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the bard free press

annandale-on-hudson, ny

may 14, 2007

"on the brink" since 2000

volume VIII, issue 8



PUNK ROCK PROM 05.11.2007

SEE MORE PICTURES ON PAGES 6-7

Buckminster Fuller's World Game Comes to Bard College

"Games - Simulation - Conflict" - The Second Annual Tech/Action Conference at Bard, May 18 & 19

by g. moynahan and k. crockford

Games provide us with a microcosm in which we can recognize how rules and habits create perception. How has new technology effected our ability to experience or recognize this relation, and with it our broader sense of the tacit 'rules' governing many kinds of behavior? What are the political ramifications of games and simulation in the modern world, and how are they changing?

"Games - Simulation - Conflict" is a conference exploring how changing modes of understanding games and

simulation might transform definitions of conflict in the internet era. The conference is the second annual "Tech/Action" events, which are designed with a focus on workshops and hands-on experience involving technology and theory.

Much of the modern apparatus of computing first premiered as necessary equipment in the real games and simulations at the heart of the Cold War, for instance the CRT terminal, the integrated circuit, and use of the keyboard as an input / output device,

to name only a few. With the commercialization and increased sophistication of such equipment have come new possibilities: namely, the possibility for creating simulations and games in which new forms of human organization and conflict can be enacted. As much as 'gaming' as a dominant popular culture phenomenon depends upon the history of conflict that has made it possible, it also provides new possibilities to call it into question and to develop or amplify modes of games, and

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News Bites

by brenden beck and lauren kitz

Bard Students to meet with Bloomberg's office after expressing concern

After expressing dismay over the college's choice to give New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg an honorary degree and the honor of being our commencement speaker, a half-dozen or so students will meet with a member of the Mayor's staff this Wednesday. Roger Scotland, who works under Bloomberg as Deputy Director for Citywide Education and Youth Services is also a Bard alumnus. The meeting was arranged after the students met with President Botstein and four other administrators last Friday. Bloomberg will be speaking during the May 26th Commencement exercises in the tent.

Harvard students on hunger strike for Security Guard wages, conditions

Eleven Harvard undergraduates stopped eating on May 3rd to draw attention to, and lobby for better working conditions and wages for the school's security guards. The guards have been in contract negotiations with the subcontractor in charge of providing campus security for several weeks. One of the students was hospitalized May 8th but vowed to continue the hunger strike. Bard security guards are not unionized and are directly employed by the school.

Danny Glover cancels grad speech in solidarity

Actor Danny Glover cancelled his commencement address to the University of California at Berkeley last week in solidarity with the custodians there. The workers are advocating for higher wages and picketed outside the theater where ceremonies were being held. University Chancellor Robert

Birgeneau gave the address in Glover's stead, addressing the protests as uninformed.

Venezuela, Brazil, and others pledge to form Banco del Sur

Earlier this month, several South American countries including Argentina, Venezuela, and Brazil pledged donations of up to \$500 million to formally launch the Banco del Sur (Bank of the South). Originally introduced by Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez, the new regional development bank will act as an alternative to the World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF). Last month Chavez announced that Venezuela planned to pay off its \$3.3 billion debt to the World Bank five years early, severing all ties with the organization he called a "tool of U.S. imperialism." The World Bank has lent trillions of dollars to Latin American

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New Shuttle Pulls Up to Bard

Thirty-three seats yet to be filled

by daniel terna

Last semester it was commonplace to see a group of drunk students scramble over each other to get a spot, much less a seat, on the last shuttle leaving Tivoli for the night. But it wasn't so funny for the stragglers who got left behind, frantically calling their friends with cars to pick them up and bring them to their campus dorms.

The new 33-passenger Bard shuttle bus will hopefully solve problems such as these. Introduced the first week in May, the new bus has since been the primary vehicle traveling the hourly Red Hook-Campus-Tivoli loop. However, many students have expressed concern over the size of the gleaming GMC bus. "I wonder if it uses up more gas," said one student, a resident of Tivoli. There were further

Ed Schmidt. Because the new bus is brand spankin' new (it was driven straight from its factory in Indiana and had only 800 miles on it), it consumes less diesel fuel than was previously consumed by the older, grey, 21 passenger shuttle, that had 300,000 miles on it. The older the vehicle, the more fuel it consumes, so those of us who think a larger shuttle is worse for the environment and costs more money to maintain have been proven wrong for now. However, issue will be hotter in around five to ten years (and approximately 100,000-200,000 miles), when the bus will surely cost more to maintain due to wear and tear.

"In the long run, the new bus won't save us too much money," Schmidt



concerns with the bus' size: "It's so big—it takes up more room on the road," said one student. According to driver Bill Szigethy, who also works as a driver for the Red Hook school district, the new bus is actually the same width as the others. One excited student said: "I feel like I'm going on a field trip. I want to sit in the back with the cool kids."

Social anxieties aside, the new bus will, for the time being, save money for Bard, said Transportation Director

acknowledged. But it does for the time being, as it consumes less diesel fuel than the older, 14-seater shuttles, one of which has now been decommissioned. Schmidt wouldn't go on the record as to how much the new shuttle cost but online research revealed \$65,000 for a used 2002 model.

"It was a long wait," explained Schmidt about the process to get the new bus. "It should've happened a year ago." Schmidt cited the new bus'

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Small Barrytown Press Still Publishing "Really Esoteric" Books

by brenden beck

Annandale's neighbor to the south doesn't garner the attention that other, bigger towns in the area do. Barrytown might have a traffic flow that makes Red Hook look like Manhattan, and Barrytown might not have Tivoli's high human to restaurant ratio, but Barrytown does have the Station Hill Press. The publisher, founded over 30 years ago, is run out of a residential home nestled among Barrytown's trees, stained glass windows, and abandoned rock sculptures. It's named after the Barrytown road on which it lies, though there is no signage or street address numbers to indicate its presence to those driving by.

"The press is legendary," says Rick Cameron, one of two Station Hill Press employees, "it is unusual in the caliber of its authors." The Press' back-catalogue includes such names as Gertrude Stein, Maurice Blanchot, and John Cage, but most of its authors are not so well known. "The books we publish are really esoteric," noted Cameron.

Station Hill books focuses on three subjects: Literature, spiritual

possibilities, and alternative health and healing. Their mission looks outside western medicine and religion in order to "challenge and expand conceptions of human possibility." Books on Jewish Mysticism, acupuncture, Tibetan Buddhism, touch healing, poetry, and dairy-free cookbooks are some of their offerings.

George Quasha, poet, author, multimedia artist, and sometime Bard professor founded the Press with his wife, Susan. Quasha's written work centers around the dream world, and includes works of literary theory, poetry, and other heady topics characteristic of all the Press' authors.

Station Hill has never had a close relationship with the liberal-arts college to its north. Though Quasha has taught at Bard, the Press' small size has never demanded Bard interns or attention.

Unfortunately, funders are turning their attention away, too. The New York State Council on the Arts grants the Press had relied on have declined, and the National Endowment for the Arts has seen its budget

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This building declares the town's name to the three people who get lost and drive to the end of Station Hill Road.

CCD, Vanishing Bee Syndrome (VBS) Strikes the Bees of the US and EU

WTF, Where Are All the Bees?

by andy kopas



'If the bee disappears from the surface of the earth, man would have no more than four years to live. No more bees, no more pollination, no more plants, no more animals, no more man.' Overdramatic as it may sound, this is a scenario that has been entering the minds of many over the past year, as honey bee colonies across the world are being struck by what has been aptly, if vaguely, termed "Colony Collapse Disorder" (CCD) or "Vanishing Bee Syndrome" (VBS). For reasons yet unknown, beekeepers from 24 US states and various countries around the world are reporting mass disappearances of their beloved buzzing buddies, *Apis mellifera*, the Western honey bee, from their hives. And if these disappearances continue, many experts predict the economic and agricultural effects will be devastating.

What makes CCD so enigmatic is that this type of phenomenon is nothing new. Cases of mass die-offs in bee populations have been reported since 1896, and have throughout history been

attributed to a wide range of causes. The most recent occurred in the winter of 2004-2005, and was ultimately traced back to the Varroa, or Vampire, mites. However, the evidence gathered was never conclusive enough to confirm it. This lack of ultimate causative confirmation is typical in these phenomena, and has led some to doubt the severity of the CCD epidemic.

