cost of living in Dutchess County going up every year, it is a travesty that a progressive school like Bard College will not pay its employees the bare minimum they need to survive. The values that we as a community purport to hold necessitate that those who maintain the infrastructure of Bard be respected and, accordingly, paid what is necessary for them to sustain themselves on one job. It is imperative that those who work to keep Bard running are able to have a financially stable and dignified future and live without the fear of being unable to make ends meet.

For more information about living wage, visit www.epinet.org or www.acorn.org. To become involved in the fight for a living wage on campus, go to the Root Cellar at 5pm on Tuesdays for the meeting of Student/Labor Dialogue.



This preceding paragraph might be the thoughts of some science student somewhere; it might be the opinion of some student here at Bard. While I may wish it was the case that the science community was able to focus completely on continuing to expand our knowledge of the universe and maybe come across some cool inventions along the way, the truth is far from that. In a country where the vast majority of funding for research comes from the government, and a huge chunk of that from the military, political issues

comments regarding the internet, simply google "stevens" and "internet." And for those who don't see the problem with what he said, I am impressed you managed to interpret the first statement.) The job of informing our beloved elected officials of just what exactly they were talking about used to belong to the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA). However, in 1995 it was decided that such an endeavor was no longer worth funding. Apparently the task of informing themselves of the issues

negative effect.

With issues as grave as these continuing to emerge, the question quickly shifts to what is being done. Enter SEA, short for Scientists and Engineers for America. Formerly Scientists and Engineers for Change, a somewhat ineffective 527-member group formed during the 2004 election in support of Sen. John Kerry's failed presidential bid, SEA refocused and reformed in hopes of ultimately ousting what has become a fairly unscientific administration. Led by formerly successful

law – all of these words as they relate to the scientific endeavor are being challenged. Not only does this pose a threat to the science community, but it attempts to pave the way for widespread dissemination of misinformation relating to topics of the utmost importance in coming years.

The burden of defending an institution that has stood secure for so many years has now fallen on the shoulders of the scientists themselves, and the only choice is to carry it.

Wal-Mart Retail Expansion

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Some at Bard self-righteously proclaim that they "would never shop at Wal-Mart." We've heard many reasons for this, but let us take into account one in particular: Wal-Mart is a monopoly, and monopolies work against capitalism's ideal of competition. Wal-Mart occupies an eight percent retail share, which is large, but when compared to Standard Oil run by Rockefeller, it pales in comparison to that company's eighty percent market hold. Wal-Mart is a competitive firm in a competitive industry; it bears zero resemblance to a monopoly.

Wal-Mart is capitalism, not an enemy to it. Wal-Mart is not a bloated, corrupt infrastructure: it is environmentally, economically, ingeniously trim and efficient.

It saves consumers money not by spitting in the conceptual face of human rights, but instead, it saves money by running a tight shift. One more thing, and please, don't take this the wrong way, but if you eat at any local establishment not run by Chartwell's, you're probably eating food that the proprietor purchased at Sam's Club, a Wal-Mart affiliate. So dig in, Bard.

A Note From The Editors: After being rejected from The Observer, the Wal-Mart op-ed you see above was submitted to The Free Press. After much deliberation amongst our staff, we decided to print it despite our reservations with some of its conclusions and unsourced claims. A response is forthcoming in our next issue.

HUMAN RIGHTS PROJECT FALL 2006 LECTURE AND FILM SERIES

Tuesday, October 31, 7pm, Weis Cinema
 "My Country, My Country," a film with director Laura Poitras
 "The definitive non-fiction film about the occupation of Iraq! Indispensable, heartbreaking, and ferociously wise. Time and again Poitras manages to be where platoons of U.S. telejournalists were afraid to go.... The most valuable piece of film to emerge about the war in all of its three years."
 —Michael Atkinson, THE VILLAGE VOICE

Tuesday, November 14, 6pm, Olin 102
 A lecture with Chris Csikszentmihályi
 Associate Professor of Media Arts and Sciences
 Muriel R. Cooper Career Development Professor of Media Arts and Sciences at MIT

Monday, November 27, 6pm, Olin 102
 A lecture with Trevor Paglen
 Military geographer and author of "Tracking the Torture Planes: Secret Geographies of the War on Terror"

Tuesday, December 5, 6pm, Olin 102
 A talk with Joel Kovel and Mazin Qumsiyeh on Zionism and Palestine
 Professor Kovel teaches Social Studies and Marxism at Bard College
 Dr. Qumsiyeh is a former Professor in the Department of Genetics at Yale University and is on the Steering Committee of the US Campaign to End the Occupation

MUSIC REVIEWS



**KEYBOARD
S/T**
Asian Man Records

Keyboard debut is a rousing 26 minutes of delicious indie-pop about night-spending, show-attending and self-surrendering that will ultimately remind you of what it is to be exactly where you are right now. You're hovering somewhere around twenty year olds (a couple years up or down is not really the concern of a metric calendar), a sharp dresser, an excited liver, a real go-glitter, etc., etc., and sometimes it's nice to be reminded that this a not so bad place to be, this here hoodie and these here pals will look nice in the pitchers that your iFoto of the future will apply sepia-algorithms to as the years blip by.

