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## EDITORIAL

### AN UNDEMOCRATIC BUDGET FORUM

On Wednesday September 14th, the Student Association hosted what may have been the most boring and dispiriting Budget Forum in Bard College's history. Attendance was poor - the MPR was barely half-filled. The whole thing lasted a total of 38 minutes, a far cry from the hours of energetic debate the event used to generate. Most notably, our Student Government representatives seemed to go out of their way to ensure that this Budget Forum was irrelevant and provided no opportunities to hold Planning Committee accountable.

Student Government is mainly to blame for this shift due to their baffling decision not to release a full breakdown of this year's budget to the student body. As upperclassmen will know, a full breakdown of budget allocations is typically sent to students soon after budget defense - detailing not only how much money each club received, but which specific requests were approved or denied, and how much money was allocated to each budget item. This year, no breakdown was sent - in fact, no e-mails were sent to students at all. Budget numbers were posted in Kline and the Campus Center, but no one from Student Government ever sent an e-mail announcing the paper postings.

According to Section 3 Article D-3 of the Student Government Association Bylaws, "After Budget Defense, the Planning Committee shall prepare a draft Student Association budget, including total allotments for each Club; it shall also prepare commentary on each club's proposed budget. Clubs' proposed budgets, the commentary therein, and the Planning Committee's draft budget shall all be made publicly available at least 48 hours before Budget Forum." The commentary referred to here has in years past appeared beside each line of the fully itemized budget as an explanation of each allocation for each request.

The failure to release a budget breakdown is a bizarre and frustrating change from past years' practice. By failing to send out any notifications about the release of the budget, or any e-mails advertising Budget Forum, the Student Association ensured the campus would be under-informed about the event. Not releasing the a budget breakdown also made hostile amendments basically impossible - how can one club attack another's budget if they don't know what the money was allocated for?

In addition, no e-mail was sent out calling for amendments of any kind, or providing a definite deadline for when these had to be submitted. There was also no explanation of Budget Forum procedures for freshmen, nor any emphasis placed on its importance in

the democratic structure of our student funding. Budget Forum is unique to Bard, there are few academic institutions where the students are given so much power over their own funding. This fact needs to be emphasized by the governing body that oversees it.

When asked at Budget Forum why a full breakdown was not released, Kye Ehrlich, Head of Planning Committee, responded that the budget breakdown was abused by certain individuals last semester, so it would not be made available this semester until a later date. When asked to elaborate on what these abuses were, Ehrlich responded that he could not. The question was quickly moved past, with no further explanation provided.

By not releasing a budget breakdown, the Forum was rendered pointless. The function of Budget Forum is to question, debate, and possibly alter the decisions made by Planning Committee. Since those specific decisions were not made available, that was impossible. Planning Committee is just a handful of students - they can make mistakes, and have to be held accountable. Budget Forum is the venue for all students to participate in the budgeting process, and we were not afforded it this semester for reasons frustratingly undisclosed.

There was a general air of urgency at the forum, as if we were running out of time when it had only just begun. The Central Committee rushed through the amendments and stuck strictly to the allotted 30 seconds per speaker appealing, and even cut off students raising their hands with questions. While some might see the change from an hours-long Budget Forum to one that clocked in at just under 40 minutes (after starting 13 minutes late) as a positive shift, it in this case represents a great failure. The Budget stands unquestioned not because of the success of the Planning Committee in its allocation but because of their utter opacity and unwillingness to allow room for debate.

As the forum continued, student began to trickle out. At one point, seeing a few people get up to leave, Ehrlich raised his voice and told them to stay, indicating how few students were left in the room at all. When those who remained voted 'Yes' on the budget for the semester at the end of the Forum, it was on a budget that none of them had seen in full. That is ridiculous. If the wording in the Constitution cited here is too ambiguous regarding the release of a full budget breakdown before Budget Forum, the FREE PRESS proposes that such an amendment be added quickly, so that this cannot happen again.

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the abandoned kline dining tent, photograph by anna daniszewski

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# BARD WATERLOGGED AFTER HURRICANE IRENE

by j.p. lawrence and anushka mehrotra

Hurricane Irene hit Bard College this fall, and for many students, the 500-mile wide cyclone just meant less electricity and more board games and wetness.

For Randy Clum, Assistant Director of Buildings & Grounds, however, the storm was a crisis that only worsened with time. Clum worked 15-hours that day, reacting to problems as they happened — a power outage here, a flooded basement there.

Unfortunately, when he finally closed his eyes that night, the storm offered him no rest.

