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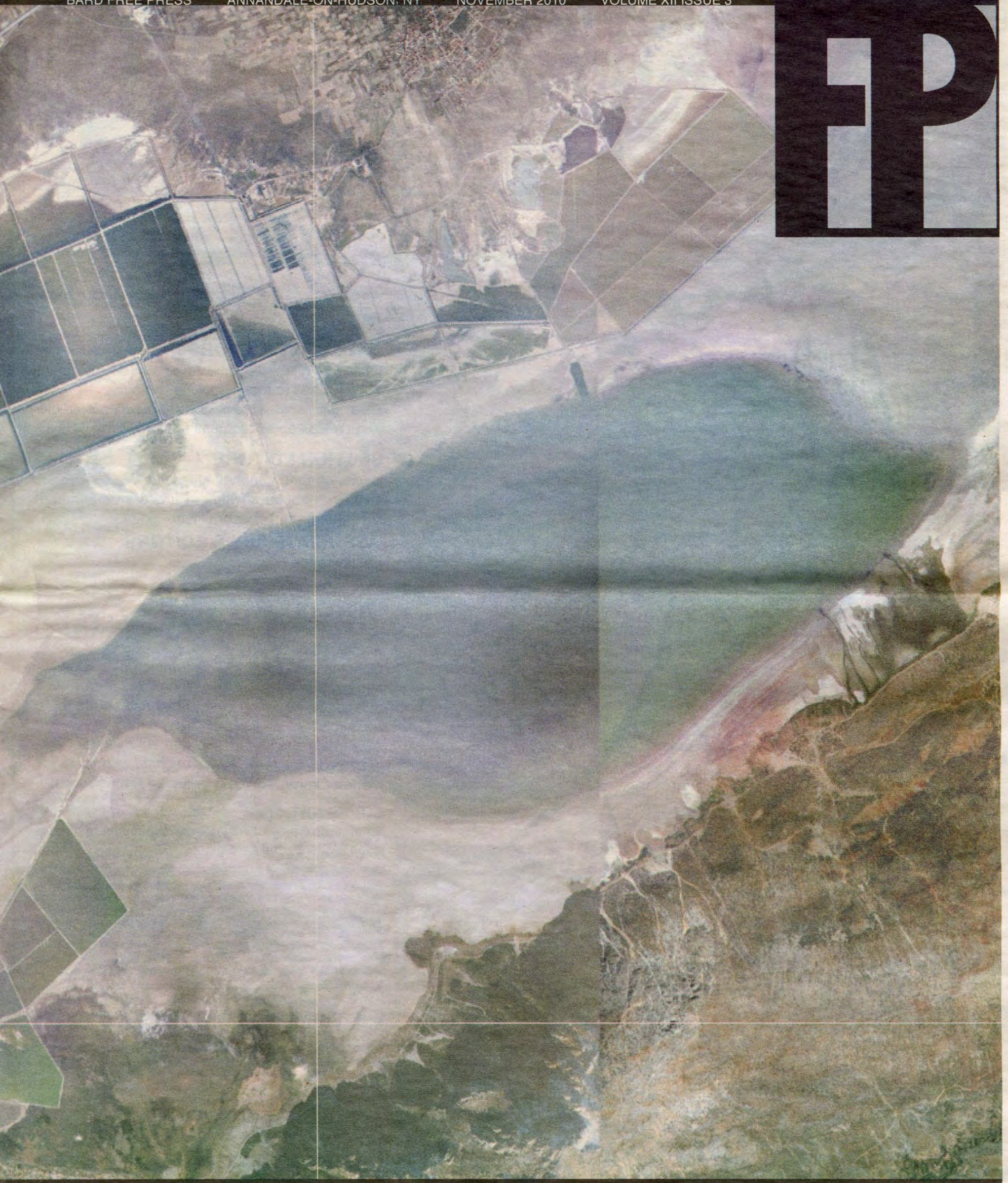
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**CORRECTIONS**

Bard Paintball was erroneously referred to as Paintball Club in Nicholas Carbone's article 'Paintball Club Controversy' in the October issue.

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photo by j.p. lawrence

## LABOR STRIFE AT BARD COLLEGE BRINGS OUT THE DIRT

by j.p. lawrence

Every morning, before most students at Bard College are even awake, a small army begins the Herculean task of cleaning the college's dorms and facilities. These are the 48 housekeepers and custodians of Aramark, a service company contracted by Bard College to keep the college clean. Someone, however, is going to need a bigger army to clean up all the dirt getting thrown around over their current contract negotiations.

For the last eleven months, strained negotiations between Aramark and its workers have festered, leading to last Thursday's rally, where a contingent of students and Aramark workers gathered at the Campus Center to express their discontent.

The point of contention is healthcare. After approving a raise in wages during the first half of negotiations, Aramark negotiators have insisted on an employee healthcare plan that charges employees \$836 a month – almost half a month's salary – for a family plan.

"If your kid gets sick, if he gets the flu or breaks his arm, it's a huge deal, because you're left without healthcare," said Ezekiel Perkins at the rally. Perkins is head of Student Labor Dialogue, which was founded in 2005 to foster a connection between students and workers. "And you can't pay that out of pocket when you're making \$12 an hour. It's unreasonable."

Perkins was preaching to the choir. A group of approximately 70 students and workers gathered for the rally and then marched through campus, first through the campus center, then past Kline, stopping at Botstein's house before continuing past Aramark's offices to Ludlow, where the college's top officials have their offices. Throughout, one could hear the shrill roar of their shouting: "What do we want?" "Healthcare!" "When do we want it?" "Now!"

"Being a housekeeper in and of itself is very enjoyable, but the fact that in order to put food on my table, I cannot have health insurance for my children – that's not right!" said Aramark housekeeper Jody Cerasano. "It's not right! No one should have to live like that!"

"They're railroading us!" said Debbie Todd, an Aramark housekeeper of ten years. "I have family health insurance, and I have to work a second job to keep putting groceries on my table while keeping the health insurance for my husband, my son and myself."

"Enough is enough," added Todd. "This has gone on for too long." Soon, the doors of Ludlow were locked, leading union representative Gerard Lyons to declare the rally a success. "We're rattling them," said Lyons.

"Anytime we've got any social justice on this campus, it's come from the students," Lyons said after the rally, citing the successful 2007 campaign by the SLD for higher wages for B&G workers. "The five-day work, the 40-hour workweek, that came from the blood and pain of picketing. Women's rights, civil rights, the end of the Vietnam War – what took it? It took protests. It took people in the streets. It took rallying ... It doesn't get worked out in some backroom deal. Any time things get worked out in a backroom deal, the workers are getting screwed. That's been my experi-

ence."

The perspective inside Ludlow is quite different. Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration, has handled the business aspects of Bard for 20 years. Today that means he deals with three contracted corporations: Chartwells, which services the cafeteria; Barnes and Noble, which services the bookstore; and Aramark, a six-time winner in its industry of Fortune Magazine's "World's Most Admired Company."

Since the negotiations, Brudvig has met regularly with concerned students. While he personally wants the labor strife to end as soon as possible, Brudvig has pushed students to look at the larger picture. "Resorting to rallies and slogans – that's not helpful," says Brudvig. "They resort to name-calling, but that's what rallies do. Does it move the issue at all? No." Brudvig said that legally the college cannot do anything about the contract negotiations – not yet. "What can Bard do?" Brudvig said. "It's a negotiation between Aramark and its employees. We're not party to that."

"Bard's given them a certain amount in wages and now the employees are asking for raises in wages and benefits," Brudvig said. "That's the rub. They don't think Bard's paying them enough for them to pay their own employees what they're asking for."

Brudvig added that while he understands how the cost of healthcare insurance can hamstring a company (Bard College pays over seven million dollars a year on their health care insurance), he thinks Aramark could be a little bit more creative with their healthcare proposals. "My personal opinion is that there has to be a middle ground on the healthcare premium. It's not reasonable to expect someone to pay \$800 a month for healthcare. A premium that's half of that is doable."

"I'm hopeful that Aramark and the union can reconcile this last issue. And if not, I don't know what happens. If I'm not satisfied that they've done their best – I guess all options are on the table, including evaluating the contract."

Outside of Ludlow, however, hope isn't enough. "The administration, I think, has been doing a lot of yes-ing," Perkins said. "There's been a lot of saying, 'Yes, we're going to resolve this, we completely agree – but we're going to do this in an economic fashion.'"

"Both Brudvig and Botstein agree that this is ridiculous – this needs to be resolved. There just hasn't been much action," Perkins said. "I think Jim Brudvig has made some movement to pressure Aramark, but I don't think he's done enough, and I don't think Botstein's done enough either."

Perkins said he wants the college to consider shifting the budget to allot more money for the workers, fundraising for the workers, or even hiring and managing the housekeepers themselves, as other colleges in the area do.

Brudvig, on the other hand, says the college can't just hand out more money so that Aramark can give more money to their workers – that's not how a contract works. To this, Perkins and Lyons contend that by cutting out the middleman, Bard could save money by hiring housekeepers directly, thereby taking the money Aramark earns as

profit and using it to pay workers. "We would love to be direct employees of the college," Lyons said. "That's the ultimate goal."

"We're not entitled to the same benefits that other workers at Bard have," Lyons added. "Look at the B&G workers. They can come and go. They can use the swimming pool. They can use the library. We have to be off campus in 15 minutes after we punch out," Lyons said. "They've made us second-class citizens. And I'm surprised that a liberal college would do something like that."

Bringing on Aramark workers, Brudvig said, brings additional problems. He contends that in some ways it's just another way of throwing money at the problem.

"If we brought them over at their current wages and added the Bard benefit plan, it would cost a lot of money," Brudvig said. "We would add hundreds of thousands of dollars to the Bard bill, and who's going to pay for that? Is that where students want their money to go? I think the students at the rally would think so. I don't know if that's the widespread belief on the campus."