A small disclaimer before we get too far into the meat of this meet-and-greet: Keyboard, a.k.a. Noah Devore, and I have known each other on-and-off since we first met. I got him his first real job (or, rather, transferred to him my first real job [foot-walk delivery-person for Carlos' Gosp'l Cafe if you must know]), I buy him alcohol and together we fi(e)nd chooties and draw pictures at the Baking Company. So, as I enthusiastically harangue you believers in freedom of the press as to the merits of this "disc," be aware that though we can all agree true objectivity is impossible, this review makes no attempts even at tempting that notion.

Noah plays his silly little Yamaha keyboard (not a Casio - chalk that lie up to the libertarian media), sings with a slightly nasal voice and, as he notes in one of the tracks, doesn't get respect because "all of my songs rhyme." He crafts adorable little pop songs out of what is basically a big kid toy that are neither cloying nor insincere. The songs themselves have tremendous range while maintaining a cohesive sound. His cutesy disco clink clunks and sh-sh-sh-sh mechabeat presets each sound familiar in their calculated generality on their own, but given their recontextualization and recombination become imbued by a new specificity, which seems an ultimate goal of much appropriative art.

Noah is 19. He can order off the kid's menu if his mustache is kept in check. The album has been compared to Wesley Willis by the lazy, Jenna Jameson by the racy and

Hannah Hoch by the crazy.

Those interested in Keyboard ought to visit myspace.com/keyboardband for alternate takes from the album and beyond and then, come November 7, treat yourself to a lovely little object—compact, even—replete with local drawings and doodlings. I trust you'll find them well-suited to both the live-it-up evenings regret-it-up mornings.

-jesse malmel



**Xiu Xiu
The Air Force
5 Rue Christine**

Vibrant, awkward imagery and the juxtaposition of sweetness and violence characterize Xiu Xiu's fifth and most recent release, *The Air Force*. The opening song "Buzz Saw" floats in on a litting piano melody, tempered by a light drum beat and a jumble of eccentric and provocative lyrics: "Your acne is like a pearl/ Mine, I swear, is brimstone." Sung in lead singer and mastermind Jamie Stewart's signature melodramatic falsetto, the lyrics are imbued with a heartfelt honesty that immediately engages the listener into Xiu Xiu's unique, raw sound.

The disk progresses into an enjoyably melodic opus of tinkling bells, buzzing electronic beats, and trembling synth riffs, the whole thing sporadically cut with explosions of dissonant noise. In the same vein, Stewart alternates his singing style between whispered harmonies and fervent yelps. He occasionally names specific people and places that feel close and personal, a refreshing tactic that sprinkles short vignettes through the predominately intense material - he touches on a father's suicide, child abuse, obscure forms of torture, and more in striking detail. The overall theme brakes slightly for "Hello from Eau Claire," as band member Caralee McElroy employs the mic for one light, poppy song. "I know it's stupid to dream/ That you may think of me as a man," she laments sweetly, listing all the things she can do now that she's "grown up." Buy her own cigarettes, pluck her own mustache - each an absurd yet innocent plea for acceptance and validation. Through the undeniably dark but never too weighty *Air Force*, Xiu Xiu manages to capture the struggle and impropriety of coming of age with compelling passion and without the crutch of cliché.

-sarah leon



**Reducers SF
Raise Your Hackles**
TKO records

Reducers SF made a name for themselves playing local bars in their hometown of San Francisco, and it definitely comes across in this pub-rock album of fight songs and anthems for the down-and-out. If this band lacks originality in their lyrical content they more than make up for it with their unique mix of traditional UK punk (Stiff Little Fingers, Clash, Cock Sparrer) mixed with Guns'n'Roses American style cock rock. From start to finish, this is a full-on good times rock'n'roll album! This album is the perfect sidekick to your Saturday night poker game and great for playing loud in a car full of your friends on the way to the pub. *Raise Your Hackles* doesn't show any signs of the band's sound changing and is definitely a Reducers album through and through. The band shows no signs of slowing down with this one either - *Raise Your Hackles* has all the hooks, hopelessly catchy sing-a-longs, and gritty guitar riffs that you can expect from this Bay Area bar rock legend. If you are gonna get a Reducers SF album, get this one and give yourself 14 more excuses to put off your work and have another drink.