Most noticeably, a tree fell next to Bard Hall and hit the building on the side, leaving a small hole. Clum speculated that an insurance claim will most likely be made for that damage.

While the heaviest damage from Irene hit the Albany region of New York and the Burlington region of Vermont, Clum estimates B&G has found 30 buildings at Bard affected by water damage. He suggested that the long-term ramifications may not be clear for months.

"We're in the process of wearing out the wet material, which is no good any more, and in the process of fixing whatever we need to as far as sheet rock that's been removed and tile floors or carpeting or whatever the flooring material may be.

"It's... it's a work in progress," Clum said.

Several basements were hit the hardest, Clum said — including Albee, Oberholzer, Avery, the President's House, and the Old Gym.

In addition, Clum said they don't yet know what damage the boilers suffered when they came underwater. "We have begun to repair boilers, although some of the repairs that may be needed probably won't surface until the heating season comes up," he said.

Student clubs that were using Bard basements were forced to relocate or suspend operations after the storm. The space in the basement of Albee where the Book Exchange once resided is now a skeleton of empty wall studs (the Bard FREE PRESS was also housed in this space). Sankalpa Khadka, one of the club heads of the Book Exchange, has seen his club's vast library of free books reduced to a pile of plastic bags and cardboard boxes.

"The floor flooded, some of the books got wet, but most were on bookshelves," Khadka said. "The biggest loss was to the space."

Clum said Irene uprooted trees and spaces all over campus, including at Bard Hall, but added that B&G has taken most of the dangerous items. B&G does not yet know how much the damage will cost, or how much the insurance will cover, but renovation will continue.

"Nothing's been completed yet as far as 100% finished," Clum said. "It's all over campus, like I said, there's many buildings so, it's a work in progress."

For his part, Khadka said his club is currently homeless, but he hopes to return to Albee soon. "I think it's good that B&G is renovating the place. I personally don't feel that it's a problem moving somewhere, because in the end, we'll get a better place."



some of the damage from hurricane irene—from top: damage to bard hall; the gutted free press office; a new lake beside annandale road; the flooded parliament of reality. -- photos by joey sims

# KLINE CON- STRUCTION BESET BY DELAYS THREE NEW CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS TO BEGIN THIS SEMESTER

by joey sims

Construction work in Kline Commons is set to continue into November, after various delays pushed back plans that hoped to have the project completed over the summer. The college has also announced three new construction projects which it hopes to begin work on during the fall semester.

"We didn't quite get [Kline] done this summer" admitted Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration. Work remains ongoing on the north side dining room, which is being expanded to increase capacity. (Two meeting rooms, the Green Onion and the Chartwells office have all been relocated, to be replaced by additional dining space.) The building will also be expanded northward, and a new patio will be added.

Unanticipated mechanical work is to blame for the delay. "We are going back and redoing most of the wiring in the building [and] reworking some electrical and mechanical plans," said Brudvig. "Things we didn't anticipate doing."

Current plans have the north side of Kline re-opening at the end of September. Work will then continue on the expansion throughout October. The college's goal is to open the finished expansion before Parent's Weekend, which is the final weekend of October. Finally, a patio will be added in November.

Throughout the summer and the Language & Thinking program, students were fed under the commencement tent, where a makeshift dining facility was constructed. The college had originally planned to feed students under the tent through the month of September, as work was completed. However, this plan was abandoned when it became clear the structural steel for the expansion would not arrive until October 4th.

Next summer, Kline will again be closed as work takes place on the kitchen and service area, which will be completely remodeled. The commencement tent will again become the Kline Dining Tent for the summer.

Three other construction projects will begin this semester. Work begins on a new Conservatory building attached to Avery in October. Construction is expected to take fifteen months.

A practice rooms facility for musicians will be placed on the spot formerly occupied by Williams. Construction will also begin in October. Brudvig expects the building to be ready for use by next semester.

## WLHV: BARD +1 RADIO STATION IT STANDS FOR WE LOVE HUDSON VALLEY!

by zappa graham

You may have seen the postcard-sized green flyers around campus with the image of a radio tower in the center, advertising something called "WLHV 88.1 FM". Since 1947, Bard students have benefited from the original programming of WXBC, the completely student-run, freeform, uncensored campus radio station that is located in the basement of Manor House and can be heard online. In 2007, the FCC opened a rare application window for new non-commercial FM construction permits. Following a two-year, highly competitive selection process, Bard won the opportunity to build a new station in this area, broadcasting at 88.1Mhz. The station must be built and ready to broadcast before June of 2012, when the permit is set to expire.

