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REMEMBERING MAKA AND ABE BARD COMMUNITY COPES WITH LOSS

For many students, the excitement of this new semester carries an undertone of sadness and mourning. Bard lost two vibrant and talented students over the summer break. In July, Maka Geller '11 died suddenly in her Manhattan home. Near the end of L&T, Abraham Mendoza '13, a peer counselor in Williams, died in a hiking accident in the Catskills.

For a small liberal arts school, the death of a student is rare; the loss of two in less than two months is unthinkable. Such a loss can be the source of confusion and pain. In the immediate, it ripples throughout the community, affecting every one of its members. Yet in the long term, while death will radically change the everyday life of some individuals, it may hardly affect the lives of others. For this reason among others, death has the potential to act as a divisive force in a community.

So with few precedents to follow, how do we begin to move forward as a community? The Dean of Student Affairs Office, including Bethany Nohlgren, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Engagement, has been working closely with students in this process. "We need to find ways to remember the people that touched our lives," says Nohlgren.

It is not always obvious how to do this. But it is clear that Maka and Abe touched many lives during their time at Bard. Assistant Professor of Psychology Sarah Lopez-Duran remembers Maka, a psychology major, as "a very passionate person – she felt and thought deeply about so many things. She was both introverted and extroverted, bold and timid. She was exciting and she was peaceful. She was loyal, curious, and unpredictable."

Assistant Professor of Chemistry Emily McLaughlin remembers Abe, an intended photography and chemistry double-major, as someone with "an extreme passion for all of his studies. There was no doubt that he loved chemistry, but he was equally enthusiastic about his work in photography and Sanskrit. Abe's never-ending optimism and fervor - especially in the chemistry laboratory - will be missed as we begin this fall semester. Abe was able to generate inspiration in just about everyone he encountered."

Over the summer, memorial services were held in honor of both students by their respective families. While representatives of the college were present at both ceremonies, the college believes it is important to provide all of Bard with a way to honor and say goodbye to each student in a manner that responds to the specific needs of their peers. Therefore, the Dean of Student Affairs office is working closely with Maka and Abe's friends to design memorial services. They are set to take place later in September.

As an avid member of the Bard Works committee, Abe was a vocal proponent of building sheltered bike racks. When these are built later in the year, one of the structures will be named after him. A bench that Abe built with his dorm last year will also be placed on campus in his memory.

A collective remembrance, however, is only one component of the healing process. As both Nohlgren and Assistant Dean of Students Lora Seery stress, patience and understanding are equally important during this difficult time. "People are bound to react differently to circumstances during times of grief than they might normally," says Seery. "We need to respect each other's processes. We hope students are checking in with themselves and with each other."

Nohlgren also hopes that faculty members will serve as "a key support system" for the community, and that they will understand why "students are and are not able to get work done." Students should also remember that Bard has a number of other support systems in place, including the Health and Counseling Services and the B.R.A.V.E. crisis hotline, which can be reached through security (ext. 7777). Counselors are on call 24 hours, 7 days a week.

"We need to remember that life can be very fragile," says Nohlgren. "More importantly, we need to be kind to each other and appreciate the community that we have here." This final piece of advice warrants our careful consideration. The goal is in itself a process that requires us to be ever-vigilant in working towards the kindness that both Abe and Maka were known for—to not lose sight of where we are and what we share.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE ZIMBRA GALLOPS INTO BARD

by margaret kucera

Throughout the summer, students were regularly updated with important Bard happenings. No, not mean the consistently annoying Bard Announce, but rather the several information technology updates instituted over the summer.

Bill Terry, Chief Technology Officer and Associate Dean of Information Services, has been working hard to upgrade Bard's internet and e-mail system - and throughout the summer, he kept students updated on his progress.

Amongst the big news: Bard's internet speed has been doubled to 200Mbit. Which for us layman means: the internet is faster!

Or so we were told. Many students were understandably disappointed when, on returning to campus, they found no noticeable change in internet speed. As one student so tastefully and elegantly put it to this reporter: "It's still slow as fuck."

There have been some legitimate improvements, though. There is a brand new Bard email system: Zimbra Collaborative Suite. Terry proclaims its top feature as a "noticeably larger" email quota - 500Mb, a huge improvement. The gain is even better for Bard faculty and staff, whose quota now sits at 750Mb. Which means no more important e-mails 'lost in space.' (Everyone take a moment to thank trustee Marielise Hesse for the generous gift which paid for Zimbra.)

Now we just have to deal with every one of our e-mails being set in typewriter font. Zimbra is a strange program which has divided opinion on campus. Some students like it, some don't. (The freshman don't know the difference.) The new webmail has several helpful new features though, such as tabs, search capabilities, and an easy-access address book.

It is obvious that a lot of time and effort was put in by the BITS staff to make these considerable alterations. They are certainly working to increase technological opportunities and ease on campus. But are the improvements so far enough to get excited about?

Most students seem happy with the new email system, while others remain neutral. Besides the wonderful increase in quota, there really are no significant changes to get riled up about. If anything, the new Zimbra lacks the aesthetic value of the late webmail. (Although the little box that appears at the top of the screen whenever you send/move/delete is just adorable.) Some students feel that incremental upgrades are less effective than one substantial upgrade would be. Of course, a great portion of the student body has their Bard webmail accounts forwarded to another account, such as Gmail. So many students won't have noticed even the slightest difference this semester.



*"it's still slow
as fuck."*

BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! RE-MAJOR-IFIED, BARD'S ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES PROGRAM GETS A FACELIFT AND A NEW NAME

by nicholas carbone



There's a new major in town, and it is called Environmental and Urban Studies. But is it really that new? Well, yes and no.

People had been majoring in Environmental Studies for years - until three years ago, when Bard downgraded environmental studies to a concentration. In order to make ES a major again, professors like Mark Lytle and Kris Feder worked to gather up faculty from both Environmental Studies and Urban Studies. The result is the current major, Environmental and Urban Studies.

Associate Professor and Director of the Economics Department Feder notes that there has been a long history of environmental studies at Bard College, dating back to the 1970s. It continued and adapted throughout the years, in response to the growing environmental problems. However, until now there were no core courses set for the major.

So what exactly is Environmental and Urban Studies? When one thinks of environmental studies, one thinks about global environmental issues and the need to become more energy efficient. When one thinks of urban studies, one thinks about what is necessary to map out a successful city and the interaction between peoples. By combining both of these areas of study, a student can learn what is necessary to create a successful environment for a city landscape.

Considering the majority of Americans live in urban environments, conceiving the social, economic, and scientific problems that are faced in urban planning could be hugely beneficial, Feder argues. Knowing about the environment, meanwhile, can help Americans understand what is necessary to prevent increased global warming and fight the ecological threats against Earth.

You don't necessarily have to major in Environmental and Urban Studies to learn about it. A variety of courses cross paths with the major, because of the broadness of the topic. Around 25-30 faculty currently cover environmental and urban studies in their classes. These include courses in the sciences, social sciences, literature, mathematics,

economics, history, and art.

Many internships and job opportunities will be available for students in the major as well. Visiting Lecturer in Environmental and Urban Studies Jennifer Schwartz Berky runs an internship for students to work on the Climate Action Plan in Kingston. In addition, students can work with the Bard Center for Environmental Policy. The center also offers five-year masters degree.

The Mid-Hudson Valley is also an ideal area to explore the past environmental movements, and how we can help prevent ecological problems here. As the Coordinator of the Environmental and Urban Studies program Mark Lytle notes, "The Hudson serves as a catalyst for exploring a range of contemporary urban and environmental issues that arise in the communities through which it runs."

The Environmental and Urban Studies program is still in need of a director "who can teach courses reflecting the program's integrative strategies, coordinate student placement into internships, and promote its mission in the community," says Lytle. He also notes that a variety of improvements also need to be made to the program, in order to bring it up to date with current sustainability technology and other scientific systems used in ecology and urban understanding.

However, a number of advancements have already been made to beef up the EUS program. These include the addition of Professor Jonathan Anjaria, "a cultural geographer and anthropologist whose work on Mumbai embodies the duality of built and natural systems," says Lytle.

Hopefully, the improvements will continue. The program still needs increased support for student internships and a larger faculty, but thankfully students can once again major in Environmental affairs and, hopefully, help fight against the major ecological problems that become more and more dire each year.

ROBUST NUCLEAR EARTH PENETRATOR WILLIAM B. HARTUNG'S RECENT TALK ON NUCLEAR ARMS CONTROL

by hunter loen

On Monday September 13th, in one of Olin's first floor lecture rooms, Bard College hosted a lecture about the Obama Administration's arms control policies. The speaker, William B. Hartung, is the director of the Arms and Security Initiative at the New America Foundation, a centrist think tank. He has worked as a policy analyst and speechwriter, and has written extensively about national security and its relation to economics. In the audience were perhaps two dozen students and faculty - most affiliated with the political studies department.

Mr. Hartung prefaced the talk by explaining the greater likelihood of nuclear weapon use since the end of the Cold War. He argued that the greater number of nuclear-armed countries have made the balance of nuclear power less stable. He brought up some of the nuclear close calls - for instance, in the 1990s, when a Russian early warning radar mistook a weather balloon for an incoming missile. It was only the cool-headedness of the Russian president Boris Yeltsin that kept the world from nuclear war. Hartung also mentioned the ever-present risk of nuclear terrorism - though he was more skeptical of this threat, noting that most terrorist groups lack the facilities to properly handle bomb-making material.

After establishing the relevance of his topic, Hartung delved into President Obama's promise to work toward a

world free of nuclear weapons. He noted that the United States has sponsored summits and UN Security Council meetings about disarmament under President Obama's leadership. And yet the key to change, Hartung premised, is the US Congress and their role in ratifying treaties. He admitted that getting a two-thirds majority in the Senate is unlikely in the current political climate, but shared some surprising background about the Republican Party's historical affinity for nuclear arms control. One of the first arms control treaties was signed by Richard Nixon, and Ronald Reagan once stated his preference for a world without nuclear weapons.

As a final topic, Hartung described the progress made so far in combating the risk of nuclear weapon use. Cooperative threat reduction, programs to better secure nuclear material in Russia and vulnerable states, a moratorium on testing, and citizen activism have all helped reduce the risks. And yet he also mentioned nuclear doctrine under President George W. Bush, which encouraged the development of more weapons, such as the "Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator," a munition designed to destroy targets deep underground. He made clear that progress towards disarmament has come in fits and starts, but the general trend has been toward fewer weapons.



William B. Hartung

WHY CITIZEN SCIENCE? PROGRAM PART OF WIDER EXPANSION IN MATH AND SCIENCES

by j.p. lawrence

Mark Halsey has a corner office at Bard College's new science center. As an Associate dean of the college, the office seems little reward for his many years work toiling in support of science and mathematics at Bard.

Halsey, also an Associate Professor of Mathematics has worked at Bard since 1989 - longer than many of his students have been alive. During his tenure, he has seen the division of Science, Mathematics and Computing grow exponentially.

This growth began in earnest with a science initiative in the late 90s. Over the last decade, Bard now increased its math and science faculty, added a computer science department, and built the 70,000-square-foot Gabrielle H. Reem and Herbert J. Kayden Center for Science and Computation.

"We've come a long way," Halsey says. "We've about doubled the percentage of math and science majors now, and I think that's even increased. But one thing that I think that has been left unresolved - and I think the President feels very strongly about this - is science general education."

In order to fill this gap, Bard is introducing a new program it has entitled Citizen Science. The program will commence in January 2011. Modeled after Bard's other freshman orientation, the Language and Thinking Program, the program will take place over the course of two and a half weeks and will be mandatory for the entire class of 2014.

Classes will consist of two sessions a day, and will be held all over campus. Students will rotate through laboratory, computing modeling and classroom-based sessions. Lab and computer work will take place in RKC; most classroom-based work will take place in Olin. Each section will consist of approximately 20 people, and one faculty member. The program will culminate in a final group project.