-eliot pride

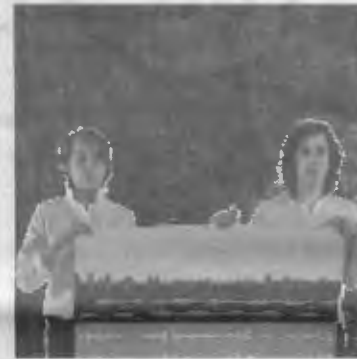


**Gin Blossoms
Major Lodge Victory**
Hybrid Recordings

It's been a few years since we've heard from the Gin Blossoms, but they're back with a new release that will be a pleasant refresher for all past fans. I'm always slightly skeptical when bands return from a musical hiatus - a prejudice that is slowly starting to fade with the new releases from the Rolling Stones, Paul McCartney, and others. Though the Gin Blossoms may not be on the same plane as such musical greats, it doesn't mean their music cannot be enjoyed to the same extent. *Major Lodge Victory* sounds like you would expect it to, with catchy pop songs slightly reminiscent of

Tom Petty and The Byrds. Lead songwriter Jesse Valenzuela shows that he hasn't lost his gift for melody on this alt-country album. You won't have to listen hard to find the melody of each track. What I like most about the album is its ability to keep the music honest. The Gin Blossoms don't try to overproduce the record, keeping it straightforward and unobtrusive. There are occasional twinges of over-sentimentality in both the lyrics and the melody, but that is easily forgiven. Though *Major Lodge Victory* is not breaking any new ground, it is definitely a purchase to consider if you're looking for an enjoyable, easy listening experience. The album is worth owning, if for no other reason than the incredibly catchy second track, "Come on Hard." If you liked *New Miserable Experience*, *Congratulations I'm Sorry*, and other previous releases, I recommend getting a copy of the new album - you might agree with me that it is their best to date.

-perry allen



**The Blow
Paper Television**
K Records

You may remember the Blow (formally a solo Khaela Maricich) from such occasions as: that time she played in the Old Gym; that time she played at Bard Hall; and that time she semi-secretly played in Tivoli. Heart-felt performance art at its core, her sound has evolved from fairly simple folk songs, to experimental narrative, to full-out dance jams. The dance jammage was particularly evident on the *Poor Aim* EP, released almost two years ago, and produced by friend and fellow northwest musician Jona Brechtolt (aka YACHT). Jona is now a full-fledged member of The Blow, as evidenced on the cover of the new release *Paper Television* and on the super digital tracks therein.

While dance jams are something that The Blow can do well, this album as a whole seems a bit lacking. Whereas the last Blow LP, *The Concussive Caress*, included a pretty diverse range of sounds behind Khaela's unmistakable alto, ranging from cello arrangements and simple back-bone beats to traditional rock band sounds and experimental noise, *Paper Television's* feel is pretty consistent throughout, with only brief exception. That doesn't mean that it isn't good - recommended tracks "Fists Up," "True Affection," and "Pile of Gold" are all available at krecs.

com (click the thing that says "play the k mix tape" - you may need to close the mix window and click it again until it randomly-generates the track you're looking for). These songs I'd recommend for dancing - but the lyrics of the latter two took some serious time to grow on me, almost jarring at first listen. Most other songs on the new record, while not painful listens, are pretty forgettable. Even "The Long List of Girls" - which some followers may remember Maricich calling her "40,000 dollar song" during the 2005 touring season, joking it could earn her so much money - doesn't feel quite right. The clever lyric is drowned out by a non-stop military-style drummer-boy track, which might be clever in its own right, but doesn't add up to much. "Parentheses" and "Pardon Me" are two solid tracks that you'll have to obtain the album to hear, and that she's toured with before - the words feel true to The Blow's especially intimate brand of sentimentality and the music is dancy enough without ruining the vibe.

-cecca wrobel



**Bombshell Rocks
The Conclusion**
Sailor's Grave

After the release of their first EP in the US, *Underground Radio* it didn't take Bombshell Rocks (BR) long to impress American fans with their brassy, layered take on 90's streetpunk. After the popularity of their first EP, BR dropped GMM records and were quickly picked up by Epitaph, with whom they recorded their first full-length *Street Art Gallery* in '99, followed by *Cityrats* and *Alleycats* in 2000. Both albums exhibit an earnestness and sense of sincerity that is rare in a genre full of drinking songs and tired clichés. Lead singer Marten Cedergran unashamedly sings about his struggles with depression and growing up in a cold town in Sweden where no one was playing punk rock in a way that is less self-pitying and more full of urgency and hope. The band's music is very introspective, but the lyrics address the issues in a style broad enough for anyone to relate to. After the release of their third album, it was clear that the band was running out of steam. Their 2002 release *From Here and On* was polished, tired sounding and Marten's sing-songy vocals were sounding more and more radio friendly. It was very apparent that he was done with the band.