"Recognizing the rarity and incredible value of one of these FCC licenses, my colleague Max Kenner [Director of the Bard Prison Initiative] and I rushed to put together an application on behalf of Bard," said Danielle Riou, Associate Director of the Human Rights Project. Riou is the nominal director of WLHV. At the beginning of this summer, she began working with technical interns Michael Anzuoni '13 and Goro Ikeda-Iyeki '12 to start generating content. She is also in the process of raising the funds necessary to purchase station and studio equipment, the antenna,

and the transmission system connecting the station to the broadcasting tower.

Ikeda-Iyeki, WLHV's technical coordinator, trains students looking to get involved in recording material for programs. "I'm kind of one of those kids that sits around with one of those small radios, and when I can't go to sleep I turn the dial," Ikeda-Iyeki admitted. He has long enjoyed listening to commercially independent radio stations like WFMU, WAMC, and WBAI, and particularly supports WGXC, a station that he describes as "dedicated to transmission art – a new discourse on electronic arts: radio theater, sound art, and all these different things." In the future, he hopes to use his experience within a story-telling medium similar to *This American Life*.

Michael Anzuoni operates [wlhv.bard.edu](http://wlhv.bard.edu), configuring streaming on the website and supervising submissions as head of the editorial board. Anzuoni was introduced to WLHV by Ikeda-Iyeki in May 2011 and was immediately attracted to the project. "I grew up in a small town in Massachusetts lacking outlets for artistic and editorial expression, and I believe that such open channels are important for a community's well-being," Anzuoni said. He aspires, as a computer science major, to work in NPR's research labs.

Though broadcasting will not begin until May 2012, a great deal of content is already available on the WLHV website, including an interview with the Tivoli Carpenter Shop Theater and a steady stream of poetry and fiction in the *Uncanny Valley* reading series. There are many options for WLHV's potential programming, within the requirements of the noncommercial, educational license awarded. Involvement is open to faculty, staff, and students. Additionally, "If we're servicing the entire area, at forty-five thousand people, hopefully there are a lot of other people [outside Bard] involved in the station," Riou stated. "The idea is that we have outside voices coming in and sharing their ideas."

This future of this station requires the support of the Bard community. A vital source of funding, the Public Telecommunications Facilities Program, was shut down with the March Congressional budget cuts, and took with it a possible grant of \$110,000, a large piece of the \$150,000 needed to get the station going. If you are interested, make a donation or find others willing to donate, volunteer your time or contribute content. Anzuoni emphasized that "People can submit articles and be a part of the station and have the freedom to do what they want, which I think is the best part of it."

## HOUSING CRISIS INTENSIFIES OFFICE SPACES CONVERTED TO DORMITORIES

by will anderson

Due to an increased demand in housing and a deficit of beds, Bard's Office of Residence Life and Housing was forced to increase the number of triples on campus this year and convert Brook and Kappa Houses from offices to residential buildings.

The college had a significant increase in housing demand from returning and transfer students this year, according to Nancy Smith, Director of Housing. Additionally, the college lost 39 beds with the removal of Williams. "When we started doing the first year assignment process, and also the room draw process, the housing situation became a little more alarming," Smith said. "We went into the summer with a lot of people on the TBA list, and not knowing how large the freshman class would end up being."

In response, Smith and Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus Life, had to rework housing on campus. Triples were added in Hudson, Catskill, and Stone Row, and freshmen space was made available in the old toasters, dorms previously reserved for upperclassmen. Though the completion of Village L helped make up for some of the upperclassmen beds lost from the old toasters, the college still ended up around 20 beds short. Faced with this, ResLife looked to Kappa and Brook.

"We are committed to giving people housing that want it whenever possible, and we really wanted to secure places on campus for these students," Smith said. According

to ResLife, no students who requested housing were denied.

In total, Kappa and Brook house 19 students. Kappa House, which previously housed the Bard Prison Initiative and the Language and Thinking Program, and Brook House, which housed the International Studies Office, were both built and used as student residences in the past.

"They were already wired and up to date in terms of fire and safety regulation - so that made choosing these particular buildings easier," Smith said. "No modifications were needed." However, neither buildings have laundry services, meaning students have to walk to Village G to do their laundry. Kappa House is located adjacent to the library parking lot, and Brook House is on Woods Ave.

Despite these emergency measures, a number of students have expressed frustration with their housing situation. Ammar Al-Rubaiay, a junior who had been assigned a single in Tewksbury, found out on arrival day that he was instead housed in a double in the Village. "I've never heard of juniors getting doubles, and it was just kind of frustrating," he said. "They just said, 'We change stuff sometimes.'"