The course will focus on infectious diseases. Focus will be placed both on the biological aspects of how they grow and spread, and the policy aspects of controlling the spread of disease.

The goal of the course, according to program director Brooke Jude, is to make all students comfortable with scientific terms and thinking.

"Sometimes, individuals will have the tendency to turn their ears off when they hear something even remotely related to science. Maybe because they are not interested,

or maybe because they have had bad experiences somewhere along the line," Jude says. "So what I am hoping to do is break down that barrier."

Jude has selected faculty from a variety of fields, including medicine, physics and chemistry. They will be arriving from the National Institute of Health, the Navy's bio-warfare division, and the Society of Microbiology. Each faculty member will be allowed to modify the two prescribed lab assignments to fit their own expertise.

Because the program is ungraded, Jude admits that tuned-out students are a definite possibility. But she hopes that the faculty will be engaging enough to encourage participation.

"There are going to be individuals who may not participate," Jude says, adding that she is looking into the possibility of academic sanctions. "We are hoping that just by being in the room, they will learn enough to break through some barriers."

Jude says the program could only take place during the freshman year. She notes that if students discovered an appreciation for the sciences during their sophomore year, it would be too late to redirect their academic academic plans.

"My fears are the same as everyone else's," Jude says. "It's a change in the curriculum, it's a change in the schedule, and I think it takes time for everyone to get used to that what they perceive as a change from the normal. But I think that we are going about this in the right way, and we are going to do our best to make this a meaningful experience."

"We have done this type of thing before," adds Halsey, who served in an advisory role during the program's planning process. "We put L&T in place. We run a first year seminar program. We have started high schools in New York City. This isn't our first rodeo."

For Halsey, the program is just another step in the development of left-minded thinking at this traditionally left-leaning college.

"The idea has crystallized into something innovative and groundbreaking," says Halsey. "My reaction is the same as what people on the outside have been telling us: finally, something interesting is happening."

"finally, something interesting is happening."

DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE CONVERTED INTO INDIAN RESTAURANT

DOSO RESTRUCTURED TO BETTER SERVE STUDENT BODY

by free press staff

In case you didn't read the 'Welcome Back Letter' (what's wrong with you?), there is a big change in Bard administration this year. The Dean of Students Office (DOSO) is now the Dean of Student Affairs Office (DOSA). The title comes from the popular Indian dish, a delicious crispy pancake. The new title is indicative of Bard's recent initiatives to break into the culinary world (see next page).

"I cannot think of a better way to honor Bard's 150th anniversary than to turn the Dean of Students Office into an Indian restaurant," President Leon Botstein told the FREE PRESS in a phone interview. "I believe it is in keeping with the college's mission and values."

As students may know, DOSA is a delicious crispy south Indian pancake. "We serve it with chutney," confirms Erin Cannan, whose new title is Dean of Student Affairs. "It will be our staple dish." In her new role, Cannan hopes to create more opportunities on campus for engaging students - such as local projects, internship opportunities and civic involvement. "Our selection of dips is particularly lacking at the moment," Cannan sighed. Cannan requests that anyone who can make a decent mint yogurt dip e-mail cannan@bard.edu immediately.

"Yes, our menu is expanding," confirms Bethany Nohlgren, who has been promoted to Associate Dean of Stu-

dent Affairs and Engagement. In her new role, Nohlgren will focus primarily on naan breads. "My platters rock. Throw some naan, daal, raita, saag paneer, and salad on a plate, and you're in business." Nohlgren will also work to create more collaborative programming, as well as a more cohesive freshman-to-sophomore experience. "But mostly the naan bread," stresses Nohlgren.

David Shein will remain in his current role as Dean of Studies. "They wanted me to expand my role at first," explains Shein, "but I feel my current services are valuable to the community. I mean, who doesn't like my lamb vindaloo?" President Leon Botstein had to excuse himself when asked about Shein's signature dish, as the mere thought of it makes him drool uncontrollably.

Gretchen Perry, former head of residence life, has been promoted to Dean of Campus Life. "I will keep the kitchen running," says Perry. Perry started at Bard last year - she got the job, she recalls, after delivering a twenty minute speech about her first time eating chicken vindaloo. Perry will now supervise Residence Life, the Health Center, the Counseling Center, BRAVE, and the newly formed DOSA Catering Services. In addition, she will manage social and disciplinary concerns, and student crisis intervention. Perry also hopes to install tandoori ovens in every dorm on cam-

pus.

Finally, Lora Seery is now Assistant Dean of Student Affairs and Engagement. "I love working with sophomores and will continue to do so," insists Seery. "But, the people need to taste my pakoras." Seery then went on to give a long, detailed description of her signature dish, a battered and deep-fried vegetable appetizer that is served with various chutneys. When asked about the Peer Review Board, a new disciplinary committee coordinated by Seery which will address various policy violations, a distracted Seery declared "it is crispy and just plain delicious." Seery then recused herself from the interview to drive around campus in a golf cart, tossing pakoras at all passing students.

Rebranded and reorganized, DOSA hopes to revolutionize the way we think about Indian food. "We trying to take a pro-active role in supporting students, rather than just responding to crises," explains Nohlgren. "For this reason, I am pleased to announce a 20% student discount at DOSA, for all purchases \$20 or over.

"It's all part of our efforts to spice up Bard campus," added Shein, holding out a meat-covered plate. "Vindaloo?"

Unnecessary disclaimer: Parts of this are a joke.

COP SHOP FALL EDITION

by ken cooper

Bard had a productive and musical summer with the Music Festival and Spiegel tent providing superb venues for the talented community of performers and musicians - and the bad guys/girls took the summer off as well. L&T went smoothly, as did the opening of school at the beginning of September.

The smoothness is now over.

* 60 Bard students in Tivoli wished to get back to the college in the early morning one Sunday morning. Unfortunately, the Campus Shuttle only holds 30. Many of the students displayed behavior uncharacteristic of our community, causing the shuttle driver great distress when he asked 30 students to leave the bus. Once again, alcohol/substance abuse is exposed for what it does to young brains and how those brains guide their attached bodies into the "knucklehead world."

* Bard College mistakenly admitted a child, who is damaging the campus with nonsensical graffiti. The Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, Admissions, and a security vehicle have all been defaced. The cost for repair - and the stupidity of the acts - will not allow much compassion for the perpetrator, once caught. Not a good way to start/end a college career.

* Along with the unfortunate graffiti news, vandalism at Tewks and other areas on campus have occurred. Why

any student would trash his own home/school, especially in an economy that is hurting so badly, could be an interesting study for a psych major.

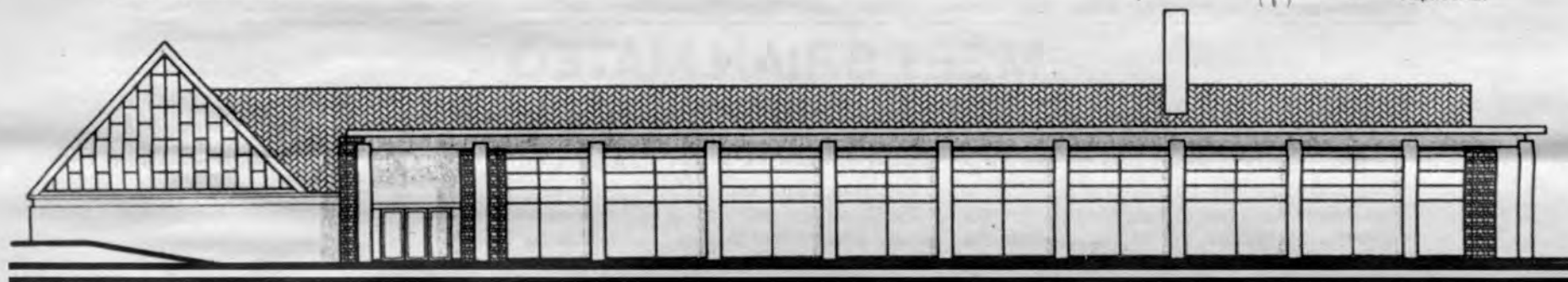
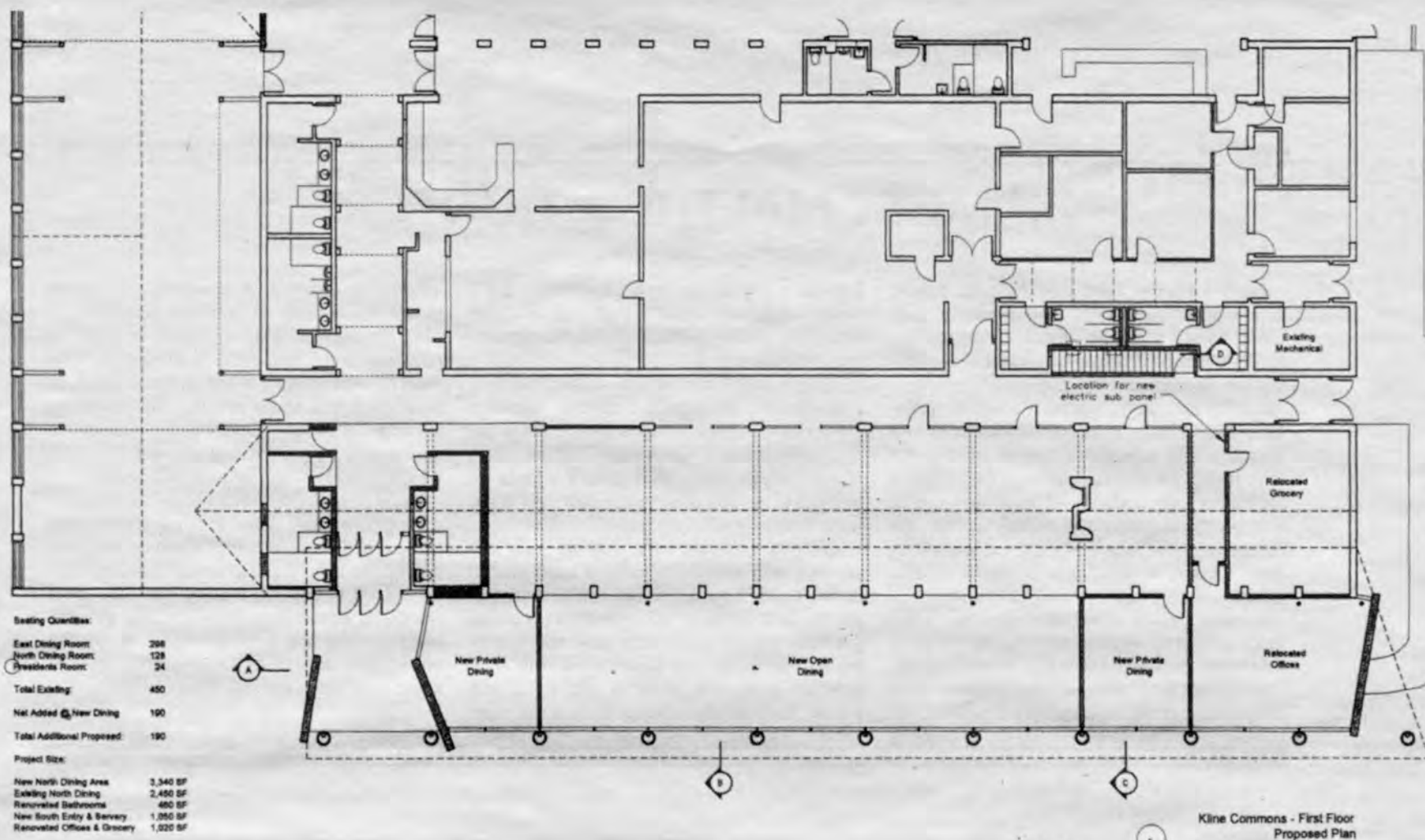
* A positive comment: we have a strong community - one that strives to figure out this 'Rubik's Cube' in which we are obligated to live - and we have the best students. One knucklehead who left the sand box too early will not harm the fabric of this college.

