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PRAYERS ANSWERED: VP Jim Brudvig, left, led the student gov. through Bard's celestial answer to the housing crunch

## New Alcohol Restrictions Raise Suspensions of Policy Shift

BY TRAVIS WENTWORTH &amp; DANIEL TERNA

The Dean of Students Office introduced new alcohol restrictions this fall that enact recommendations from Bard's lawyers to ban alcohol from Budget Forum and to prohibit clubs from using their Convocation Fund grants to purchase alcohol for parties. Budget Forum, which had come to be seen as an icon of the uniquely Bardian fruits of excess, was moved from Kline to the Campus Center MPR, an alcohol-free zone, where it was held on Sept. 19. [See pg. 2]

The new regulations have set the rumor mill churning, circulating claims that, for example, alcohol can no longer be served at registered parties, or that security must be enlisted to check IDs and dispense wristbands. None of this is true, according to Dean of Students Erin Cannan, who argues that the significance of the new regulations has been overblown. "We don't want to be like other colleges," Cannan told the FREE PRESS in response to the proposition that Bard is moving towards a dry-campus policy. Parties will still function largely as before, with the presence of kegs, except that organizers must raise their own funds for refreshments.

Marshall Guthrie, Associate Dean of Students, sees the new Budget Forum as positive evolution. While he respects the value of iconic cultural institutions, "a lot of traditions at Bard aren't necessarily good traditions." He thought the Sept. 19 Budget Forum "went great," that the serious business of electing candidates to the student government and to the Student Judiciary Board, as well as voting on legislation and allocating club funds, functioned more effectively and more fairly sans alcohol. Last year, by contrast, students hyped up on 35 cases of Natty Ice and Genesee "were

chanting for beer," and the process degenerated into an unnecessarily adversarial system that grew more and more hostile as the level of intoxication increased.

Bard's legal counsel made the recommendations for new alcohol restrictions last year on the grounds that using College funds to fuel what could become dangerous intoxication leaves the administration egregiously susceptible to liability for harm. However large this loophole was, though, Bard retains substantial risk when it comes to student behavior. "No matter what," Cannan says, "at the end of the day, Bard is going to be held liable." As a result, the administration must reconcile a respect for the law—that the school must not sanction alcohol consumption by minors—with a more pragmatic approach that will more likely keep all students safe. In shaping its alcohol policy, Bard's treatment of underage drinking acknowledges both concerns, but tends to favor pragmatism over absolutism.

Still, the new regulations have given ammunition to students who have long argued that Bard has steadily tamped down the on-campus party scene over the past few years as Bard attempts to recast

*In enforcement of drinking policy, administration confronts tensions between legality and practicality.*

its image into that of a more mainstream institution. The restrictions invoke a persistent trope: Old Bard giving way to New Bard. Those with first-hand memories of the Kline smoking room, Drag Race, or the Old Gym/Red Room—a grungy music venue/hangout space/debauchery den that preceded today's Smog—are mostly no longer with us; all that remains are recollections of the students who could tell those stories. The insurgent New Bard is becoming increasingly evident, characterized best by the shiny new RKC science building that

ALCOHOL on pg. 5

## Bard May Convert Seminary into Secondary Campus

*Castle-like complex across the Hudson might house upperclassmen as early as next fall.*

BY DANIEL TERNA

Bard is considering the purchase of the massive Mount St. Alphonsus Redemptorist Pastoral Center, a castle-like Catholic retreat center located 30 minutes from Annandale, according to Vice President Jim Brudvig.

The 180,000 square foot facility outside the town of Esopus, known locally as The Mount, may become a secondary Bard campus, capable of housing up to 250 students in dormitories that for decades housed seminary students, priests, and monks. The complex, built over a hundred years ago, also includes an ornate Romanesque chapel and a four-level library.

The site encompasses over 400 hilltop acres that provide sweeping views of the Hudson River. Bard would acquire only 50 of those acres, but that would include the main building.

Members of the student government and Residence Life were invited by Brudvig last Thursday to tour the grounds that could be buzzing with Bard students as early as the next school year, although the Board of Trustees will first have to approve the purchase.

The precise role the facility will play in undergraduate student life remains unclear. The Mount would primarily house upperclassmen, as well as perhaps some graduate students,

CASTLE on pg. 4 CALLS TO MISSOURI: Bard Democrat Thea Piltzecker



## Bard Democrats Seize Obamania to Push Local Campaigns

BY PATRICIA MANOS

Stereotypes of Bard students' political involvement: there's the vegan anarchist. There's the dispassionate Community Gardener. There's the vaguely-passionate-yet-gallingly-uninformed activist. But try combing the Bard College campus in search of someone who is not voting for Barack Obama. The quest will lead you to the farthest corners of Annandale. It might suggest you lay to rest old conceptions of Bard's historical difficulties in rallying around any particular leaders or parties. But among some final Obama holdouts, the question of "why?" will force conversations that explore some of the most pressing political matters affecting progressive and radical politics in the United States today.

For the Bard Democrats, the election season is looking good, especially as far as student enthusiasm for the Democratic presidential nominee is concerned. Though there is a set number of regulars attending meetings every Wednesday, many more drop in sporadically from week to week in order to learn how they, too, may help Barack Obama ascend to the presidency. Bard Democrat Anna Pycior notes that on the whole, "Bard students are understandably skeptical about party politics," but that during the course of this election, many of those "who would normally call themselves disenfranchised" are "coming to call themselves Progressive Democrats." If students' interest in the Democratic Party has increased as much as twofold in 2008 from what it was dur-

BARD DEMS on pg. 5

*Unprecedented support for Barack is altering Bard's political landscape—and ditching its radical roots.*



JESSICA LEBOVITS

# STEAL THIS PA- PER

Pop Smear p. 7  
SMOG p. 9  
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"I came to a liberal arts college for a reason. Denying me the right to choose what goes in my sandwich is not liberal, it's fascist." p. 3  
"Catholics and Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Pagans and even observers of tribal religions are all represented on campus." p. 7  
"Sex and gender tend to be equated: narrow conceptions of male v. female mean that we usually assume sex to be indicative of gender." p. 6  
"Products used on a daily basis are 'innocent until proven guilty,' a great approach that led to success stories like DDT and thalidomide." p. 6  
"At the heart of the matter is how much power students vest in their government when voting them into power." p. 10

## Bard Graduate to Distill Biodiesel on Campus

*With administration's support, co-op to begin production in the spring.*

BY PATRICIA MANOS

If Jack Woodruff and the biodiesel co-op get their way, Bard's trucks will run on what could have been your chicken tender wrap. Woodruff's quest to establish a biodiesel co-op at Bard has lasted three years, and though he graduated from Bard last December, his work toward bringing biodiesel distillation to the College is now coming to fruition. "What a struggle it has been," says Laurie Husted, Auditor of Bard Environmental Resources Department. "How glad we are that he has persevered." Several jobs remain to be done before operations can begin, but Woodruff seems optimistic.

The process, after all, is firmly in motion. Recent developments include the purchase of an 80-gallon water heater to be used as a biodiesel processor, and the acquisition of a long-sought space for biodiesel production just southwest of the southern-most barn near the physical plant complex. Woodruff credits B&G Director Chuck Simmons for playing an essential role in these accomplishments, as his work with the co-op has ranged from "providing a space and logistical support to working [with Woodruff] on code issues." Still, certain issues

must be sorted out before the inauguration, which is slated for this spring. At the co-op's first meeting this fall, prospective members were warned that biodiesel production cannot begin until a viable solution for the storage of methanol, a highly flammable component of the distillation process, is found. The co-op is also waiting for Bard to move the shed in which distillation will physically take place to a spot far enough away from the southern barn to put it in compliance with local fire codes. Students new to the co-op have been challenged to put their minds to work researching chemical storage options and investigating all potential sources of oil for biodiesel distillation. Titrations are currently being carried out to determine whether discarded oil from Kline and the Down the Road Cafe would be suitable for

distillation into biodiesel. Ultimately, Woodruff is counting on establishing "good relations with local restaurants" to meet the co-op's oil needs.

Interest in alternative and renewable energies draws even those who do not drive diesel-powered vehicles to champion the development of biodiesel. But enthusiasm for alternative energies in the past has out-

she says, "no matter how small or inconsistent, is helpful" for both environmental and logistical purposes. Because biodiesel can be mixed with existing diesel fuel in a standard diesel engine, Bard-generated biodiesel can safely be tested on a small scale before any more significant measures are taken to adopt biodiesel more widely on campus. "If he finds Bard

kitchen grease to be of appropriate quality, he is closing the loop on one of our waste products by re-using it on campus," Husted adds. According to the National Biodiesel Board, pure biodiesel used as fuel may be up to 78% lower in carbon dioxide emissions than petroleum. The Board also lists being essentially free of sulfur and 67% lower in its total emissions of unburned hydrocarbons—compounds that contribute to air pollution—as two of its virtues. Jack Woodruff adds that in its liquid form, biodiesel is as "non-toxic as sugar: [one] can literally eat it."

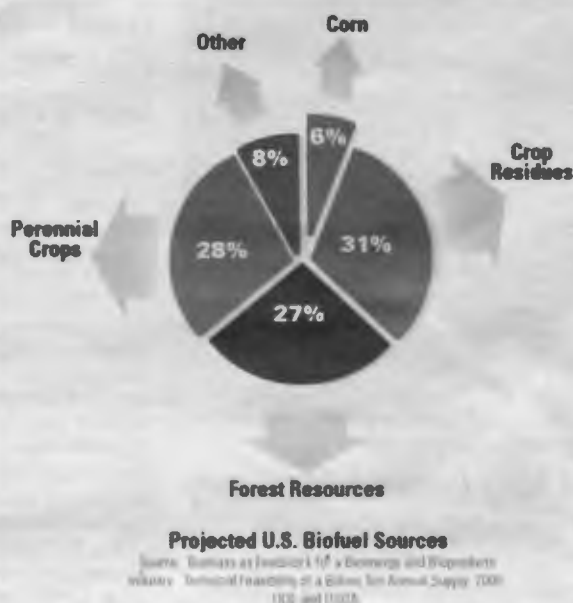
Woodruff hopes to base the co-op's organizational structure loosely on that of the Hudson

Valley Biodiesel Co-operative, based in Cottekill, NY, wherein members put a certain amount of time into working with the biodiesel and are, in turn, allowed to withdraw fuel. The overall goal, however, is to eventually create what Woodruff calls a "good, working system" which will enrich Bard by providing low-cost access to a new type of fuel. Woodruff also expects that the co-op, and the biodiesel movement as a whole, will benefit the surrounding community, both by the production of biodiesel for member use as well as by driving innovation and creating the opportunity to learn about alternative fuels.