The college is currently at capacity, with no empty singles



the redesigned brook house common room // photo by will anderson

and only a handful of double rooms with space. Because of this, there is little flexibility for students requesting housing changes. Room swaps may be the only option for students desperate to move.

In the future, ResLife hopes to build more Village dorms, as well as replace Hudson and Catskill with a more permanent residence. For the time being however, students will have to make do with a cramped campus.

## TWO BOOTS COMETH

by emma barnes

The opening of Two Boots, a New York pizzeria chain with branches in several cities around the country, has been delayed until the spring of 2012. The branch was previously scheduled to open this September in Bard's new Alumni Center.

According to Jane Brien, Director of Alumni/ae Affairs, construction, once expected to be finished this September, is due to begin this fall. Completion of the new Alumni/ae Center has also been delayed.

The restaurant's construction has been delayed while the college works with the Red Hook Town Planning Board "to get all the necessary approvals," Brien confirmed.

Jim Brudvig, Bard's Vice President for Administration, said the delay comes from zoning restrictions. The Alumni/ae Center is in a residential zone, which requires that buildings only be used for one purpose. As the plan for Two

Boots is that it will be adjoined to the center, receiving board approval may be difficult. Since Two Boots will not be exclusively open to Bard College, it cannot be considered an addition to the Alumni/ae Center. Until the center as a whole is approved, Two Boots is stuck in limbo.

The site, which is across the street from the main Campus Road entrance to the college, was acquired by the college in April 2010 and formerly housed an Italian restaurant called Cappuccino by Coppola. "The restaurant that was there had a special permit. So the Two Boots part of it was perfectly fine, because it could operate the existing special permit. Putting the alumni office in required an addition," Brudvig said.

"They're excited about it, they're not against it," Brudvig said of the zoning board. "It's just that the existing zoning for the building didn't match what we were doing."

## ...BUT NOT FOR A WHILE

Two Boots founder and father of a recent Bard graduate Phil Hartman remains excited about the project, and anticipates that the restaurant will be well received. "I think there are a lot of folks that know us from New York City or Los Angeles, Connecticut or Baltimore that are excited we're coming," he said. "Those that aren't should brace themselves for something yummy."

The restaurant will also be an environmentally friendly venue. "Two Boots will also be looking to partner with the college on sustainability issues, culinary internships, organic farming and any other issues where food, politics or culture intersect," said Hartman.

Two Boots will serve pizza, salad and sandwiches and offer students free deliveries and an outdoor space.

# DANCE DEPARTMENT STRUGGLES WITH LACK OF SPACE HUGE SPACESHIP BUILDING NOT BIG ENOUGH FOR HUGE DANCING

by j.p. lawrence

Jeremy Goldsher hefts his body skyward as he skips and hops from side to side during an introductory dance class at Bard College. Surrounding him are 23 of his fellow Bard students, teachers with dozens of years of experiences, and the steady beat of an electric drum. The only thing missing is a dance studio.

Before last year, the dance department held its classes in the two studios allotted to them in the Richard B. Fisher Center for the Performing Arts, but the growth of the program has forced them to shift some classes to the Multipurpose Room in the Bertelsmann Campus Center.

"The Dance Department truly had no other space they were able to use," said Julie Silverstein, Director of Student Activities and the Bertelsmann Campus Center. "The MPR was their final space option outside of their dance studios."

Silverstein said they discussed moving classes to the MPR several years ago, but decided against it due to a

mutual understanding that the space is meant for students and their activities. Last year, however, the chronic lack of space reached a tipping point, and the dance department was given the space Tuesdays and Thursdays throughout the day.

"I think this issue needs to be viewed as a symptom of the larger problem regarding the campus-wide space crunch," said Silverstein. "We all know that lack of space on campus is an issue for everyone, which has required all of us to be more flexible and creative about the use of space."

Jean Churchill, a dance instructor at Bard for 32 years, said she is glad that they are able to use the MPR, which she describes as an adequate dance space, but she understands that the space is meant for students.

Churchill said she has seen the dance department grow from two rooms in what is now the film building to two studios in the gleaming Fisher Center, and now the program

is growing out of space again.

If it were up to her, the dance department would have two more studios, Churchill said, but she understands that that's not likely in the current economic climate.

Churchill, who has taught an introductory course every semester, said she loves teaching students like Goldsher, who are new to the art and perhaps tentative, the joy of movement and of mastering the body.