* Bard chefs are at it again. The local volunteer Fire Departments have responded to over half a dozen alarms from burnt food since September 4th. In a meeting with two bleary eyed fire chiefs, we discussed an interesting fact. Senior citizen housing, which provides stoves for residents, have almost identical problems. Both groups are inattentive once they light the stove. One group may fall asleep, while the other group is distracted even when the wind blows. The result is the same - a potential fire, and very overworked firemen/women.

Remember: September 21st is Fire Safety Day. Check out last years event on YouTube:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iBgNdRkPCWE&feature=related>

*"the
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KLINE FOOD IS BETTER - NO, REALLY BUILDING ALSO TO BE EXPANDED

by joey sims

It is not your imagination - the food at Kline is indeed better this year. After years of inaction, Chartwells and the administration have joined forces to improve the cuisine and facilities at Kline Commons.

"The time has really come to focus on Kline," says Chas Cerulli, Chartwells Director of Dining Services. With plans to build an entirely new dining facility at least five or six years away, the college realized that, as Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration says, "we have to make Kline work."

As a result, several changes to Kline dining services were made over the summer. "Our priorities were: focus on local; debunk the myths behind how our food is prepared; and bring the kitchen out front," explains Cerulli.

Chartwells improved its links with local growers, which, along with a successful harvest, meant better ingredients.

Bringing the kitchen out front means "people are seeing the food being made, to a certain extent, before their eyes," says Cerulli. For instance, all vegetable cutting at the salad bar is now done out front; and every day there is a featured item, often prepared out front - items so far have included banana flambe, risotto, smoothies and parfaits.

Among the most innovative changes this year: the food is actually fresh, now being made just hours before it is served. "It is cooked closer to the time it is being eaten," confirms Cerulli. This shift has necessitated in-

creased manpower and labor, Cerulli added. He did not clarify exactly how long in advance Kline food used to sit around before students were served.

The changes are still a work in progress. "Over the next three weeks, you're gonna see it change again," confirms Cerulli. The pizza station will be moved to the current meat station, and what was previously the pizza station will become a fully outfitted kitchen. "It will be a totally interactive cooking," says Cerulli enthusiastically. "It will be a featured item of the day, but it will be cooked in front of you at that station. We can braise, we can smoke, we can do stir fries and sautes. It will be a pretty versatile station-- that will ultimately offer more variety."

So why have these changes come now? Cerulli cites the interactive web-based survey that Chartwells sent to all students over summer. "We got a really terrific response," he says. Administrative pressure was also a factor. The college hopes to rise to the level of dining services offered by colleges similar to Bard.

The extra money, however, comes entirely from Chartwells. "We are making that investment," says Cerulli, citing Chartwells' long term relationship with the college.

In addition to these culinary changes, there are plans to expand and extend the Kline structure. Because of overcrowding, the Kline complex will be extended to increase seating and serving space.

Current plans extend the north side of the building about ten or twelve feet in the direction of the rugby

field. The extension will cover the path currently in that space (the field will not be affected). The north dining room (the quiet room), the Green Onion, and the meeting rooms will be enlarged. Green Onion and the Chartwells office will also be repositioned, and the office will be condensed.

Changes are also planned for the serving area. "The main door students come in through will be moved down to create more room for the servery part where students get their food," explains Brudvig. The serving area and dining room will have separate entrances under the plan.

If all goes to plan, the north extension will begin work during the spring semester. "Most of the work is outside the existing walls, so it could be done without disturbing the use of the building," says Brudvig. The serving area expansion should take place over the summer break. Brudvig estimates the overall building time at ten months.

However, the project remains in the planning stages. "We have to find out how much it will cost," says Brudvig. President Botstein will then pitch the project to the Board of Trustees, who must approve it before work can move forward. The next Board of Trustees meeting is in October. Once the project is approved, fundraising efforts will begin.

MEET MATTHEW HUNTER

by adrienne vitullo

Matthew Hunter, Bard's new athletic trainer, is a vibrant personality. "I'm a twelve year old at heart," smiles Hunter, who can now be found brightening up the basement of the Stevenson Gymnasium.

Coming straight from graduate school at Seton Hall University, Hunter is as avid an athlete as you would expect. He spends most of his time hiking the Appalachian trail and training for the Ironman Triathlon. At his alma mater he was on the lacrosse and hockey teams - he continues to be active in both. He also finds time, though, to read lots of Paulo Coelho books.

Ironman events alone are incredibly challenging for any athlete, and Hunter confirms that he is often asked how it is "even possible" that he can finish a race. His attitude about life probably helps - in speaking with him, it becomes clear that he brings the same positive

spirit to every aspect of his life. Hunter says he likes to advise students that "You can push your body to do anything," and to "keep pushing, even if you're tired."

Hunter's office also demonstrates just how important this philosophy is to him. Taped to the double doors outside are two pieces of paper. One details a NASA study that describes how aerodynamically impossible it is for bumblebees to fly. The other is the definition of the word 'endurance.'

Hunter is enthusiastic about his new job. Working with athletes who have been injured is "rewarding," he says, but the best part of his job is being able to watch those athletes get back into the game after time spent dealing with an injury. He explains the difference between a physical therapist and an athletic trainer, making little attempt to hide his bias. Athletic trainers, he explains, are much more

efficient in emergency situations - or as he puts it, much better at "on field evaluations."

Hunter says he watches sports in a whole new way since becoming a trainer. He now finds himself cringing at the almost-injuries, or amazed at how some athletes are not injured in certain situations. But he has never let this apprehension and caution prevent him from watching and taking part in sports himself.

Bard's new athletic trainer is certainly an engaging conversationalist, and a strong believer in the creed of *carpe diem* - which he says has served him well. Even in a short meeting such as ours, it is obvious that he has had some wonderful experiences in his life. Nor will anything prevent him from continuing to experience more and more. "Don't stress," Hunter says. "The future will take care of itself."

MEET BRIAN MATEO

by lucas duffy-tumasz

As Brian Mateo welcomed me into his office, his face gleamed with excitement. His office is so neat, you might think he moved in yesterday. In fact, Mateo has been at Bard for a few months now. But everything in his manner suggests the excitement of a new employee on his first day at work.

Mateo is the new Assistant Director of Student Activities and the Bertelsmann Campus Center. He came to Bard from Penn State, where he received his undergraduate and master's degrees in Bio Behavior Health and Higher Education and Student Affairs. Mateo now works under Director of Student Activities Julie Silverstein. Together they work with student clubs and organizations to help them plan and implement events across campus. Mateo is specifically responsible for supervising campus center employees and event staff, and co-ordinating campus center vendors.

Mateo explained all of this to me at a mile a minute, all the while keeping to a very formal and official tone. All his answers were short and precise. I felt that something was missing. I could not get much sense of Mateo as a person. To try and probe deeper, I enquired about something interesting fact I had previously learnt about him.

"So, I heard you have a drag persona?" I asked. His eyes perked up and he leaned forward. "Oh, you went to the drag workshop?" During L&T, Mateo conducted a drag workshop where he helped male and female students create their own drag personas and perform.

Brian's alter-ego is named Fuchsia Elegante. "Fuchsia Elegante is a big feminist who goes against the grain," explained Mateo. "But the drag workshop I did was more to create an awareness

of what drag culture is. Obviously you will not see me walking around in a wig sometimes. When I am Fuchsia, I am a totally different persona."

The Mateo who spoke about Fuchsia was completely different from the one I had met earlier in the interview. As he explained his other persona, Mateo became more expressive, more candid and more comfortable.

Mateo was active in the drag scene at Penn State. But when he got the job at Bard, he gave his drag supplies to his friend, figuring his days as Fuchsia were over. Mateo had assumed that working at a college and being a drag queen were not compatible.

However, Mateo was to be surprised when he arrived at Bard. While speaking to a fellow staff member, he mentioned Fuchsia - and was pleasantly surprised when the staff member encouraged Brian to bring Fuchsia back and conduct a drag workshop.

Mateo is not sure when his alter-ego's next appearance will be, though he mentioned that he has been approached to perform at the Gender Bender. Regardless of when we next see them though, Fuchsia and Mateo has one message they would like to impart to the Bard community: that it is okay to be vain.

"Vanity [means] being true to who you are, and never letting anyone else tarnish your shine," explains Mateo. "Respect others and always love yourself. That is the main reason I end my show by talking about vanity. Because it is cool to have some vanity and self esteem. If you don't love yourself, no one else will. That is what I am trying to get across to the student body."



photo by will anderson

MEET THE NEW RESIDENCE LIFE STAFF

interviews by jessie channell

Margaret Bertram, Assistant Director of Residence Life

Where are you from?

I am originally from a small town in Illinois. I went to Illinois Wesleyan University for undergrad, then worked at Lawrence University in Wisconsin. Before coming to Bard, I had just completed a master's degree on Higher Education and Student Affairs at University of Connecticut.

How did you end up here at Bard?

Julie Silverstein (Student Activities) and Jane Duffy (BEOP) are alumnae of my masters' program. While I was job searching, I told them I was interested in staying in the Northeast and working at a small liberal arts college. They told me about all their great experiences at Bard, and that convinced me to apply.

What does your position entail?

As Assistant Director I do a little bit of everything other than directly supervising PCs. Among my responsibilities are: supervising the office staff, coordinating the room

change/room swap process, planning PC selection and training, assisting in the room draw process, managing the Residence Life budget, serving as a contact for graduate students and Feitler, and serving in the administrator-on-duty rotation.

Favorite part of working here?

My favorite part of working here thus far has been getting to know and build relationships with my colleagues and the PC staff. It's very energizing to work with such creative and talented folks.

Least favorite part of working here?

My least favorite part of working here thus far is basically not having the time to do all I would like to do on campus. August and the first couple of weeks of September are particularly busy in our office, and I'm looking forward to having some time to get out and support students at their games, performances, etc.

Favorite song of all time?

Wow, this is tough! I guess I need to go with "Mystery" by Indigo Girls, lyrically, and "Anonanimal" by Andrew Bird, musically.



Robert Feeny, Area Coordinator for North Campus (Manor, Robbins, Catskill, Hudson)

Where are you from?

I am from New Hampshire, born and raised.

How did you end up here at Bard?

I wound up at Bard because my best friend worked here in 2008-2009. I visited him and loved it, so I applied for the open position.

What does your position entail?

My position entails a lot. I supervise PCs and teach them to be a resource for students. I also meet with students who have concerns about classes, housing, friends - really anything. I like my job because it's different every day.

What is your favorite part of working here?

My favorite part of the job is meeting a lot of really creative students. Bard is definitely a very special place in that respect. People are really passionate about what they're doing, and that's refreshing.

Least favorite part of working here?

My least favorite part of working here is that it's a long way from the ocean.

What is your favorite song of all time?

Wow, what a hard question. I would probably have to say that "Born To Run" by Bruce Springsteen takes the cake. That whole album is so honest, and I don't think people take The Boss serious enough.



Ashley Boltrushek, Area Coordinator for South Campus (Tewksbury, New & Old Toasters, Williams)

Where are you from?

I am originally from Lynn, Massachusetts (about 20 minutes north of Boston). My last job was at Simmons College in Boston.

How did you end up here at Bard?

By accident! I found the Bard AC position through ACPA, a job placement conference, that was held in Boston this year. I fell in love with the area, and found my professional and personal goals aligned well with the people at Bard. Plus, I really wanted to have kittens, and Bard allows me to have them on

campus.

What does your position entail?

Student development. Pop into Annandale House, room 103, to find out just what that means!

Favorite part of working here?

The people. Our students are bright, entertaining, and talented. Our staff are dedicated to student growth and success. The combination of the two make for an amazing environment to be a part of.

Least favorite part of working here?

I am three hours away from the Boston Garden.

Favorite song of all time?