Additionally, Bard would have to spend time and money to bring their staff to the level of expertise Aramark already has – that's why contractors are hired in the first place.

That talk is still on the horizon, however. What's at issue in the current contract is healthcare. Brudvig said he's looking ahead to the next round of negotiations, in which the union will bring its own healthcare solutions to the table.

If Aramark can offer a cheaper solution to healthcare, then the issue is settled – for now. If Aramark can't, then the situation will continue to fester.

Further rallies are expected, as are petitions and phone calls. To this, Brudvig gives his blessing – but with caveats.

"I think it's salutary that people think of this issue when it's right in front of them. The people in the Student Labor Dialogue are getting quite an education in real world issues," Brudvig said. "I only ask students – if Bard teaches you anything – to examine the issue in its fullest context. Make sure you see all sides of a position before you make a public announcement as to the evil intentions of someone. That's just being fair-minded. And I think the students have been really good at this."

"As a company, it makes sense," acknowledged Perkins. "They have no vested interest in being nice or reasonable. They need to make money, and that's what a for-profit company does. So, it's not that they're doing anything wrong. It's for their own profit margin – that's their number one priority, which is their shareholders and making money."

That said, "I see Aramark fighting tooth and nail for everything they can get from this college. And we'd like to see [Aramark workers] brought in house, just like B&G. For this contract, we'd like to see them have the same benefits workers at B&G have."

In the end, it seems, there's one thing Aramark, its employees, Bard administration, and students can agree on: Enough is enough. This has gone on for too long.

# STUDENT ACCUSED OF DEALING DRUGS FACES POSSIBLE EXPULSION SENIOR TAKES TO FACEBOOK TO PROTEST DECISION

by free press staff

A Bard senior has taken to the internet to protest his possible expulsion from the college after he was accused of possessing and dealing marijuana.

Alex Hood '11, with the help of several of his friends and supporters, has started a Facebook group protesting the college's response to materials found in Hood's room earlier this week. Hood's account of the events, which he posted on the group page, is that a bowl was found on his desk during a routine fire drill. A further search led to the discovery of an ounce of marijuana. "Using additional paraphernalia as evidence, they believe I was distributing," Hood wrote.

Hood vehemently denies that he was dealing drugs. He is appealing the decision of the Dean of Student Affairs office to President Botstein. A final decision on the matter is expected within the next few days.

Hood, a senior and Music Composition major, is using an event scheduled for this Friday, November 19, to promote his cause. The event, a concert by one of Hood's many musical ensembles, is a part of Hood's senior project, according to the Facebook group.

Due to confidentiality, administration officials could not comment on the matter. Certain specifics of the case, such

as exactly what evidence led the college to conclude Hood was dealing, remain unclear. As is the case in all of the college's disciplinary hearings, Hood's previous record, though confidential, may also play a role in the decision.

The Bard Student Handbook stipulates that, "The sale, transfer or manufacturing of alcohol or illegal or prescription drugs will result in prompt and forceful action, including immediate removal from campus and possible prosecution under Section 220.000 of the New York State penal code." It also states that items considered to be paraphernalia – "items made expressly for the purpose of supporting the use or distribution of illegal drugs" – may be confiscated and become the property of the college.

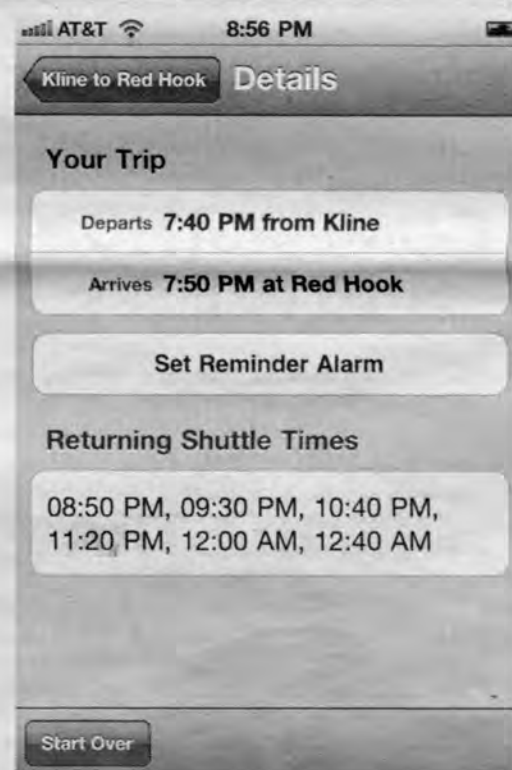
The online campaign has prompted an outpouring of responses. A petition has so far accrued 179 signatures (and counting), many accompanied by supportive comments. Most attest to Hood's character and his engagement in Bard's music scene, arguing that his departure would be a loss for the community. One student wrote, "Expelling Alex Hood would be more of a punishment for Bard than a punishment for Alex." Others argued that a less harsh punishment, such as probation or community service, might be more appropriate.

Some of the responses express outrage at the college's response. One response said the decision made Bard look "fascist and untrustworthy." Another argues, "By making this statement, not only is Bard's bureaucracy being inconsistent with its accusations, but it is saying that others participating in the consumption of far harder drugs can get away with it."

A few responses noted that the college retained Associate Professor of Economics Kris Feder after the discovery by state troopers of 16 marijuana plants by in her home in November 2008, suggesting hypocrisy in the college's decision making. The plants found at Feder's home were reported to have the capacity to produce up to two ounces of marijuana, twice the amount found in Hood's dorm room.

Not all students are sympathetic, however. "...it is unfortunate, but Bard seems completely within reason to do this," commented a sophomore on the 'Save Alex Hood' Facebook page. "As much as we may think Alex is an asset and beneficial to the community, it's still against the law."

Hood's case is still pending, and the final result remains unknown at the time of publication.



## THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT? BARD GOES IPHONE

by will anderson

In an effort to make on-campus information more accessible to students, the Student Association has announced the development of a free Bard iPhone application (or "app"). The app was introduced by its designer, Mike Walker '11, at the November student forum. Development of the app began in early November. It is expected to be completed by December.

In its current form, the app serves solely as a user-friendly shuttle schedule. Users can input their location and where they want to go, and the application pulls up the next arriving shuttle, along with what time you'll arrive and the times of returning shuttles.

Walker plans to add more features in subsequent versions. "We're going to be working with Chartwells to get Kline, Down the Road, and Manor menus integrated," said Walker. "We really want to turn this into an overall Bard app, not just a shuttle app." He also hopes to add the Amtrak and MetroNorth schedules and the SPARC Calendar to the app.

Walker has been involved with iPhone development before, although this would be the first of his apps to be available in the Apple Store. Walker has also taken mobile developing courses in the Computer Science Department and is designing his Senior Project around Apple's iPad.

For students without iPhones, Walker plans to create a WebApp, which can be accessed by any device with a browser. "The WebApp is also useful because it provides a way for the Transportation Office to update the schedule easily, across all platforms," said Walker. "They could also send out alerts and notices about late shuttles or schedule interruptions."

Students have expressed excitement about the app's possibilities. "I think the Chartwells menu ideas sounds

awesome," said Garrett Reuscher '14. "It would be great to check out the various food being served on a given night and decide from that where I should eat."

Others offered ideas for additional possible uses of the app. "The WXBC stream should definitely be incorporated somehow," said Danielle Sinay '13, "and recent news and events should be somewhere on it as well." Walker says he is open to all feedback, and is looking forward to working with students to make the app as functional as possible.

Developing iPhone apps for campuses has become increasingly popular at larger universities. The University of Texas app provides students with a campus map, event information, news, and videos. The University of Michigan app offers similar features, alongside daily polls and dining menus. Bard would be the first among smaller colleges to offer an iPhone application.

Walker hopes to have the application submitted and approved quickly, so it will be available at the App Store before Winter Break. According to Apple, it takes anywhere between a couple of days to a few weeks for an application to be approved for their store.

# STRAWINSKI APOLOGISES FOR PARTISAN E-MAIL

## BARD EMPLOYEE ADMITS A "MISTAKE IN JUDGMENT," WILL NOT RUN FOR RE-ELECTION TO TOWN BOARD

by Joey Sims

Micki Strawinski, a Bard employee and Democrat on the Red Hook Town Board, has expressed regrets for an election day e-mail urging Bard students to vote Democrat. Strawinski has also announced that she will not run for re-election to the Red Hook Town Board in 2011.

All Bard students registered to vote in the area received an e-mail on election day urging them to vote Democrat. The e-mails, from Strawinski's personal account, proclaimed "President Obama is depending on us," and listed "10 Terrible Things Republicans Will Try to Do If They Take Over in November." The e-mail was sent to students' Bard e-mail accounts.

Later that day, Strawinski sent out another e-mail apologizing for the message. "I want to thank a few of your fellow Bard students for setting me straight today on my previous email," it read. "What I should be encouraging is that you vote...not who or how you should vote. I apologize for any offense taken."

Strawinski is the college's longtime Student Employment Manager. She was elected to the Red Hook Town Board as a Democrat in 2008, and has been an active member of the Red Hook Democrats for the past six years. She has been involved with 'get out the vote' efforts at the col-

lege throughout her tenure, in a non-partisan capacity. But Strawinski admits that, on this occasion, her actions were inappropriate.

"I made a mistake in judgment," said Strawinski. She explained that the e-mail was sent in a moment of political panic. "There was energy and a sense of urgency... so I [sent out that e-mail] in an impulsive way."

Strawinski soon received several responses, ranging from confused to outraged. Some students, unsure who the e-mail was from, asked how she had obtained their Bard e-mail address. Others objected to the content of her e-mail. "There was one...who said he is a registered Republican here," recounted Strawinski, "and this kind of e-mail was one reason why he is going to leave, because there is not an open-mindedness towards everyone who has a difference of opinion." None of the responses she received were supportive.