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continued from page 8

The Conclusion is the first full-length they've released in the past five years and also the first album on which guitarist Richard Anderson steps up to the mic. Unlike previous singer Cedergran, Richard makes no effort to hide his accent and shouts out every broken syllable so forcibly that you feel as if he is going to slip on the next word. Somehow this makes it seem that much more authentic, like he's trying really hard to tell you what he has to say. For a band that has been playing together for ten years, this album is their most youthful sounding, free of any sense of entitlement or jaded older band arrogance. "Ten Years," the one track on the album about the band's shaky history, admits that their hearts weren't in it for the last album and that they have had a pretty up-and-down ten years. The 13 songs are fast, upbeat, more reminiscent of their earlier few albums, but for the first time the band sounds less desperate and pissed off and more like they are enjoying themselves. From start to finish, this album suggests more of a fresh start than a conclusion. The songs are still loud and fast, but layered with enough creative guitar work to keep the album from getting boring. If you like this album, check out their first three US releases.

-eliot pride



John Mayer
Continuum
Columbia Records

On my first listen through Mayer's third major-label studio release, I was disappointed. I enjoyed *Room for Squares* and thought *Heavier Things* took his songwriting to a superior level, but initially it seemed that *Continuum* took a step backwards. With further listening, my ears got adjusted to the music and I realized that the album is actually quite good. The songwriting is still in the same John Mayer vein that has been heard before, but definitely has more blues undertones than before. Mayer experiments with writing styles as seen in the folksy song "Stop This Train" and the amazing piano ballad "Dreaming with a Broken Heart." I was most impressed by "The Heart of Life" - a superior acoustic song with obvious guitar influence from George Harrison. The single "Waiting on the World to Change" is catchy and a good driving song, with a bridge that sounds quite similar to the intro on Marvin Gaye's "What's Going On." The more I listen to the album, the better it is. At the moment, it is constantly playing in my dorm room. And as experience has shown me, the albums that take a few listens to grow on me ultimately become my favorite albums... so if that is any indication, *Continuum's* status will continue to elevate in my opinion.

-perry allen

The Bard Blotter

continued from cover

The Bard Observer, Bard's longstanding campus publication, has changed quite a bit this semester under its new Editor-in-Chief, Michael Brown '09. Brown commented, after reviewing old issues in the archives, that he was "discouraged with the way it looked in the past decade. I like the way it looked in the 70s and 80s," he told the Free Press in an interview. The Observer released its second issue of the semester last week, marking the first color printing.

More has changed than just the look though. "I think we are more efficient," Brown commented. The Observer used to print upwards of 1,200 copies of each of their 20 page issues; under Brown, they have scaled back quite a bit, dropping to 12 pages per issue and printing closer to 900 copies. "There's no point in printing more than people are going to read," he commented. One of the largest changes he plans to keep is the shift toward Bard and local news and away from secondary source news.

Brown said the new look is here to stay. "It seemed like people weren't reading a lot of what was being printed just because it looked the same as the old issues," he remarked. Look out for more color printings; they cost about 300 dollars more per issue, but that money is available because of the lower page count. When asked if the new layout had been outsourced, Brown said that an outside source had assisted in the new layout and taught the Observer staff-many of whom are in their first or second year at Bard, some layout techniques. The assistance was provided for free by Mike Perry, a Brooklyn-based designer whose clients include Urban Outfitters, Teen People, and the Princeton Architectural Review. The intent is for the staff to be able to layout future issues in a similar fashion with their new training.

The Root Cellar, Bard's only alternative to Chartwells' dining facilities, will open its doors to the community in the basement of H. Potter. The Root Cellar is a vegan snack and coffee bar, as well as a zine library, that was founded over a decade ago and has been operating as a cooperatively-run student space ever since.

The food that is available at the Root Cellar tends to vary a lot, but it is cheaper than it would be at a health food store because the Root Cellar gets

club funding from the Convocation Fund to subsidize the costs. There are also various sodas and coffees available on a regular basis. Root Cellar hours are 4 - 12pm daily.

However, the Root Cellar is not just a place to get food: students can browse a very large collection of zines in the Zine Library. The term "zine" may be a turn off to some, but if you've ever spent time with them, you may have a different opinion. Wikipedia defines "zine" as "a small circulation, non-commercial publication of original or appropriated texts and images. More broadly, the term encompasses any self-published work of minority interest." The Root Cellar established itself as a substantial zine library years ago and still benefits from this reputation, containing zines with topics so broad that I would not do them justice if I tried to describe them. New zines are added regularly.