This is tough...Incubus - Are You In? It is a simple song but it makes me laugh because they reference the color sea foam green.



photos by brian matteo

BARD PALESTINIAN

FROM THE BPYI ORGANIZERS

by mujahid sarsur, rose na zarza, canra, aaron dean, and kendra chamberlain

This past August, almost twenty students from Bard traveled to the small Palestinian Village of Mas'ha. Our intention was to engage and interact with the Palestinian youth culture in the village. Our experience in Palestine was wholly unique, a challenging and beautiful time. President Botstein and Dr. Paul Marienthal both put it best - the former described our project as "A necessary one," while the latter dubbed it "an experience that Bard is thankful for."

The names of the Bardians who participated:

Sarah Stern, Lauren Blaxter, Mark Neznansky, Ben Difabio, Adam Flowers, Liza Miller, Max Robb, Kasra Sarikhani, Sam Shapiro, Alexa Wolf, Morgan Green, Liz Castle, Paige Milligan, Dan Gettinger.

So what exactly did we do in the West Bank? First, we should note that we had two camps in Mas'ha, one for Palestinian and Bardian females and for Palestinian and Bardian males. Our routine was as follows:

1. In the morning, the adult females served at a girls' kids camp, while the adult males served at a boys' kids camp.
2. In the afternoon, we participated in cross cultural activities.
3. In the evening, English workshops were held for the whole village, open to people of all ages.
4. We took cultural trips to Bethlehem, The Dead Sea, and Jerusalem.
5. We established a library for the children of Mas'ha. It is the first public children's library in Palestine.

6. We celebrated a great festival attended by the American Consulate, the Governor of the Salfit Province, and many other Palestinian officials.

And here is the recognition that we got:

1. The head of the Village Council, Nedal Amer, received a letter from the Prime Minister of Palestine, Salam Fayyad, congratulating the village for hosting this great initiative.

2. We are in direct touch with the American Consulate in Jerusalem, and they offered to fill our library with books, and to help us with our vision to establish libraries all over Palestine.

3. The Associated Press, after talking to participants Nur, Aumamah and Mujahid, published an article about the Palestinian visit to Yad Vashem. This article was published in most major world newspapers including all the Israeli newspapers and the Washington Post. If you Google "Palestinians Learn about the Holocaust," you will find the online papers that published it and thousands of interesting comments.

4. All the Palestinian news agencies (Maan, Wafa, Sahafa, Hala) published an article about the final festival. This article was published in all the daily newspapers (Al-Quds, Al-Ayyam, Al-Haiah)

5. Two major popular Arabic websites, Al-makan and Al-Qaria, published amazing articles about the festival day.

www.bpyi.org

ONE MAN'S ACCOUNT

by mujahid sarsur

The most astounding thing I found during our experience in Palestine is the puzzle that comes from the intersection of two different cultures. I would love to share with you some sentences that reflect that puzzle. I have heard these sentences during our experiences from the twenty Palestinian and Bardian males, and from the Palestinian and Bardian females (even though my interaction with females was limited).

The culture is extremely different. Truth is taught here. Truth is discovered there. Why people here, despite their difficulties, are so happy. God and family. What is God? God is the way to happiness. I'm the most atheist ever. Wait... you don't believe in God? !!! You guys are very sensitive to each other. You guys are (I don't know if it is chill or creepy) -you touch and kiss... The people here are real people. There, we believe in freedom. Freedom is the freedom from desires. Separate but equal does not work. I actually feel more comfortable here around males only. Really. No pressure from females' expectations. There is sweetness in mixing. Why do you wear your veil? Why do you wear your pants? You are confined. The more protected the stone, the more expensive it is. Quite to the

contrary of what I secretly expected, the men in this community look squarely to the women for the lead. The roots of prejudice run deep. Wait, the Quran says that God destroyed them because they were gays?! Well, so is the Bible. Shit. That is a big puzzle. Do you girls have boy friends? No. I do. Ouch !! It is necessary for future decisions and it is fun. The way it works here, for example, I'm engaged and we are deciding if to get married. No sex during engagement, just getting to know the inner soul of, perhaps, my future husband. Sex is secondary. My future husband is mine, and I'm his. The culture is different.

Only continuing the effort would solve the puzzle. We probably solved some pieces this summer, but to see the whole picture, one needs to struggle. The puzzle is humanity, and the pieces are its cultures. Cultural Interaction is the first step towards that enlightenment. It creates frustration and confusion, but illumination when a piece is fixed. And it is only through love, compassion, and open mindedness that one can continue. God said in the Quran: O mankind! We have created you from a male and a female, and

made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily, the most honourable of you under the sight of God, is that with the best conduct. Verily, God is All-Knowing, All-Aware." Al-Hujurat 13



YOUTH INITIATIVE

EXCERPTS FROM ONE WOMAN'S EXPERIENCE

by morgan green

One Woman's Experience Full Blog on my stay and work in the West Bank this summer can be found at mgreenpalestine.tumblr.com August 9, 2010 According to the Qur'an, there was once a man named Lott who lived happily with his wife in a small village. In this village lived a group of men that engaged in sodomy, which is forbidden. Two angels came to warn the men to stop, but the angels were so beautiful that the men couldn't help themselves and wanted the angels as well. They ignored the words of caution, though Lott's wife knew the angels were there to punish the men and warned them to take heed. The Angels told Lott and his wife that they should lead all the good (non-gay) people out of the village and not look back because the punishment would be too terrible to behold. They followed the instructions, but just as they were out of sight Lott's wife turned back and instantly turned into a pillar of salt. The Angels flipped the entire village over like a pancake and created the lowest point in the world: The Dead Sea.

According to the travel book, the Dead Sea is 411 meters below sea level, 30% salt, and 30% smaller than it used to be. The surface area has shrunk by 25 meters due to a lack of water coming from the Jordan River. Historically, it has always been deemed an unhealthy place and shunned. The rumor is that no bird can fly over it. I didn't see any birds when I was there. It was a famous refuge for religious political fugitives such as King David, King Harold, and John the Baptist who spent quality time alone in the mountains and caves around its banks.

According to me, the Dead Sea is a bizarre, steaming pit of salt water that has excellent skin benefits, but the access to it is politically charged. Tourists come from all over to float, not swim, in a standing body of water as hot as a bathtub and as salty as miso soup. After the hottest bus ride of my life, we all rushed into the water, the Bardiens in bathing suits and the Palestinians still wearing their full hijab and jilbaab. Without hesitation, we smeared the mud all over our bodies, confident in its ability to make our skin radiant. We slipped and slid, but even if we tried we couldn't go under the water. The invisible salty force pushed us up like empty plastic bottles bobbing on the surface. I could do the yoga "happy baby" pose, clicking my heels together above my head like Dorothy without going under the surface. It was spooky, super-natural, and too hot to be like anything else I have encountered.

The Palestinian women don't know how to swim. This was

not the best location for lessons because the water rejected our bodily mass and caused such fierce salt burns that every few minutes someone would emerge blinded from the water, arms outstretched and seeking fresh water showers.

Doha and Moale followed Liz and me after lunch on a mission to collect mud to take home for facials. We were scooping mud and chatting, so we didn't notice how far off from the shore we had floated. When Doha and Moale noticed that their feet could not touch the bottom, they began to laugh and thrash wildly. We were laughing too, and holding out mud bottles up out of the water so as not to lose the precious contents. Liz and I attempted a rescue mission in which I scooped Moale up like a baby and floated her in lifeguard style, paddling wildly with my legs in water that seemed to mock our attempts to swim. A man noticed our commotion (we were laughing too hard to speak) and came over to try to help Doha get upright, but the unwanted male attention only made her panic and she flipped about like an egg in a pot of boiling water. The four of us finally got back to shore, and with hearts pounding and mouths puckered with salt, heaved ourselves out of the sea. It was an unexpected workout.

The beach we went to was officially a part of the West Bank, but I could see the Israeli flag on both sides. When we were relaxing in the water, a young man started talking to Liza, one of the Bardiens. When he learned that we were staying in the West Bank, he remarked "And they haven't killed you yet?" It is good that we are here. It is important that we are here, and that we tell people we are here. Especially as a Jew, though not a religious one, it is important to form a positive Arab-Jewish relationship.

The sweaty bus ride from the Dead Sea to Bethlehem confirmed that I could never be a Muslim. The heat was hellish. I was only wearing a T-shirt, so I cannot complain compared to the full head covering and floor length coat that the Palestinian women wear. We passed through a temporary checkpoint to get into Bethlehem. As we approached, we pressed up against the windows with our cameras, documenting the Occupation in action. We saw Israeli soldiers running with their guns pointed, doing some sort of military routine. I felt my heart sink and twist in a knot. The Palestinians told us to put away our cameras because the soldiers would take them away if they knew we were documenting their activities.

The traditional religious garb is more than just a personal choice here. It is an immediate identification of whose side you are on, and what invisible, or not so invisible, wall you can cross. The Hasidic Jews wear full coats and hats and most Jews wear at least the yamaca head cap and the curls called pay-as. When we arrived at the Nativity Church in Bethlehem, the location of Christ's birth, the Palestinians were not allowed into the church. The location is very important to Christians, and many were there after a long pilgrimage from Spain and other faraway countries. They cry, pray, and kiss the various locations where the baby Christ was born, baptized, and wrapped up in cloths. The Bardiens talked to guards and eventually got permission for the Palestinians to come in with us. Lauren wanted to explain the confessional and other Christian traditions.



I am not religious, but my family is Jewish. This is important for me to mention when identifying myself here in Palestine, where I am trying to contribute towards an Arab-Jewish partnership. We are choosing to do something good together. It seems to me more and more that this is the common ground to which we must stay connected so as to avoid bickering over theological differences.

Today we hosted important visitors at the kid's camp. In the middle of my third theater class of the day, I walked Paul Marienthal (director of TLS) and the Palestinian Minister of Education, along with the camp leaders for both the girls' and boys' camp. My class showed them a game I call "sculptor" in which two actors are "sculpted" by the "sculptor" into a situation or relationship (i.e. bird watching, fencing, etc). On a clap, the two statues come to life and begin the scene with movement and speech. The kids love the game and were very well behaved for the guests. At the end of the day we received word that Paul and the Prime Minister were very impressed with our efforts. They said this is the best summer education in all of the West Bank, not to mention much more organized than the boy's camp. There seems to be an unfortunate pattern developing. The art projects I take on are usually made of and look like trash. They are therefore often mistaken for trash and thrown out. Our half-finished ghoulish puppet for the festival was nowhere to be seen yesterday afternoon. It has, however, since been resurrected so no permanent harm was done. He is now too terrifying to be mistaken for trash and will be taken to the girl's camp tomorrow to be painted.

Yesterday we attended a screening on non-violent protest in the West Bank. There is too much information to summarize, but we did come across a few fundamental disagreements in our many group discussions such as whether or not "throwing stones" counts as non-violent protest. Tomorrow we take a field trip (and day off from the kids camp) to attend an all-day lecture at Al Quds University on planning and architecture in East Jerusalem. I must go to sleep now as I am waking up 3am for Ramadan. My days here provide increasingly less time to write and more things to write about.

Full Blog on my stay and work in the West Bank this summer can be found at mgreenpalestine.tumblr.com



photos courtesy bpyi

NEW FACTS FOR THE NEW YEAR

Chartwells enters 19th century - receipts now available at Down the Road

Why do you now get a receipt at Down the Road - whether you want one or not? Blame the evil corporate overlords at Chartwells. "It comes down from God," says Chas Cerulli, Director of Dining Services. "It's one of those corporate internal things that is now a requirement." Cerulli can not explain why Chartwells is demanding this.

Shuttle drivers agree to skip lunch and dinner

Remember that really annoying, nearly two-hour break the shuttles used to take in the afternoons? Well, it is no more. Direct your thanks to Jeffrey Smith, the college's new Facilities and Transportation Coordinator, who worked with drivers to reconfigure the schedule. There are now only two half-hour breaks, both of which are scheduled at off-peak hours. Thanks Jeff!