But there is more to CCD than has been reported in earlier collapses. Primarily, colonies struck by CCD do not display a specifically observed die-off; rather, the bees actually disappear, leaving behind unhatched larvae and food stores. Though their disappearance might suggest that the hive was simply abandoned, the presence of these food stores and "capped broods" suggest the opposite. Furthermore, unprotected hives are usually quickly set upon by competing bees and hive pests; those afflicted with CCD are usually not. Besides these post-mortem signs, beekeepers have also noted that queen bees are much

more present outside hives that are eventually struck by CCD, and the worker bees tend to ignore food provided for them in the days leading up to the collapse.

Leading the research into possible causes for this scourge is the Colony Collapse Disorder Working Group, stationed at Penn State University, which as of yet has not produced any significant results.

Malnutrition, pesticides, mites, fungus and even genetically modified crops have all been put forth as possible culprits in the investigation. Perhaps the best-known theory to date is that of electromagnetic radiation thermally interfering with the lifestyles of the bees. This theory was blown out of proportion by a sensationalist article in *The Independent*, which proclaimed cellular phones to be the possible end of humanity, due to their destruction of the bees and the subsequent loss of food crops. The authors of the report which inspired that article are based out of the University of Landau and were quick to point out that their preliminary studies did not deal with cell-phone radiation, but thermal effects of radio frequency, and beyond that were fairly inconclusive.

Regardless of how clueless researchers are to the cause of the collapse, the potential human victims are much more aware of the effects of such an event. Many large commercial monoculture crops are pollinated by rented bees, most notably the \$1.5 billion California almond crop, and these are at risk of failure due to the anticipated loss of fecundity. Sensationalism again grabs the limelight here though, and it is important to note that most of these crops are natively pollinated by many other species better suited to the task, and it is expected that these native pollinators will pick up the slack of their absent migrant substitutes.

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An Interview with Bard's Horticulture Supervisor

Amy Foster speaks about Bard's landscape, pesticides, her vision for campus, and the arboretum
by alex davis

Ever wonder who manages the beautiful Bard grounds? The flowering trees? Does the pungent smell of freshly laid mulch have you wondering who makes it all happen? Well worry no longer. I have interviewed Amy Foster, the head of Horticulture who maintains the campus grounds so they look as purty as they do.

Amy is an ex-Bardian. While at Bard she started the Community Garden and also wrote some *exposés* in a certain unnamed newspaper about the disastrous oil spill behind the Olin parking lot. I sat down to ask Amy some questions regarding her job at Bard and what she envisions for the future of Bard's landscape.

Free Press: What is it that you do precisely as the head of Horticulture?

Amy Foster: Well, of the 540 acres that consists of Bard land 70 to 200 acres are landscaped. We weed, mulch, remove trees, clear paths, plant and water this area. Water from the Sawkill Creek is taken in a truck to irrigate the landscapes. For mulch we compost trees and use old newspapers to prevent weeds.

FP: It sounds like you have a pretty ecological approach. Can you talk about that?

AF: We don't use very much chemical spray. We are mostly organic. Our program for dealing with pests is the Integrated Pest Management system where few to zero pesticides are used. The system is preventative not reactive. We generally hold a holistic approach of looking at plants, looking at why the plant is getting stressed or diseased. We question how to improve the soil. With every situation we try to find the least toxic way of treating the problem but we do use sprays occasionally. We are also part of the NEFA, an organization of organic landscapers and farmers. We try to find the best practices to fulfill two main goals, which are safety (through maintaining clear paths) and campus attractiveness (through planting and maintaining the landscape).

FP: What are some of the problems with managing the landscape here?

AF: There are invasive plants and also hemlock trees with wooly adelgid are luckily still standing because we treated it. If we had ignored the problem we would have had some declining trees. We spray hemlocks with vegetable oil as a preventative to get the adelgid in the larval stage every year.

FP: How local are you in terms of what you buy and use for landscaping?

AF: We try to not use any outside resources here. We

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Students and Administrators Meet About Labor Issues at Bard

Social gap, wages and course offerings discussed

by sari bilick and martin chartrand

In April, student members of the Student/Labor Dialogue (SLD) held a meeting with Vice President of Administration Jim Brudvig, Dean of Students Erin Cannan, Director of Human Resources Pat Walker, and Office of the President Researcher/Writer Jane Smith. The meeting was called by students to discuss the ways the Bard community relates to labor in several areas - including wages of Bard's workers, the academic curriculum, and interactions between members of the college community. Bard students often have very little interaction with the college's employees, and as a result the two groups are often unaware of each other's needs and concerns. SLD strives to develop mutual awareness by regularly meeting and discussing the issues that are most pressing to us as Bard students and workers.

As students, we are in a unique position to advocate for workers' concerns. In the past, we have marched alongside workers in rallies (such as last fall's Rally for a Living Wage) to exert our influence on the college. Though we do not discount the value of such displays of student/worker solidarity, SLD's student participants felt it could be beneficial to present our stance and vision for the college to the administration on a less antagonistic footing. We invited several administrators who hold decision-making power in areas relating to workers' concerns to attend a meeting at which both students and administrators would have a chance to gain a better understanding of each other's positions and opinions.

Students opened the discussion with the crucial issue of wages. Many Bard employees are paid far below a living wage for Dutchess County - the wage necessary to provide for a family's basic needs, given the local cost of goods and services. Students highlighted the dissonance between this aspect of the school's operation and Bard as an institution based on progressive ideals. The administrators present agreed that Bard's progressive principles are part of what makes it an attractive place to work and study. However, they stated that Bard has "different priorities as a school," emphasizing Bard's commitment to pay its faculty well in order to achieve quality classroom instruction, yet acknowledged that this does not "excuse the underpayment of service workers." They admitted that Bard does not "factor living wage standards into negotiations, and we don't consider cost of living for determining other wages either, we look to industry standards." When students suggested that Bard seek to lead the industry in setting a higher standard rate of pay for all Bard employees, the administration assured us that they would welcome student collaboration and input in setting this imperative.

Students continued the discussion by expressing the need for more attention to labor in Bard's course offerings. "There is a lot of interest among students in having more faculty hired with an expertise in labor studies," one student explained. Students hope that if the labor related course offerings were expanded, eventually a multidisciplinary labor studies concentration could be established. "We also would like to see students incorporate the present labor and finance issues of the college, such as a living wage for Bard workers, into their classwork." Through independent or class projects, students could conduct research to present to the college's decision-makers. In response, the administrators emphasized that they are open to helping design tutorials and labor-focused courses if students come forth with specific interests. Since this meeting, the Office of the President has scheduled a meeting with SLD students, administrators, and interested faculty to discuss the possibility of increasing the labor related course offerings.

Students then brought up concerns regarding the workplace environment at Bard. "I have heard many comments from workers suggesting that they feel the tasks supervisors have asked them to carry out are not productive uses of their time and ability," stated one student.

In addition, many employees have experienced intimidation from managers when voicing concerns and feel a genuine fear that attempting to voice problems they have with managers or give input on how their workplace is coordinated could threaten their jobs. The administrators argued, "We can't run the business and make everyone happy." However, they acknowledged that as Bard has gotten larger, it has become more difficult to maintain good communication between workers and managers. Those present expressed shock that employees have experienced intimidation, and stressed that that they would work to address the concerns of any employee who brings a particular incident to their attention.

The final issue discussed by students addressed the social gap between different members of the Bard community and the lack of communication between workers and students. Student's pointed to L & T as a crucial time to establish respectful relationships between students and workers. It was proposed that as part of L & T activities, students meet with their housekeepers at a dorm meeting to get to know them, and to put a face behind the people who are cleaning up after them. It was also suggested that Bard include its employees in community events and expand the cultural offerings to

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Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions: Anti-Apartheid Organizing Strategies for the Liberation of Palestine

by kade crockford

Over the past five years, I have written countless articles in the Bard press describing in horrible detail some of the most destructive and pervasive policies of Zionist colonialism in Palestine. A short list of Israeli abuses against the Palestinians include: the massive ethnic cleansing campaign of 1947-1949, during which over one million Palestinians were forced from their homes, and to this day are prevented from returning, even though a UN resolution was passed supporting their unassailable right to return and reclaim their properties; water confiscation and well destruction en masse; agricultural theft and destruction en masse; cultural imperialism and colonialism (i.e. language, culture, food, relationship to the land); mass imprisonment and torture of civilians, including children; the wholesale destruction of hundreds of Palestinian villages, many of which now lie under so-called "Israeli National Forests" composed of post-1949 planted pine trees (an invasive species); and complete Israeli domination over Palestinian time and space, executed through control over

personal and commercial freedom of movement, identification systems, surveillance and brute military force, among many other means.