Asked if using e-mails available to her as a Bard employee for a partisan message was ethical, Strawinski admitted, "Probably not so much," adding, "We all do things we regret." The Red Hook Town Board held an ethics hearing in March 2009 discussing if Strawinski's two positions posed a conflict of interest - specifically in regards to the

debate around a polling station at Bard. It was decided that there was no conflict of interest.

Strawinski also announced that she would not be running for re-election to the Town Board when her term expires in 2011. Strawinski said she had already been considering this for some time, but did not deny that the incident had played some role in her decision. "This made me realize that the political arena is not really where I should be," she said. "When I become overwhelmed by the two roles, that is when I make these mistakes."

Strawinski also regrets indulging in political 'fear mongering,' a political tactic she usually disdains. "In the political process, we are all using this fear mongering now to get people to vote," sighed Strawinski. "And it's not working. It's not getting people out to vote."

She stressed, however, that the e-mail came from a personal place: "As a mother of twentysomethings who will be allowed to stay on my insurance policy, any changes to that health plan will have personal effects on me and my family."

## BARD SENIOR'S COMPOSITION PERFORMED BY AMERICAN SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA

by Lucas Opgenorth



For all the honors and opportunities Bard students achieve, few can claim to have had their work performed by the American Symphony Orchestra. But that is exactly what has happened to Conor Brown '11. Audiences of the ASO's Family Weekend concert this October enjoyed Brown's Clarinet Concerto, which opened the show.

For Brown, a composing and dance choreography double major, the performance was the result of a year's worth of compositional work. The piece was written specifically to feature Bard faculty member and renowned clarinetist David Krakauer, with whom Brown has been working and studying since his arrival at Bard. It was the support of Krakauer and other Conservatory faculty that led to Brown's piece being performed by the ASO, according to President Botstein, also the ASO's music director. "I chose Brown's piece because it was highly recommended by David Krakauer, Joan Tower, and George Tsontakis on our faculty," explained Botstein. "I believe in giving our students the best chances to have their work played and heard. Since Conor is a senior, I thought his piece deserved to be performed by the ASO this year."

Brown had already experienced his fair share of success before this opportunity. He is the bassist/clarinetist/hand-percussionist/singer in his band Fifth Veil, which has shared the stage with indie big shot Beirut and was featured on New York City public radio station WYNC. He has also performed with the ASO on clarinet.

Brown first saw Krakauer perform in his hometown of Boulder, Colorado when he was twelve years old. The opportunity to study clarinet under Krakauer was part of his impetus for coming to Bard. "I have always known that I wanted to compose a piece for Dave" said Brown. While he was working on the piece, Brown met with Krakauer periodically - once a month at first, but more frequently as the project neared completion.

Brown's approach to his work indicates an interest in expanding the boundaries of music composition. "Growing up outside of Boulder, I had little exposure to live music, so the way I interacted with music was through headphones,"

said Brown. "I would often think of music as soundtracks to books I was reading." Drawing on influences that include progressive metal band Meshuggah, post-rock collective Godspeed You! Black Emperor and avant-garde composer Krzysztof Penderecki, Brown aligns himself with a current musical movement that is challenging the divisions between art music and popular music. "There is definitely a grey area between serious rock, art music and classical music," he said. New York City's Wordless Music Series, which Brown points to as a forerunner of this movement, organizes concerts with the aim of challenging rigid genre distinctions by booking classical acts on the same bill as indie bands, and hosting performances of classical pieces by rock bands.

A more unexpected influence Brown cites is Turkish folk music. Brown was first introduced to the genre by his godmother, who stumbled across a group called Kardes Turkuler while traveling through Turkey. After being given a Kardes Turkuler CD, Brown took a liking to the music and decided to create a Facebook fan page for the group. "This was literally a week before Facebook got big in Turkey," he said. "When they saw that they already had a page, they contacted me and said 'We didn't think that anybody even knew about us in America!'" The band then offered to allow Brown to study with their clarinetist, and in the summer of 2007 he travelled to Turkey and took them up on the offer.

After the success of his Clarinet Concerto performance, which received a very positive reception, Brown plans on marketing the recording and score of the piece to other orchestras with which he has connections - specifically his hometown Boulder Philharmonic. Upon graduating, he hopes to continue working with his band Fifth Veil, which is on the verge of releasing a self-produced LP. As it was his first orchestral piece, the ASO performance was a significant milestone of his career as a composer. "The performance sold out two nights in Sosnoff, meaning that about 1,000 people heard the piece" said Brown proudly. "Which is a great vindication of all the work that went into it."

# GREATER SMOKING RESTRICTIONS TO BE INTRODUCED

## STUDENTS ASKED TO PUT OUT

by hunter loen



The Bard administration is planning to introduce greater on-campus smoking restrictions in the near future. The new measures will be aimed at preventing smoking near buildings and curbing students' addictions. They are also part of a larger effort to positively alter the culture of the college.

Dean of Student Affairs Erin Cannan confirmed that the new restrictions will be aimed at "setting up perimeters" around buildings and doorways in which smoking will not be allowed. "We really don't want students graduating with an addiction," Cannan argued. She also cited the exploitative business practices of Big Tobacco and the unfairness of nonsmokers being exposed to secondhand smoke as reasons for the move. In addition, frequent inspections by the Fire Marshal's resulting in "tens of thousands of dollars" in fines are a factor.

Cannan also framed the upcoming restrictions as part of a more comprehensive focus on student health. She noted that Health Services already assists students with smoking cessation, and sponsors The Great American Smokeout and BodyFest, yearly events aimed at informing students about making healthy choices.

The details of the restrictions are still in flux, pending further discussion between the Dean of Student Affairs Office and the Student Association. The Deans office could confirm, however, that the restrictions would likely not be accompanied by heightened enforcement from campus security - instead students will be responsible for reminding each other and enforcing the rules. Cannan argued that funds would be better spent on things like "faculty salaries and financial aid," rather than beefing up security.

The restrictions may begin as early as next semester, according to Cannan. She described the restrictions as "inevitable" and necessary for Bard to "reflect the modern world."

The impetus for the shift in policy came from Direc-

tor of Admissions and Vice President of Student Affairs Mary Backlund. After hearing many complaints from prospective students and their parents about the amount of smoking on campus, Backlund directed administrators to confront the issue. Since September, Backlund has been leading discussions on steps to ensure that Bard's policies did not endorse smoking amongst its students. The first stage of these efforts has already been implemented - cigarettes are no longer available for purchase in the campus bookstore.

Whether these restrictions are part of a gradual move towards harsher restrictions, or even an outright smoking ban, is unknown. President Botstein insisted he was "naturally allergic" to prohibitions of any sort, and called designated smoking areas "ridiculous." He insisted that the college's main concern lay in balancing the right of students to do what they want with the right of students to be free of secondhand smoke. He provided a 25 foot perimeter around buildings and doorways as an example of a fair compromise.

"We're opposed to smoking, and we don't want to facilitate it," said Botstein, pointing to the damage cigarettes do to the environment and to public health. But despite his disdain for mass-produced tobacco, he recognized a need to "live and let be," as long as something is done to prevent involuntary exposure to secondhand smoke.

The shift towards more restrictive smoking policy mirrors a national trend amongst colleges, with hundreds of other schools recently instituting various levels of regulation on where smoking is allowed. Bard's decision to ban all indoor smoking in the early 2000's was due to a New York state law that required it. To some extent, the administration sees its upcoming restrictions as a way of pre-empting future anti-smoking legislation. Admitting that shaping campus smoking policy was not an easy thing to do, President Botstein affirmed that he only wished the tobacco trade had "vanished of its own accord."

# BARD LAUNCHES AMBITIOUS CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

## MOVING FORWARD TO WHERE EVERY OTHER COLLEGE ALREADY IS

by nicholas carbone

As you must know from the signs all over campus, 2010 is Bard's 150th anniversary. In honor of this milestone, President Botstein announced last May that the college's Board of Trustees had approved a capital campaign goal of \$594,350,000, "to sustain Bard's leadership as a liberal arts institution serving the public interest." Of that total, \$104,200,000 has been allocated for capital projects deemed 'immediate priorities.'

The most immediate project funded by this campaign is the Kline expansion. "It would add another 200 seats as well as some kitchen modifications," said Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration. "The servery and the entryway would also be modified and improved to accommodate a larger student body." Brudvig hopes to begin work on the expansion during the spring, and finish work by the beginning of next year. (The Kline expansion was covered in more detail in the September issue of the FREE PRESS.)

Another pressing project is the renovation of Cappucinos, which Bard intends to convert to an Alumni/ae House. "It requires a little over a million dollars to do the renovation and restructure the parking lot," said Brudvig. "It will be about a four month project...we'll move some functions from development and fundraising and grants over to that area, and then use the spaces that we create here for more faculty offices."

The *Bardian* reports that another potential capital project, a library addition, will cost \$21,000,000. This project has been in development for years, but it is possible that the Bard administration's dream will come true within the next few years. Brudvig explained that the money would be used to "add needed space for

an information commons - so a bigger study area for students, additional storage for books, breakout study rooms for group study, and those kind of things."

Dormitories will also be involved in the new renovations, which should help with Bard's party animals forget that they live in unsavory conditions. "We have a plan and approval of three new buildings to add to the [Cruger] Village dorms," said Brudvig. "They would be of the same design that we now have in the Village, and they would be built down the hill and extend down that road."

"That would provide about 80 beds. We would try to take off some of the temporary beds that we have. So, it wouldn't be a net gain in new dormitories; it would just be a higher quality of dorms." These new dorms would basically replace the less sophisticated living areas like the grimier trailers around campus.