Those who wish to participate in the Bard biodiesel co-op or seek more information should contact Jack Woodruff by email at [random903@yahoo.com](mailto:random903@yahoo.com).

weighed the practicality of new fuels. Ethanol, for example—the darling of American politicians and their multitudes of corn-growing constituents—finally fell from grace because it yields at most a third more energy than it requires to produce. Admittedly, though the biodiesel generated by the co-op is to be produced from oils that would otherwise go to waste, the amount of fuel generated at Bard would not be enough to fully power Bard's entire fleet of service vehicles. Biodiesel's proponents would face the additional burden of convincing the college to compromise vehicles' warranties by mixing conventional fuel with biodiesel.

In Laurie Husted's eyes, biodiesel's shortcomings don't diminish Woodruff's and the co-op's importance on campus. "Any production,"



## The Night of the Bureaucrats

*I should have just gone to the stoplight party.*

BY DANIEL TERNA

If you're sad you missed this semester's Budget Forum, stop. When I arrived at the alcohol-free Multi-Purpose Room in the Campus Center it was kind of like walking into a Windows Vista expo, because the lights were so bright and the student government was on an elevated stage with a giant PowerPoint screen presentation, and all the pizza was gone.

The event hadn't started yet so I asked Observer Editor-in-Chief Becca Rom-Frank if she was covering the Forum and if so how she felt about it. "It's my first time here," she said, even though she's a sophomore. So I asked her how she felt about the new no-beer policy, and while she's thinking Alana Moskowitz ('09), head of the Entertainment Committee, puts her arm around me and says, "I think yeah there should be beer here. It'd be more fun... it seems more in the spirit of Budget Forum. Instead the whole place is complaining." She said this with beer on her breath, but I don't know if she was actually drinking because she always has beer on her breath. She looked around the room's small assembly of students and declared, "There'd be more people here if there was alcohol."

Eventually Ryan Gustafson ('09), Secretary of the Student Association, stood up to the podium and cleared his throat. "Good evening," he said in that calm, soothing way of his.

"We can't be consumed by our petty differences anymore," Gustafson began. "We will be united in our common interests. Perhaps it's fate that today you will once again be fighting for our freedom at Bard. Not from tyranny, oppression, or persecution—but from annihilation. We're fighting for our right to live, to exist."

Students leaned forward, and you could feel all the energy in the room was directed towards him. Time seemed to stand still.

Raising his voice and grabbing the microphone, Gustafson continued, "We will not go quietly into the night! We will not vanish without a fight! We're going to live on! We're going to survive! Today is Budget Forum Day!"

The words were powerful, no doubt. But the Forum dissolved back into its drawn-out proceedings quickly thereafter.

It was really the formality that was getting to people. When I spoke with Joseph Geagan ('09), who wished to remain anonymous, he kept shaking his head, saying, "This sucks so much." Once in a while Rob Ross ('09) or Scott McMillen ('09) would belligerently catcall before or after someone's speech, but when I spoke with Rob he told me he was actually sober. It was too bad, because it seemed like he had to resort

to fanatics in order to keep the place exciting, and for that I couldn't blame him.

For those who are unaware, the old Budget Forums were held in Kline, on Wednesday nights, and about 35 cases of beer went to the party/Forum. There was usually a guy wearing a crazy donkey mask who helped hand out the beer, and everyone bunched up in the center of the room to hear both the friendly and hostile requests for money from other clubs. I remember last year some club wanted money from the FREE PRESS, so we told them they could have it if they could answer our Trivial Pursuit



question. I don't remember what it was, but they didn't get it and the point is that Budget Forum used to be so chill, and it was just so Bard to drink and make important decisions at the same time.

At this year's Forum, I became bored quickly and started drinking from a beer my friend had poured into a Down the Road cup. Then I saw this guy repeatedly throwing back a paper cup of vodka who was apparently a freshman who kept telling me he was from Paris and how much fun he was having at Bard.

I stuck around for about forty minutes total, saw some amendments get changed, and watched the agonizingly cliché student speeches drone on. I didn't even stay for the budget requests (of which there were three I think, and all from the Orcapelecan club). It was a Friday night and by the time I left half the crowd was gone. I did hear though that the Forum lasted around two hours and that some controversial speeches were made, but that's all I could tell you. I was going to say that if you wanted a more descriptive article, you should read the Observer's coverage, but then I remembered that their editor was the one I walked out with.

I took the liberty of checking out the stoplight party in order to see what a Bard event without beer would be like, and I made sure to wear green but I didn't get any action anyway.





## EATING

# DTR Shuts Down Options & Jacks Up Prices

The campus center cafe now has a fixed menu and a \$7 burger.

BY CONNOR BEATH

Students are living in trailers. Tuition is outrageously high. Kline food is questionable. Yet among Bard students' many causes for complaint, no issue has been more upsetting than the Down the Road Café's menu revolution.

The DTR has drastically altered its menu and jacked up the prices. Instead of being able to order a simple avocado sandwich on wheat bread—or culinary creations like fried tofu wraps with anchovies—students must choose between six fixed sandwiches. Coupled with the fact that many students who in previous years have used the DTR as an alternative to the "gross" or "boring" food at Kline and the Manor Café, this change leaves many feeling disenfranchised.

"I came to a liberal arts college for a reason," one disgruntled student told the FREE PRESS. Denying me the right to choose what goes in my sandwich is not liberal, it's fascist."

Despairing at the lack of choice in their menu, many have reverted to complaining vociferously. Apparently, being forced to order specific sandwiches and only the items displayed on the menu does not agree with most customers. This might be strange, considering that this practice is quite common in other cafés, restaurants, and dining establishments. The jolting contrast from last year's DTR has many students' palates tasting sour.

Eight-dollar hamburgers beg one essential question: why was this change enacted in the first place? At the time of publication, Mr. Chas Cerulli, Director of Dining Services,

had not responded to repeated requests for comment. And according to Secretary of the Student Association Ryan Gustafson, Cerulli was unwilling to address the question even with the Secretary of the Student Life Committee.

A few preliminary reasons seem apparent. First, establishing a fixed menu means easier training for new employees. Secondly, the preparation time of meals will be shorter, because the employees will be familiar with the items they are making. Characteristically indecisive Bard students no longer need be heard saying "three slices of tomatoes, and... I guess, like, provolone...? No! Cheddar." Now, only a single number need be shouted over the heads of students barricading access to the chefs, and in no time, a sandwich can be prepared with the pre-established ingredients.

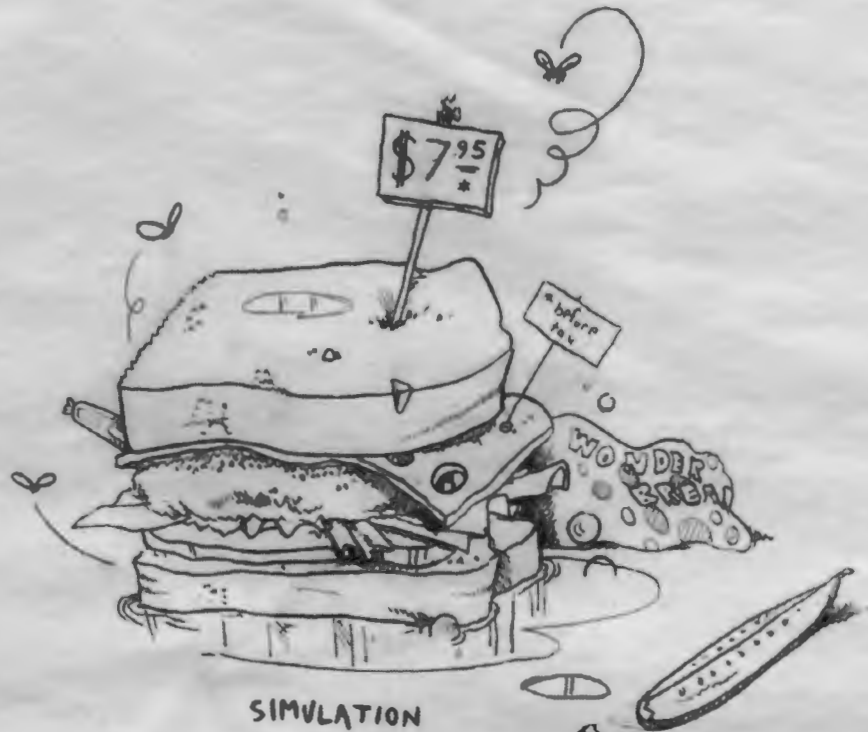
Thirdly and most importantly, this new system has the advantage of ensuring that DTR and Chartwells make more money. Undoubtedly, it was impossible to account for the vast range of additional toppings and ingredients with which students accessorized their meals last year. With the implementation of a fixed menu, the cashier can be sure that miscreant students can't get away with anything. "I understand why DTR would want a fixed menu and that the prices are probably more realistic now, I just prefer the old system," explains another student, Robin Crofut-Brittingham.

According to the Chartwells website, "No two college students are alike, but when they're hungry, they all deserve fresh, delicious options." Chartwells seems to agree that good food is at least

the goal, but are they really providing delicious options? "Options, maybe; delicious, never," says one student. Six different sandwiches, three salads, assorted deep-fried selections, yogurts, various chips, cookies, and fruits are all, by definition, options, but fewer than the

infinite possibilities that made the DTR such a stoner's dreamland in the past.

Some off-campus students bemoan the lack of affordable on-campus food, and the need to return home several times a day to eat, instead of getting a cheap meal at the Down the Road.



WALKER TATE

## VOLUNTEERING

## Selling Sushi, Hammering Nails and Traveling to Build Houses

Bard Habitat for Humanity has big goals this year.