Another, central element to Israeli oppression in Palestine is terrorism, marked saliently by the Israeli tendency towards collective punishment. Israel ignores international law as it does all of these things, and continues to press towards the complete de-Arabization of all of Palestine through its government and right-wing supported colonial movement in the West Bank, which comprises only 22% of historic Palestine. That is to say, although Israel took more land than it was offered and much more than it needed for its minority population, it has never once stopped taking more from the Palestinians.

As it has since 1948, Israel stands on the brink of formal apartheid, which will occur when the Palestinian population surpasses the Jewish Israeli population. In order to counter this so-called 'demographic threat,' the Jewish state offers generous packages to potential Jewish immigrants to beef up

the Jewish population. In other words, the Palestinians are being ethnically cleansed to make room for people who have yet to become Israeli citizens or even express an interest in wanting to move to Israel. Today, the ethnic cleansing campaigns that began in 1947 continue, albeit through less obvious means than forced expulsions and massacres. Now, mystical, meaningless military orders and permit regulations are held up as 'legitimate' means towards the de-Palestinianization of Palestine in its entirety.

I am one of billions of people on this planet who find Israel's behavior, historically and through to the present day, unacceptable, illegal and immoral. For various reasons both real and imagined, US Americans, particularly whites, have a very skewed perception of what happens (and what happened) in Palestine. As Ilan Pappé cautioned in his groundbreaking new work, "The Ethnic Cleansing of Palestine," I hold no illusions that telling the truth about Zionism and Palestine

will change the views most Americans hold. It is incredibly difficult, approaching impossible, to convince the public that a people who have been colonized, dispossessed and oppressed for 60 years are not the victimizers. Equally difficult is convincing people that those who do the colonizing, dispossessing and oppressing are not heroes.

Noel Ignatiev, author of *How the Irish Became White*, argues that the goal of "those commonly associated with whiteness" (i.e. white people) should not be to convince other white people of the ills of white supremacy. This is a waste of energy and time. Instead, white radicals should make every effort to find other whites who are "dissatisfied with the terms of membership in the white club" and develop solid bases from which to organize meaningfully against white supremacy.

In the same vein, I do not believe that educating the Zionist masses about the Palestinians suffering under their boots will do much to stop the domination or to reverse the racism inherent in Zionist ideology. Instead, people who are already committed to real and lasting justice in Palestine, with peace to come later, must band together and call in a loud and unified voice for a widespread "BDS" campaign. Boycott, divestment and sanctions worked in South Africa, and there is no reason to suspect that



Call for boycott from the Joint Action Initiative, poster above: "We, representatives of Palestinian civil society, call upon international civil society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose broad boycotts and implement divestment initiatives against Israel similar to those applied to South Africa in the apartheid era. We appeal to you to pressure your respective states to impose embargoes and sanctions against Israel. We also invite conscientious Israelis to support this Call, for the sake of justice and genuine peace."

it cannot work in Palestine.

White South Africans did not want to be boycotted or divested from. In the USA, the racist bus companies in the South did not want to be boycotted, either. Obviously, the Zionist organizations and individuals who 'support Israel' will reject the "BDS" strategy from the outset. And this is good. The moment radical justice organizations are praised by the powers that be, we should all quit and go home. Only real economic and political pressure from the outside will force Israel into complying with international law and UN resolutions. We must act now...before it is too late.

For information on various boycotts, see www.boycottisrael.org.

For a Palestinian perspective on the necessity of the boycott campaign, see Omar Barghouti's article "Why Boycott Israel" at <http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=6898>.

For an Israeli perspective on the necessity of the boycott, see the debate between Israeli historians Baruch Kimmerling (opposed to the boycott) and Ilan Pappé (in favor) at <http://www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?ItemID=7741>.

Kade Crockford '06 works with Bard's Human Rights Project.



Critiquing Zionism at Bard College

by holly young

Zionism is not merely an ideology. As such, any sincere discussion of Zionism must address the inherent institutional power that any ideology builds from within. Zionism grew into a powerful political movement, built by elites who would eventually govern the state of Israel (Ben Gurion, the first president of Israel, for one). It consisted of a concrete plan rooted in an ideology of return that appealed to a people who were largely under attack by European anti-Semitism.

When Joel Kovel and Mazin Qumsiyeh gave a talk last semester entitled "Confronting Zionism," a few students found themselves shocked at the so called "radical" underpinning of Zionism. The essence of the talk was that Zionism has always been used as a weapon of power, regardless of how peaceful its adherents or its ideology may seem.

One successful propaganda slogan used to advertise the state of Israel was "a land without people, for a people without land." Many Jewish people in Europe believed this slogan and gained a false sense of hope that Israel would be a safe haven. However, Zionist leaders knew that this was never the case. Their plan to deal with the indigenous Palestinians

was the act of "transference," in other words, minimizing Arabs and maximizing Caucasian Jews. This was realized in many ways:

So, given this brutal history, the question becomes: how has Zionism maintained a quasi-peaceful image in America while

complacent and unwilling to debate the inordinate amount of military aid that Israel receives from our tax dollars. As it stands, Israel is the highest recipient of US foreign aid, receiving more than \$3 billion annually, not including military aid (www.IfAmericansOnlyKnew.org). It might shock some that in the "1949-1996 timeframe, the total of US foreign aid to all of the countries of sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean combined was \$62,497,800,000, which is almost exactly the amount given to Israel (www.wrmea.com/html/us_aid_to_israel.htm)."

Our direct support of Israel and implicit acceptance of Zionism warrants a complete overhaul and critique of the Zionist movement. Confronting the institution that created the state of Israel and legitimizes Israeli occupation and settlement of Palestinian land is not dogmatic or radical, rather, what is radical is *not* engaging in this debate and simply accepting it as legitimate. I applaud Joel and Mazin for opening up this debate to the public and for taking the risk of speaking out on a campus that has a history of doing the Zionist tango (if you want solid information on this 'fact' please read "Education in a New Era: Bard College's Leon Botstein" from *Bard Politik*).

At least 4,098 Palestinians and 1,021 Israelis have been killed since September 29, 2000.



American news reports repeatedly describe Israeli military attacks against the Palestinian population as "retaliation." However, when one looks into the chronology of death in this conflict, the reality turns out to be quite different.

Source: B'Tselem, The Israeli Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories. (Visit their statistics page.) Their statistics cover through April 30, 2007.

Graph found at <http://www.IfAmericansOnlyKnew.org>

eviction, "buying" land from Turkish landowners, coercion, crop destruction, mass slaughter ... the list goes on. Because of this tragedy, entire villages were wiped out and hundreds of thousands of refugees were separated from their families, forced to recognize the creation of the Israeli state built upon their land.

Zionist-occupied territories are perceived as illegal and cruel in other 'progressive' nations? One of Kovel's answers, which I agree with, is that an incredible amount of money and political intrigue between the Israeli lobby and the US government keeps this debate out of the public. This lack of any real discussion is what keeps Americans

Who Cares About Somalia?

by kade crockford

Between early and late April 2007, over 350,000 Somalis were displaced from their homes. Over the past three months of fighting, the number of people killed in Somalia has exceeded the total Lebanese deaths during the Israeli assault during the summer of 2006. The crisis is currently worse than those in Chad and the Sudan, in terms of numbers of killed and displaced, percentage wise. In Mogadishu, an ancient city of 1.7 million people on the Indian Ocean, over 350 people were slaughtered during the week of April 21-27.

But while US nightly news coverage of the war in Darfur is commonplace and sometimes extensive (albeit misinforming), a search in Lexis-Nexis reveals that coverage of what the former UN spokesperson on Somalia calls "the most lawless war of our generation" is virtually non-existent. Democracy Now's Amy Goodman reported that over the past three months of renewed fighting in Mogadishu, "ABC and NBC have not mentioned the war at all. CBS mentioned the war once. The network dedicated a total of three sentences to the story."

What's going on in Somalia and Ethiopia? Why are the US networks silent? What does the US government have to do with both of these problems? Due to lack of space, this article will attempt to explore the first question only, with the hope that readers will seek out other information. (For insights into the second and third questions, see, for example, Abdi Ismail Samatar's article "Mogadishu's Carnage, the Death of the TFG & its Fraudulent Reconciliation" at www.zmag.org/content/showarticle.cfm?SectionID=2&ItemID=12513.)

A very brief history of colonial interest in Somalia, and of the recent history of the fighting there, is in order. (Though there is no space here to discuss it, Somalia's history before colonization is rich in regional culture and import.)