A new possible \$15,000,000 renovation of the Stevenson gymnasium is also expected. It is unclear whether this would take the form of an addition or a type of field house. The project's goal would be to better accommodate Bard's growing population. "We have outgrown the facility that we have. And we do believe that healthy bodies lead to healthy minds. So, we encourage that, and we need to provide space for it."

It is hard to say exactly when all the renovations and additions will be finished, but Brudvig hopes to complete the Kline and Cappucino's modifications by next school year. All other potential projects may or not be implemented any time soon - or implemented at all. Money remains the deciding factor. Brudvig hopes to accomplish as many renovations as is possible with the

money we receive. However, as usual, a fair amount of money will continue to go towards standard maintenance.

Nonetheless, Brudvig concluded, Bard's 150th Capital Campaign and the generosity of Bard alumni/ae "will help increase the standard of living and study for students as we head toward the future."

# THE RALLY TO RESTORE SANITY/KEEP FEAR ALIVE

by margaret kucera

The Rally to Restore Sanity/Keep Fear Alive was a ridiculous event put together by late-night funny guys Jon Stewart and Stephen Colbert. The rally, held October 20th at the National Mall in Washington, D.C., was meant to act as a sort of anti-rally, poking fun at those momentous events that supposedly evoke large-scale change.

Not knowing exactly why I was attending, I woke up at 5am in Philly. After a two-hour long drive and a packed train ride, me and my friends arrived at our destination. We boarded a sardine-like escalator and entered a mob of rally volunteers handing out all the necessary rally tools: stickers, signs, etc.

After I groggily yelled "WHITE HOUSE!" at the Capitol Building, we made our way to the Mall. At about 9:15 a.m., my friends and I somehow managed to make it all the way to the first row - literally - of the entire audience. Well, as close as we could be without the despised "special red tickets" that those individuals beyond the zoo-like barricades donned.

After a somewhat entertaining pre-show, the rally began promptly at 12 p.m. with The Roots and John Legend (ooh yeah!). Eventually, Jon Stewart appeared to the crowd of 215,000 looking quite pleased and not at all intimidated by the amazing turnout. The in-character Colbert later appeared after his fearful remarks, "What if no one came!?" were put to rest.

The highlights of the rally included Mavis Staples doing what she does best,

guest appearances by Ozzy Osbourne and Yusuf Islam, and a touching song about America entitled "The Greatest, Strongest Country in the World." A sing-along, naturally.

Of course, the many individuals clad in Halloween costumes were extremely entertaining. I personally enjoyed the sight of a man dressed as a giant watermelon 4-loko. Those individuals who opted to make wonderfully original signs were enthusiastically received; some favorites included "Don't Be a Douche," "I Am Pretty Sure That God Hates Us Equally," and "I'm Mad as Hell! But Mostly in a Passive-Aggressive Way..."

Overall, I felt that the rally was a success, and I personally had a fantastic time - minus the overlong Kid Rock and Sheryl Crow duet. It was entertaining, ironic, and effective. Stewart's last words were especially meaningful after a day of jokes and entertainment as he said his goodbye to the crowd:

"If you want to know why I'm here and what I want from you, I can only assure you this: you have already given it to me. Your presence was what I wanted. Sanity will always be and has always been in the eye of the beholder. To see you here today, and the kind of people that you are, has restored mine. Thank you."

by michael wittner

In August, Glenn Beck had a "Rally to Restore Honor." He talked about how America needs to embrace patriotism and religion and pray for our troops and pray for our flag and pray for freedom and pray for prayer and how seeing Sarah Palin bowing her head in intense prayer for ten minutes was one of the most moving things he's ever seen in his life. Obviously this rally was insane. The idea that Sarah Palin or Glenn Beck, who are in my opinion two very dishonorable people, can speak authoritatively on something as vague, subjective, and philosophical as "honor" is insane. And I'm gonna be a little politically incorrect here: the attendants of the rally were insane. There's a YouTube video full of interviews of these restorers of honor: they're paranoid, twitchy, defensive, and angry - all traits of the insane. And they believe insane things: Obama is a gay terrorist fascist Communist Muslim who wants big government to force everyone to have abortions and steal their hard-earned Medicare money. The whole thing is insane in the membrane, insane in the brain.

So Jon Stewart stepped in, and I decided to help him, because I think he's a good guy with a goal much more honorable than that of Lipstick and Dipstick - he wanted to restore sanity. And if I had to pick between sanity and honor, I think I would pick sanity. Honor can mean a lot of things, but when people talk about "honor killings" or "defending my honor" or "soiling the honor of the family," it's almost never good. I think if you're sane, then you know what

it really means to be honorable, and you don't base your decisions on outmoded notions of chivalry and nobility - a sane person asks, "What's the best thing to do in this particular situation?"

It was really exciting to restore sanity. The media talks about a Republican resurgence, about how everyone out there is mad mad mad and ready to restore honor and drink the tea/kool-aid. I was starting to feel like I a lonely liberal island in the middle of a right-wing ocean - a Red Sea, if you will. I knew Bardians agreed with me about politics, but honestly, that doesn't really count. So when instead of a red sea I saw a blue sea, it was really heartening. It was like Woodstock, but funny, and without all the drugs that most of the people there want to legalize, regulate, and tax. I loved meeting all the other sane people. They were friendly and talkative and made great signs I wish I had thought of.

The details of the rally itself were a blur. I was pretty far back in the blue sea, and there weren't any JumboTrons near me. But the specifics didn't matter that much to me, and quite honestly I remember thinking that some of the shtick was boring, incoherent, or stupid. But I didn't care...people talk more about just being AT Woodstock, for example, than the actual acts that performed there. I left feeling sane, perfectly honorable - thank you very much, Glenn - and mentally prepared for the results of the midterms. Maybe we can't win an election, but we can pull off one hell of a rally.



The Bard Community has been defaced by elementary school vandalism. Depictions of male genitalia, inane and sophomoric writing, and the use of the standard expletives have lead me to believe that a local grade school has been turned loose on Bard.

\* Three students were prevented from defacing the Parliament of Reality, which is living art. Using colored chalk is not OK. Students wishing to "decorate", the campus must

ask for approval from Residence Life, who will notify security.

\* Bard Security, working with local law enforcement and Dutchess County Probation, was successful in having a local "knucklehead" incarcerated. This person would frequent campus, stealing unlocked bicycles, and look to share substances with unsuspecting students. It was two of these "unsuspecting students" who reported this young man to security, resulting in his probation violation. I thank our two Bardians, who did the correct thing and helped their community keep safe.

\* The rash of Security Notifications concerning the passing of stopped school buses has caused a number of students to ask why:

Each time an incident occurs, the local school bus drivers contact me directly. They are not directly accusing Bardians of the offense, since it is difficult for them to get the tag numbers. A number of Bard students have been cited for this offense since September. It is my fear that a student will injure or kill a child, destroying that family, and his/her life as well. A Bard Faculty/Staff member has had this tragedy happen to his family, losing a beloved daughter on our roads. I am committed to my "never again" attitude. Hence - my being a pain in the Butt.

\* Lastly - I send three types of security emails to the community:

1) Security Alert - very serious - no humor - dealing with immediate and direct threats to the community. These Security Alerts are infrequent.

2) Security Notification - Informational - a method of direct communication to the entire Bard Community - and sometimes, combined with a small bit of humor to get the point across, and at least, considered.

3) Security Weather Alert - self explanatory.

ken









# LIFESTYLE

## ACTIVE MINDS ON BARD CAMPUS

by elizabeth hayt

College can be an enormously stressful time in many people's lives. For many, it is the first time they are living away from home. Coupled with the fact that students must make a new group of friends, and deal with an increasingly difficult workload, it is not surprising that depression and anxiety often plague college campuses. However, despite the relatively common occurrence of college-related mental health risks, many students are reluctant to share how they feel, especially with new friends that they may only have known for a few months.

Active Minds is a nation-wide organization dedicated to raising awareness about these mental health issues. One of their main goals is to remove the stigma attached to mental disorders and, in doing so, help to ensure that students feel comfortable seeking help if and when they need it. Beginning next semester, Bard will be joining the ranks of more than 200 college campuses across the United States with an official Active Minds chapter.

"It can be hard to talk to people about what you consider a weakness, and as a result it can get very lonely," explains Bard Assistant Director of Residence Life Margaret Bertram, who is spearheading the effort to bring an Active Minds chapter to Bard.

The organization was founded in 2001 by Alison Malm, a student at the University of Pennsylvania. After losing an older brother to suicide, Alison was motivated to start Active Minds as a way to encourage students to start communicating with one another about mental health.

Once the chapter has officially started in the beginning of spring semester, Active Minds will be able to supply the group with materials and resources to help stage events around campus. These events can range from "National Day Without Stigma," which promotes conversation about mental health issues among students, to having bubble wrap stations around campus to help students de-stress between classes.

"It's not just mental disorders we're focusing on," clarified Bertram, "but all the things that make life hard. Whether it be the stress of being away at college, or a mediocre grade." The Active Minds chapter at Bard is hoping to help raise awareness in several areas of mental health, ranging from depression and anxiety to eating disorders. By educating students about warning signs and preventative measures, the club hopes to make Bard an environment where students feel comfortable seeking help.

For students looking to get involved in the chapter, meetings are being held on Wednesdays at 6:15 in the Campus Center Meeting Room. So far, around 20 students are participating, and are preparing for the club's first event, a table at Body Fest, which will take place on November 19th. They will be giving out "cookies and compliments," and spreading the word about the presence of the chapter on campus.