BY LARISSA WOHL

Most people have probably heard of Habitat for Humanity to some extent, whether it was someone's overheard conversation about a trip to South America to build houses, or in high school with a local Habitat group. But that's probably the extent to which people are familiar with it. I didn't know a lot about it before coming to Bard other than that it was an international organization that built people houses. Great. Sounds like fun. However, it is a little more than that, and Bard does, in fact, have a very active chapter of Habitat for Humanity on its campus.

Habitat for Humanity is an international organization and it does build people houses, but the work that goes into making each house, the fundraising, the volunteer-power, the organization, etc. is something most people don't think about. The organization builds affordable housing for families who prove through a long and arduous application process that they are in need, can pay for the house at an affordable rate over a fixed amount of time, and will work a certain number of hours (sweat equity) on the house in order to be accepted. At each site there are paid supervisors who are experts in their fields of construction,

plumbing, electricity, etc. But there are also volunteers who work year round in order to make sure that things run smoothly and there is enough funding.

All of these sites accept and encourage groups, especially college and local youth groups, to come build for a day, a weekend, or a week. Last semester during spring break, our Habitat for Humanity group drove down

to the eastern shore of Virginia for a week to work on a house. We stayed at a local church and worked from about 9:00 to 4:00. This particular house had the frame fully constructed, but lacked ~~carpet~~ and a deck. No problem! Some of us worked on both the porch and the deck, put siding on the exterior walls, and worked in the house on electrical boxes. Others, myself included, became

the moles of the group and worked down under the house to install insulation and all of the plumbing for the kitchen and bathroom.

I know I speak for all of us when I say that we had a truly amazing experience there. Not only did we get to build a family a house, but we met some great volunteers, met the actual family that was going to move into the house, and

were welcomed with open arms by the local church community that housed us. The reverend of the church even made a 15-ft. bonfire for us the last night in the rain after a community potluck dinner with the family, local volunteers, and church members.

This year, we're looking to do more local work. There is a site in Ellenville that is going to begin construction again in October. We want to put together a few Saturday community work days to take all who are interested.

We require a lot of fundraising. Building a house for Habitat for Humanity can cost anywhere from \$60,000 to \$120,000. Due to these high costs, in addition to sponsorship and large donations, each Habitat organization requests a \$100 donation from each volunteer. Therefore most of what we do on campus revolves around raising money. In the past we have put together some great homemade sushi, had bake sales, sold coffee and hot chocolate, and even hosted our first cook off last year. Now we're putting all our effort into fundraising in order to go abroad next year, perhaps somewhere in South America. While this is only a possibility, we do plan on going on a trip in the near future, perhaps back to the Eastern Shore of Virginia.

So if and when you see our group around the campus center with one of our famous sushi sales or maybe even some new and exciting fundraisers, you'll now have a better idea of what we do and where all of your money goes. Not to mention you, too, can get involved in your local community by coming with us on one of our community work days!

Buy a cookie. Work a day. Build a house. From little acts to large commitments, everyone can be involved. Be a part of something big.



CASTLE from pg. 1

and could additionally offer office space for retired professors, according to Brudvig, and might also host some upper-level seminars. Three new hybrid shuttles would provide transportation to and from the Annandale campus.

It also remains unclear how long it will take for Bard to negotiate a price and to make a decision on the purchase, which Brudvig estimates will involve from eight to 20 million dollars. He also emphasized that there are fewer logistical obstacles involved with revamping a building like The Mount than with erecting new facilities on campus, which would invariably involve more Williams-like temporary constructions.

While The Mount may provide some alleviation to the housing shortage, administrators seem more drawn to it for its historical and architectural value. Leon himself has been a proponent of the purchase, and first introduced the possibility to the Office of Residence Life during PC training at the beginning of this semester, according to Res Life area coordinator Anna Lehn.

In conversations with students at one of his evening Q&A sessions, Leon claimed that the logistics of the purchase had mostly been worked out, implying that the Board of Trustees was most likely on board with the purchase. The only question that looms is whether the priests who run Alphonsus will in the end decide to relinquish the historic site.

Given that The Mount has been operating at a loss for around a decade, it seems the priests will have little choice but to sell. The vast amounts spent on upkeep, the priests realized, could have been put to much better use through missionary work and the alleviation of poverty. As the site has morphed into more and more of a resort during the past decade, it became clear to the priests, according to Leon, that they wanted Alphonsus to once again be used as a teaching and learning environment. The historical and preservation group Scenic Hudson



DANIEL TERNA

**BIBLES BY THE BOX:** the four-level library is dusty with disuse, but could offer the peace and quiet that Stevenson often lacks

linked Alphonsus with Bard College.

With sprawling hills, apple orchards, and an overlook of the Hudson River, the view The Mount affords rivals that of Bard's beloved Blithewood, and might play a role similar to the mythical mansion, which once offered sanctuary for undergraduates. Students on last week's tour noted the proximity to downtown Kingston, an area that is rising in popularity due to its coffee shops and art galleries.

The 50 acres that are being offered

(Bard's Annandale campus is 550 acres) include tennis courts and baseball diamonds, a cemetery for Redemptorist priests, and a scenic road that winds down to the riverside. The building's interior boasts single and double dorm rooms, lounges, several large meeting rooms, a cafeteria (food is already being provided by Chartwells), an auditorium, the four-level library, and the 250-seat Romanesque chapel with German-made stained glass windows.

There is also a smaller convent

close to The Mount that houses several nuns who will most likely stay where they are after the turnover to Bard. In that event, the relationship between Bard students and the nuns could be both an enlightening and delicate one.

According to a 2006 report in the Kingston Daily Freeman, Mt. Saint Alphonsus was founded as a seminary and over the years ordained over 2,000 Redemptorist priests. By 1985, however, the number of seminarians had dropped precipitously, and the

facility became a retreat center that over the past few years has hosted 10,000 people every year.

Its towers, according to the Freeman report, were chiseled from authentic European stone. The handful of priests, nuns, brothers and seminarians who have lived at Mount St. Alphonsus over the past decade have focused on prayer and advocacy on behalf of the poor, a tradition seen in murals in the chapel that depict priests taking the Gospel to the abandoned.



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## COP SHOP

Dispatches and Alerts from Your Friend Ken Cooper

**BARD SECURITY TACKLES TERRORISTS & VANDALS; TELLS YOU HOW TO NOT GET SHOT.**

-On the evening of Tuesday, Sept. 24, a skunk attack resulted in a student's food being eaten by the terrorist. We are on alert for the perp. Description: two-tone, long hair, very smelly.

-The Stevenson Gym was tagged by what we believe to be high school geniuses. They marked the building's back door, and one of our vans was the victim of some inventive expressions from our braniacs: "FUCK YOU." These were expensive marks for our gym. We are looking for or local vandals.

-Bicycle thefts are on the rise. Bikes are victims of "Bard Borrowing," as well as actual theft. They should be locked to bike racks when not being used.

-Security owns two electric bicycles. We will be using them for patrol. ...Really!

-I will be having lunch at Kline with Frank Serpico Wednesday.

-Hunting season is coming. Think about reducing hiking, and modifying your wardrobe to include more lime green and bright orange.

-The Main Lot is better - thanks for the support, keeping resident cars out of the Olin area. Sorry for the towing - needed to be done.

-There have been no reports of cars passing stopped school buses. Remember, if a school bus, police or emergency vehicle has its lights on, you must never pass it.



## ALCOHOL from pg. 1

seems to question the liberal-artsiness of the incoming classes, and of Bard's overarching institutional vision. Budget Forum is the latest vestige of Old Bard to disappear.

The administrators who spoke with the FREE PRESS all expressed support for reducing the legal drinking age to 18, but emphasized that until then, Bard would not be willing to abrogate its good relations with the local law enforcement community by demonstrating anything less than a healthy respect for the law. Ken Cooper, Bard's Security Director, sees respecting the law and respecting Bard as an institution as parallel goals.

*'Bard is not the Bowery. I refuse to have anybody walking around with a brown paper bag. It's outrageous.'*

"Bard is not the Bowery," he says. "So I refuse to have anybody, whether it's faculty, staff or student, walking around with a brown paper bag. It's outrageous." Cooper directs his guards to confiscate alcohol from minors they encounter in public spaces—as many Bard students have experienced—as well as inside student spaces when there is reasonable cause for guards to enter.

On the first Friday this fall, Nate Gandrud and four friends were standing around a beer pong table in the basement of Hirsch. Those who were playing the game had ducked out for a cigarette, so when a security officer descended and found them with beer and a table, all the evidence suggested they were in violation of what happens to be the only specific drinking rule in the student handbook: a ban on drinking games, and more specifically, beer pong's most stalwart enablers, tables. ("Paraphernalia identified as having been used in a drinking game," the handbook reads, "including tables, may be confiscated and will become the property of the College.") Gandrud claims not to have been playing, but after a meeting with an Associate Dean of Students Lora Seery, he was put on social probation.

More remarkable than the table ban, though, is the fact that Gandrud is not a minor. "I never thought at 22 I'd get social probation for just drinking a beer," he told the FREE PRESS. As a senior, Gandrud is one of many who insist that a conscious decision from the administration has made the enforcement of alcohol regulations successively stricter every year. "That party never would have been broken up when I was a freshman," he says. Students have also noticed that security guards patrol dorm basements more regularly than in the past.

Whether Bard is in the midst of a crackdown or not, some deans admit that crafting an alcohol policy entirely around the legal drinking age is not a viable option. "It's not feasible to try to enforce those laws strictly," Guthrie says. Instead, while he insists that the deans will continue to respect the drinking age, he suggests that they would be remiss, in fact, if the drinking age were their only concern. "What is feasible," says Guthrie, "is that we're going to confront problem drinking behavior regardless of whether you're 18 or 28." Such a rubric seems to emphasize a concern for substance abuse over the need to police minors, and it suggests that for students over 21 who come under the attention of security and the deans for substance-related incidents, majority will not exonerate their behavior.

Cooper, too, cites excessive drinking as a more serious issue than casual drinking, but for enforcement purposes

makes no concessions regarding the relative safety of the setting or the strength of the liquor. "We're regulated by a state mandate — it's 21 years of age," he says. "I'm just here to do a proper security job, and be kind of cool about it. But it's student behavior, how they regulate themselves, that dictates what happens on this campus."