The fertile country was (rather unsuccessfully) colonized by the Italians between 1892 and 1941. During WWII, the British forced Italy out and dug in its imperial boots. With formal British empire on the decline, the Italians returned in 1952 and controlled Somalia until it won its independence in 1960. In 1990, rebel forces entered Mogadishu to oust the government. By January 1991 they had succeeded in driving then President Mohammed Siad Barre to Lagos, Nigeria. Rival rebel factions proclaimed separate victories and respectively declared Mohammed Ali Mahdi and Mohammed Farah Aidid the new President.

Intense fighting ensued, during which tens of thousands of Somalis were butchered. On December 9, 1992, a group of US Marines landed in Somalia under the auspices of a UN 'peacekeeping' force. The UN's military goal in the region was the capture of Mohammed Farah Aidid, one of the principal actors behind the violent power struggle. On October 3, 1993, the US sent Army Rangers and a Delta Force into Mogadishu to capture two of Aidid's men. The attack resulted in the deaths of 1,000 Somalis, and left 3,000 to 4,000 injured. Also killed were

19 American soldiers and one Malaysian soldier. President Clinton withdrew American troops in 1994, but the fighting in Somalia continued.

In June 1995 Aidid declared himself President amidst heavy fighting. He died from wounds he received in a gun battle in 1996. Since then, there has been virtually no state order in the country.

On May 7, 2006, a civil war erupted between two rival factions, the Alliance for the Restoration of Peace and Counter-Terrorism (ARPCT) and a militia loyal to the Islamic Courts Union (ICU), over control of Mogadishu. The United States has militarily and financially assisted the ARPCT, claiming that the ICU has ties to al-Qaeda (no evidence for this claim exists.) On June 5, 2006, the ICU took firm control over Mogadishu.

On December 25, Ethiopian jets, with political and military support from the United States, bombed Mogadishu's

main airport, which was then held by the ICU. One person was killed and many were injured in the attack. Ethiopian troops and pro-government militias proceeded to encircle Mogadishu. On December 27, it was reported that the ICU was on the retreat. The following day, December 28, pro-government militias declared that they were in control, notably of several presidential palaces.

The recent fighting, between January and April 2007, has been characterized as an ICU insurgency against the US-backed Ethiopian and government forces. President Bush has repeatedly referred to East Africa as an important staging ground for the US' so-called "War on Terror". The Pan-Africa News Wire estimates that over 1,500 people have been killed in Mogadishu since the renewed fighting began in January

Kade Crockford '06 works with Bard's Human Rights Project.

Songs from SPQR

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MUSIC REVIEWS



The Tossers
Agony
Victory Records

The Tossers blend driving punk rock with traditional Irish folk styles and instruments to create a sound that earns them many comparisons to The Pogues. Any such comparison is certainly valid, and although it is very hard to imagine any band taking the place of The Pogues, The Tossers' sound is unique enough – and their songwriting good enough – that they stand on their own in the relatively small genre into which they and the Pogues both fall.

The variety of style that is demonstrated on *Agony* sets The Tossers far apart from many of their label-mates and peers who recycle tired formulaic songs album after album. While they demonstrate a superior ability to compose and execute hard-hitting songs, there are also a few ballad-like songs that break up the album really well. Likewise they show that they are capable of the instrumentation and composition that distinguishes Irish folk music, as well as the haphazardness from which punk derives, demonstrating both styles separately and blended together throughout the album.

A major characteristic of traditional Irish folk music is the lack of any large-scale percussion, but what sets The Tossers – and many other bands that blend folk and punk – apart is their seamless addition of a drummer into the fray. While the drums and bass hold down driving rhythms on most of *Agony*, the fiddle, banjo, whistle, mandolin, organ, and piano compliment one another in a more traditional fashion, and the guitar splits the difference. This composition style carries most of the tunes, but The Tossers keep a few songs like “Leopardstown Races” and “Shade” in a more traditional style without drums, presumably to demonstrate that they are more than just a bunch of punks who picked up some new instruments.

The Tossers' subject matter is about as varied as their style and touches on many themes, often returning to alcohol. They take that a bit further than your average

Irish drinking song with lyrics like “A chemical imbalance embedded in my brain/It's probably from my parents, but depression's all the same/My neurotransmitter's dopamine is naturally depleted/So I've overproduced euphoria with alcohol when needed.” The lyrics are not always brilliant, but they never get boring and they certainly compliment the music throughout the album, which is more than can be said for a lot of artists. In true punk fashion, they throw in a few really great sing/shout-alongs on this album as well.

The Tossers have been putting out music since the early 1990's, but their recent releases on Victory Records are sure to bring them some more mainstream recognition. On *Agony*, they have yet again proved successful in blending Irish folk music with punk rock to create a really interesting sound and a solid album. Although they did not gain popularity at such an impressive rate as contemporaries like The Dropkick Murphys or even Flogging Molly, they have certainly taken their time to come into a really well formed sound and shown that they are more than a novelty act. This album is probably not for everyone and won't become a classic overnight, but it won't disappoint anyone and it is definitely worth a listen if you are looking for an interesting sound that hasn't been worn out.

—owen conlow



Kim Lenz and Her Jaguars
Self Titled
HMG

While I love Rockabilly, I can't get my head around the meticulous attempts by Rockabilly bands and enthusiasts to emulate the sounds and looks of the 50's. Some of my friends started a Rockabilly band a couple years ago, and while their band is great, they are strangely obsessed with vintage gear. They have been striving for authenticity in everything from the tires on their Cadillac to the brand of gum they chew. I talked to someone the other day that has a greaser friend who only wears vintage pajamas. Smoking Lucky Strikes or using a little pomade is one thing, but there's nothing Rock 'n' Roll about bidding on 40 year-old western shirts on

E-bay.

Kim Lenz and Her Jaguars pull off the illusion of a 50's rock band so perfectly that it wasn't until close inspection of the CD case that I realized it had been recorded recently and that Kim was still making records. I noticed some other print on the back: in order to fulfill the illusion, the album was “recorded live to one track,” and the CD jokingly reads, “plays on all phonographs.”

While I felt a little tricked and disappointed that I hadn't discovered some rocking band with a female singer from my grandparents' era, my grandparents would probably still like this record and so do I. The Jaguars play mid-tempo Rockabilly and it is the most danceable rock album I have heard in a while. It's all pretty consistent and you could dance through the whole album without having to interrupt your sock hop.

While this band is nothing special, it's good Rockabilly and a very fun album. You don't have to wear a poodle dress to enjoy this record but if you are planning on taking your date out for milkshakes at the diner or to a movie at the drive-in you should probably buy this album first.

—eliot pride



Bright Eyes
Cassadaga
Saddle Creek

On *Cassadaga*, the follow-up to his 2005 releases, *Digital Ash in a Digital Urn* and *I'm Wide Awake, It's Morning*, Bright Eyes' front man Conor Oberst seems to have settled on his musical direction. While *Digital Ash* was a brief foray into electronic music, *I'm Wide Awake* was a more successful move away from his emo type-cast and into a style that would best be called contemporary American folk music, for lack of a better term. *Cassadaga* takes the latter style even further, both in instrumentation, with the addition of things like string arrangements, organs, and pedal steel, and content, which seems to have relaxed quite a bit from the angsty songwriting that defined his earlier releases.

As far as content, Oberst does a nice job balancing social commentary

and personal reflection, as he did on *I'm Wide Awake*. Although I disagree with a lot of Pitchfork Media's review of *Cassadaga*, I have to agree that some of his lyrics fall short of the standards he has established so far. Most are still interesting and he still shies away from repetitive choruses, but some of the songs on this album do not showcase his lyrical prowess as much as others. The songs are critical of religion and relationships, government and activism alike; Oberst is somewhat critical of everyone, and although self-deprecation takes a back seat on this release, it is still shines through at times.

One thing that I have always appreciated about Oberst's work, even back when I didn't like it, was that he tries a lot of new things each time around. *Digital Ash* and *I'm Wide Awake* show his desire to push his limits and experiment with a variety of styles. Some of the things that he tries work well and some aren't so great, but I have always given him credit for trying new things. Although a lot of the ‘new things’ that he does on *Cassadaga*, like string arrangements or song structure, are not new to music at all, he manages to use them in original ways. I'm not sure whether Oberst has spent more time learning to



MUSIC REVIEWS

compose music, or whether he has given more input to other band-mates, but the variety of instruments on this album is well selected and composed.

Although *Cassadaga* is not the grand follow-up to the last two albums that I had hoped for, it is by far the best musicianship that he has demonstrated so far, and it holds to his lyrical originality enough that it is worth at least a few listens, although familiarity with his previous work may make it more interesting. The tracks are somewhat hit-or-miss, but the good ones outweigh the lesser ones, and the album holds together well as a collection. Additionally, anyone who appreciates album art will really like this release.