The Root Cellar was originally located in the basement of the Old Gym, in the room that has recently been given to the Bike Co-op and Cycling Club. It was forced to move upon the closing of the Old Gym, and the new space was "given" to students in a meeting to discuss the simultaneous loss of the SAC (Student Action Collective) meeting space, the Root Cellar, and the TV room that was formerly in the Campus Center. The result of that meeting was that the Root Cellar and SAC would share the rooms in the H. Potter Basement; the TV lounge has not reared its head since its banishment three years ago.

Health Services reported roughly one hundred cases of lice, but Barbara Jean Briskey, Associate Director of HS, reports that several cases may have been handled by students without being reported. Briskey also reported that no positive cases have been diagnosed in the past week and a half, a sign that the outbreak is essentially over. Although Health Services acknowledges that the worst is over, Briskey warns that there have also been cases recently reported at Astor Home and Simon's Rock, so students should still take appropriate precautions. No word yet on Smolny's lice situation.

Although some students have voiced concern over what they perceived to be a delayed reaction on behalf of the administration, both Health Services and David Shein, Acting Dean of Students, have commended each other's reactions

to the epidemic, denying that the response was late. "The original reports only came from two dorms," reports Shein, "and residents of those dorms were notified immediately. As soon as it became apparent [that there were cases] outside of those dorms, it was dealt with."

Although there have been lice on campus in the past, both Briskey and Shein report that such problems have been handled on a much smaller scale and have not required community mobilization to eradicate. Still, the information came to many students in the form of gossip prior to the community announcement; "Off campus students had no way of knowing, but we still use the library, the gym, and other facilities," one student remarked. On a small campus such as this, where word of mouth and parasitic insects propagate at alarming rates, are such delays prudent? Should students be required to post lice cases on the Facebook Newsfeed in the future?

SMOG construction has not started yet, but the trees were cleared on the west-facing side of the building to make room for the expansion. John Gall, Director of Buildings and Grounds, reported at a recent student forum that the school was forced to go before the town planning board to apply for the permit, which has delayed the construction. At this point it is unclear whether the permit has been physically obtained but it presumably will be soon, at which point the school will have to find an outside contractor to complete the construction due to over-extension of B&G resources. The use of an outside contractor will require more funding and time, but involved parties are looking into ~~potentially~~ using last year's senior gift (given for the purpose of a new student space) to make up that difference. Brandon Rosenbluth, who has been the student contact for the project, reported that Gall predicted that the project will be done by the end of November and probably won't interfere with events in the space until the last phase of construction.

The Bike Co-op opens its doors this week, Tuesday 4:30 - 8:30 and Sunday 2 - 6 at the back door of the Old Gym. The Co-op is open to all community members who can come to receive or provide as much bike help as they would like. See next issue for more details.

Green Bites cont.

continued from page 3

to birth defects and cancers), both manufactured by Dow Chemical. If you don't like the idea of being exposed to these chemicals, please do something about it, especially because you have more representation than other animals or plants and rivers.

***EcoFriendly Products** - NY public schools have recently adopted stricter guidelines for cleaning products. For my next article, I plan to investigate the cleaning products used at Bard and make recommendations for healthier, more environmentally conscious alternatives.

***Trees!** - Another future article will be about the use and waste of paper and paper products throughout the college. It might be shocking.

*** Lastly, thank you Laurie Husted!** - Ms. Husted is more than happy to share information and involvement opportunities with any interested students, and gave me a lot of great information for this article. She is easy to reach at husted@bard.edu. Also, please visit the BERD website for more information about environmental issues on campus! <http://inside.bard.edu/berd/>

BIKE CO-OP

Bike Help For Free
road/mountain/hybrid/fixed/tandem/any/all
TUESDAY 4:30 - 8:30 & SUNDAY 2 - 6
Rear Entrance of the OLD GYM

Recent Bard Shows



1) M-1 of Dead Prez looms over a packed crowd at the MPR. 2) Kevin performing in SMOG at the Wham City Tour that performed in a revolutionary format in which the bands set up in a circle around the audience and played one song at a time. 3) Dan Deacon, Wham City Tour, SMOG 4) Big A Little a at SMOGfest 5) Santa Dads performing in the Old Gym at Wham City Tour 6) Dave Longstreth of the Dirty Projectors at SMOGfest.

Woodstock Film Report

Annual festival brings cinema to hudson valley
by justin leigh

This past weekend, the seventh annual Woodstock Film Festival graced the Hudson Valley, providing an array of feature films, documentaries, and shorts. In addition to events pertaining to films in competition, the festival also featured several panel discussions and guest appearances by filmmakers, actors, and crew.