The deans' approach, on the other hand, has evolved into a sliding scale of sorts that depends on the type of liquor involved. "My sense is that people who are getting into trouble aren't getting beer from a keg," says Cannan, emphasizing that banning kegs from parties is not a sensible approach to curbing alcohol risk. Straight hard liquor is generally not tolerated, either by security or by the deans, whether the student is underage or not. Beer, though, can get by fairly easily.

When Guthrie is on campus at night, he explains, his standard centers around what he calls "pocket beers." If a student who doesn't appear intoxicated isn't carrying more beer than one person can drink, that person is generally left alone. Dubious water bottles are more likely to be confiscated. But only when the student is a repeat offender, or when it's clear that the student has serious problems with self-regulation, that the matter goes any further. "Security has a much different role than the Dean of Students Office," he says.

Stories of encounters with deans and with security seem to spread quickly around campus, at times giving students what would seem to be evidence that reactions from authorities tend to be inconsistent. Last fall, such stories proliferated more than usual, and administrators noticed the same pattern. As a result, the deans began meeting weekly with Cooper and several guards to agree on standard responses for given situations. According to Guthrie, two guards had recently been hired from other colleges to work on what Cooper calls the "A-line," the security shift from 11:00PM to 7:00AM. These guards apparently came from colleges where alcohol enforcement was indeed much more thorough than at Bard, but through the meetings a more uniform status quo was established.

Lately, though, Cooper says he's asking more of the A-line. "These guys are very active. They don't let anything go. They will ask questions." If there is "a greater perception that more things are happening, it's just maybe I'm

*Guthrie's standard centers around 'pocket beers.' Dubious water bottles are more likely to be confiscated.*

tasking them to do more, to be a little bit more intense with certain things, just to make sure that everything's okay."

But critics decry policies that attempt to curb on-campus drinking not just as inhibitors to quality partying, but as contrary to common sense. A more significant problem, as many studies have shown, as well as statistics from EMS, is that unsanctioned, surreptitious drinking tends to be the most dangerous. And others see the Bard social scene moving off campus: with the larger sizes of each new freshman class, an increasing percentage of those on campus are not of legal drinking age, a trend that is further accentuated by the housing crunch driving upperclassmen to Red Hook, Tivoli and Germantown in greater numbers than before. The liability Bard may have faced by allowing students to purchase alcohol with tuition money might be dwarfed by the specter of increased drunk driving between campus and the nearby towns, the substitution of the local police for security, and ambulances for EMS.

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## BARD DEMS from pg. 1

ing the previous election, Pycior attributes it to Obama. "If it were Kerry, I don't think we'd get as much support."

If Obama's popularity among Bard students can be gauged by the volume of the applause heard in the MPR after a showing of his acceptance of the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, it seems safe to say that Bard is overwhelmingly behind the Democratic candidate. It is also difficult to imagine this election's seeing anything other than a Democratic win in New York State, but this is no reason for the Bard Democrats to rest easy. Many share Pycior's worry that whether or not Barack Obama is elected to the presidency will largely depend on whether voters are able to "get to know Obama in such a short time." To that end, getting undecided voters to embrace Obama is an obstacle that the campaign must surmount between now and November, which is why the Bard Democrats can be found in the campus center fishbowl calling voters in the swing state of Missouri en masse every Monday. They are also planning to join forces with Democrats from other New York colleges during a fall break canvassing excursion into Pennsylvania, a state whose 21 electoral votes make it essential to an Obama victory.

Though it is Obama who is foremost on students' minds, it is only the beginning to the Bard Democrats, who stress that there is more than simply one election to be settled in November. New York may be solidly blue, but upstate Congressional districts tend to be toss-ups. Highlighting the essential role of Bard students voting locally to elect Democrats to congress, the Bard Democrats are trying to convince students that their votes for local politicians go "straight to D.C." Many Bard

students are currently devoting their Saturday and Sunday afternoons to canvassing for Kirsten Gillibrand, a Democrat running for reelection to the House of Representatives. Gillibrand's campaign emphasizes her having voted yea on legislation demanding that tax breaks be stripped from gas and oil companies, and she intends to take a progressive stance aimed at legislating higher standards of transparency among elected officials through measures such as the establishment of an independent ethics commission to monitor financial gifts from lobbyists and special-interest PACS to members of Congress.

Given the rhetoric of change that is coloring the tone of the presidential

*Unfortunately for Bard students, the compromise Obama needs to win eschews the radicalism that has traditionally defined them.*

election, it is understandable for the Bard Democrats to feel that students will be best represented by a seemingly reform-minded politician such as Gillibrand. But despite the proliferation of Obama bumper stickers, many Bard students are divided on the credibility of Obama's post-partisan message. Many are questioning the ability of any elected representative working within the current system of government to truly represent his or her constituents at all or bring about radical change. There is something incongruous, these students seem to say, about the idea that an individual voting in this presidential election can help enact change when, whatever the election's outcome, the result will be the continuation of a two-party system of government, headed

by a single man, that eschews radical or alternative viewpoints. "Democracy shouldn't be about settling," says Bard student Brian Ehrenpreis, who wonders whether the Obama platform is one that "Bard would agree with if they were to pay more attention." Ehrenpreis is particularly incensed at Senator Obama's support of the FISA legislation, which greatly extends the federal government's power to obtain intelligence and in some cases provides legal immunity to telecommunications companies that cooperate with government espionage.

To Ehrenpreis, Obama's support of FISA is an act of "high treason" that cannot simply be looked at as the electoral pandering it is made out to be by some Obama supporters. "We don't live in the same America" since the Democrats "lent their voice to a bill that destroyed the right to privacy," he says; to him, the election is not a simply a matter change versus the status quo, and he feels he must join the ranks of those who do not feel comfortable legitimizing political candidates who they do not feel represent them. Ehrenpreis has said he won't be voting in the upcoming election.

It would seem that there is something especially ironic emanating from the Obama campaign's image of mass grassroots organization. Like the success of any other campaign, the success of the Obama campaign is contingent upon his ability to establish a public persona that Americans broadly will embrace. He must commodify himself in such a way as to convince the greatest number of Americans to "buy" his political package and thereby willingly cede personal choice to a higher authority. Unfortunately for Bard students, the compromise Obama needs to win eschews the radicalism that has traditionally defined them.





## BUYER BEWARE

## Wipe That Toxic Look Off Your Face

*The spineless FDA has let manufacturers run amok with carcinogenic cosmetics.*

BY KENDRA SCHIRMER

The non-profit advocacy group Environmental Working Group (EWG) released a study this month offering first-ever exposure data for parabens in teens, which indicates that young women are widely exposed to this common class of cosmetic preservatives. These chemicals were detected in blood and urine samples from 20 girls aged 14 to 19. The tests found a total of 16 chemicals from four chemical families: phthalates, triclosan, parabens, and musks.

The ingredients in question belong to four classes of chemicals. The first, triclosan, is an artificial antimicrobial that has been linked to thyroid disruption, and possibly helps increase bacterial resistance to antibiotics. Three others have been shown to have hormone-mimicking abilities. Preservatives called parabens, the second group, which inhibit mold growth and increase the shelf lives of products, also have the ability to act like estrogen in lab tests. A 2004 study found that traces of five different parabens were found in the breast cancer tumors of 19 of 20 women examined. The third, synthetic musks, are widely used in fragrances (chemical cocktails of dozens of unlisted ingredients just labeled as "fragrance"). The fourth, phthalates, also commonly used in fragrances, has also recently gotten headlines for their pervasive use as plastic softeners. Reports have linked phthalates to sickness in baby boys, an increased risk of reproductive system birth defects, as well as greater chance of obesity and insulin resistance, which can lead to type-2 diabetes. Ingredients in all four classes have been linked to cancer in laboratory studies, the report says.

Two from the paraben family, methylparaben and propylparaben, were found in every single girl tested. Evidence from other studies suggests

as increased rates of breast cancer, and other acute and chronic diseases.

How is it possible that corporations are getting away with such a massively scaled tweaking of our endocrine systems? Even our very own regulatory authority, the Food and Drug Administration, can display the same gross neglect exhibited by the manufacturers of these products. This federal agency states that manufacturers, with few exceptions, "may use essentially any raw material as a cosmetic ingredient and market the product without approval from the FDA." They have no authority to require testing of cosmetic products before they hit the shelves. The ingredient list is a requirement, but it usually means nothing to the untrained consumer, and it also lacks any warning of the contaminants that may have formed during manufacture, potential interactions between ingredients, or chemical break-down as it sits on the shelf. Even more galling, the FDA cannot require the recall of a product suspected to be dangerous, since it must have firm evidence of immediate risk to human health (i.e. rash or illness), and even then, the decision to recall items is ultimately voluntary.

Instead of holding the government responsible for ensuring our safety when shampooing, the industry is self-policed by the actions of an industry panel called the Cosmetic Ingredient Review (CIR). Receiving its funding from the same companies it is "investigating," these scientists have only reviewed 11% of all ingredients found in our beauty products, and by the time they reach the front of the queue, many have already fallen out of regular use anyway. The Environmental Working Group has discovered that 80% of the CIR's chosen criteria for safety recommendations pertain to immediate reactions like sensitivity and irritation, not harder-to-track concerns like cancer, birth defects, and hormone disruption, which could take decades to show their effects. Of the chemicals

believe the claims or not."

All of this shamefully inadequate performance of a regulatory agency like the FDA is letting corporations forsake human and ecological health for profit and economic efficiency, and is yet another symptom of the failures that result from bills like the U.S. the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act. This is the law that governs cosmetics safety, but that does not require companies to test products for safety before they are released to consumers. In addition, we are still suffering from the consequences of the Toxic Substances Control Act of 1976, a law that purported to "regulate" all industrial chemicals used in the U.S. It assumes chemicals in products used by most Americans on a daily basis to be "innocent until proven guilty," a great approach that has led to success stories like DDT and thalidomide. As for what you can do to reduce the amount of toxins increasing your risk for a long list of diseases you probably won't care about until you're fifty, (unless you're obsessed, like me, though if you read this far you probably do care) visit [ewg.org](http://ewg.org), where you'll find a slew of resources such as pocket-sized shopping guides, and more details from their studies on toxins and pollutants galore. Also see their detailed ratings and ingredients listing of hundreds of products you probably use at [cosmeticsdatabase.com](http://cosmeticsdatabase.com).