-owen conlow



Handsome Furs
Plague Park
Sub Pop

This is my first experience with a press kit, which is really exciting. I

get the CD for free, before it comes out, along with a card from the record label that has a dictionary definition of home, followed by statements about the record that say things like, "a deep-seated sense of longing struggles with a staunch realism." Let's see what's inside!

Another side-project from members of Wolf Parade, the Handsome Furs are co-frontman Dan Boeckner and his fiancé Alexei Perry. He plays guitar and sings and she plays textural synthesizers and programs drum machines in the background. The stated goal (from the press kit) of this record is "to be as sparse and repetitive as possible," which actually sounds pretty boring. I mean, I like repetition as much as anyone else, but only to a point.

Plague Park takes these notions of repetition and sparseness too far, crossing over with both devices into tedium. Songs like the opener "What We Had" begin with interesting riffs or sounds, and simply repeat them verbatim for four minutes. The repetitive building in Wolf Parade songs like "I'll Believe In Anything" just fall flat here because the themes aren't built upon.

That said, the static depth created by repetition of riffs can, at the best moments

of the record, create a nuanced beauty that takes best advantage of the spaces left by the sparse instrumentation. The space left by the synth driven music allows room for a guitar riff to come in. The stretching triplets of the guitar create a sense of weight reminiscent of Springsteen. Unfortunately, that kind of emotional attachment rarely arises on this record, which has the thrown-together feeling of a talented musician's side project, but tossed almost too casually.

-ben seligman



Bjork
Volta
Atlantic

Bjork is constantly in pursuit of 'purification of the Soul.' This spiritual calling is the driving force behind her musical experimentation. She combines her beliefs with an artistic aesthetic to use synthetic instruments in order to digitally imitate the beauty

and dynamism of nature and vice versa. Bjork's idealistic attitude about music is certainly not optimistic towards the reformation of society. In fact, she would rather forsake civilization altogether for the salvation of our souls.

Bjork's ethical vision was explicit on the audacious yet forgettable *Medulla*. *Medulla* is a paradoxical and original record that relies strictly upon a capella to replicate electronic instruments. Although this was a brilliant idea that was executed well, the album was a little too conceptual to be appreciated as 'good music.' On *Volta*, Bjork is still trying to save the world through beauty, but instead of relying on the human voice she now uses a drum beat. It works better this time around.

One of Bjork's greatest strengths is how she combines her powerful voice with complex instrumentation, which we find again on *Volta*. By making percussion central in the songwriting process, Bjork creates a greater challenge for herself as a singer than she did on *Medulla*. Her voice really comes into full form on *Volta* (in fact it even sounded better live when I saw her perform in New York than it did on the album). Whether she is screaming or sighing to harmonize with the beat, the vocal remain graceful

and compelling.

I think most Bjork fans will be pleased to hear that the songs on *Volta* themselves and the trajectory of the album as a whole is very reminiscent of *Homogenics*. On both albums there is crescendo that dynamically builds up to a ferocious climax before settling into sublimity.

The pinnacle of *Volta* is "Declare Independence," a politically jolted anthem that sounds similar to German digital-punk artists like Atari Teenage Riot or Alec Empire. On "Declare Independence" Bjork's humanistic values and artistic aesthetics really compliment each other well. Over a bulldozing kick drum and a sinister synth line, Bjork calls for a universal protest against oppression of power, shouting verses like "Declare Independence, don't let them do that to you!" and "Make your own flag and raise your flag!"

As opposed to her some of her earlier work on albums like *Vespertine*, *Volta* is not a pretty record. Her songs are still innocent and pure, but also visceral and terrifying. It shows how completely Bjork is in control of her strengths and ready to execute them. This is sound of the future, and yet here it is.

-matt garklavs

PUNK ROCK PROM

CLOCKWISE
FROM RIGHT:
JAWBREAKER,
THE MUMMIES,
DEAD KENNEDYS,
OPERATION IVY,
LIKE BUTTA, MIS-
FITS, X-RAY
SPECS, ANDREW
WK



FILM REVIEWS

260 W33ks Aft3r

28 Days L8r

Twenty-eight days later, number two

by daniel terna

28 Weeks Later, co-written and directed by Spanish filmmaker Juan Carlos Fresnadillo (nominated for an Oscar in '97 for the short film *Esposados*), is the sequel to Danny Boyle's 2002 *28 Days Later*, an awesome movie about a viral infection that spreads like crazy across England.

The characters include a British nuclear family split up by circumstances that aren't ever clear (the ambiguity doesn't matter much), a noble Delta Force sniper dude (Jeremy Renner of *North Country*, *Lords of Dogtown*, *SWAT*) who somehow keeps his hair gelled throughout and communicates via headset deep words of understanding with his renegade token-black-guy helicopter pilot (Harold Perrineau of *Lost*, the *Matrix* movies, *Romeo and Juliet*), and a determined Lara Croft lookalike army doctor who acts as a mother to the absurdly brave blonde children and typically mediocre child-actors of the above-stated family.

Everything falls apart wonderfully in a reconstructed section of London, aptly called the "Green Zone", where 15,000 British refugees are temporarily housed in comfort while kept under close watch by a US led NATO force. Fresnadillo is a bit explicit with his use of security-camera and army-checkpoint imagery, allowing his socio-political comments to filter in, but, his heavy-handed opinions are a welcome relief from the patriotic themes typified by *Spiderman's* "A Hero Comes Home" tagline. Through the lens of a sci-fi genre, Fresnadillo criticizes the surveillance tactics of the US and British governments and their military strategies like carpet-bombing. The political messages of *28 Weeks Later* are less explicit than those of *The Kingdom* (an upcoming action movie about US agents combating terrorist activity somewhere in the Middle East). Fresnadillo is effectively giving the targeted Western audience something to reconsider about the first and secondhand consequences of war.



As the plot advances, something bad happens and an adrenaline rush of chaos sets the tone for the rest of the film, resulting in the NATO force shooting masses of innocent civilians, napalming cities, and even using chemical weapons (we see a ruthless American general making these "Step Three" decisions from some command center, which alludes pretty blatantly to the fuck up in Fallujah). If you saw *Children of Men* and enjoyed the shaky photojournalistic appearance of people running through city streets and tripping over dead bodies, this movie utilizes the same cinematic practices.

Something about the gore level: this movie's really bloody. And not in the cartoony *Kill Bill* excessive kind of way. When a field of freaks gets mowed down by the blades of a helicopter you actually feel bad for them, as their dismembered bodies resemble the grainy images of collateral damage we occasionally see in the international media.

This is a solid movie despite some poor child acting and cinematic archetypes because the in-the-thick-of-it camera work (the closing scene could be a youtube video) and contemporary resonances will freak you out and make you nauseas. Even some of the typically corny moments are touching because human compassion is so rare in this pessimistic movie. So a dose of kindheartedness is important for maintaining the sanity of the audience.



Spiderman 3 is Very Successful and Bad

by tom houseman

In the first *Spiderman*, the phrase "with great power comes great responsibility" is repeated ad nauseam. You might remember that line if you saw the movie and have ears. Well, director Sam Raimi has the power, and he is using it to destroy Spiderman. Raimi's \$2.5 billion abomination is an insult to Spiderman, and all arachnids, as well as being further proof of Raimi's intent to turn everyone's favorite web slinger into an emo teenage boy. There have been plenty of awful superhero movies lately (*Hulk* and *Superman Returns* come to mind), but *Spiderman 3* may be the worst.

The first two *Spiderman* films were melodramatic messes, but Raimi was able to overcome their absurdity with explosive action sequences and enough fun to make the experiences worthwhile. But in Part 3, the film is drowned in an ocean of drama, and the life boats given to the audience are all broken. *Spiderman 3* features three new villains: Sandman (Thomas Hayden Church), Venom (Topher Grace), and Hobgoblin, aka Harry Osborne (James Franco). On top of that, there is the resurgence of the nauseating Peter, Harry, Mary Jane love triangle. The situation might be passable if any of the three leads knew how to act, but that is not the case. Tobey Maguire can play nerdy to perfection, and Kirsten Dunst's portrayal of an untalented actress is spot on, but any actual acting they do is lost in the pit where their talent is supposed to be. James Franco comes closest to giving a decent performance, but Harry Osborne is such a poorly developed character that Franco isn't allowed to do more than brood and yell.