At Bard, however, these students are forced to learn to skip and tilt and lean in Bard's multi purpose space, while the Fisher Center, overlooked, broods on the other side of campus.

"All programs would like to use it for some reason or another," said Churchill. "I'm really glad this has worked out, and I hope it continues in the future, but isn't it basically a room intended for student activities?"

# BARC NOW LEARNING COMMONS CANINE STUDENTS HAVE DIFFICULTY WITH PRONUNCIATION

by madeline feyway

The Learning Commons, Bard's revamped academic center, is now open for business.

Formerly known as the Bard Academic Resources Center, or BARC, the Learning Commons offers a wide range of services, from private tutoring to workshops aimed at improving study skills.

"The Learning Commons will get students to think about their own habits by writing about them," said Jim Keller, the Director of the Learning Commons.

During the fall semester, the Learning Commons will sponsor workshops in maintaining a calendar, time management, grammar, and revision.

Keller emphasized the Learning Commons' interest in "using writing as a way to learn." Writing, according to Keller, "brings about a higher level of motivation."

The Learning Commons also provides special resources for students with disabilities and students who study English as a second language.

The expansion of the Learning Commons is a change that has "been envisioned for a while," said Keller.

Many changes occurred in the leadership of the Learning Commons. Philip Pardi, the former Director of BARC, is now the Director of College Writing. He has been replaced by Keller, who has taught Language & Thinking for ten years, and Jane Smith, the Assistant Director of the Learning Commons, who formerly worked in the President's office for seven years.

The Learning Commons was also given new computers and updated computer software.

Keller and Smith believed that the title of "Academic Resources Center" limited the scope of what the organization does.

"The expansion enables us to reach out to the Bard community and provide services like workshops and

classes where we train tutors," said Keller.

BARC writing tutors are assigned to work with First Year Seminar classes and writing intensive by faculty request. Recently, the number of writing-intensive classes requesting tutors has increased. Demand for drop-in tutoring is also on the rise. Over 100 first-year students visited the Learning Commons during the Language and Thinking Program, according to Keller.

"We're really excited to have so many inspired people, resources, and support," said Keller. "This is an exciting time."

The Learning Commons is located across from Old Henderson, in the basement of Stone Row.



Jim Keller outside of the Learning Commons // photo by camila sobral

# BARD COLLEGE MERGES WITH LONGY SCHOOL OF MUSIC

## THE SUN NEVER SETS ON THE BARD EMPIRE

by *iliana hagenah*

Bard College announced over the summer that it will be merging with the Longy School of Music, a four-year music conservatory located in Cambridge, Massachusetts. While the news was widely reported, it was initially unclear how this new relationship with Longy would affect the Bard College Conservatory of Music. According to Robert Martin, head of the Bard Conservatory, the answer is: not a whole lot.

"Basically, it's not the Longy School of Music merging with the Bard Conservatory," Martin explained. "What it's not is ... a merger or a combination with our Conservatory. It really doesn't change the lives of Bard students."

Leon Botstein will become Longy's president, and Bard will take charge of Longy financially. Martin equates the arrangement with Bard's merger with Simon's Rock in 1979. However, Martin stresses that this will not stifle Longy's own financial decisions as an individual conservatory, and current president Susan Zorn's role and duties will remain the same.

"In technical jargon, Longy is a wholly owned subsidiary," Martin says. "It becomes part of Bard, but retains its own

character and independence."

The proposal was originally Longy's idea as a member of their board of directors has a sister in the chairman position of Simon's Rock's board of directors. This connection led to conversations about a merger, according to Martin.

The reasons are mainly related to Longy's liberal arts requirement. For many years, Longy students have had to enroll in Emerson College to complete their degrees, which required that one-fourth of their classes be liberal arts courses.

"For starters, even getting an academic degree, they have to have another school," explained Martin. "[So] Karen Zorn's board of directors asked her to look into a larger institution that Longy could be part of."

Longy took the initiative to merge with Bard because they admired the mission of Bard's own Conservatory of Music, which, unlike most other conservatories, integrates liberal arts and music.

"At Bard we have a Bachelor of Arts program," Martin explains. "You can double your degree. The student comes here to the Conservatory and has to go five years and get

a Conservatory degree and then a second degree, a B.A. We are actually the only school, we believe, anywhere that requires that." That academic mission will be extended to Longy.

With the Bard merger, Longy students can now earn a full Bachelor of Arts degree from Bard, which Longy believes will strengthen the popularity of their bachelor program.