To be fair, we waste a lot of paper in New Henderson

The rumors are true - Bard is working on plans to charge students for printing. Well, sort of. The current plan is to set up 'printing centers' and to give each student a printing quota. Bill Terry, chief technology officer, estimates each student will be limited to 5-600

pages, though he qualifies this as an "educated guess." Students will be charged for all printing once they pass their quota. Printing centers will be located throughout campus (one is already set up in the library). Terry hopes to set up the print queue system by the end of the year, then take stats throughout the spring semester to determine how the system works.

Cappuccinos declared best office space ever, bar none

Plans for a student bar at Cappuccinos have officially been scrapped. According to Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration, the restaurant will become almost entirely office space. For the uninformed frosh, Cappuccinos was a mediocre restaurant and bar which sat across from the Campus Road exit to 9G. When the business went under, Bard bought the building, which is now an empty shell. The current plan is for the building to house the alumni office, development office and grants office. There will also be a reception room for returning alumni. President Botstein vetoed the bar idea. "He basically argued that that doesn't make any sense," explains Brudvig. "To have a bar across the street when most of our population here is under 21, and it would be used so infrequently by alums." Stupid Botstein and his common sense.

A problem you never knew about has been fixed!

Bard will have a new water system by the end of September. "The water is good," says Brudvig, "but we weren't able to produce either enough water or high quality water." Until now. The college obtained a \$1.7 million stimulus grant that went into adding a micro-filtration system at the college's water plant. Brudvig explains this will make the purity of our water "as good as you can get." By October, Bard will be making all of its own water.

Who got tenure?

Roger Berkowitz (Associate Professor of Political Studies and Human Rights), Nicole Caso (Assistant Professor of Spanish), Rebecca Cole Heinowitz (Assistant Professor of Literature), Gregory Landweber (Assistant Professor of Mathematics) and Maria Simpson (Professor of Dance) have all been tenured. Congrats guys.

Have a question? We can get you an answer. E-mail bardfreepress@gmail.com with your queries - big or small.

"BUT YOU MISSED MY MODERATION!" BARD PROFESSORS RETURN FROM SABBATICALS WITH IMPRESSIVE ACHIEVEMENTS

by hunter loen

Carolyn Dewald (Classical and Historical Studies) spent her sabbatical writing her upcoming commentary on the first book of the ancient Greek historian Herodotus. This comprehensive work is now half-finished by virtue of her almost daily efforts. Professor Dewald also gave a lecture on Herodotus in Oslo, Norway. She was grounded there due to the travel restrictions in the wake of the Eyjafjallajökull volcanic eruption in Iceland. One of the highlights of her unexpected tourist opportunity was the kindness of the Norwegian people. The widespread trust among strangers in Norway was surprised to this visiting American, according to Dewald. She also wrote and reviewed papers for various journals, read senior projects for Bard students, and co-directed the First-Year Seminar program.

Yuval Elmelech (Sociology; Director, Social Policy Program; Research Associate, Levy Economics Institute) contributed to three studies during his leave, researching housing inequality in the US, trends in education of two Jewish ethnic groups, and living standards in Israel. He used census data in his projects, making use of computer modeling technology to help sift through millions of numbers and uncover wider phenomena. Nonetheless, he did urge that "we have to be

careful in generalizing [these conclusions]," noting the complexity behind many trends in a social science context. Though he did not have a chance to travel, he was glad that many of the resources needed for his work were easily accessible via his computer. One conclusion of his analysis was that racial-ethnic factors and prejudice are still factors in the US housing market. He is currently finishing a paper that will discuss the effects social and demographic factors have on happiness.

Alice Stroup (History) though she has previously spent most of her breaks in Paris, spent her sabbatical practicing botany on her newly-acquired four acre property in Saugerties, NY. She was inspired by her grandparents, who were ardent horticulturalists. She was also influenced by Alfred Crosby's book *Ecological Imperialism*, which discusses how imperial powers introduced invasive plants into the regions they colonized. As upstate New York is one such region, she made a project out of re-establishing some native plants on her land, as well as germinating native seeds. Professor Stroup mentioned how hands-on interaction with natural history is a great way to make a huge, influential concept much more personal and exciting.

Geoffrey Sanborn (Literature) spent much of his Spring 2010 sabbatical writing "James Fenimore Cooper and the Invention of the Passing Novel," which is currently being considered for publication in *American Literature*. He delivered a talk about the abolitionist William Wells Brown at a recent nineteenth-century American literary studies conference. He finished his book *Whipscars and Tattoos: The Last of the Mohicans, Moby-Dick, and the Maori*, which will be published this December. Finally, he finished co-editing *Melville and Aesthetics*, a collection of essays that will also be published shortly.

Peter Skiff (Physics) reviewed several books for *Choice: Current Reviews for Academic Libraries*, a magazine published by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Some of the more intriguing titles were *Metaphysics of Scientific Realism* and *The Mangle in Practice*. Professor Skiff also developed a curriculum for his new course in *General Relativity*. He participated in research projects and helped Bard students with senior projects. He made progress modeling the *Rayleigh Approximation*, and is looking for interested seniors to aid in the project.

MARGARET ATWOOD FORTHELLS APOCALYPSE IN COMMENCEMENT SPEECH TO CLASS OF 2010

The following is the text of Margaret Atwood's address to the Class of 2010 at their commencement on May 22, 2010:

"Congratulations! You must all have a great sense of relief—you made it through, you have now graduated from Bard College—a unique and extraordinary liberal arts college, battle-scarred but still bravely standing—where you will have gained invaluable experience in thinking outside the box and in dancing to a surprisingly different tune. I thank Bard for inviting me here, and for the honor they have done me.

I don't deserve all the nice things you've said about me—a writer is doomed once he or she starts believing the billboards, because it's part of the novelist's job to represent humanity in its wholeness, warts and all, and you can't really get into those warts without having some of them yourself. Yes, I am a warty person.

For who but a warty person—or, to put it in more romantic terms, one who has visited the shadow side—would have written two fun-filled, joke-packed novels about the almost total annihilation of the human race? I didn't get any literary awards for those. Judges might warm to the idea of an atrocity or two, but the entire human race? Note to self: Margaret. You're an idiot. You went too far.

I hope these novels will remain just that—novels—and that you won't be faced with what's in them. Still, you must have some apprehension. Ahead of you lies *The Rest of Your Life*, and that can be a daunting prospect, especially in these tough economic times. The difference between someone your age and someone my age is that I kind of know the plot. I know how my story is likely to turn out, and not so far from now. But you don't, and that can be very anxiety-making

.Let me try to remember what it was like to be roughly your age—some 47 years ago.

The reason for my being invited here to Bard was the Mary McCarthy Award, which I have incongruously but gratefully received. And, as it happens, when I was your age I was reading Mary McCarthy's famous 1963 novel, *The Group*. I can remember exactly where I was reading it—in Cambridge, Massachusetts, in the bathtub on the third floor of a women's graduate residence. It was a rambling, 19th century classical white New England building. Unbeknownst either to itself or to me, it would later serve as the model for the Commander's house in my 1985 novel, *The Handmaid's Tale*. It was a warm late spring day; my just-washed hair had been shellacked with a green gel product called Dippity Do and rolled onto big bristle rollers, in my ongoing struggle to make it straighter. The window blind was down, but the window was slightly open, kept from being raised higher by a lock, for this women's residence was a magnet for prowlers, Peeping Toms, and exposure artists.

I was just at the famous numerological sex scene in *The Group* when in through the open window came a large, hairy hand, groping around to see what might be accomplished. I thought of slamming the window down on it, or putting the wet soap into it, but I did nothing. I merely contemplated it, wondering to what literary uses it might be put. Surely Mary McCarthy would have known.

That story makes those times sound carefree. But consider: World War II had been over for a mere 17 years, and many countries were still recovering from the enormous trauma and destruction that war had caused. Elvis Presley had already occurred, but the Pill and miniskirts and pantyhose and the Beatles were still in the future; so was the woman's movement that began in 1968-69. Women at college were told they were there so they could make suitable dinner-table conversation once they married a lawyer. We lived in the shadow of the Cold War and the atomic bomb, convinced that we could be blown to smithereens at any moment. The civil rights movement was trying to end segregation, and encountering violence and murder. The failed Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in 1961 was followed swiftly by the Cuban missile crisis of 1962, which had scared us silly.

John F. Kennedy was the glamorous President, but he had less than a year to live: he would be assassinated on November 22 of that very same year. American involvement in the Vietnam War had already begun: a war Mary McCarthy would later oppose, as she opposed many things throughout her life. One of the many things she wasn't too keen on was *The Handmaid's Tale*, which she reviewed unfavorably for the *New York Times*. Lack of imagination, was her verdict. I suppose she just didn't believe that religious extremism would ever get that powerful, though she did agree with the novel's suspicion of credit cards.

Those of us entering *The Rest of Our Life* back then felt we were living in tense times. And we were. And so are you. The problems you will face are to some extent predictable—who can now avoid the fallout from the economic meltdown of 2008? The ripples are still spreading. Then there's the environmental and climate crisis. "If you want to make God laugh," goes the joke, "tell him your plans." All gods were once weather gods, and the weather gods are laughing at us a lot.

With climate change will come water wars, and worsening conditions for crops, and famines—25 million people entered the ranks of the malnourished in 2007 alone. Couple these conditions with growing demands for energy, and thus more CO₂ and more global warming—how will such forces play out? As populations attempt to shift from less prosperous to more prosperous areas and conflicts threaten, more walls will go up, as those who have try to

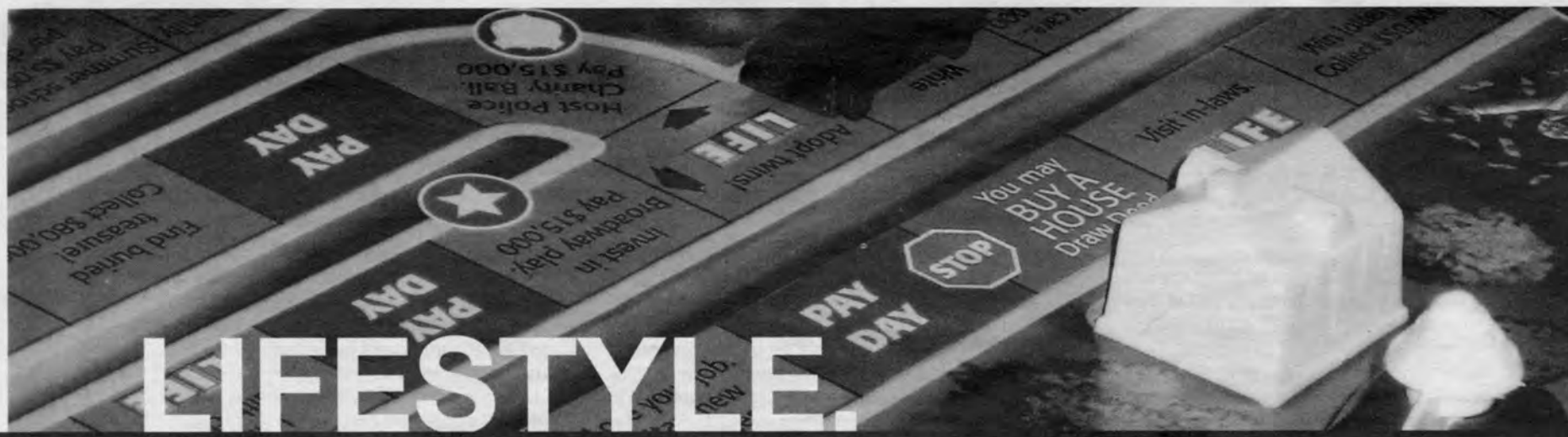
keep, and those who have not will in desperation try to storm the barricades. Epidemic diseases will break out. What is a single individual to do? What can a single individual do? It will be part of your story to find out.