Sadly, not even the action sequences are up to par. The first encounter between Spidey and Harry Osborne as Hobgoblin is shot so poorly that

it is difficult to watch without getting dizzy. Even the better fight scenes between Spiderman and the Sandman are unable to capture the magic of Spidey's best bouts with Dr. Octopus, although the effects for Sandman are impressive. And then there is the serious disservice to Venom, one of the best villains ever. In the film, Venom is a space parasite who attacks Spiderman, making him even more angsty (if that's possible) and causing him to spurn Mary Jane for Gwen Stacy (dear God, Bryce Dallas Howard, you are a good actress! Stop making only awful movies!). We only see Venom as a super villain near the end of the movie, which is far less than this terrifying creature deserves.

In addition to the visual extravaganza that is only missing the kitchen sink, Raimi throws in some comedy in an attempt to make the experience more bearable, but the result is, unfortunately, the exact opposite. There are several sequences in which we see Venom's effect on Parker, including a dreadful prolonged dance sequence involving him and Gwen Stacy. Newspaper man J. Jonah Jameson (J.K. Simmons) has his traditional wacky antics, but these ridiculous, campy scenes, when combined with the painful melodrama, make *Spiderman 3* even worse. The only highpoints in the movie are a cameo by Bruce Campbell as a French waiter, and a hilarious one-line appearance by Stan Lee, but these diamonds in the rough do not come close to compensating for the abysmal 140 minutes of *Spiderman 3*. Sadly, it seems as if the onslaught of new *Spiderman* films will never cease, but maybe Sam Raimi, in a delightfully ironic twist, will be crushed by a meteor carrying an evil parasite, and will be replaced by a competent director who can make *Spiderman* the movie he deserves.

- continued from front page -

News Bites, cont'd.

countries since its inception 60 years ago; however, the conditions of these loans have historically interfered with government sovereignty, and paying off massive debts has hindered country development. Chavez and Brazilian President Luis Inacio Lula have both said they hope the bank will provide a counter-balance to dominant US economic power. Ecuador, Bolivia, and Paraguay have also stated their intent to join the Banco del Sur, which will be officially formed in June and plans to begin operating by 2008.

New Jersey introduces new HIV testing bill

New Jersey Senate President Richard J. Codey has recently proposed new legislation which would require both pregnant women and newborns to be tested for HIV. New York and Connecticut are currently the only states that require all newborns to be tested. If passed, this bill would make New Jersey the first state to require the test to be universally administered to both mother and child, unless the woman indicates in writing that she does not wish the tests to be performed. The Center for Disease Control (CDC) estimates that perinatal HIV transmission rates can be reduced to less than

two percent with a regimen of antiretroviral drugs, a cesarean delivery, and abstaining from breast feeding. The proposed bill, which Codey called "a no brainer," would combat the fact that New Jersey has some of the highest HIV rates in the country. However, several feminist advocacy organizations, including The Center for Women Policy Studies, oppose the bill, claiming it violates a woman's right to determine the course of her medical treatment and that of her child.

People still drinking wine coolers

Some students drink wine coolers, according to a recent campus-wide email by Dean of Students Erin Cannan. "A person can reach a blood alcohol concentration of .01% by consuming just three ounces of whiskey or one wine cooler or one can of beer," says Cannan. The Dean's announcement included, not advice on how to get drunk, but rather a caution against drunk driving. The wine cooler, traditionally a drink of the middle aged and last sighted during the middle ages, was thought to be defunct. As of press time sources had not confirmed the intoxicating potential of a regular glass of wine or how to measure "three ounces" of whiskey.



The second showing of senior projects in Studio Art opened Saturday, May 5, at Bard's UBS gallery space in Red Hook.



Clockwise from top: Celeste Dupuy-Spencer, Melinda Braathen, Annie Sawyer, Amy MacKay, Matt Shimsky, Jonathan Osofsky and Daniela Gilbert.



UBS

senior art show opening



Limelighting the Third Parties

The Free Press dispenses with all the presidential hullabaloo to learn more about a third (or maybe fourth) party
by tom shepherd

An election year again rears its ugly head. Already campaign finance records have been broken and there is a possibility that a Mormon may become President. Or will it be a woman? Or perhaps a man composed of all the oppressed races ever to have existed in history? Or will it be just another boring, old white male? Nonetheless, in the spirit of American democracy and the love of competition, this space will be used to shed light on the little guy. "Third party" is a gracious term for these obscure provincial parties. Obscure is even a compliment. Because the amount of dung that I dug through to find this kernel of undigested corn nearly overwhelmed me. Surviving the noxious fumes, here is a short recapitulation of one party and its candidate that deserves the our attention.

Death, and by pulling back the US borders to Idaho, I will be helping to ensure the prolonging of our national energies." The first question one might ask is, "Is the Republic of Cascadia even real?" The answer: it is as real as Kurdistan.

The concept of the Republic of Cascadia is quite real. According to Wikipedia, "is a proposed name for the independent sovereign state that would be formed by the union of British Columbia, Washington and Oregon were these states and province ever to successfully secede from their respective federal governments in Ottawa and Washington D.C." The Wikipedia entry claims that it is an offshoot of an idea Thomas Jefferson endorsed. Rooted, then, in Jefferson's conception of an autonomous state in this geographical region, MacDuff's platform

the shoreline, and, thus, the secession of the entirety of Alaska's territory would seem a bit of a miscalculation of harbor seal mobility and completely opposite to current scientific understanding of harbor seal behavior.

Yet, MacDuff remains a bold, assertive candidate. As far as I am aware, there has not been a single documented public statement in human history that simultaneously calls for the secession of territory to harbor seals while implying that they have a notion of property grounded in Western political philosophy and jurisprudence. Beyond the far ranging implications of MacDuff's radical position of the secession of Alaska to a seemingly docile, largely aquatic species, are the problematic ramifications likely to arise should this occur.

It is obvious that current armaments would have to be redesigned to address the fact that harbor seals possess neither fingers nor hands. While this will generate business for America's military-industrial complex, it still begs the question of whether a nation of harbor seals is adequately evolved to be invested with the task of properly defending its territory.

Second, diplomatic problems would be severe and immediate. To secede territory to a nation of harbor seals would mean to necessitate that they be part of the international community. Translation is already an issue at the United Nations, and the addition of a delegation of harbor seals would only further escalate already alarming levels of Entropy. There is no known linguistic study of harbor seal language, nor is it even apparent if harbor seals have a language. The presence of harbor seals at the U.N. would only further frustrate the already fragile dialogue between human states.

Despite all this, MacDuff's position is surprisingly fresh for a presidential ballot surely to be filled with politicians that "talk greasy," to use Curtis James Jackson's phrase. Most importantly, MacDuff addresses problems still unrecognized by mainstream politicians. What Democrat or Republican possesses the courage to stand up and declare a war on Entropy and Heat Death? MacDuff has the requisite courage, and his courage is backed with practical defense policies: "With only 3% of the military strategically deployed and practicing Kelvinic Levitation, the influx of non-Entropic universal energy will be enough to create an impenetrable Thermodynamic barrier that will repel missiles, invaders' and terrorists alike."

There are many more third parties to detail before the election year gets blue balls and becomes red in the face, drunk off baloney. But, as far as I can tell from researching the party mentioned above, there shall not be true political equanimity in America until Jim Lehrer says to a national audience, "Good evening, America. We welcome you to tonight's presidential debate between Democrats, Republicans, Fascists, Thermodynamicists, Communists, Anarchists, and a constipated, loquacious harbor seal holding a specially designed, God-endorsed shotgun. Someone please save this country."

It is unclear if MacDuff and the TLP here mean invaders to signify merely invaders from other countries or, more broadly, space invaders. TLP's stance toward extraterrestrial life is, in fact, not stated. It is also not stated whether or not extraterrestrial life, should it exist, would be considered part of the Entropy the TLP is trying to confront. How Mork and Alf fit into MacDuff's vision of Entropy is also not clear.

The internet homepage for the Thermodynamic Law Party (TLP): <http://zapatopi.net/tlp/>

Thermodynamic Law Party Candidate: Dr. Doug MacDuff

Little to nothing is known about the Thermodynamic Law Party (TLP) candidate (as well as the party itself), Dr. Doug MacDuff. This should not stop American voters from taking notice of this party and its leading man.

MacDuff is the only candidate so far to decisively state his opinion on the increasing presence of a thing called Entropy. Does one need a full explanation of Entropy to know that it needs to be addressed, and with vengeance? No. And if America is going to fight Entropy, what better way than with a "shield of negative Entropy...making [America] impervious to hostile forces" that would allow us to leave the rest of the world to a worse Hell than it is already in? And how about the "reality of our 'nuclear program'"? Are we really convinced by Hiroshima, Nagasaki, and current underground testing? MacDuff is not convinced. Subsequently, there is a candidate willing to voice concerns on the issues of the reality of nuclear weapons, Entropy, and most of human history.