Day Night Day Night, which was awarded Best Narrative, characterized a popular post-9/11 artistic sentiment present in many recent cinematic works. Julia Loktev, the auteur behind Day Night Day Night, constructs a meticulously ambiguous plot, following the main character, She (Luisa Williams), as she prepares to carry out an act of terrorism. From the moment She arrives at a bus stop in the first scene, to the film's climactic finish, Day Night Day Night grabs a hold of its audience unlike many films.

The effectiveness of the film comes from Loktev's directorial style; choosing to utilize a 30-page treatment rather than a traditional American screenplay, she is able to develop a strong relationship with her actors that transcends conventional contemporary filmmaking. As a result, the film raises many questions, but appropriately leaves even more unanswered.

Day Night Day Night stands apart in its ability to transform monotony into scrutiny; by paying close attention to the sound of an apple being eaten or the clipping of toe-nails, the film captures an unrecorded and disregarded reality of the post-9/11 world. Through amplifying anxiousness and paying close attention to the simplicity of an actor's breath, Day Night Day Night challenges the audience to redirect their questioning away from an unexplained back-story and toward an aesthetic realism that surpasses ideologies or political agendas. Loktev's film entices its audience, presenting them with temporal images and sounds that stress even the most mundane inhalation and exhalation.

The Woodstock Film Festival also presented an array of documentary features, including Tales of the Rat Fink, an ambitious look at Ed "Big Daddy" Roth, who in the 1950s pioneered the construction of hot rods and custom cars. Roth, who built-up a merchandising empire that included model cars and t-shirts, challenged the automobile industry with his close attention to detail and aesthetic uniqueness.

"Ed Roth was a giant as an artist as well as a behemoth as a man," American writer Tom

— continued on next page —

FILM REVIEWS

Frenchman Directs a Dreamy Mexican

by evan spigelman

Film critic Walter Chaw recently chided Michel Gondry's *The Science of Sleep* as "adher[ing] to the music-video director's maxim of maximum images per second...more a loud masturbation than any kind of intercourse with the audience." The criticism has merit: Gondry parades his opening images with the smugness of a filmmaker content on creating imagery that merely calls attention to its own idiosyncrasy. A fight between the protagonist and his co-workers, more Office Space than *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*, is so hollow that no matter how many visual punch lines Gondry could throw, the film would still have no more human resonance than any one of his music videos.

But *The Science of Sleep*, Gondry's first full-length narrative in which he has the sole writing credit, proves much more personal and wounded than Chaw allows. It's no small credit to Gondry's command of cinema that this is exactly the film his protagonist, Stéphane (played adorably by Gael Garcia Bernal), would have made. Sleep darts back and forth between Stéphane's wildly vivid imagination and its straightforward plot—that of Stéphane falling in love, and failing to communicate with, his neighbor (Charlotte Gainsbourg), who happens to be named Stéphanie (get it?). As Stéphane becomes more hopelessly head-over-heels in love, the film's dream-reality construction begins to dissolve into a much more fragmentary creature.

Gondry lovingly and organically renders the world inside Stéphane's mind (for the most part sans bluescreen (!), except for the one used as a prop) and bleeds it through the narrative until all of the film is

slave to the unbalance and dream-logic Stéphane follows. By the time Stéphane takes a swipe at his boss attempting to figure out whether or not he's in a dream, the film is already disoriented enough to have asked that question on its own. Gondry doesn't, as he did in *Sunshine*, give us much of an objective foothold to judge Stéphane from, but surrounds us in the cinematic terms of his alienation.

That gives those first few seemingly meaningless images meaning, and gives the film its warmth. It even makes the frick-and-frack relationship Stéphane's co-workers have with each other seem more than caricature.

Significantly, the only time we truly escape Stéphane's world is when we are given glimpses of Stéphanie's anguish at the depth of her feelings for him. The interplay between the two is alternately painful and funny, and it's to Gondry's credit that he allows the viewer to see Stéphanie as her own being separate from Stéphane's mind. The film ends on a beautifully gentle note where, for the first time, these two have truly found common ground.

By then, *The Science of Sleep* has become so much more than a sequence of shots composed for Gondry's own edification. It finds its heart

in the fragility of its central relationship and the ache that simultaneously keeps it together and pushes it apart.



Famous Actors Play De-Parts in Film

by josh sorell

The Chinese flick *Mou Gan Dou* (known in the states as *Infernal Affairs*) was released in 2002 and became a smash hit with critics and fans of Chinese gangster movies. Four years later Martin Scorsese, the Odin of American crime films, brings us a remake entitled *The Departed*. Although very similar in terms of plot points and basic premise, Scorsese and his cast of gritty characters in full blown Boston accents give *Infernal Affairs* a run for its money. More importantly, in a time when horror, comic and videogame movies are being churned out by the boxful, this film brings something to contemporary cinema: a really, really good crime flick by the man who knows the territory like the fishbowl glasses he wears on his brow.