## AN OPEN LETTER TO CRACKLIN' OAT BRAN

by ezra glenn

When I was young, my mom used to buy me a cereal called Cracklin' Oat Bran from the supermarket, and I would bring it to school in zip lock bags. In the mornings, after the school bus dropped us off we would wait for school to start in the lobby. It was a large room with a black and white marble floor, but the remarkable thing about it, for me, was the ceiling. It had square molded panels protruding from it, the same shape as the cereal in my zip lock bag. I would hold the pieces of cereal up and match them in front of my eye with the panels, and I would imagine the whole ceiling was made of Cracklin' Oat Bran, and I would think to myself how much I wanted to eat it.

Following these years, there was a long period of my life where I went without Cracklin' Oat Bran. To be frank, I don't know what the fuck I was thinking. I'm sure all of my middle-school angst and high school depression could have been avoided with just a few bowls of cereal (per day).

To try and describe the flavor of Cracklin' Oat Bran is to tackle the (nearly) impossible. It's sort of cinnamony, but not in a one-dimensional way. I have no idea what they put in it but it tastes ridiculous. I'm sure the ingredients on their own pale in comparison to the magical synergy that happens when they are combined.

Its crunch is delightful. Milk is its best friend (besides me). The shape is also important. It's not quite a square - more of a gentle rectangle with rounded edges that sort of taper as they leave the ground. A cross section would be

trapezoidal. The hole in the middle makes it, though. In a doughnut, for example, the hole is just where the doughnut isn't. But in Cracklin' Oat Bran, the whole serves a wide variety of functions. It would be harder to eat without the hole. It would probably be too crunchy. It also couldn't be worn as a ring. I would be honored to wear a Cracklin' Oat Bran wedding ring one day. I would say it's among my greatest dreams. You can put your tongue through the hole, or your eye, like Cracklin' Oat Bran glasses. Things like that.

I returned to the Kingdom of Oat Bran in college. I've heard that at some colleges Cracklin' Oat Bran is available as one of the cereal options in the dining hall. I've considered transferring more than once.

Now that I live off campus, I stock it for myself in my pantry in Red Hook and no longer need to be jealous of the privileged people at those other schools. If Kline Commons did serve Cracklin' Oat Bran, however, I probably would have survived on it alone during my years as a Chartwells patron. I probably would have gone with buckets every morning and just emptied the dispensers. Next I would have hit the cabinet under the waffle station for the oversized bags (in case you didn't know, that's where they keep the extra cereal) and steal what would probably amount to thousands of dollars worth of the stuff. Now that I don't pay to eat at Kline (read into that phrasing what you will), if they served Cracklin' Oat Bran I probably wouldn't ever need to go grocery shopping again. I'd sneak in every

day and open my backpack up and just fill it with Cracklin' Oat Bran. Then I'd go to class and instead of taking notes I would just spell out all of the letters of the words I would be writing in pen in cereal, and then I would internalize the information by eating it.

Some people like to abbreviate the name of Cracklin' Oat Bran. Some call it simply "Cracklin,'" and I know at least one person who calls it "Crack," but I'm not really interested in such nicknaming. In fact, I think it's a bit disrespectful. If you were talking about God, you wouldn't just say "Guh." The four syllables Crack-Lin-Oat-Bran won't tie your tongue in a knot. I think all of the words in the name are pretty important, anyway. Just do it and yourself a favor and don't be a slacker. Give the words the respect they deserve. The name is already sort of a nickname, anyway. I think Kellogg's probably left the letter G off of the end of the word "crackling" to elevate the hipness of the cereal. It isn't a particularly cool-sounding name, but then you realize it's missing the "g" on the end of "Cracklin'" and maybe that makes it a little edgier or something. I'm glad the g's not there. I think it'd be disruptive to the rhythm and flow of the name if it were.

Basically, I love you Cracklin' Oat Bran. You are the light of my life. Never leave me again.

Love,  
Ezra

# WHOROSCOPES/ASTROLOGY: NOVEMBER 2010

## BECAUSE I COULDN'T HELP MYSELF

by abby miles rutenberg

### ARIES (MAR. 21-APR. 19)

It says that it's going to be an easy month for you, but I'm having trouble understanding whether it means that you're going to be easy or it'll be easy for you to finally get laid. Either way, bottom's up! Your biggest problem this November is going to be your ego and I have a remedy for that: take a swift

gander down your pants and remind yourself why you best be chilling. The most distressing nuisance this month is that people are going to be annoying the ever-loving shit out of you. Fret not — there is a solution: whip your hair back and forth. The second half of November will be better than the first and that's most likely because Harry Potter comes out soon. For sure.

### TAURUS (APR. 20-MAY 20)

It is predicted by the moon or the stars or Jesus that November will be relatively easy for you, too. The only thing standing in your way is your "own temperament, so stop being a horrible bitch and buy some property because supposedly your real estate ventures will prove profitable

this month. Sucks for you cuz the gypsy with the crystal ball thinks that you're going to be wasteful with your cash — reconsider that dime and opt for the nickel, put down the six pack of microbrew and instead snatch the cheapest plastic handle of vodka and pour it through a Brita filter 4 times...and quit smoking. Whoa...Gypsy biddy is WRONG, this sounds like a shitty month for you. My B.

### GEMINI (MAY 21-JUNE 20)

This month, you should refrain from making sudden decisions because November makes you Gemini's dumb, apparently. Like that one time you thought it would be a good idea to try the salmon at Kline and then expelled it from every possible orifice

— that's a sudden decision, so refrain. In positive news, you will receive great "creative input", which basically means an artist will lay their "put" in your "in." An artist? Très chic. Your finances will be unchanging, unless you turn a couple of extra tricks this weekend, and your family life will be "good-throughout" but nobody cares about that.

### CANCER (JUN. 21-JUL. 22)

Your main ish this month is going to be performing simple tasks. The Gypsy's advice to you is purely, "keep the simple tasks simple." OHhhhhohohodurrrrr. I hate her. Basically, you should desist from taking risks or being impulsive because the ideas or actions you pursue this month are going to, inevitably, be dense. So don't think that your thoughts are avant-

garde or clever because it's November and you are a Cancer so there's no possible way that this could be. Ah, but there's good news...if you are promiscuous slash consider yourself to be a trollop, you will be up to your eyeballs in meaningless nookie. Although I am having trouble visualizing these to be successful endeavors considering you are absolutely useless this month and can't get anything right. Sadface.

### LEO (JULY 23-AUG. 22)

Old partnerships and interests will resurface this month— and to me that means rediscovering a shitload of reruns. WOOP, THERE IT IS! Alright brethren, we need to take it easy during this period because it is predicted that we're gonna say a lot of douchey things. Hmm...not getting why this is exclusive to November or why this

is a bad thing BUT OKAY. I say let your douche bag fly. Freak flag fly? No, it's douche bag fly, idiot. We also need to stop calling our parents because our relationships with them are "evolving" this month, and we're in college so that's not cool. Right? Money will be good so splurge on some Ed Hardy perfume and clip your toenails because allegedly our sex appeal is RAGING in November 2010! Get sum.

### VIRGO (AUG. 23-SEPT. 22)

For you, this month is somewhat precarious. And by that I mean a random suckfest. So some parts will be good and some parts will be bad. One of the bads is expressed as having a "volatile domestic environment", which probably means that your roommate is going to beat the shit out of you or your heater will break. It could happen, I'm sure it's happened.

Bard. More woeful news, your expenses will rise...so that dry \$5 HJ you've been creeping over to Kingston for will proliferate in price. Moreover, you will have difficulty making decisions so don't be certain about anything. At all. Think Ralph Nader. You will be experiencing a lot of "gains and flows" — and that can only be interpreted as: you'll gain weight and have your period all month. Oops, I nearly forgot about positives for you this November — "you will be productive." Oy vey.

### LIBRA (SEPT. 23-OCT. 22)

This month you'll be seeking a lot of pleasure and experiencing "happy swings" — one word: masturbation. You will also be spending a lot of time with your thoughts — two words: reflective masturbation. Your family life, however, won't be so fun (is it ever, really?) and that's unfortunate because Thanksgiving is coming up. Glad I'm not you. You should avoid investments;

so resist buying those government bonds you were seriously considering (thanks Apple Stocks Widget). In terms of romantic relationships, avoid making commitments until later in the month due to the fact that Nicki Minaj's new album is released on the 22nd and you need some time to prepare. They'll understand. The Gypsy advises you to be particularly humble this November and that's because all that fapping has gone to your head, which is what you should be getting. Carry on.

### SCORPIO (OCT. 23-NOV. 21)

This November is an average month for you — implying that you're mediocre. I didn't say it, the Gypsy did. You're going to "dip" in status, and I'm not sure if that means social status or economic status. Let's say you sink in social status; this means only Smog gatherings for you this month. Plunge in economic status? No more build-ups. Dude...rough. Also, your horoscope

says that your work environment will be aggressive and "your superiors will keep mounting the pressure on you." Sounds like a fulfilling evening to me, so we'll put that in the "positives" column. But don't get too excited, seeing that your sign is pretty lame. I mean c'mon, the Sagittarius zodiac symbol is a CENTAUR ARCHER! You cannot compete with that. Oh, you're insulted? What are you planning to do about it, BUG? Yeah, NOTHING. \*Scorpions are not insects.

### SAGITTARIUS (NOV. 22-DEC. 21)

Your sign is badass, but this month you're going to be an absolute asshole. Your short temper is going to get the better of you and if you're the guy that keeps yelling at people for "cutting" in DTR, shut the fuck up. Academically, you'll be especially productive this month, but "your co-workers will dominate"...so I guess your peers will be

more productive than you. Which, in the scheme of things, means you won't really be productive at all. Well, that was an oversight, Gypsy. If you are in a committed relationship, your significant other is going to, like you, be a JACKASS this month...meanwhile; you'll be looking especially attractive to others, SO CHEAT! I may be overstepping my boundaries here, but dayum, Sagittarius...so hot right now.