But more important for you to consider are the mental walls—the polarization and labeling that seem to be so characteristic of our times. When people can no longer talk about the problems they share, but can only scream as if the debate were one big shock jock radio rant, a democratic society is in trouble. Part of the screaming happens because, as a civilization, we've exhausted the usefulness of the old terms of reference—the traditional left and the traditional right have lost much relevance, as global financial systems twist under the strain and neither side seems able to come up with new, useful ideas. "Choice of evils" debates always produce extremism—people choose what they hope is the lesser evil, then call it good and demonize the other choice. It will be a challenge for your generation to synthesize—to move beyond Us versus Them, to We.

I sometimes make hopeful predictions rather than dire ones, so let me try a few. Situations that seem hopeless and deadlocked today can change in an instant. The Middle East situation will be resolved under the process begun by President Obama, when Israel realizes what many of its citizens already know—that to do otherwise would lead to disaster. The beleaguered Palestinians will finally be a recognized state. All parties in the region will join together to work on solutions to the vanishing water supply, for no one can survive more than three days without water. The entire Middle East, including Iran, will begin talks leading to a nuclear-free zone. Green energy technologies will improve to the point at which we are no longer eating and drinking oil. Industrial hemp—you'd have to smoke an acre to get high, so no threat there—will once again be grown in the United States, adding a valuable fuel, food, and clothing crop, not to mention paper: the Declaration of Independence was written on hemp paper.

That's about all the hope I can handle for today.

Back to Mary McCarthy. With her strong and energetic spirit, Mary McCarthy worked her way through various ideologies—adopting them, testing them, rejecting them, to arrive at a belief in—I quote—"the necessity for creative autonomy that transcends doctrine." That is the gift all warty novelists ultimately need to have, and that is the gift I would wish for you. It will allow you to work in communities, but not to be entrapped by them; to contribute what lies within your power, rather than what others tell you that you must. Above all, relish your sojourn on planet earth. It may be a strenuous and demanding time, but what time has not been? Enjoy the flowers. For happily, there are still many flowers to enjoy."



ADVICE ON LIVING THE TUPPERWARE LIFE BECAUSE YOUR STOMACH SHOULDN'T BE PARTICIPATING IN CLASS MORE THAN YOU ARE.

by abby ferla

Point one -- and this is really the most important: pack emergency food. As far as I'm concerned, no one should ever leave the house without trail mix, an energy bar, or a juice-box on hand, because shit happens. Housemates inadvertently eat the last two slices of bread that you were counting on for a sandwich. Alarms don't go off in the morning, leaving absolutely no time to pack a well-balanced lunch. Or you remember all too late that you scheduled that very important meeting with that very important person for 6:15 today and won't be able to make it home until 11:00 for dinner.

Point two: a salad or small wrap sandwich alone is not going to cut it. Some greens and vegetables may seem like a healthy option and may fill you up for about an hour, but-- trust me-- if you try to make it the entire day having eaten a two-hundred calorie lunch, you're going to get hungry. If you get hungry, you are going to be distracted or tired. Fatigue leads to you to be cranky, it pulls your eyelids down in the middle of class, slows your breathing, pushes saliva to the corners of your mouth, leaves you drooling and snoring through dreams of double bacon cheeseburger bliss. Instead, think: quinoa, nuts, beans, lentils, tempeh fries, ect-- things that are high in protein and carbohydrates but won't go bad if they aren't refrigerated.

Point four: making food in bulk should become your favorite new hobby. Make large pots of grains such as quinoa or rice, which take a long time to cook, and freeze them. Reheating/defrosting a cup of rice takes two minutes in the morning-- as opposed to the 40 minutes it would take to cook from scratch. If you make something large like a stew or curry early in the week, you can toss it some saved rice conveniently into a tupperware on your way to school every morning. (And a note on tupperware: it's expensive and it's a hassle. Long after your have devoured its delicious contents, you need to lug the empty-- and let's face it, kind of gross-- dirty container around for the rest of the day. Instead wash and save empty containers such as jars, yogurt and hummus containers, and the to-go containers from the Thai place. If you pack your

lunch in these, you can easily rinse and recycle the container guilt-free. Also, as Lora Seery suggested to me earlier this week, if you pack your lunch in glass jars, you can safely microwave the contents.)

Point Five: get some sugarmamas. Take care to keep in touch with your campus-bound friends. Invite them over for dinner from time to time so that you feel perfectly entitled to ask them to treat you to DTR when the urge for mozzarella sticks becomes too great to resist.

Point Six (and this one comes from Bethany Nolgren): The lockers upstairs in the campus center were actually designed for students living off campus-- and they're free. If you find one that no one is using, you can walk down the hall to the Student Activities office and claim it for yourself. This can then become a place to keep large jars of animal crackers, dried fruit, a small coffee maker, and jars of peanut butter.

Point Seven: Peanut butter. It travels well, is completely delicious and nutrient packed, and goes really well on the apples growing on the tree across the road from Bard Hall.

Point Eight: Human beings are born with all the capabilities to be hunter-gatherers. There are plenty of places to employ these skills around campus, including but not limited to: the community garden, the above-mentioned apple tree, Leon's dessert functions, Student Accounts, and the Dean of Students Office.

Point Nine: This is my last and final point, because I want you to take it very seriously: Juice boxes are your greatest ally in the fight against hunger. They travel well, don't go bad, and can be successfully devoured on the run. It's nearly impossible to eat minestrone while dashing between the PAC and Olin, but straws make drinking a serving of fruit nearly effortless. Additionally, as long as your don't slurp at the end, juiceboxes (and especially juice purees) are food that doesn't look or sound like food, so you can't get in trouble for eating in class. Also, who looks cooler than the girl walking around sipping on her BerryBerry juicebox? No one.

GREY AREAS ADVICE IS NICE

by *anastasia tuazon*

Q: A lot of guys at Bard are total fashion plates! Is it just me, or has anyone else been having trouble detecting whether some of these foxy men are gay or just style savvy hipsters? Not that I condone judging by appearances, of course...

- Gaydar is Jammed

A: GiJ, everyone judges by appearances, and it's okay to go right out and admit it. I do it, you do it, we all do it. Just make sure you don't let appearance overshadow the other wonderful aspects of a person, and you're golden! As for your gaydar, I know of many a thing that might be throwing it off, and tight pants are only the beginning. Those deep (and I mean deep) American Apparel V-necks are a prime example of clothing that your average American male wouldn't be caught dead in, but are considered de rigueur on a campus such as Bard's. It seems straight boys want to show off a little cleavage too, and why stop 'em? I suppose the only way you're going to find out the orientation of that one ambiguous hottie is to either (a) check facebook - but I'm sure you've already thought of that, (b) covertly hit up said hottie's friend group for information, or if you're feeling bold, try

my favorite option: (c) at the next shindig you spot him at, make a subtle - yet obvious! - move, and see if fireworks ensue. If not, hopefully he won't remember it in the morning.

Q: I know a certain group of friends that can be mean (or at least not always inclusive). Even though I get this negative feeling from them sometimes, I can't stop wanting to talk and hang out with them. What do I do?

- Wondering if it's Worth it

A: That's understandable, WiiWi. Exciting people can often come off mean - usually it's because they feel the need to direct attention to themselves rather than share the love. They may not even realize they're doing it, and they may have been doing it since preschool. Sometimes it can feel like you're fighting just to get heard in a circle like this, because everyone's just so darn pretty and witty and fabulous. No need to cut them out completely, but I'd limit my time in this group if I were you. You'll probably act more genuine in a different circle, and that's always great for the ol' self esteem.

Q: Should I feel dirty about having a crush on a professor? Would it even be ethical for us to get together?

- Hoping in Hudson

A: Hankering for a "private tutorial", HiH? Well, there's really nothing wrong with that. There's a reason you can give a chili pepper to some of Bard's more mouthwatering instructors on ratemyprofessors.com - and what's better than an attractive, smart, and experienced older dude or lady? But alas, life is not a Woody Allen movie, and it is indeed unethical for such a relationship to form - at least, until you graduate. Once you've thrown that cap in the air and thrown yourself into a big fat pile of loan repayment forms, feel free to send that flirty email about the real reason you could never concentrate in FYSEM. You might end up with an awesome date to the alumni dinner!

Ask questions anonymously at greyareascolumn.tumblr.com!

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

photo by i.p. lawrence

WHAT'S ON THE RADIO WAVES?

SUNDAY

12 a.m.--**GETTING WOOD** with Nolan Greece
 12 noon--**HOMEWORK MUSIC** with Matthew Norman
 2 p.m.--**TWO JACKS IN THE BOX** with Jonah Amster and Will Sanna
 4 p.m.--**BRITNEY SPEARS** with Andrew Durbin and Tyler Patterson
 6 p.m.--**LIMNOLOGY** with Ezra Glenn and Jessica Lebovits
 8 p.m.--**PERTUSSIVE HEMORRHAGE GHOST BABY GLAM SQUAD** with Aurora Cobb and Jehovah Curry
 10 p.m.--**RADIO CLASH** with Devon Moffat and Martin Tarnoff

MONDAY

12 a.m.--**THE MIDNIGHT TRAIN** with Amanda Lees
 12 noon--**CONTEMPORANEOUS** with David Bloom and Dylan Mattingly
 4 p.m.--**EUCLID MUSIC** with Adam Wills
 6 p.m.--**ELEPHANT RADIO** with Garrett Rosenblum and Nick Sugihara
 8 p.m.--**UP FROM THE ROOTS** with Ben Bath and Lilah Anderson
 10 p.m.--**GOLF CART PATROL: TRUST US** with Alexander Setzko and Maxwell Robb

TUESDAY

12 a.m.--**DR. SUESS ON ACID** with Tim Clark
 2 p.m.--**GLOOMY DOOM** with Anina Ivry-Block
 4 p.m.--**PROG GRAMMING** with Noah Firtel
 6 p.m.--**THE LADYTHINKERS** with Alana Campbell,

Eliza Holmes and Katie Bondy
 8 p.m.--**ETHICS OF MEH.** with Shannon Thomas and Tara Sheffer
 10 p.m.--**YO! BARD RAPS** with Kylah Shenkin

WEDNESDAY

12 a.m.--**THE AGE OF INFLUENCE** with Eve Alpert, Gerasimos Livitsanos and Kasra Sarikhani
 1 p.m.--**JUKE JOINT JUMP** with Jack Schoonover and Max Simkins
 2 p.m.--**THE HORNY HOUR** with Jay Princeville Lawrence and Joe Roos
 5 p.m.--**GANGSTER LEGS** with Emily Diamond
 6 p.m.--**BLAKE GRINDON TALKS ABOUT MUSIC**
 8 p.m.--**THE HYDROGEN JUKEBOX** with Josh Kopin
 10 p.m.--**THE SOUL FUNKY TRAIN** with Maximillian Hamel

THURSDAY

12 a.m.--**PUPPY DOGS AT MIDNIGHT** with Kyle Baasch
 11 a.m.--**THE BEEHIVE** with Lindsay Stanley
 2 p.m.--**DOG AT LARGE** with Doug Gazarian, Langdon Thaxter, and Noah Slafer
 4 p.m.--**THE BEAST OF THE EAST AND THE BEST OF THE WEST** with Gabe Fine and Rachel Van Horn
 6 p.m.--**WHITE HOT BARD** with Ethan Jones
 8 p.m.--**POWER HOUR WITH ROSS CAMERON**
 10 p.m.--**4 TO THE FLOOR** with kyexvii

FRIDAY

12 a.m.--**THE SOUND AND THE FORTE** with Emily Shapiro and Jenny Ghetti
 12 p.m.--**ALPHABET SOUP** with Alanna Weil and Molly Feibel
 2 p.m.--**TALK WALK TALK** with Lucas Baumgart
 4 p.m.--**PLUSH TRANSHUMANISM** with Keenan Houser
 6 p.m.--**A GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT** with Carey Mann, Felix Walworth and Oliver Kalb
 8 p.m.--**BASSMENT TRAXX** with Amaya Papaya and Edward Katz
 10 p.m.--**TEA-TIME WITH THE SCRILLIONAIRES** with Erica Newton, Jesse Barlow and Logan Hollarsmith

SATURDAY

12 noon--**GUAC AND ROLL** with Samantha Rosenbaum
 2 p.m.--**MAXWELL HAUS** with Blair Maxwell and Gillian Maxwell
 3 p.m.--**LOST IN TRANSMISSION** with Goro
 4 p.m.--**RIGOR MORTIS/FAUX SHOW** with Jack McDermott, Jackson Cody Berman and Lazar Bozic
 6 p.m.--**COLONIZE THIS!** with J.D. Henson, Prabarna Ganguly and Roy Zabludowicz
 8 p.m.--**THE BARDS OF TIME AND SPACE** with James Strande and Matthew Latino

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SCOTT PILGRIM VS. THE WORLD

by sarah louis

Scott Pilgrim vs. the World is the summer movie all of ten people saw. Like Kick-Ass, a film with which it share several similarities, Scott Pilgrim is viewed mostly as a box-office failure (it placed fifth in its first weekend and, despite good word-of-mouth, swiftly slipped down the rankings). But Scott Pilgrim did not deserve such poor treatment. Unlike the many uroginal, knock-off superhero movies which summer audiences rejected this summer (Prince of Persia, Marmaduke), Scott Pilgrim is a true work of art worthy of respect and admiration.