Read this sentence and see if it doesn't scare the crap out of you: Jack Nicholson as a mob boss. Still here? Good, you'll want to pay attention. Nicholson opens the film with a monologue about violence in Boston while he walks through a warehouse, cloaked in shadow for the first few minutes of the film with the Rolling Stone's "Gimme Shelter" playing in the background. This is where you see the major difference between *Departed* and its Chinese counterpart. The entire film feels very American but mostly Bostonian. Most of the characters are Irish

and carry a heavy accent (especially Matt Damon). There is only one, count it, one African American guy in the whole movie. Maybe two if you watch the extras. That's just to give you a little context. Onto the plot!

Here are the basics; Sullivan (Damon) is a criminal secretly imbedded in the Massachusetts state Police working for Costello (Nicholson). Costigan (Leonardo DiCaprio) is an undercover cop in Costello's gang working for Dignam and Queenan (Mark Wahlberg and Martin Sheen) who are trying to keep their heads while the FBI and Ellerby (Alec Baldwin) set up raids and track leads. Everything gets very mixed up in an intense and often confusing game of cat and mouse. By the end of the film you might still be furrowing your brow in confusion with unanswered questions. One or two overly complicated or contrived moments pop in, but I'm going to let them slide.

In the midst of all this intrigue is where the real fun happens. Nicholson is as lively and fervent as ever. He'll sweep through a room with blood on his hands while tossing coke and will then proceed to crack wise at the clergymen who owe him money. He gets the strongest and often funniest parts of the film, especially during one scene in a porno theater. Then he'll do business and wail on DiCaprio's broken

arm with a boot. This is where magic is manifested; every single hit, scrape, smack, shot and whack feels full and heavy as the camera focuses right on the point of impact and the sound explodes to make you feel like you're the one getting shot in the face. This is the power of cinema, behold its glory.

Matt Damon's portrayal of a confused criminal is consistently sturdy as he goes from flirting like a normal Joe with his psychiatrist girlfriend to talking espionage with Nicholson and lying to his cop superiors with the look of a man who will do anything to get the job done but only knows how to lie. What kind of a man is he? Watch the arguments between him and Mark Wahlberg (who also gets some of the best sardonic lines, full of spite and obscenity) and see if you hear anything past the rapid political slander.

Leonardo DiCaprio, in his third film with Scorsese after *Gangs of New York* and *The Aviator*, jumps right into the fear and paranoia of a rat losing his mind. He may try to hide his glances with an American flag embroidered cap, but every time he picks up his phone he shifts and turns like the vultures are already pecking at him. I don't particularly like DiCaprio, but he definitely brings the goods as he looks right at Costello and says, "I'm not a fucking cop" and, for a split second, you almost want to believe it.

The direction keeps the pace smooth and the camera steady, even when the pistols come out and the heads start to roll. However, the best moments in the film are not the action scenes but the quiet ones. A scene of Costello bouncing coke all over the walls to the delight of a random girl made me contemplate elements I thought I understood about his character. Is it about the callousness? The control? The raw physicality? Is the shot supposed to be absorbed subliminally? I'm still conjecturing thoughts. More drama ensues as a heated foot chase through a market full of shiny cars and red glowing lights brings our two main characters close to discovering the others' identity, but that's still not as intense as a silent phone conversation between the two that occurs later in the film.

By the film's climax you will have yelled "Holy shit, that did not just happen!" several times. Even the last moment will have you slack jawed, wishing the movie was just a little bit longer. However, at two and half hours, I think the audience has had the appropriate fill. Romantic comedies and films about animals, get the %\$#@ out of the %\$#@ing way you %\$#@ing #@\$%\$&#!ers.

Bottom Line: 5/5: Ignore the contrivances of the plot and hail to the king, baby!

Woodstock

—continued from previous page—

Wolfe said. "He and his fellow 'Kar Kustomizers' worked in the only uniquely American art medium, the automobile. He never thought of his creations simply as shells of molded sheet metal or fiberglass. He always wanted you to see the engine, too, because the Only American Art Form is not an object. It's a kineticism. Its materials are speed, momentum, excitement, and freedom, which is to say, the American Zeitgeist, except that we don't say Zeitgeist. We say, the spirit of the American age."

The film uniquely chronicles Roth's life, applying voice-over narration to still shots of his custom cars. Featuring the voices of Steve Austin, Matt Groening, Tom Wolfe, Jay Leno, and Brian Wilson as Roth's custom creations, the film also includes John Goodman narrating for Roth, who died in 2001.