Martin points out that the new Bard-Longy relationship may also provide perks for Bard students: "Let's say you want a summer internship and you come to see me and you want to do something in music management and you want to do it in the Boston area. I may read that there are some openings in Boston with the Boston Symphony, but I may not know anyone there. I could call Longy and ask if they have some special contact. So it extends the range of contacts."

On the whole, though, the merger will most visibly impact the Longy School, and Martin downplays its importance to Bard students: "I would say it's like finding out you have a new cousin who lives in Cambridge: it's nice, but it probably doesn't affect your life."

## BARD STUDENTS ARRESTED IN PEACEFUL PROTEST

by *jody wissner*

Bard students Zeke Perkins '13 and Hanna Mitchell '13 were arrested outside the White House while protesting against the construction of the Tar Sands Keystone XL Pipeline, which would deliver millions of barrels of oil from Canada to refineries in the Gulf of Mexico. The protesters' aim was to urge President Obama to reconsider allowing its construction.

Bill McKibben, the organizer of the protest, stated "The night [Obama] was nominated, [he] said 'In my presidency, the rise of the oceans will begin to slow and the planet will begin to heal.' Congress has kept him from keeping many of those promises, but this time he can."

The protest was staged by a group called "Tar Sands Action," as part of a two-week campaign.

Tar Sands Action also acted as a training resource for the protesters. "Everyone who took part in the sit-in had been through at least one non-violent direct action training and a legal briefing," Mitchell said.



photos by josh lopez // courtesy of hanna mitchell

Hanna Mitchell being arrested outside the White House

Perkins, Mitchell, and over a thousand others were formally charged with failing to obey an order governing protests on the sidewalk. "Which is much more bureaucratic than romantic," Perkins remarked. When asked to move, the protesters silently refused. They were then arrested.

They were trained to react, they knew the legal repercussions, but what did they feel as they were asked to place their hands behind their backs?

"I was incredibly calm. And more confident than I had felt in a long time because I knew that this was the most important investment of my time," Mitchell recalled.

"It's a right of passage," Perkins agreed. "It is a pragmatic way of getting people to care about this issue." The protesters believed that the arrest of 1,252 Tar Sands Action protesters in front of the White House would give a clear impression that these activists want change.

Perkins was drawn to the Tar Sands Action protest through his participation in the march on Blair Mountain. "Some people from the march were going to go take part in this [protest]. I looked into it," he said. "I was really happy the environmental movement was growing some teeth and that people were willing to be arrested and take a risk. It was something really big for me and I wanted to be a part of that shift."

The environmental movement certainly is growing some teeth. McKibben said in a statement "This is the largest civil disobedience action in the environmental movement in a generation."

## THREE'S A CROWD: MAKING IT WORK IN A TRIPLE

by Charles Padraic Henahan



photo by camila sobral

College housing is a big change for many people. Some are unaccustomed to sharing a room; those in singles may find it's the first time in a while that they have had a room to themselves. Still, for many there is nothing quite like the initial twinge, of both wonder and horror, upon learning that you will be living in a triple room. Ideas fly.

"Shit," said Jackson MacKinnon, '15, upon hearing the news. "Why me?" asked Eli Frank, '15, to no one in particular. "I am going to have no space," thought Sydney Hazard, '15, who also learned that both her roommates would be international students, increasing the culture clash. For these three freshmen in Hudson and many others, dormitory life would be quite a bit more cramped than they had initially expected.

Triples are mainly assigned to first-year students, as all first-year students are guaranteed on-campus housing for the full academic year, and must be crammed onto campus no matter what.

Naturally, space is a very important matter when it comes to triples. According to Nancy Smith, Director of Housing

at Bard, from the perspective of sheer square footage and fire codes, there is no triple on campus that is too small for three people to occupy legally and safely. Still, the recent housing crisis means less space to fit the freshmen class, so a fair few double rooms have been converted into triples.

Katherine Claypoole, '15, lives in a converted triple room in Hudson. "For me, [my loft bed] is the most claustrophobic thing," said Claypoole, who added she is forced to cram all her things into the small area under her bed. While her room is habitable, Claypoole noted several times that she does not have enough space.

Not all triples are so cramped. Frank, who lives in a larger triple in Hudson, said that there is still plenty of functional space for him and his roommates (despite the mess, which he took responsibility for). Sleeping in the bottom bunk, though, has its pitfalls. "[My roommate] steps on my bed while he climbs out of his, and that wakes me up," said Frank. Sound also travels well through the top mattress, so Frank hears even the smallest shift in the mattress above

him. Still, they use their space quite well he said, so the downsides can be overlooked.