Do I understand anything MacDuff is saying? Not really. But this does not mean that MacDuff's concerns should be ignored. Yet, the above concerns pale in comparison to the radical propositions made in the following statement: "... I will work with the Canadians to end the subjugation of the Republic of Cascadia and liberate her peoples and hominoids from unjust Federal rule. I will also support the return of the Kingdom of Hawa'i and the seceding of Alaska to the harbor seals. Expansion is known to cause Heat

to do it on the part of subjugated hominoids.

The term "hominoids," as MacDuff uses it, does not refer to any species scientifically accepted as part of the Great Ape family, as any zoologist reading this would assume. MacDuff, in a rather optimistic gesture, uses hominoid to refer to what is called the "sasquatch." Or, as it is more commonly known, Big Foot. Apparently, the Republic of Cascadia that the TLP endorses has already formed the Bureau of Sasquatch Affairs.

For the purpose of educating voters on groups with which MacDuff commonly associates, here is the beginning of a Bureau story salient to the current geopolitical situation: "Sasquatch Militia Special Forces, part of the global Hominoid coalition seeking to liberate Iraqi Enkidu from oppressive Human rule, took the region of Kashq after hours of fierce rock-outcropping-to-rock-outcropping fighting. Two Sasquatch were slightly injured in the battle as the result of friendly log swinging, while over 4000 Iraqi Human oppressors lay limbless."

It is only logical that in MacDuff's extension of rights to a yet undocumented hominoid, he would also extend what are essentially anthropomorphic notions to a non-human species. MacDuff's harbor seal proposition, should he ever make it to national debates, would provide Democrats and Republicans an obvious target. They might criticize MacDuff for failing to recognize the distinction between harbor seals and humans. They would likely point out that harbor seals do not usually go more than three hundred yards from

Amy Foster, cont'd.

- continued from page three -

remove trees in the winter which are dead and use them as mulch. Sawkill Creek is used to water plants. Our plantings and soil come from outside sources. We would use Bard compost but there are too many objects in the compost for us to use it and also it's not really appropriate for ornamental plants.

FP: What do you see for the future of Bard's landscape?

AF: Well, one big thing coming up is the Board of Trustees recently approved the landscape here as an arboretum. Bill Maple,

beloved Bard biology professor, will be the arboretum director and will find ways to incorporate the grounds into the academic program. Our collection of trees includes the oak, which is our mascot tree (even though it is native to 47 states out of 50!). We also have a lot of eastern white pine, and many others.

For the future I'd like to see our budget expanded so we can make new landscapes and not just focus on maintenance. We are seeing the older trees declining, many of them are 200 years old or more. With all the new buildings in the works

we will need to be planting new trees and gardens within the next five years. It would be nice to have a selection of age groups for the trees as the campus grows. We are going to need new plants and more labor for all the new projects coming up. We'll stay on top of it as much as we can!

FP: What alternative gardening techniques do you use? Any edibles?

AF: We do have some edible plants including nasturtium and fennel which I like to plant

around Kline. There was an herb garden on campus. More recent designers use eggplant and ornamental peppers. I'd like to integrate those into the landscape along with millet.

FP: What do you ideally want the landscape to look like within the next five years?

AF: Physically I'd like to see more places where Bard students can enjoy nature. I'd like to create more paths and benches in the woods and generally make the campus a more pedestrian friendly

environment. I would love to get a master plan grant. Right now the planning is piecemeal for projects we work on. It would be nice to integrate hardscaping (paths, lighting, benches etc.) with softscaping (landscaping, gardens, plantings etc.).

FP: Anything else?

AF: We have a website: <http://inside.bard.edu/horticulture/>. And we'd love to have more Bard students involved with what we do! If you are interested come work for us or consider becoming a member of the arboretum.

THE 2ND ANNUAL FREE PRESS AWARDS
* WINNERZZZZZZZZZZZZ!

Best Date: Zack Morris

Best Make-Out Spot on Campus __at a Kline party

Biggest Waste of Money _ leaving the lights on in Kline and Olin all night

Person Most Likely to be Offended by a Nomination — Noah Weston

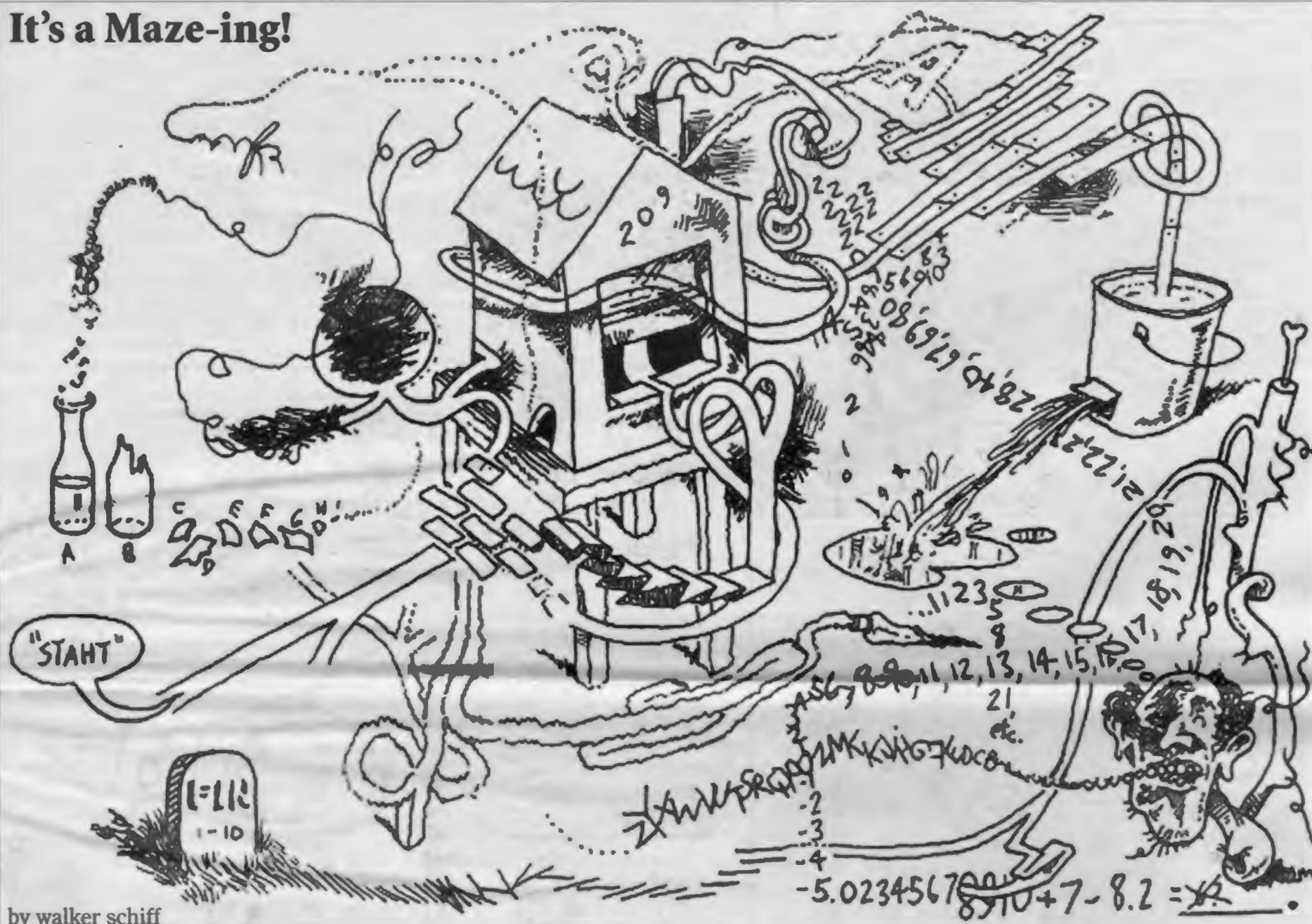
Best Fake-Out Spot on Campus _ SMOG

Best _otters holding hands

Best Aborted Jumble

Worst only one double-sided printer on campus

It's a Maze-ing!



by walker schiff

B. Fuller at Student Labor Dialogue, cont'd.
Bard, cont'd. *- continued from page three*
 include events that would interest programming.

- continued from front page -

with them modes of perception, that are not merely zero-sum.