Tales of the Rat Fink is structured around lively animation based on the infamous illustrations of Roth, while providing a colorful musical nostalgia that transports the audience into a forgotten era. Roth, was so skilled at detailing a car that he could make it look fast even when it was standing still. Although Ron Mann, the director, is less ambitious than Roth, he nevertheless manages to convey this rebellious artistic sentiment ironically, even if his film is not rebelling against anything.

Words

APPLE, BANSHEE, BAT, BLACK, BLOOD, BOGEYMAN, BONES, BROOM, BUGS, CANDY, CHOCOLATE, COSTUME, CURSE, DEMON, DEVIL, DRAGON, EEK, EGGS, EVIL, FOG, FRANKENSTEIN, GAME, GHOST, GOBLIN, GRAVESTONE, HALLOWEEN, HAUNTED, HOBGOBLIN, HOWL, MAGIC, MIDNIGHT, MONSTER, MOON, MUMMY, NAUGHTY, NIGHT, OWL, PHANTOM, PIRATE, POISON, PRIZE, PUMPKIN, SKELETON, SPOOKY, TREAT, TRICK, VAMPIRE, WEREWOLF, WITCH, WORM, ZOMBIE

Halloween Word Search

Y T H G U A N F L Y N Y K H E E N L J T
 N O M E D H W X W D I K B C S Z O I O S
 T H G I N Y O E O N L O A T R I S V Z O
 N E E W O L L A H A B O N I U R I E C H
 D O O L B Q L A V C O P S W C P O D G G
 N O T E L E K S A D G S H B T S P O V G
 E T A R I P U M M R B A E U G G B F R M
 F L O W E R E W P A O N E G N L B A B B
 N I K P M U P T I G H X E S I L V K P O
 C I G A M H A P R O E M B N V E I S Y G
 K C A L B E O D E N N P O S S P E V T E
 J H C K R O M I D N I G H T O G L K E Y
 B O I T J T V B R O O M O U N W C E V M
 M C D C L T A K N V D N X B O A F Y R A
 G O A T Z O M B I E E Z L H V T H E H N
 A L P F R A N K E N S T E I N S T P L X
 M A P F W O H H W Z C K R C W S E S X S
 E T L Z O H A U N T E D D I N W G N J Q
 M E E M Z V F E M U M M Y O C D D O O C
 E M U T S O C E W O R M M I E K I U F B

How Many Licks Does it Take to Get to the Center of This Candy Review?

One, two, three... three
 by daniel pearce

Mexican made and distributed Vero Mango lollipops are a most uninviting candy – covered in a thick mat of guajillo chili powder, these may at first seem totally impenetrable. Patrick Reilly, class of '07, remarked upon the similarity in flavor between this lollie's spicy outside layer and "filthy sewage water." Though I personally think that the description is a bit unfair, I'll admit that its intense coarseness makes the first five or so minutes of the experience very demanding. Yet just when you think your tongue can't lick anymore, you encounter a faint glimpse of something sweeter, something fruity...

It's mango!

That's right: once the crimson sheath has been dissolved, a colorful mango candy – dotted with flecks of chili – is revealed. While still a little hot, this delicious center makes the entire candy worthwhile. Also, with the help of a little foresight, the beginning of this tumultuous journey becomes significantly more palatable. I've been eating way too many of these over the past few days and I'm a little sick of them, but, if taken in moderation, they're a surprising treat.

THE TANDOORI LENTIL

BURRITO'S FAVE AUTHOR:

MAMA! THIS IS PEACHY!
 A REALLY BIG F'N FUN TIME!

OOOOO
 OOOO
 OOOO

OOOOO
 DELAND

OOOOO
 SAVI DO

OOOOO
 RORYL

OOOOO
 RELOHL

There are 2 possible answers, but both work.

A REAL CRUDE, YUCKY, TASTELESS, STRAIGHT UNAPPROPRIATE

WATERGATE ORDER

OOOOO
 TYAHS

OOOOO
 PSATYR

OOOOO
 TYSTA

Get Your Own Damn Hyperportal!

The Salamander Slammer AKA Chris Rice

David Bowie is going to die in our collective life times.

Yeah... Just try enjoying the rest of your day.

Hey! Here's a nice thought.

by alex houstoun

"AH'D SAY THINGS CHANGED MEBBE ABOUT AH WEEK GO."

"AROWND THIN, FOUND AH HOLE INMEH SHEET (PICTURED BELOW)."

"LIKE TA THINK AH SPEAK WITH GREATER AWNESTY THIN BEFORE."

WHEDJUH SAY JOSIMM?

by walker schiff