Scott Pilgrim, played by go-to-awkward-hipster Michael Cera, is in his mid-twenties, a band, and a hands-holding relationship with a high school girl. He is in a rut. Then he meets Romana Flowers, the girl of his dreams (Mary Elizabeth Winstead). While Scott and his band, "Sex Bob-omb" (the name is a Super Mario reference) fight their way through a battle of the bands, Scott too is forced to fight. Only he must fight Ramona's seven evil exes - which proves an early challenge in their budding relationship.

Director Edgar Wright (Shaun of the Dead, Hot Fuzz) employs a video game-inspired visual style, which will be familiar to the target audience (college students and 20s slackers/hipsters). There is more to the movie than meets the eye, however. Cera's performance is the most well-rounded of his career. He achieves an interesting combination of doe-eyed, asshole, and badass - a challenging mix to pull off. The supporting cast provide quips galore, but also an endearing community of people. These are folks you will be happy to hang out with for a couple hours. My personal favorite moment, though, is Scott's realization that Self-Respect grants more power than True Love.

The film's visual style purposefully mimics video games and comic books. This is unfamiliar territory in the film world. Such originality has its commercial disadvantages - it most likely alienated wider audiences and led to the film's financial failure. But it can also be distancing, even to the more culturally informed viewer. The movie also suffers from the predictability of its narrative - underneath the pretty visuals and witty one-liners, it is basically your typical tale of boy meets girl, boy loses girl, boy gets girl back.

But why focus on such flaws with a movie as well put together as Scott Pilgrim vs. the World? The clear care put into this movie alone makes it worthwhile. One might need to think of it as a movie very much of its time. But what's wrong with that? Scott Pilgrim vs. the World hasn't topped any charts, and may be forgotten within a few months. But that is only a sign of how special it truly is.

INCEPTION

by nikolas jaeger

To say that Inception, the latest film from Christopher Nolan, is a bad film would be an overstatement. But it is precisely its mediocrity - and the serious way in which it carries itself - that makes the movie particularly disconcerting.

On a purely aesthetic level, Nolan's movie is an exhilarating experience. And Nolan does, to his credit, avoid genre conventions. Though the central conceit - conflicts and espionage are carried out in dreams shared by multiple characters - belongs in the realm of science fiction, the movie avoids most sci-fi trappings. Nolan realizes that futuristic technology has lost its distracting novelty and now seems plain and inconspicuous. So Inception takes place not in a strange future, but in a seductive world of '60s elegance.

Many scenes are also remarkably inventive. A much-touted fight in a rotating hotel corridor lives up to the hype. For a few moments the fighters become more animal than human, like monkeys or spiders grappling with one another while scrambling for balance.

However, Inception becomes increasingly mired in its own constructions. Nolan seems only too happy to cater to the crowd that conflates complexity and confusion with profundity. He delivers the expected 'mindfuck' but little else.

The director is particularly preoccupied with the idea of dreams within dreams, an

occasional filmic oddity taken entirely seriously here. The film drifts in and out of successive dream environments, each one visually distinct from the others. Every object and movement is tightly controlled, leaving the frame stripped bare of all but what is necessary. The result is a distilled, hyperreal quality that could have worked in suggesting the atmosphere of a dream.

Nolan, however, undermines the visuals with a propensity for logical structure that feels very much out of place. The mystery and depth of actual dreams is done away with in favor of a set of arbitrary rules (dispensed in burdensome exposition) not unlike that of a video game. He does not explore the human subconscious as much as he uses it as an elaborate setting for his action movie.

He also gets lost in never ending, heavy-handed philosophizing. Characters wonder what is real and what is not in a way that never rises above the level of mere stoned contemplation. In this rule-bound and simplistic space, the film's ambiguous ending seems like only another puzzle for the audience to solve.

Thanks to all these constructs, Inception amounts to little more than a game for the audience. One is left feeling that the elements Nolan seemingly set aside would have been far more interesting. Or at the very least, Nolan could have offered us some images and ideas that live on their own - instead of constant exposition and set-up, which little to no payoff.

GET LOW

by elena watson

If you committed a terrible crime without getting caught, what would you do with yourself afterwards? How would you live? This is the moral dilemma that Felix Bush (Robert Duvall) has spent the greater part of his life struggling with. Get Low shows us only the very end of this life, after Felix has been living in extreme solitude outside a tiny backwater town in 1930's Tennessee for nearly forty years. What little contact he has had with the locals has been enough for them to judge him a volatile, wild-haired old hermit. Felix has been around so long that many of them have been brought up on fearsome legends of "Crazy Old Man Bush."

Felix does nothing to put these claims to rest. In fact, he seems to rather enjoy promoting his image, riding into town in a mule and buggy, barely speaking, and reaching for his shotgun at the slightest provocation. But this bitter and violent persona, we discover, is all surface. Felix is playing the role he feels is expected of him, both by the townsfolk and by himself.

It is only when we see him alone that we get a true sense of who he is—a timeworn, unsentimental old man haunted by his past. Duvall brings the character to life with such subtle concentration it's easy to forget he isn't really Felix Bush (especially if, like me, you've never seen him in any of his famous roles.) Felix is the type of man who, in realizing that it will soon be time for him to die (or as he puts it, "get low") does not rage or cry - or indeed even bat an eyelid. He simply rides into town in the aforementioned buggy, and starts asking around for a funeral.

After a brief but interesting encounter with the town minister—Felix refuses to repent his sins for the man, and leaves shortly thereafter—he is approached by the almost painfully young and fresh-faced Buddy (Lucas Black,) who offers him the funeral he's been seeking. Buddy works at the town funeral home, run by an enterprising Chicago

man, Frank Quinn, played by the always wonderful Bill Murray. His face composed in its trademark deadpan, Murray seems completely wrapped up in his own world, continually indulging in his own private humor, which is bone dry and very morbid. "One thing about Chicago: people know how to die," he declares at one point. No one else on screen bats an eyelid, but Frank Quinn doesn't seem to care. Everything he says—and does—is for his benefit alone.

Quinn is eager to help Felix, especially after the old man drops a wad of money "the size of a baseball" on the businessman's desk. After that, he is determined to carry out Felix's every request, even when he finds out that the 'funeral party' entails a huge gathering where members of the surrounding counties will come forward and reveal all the horrible stories they've heard about the hermit in the woods. Worst of all, Felix himself will be present. While this at first seems the strange last wishes of an old eccentric, Felix's true motives are revealed with the appearance of one of the few living people with a key to his troubled past: Mattie Darrow, played by the doll-like Sissy Spacek. In her presence we see yet another side of Felix: a soft-spoken, polite, and even charming old man. However, in rediscovering old memories with Mattie, he manages to alienate her as well.

Not all the stories about Felix, it is revealed, are pure fiction—there is one crime he really did commit, many years ago. As he begins to gather the few people still alive who are dear to him, it becomes apparent that the 'funeral party' is really his last opportunity to confess his sin. There's so much build-up to the reveal of this past crime that when we finally do find out what he's done, it is a bit anti-climactic. Perhaps it would have been more effective to have kept Felix's past a secret, leaving us to wonder; or to have had his confession be in a less public setting, since the declaration before a crowd of people seemed a bit unrealistic.

But these are small details that just barely sour the end of a very sweet, very well-constructed film. The subtleties of the plot, and the emotional depth all of these veteran actors lend to their characters, make Get Low a quiet, contemplative, and sometimes very funny film.



POP CULTURE IS LOL DEMI MOORE IS SELF(IE)-MADE

by abby miles-ruttenberg

So on September 1st, the honorable mother of 3, Demi Moore, thought it would be appropriate to post a few selfies on her Twitter account -- mainly focused on her scantily clad body...in her bathroom...like a prepubescent who just discovered Myspace. A few things raced through my mind here. 1) Twitter is a very, very annoying thing and should not be administered by those over the age of 40. 2) Your Twitter name is Mrskutcher therefore you should consider self-destruction. 3) Your body is rather fine and I kind of like it. Despite the fact that we're all impressed that her body is more toned than a 2008 underage Chi-

nese Olympian gymnast, this is all slightly embarrassing. And when I say "slightly", I actually mean severely fucking embarrassing. The pathetic and miserable cycle of celebrity downfall is always just so predictable. It is an interesting process to witness -- like watching someone getting fisted. My favorite debasement possibilities include: public felatio, vaginoplasty, deformed nip-slips, and the new #1: snorting gum instead of cocaine, accidentally (thanks Paris Hilton). Been there, done that. So Demi Moore is an actress. Right? Is she? What was your last big job, Demi? Oh, right -- Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle circa 2003. Hot

But...forreal? Fail. After this incident, Demi tried to reconcile for her juvenile "twit-pics" by posting yet another one mocking herself -- indicating that she has a sense of humor. But it isn't funny at all. Her "funny picture" features a "YouTube Celebrity", Dave Days, (aka WHO THE FUCK IS THAT?) wearing a bikini. It's stupid, unsettling and I don't approve. Girl just can't win. I will say that my message for Demi Moore is, you just put the "Twit" in Twitter, now try for the "Er" in Erectile dysfunction. Keep going with this -- it's the most entertaining you have ever been. (And you aren't even getting paid for it. Suuuucks.)

OUTSIDE 12504 O-WHAT-A?

by kurt schmidlein

On August 31st, 2010, the combat mission in Iraq ended. At last, President Obama has fulfilled one of his campaign promises. Too bad he hasn't followed through on anything else.

Oh wait.

To all of you despondent, lethargic, or uninformed democrats whose support for the President is dwindling: Barack Obama has pushed through Health Care Reform, Wall Street Reform, withdrawn our combat forces from Iraq, redirected resources to Afghanistan, and propped up the economy with a successful stimulus bill. He has cut taxes for working Americans and small businesses, and enacted the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay and the Matthew Shepard Act. He is still working on repealing Don't Ask Don't Tell, he has dealt with the largest environmental disaster in American history, he is striving to repair our strained relationships abroad and he has fought for the constitutional rights of Muslims in New York City.

In short, he has done almost everything he pledged to do during his campaign. In twenty-one months, he has accomplished

more for the liberal cause than Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter did in their combined twelve years in office.

But the economic mood is still sour, unemployment rates remain dangerously high, and polling shows that Democrats will take a heavy hit on November 2nd. If Democrats lose control of the House and/or Senate, President Obama's agenda will be severely compromised. Luckily, organizers, volunteers and ordinary Americans are rushing to the President's aid, eager to defend and work. The Left will make up for its sagging approval ratings with its energetic and devoted supporters. Not.