### ACTIVISM ON CAMPUS

## A Reintroduction to the Trans Action Initiative

*Solutions to transgender issues benefit the entire community.*

BY WREN GOULD

Writing about the Trans Action Initiative is inevitably difficult since the word "transgender" encompasses a multitude of experiences, and the group tries to address all of them. We are a group of staff, faculty, and students who gather around transgender issues on campus, such as the lack of awareness surrounding trans identities, the presence of trans-unfriendly space, and the needed action to address these issues.

In the past, we've had film screenings, education sessions, and have published educational materials for faculty and students in order to clarify at least some of the misconceptions surrounding the transgender community. We have engaged the Bard Community to question some of its most basic institutions, such as gender-exclusive bathrooms and male-dominated spaces like the weight room. We have especially encouraged major changes like the inclusion of gender identity and expression in the college's anti-discrimination policy.

Nonetheless, we are also a group in transition. Over the past two years, we were a TLS project headed by Jaan Williams. Despite the title, Jaan always emphasized democratic decision making, a practice we hope to continue. This semester, the TAI—now a student club for the first time—is under new leadership. But our major priorities are still the same: we hope to continue educating the Bard Community about transgender experiences through various events, which will include the Transgender Day of Remembrance, the National Coming Out Day, the Gender Blender, and hopefully a few film screenings. Several of these events are important occasions in the transgender community that recognize the struggles of keeping one's true self hidden, sometimes even from oneself, as well as the extreme violence committed against the community—violence that helps explain why so many prefer the

## My Bountiful Community Garden Summer

*Something for nothing: the Community Garden offers boundless fecundity for free.*

BY SASCHA WOOLFE

This summer I took care of the Community Garden. But I didn't really do much. I could say that I set up the conditions, such as waking up with the sun to weed, water, get dirt under my fingers and toenails, and plant seeds.

To be honest, the garden did most the work, yielding so many delicious vegetables (beans, beets, kale, chard, tomatoes, okra, basil, cucumbers, carrots, radishes, and asparagus) and provided its beautiful flowers for our aesthetic enjoyment (zinnias, marigolds, sunflowers, cosmos, gladiolas, black-eyed susans). Not to mention the rasp/blueberries.

The garden has a natural energy—it brought people together: old friends, newcomers, freshmen, wild turkeys... slugs. The weekly Wednesday potlucks easily drew in small groups of people to help out and then gather around the fire pit with content, soil smudged faces, prepared for a simple but grand feast.

I just wanted the garden to stay alive and vibrant, so I gave it some

love others could love in return.

Keep it going everyone. Nothing generates happiness and tastiness like a garden.



that there is a link between the high amount of products used by teenage girls experimenting with their looks, causing potential chemical exposure during a time in their development when hormones are rapidly changing on their own. This may cause increased risk for diseases like breast cancer much later in life. The girls assessed used an average of nearly 17 "beauty" products every day, while the average adult woman uses 12 daily. The report also concludes that low-level exposure to a combination of these in addition to other untested industrial chemical ingredients may lead to decreased fertility, as well

CIR has reviewed, 99% came out as safe as used. For the one percent they discover to be dangerous, compliance with discontinuing usage on part of the companies is, again, entirely voluntary. In addition, marketing techniques for body care items are completely unregulated, leaving a company free to represent itself in any manner it chooses. In 2000, the FDA attempted to establish official definitions for terms such as "natural" or "hypoallergenic," but these standards were rejected in court. According to the FDA, "image is what the cosmetics industry sells through its products, and it's up to the consumer to

closet. We will be collaborating with the QSA to recognize these days of observance, and we hope the Bard community will join us in acknowledging the significance of these events.

One of the core goals in the TAI education campaign is emphasizing that gender is not the same as sex. Sex is usually described as a biological artifact, while gender is cultural, psychological, and behavioral. However, even biological sex takes on cultural importance. In our culture, sex and gender tend to be equated: narrow conceptions of male versus female mean that we usually assume sex to be somehow indicative of gender. This is exactly the cultural construction that transgender people challenge. Transsexuals, for example—people who do not identify with their gender assignment at birth—usually assert that their gender departs significantly from their biological sex. They are men and women in spite of biological evidence that would contradict their conception of themselves. However, transgender people are not just transsexuals. They also include crossdressers, drag kings/queens, genderqueers, androgynes, bigendered people, intersex people, and many more that I could list, each with variations that need to be respected.

All of these people disrupt the binaries that pervade sex categories and gender categories by manipulating cultural performance of gender norms. For instance, genderqueers may present androgynously, even modifying their bodies to achieve a more androgynous appearance. In order to articulate who they are, they are forced to manipulate cultural assumptions about gender, and in doing so, they disrupt the binary that is embedded in our culture and divides men from women, males from females.

Transgender issues, clearly, are extraordinarily complex, but they are not limited to the transgender community. In fact, the transgender

community consistently highlights problems that relate to sexism and other gender issues. For instance, the transgender community promotes space that is inclusive of all genders. This has become one of the major efforts of the Trans Action Initiative. We hope to create spaces where everyone can feel welcome, regardless of gender. These should include gender-neutral bathrooms. As augmentations to gender-exclusive spaces, gender-neutral bathrooms are usually single-stall bathrooms that provide increased privacy and may be used by transgender people, handicapped individuals, and parents of small children. In this way, gender neutral bathrooms can actually help the entire Bard Community.

There are also spaces that may feel threatening to women and men alike. For instance, there are many spaces in the gym, such as the weight room, that are gendered, and even male-dominated, and may feel very uncomfortable for women. These are the kinds of issues the Trans Action Initiative becomes involved in: the group has made some of these concerns known to the Stevenson Gymnasium and has recommended their consideration of gender issues in planning building alterations.

The Trans Action Initiative will continue pursuing these kinds of issues with urgency. Nonetheless, we do rely on an active student body. I encourage all of you to please attend the events sponsored by the Trans Action Initiative and QSA this semester. If you are interested in joining the TAI, meetings are every Tuesday, at 5:00, in the Campus Center Red Room. If you are interested in learning more about transgender experiences and issues, you should attend the Gender Queer Discussion Group, Mondays at 7:30 PM in the Campus Center Red Room.

*Gould is head of the Trans Action Initiative at Bard.*

# POP SMEAR

Zack Kussin

## BEST:

### 1. MOTIVATIONAL POSTERS



### 2. BOOTS THAT DON'T TIE UP IN THE FRONT



### 3. BURGERS FROM DELL'S DAIRY CREME

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845-876-4111  
Up there with Inn 'n Out

### 4. IPHONE 3G



### 5. MAX'S BBQ WINGS



### 6. PROJECT RUNWAY CONTESTANT: KORTO

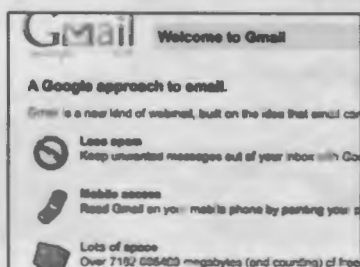
For her versatility and passion for fashion design.



### 7. SHORT STYLED HAIR



### 9. GMAIL ACCOUNTS



## WORST:

### 1. METAL WATER BOTTLES WITH EFFEMINATE PATTERNS



### 2. SLOUCHY FAUX-LEATHER PIRATE BOOTS



### 3. LENA HAN AND LOPEZ

Mexican and Irish Fusion. There is no fusion, but instead two separate menus. They ran out of bread and potatoes when I ate there. And their "recession bursting menu" was punitive.

### 4. VERIZON LG enV



### 5. KLINE "WING NIGHT"



### 6. PROJECT RUNWAY CONTESTANT: KENLEY

Because she's an ice bitch.



### 7. RAGGEDY, IRONIC FASHION MULLETS



### 9. OBVI. BARD WEBMAIL



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## SPIRITUALITY

### Religion, Bard-Style

Eclectic on-campus practitioners hold weekly meetings.

BY KAT ANDERSON, PATRICIA MANOS & ELLA JACOBSON

"Circle is a group for followers of Earth-based spirituality and pagan students on campus," explained Circle leader Sara Lynch-Thomason, a senior, when asked to describe the group. "We work on guided meditations and celebrate major season-based Sabbats like the Autumn Equinox," an annual festival observed on Sept. 22, during which Wiccans and adherents to other Earth-based or neopagan traditions contemplate the necessity of death for the continuation of life and give thanks for sustenance, which is symbolized by the harvest.

The first Circle meeting, on Sept. 17, began with introductions of the new and returning members, an explanation of the group's purpose, and promises of hot tea after the meditation. The guided meditations were standard exercises that would be found on many Wiccan informational websites or in a meditation guide at the local bookstore: shielding — the practice of separating oneself from negative outside influences, and grounding — a way of mentally reconnecting and drawing renewing energy from the earth. Not all attendees must be able to sit unmoving for hours, contorted in pretzel-like shapes; many members sat cross-legged or stretched out on the floor for the exercises. "Sit however your body feels comfortable so you don't have to focus on it," Lynch-Thomason says. The session ended with an "Ohm" chant that made the modest circle of Bard students resound like a tranquil Buddhist choir. Then there were mugs of hot tea.

Then again, what may have rung as Buddhist at one moment turned out to be merely a sampling of these students' eclectic forays into otherworldliness.

When asked about their personal religious beliefs, the Circle's members answered in diverse ways. Many were agnostic, or even spiritual atheists. Some were eclectic Pagan (Pagan, but not adhering to any given religious tradition), or Wiccan. One student was even a devout Catholic, but believed that alternate forms of religious practice were just as viable to her personal religious experience. Another was Jewish, and shared similar sentiments about spirituality and mysticism.

The communal atmosphere of Circle reflects the greater community of religious diversity on Bard's campus. While the student body in the past has been viewed as overwhelmingly secular, this year the student population is representing a wide variety of both major and minor religions. Catholics and Protestants, Muslims, Jews, Buddhists, Pagans and even observers of tribal religions are all represented on campus.