### CAPRICORN (DEC. 22-JAN. 19)

Shit's going well for you. Overseas travel is something you should be considering, says Gypsy. Maybe think about dropping out and hopping a cruise, because that will help absolutely nothing OHMYGOD. But I do agree with her on this matter: you need to keep an eye on your impulsive behavior. You were thinking about dropping out of

college and traveling?! THAT IS SO FUCKING STUPID. Get it together. The moon foresees (<- that is ridiculous) that you will be taught a lesson by an authority figure this month. And I foresee this incident occurring because you don't comply with the new law that requires you to DRIVE ON THE OPPOSITE SIDE OF THE ROAD when a police vehicle is pulled over on your right ("Move Over Law" cr. Ken Cooper email). Never question authority.

### AQUARIUS (JAN. 20-FEB. 18)

Whoa. Everything about your horoscope is positive. You will be extremely confident throughout November, your energy will be high, your career will flourish and so will

your finances, your family somehow loves you more than ever now, all of your investments will be lucrative, and your love life is set. Uhh, I don't want to talk about this anymore. [Insert "Age of Aquarius" joke here] Go.Fuck.Yourself.

### PISCES (FEB. 19-MAR. 20)

Last and definitely least, because you're a fish (and because your horoscope this month is UTTER shit). This is not your month, old boy. Your thinking is supposedly "separate and distant", but I don't find those adjectives helpful in describing any type of thinking — maybe Gypsy means that your thoughts will be jumbled and you'll be withdrawn. Don't attempt to enter into any romantic endeavors because you are going

to instantly repel everyone — warranted by the fact that they can smell your bad horoscope. Smells like fish. Oh, wait, that's just your natural "musk." Your career and work will suffer and you have nobody to blame but yourself. You need to seriously think about what you've done. There are actually no positives for you and I feel bad about this so the Gypsy has offered to make out with you. Everything is going to be out of sync all November and you will also be "out of the groove" — better luck next month, Stella.



# OPINION

## PICKING YOUR WINTRY ITCH A RESPONSE TO THE *BARD TRIBUNE*

by annie battles

Free speech is a right that many assume to be intrinsic and absolute. I find it hard to conceptualize the amount of control other governments hold: the "great Firewall of China", for instance, censors any word that refers to a number of 'controversial' concepts, including any vocabulary that references censorship itself! Meta! I often feel that my peers and I take for granted the right to publish anything, anytime with a fun, playful, spirited disregard for common decency. I had the opportunity as an American citizen to experience free speech sans decency up close and personal when a friend emailed me a link to the *Bard Tribune*. In a column by 'Woodrow Wilson', directly next to an article by 'Leon Botstein', my private parts were described ambiguously as 'cold and damp,' and 'Annie Battles' was a link that, when clicked on - Surprise! - redirected the reader from the *Bard Tribune* website to my Facebook page!

Free speech is a right that necessitates the most

steadfast protection. The *Bard Student* handbook, however, describes punishable harassment as any "conduct [that] has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's performance by creating an intimidating, hostile, or offensive environment." I find it hard to believe the purpose of my celebrity mention was in order to inform public opinion, unless a description of my vagina is public information that the staff at the *Bard Tribune* deemed pertinent. My personal opinion, in fact, is that the comment did have some sort of purpose in creating a less-than-courteous environment—but, maybe I'm wrong! I just can't figure out if 'cold and damp' is a nice or mean way to describe my anatomy!

In regards to the public apology offered to my privates and me by the editors of the *Bard Tribune*, we appreciate the sentiment. How decent of you to apologize for any inconvenience you may have caused while simultaneously rehashing the offence to remind your

readership. I wasn't inconvenienced! I love seeing my mom once a week for a month as a result of constant administrative interrogations. While I can only assume she enjoyed each country drive following your persistent refusal to remove my mention, her employer and the mileage on her car don't see it that way I'm afraid. I just feel as though maybe she feels a little inconvenienced.

Taking advantage of our country's right to free speech is not something I feel should be tolerated at our school, in the same way I feel censorship should not be tolerated. By all means, continue your free speech! I'm grateful to live in a country where I can run my mouth. Believe me, I am. Oh, I'm sure you believe me.

Just next time, when trying to think of a fun way to introduce a recipe for an easily brewed alcoholic drink for cold nights in your substance-free dorm room, leave my vagina and me out of it.

## CHOOSING YOUR BATTLES

by lucian wintrich

It was early October. As I sat in my Red Hook villa, villa de Wintrich-Peet as I like to call it, clad in needlepoint Stubbs and Wootton slippers, after smoking Denmark's finest pipe tobacco, I sipped a mug swelled with a blazing spiked cider of my own devise. Soon, I received an unsolicited phone call from a certain dean, a dean whose vocal chords emanated a disdain I knew as all too familiar. "This is he," I responded, prompted by her perfunctory inquiry. Little did I know that "this is he" would be the reoccurring theme of my Autumn.

It all started but one day prior, a female student implored, "how might one go about submitting to your charming publication?" Her not having read the copious texts on the effortlessness of submitting for the publication was made apparent; later, her curiosity transpired to her reading the various articles made available through the publication. She soon realized that the website contained material, submitted by another student, that she found of questionable merit.

Wholly unflattered by a contributor's piece that compared her anatomy to that of a harsh, Hudson Valley winter, she decided to go the route of seeking administrative intervention against the publication she once hoped to write for. Subsequently, she decided to fight for disciplinary action against myself, as the *Tribune's* founder. The proceedings commenced; I was told that I could be suspended. I was told that my story could make national news. I was told that the student in question could have written the piece herself.

The situation was rife with intrigue of such an ilk; the entirety of the debacle could only be associated

with King George and the plethora of things he "told" the colonists who founded the country we now know and embrace as the United States of America. Do you remember when Benjamin Franklin inspired our minds when he declaired "you may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one."?

I am a dreamer. I had a dream that one day this college would rise up and live out the true meaning of its creed: "Bard shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech." Echoes of this mantra should resound through the halls of our institution; why did this not manifest during the development of this ordeal?

Upon my founding the *Bard Tribune* ([bardtribune.com](http://bardtribune.com)), after partaking of a spoon full of opium from a handcrafted receptacle of my own devise, at a school ranked by F.I.R.E. as one of the most handicapping of student's social liberties, I knew I might be in for a challenge. A baker's dozen conversations with administration, a half dozen conversations with reporters, a conversation with the ACLU, and an hour long conversation with Botstein later, I realized I would get off with nothing more than a slap on the backside. But still, I take great pride in my backside; it needn't be slapped. Peter Paul Rubens once said, "Sir, when their backsides look good enough to slap, there's nothing more to do." While my backside does indeed look good, did it really look good enough to slap at this point?

I took the complaint lodged against the *Tribune* seriously; I promptly retracted the article the morning after

the complaint, I then changed the periodical's submission policy to avoid future situations of student strife. Still, however, the attacking student persisted; my collegiate record was tarnished as a result. Circumstances such as these beg the question, is this what private education has come to, catty one-sided antics against Bard's first instantly gratifying, civil rights endorsing, libertarian-minded, student body run publication ([bardtribune.com](http://bardtribune.com))? Despite the fact that in this one case the *Bard Tribune* ([bardtribune.com](http://bardtribune.com)) faced censorship, we cannot help but remember my great-great-grandmother's lover, Voltaire, when he said "We have a natural right to make use of our pens as of our tongue, at our peril, risk and hazard."

I don't mean to be too super-flourious nor do I mean to be self-one-grand-izing, but I only mean to conclude, as I sit here now injecting a methamphetamine-heroin mixture of my own devise, should the mistrials of the *Bard Tribune* get in the way of the bigger question: "why are we here?" This is the true question that invades our consciousness where and when necessary; it is the question we continue to ask ourselves, and in the face of such affront and concern propounded by the adversaries of our fine publication ([bardtribune.com](http://bardtribune.com)), those who find themselves in opposition to the mentality exhorted by its very existence, we--I-- can do nothing but resist, resist in the name of free speech, in the name of upholding the virtues that our society hold dear, all in the name of the *Bard Tribune* (.com).

Like the young woman who recently wrote an editorial under the pseudonym Daisy Duke, sometimes I too am at a complete loss as to how to best present myself competitively as a woman in a society that places a tremendous amount of value on how a woman looks. Daisy has a point; according to some feminist theory, she is caught in a series of double binds. The apparent catch-22 is that a woman in Daisy's situation can either reinforce stereotypes that have traditionally subjugated her gender and forgo her own empowerment, or she can choose to adopt the kind of practices touted by women's empowerment groups - at the cost of her own personal economic subjugation. Daisy's further point lies in the suggestion that for a woman who genuinely enjoys wearing makeup, "woman's empowerment" movements might be just as restrictive as chauvinist ideals - and we shouldn't ignore her insight that there are women who will automatically devalue another woman who appears to conform to sexist cultural norms.

However, Daisy stops being insightful and just starts being offensive when she makes a number of false assumptions about the nature of feminism. For instance, she suggests that feminists cannot take publicly delight in their own sexuality; however, many feminists argue that women should subvert expectations to be proper, chaste, and inherently unsexual by being vocal and unapologetic about their sexuality. Daisy furthermore suggests that she is "an oxymoron" in her little black dress with gender equality books in hand, implying that the only reason a woman would turn to feminism is because she is unattractive. On the contrary, there are plenty of reasons why a stereotypically attractive woman would decide to call herself a feminist, reasons that Daisy seems well aware of -- for instance, the frustration any woman feels when the treatment she receives from others is based more upon her physical appearance than her intellect. However, Daisy's largest oversight is the

assumption that all feminists are the same (and, to that end, that none of them have blond hair or big boobs). In reality, there are first, second, and third wave feminists, eco-feminists, black feminists, male feminists, and radical feminists, among others -- all of which have different beliefs about and goals for the role that gender plays in society, and all of which might have different critiques of Daisy's assertions.