As early as the late 1940s, engineer Buckminster Fuller proposed a radical alternative to the 'war game' – a so-called 'world game' in which players would learn to develop new modes of understanding world resources and needs in a manner that was explicitly not a 'zero sum game.' A number of computer games, and 'real world' games dependent on artificial intelligence, have developed that similarly call into question the dominant paradigms of conflict in games. The Tech / Action conference will outline these new possibilities theoretically, practically, and experientially. On Friday May 18, we will focus on the experience of games and conflict; on May 19, we will engage in a series of discussions on the meaning of such games. On Friday the 18th, students, staff and faculty will have the opportunity to play an updated version of the Buckminster Fuller 'World Game' at 10:30 am in the MPR.

Email kate.crockford@gmail.com to register in advance for this special session.

- continued from page three

include events that would interest more of the workers on campus. The administrators present were very responsive to these suggestions and committed to working with students to improve community relations. Specifically, they committed to working with L & T and residential staff to try and implement the student's suggestions around L & T

B-town Publish- ing House, cont'd.

- continued from page two -

uniformly cut, what with bombs higher on the federal government's shopping list. Station Hill has adapted by decreasing the number of new books it publishes, focusing instead on its back catalogue. As the Press works through this time of transition, it will have plenty of inspiration to continue to expand the conceptions of human possibility in the books it publishes.

For more information visit stationhill.org, which Cameron assures me is about to be revamped.

programming.

This meeting will hopefully be the first of an ongoing dialogue between SLD and administrators. In addition to its continued support of the workers at Bard, the SLD plans to continue to work with the administration to try and improve Bard's relationship with labor both inside and outside the classroom.

Shuttle, cont'd.

- continued from front page-

increasing importance to the student body. "With the changing number of students, and with 50 additional students living in Tivoli next year at the old school house," the new bus will be particularly helpful. "The old school house" Schmidt refers to is the large brick building next to the bakery on Broadway, which has recently been renovated into apartments catering specifically to Bard students.

Bard's transportation fleet is now composed of the new 33-seater, the older 21- and 14-seaters, and a 6-passenger van. "I don't have to worry anymore that I won't get a seat," said a student.



Jumble!

by jesse malméd

DID YOU HEAR THE
ONE ABOUT THE SINGLE-
VALENCE ANARCHO-
CHEMIST WHO WENT
TO BARD?

OOOOO CILFK OOOOOO ARAVEL

OOOOO DEARIR OOOOOO EBEDAD

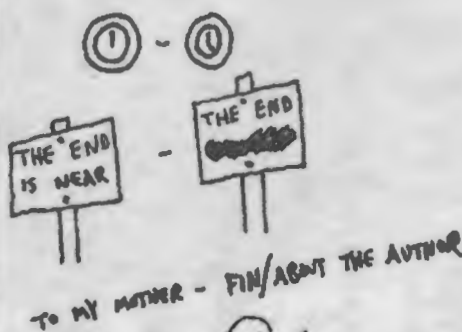
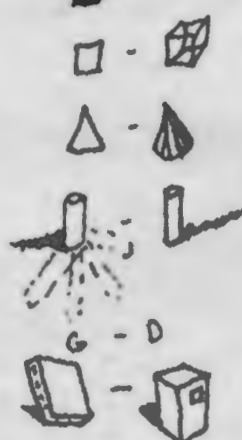
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new jumble malméd

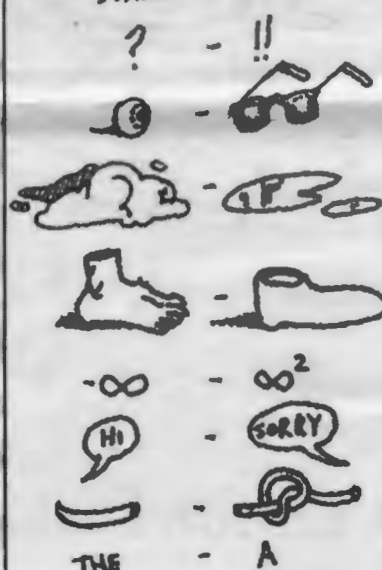
by walker schiff

1-10
A-Z
WHITE-BLACK
R-V



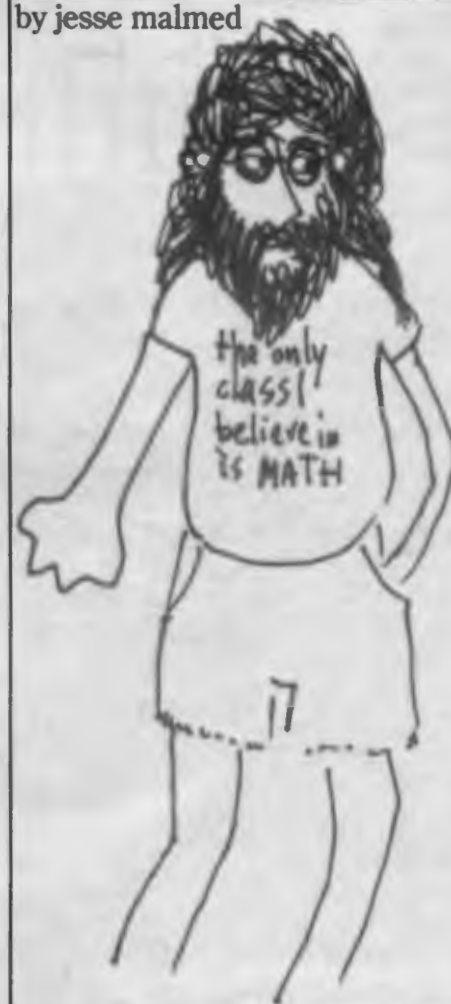
WALKER - Walker

START - FINISH



THE - A

by jesse malméd



by willie berliner

"A safe bet."



"Object of the hunt."



by lydia aikenhead

STUFFONMYCAT.COM



by kelly

The Bard Free Press Classifieds

SEEKING

FURNITURE Seeking to buy used furniture to furnish a thus far completely unfurnished three-bedroom apartment in Elizaville (near Tivoli) for Fall of 07!!! Trying to move in at the end of August!!! My name is Kyle Schwartz, my house mates are Vladimir Pick and Nate Saucier. I live only 1.5 hours away from bard, so I'm available to pick up furniture and make various trips at your convenience! Call me at (914)420-4176 or email me at ks197@bard.edu.

FILM AND VIDEO STUDENTS Let's get real, film and video students. You want an awesome soundtrack

made for your stuff by balls-to-the-wall musicians, and I need things to put in a portfolio. Let's hook up next year. Contact ak324@bard.edu.

NYLT you to shut up. "Love" Cat Head No Shirt.

AVAILABLE

LOTS OF STUFF Samsung computer monitor (flat screen not flat panel) - \$50 or best offer; 70 audio burnable cds- \$3; TI 83 Plus calculator- \$5; Ice hockey skates size W8 1/2 and shin guards- \$20; Yoga mat with carrying wrap strap- \$5; Wood chess board with carved wood peices- \$5; Small fridge from reuse store- free; 3 way floor lamp- free; 4 clothing storage containers- free;

Inflatable twin mattress- free. Contact aw984@bard.edu.

MINI-FRIDGE I am selling a mini-fridge for \$60, marked down from \$120. 1 1/2 years of use. 24x18x19". Contact ee527@bard.edu or x4670.

1995 SATURN stick shift for sale. Runs smooth, gets you where you need to go, only 450 dollars! Call Tullah at (301)830-1855, or email tullah.sutcliffe@gmail.com.

RIDE Need a ride down south? I will be driving to East Tennessee via I-81 on either the 27th or 28th. If you want to join and help out with gas or driving and such, please contact me. I can stop anywhere along I-81 for you to meet another ride to go where you need to be. Contact Ryan (423) 312-6215.

SUMMER SUBLET Two bedroom apartment in Red Hook available for subletting during the summer! Terrific location, right in the middle of town and next to the Red Hook Curry House. Spacious kitchen & living room, charming bathroom, and two great bedrooms. AND it's fully furnished! 1250/month. E-mail ca879@bard.edu or call (251) 709-7441.

MY SO CALLED LIFE full series DVD set! Practically new - I bought it for my sister, who didn't want it. \$50? Less? Price negotiable. Contact mm477@bard.edu.

CHRYSLERSEBRING 2 wheel dr, 4 cyl, 1996. 89,000 miles, left fender damaged. Good working order. \$3,000 or best

offer. Contact Corrie Siegel: (818)521-5286.

DELL COMPUTER laptop, used four years, in perfect working condition, may need new battery. Literally still works. Price negotiable. Contact Lena at ls295@bard.edu.

3 COUCHES and **AN ENDTABLE** for sale, cheap! Contact Kelly at lenasradnick@gmail.com.

MISSED CONNECTIONS

BC: R.E.A.L. OC still down with The DL. Ya heard?

Jeffwig: <3