The chaplaincy at Bard, which includes a priest, a rabbi and an imam, may be under-equipped to represent the spiritual diversity on campus, although it remains open to all corners. A daily interreligious meditation service is held at noon in the Chapel of the Holy Innocents.

For now, the Circle stands apart from the Bard chaplaincy. It appears to be Bard's only religious organization run completely by students, emphasizing the spiritual observances of the many practitioners of Earth-based religions within the student body. The progressive, postdoctrinal, unstructured set of observances make the Chaplaincy seem almost obsolete.

## LOTON

### Zack Kussin's Guide to Living Well

This month, Zach reminds everyone to stay extra moist.

As summer comes to a quick close, many of us will be spending every free moment outside to enjoy the season's remaining sunlight. For sun-sensitive students, however, autumn's arrival ushers in much-needed time for sun-damaged skin to heal.

Forget covering yourself with sticky aloe vera gel for quick moisture after an excess of sun. Sabon's Sorbet Body Gel is an avocado and palm tree oil-based moisturizer that smoothly rehydrates burned skin with a gentle cooling sensation. Its signature non-greasy formula works from deep inside the pores to reveal smooth, radiant skin above (\$22, [www.sabonnyc.com](http://www.sabonnyc.com)).

Sabon also offers a line of Creamy Scrubs for those looking to soothe their dry, peeling skin. Using a mixture of ground peach kernels, crushed olive seeds, salt crystals from the Dead Sea and moisturizers, flaky and itchy skin is instantly rejuvenated after one single rinse. Choose from an array

of fragrances, such as chamomile, vanilla, carrot and patchouli (\$35, [www.sabonnyc.com](http://www.sabonnyc.com)).

Lush's Shower Smoothies cater to sunburned customers with sensitive skin. Doubling as a body rinse and a post-shower moisturizer, these Smoothies come packed with skin-cooling jasmine, softening ylang ylang and a kiss of sweet vanilla. Have you ever heard your skin say thank you? (\$17, [usa.lush.com](http://usa.lush.com)).





## Album Reviews

by Emily Diamond



**Feed the Animals (2008)**  
Girl Talk

Gregg Gillis' newest release under the alias Girl Talk is maybe his best yet. *Feed the Animals* (Illegal Art) contains some of his most creative uses of samples and combinations—using upwards of twenty samples per song from a much more eclectic selection of genres and musicians than previously heard in Gillis' tracks. There are so many layers in each second, often going undetected until a second or third listen. Elvis Costello, Tom Tom Club and of course Missy Elliot, can be heard on the borderline too-many-samples-used album. You will enjoy *Feed the Animals* if you liked *Night Ripper* (2006). Girl Talk's most popular release. You can set your own price for the album if you go to [myspace.com/girltalk](http://myspace.com/girltalk).

### BECK MODERN GUILT



**Modern Guilt (2008)**  
Beck  
Interscope Records

Hottest album of 2008? I welcome challenges. This is a composition of pure genius. The flow, the order, the beat, everything coincides to make an album that not only surpasses his two previous releases but goes beyond to a new realm of investigation and sophistication. The first single, "Gamma Ray," surges with Beck's signature energy with the title track being equally catchy. "Volcano," the album's last track, is a calmer approach that ties the release together. By the way, it is produced by Danger Mouse. If you buy one CD from 2008, make it *Modern Guilt*.



**The Red Album (2008)**  
Weezer  
Geffen Records

Well, at least it isn't *Maladroit*. *The Green Album* Those were painful. Weezer started off strong in 1994 with *The Blue Album* and again in '96 with *Pinkerton*. After that it is safe to say they lost it. *The Red Album* has a few great songs; my favorite one, "The Greatest Man That Ever Lived," based on a Shaker hymn, is more like four songs in one. But the first single, "Pork and Beans," is just not that pleasant to listen to mostly due to the fact that the lyrics are neither creative nor insightful. It is worth a listen, but you won't have it on repeat. On the plus side, Rivers Cuomo's ironic mustache is real!

## Billy's Music Notebook

by Billy Remnekamp



POP LEVI: NEVER NEVER LOVE; ZEPPELIN AND SYX MODERN LOVE DUDE BRIT. GAMESHOW SYNTH LOUNGE BEATS.



LESSER GONZALEZ ALVAREZ; WHY IS BEAR BILLOWING; BALTIMORE WHAM CITY MEMBER FROM CUBA. MICA GRAD. SOFT STUFF. SIMILAR TO RAMONA CORDOVA OR CALMER DEVEDRA.



NOAH AND THE WHALE; PEACEFUL, THE WORLD LAYS ME DOWN; CATCHY CUTE GUY VOICE. REALLY CUTE. SONGS ABOUT WOLVES EATING BABIES IN BEST POSSIBLE WAY. UPBEAT. SOUNDS LIKE CASIOTONE FOR THE PAINFULLY ALONE, BUT HAPPIER.



SHUGO TOKUMARU; EXIT; CUTE JAPANESE SOFT SOUNDS.



TV ON THE RADIO; DANCING CHOOSE; IF YOU LIKE TV ON THE RADIO YOU'LL LOVE TV ON THE RADIO.



MOTORHEAD; MOTORIZER; IS MOTORHEAD.



ADVENTURE; ADVENTURE; NORTH CAROLINA & BALTIMORE EPIC 8-BIT TOURING WITH DAN DEACON.



PARENTHETICAL GIRLS; ENTNGLEMENTS; PORTLAND STRINGS LIKE ANDREW BIRD WITH STRONG HORNS AND SHARP VOICE.



THE SHAKY HANDS; LUNGLIGHT; ROCK BAND.



GIANT SAND; "proVISIONS"; STRONG MALE VOICE WITH HELP FROM ISOBEL CAMBELL (BELLE AND SEBASTIAN), NEKO CASE, M. WARD. SOUNDS LIKE CALEXICO, SMOG, WILL OLDHAM.



LYKKE LI; YOUTH NOVELS; SWEDISH HOTTIE. RECORD MADE WITH HELP FROM (PETER) BJORN (AND JOHN). SOUNDS LIKE ENON KINDA (SONG 7).



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for serious this time

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FEAT. NEP-  
TUNE, THESE  
ARE POWERS,  
AND  
THE DEATHSET



ROOT CELLAR  
PHOTOS:  
ALEX HOUSTON

SMOG PHOTOS:  
BEN GODARD  
AND  
DANIEL TERNA



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# Ya Fired!

Donna McColloch sits down with herself to tell us how professors are either tenured or fired.

## What's the point of submitting written testimony?

It's part of the faculty evaluation process. Each faculty member has a file, which contains a number of things, including a complete resume, their own statement on their teaching philosophy, sample syllabi, all the Survey of Teacher and Course forms from all the classes they've taught at Bard, and records from past evaluations. Your testimony gets added to this file.

## Who has access to these files?

While a particular faculty member is up for evaluation, the entire faculty has access to their file. The EPC, the student government body responsible for student-faculty relations, member assigned to their case also has access to the SOTC forms and written testimony that was submitted to them personally or to the EPC as a whole. So if you want the students involved in the process to have access to what you write, send it to [epc@bard.edu](mailto:epc@bard.edu).

## How often do faculty members go up for evaluation?

That depends on their rank at Bard. There are five groups of faculty at Bard: tenured faculty, tenure-track faculty who have not yet received tenure, non-tenure-track faculty, artists in residence, and faculty on special contracts. Tenured professors go up for evaluation every seven years after getting tenure. Tenure-track faculty who don't already have tenure generally have one pre-tenure review after three years and then go up for a decision on tenure after two or three years, although a handful of them get to skip the first evaluation and go up for tenure after just three years.

Non-tenure-track faculty, who can be identified by the word "visiting" in their titles, are evaluated every two years. Artists in residence are basically a special category of permanent non-tenure-track faculty, who exist only in the Division of the Arts. They are evaluated only once every five years, but otherwise are the same as visiting faculty. The handful of faculty who are outside these four categories are generally evaluated every seven years.

## What's at stake in an evaluation?

For tenured faculty, very little. After a professor gets tenure, the only thing remaining is promotion from associate professor to full professor, which means more money but basically the same work. If someone's already a full professor, or isn't interested in the promotion, then the evaluation is purely to give them suggestions on how to improve.

For pre-tenure faculty, a negative evaluation often means having to leave Bard, although some are kept on as visiting faculty—still a serious demotion. For visiting faculty and artists in residence, there's nowhere further down to get demoted to. Some of them, if they get good reviews or if there's reason to think they'll jump to another school, get offered conversion to tenure-track status.

## Who ultimately makes these decisions?

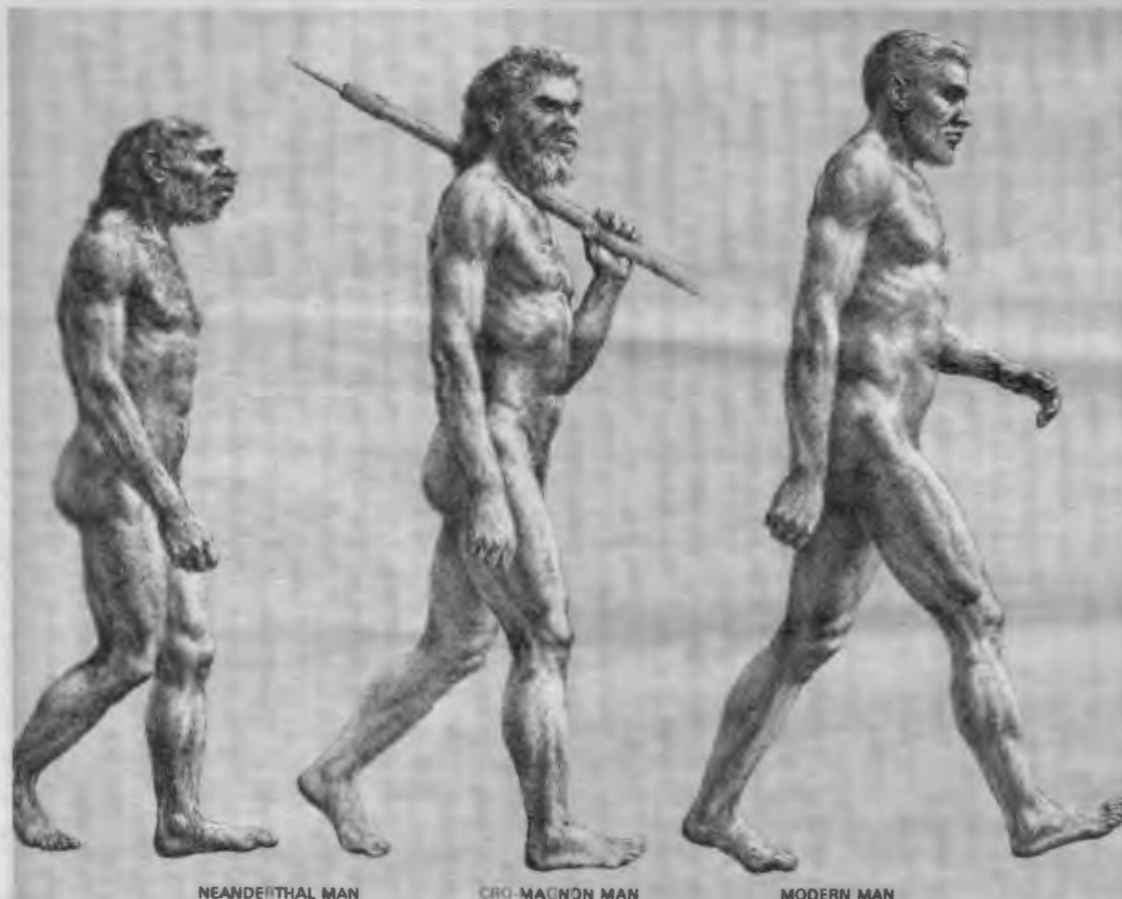
Leon.