Personally, I would like to suggest that at its core, all feminism calls for a critical reconsideration of how constructions of gender and sexuality structure power relations and constrain individuals. Far from her breast size, what makes Daisy unattractive to feminists is her failure to take a critical look at the role she plays in reinforcing highly gendered prejudices. For example, Daisy does the male gender a tremendous disservice when she repeats the stereotypical and harmful truism that men are such inherently and overwhelmingly sexual creatures that they are powerless in front of cleavage. She writes "I had fully conquered the intricacies of the male brain. When a man is attracted to you, he will do what you want." By assuming that men, by the simple presence of their penis, are not only attracted to but subject to the manipulations of a big-boobed blonde, she invokes the very kind of sexual/gender prejudice that she complains of encountering.

Daisy neglects to realize that the frustration that she feels falls well within the realm of feminist reflection. In fact, at times, her arguments are feminist arguments. In other moments she offers a useful critique of some feminist's attitudes. However, the assumptions that she makes and the stereotypes she invokes - both of men and of feminist women - are deeply rooted in problematic and gendered ways of thinking. Before Daisy can understand how to "push back" against societal constraints, she needs to do some better research, and then she needs to turn a critical eye inward.

In the October 2010 issue of the Free Press a young woman wrote an opinion article under the pen-name "Daisy Duke." Daisy's article expressed the trials and tribulations of a "blonde, large busted," scantily clad girl who finds herself "at a loss" as to how to deal with her wanton sexual nature in combination with her intellect and entrepreneurial aspirations. Unfortunately, Daisy comes off more like the whiney ditz she claims not to be than like the beautiful and powerful professional persona for which she strives.

Let's start with the first problem Daisy addresses: when she arrives, dressed to the nines, at a prestigious university (where she has a boyfriend, BTW) the men there stare at her hot body. Now, I agree, for some (read: most) women, this clear objectification is a problem. You are sexy because you want to be sexy, not (necessarily) because some hypothetical male gaze will appreciate you more. Daisy, on the other hand, fully enjoys the male gaze her looks bring her and, even more so, likes the power her big boobs hold over men. Oh, did I forget to mention that she has "fully conquered the intricacies of the male brain" with her mesmerizing tits?

Moving on to some of the article's other complaints, let's talk about Daisy's grandmother. Now, let me be honest, Double-D-Grandma sounds like a real badass. She went out at "the ripe age of 19, wearing short skirts and designer heels, to begin her own Advertising Agency [sic]" and, correct me if I'm wrong, I'm guessing she didn't sit around and whine about how people push her into societal roles. I would advise Daisy to pick up on some of that self-empowerment

that her grandmother had, but, based on her derision of "'Empowerment' themed books," it seems this is not what Daisy is looking for.

The main problem Daisy seems to have, however, is that she is the only intelligent, beautiful young woman she knows. While you might think this makes her just a teeny bit conceited, it's actually pretty sad. The clear insecurity she feels at not being at Harvard, Yale, or another "academic, rigorous, and prestigious" school shows how deeply she has internalized the idea that a smart, pretty girl is an oxymoron. Not only does this lead her to the idea that all intelligent women (and feminists, for that matter) are "exhausted and baggy clothed girls" with small breasts and brown hair, but it has also clearly convinced Daisy that she is unintelligent. Not that I disagree with that.

"Its [sic] not my fault!" is a pathetic rallying cry, Daisy. No one is telling you to "de-sexualize." You are not, inherently, "anti-feminist." Your body does not give you power over the entire male gender. I'm sorry to be the one to break it to you, but you are, in fact, just a normal girl. Being pretty does not remove your capacity to be intelligent, make your own decisions, or portray whatever persona you choose, but it also does not automatically make you better than anyone else. I suggest you take a look at your personal insecurities, come to terms with them, and get some mental peace and confidence. Also, for the sake of us sexy, small breasted, professional brunettes, google image Rhianna or Victoria Beckham. In pantsuits.

## MUST ACTIVE DISAGREEMENT DISAPPEAR?

by megan r kernigan

Among all the questions we ask ourselves, and the worries that current events bring upon us, we tend to take refuge in our own freedoms. This is especially true in the United States, where many are proud to have a vastly democratic history. In recent times, however, democratic ideals are being twisted and challenged. Do we have the power to actively disagree with our government once it has chosen a side in any given conflict? Jess Sundin's recent travails point to the idea that we do not. Her story has foundations in a 1996 law, which banned material support for terrorist organizations.

On September 24th 2010 at 7:00 a.m., Jess Sundin of Minnesota was greeted with eight federal agents bearing a search warrant. Their cause was simply a search for material support for terrorist organizations. This cause morphed into search of anything and everything in her house. The agents were particularly interested in any papers associated with political activism, contact lists and financial records. They took things having no political significance whatsoever, including her daughter's artwork and other personal items. This went on for five hours in her home as well as the homes of friends and fellow activists in Minnesota and Illinois. The whole of the operation involved some seventy agents and

eventually culminated in subpoenas that asked all being investigated to testify before a grand jury in Chicago. Her story is rather jarring in that any activist seems vulnerable and subject to investigation in a country where activism has been historically praised for its role in hoisting democracy up from the depths of inequality and injustice at home and abroad.

The Anti-War Committee Sundin belongs to has always been one in support of international solidarity and the spreading of ideas and stories they encounter from around the world, regardless of the political implications or associations. Those involved organize protests, call-ins, and actively participate in lobbying for politicians to support certain causes. Many of the people active in this committee have traveled to Columbia and Palestine; they have supported groups there that the United States does not necessarily support. This raises another question: should humanitarian aid be compromised because of international political polarization? Most would say no, but the line is becoming increasingly blurred. Sundin has traveled to Bogota, Columbia and noted a time when she sat in on a meeting where people testified according to what they wanted out of peace talks. Looking back, she can't bear to possibly incriminate the

hospitable and genuine people she met along the journey. Oftentimes the grand jury is after further associates, and it is unclear whether or not these people in other countries will be treated with justice; they could be assassinated by association.

In a video clip shown at the talk, Sundin's lawyer brings up the idea that if laws similar to the material support one were in place decades ago, President Carter would have been guilty of negotiating with terrorists for his work in promoting free elections in Lebanon. He said that we must talk to our enemies in order to promote peace. Where does this leave the likes of Jess Sundin and other members of the anti-war committee? She, along with fourteen other people, has decided to exercise her Fifth Amendment right not to testify. It is unknowable where the investigation is headed, or what the consequences will be. Sundin stressed the point that if they are put in jail for not testifying, every social movement throughout the country is at risk. Must we take sides from now on, or can we continue to support people and places we believe in without being subjected to political restraints?

## OUTSIDE 12504 TALES FROM THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL

by Kurt Schmidlein

On Nov. 2nd, I refreshed the New York Times website every two minutes, gloomily watching Democrats get pummeled across the country. Though I was interested in these races, my mind was on New Hampshire and a race for the State House. My friend Theo called me around 9:30 pm with results from two of the five towns in our district; the smallest town and the only town that didn't hand-count ballots were, predictably, the first to announce their tallies. At that point we were three hundred votes down. But there was still hope. One of the remaining towns was a toss up, and the other two leaned left. I waited for the rest of the results anxiously, nervously, frantically.

He called again at 11:00 pm. "The results are in."

Five months earlier, the election seemed eons away. It was early June, and my friends and I were trying to figure out how we would spend the summer. My friend Theo and I had been involved in Obama's campaign, and we were eager to get involved again. One morning, I woke up to a phone call from my friend Jeremy.

"Hey," I said groggily.

"Dude. I think Theo should run for State Representative." I met Jeremy and Theo later that day at a coffee shop in Wilton, one of the five towns of the district in question. A former state representative and friend of ours, Jennifer Daler, had approached Theo the day before and asked him to run alongside her.

After a couple hours of discussion in the coffee shop and several days of consideration, Theo was behind the idea - but only if we helped. It was decided that I would be his campaign manager and Jeremy would be his media strategist (rather glorified titles for such a low-level campaign). A week later, on June 10th, I went with Theo to the town hall where he signed the documents to officially become a candidate. I remember having several "oh, shit" moments after Theo signed those papers. What had we got ourselves in to? Sure, we knew a lot about the issues and we learned a lot on the campaign in 2008, but the work we did for the Obama campaign was fairly easy stuff. Now we would have to forge a political platform, build a website, design brochures, fund raise, plan canvassing routes, interview for the local paper... the list of responsibilities was endless.

In addition to the logistical challenges, we were running a low level campaign in a conservative district against well known and well funded Republican incumbents. Furthermore, the political climate was becoming increasingly

hostile for democrats, and it seemed that those trends might trickle all the way down the ballot. We knew the odds were long.

So we set to work. With Facebook we reached out to everyone we knew who lived in the district - former peers, high school teachers, friends and their parents - so that the people who knew Theo would know that he was running. As our website began to take shape, the need for a political platform became urgent.

Between the two of us, Theo and I knew a good deal about the issues and it did not take long for us to craft a platform. Though we have similar political beliefs, we disagreed about how to implement political rhetoric on the campaign trail. If I had got my way, Theo would have avoided using terms and phrases linked to democrats. But Theo wanted to have substantive conversations with voters, to discuss issues and policies without shying away from his beliefs and the facts of unpopular policies. This attitude changed the dynamic of the campaign. Though we were trying to win, we also now viewed the campaign as a vessel for engaging voters in intelligent, informed debate. We wanted voters to realize that Theo wanted to hear their opinions, that he was not just knocking on their door to sell his own.

There were two committed democrats on the ballot with Theo and Jennifer. In the final months of the campaign, the four worked tirelessly in a coordinated effort. They knocked on doors, attending selectmen meetings, and stood out in the cold New Hampshire mornings waving to drivers. From Bard, I helped out occasionally with letters to the editor and canvassing routes. As election day drew nearer, though, there was little more I could do.