Democrats across the country lack the enthusiasm reminiscent of 2008, many even regret voting for Mr. Obama. Bard is no exception; the President doesn't turn heads anymore, even with so many accomplishments under his belt and his unrelenting effort to improve our country.

So what's the deal? If you're a Democrat and your view of the President's handiwork is deteriorating, it's probably for one of the following reasons:

1. In 2008 you were an avid supporter but you didn't know what he stood for, so now you're annoyed by what he's doing.

2. You voted for him in 2008, you approve of everything he has done, but you don't really have enough energy to make an effort to stay engaged.

3. You don't think he's done enough, and therefore he isn't worth your time.

And if you're a Bard Student, it could be:

4. You're a hipster: it was cool to like Obama then, and now it's cool to not care about him or the future of the country.

Category 3 is the only legitimate reason for such inertia. But if you think a Republican Congress is going to enact legislation to curb carbon emissions, repeal Don't Ask Don't Tell, or fight for better public schools, then think again. If you thought electing Barack Obama would solve all of our problems, you could not have been more wrong.

If you care about the issues for which President Obama has fought, then it's

time to get off your ass. Pick up a newspaper, and find out what's happening. Learn about the challenges that face our nation and the wider world. If you don't agree with what the president and democratic majorities are doing, then fine. You're entitled to your opinion, and I encourage you to vote on November 2nd. But if you're a Democrat and you're just lethargic, if you're not bothering to get engaged, then shame on you. The biggest threat to the progressive agenda, the democratic majorities in Congress, and President Obama's reelection chances is not the Tea Party, Glenn Beck, or a languishing economy. The biggest danger to the Democratic Party is a lazy, dispirited Democratic base.

It's time for us all to get our energy back and support him again. He has done so much, but there's so much more to do.

Think Kurt's an idiot? Have any opinion on the real world?

Email bardfreepress@gmail.com

OCTOBER OPINION PROMPT: WHAT SHOULD THE BARD ADMINISTRATION'S PRIORITIES BE OVER THE NEXT FIVE YEARS?

EMAIL YOUR OPINIONS ON THIS AND OTHER TOPICS TO BARDFREEPRESS@GMAIL.COM

President Botstein,

You asked that we, the Student Labor Dialogue, send you an email with information on the situation between the housekeepers who clean the dorms and facilities at Bard College and the multinational corporation Aramark.

Aramark and the housekeepers have been in contract negotiations for ten months and the workers have repeatedly denied wage and health care offers not befitting a living wage in the Hudson Valley. We, the Student Labor Dialogue, support the housekeepers employed by Aramark Corporation on Bard campus.

We think it's appropriate to describe the nature of Aramark on Bard's campus. Aramark, as you know, was brought on campus as the descendent to a different subcontractor, Servicemaster, years ago. Aramark is a corporation with 260,000 employees serving clients in 22 countries, and as is the case with any subcontracting corporation, their mission is profit. For its entire duration of service here at Bard College, Aramark has been providing wages and health care benefits far below those of other colleges in the area--and even below those of other workers on campus. For example, at Marist College, a college in the area with a smaller endowment, a janitor's starting wage is \$18.17/hr; the current offer from Aramark is \$12/hr. Marist College janitors do not have any co-pay for their health care. Buildings & Grounds (B&G) workers employed directly by Bard College pay \$150 a month in co-pay for their family health care. And yet, conversely, Bard is willing to allow the current offer from Aramark Corporation to our housekeepers to be a copay of \$836 a month. To put this in perspective, Aramark workers make on average around \$1700 a month, which after paying for family care would leave

a janitor with around \$900 dollars to pay for rent, food, transportation, utilities and everything else it takes to live in this area. This inflated health care premium will cause the majority of housekeepers to go without family care. Without family care, if an accident were to occur with an employee or his/her family, this employee, a janitor making \$12/hr, would have to foot the bill entirely. We believe that treating one group on campus as second-class citizens is morally unjust and that all employees on campus should be treated with respect and dignity and provided affordable health care.

Both you and the administration have mentioned the possibility of bringing another subcontractor on campus to replace Aramark. We, the students of the Student Labor Dialogue and the laborers on campus, would find this to be a disagreeable action and strongly oppose another subcontractor running our janitorial services. Subcontractors are companies with the express concern of profiting off of the contracts that they make; for this reason, any subcontractor will attempt to cut costs by providing inadequate wages and benefits to its employees. The only socially responsible option for an education institution, such as Bard, which prides itself on being a positive force in the world, is to hire them directly and provide these employees a living wage and affordable health care. This would make them a part of the Bard community-- which they are not currently treated as by the administration-- and afford them health care for their families. An institution that makes initiatives overseas and around the country in the name of liberal arts education should provide livable wages and benefits for its own employees at home.

We have heard you state that Bard is an educational institution that is forced to do the other services re-

quired of a residence college, meaning that it must provide dorms and food services. You have said that Bard College is not particularly good at performing tasks that are not related to education and for this reason the college has subcontractors. We would argue that a subcontractor such as Aramark is not particularly good at performing its responsibility to the community either. Subcontractors, in general, have no real loyalty to the community or to the institution and its liberal arts ideals. Subcontractors reap profits that could be redistributed to the workers themselves if employees were hired directly. As is seen with B&G and Security, Bard is capable of running services on campus that are productive and socially responsible in regards to wages and benefits for workers. B&G and Security workers are treated as a part of the community and receive the benefits necessary to live in the area.

The administration has also claimed that it cannot hire janitors directly has been a lack of funds. If you are able to fundraise for programs such as Citizen Science, Bard Summerscape Festival, renovations to Kline, the acquisition of Cappuccinos, and high wages for upper management all in the past year, we find it difficult to believe that you could not fundraise for the people who clean our campus if you made it a goal.

In conclusion, we would like to see the housekeepers who clean our dorms and facilities hired directly by the college and provided with the same health care package as the B&G employees as well as reasonable wages that befit living in the Hudson Valley.

-Student Labor Dialogue

Dear Ezekiel Perkins,

Thank you for sending me your email. I did not expect, however, that an exchange of emails would be public at the start. But if that is your wish, so be it. I would appreciate it then if you might arrange for this reply to be published by the college newspaper.

As you know I am not privy to the details of the Aramark contract or the negotiations, both of which are part of Vice President Jim Brudvig's duties. I know he would be pleased to discuss the matter further with you.

I will therefore restrict my comments to your discussion of whether Bard should hire housekeepers directly or sub-contract the housekeeping task. Bard is not alone as an institution in finding that the cost and quality of service in the areas of housekeeping and food service are superior and more reliable with sub-contracting firms that specialize in these tasks than when the college functions as the direct employer. Contrary to your claims, fund raising for such services is the hardest thing for any college to do. Cursory reflection and common sense both dictate that fund-raising for programs and buildings particularly from non-alumni sources--Bard's primary source of philanthropy--is far easier. Do not presume so quickly as to what is possible in that regard. Furthermore, I suggest that you avail yourself of the comparative data available in the public domain before making passing references to "high wages" for "upper management". They have never been a priority at Bard, and senior management took in 2008 a ten percent pay cut. And you also can check the philanthropy given over the years by that "upper management" to the college, a sign of its deep loyalty to the col-

lege. Either persuade or insult, but do not try to do both at the same time. It rarely works.

But the most important point is how can we find a way to balance keeping costs down, providing a good service and fulfilling a goal with which I think we all agree, the provision of affordable health care to all who work at the college, including those hired by subcontractors. The solution may be with Aramark, or with another firm or with the college itself. Each solution, I suspect, will have its advantages and disadvantages. Resources in these trying and uncertain economic times (that include the specter of sustained high unemployment and the risk of deflation) are limited, despite your unfortunately incorrect assumptions regarding the ease with which funds can be raised in today's economic environment. Most of that which is raised for the college is restricted to specific purposes by donors, not the college.

Last but not least, comparing Bard to other colleges in the region is useful, but only after one takes into account the entire expense and income structure, including the income sources (including restricted and unrestricted annual giving), the student faculty ratio, class size, enrollment, financial aid, endowment size, curricular and program scope, faculty salaries and the administrative overhead costs. In all cases you will find surprising and encouraging comparative facts about Bard.

I hope this issue will be resolved in a fashion that seems fair and just to all, primarily the housekeeping staff.

Thank you
Leon Botstein

President Botstein,

Thank you for your timely response. If you would still like, we will forward your response on to the Bard Free Press and hopefully our dialogue will be side-by-side in the next edition; if not, it will surely be in the following printing. We would like, however, to clarify the following:

1. The sentiments therein represent the opinions of the collective Student Labor Dialogue, as opposed to a single individual;
2. We have reason to believe that the welfare of our housekeeping is an issue that pertains to the majority of the student population and is in keeping with the principles this institution prides itself on;
3. Our petition last year for a living wage and fair health care package had over a thousand signatories from the student body and community; and
4. Our education efforts this year thus far have given us reason to believe that our agenda remains pertinent.

We appreciate your recommendation that we continue to speak to Vice President Brudvig. In resuming the dialogue with him that commenced last year, we hope that we will soon be able to find a just solution to this conflict.

Best,
The Student Labor Dialogue

MIST CON X //

C KING

I saw you in the library by the computers Wednesday. You must be new, because I've never seen you around before. I couldn't keep my eyes off your pale, smooth complexion. You were standing tall, sleek, and composed. I was wearing stripes, trying to print forty pages of Foucault off of Printer 2, and swearing loudly while you were patiently dealing with a Freshman and her Genesis essay. I hear you're faster than the other printers around here, but don't worry; I'm not the hand-holding type. Let me know if you're ready to move on to more sophisticated material-- like my critique of postmodern architectural theory.

Bangin' the Booty: You were wearing a striped shirt and had a hand bag. You had long brown hair (I think). I was wearing a striped shirt too. A part of me thinks it was fate that we danced together for so long at the Booty Banger. We were all up in each other's space when you turned around and decided to take an air break...I think you may be the girl of my dreams, but you disappeared. Send your email or number to mailbox 1936 if you want to reconnect.

You live across the street from me (ish) and I'd like to see more of you. You're always drinking wine in the street, and I like that. I stare at you from my stoop dreaming of the day we can share a bottle (sans fruit flies.) I'll be waiting for my invitation...

You introduced yourself to me at some party a couple of weekends ago. I was drunk, you were a freshman. You were chatting with my friend, who's very pretty. I don't remember you, I don't remember where we were, I don't know if this ever even happened.

Seeking: Male date for parents weekend. Help me prove to my mother that I am capable of being in an attractive and loving heterosexual relationship. Needs to be willing to hold hands and gaze adoringly across the table. PreMed a plus. I'm willing to pay minimum wage if you're willing to do a little acting and wouldn't mind being treated to a dinner out. Send inquiries to campus mail box A76.

Seeking drunken tomfoolery. Willing to to have awkward and mediocre sex with any stranger. I will be at the Black Swan Thursday night wearing skinny black jeans, a floral print shirt, and lace-up leather boots. You will know me by my long brown hair, raybands, and over-the-shoulder bag. Whisper "Silas Pendleton Biddle" into my ear, and I will leave with you immediately.

You live in South Hall. I think you are very attractive. But you live in South Hall. I will not enter South Hall. It stinks. Move out of South Hall. Then, maybe.

You teach creative writing, and I am in love with you. You shout a lot and tell us how stupid we are. I like a man who can dominate me. Please notice me this year. What? You retired? Fuck. I guess Robert Kelly will have to do.

Seeking: Kingston Mall Mallrat buddy to be a Mallrat with. Positive attributes include: Looking angsty in malls, ability to tote skateboard without actually using it, interest in sitting and/or standing in one air conditioned place for an extended period of time, rattach. This is a full time commitment. If interested, send a picture of you in a mall to campus mailbox 1620.