## Who advises him?

Each faculty member is assigned a Divisional Evaluator, a tenured faculty member in their division who reviews their file and writes a report. The EPC also assigns one of its members to review the SOTC forms and written testimony and produce a parallel report. These both go to the Faculty Evaluation Committee for tenure-track faculty, or the College Evaluation Committee, for visitors and artists in residence. These committees, both composed of senior faculty, review the reports, discuss them with the faculty member under evaluation as well as anyone else they'd like to speak to, and make a recommendation to Leon.

## I'm not happy with some aspect of this process. What can I do about it?

The faculty evaluation procedures are up for review by the Faculty Senate this semester. The EPC will be meeting with them and the Student Senate to discuss possible changes to the process.



NEANDERTHAL MAN

CRG-MAGNON MAN

MODERN MAN

## LABOR

# Bard's Laborious Struggle

*Creating a firm relationship with those who maintain our livelihoods is essential.*

BY SARAH SMITH

The history of labor at Bard is titanic: who knew that the effort that brought unions in 1988 was seriously jeopardized? Who knew about the high turnover rate and loss of job security after Aramark arrived on campus? Who knew that while there has been tremendous investment in the construction of new buildings over the past 15 years, there has been hardly any increase in staff to clean and maintain these facilities? If you attended the Student Labor Dialogue's panel on Bard Labor this past Saturday, you would know these things already, and that Bard's current workers are stretched thin.

Workers from B&G and Aramark characterized their experiences as Bard employees as having been entrenched in a struggle against this college's administration. The workers stressed the importance of student involvement in the effort to understand the history of this institution. Get to know this place in its entirety by getting to know Bard's workers and the issues that impact their lives and yours.

Ask the housekeeper cleaning your dorm's kitchen! Ask the workers fixing your heater! Keep the dialogue going! Come to our meetings on Thursdays at 5:00PM in the Campus Center Red Room and find your place in the fight for a living wage for all Bard workers, the fight to in-source Aramark workers, and to unionize all campus employees. There is much more work to be done. The battle rages on. And after Saturday's panel, I'm all fired up.

*Smith is a member of the Student Labor Dialogue at Bard.*

## EDITORIAL

# Hubbub Misses the Point

*The student government needs to increase its representative power.*

The recent brouhaha over the attempted "coup," and the subsequent revelation that the student government is indeed in the midst of clarifying its internal structure and its authority as a whole, have distracted the student body from issues that have direct pertinence to students: Red Barn planning, housing problems, alcohol regulations, demanding a quality product from Chartwells, faculty evaluations, and others. All are issues that members of the student government have assured us they are addressing, and we have no reason to doubt their sincerity.

We do, however, have reason to doubt the mechanisms at their disposal. The sensationalized controversies that erupted degenerated into a propaganda war through emails to the student body and fliers in the Campus Center. But the issue at the core of the dispute remains salient, and Secretary of the Student Association Ryan Gustafson and former Speaker of the Senate Donna McColloch, as it turns out, are in agreement: in most cases, policy decisions the Central Committee pushes upon the administration should have the approval of the student body through a vote in a Student Forum. In conversations with the FREE PRESS, Gustafson cited examples in the past when committees have pursued policies that did not reflect the will of the student body; McColloch recently resigned from the Senate over what appeared to be the Senate's attempt to adopt the power to amend the Constitution.

At the heart of the matter is how much power students vest in their government when voting them into office. In this, we depart from the views of Gustafson and McColloch, and see the political mandate of elected officials as a core democratic principle. Legislators should not be held accountable to voters in every position of policy they take. As voters, we abnegate our own leverage on legislative matters to the representatives we elect to make those decisions on our behalf. Increasing the power of student government by requiring fewer Student Forums carries two key advantages. First, Student Forums are cumbersome: they take time, and the more that take place, the less regularly students will vote. Student voices administrative decision-making are essential, and the student government is struggling for leverage. Students are not helped by voting requirements that cripple the student government's efficacy. Students should reasonably assume that representatives are more dedicated and more informed than the student body, and are disposed to make wiser decisions than the student body. There will certainly be times when the best course of action is for the student government to adopt a policy position that is unpopular with students.

Secondly, vesting more power in legislators forces students to take the voting process more seriously. The most recent Senate elections had only about 25% participation; that figure would undoubtedly increase if students saw their representatives as having a more powerful role. They would take a keener interest in analyzing candidates' policy positions and make informed choices. This will not make the government less democratic—large issues should still be held to referendum, impeachment procedures will remain in place, and votes for student government positions occur regularly. No serious decisions will be made that arouse substantial opposition from students. It just makes democracy work.

-TRAVIS WENTWORTH



## The Culture of Cooptation

*Student Government and the Bard administration need to stop leaving us in the dark.*

BY DONNA MCCOLLOCH

This past May, I was elected to be the first Speaker of the Student Senate. I was asked a lot of questions about it, but the most common two were: what powers does the Senate have? And how does it relate to the rest of student government?

These are both difficult questions to answer because of the one basic principle at the center of the Student Constitution: all policy is supposed to be set by the student body as a whole, either at the monthly Student Forums or through online votes. Those who hold elected office don't have any authority to do anything except research and discussion without the authorization of the rest of the student body. The Senate's role is purely to draft legislation for the Forums to vote on; the various committees, aside from a few confidential things like faculty evaluations, are supposed to be research and advisory groups that simply represent their fellow students' expressed priorities to the administration and faculty.

So when a member of student government says in a public email that the "Planning Committee has completed the Budgeting Process, with the exception of Budget Forum," he's obscuring the actual way our Student Association works. The budgeting process doesn't belong to the Planning Committee. It belongs to the whole student body, which at one point—not all that long ago—created the Planning Committee as a convenience. Budget Forum used to be the entire budgeting process—clubs used to bring their proposed budgets there. And the power still lies with the Forum to do things the old way.

This semester (unlike some recent ones) most people seem to be happy with the budget. Only one club offered hostile amendments, and we got through all of them in about fifteen minutes. But there is a broader point here—there's a tendency for people in student government to put their own convenience above campus democracy and adherence to the Constitution. This is a pervasive trend, and I'm not really blaming the people we have in office now for it—I can hardly think of a person in student government who has met with administrators and not proposed something they just thought of themselves. I did it myself, when I was getting started on the Student Life Committee and the Educational Policies Committee last year.

But it's still wrong, and it has real consequences. Just to give one current example: why was there no time set aside at Budget Forum to discuss the ban on alcohol for clubs? Why is our Secretary insisting that we should wait and see how things go with the ban before we even talk about opposing it, when EMS statistics make it undeniable that it's going to make drinking more secretive and less safe?

There are still some problems with our Constitution, but its basic principles are there for a reason. Student government shouldn't be establishing elite groups of students whose priorities are given more weight than those of others. And yet that's what ends up happening a lot of the time—and it's something that the administration encourages. When policy is set in a back room, it's easy to accuse an EPC or SLC member of "impudence"—as Erin Cannan did in her first meeting with the SLC last year, for bringing up the issue of student space—and guilt-trip them into silence. When discussions are restricted, and information is given only to a handful—for instance, that the administration is considering buying a secondary campus on the other side of the Hudson—it undermines democracy. And it's self-perpetuating. If you're getting privileged information, you have an incentive not to do anything that could jeopardize your access—like revealing it to your fellow students, or even just criticizing an idea you think is bad.

This past spring, I found out that the Dean of the College's office and the Faculty Senate were talking about a new framework for class schedules that would involve, among other things, far more classes on Fridays. In the first meeting where this was discussed, I brought up the logistical problems this might cause for students who work on Fridays or who visit their families on weekends, for which I was accused of "not putting academics first." I pushed for a campus-wide vote on the proposed changes, which I got—but the very fact that some people in student government were against holding the vote, and that one of them accused me of "going rogue" for proposing the idea, shows that something's gone off-track.

Those who have been elected to office by students have a trust placed in them. But being elected does not entail pretending to know what's best for the rest of the student body—or that the administration does. Almost without exception, the people I've met in student government have been dedicated and hard-working. But it's easy for arrogance to set in. And it takes some pressure from the student body as a whole to guard against it.

*McColloch is the former Speaker of the Student Senate. She recently resigned due to some of the objections mentioned above.*

## The New Policy on Alcohol and the Convocation Fund

*The Student Association will respond to serious flaws in the administration's approach to new regulations.*

BY RYAN GUSTAFSON

In this edition of the FREE PRESS you will find an editorial by the former Speaker of the Senate. The article begins with a succinct statement of the basic principle of Bard's Student Government: that the government should represent the interests of the student body, rather than pushing the policies it arbitrarily proposes. On this count, the former Speaker and I are in complete agreement. However, that editorial goes on to chastise me for having a supposedly "see how it goes" attitude toward the administration's new policy about club funding for alcohol.