When Theo called me on November 2nd, it was not with good news. Despite his hard work, he lost by a couple percentage points. The Republicans took all four seats in our district, and won three quarters of the State Legislature. Needless to say, I was very disappointed. I spent days wondering what more we could have done, if there was some key step we had missed or devastating mistake we had made. But Theo's impact on the election cycle would never have been defined solely by the outcome of his race. He met thousands of voters and had hundreds of conversations with real people about real problems. In the past few election cycles voters have reacted instead of reasoned, angry about the Iraq War, fed up with deficit spending, and vexed by a languishing economy. Unfortunately, our political leaders have played along with these waves of public sentiment instead of promoting intelligent debate. Instead of reacting, Theo set out to make a difference by engaging his fellow citizens.

Win or lose, we learned a great deal about running a political campaign and even more about the people of New Hampshire. Plus, the name recognition Theo earned and the knowledge we gained will make next time much easier.

2012, here we come.



## POP CULTURE IS LOL CLUSTERFUCK EDITION

by abby miles-ruttenberg

Nothing exciting is happening, but several stupid things are. Instead of focusing on one ridiculous thing, let's focus on several semi-ridiculous things: Miley Cyrus's parents are getting divorced. It would be too easy to make an "achy breaky heart" joke here, so just try to take that reference as a witticism. So Billy Ray Cyrus and Tish Cyrus (might be her stripper name) are getting divorced, allegedly because Tish had an affair with Bret Michaels. That is so great. What a fortunate woman; she didn't even win *Rock of Love!* Tish is a "reach for the stars" type of gal, I can tell.

Additionally, Miley Cyrus is turning 18 on November 23rd and that means if she "inappropriately" (redneck style) poses for a photo shoot with her father again, it will still be incestuous; and if she dances on a fake ice cream cart (during her Teen Choice Awards performance) and utilizes its umbrella as a stripper pole, it'll still be slutty - so, really, nothing will

change. Actually, she'll probably release a sex tape.

In other "news", Jessica Alba and Kat Dennings (*Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist*, *40 Year Old Virgin*) have nude photos on the Internet. Christmas came early. Actually, nevermind - they're utterly disturbing. The photographs of Jessica Alba are of when she's pregnant which makes me feel guilty and Kat Denning's photographs consist of her crouched like a demon while wearing gothic makeup. Boner kill.

Blah blah blah Lindsay Lohan is in rehab and is "progressing" while her absurd mother went on the Today Show to talk about it. I don't care. Oh, shit, Lil Wayne's out of prison! But he can't drug dabble or consume alcohol for 3 years? Whoa, Weezy... what are you going to do in the clubz? ...BE DOPE, THAT'S WHAT! Figuratively, of course.

Also, Mel Gibson was fired from *The Hangover 2*. Welllll, that's fine by me because Mel Gibson's hairline bothers me

-but I don't think that's the only reason why I dislike him. However, Mel Gibson is the last person on earth to seriously use the term "sugar tits" and that's fantastic. HOLD UP, he's Buzz Lightyear?! Childhood RUINED.

Annnnd Courtney Love spontaneously performed a private "concert" in the lobby of the Mercer Hotel in NYC on November 3rd. It seems she attempted to sing "Maps" by the Yeah Yeah Yeahs but was too inebriated to read the lyrics and fell over. Fun. Maybe don't do that anymore, Courtney Love. As long as we're in the spirit of giving advice, I think that if you're the author of "Double D-Listed" from last month's FP issue (I believe her Nom de Plume was "Tits McGee") you should never write or speak again; just show me your boobs.

# ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

## NOWHERE BOY

by nicholas carbone

Indie director Sam Taylor Wood brings the teenagehood of John Lennon to the big screen in *Nowhere Boy*.

As the film begins, we immediately see Lennon's bad-boy attitude and how he refused to listen to any authority figure, whether it be his school principal or his guardian aunt. Certain aspects of his life may seem a bit cliché, like skipping school or attracting lots of women, but Wood's direction keeps it all fun.

Kristin Scott Thomas plays John's Aunt Mimi, who is portrayed as very cold and distant towards everything around her. Mimi loses her more fun-loving husband early in the story causing John to be stuck with her inside the cramped confines of the Mendips House.

At an uncle's funeral, John gets to see his real mother,

and begins spending more time with her. John can only remember life with his aunt and uncle, but he desires to know who his mother is. Aunt Mimi disapproves of any connection with her, but the audience isn't told why.

Anne-Marie Duff fills the role of Lennon's mother, Julia, a happy red-haired woman with a complicated past. John soon starts ditching his Aunt for his more vibrant and music-loving mom. This soon leads to the climax as we learn of Julia's past, and the dark reasons behind John's early separation from her. John channels the anger that arises from these troubles into creating his music and starting a band.

John's first band, The Quarrymen, lands a few local gigs, until he meets Paul McCartney, whose expertise on the

guitar allows him to become close friends with John. Paul teaches John how to more effectively play the guitar, and introduces him to George Harrison.

The central relationship of the film is that of John's two influential female figures, and Wood beautifully crafts the tension and emotion between them. The subtlety of the acting stands out among the difficult subject matter and creates a low-key feel for the complicated family dynamic in the film. *Nowhere Boy* can stand alone as a powerful narrative about a troubled teen in the 1960s, but it is also an interesting rumination on the complex persona of John Lennon.

## EZRA'S SENIOR PROJECT

by ezra glenn

## TITUS ANDRONICUS @ SMOG

by dylan cassidy

When Titus Andronicus, the punk/indie hybrid rock band hailing from New Jersey, emerged in 2008 with their debut album *The Airing of Grievances*, they brought a fresh and unique sound to the underground music community. This sound, best described as Bright Eye's sensibility fused with the intensity of punk rock acts such as Hüsker Dü and The Replacements, is a demanding presence when heard live. Although SMOG isn't the best place to hold a concert, Titus Andronicus completely took over the lackluster venue on Halloween night with their energy and vibrancy. First Ian Graetzer, the band's lead singer, mumbled the crowd a Happy Halloween from behind his bushy beard. Starting off with their new signature song "A More Perfect Union" off their sophomore album *The Monitor*, the crowd went crazy with excitement, forming mosh pits all around with sweaty people collid-

ing everywhere. From here on, insanity ensued. Fan favorite songs such as "Richard III," "My Time Outside The Womb," and "No Future" were all played, pleasing the hardcore and casual fans alike. Their most impressive song, the self-titled "Titus Andronicus" was dedicated to all the seniors in the crowd, with lyrics relevant to the end of their college life: "There'll be no more cigarettes, no more having sex, no more drinking until you fall on the floor... your life is over." As Titus Andronicus left the stage around 1 am, I heard mixed comments about the performance. Some people said they could have hired a better band for the holiday, some were enthusiastic about their performance, and others appeared neutral. Either way, they brought a certain energy that got the crowd moving and jumping and their sound seemed a perfect match for a venue like Smog.

T A T P R N R E L M R T I R A I Y P F E R S I L S  
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 B R I D A L T E T O E T T N C H R E S O B I D S N  
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 L H A T H T Z E O N E B A E T A K E A Y T N O H U  
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 B A A W I Y C I O O K E N A H S E I R E P I R F P  
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 R A L T T R A T I A E L R E R E C A Y T L E E S Z  
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 E M S E R O A N E A T F Y T I O N S R I R A N A W N I  
 P A H O P H B D A E G S C U I M B F R A T E D E A  
 B H E L I W N B N O T U B D A A S B Y Y M A K O R  
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 F O N O N I L O I K R O R L S A O A N B C O R A I  
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AnnieBattles	LucianWintrich	BardTribune	FreePress
Boobs	CracklinOB	Protest	Botstein
OneFifty	Sanity	iPhone	Aramark
Healthcare	KenCooper	Annandale	Technology
Employment	Sleep	Razorblades	



# MISSED CONNECTIONS /// SEEKING

I was a viking and you were a viking. Clad in gold, from smog's stage I sighted your sexy horned head in full face-covered glory toward the back, towering over all. By the time I worked my way through the sea of bootybangers, you were gone. po box 757. let's eat salted fish and drink mead and act like every day is halloween.

I have to be honest with you, I'm a natural born killer.

You: sf hat

Me: giants fan

let's get together and win our own world series.

You: expelled(?), hometown enthusiast, rather well endowed. I know for a fact, not only from video chat, but your presence is missed, my golden gates await you

You: dated a homeless guy? (I thought he graduated?) You can raid my tomb any day of the week.

You're a freshmen, I'm a sophomore.

You wear a green utility jacket, so do I (sometimes).

You're jewish, I'm down.

-sucker for a NY Jew

I would like bagels and other round bread products campus mailed to me at box 1620.

you: sleep

me: ezra

Why don't we spend time together anymore? I feel like we had something really great going for a while. Ever since I had those papers and presentations all due at the same time... and then that damn FP, no one even reads it anyway. I'd be much better off with you. How about dinner at my place sometime this week? You bring the wine. I'll bring the closing my eyes.

you: gummi bears

me: free press

I hope you're not still upset about the time I squished you in the scanner to make the centerfold. I still think you're gonna be famous.

Seeking: editor-hopefulls for the free press. You should be overzealous and not take no for an answer, even when the answer is no. For example: you: is the sky rainbow? me: no. you: I'm just not going to accept that. Layout and karate skills a plus.

me: mouth

you: teeth

you complete me.

a word of advice: vacuum

Me: Free Press

You: Writer who keeps sending in revised versions of your fucking article

STOP IT. I mean for fuck's sake.

Dear Chartwellian. You used to make Manor such a lovely place. Then they moved you to Kline. Now you seem so sad. We love you.