The space, though, is not as important as the people you share it with. Roommate conflicts can make three seem less company and more a crowd. Claypoole said that, with the exception of one argument regarding a broken personal belonging, issues with her roommates are confined to disputes over items being used but not put back.

"[One of my roommates] is always in the dorm, and [my other roommate] is always sleeping," said Frank. "I'm usually somewhere else, so we don't really have any arguments." He noted, though, that he and his roommates do not have many similar interests.

Sharing a room with people different from yourself is a change for many people. It can take time to adapt to co-habitants. Frank said that not being intrusive is key. "Just give everyone their space," he added. "Being more considerate definitely helps." Consideration and compromise, it seems, are essential to making any triple room work.

## BARD STUDENTS OPEN MURRAY'S, A CAFÉ IN TIVOLI FORCE FREE PRESS TO FIND NEW LAYOUT GUY

by camila sobral and ananna perez-castells

They started it because nothing like it existed. They built a café because they were sick of not having a place to hang out, grab a cup of coffee, maybe a bite to eat, and pick up a dozen eggs.

The duo, Jake Stortini and Jesse Feldmus, both juniors at Bard, spent the summer tearing down the existing storefront in the center of Tivoli and building it up slowly. It had to be like they envisioned, a place of convenience yet of stylized comfort.

To do so, they are taking the fall semester off to get their café, Murray's, running. Stortini, a classics major, and Feldmus, an art history and environmental studies major, met freshman year and decided to move off campus to Tivoli the following year. When they realized the town was lacking a place to get simple staple foods like eggs or milk, to grab some good coffee, or simply sit down to a light meal, they tackled the idea of building their own place. Both Stortini and Feldmus come from families with experience in the restaurant business, so they knew what they were getting themselves in for.

"It's half way between a specialty market and a place you go out of necessity," said Feldmus. "Murray's is filling a need and doing it right".

Murray's customers range from Bard students to New York City vacationers to working residents of Tivoli. The pantry, stocked with items for sale, places items in contrasting harmony: Kraft macaroni and cheese next to packages of Japanese-style soba noodles, cartons of eggs next to classy fizzy fruit flavored drinks in the refrigerator.

These contradictions exist because Murray's hopes to cater to as many people as possible. The founder of Rolling Stone comes by every day - but so do many locals without a claim to fame. Nevertheless, for some cash-strapped Bard students, paying two dollars for a small cup of coffee has proven a barrier.

The duo are still trying to figure out what products to sell and what food to serve. The café has only been open for five weeks, and many changes are still to come: hiring staff, adding new products to their pantry shelves, finding new artwork to display on their walls every month, and in October, starting to offer dinner.

Right now, they serve for fresh coffee, breakfast fare, baked goods, such as scones, muffins, madeleine, sandwiches and salads, and they sell in their pantry. They strive to use local, sustainable products whenever they can, but acknowledge it has been tough to keep things affordable. Bread is local and baked fresh daily, coffee is fair trade, and milk is from the Hudson Valley.

Feldmus and Stortini stress that they are still in the early stages of the business. They hope friendships with farmers and other local vendors will grow in the future.

And what about them - what will the future hold for them, with their role in the café and graduation to think about? When asked, the two just chuckle. "It all seems so far away. We will see when the time comes."

It seems that for now they are simply having fun. Murray's is, after all, playfully named after their cat.



photos by camila sobral





# LETTING THE BEAT BUILD SÖ PERCUSSION COMES TO BARD

by ben powers

The scene is set, an overnight train ride in Russia. There are four men crammed in one room with eleven drum cases and a smelly bag of sauerkraut. Meet Sö Percussion. Made up of members Eric Beach, Josh Quillen, Adam Sliwinski, and Jason Treuting, Sö Percussion is a percussion group that, when not taking overnight trains while touring in Russia, have hit Australia, Italy, Germany, Spain, the Ukraine and the U.S., recorded numerous albums (most recently *Threads*), released another album with the electronic duo Matmos, and won 2nd place overall and Concerto Prize at the 2005 Luxembourg International Percussion Quartet Competition. So what's the group's next step? Coming to teach at Bard.

Starting this semester, Sö Percussion will join the Bard Conservatory of Music, where they will be starting a new undergraduate percussion program. All percussion students will study privately with members of Sö Percussion. In the first two years, students will spend one semester with each of the members of Sö Percussion on fundamental skills. In addition to lessons with their primary teachers, students will study 1-3 times each semester with teachers from a prestigious roster, covering topics to be determined by said teachers.