Nothing could be further from the truth. From the beginning, I have pointed out several essential flaws with the new policy on club funding for alcohol. That policy—which states that the Convocation Fund for clubs cannot be used for alcohol—was adopted on *legal* grounds over the summer. That is, the administration, after consulting with its legal counsel, could no longer countenance the Convocation Fund, which it collects and is therefore liable for, to be used in a way that could put the College at perilous legal risk. If harm were to come through alcohol from the fund, they would be extraordinarily liable. They could not willingly allow clubs to use the Fund for these purposes.

I do not cite this line of argument to say that I find this policy to be acceptable. However, it ought to be known so that students are not snookered into thinking that this is a simple matter of the big bad administration blowing their parties down. As I have said before, the current policy will not suffice. We will improve upon it. But the only way we will go about that is by working with the administration. What gives the Student Government the distinction to do this is that it consists of student leaders, willing to engage the administration in not only protest, but also politics (and there is a distinction between those words).

Let me be clear: this policy is inadequate in several respects. For one, it puts the Student Government Treasurer, Elliot Ness, in the uncomfortable position of ferreting out the phony check requests, the counterfeit receipts, and the myriad schemes clubs might invent to use their Convocation Fund money on alcohol. He will not be able to do this; no

Bard student would want to do this. There is no doubt that the clubs are going to find a way to use Convocation Fund money to purchase alcohol anyway. The only difference now is that these purchases will be unofficial and unknown.

There are other potential problems with the policy that have been raised. Many have suggested that this new policy will drive drinking underground and therefore make Bard students unsafe. However, you ought to keep in mind that the College has made clear that it has no intention of changing the way it has enforced alcohol policy in the past. That is, this is a change of norms and not a new system of discipline. For this reason, it remains a question as to what degree alcohol will be "driven underground." If clubs are still finding ways to fund alcohol for their events, the usual events will still happen. This is not a perilous situation, though it is certainly not an ideal one. We ought to have a club funding for alcohol policy that can actually be enforced and that does not enjoin clubs to break it in secret.

So what are we to do? I have called on the College to allow the Central Committee—the executive branch—to meet with Bard's legal counsel in order to design a policy on club funding for alcohol that is legally viable. Mark my words, however, that the policy we will push for will have—unlike the current policy—the rights and safety of the student body as its core concern. In this vein, the Student Senate—the legislative branch—will conduct research on alternatives to the current policy in order to craft a new one. We of the Central Committee will implement such a policy through negotiations with the administration, which is not averse to positive change, so long as that change does not put the College in legal peril. We do not claim to have the quick fix or immediate solution, but I can promise that we will be negotiating with the lawyers and the administration and listening to you in order to get positive results. Expect to see a proposal for changes to the policy this semester.

If you have a view on this issue, we would like to hear it. Email the Central Committee at [centralcom@bard.edu](mailto:centralcom@bard.edu) or the Student Senate at [senate@bard.edu](mailto:senate@bard.edu). If you are interested in getting involved with this and other issues, the Student Senate is currently holding an election to replace two members that resigned. Candidates should campus mail 20 signatures of Bard students on a nominating petition to Box 1477 to be considered.

*Gustafson is Secretary of the Student Association Government.*

# Opinion



EDITORIAL

## Vote Where it Counts

As Patricia Manos reports in this issue on the lead-up to the election, the Bard Democrats are encouraging students to register to vote locally. We support the Democrats' suggestion and also encourage students to register locally, and we remind students that if they've moved off-campus, moved to campus, or changed off-campus addresses, they most likely need to re-register, as there are several different precincts that intersect in the Bard area. In past elections, local voting authorities have exercised such technicalities to exclude Bard students from the political process.

Registering locally allows students to vote in the close race between Democrat Kirsten Gillibrand and Republican Sandy Treadwell for an important swing seat in the House. Yet presidential politics, for

obvious reasons, supersedes all other races this fall, and New York is safely in the Obama column. The Electoral College system means that, in effect, not all votes count equally: if your home address—where you can still claim residence as dependents on your parents—is in the battleground states of Florida (27), Ohio (20), Pennsylvania (21), North Carolina (15), Virginia (13), Missouri (11), Indiana (11), Wisconsin (10), Minnesota (10), Colorado (9), New Mexico (5), Nevada (5), New Hampshire (4), it is essential that you vote absentee in your home state. Simply Google your state and the name of your county, and you'll find instructions from your county clerk's office on how to obtain an absentee ballot. And this needs to be done immediately.

-FREE PRESS





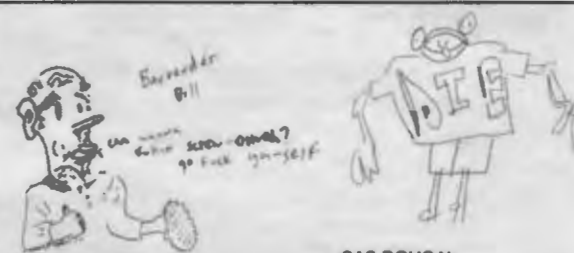


TITANIUM JUNGLE: a dancer in Noémie Lafrance's *Rapture* rehearsed Sunday on the Fisher Center before rain shut down the performance

## W X B C S C H E D U L E

	sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
12am-2am	<u>gabi ngcobo</u> (ccs)  <u>manje-manje</u>	<u>henry harper</u>  cooking with henry	<u>nick maya/olivia</u> <u>hall</u>  MEAN TUESDAYS	<u>julien</u> <u>garnier/rose</u> <u>mori</u>  Mr. Muthafucka	<u>kristin</u> <u>psieki /greg</u> <u>greifeld/</u> <u>simon glenn</u>  Deutschfest Cup		<u>james blake/</u> <u>ryan fallon</u> two-tones and Three- pieces
2-4am	<u>shephard nepper</u> DUG PARIS GR8	<u>julie stevens/</u> <u>quentin moore</u>		OFF-AIR	SECRET RADIO SHOW	OFF-AIR	
8-9am		<u>steven cleaver</u> (grownup)  OFF-AIR	<u>bart ryan (ccs)</u>  chance wikipedia	<u>cheryl k.</u> (grownup)  The Jazz Mosaic		<u>brian barth/</u> <u>larissa wohl</u> <u>brareesa</u> explains it all	
9am-10am				<u>paul</u> <u>labarbera</u> (grownup) Wonder hours with faculty advisor paul			OFF AIR
10-11am	<u>tommy martinez</u>	democracy now	democracy now	democracy now		democracy now	
11am-12			OFF-AIR		democracy now	<u>andrew levy</u> the melting pot	
noon-2pm	<u>emily carmen</u> <u>rice</u>	<u>adam drake</u>	<u>josh kopin</u>  Hydrogren Jukebox	<u>tim lewis</u>	<u>lauren dunn/</u> <u>sarah leon</u>	<u>anthony</u> <u>kingsley</u>	<u>enrico</u> <u>purita/ alex</u> <u>hood</u>
	<u>cosmicomics</u>	<u>the Brown Note</u> <u>ruth frances</u> <u>lichtman/ dani simma</u>		Radio Free Bard	pop therapy	i'd slap a contact mic on that	G.I. Show
2-4pm	<u>emily demartino</u>	<u>moses</u>  Sunshine Frankenstein	OFF-AIR	<u>henry antenen</u>  What the Blood Clot <u>max sinkins/</u> <u>cameron</u> <u>seglas</u>	<u>naomi hardoff</u> / is the most magically powerful number	<u>elias isquith</u>  punk ain't music	<u>gryphon rue</u> <u>rower-uplohn</u>
4-6pm	<u>dashiell farwell</u>	<u>julie blusse/ mirjam</u> <u>grunenfelder</u>	<u>george glikerdas</u>	<u>kill ugly</u> <u>radio</u> <u>charlotte</u> <u>benbeniste/</u> <u>jenna ruggerio</u>	<u>yan</u> <u>matusевич</u>  On (N)either side of the Berlin Wall <u>erica cohen-</u> <u>taub / justin</u> <u>leigh</u>	<u>olivia conti</u>  screenwriter's blues	<u>peti-neti</u> <u>farah aktar/</u> <u>scarlett</u> <u>north</u> <u>scarlett and</u> <u>farah talk</u> <u>shit about</u> <u>shit and</u> <u>richardson/</u> <u>claire lutz</u> <u>paper,</u> <u>humans.</u> <u>togetherness</u>
6-8pm	<u>lost &amp; safe</u> <u>rand rosenberg/</u> <u>gabe derita /</u> <u>tiffany sia</u>	<u>lost &amp; Found</u>  <u>billy rennekamp/</u> <u>allison griffin</u>	<u>YO O CAN GICA</u>  <u>brim ehrenpreis</u>  I LIKE CREED (AND GOD)	<u>one louder</u> <u>kit singleton/</u> <u>clark fleury/</u> <u>steve hayward</u>	<u>dirt not</u> <u>Gossip</u>  <u>max bank /</u> <u>dan kabat</u> Well-dressed music for Well-dressed punks	<u>tegan walsh/</u> <u>paul shepard</u>  tube of star jelly	<u>emilys/will</u> <u>croxton</u>
8-10pm	<u>chas mccarty/</u> <u>cooper jacobv</u>	<u>Billison's Boneriaz</u> <u>annabelle dexter-</u> <u>jones/ daphne</u> <u>steinberg</u>	<u>daniel rutkowski</u>  Children of the American Bop Night			<u>max platoff</u>  neo- conservative bible study	<u>unforgivable</u>  OFF-AIR
10-12am	<u>death erection</u> <u>aurora cobb /</u> <u>jodie curry</u> PERSUASIVE MEMORRHAGE GHOST BABY GLAM SQUAD	<u>The Summit</u>  <u>kenji garland</u>  Forcible Bro Extraction	<u>wendy vogel (ccs)</u>  COLLABORadio	<u>austin julian</u>  Time Decay Now	<u>carson baker</u>  The 8-Bit Show	<u>nathan smith</u>  episodes	

TRAVIS WENTWORTH



SAS DOUGAL

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