"Bard is a wonderful and unique place," said Treuting, when asked why the group had decided to come to Bard. "The Conservatory is young, and ... dedicated to striving for excellence. We like to do many things, but the common thread is that we strive to do them at a high level.

"The percussion program at Bard is multi-faceted, but a large part is focused on chamber music, playing with other people" he continued. "That is what we do in our careers, in many different ways."

Robert Martin, Vice President for Academic Affairs and Director of the Conservatory, is equally excited about the prospects of the new percussion program. "We're excited to have Sö with us to start and to build the percussion program of the Conservatory," he said. "They are terrific musicians and very fine people. Our long-range hope is to find the resources so that they could be full-time in residence at Bard, not only teaching for us but living in the area, rehearsing here, making this the base for their extensive touring."

Bard and Sö Percussion already shared a connection before their arrival, Martin noted. The group is a major performer of the music of John Cage. "This would be particularly appropriate because of the presence, at Bard, of the John Cage Trust," said Martin. (Formed in 1993, The John Cage Trust's mission is to gather, preserve and generally further the work of the late American composer, John Cage.) In honor of the appointment of Sö as faculty of the Conservatory, the John Cage Trust has created a John Cage Trust Fellowship for a student percussionist in the Conservatory.

Both Mr. Martin and Sö Percussion are ready to get the new program running in full gear. "We have a great first class of students and we will be hitting the ground running", said Treuting. "Look for us and our students to be playing around campus in the fall."

The members of Sö Percussion met at the Yale School of Music. They were drawn together because they were "kindred spirits who wanted to work hard rehearsing some pretty complex contemporary music, and really wanted to commission new pieces to play," according to Treuting. After playing a complex quartet their first semester, the group started branching out.

"We met some great composers at school that were interested in writing new quartets



photo by janette beckman

and we put together some early cage works and Steve Reich pieces," said Treuting. "The process was pretty organic in that we started playing shows more and more on campus and then found some interesting art galleries in town to play at." Those shows led to others in Hartford, CT and New York City. The group eventually progressed to playing larger shows. What they really enjoy, according to Treuting, is playing in as many different places as they can. "Concert halls, art gallery spaces, funky music clubs, black boxes, wherever we can find people who want to listen."

Their first big commissioned piece, "The So-Called Laws of Nature", appeared with Evan Ziporyn's Melody Competition on their first album, entitled *Sö Percussion*. Following the group's release of Steve Reich's *Drumming*, they went in a new direction with their third album. Treuting composed original music for the album, and the band experimented with everything from duct tape to toy pianos.

"Over the past five years, we've been doing more and more composing and creating within the group," said Treuting. "I suppose in some ways, the dynamic isn't that much different than working with close composer collaborators. A composer brings in ideas and we all brainstorm and try things out and bounce ideas around, and that flow of ideas makes the outcome stronger."

Their love of collaboration led the group to work with electronic group Matos, joining them for a tour around the US and Europe. Some of Treuting's best performance memories are from outside of the US, such as a festival in Ukraine. "We ended up in a hotel with no hot water, then rolling our drum cases through the streets of Odessa in the middle of the night because we didn't have any transportation."

The group has always tried to find time to teach. "We've always taught a bunch as we toured - we did lots of master classes with university percussion students as well as composers and other chamber music groups," said Treuting. "We started a percussion institute in the summer three years ago and teach a two week intensive to university age percussionists" at Princeton.

The transition to teaching has become a bigger part of their trajectory than the group expected. "I know we all love to teach, and for me, that has come as a bit more of a surprise," said Treuting. "I always thought of myself as a performer more than a teacher, but the more I have taught, the more I have loved it. You get energized by passing on knowledge and finding new ways to do things. Teaching is a wonderful thing."

# BARD GETS SERIOUS ABOUT WELLNESS AND STUDENTS CONTINUE TO JOKE ABOUT IT

by alexa frank

As part of this year's Language & Thinking program, incoming freshmen went through something new - a two hour 'Wellness Workshop,' arranged by Amii LeGendre, Bard's new Wellness Coordinator. Along with the existing Orientation retreat and Peer Health info sessions, these workshops reflected the college's increased focus on 'wellness' - a focus spearheaded by LeGendre, who joined the college last year.

Wellness workshops were a mix of the didactic and interactive - half about maintaining a healthy well-being, half name games and 'getting to know each other' activities. Response from students was mixed. Bennett Torres '15 found his workshop to be a "better bonding experience than an information session," but added, "[it] should have had more discussions—more opportunities for students to talk about these things amongst themselves."

Though the experience may have differed from dorm to dorm, LeGendre is nonetheless pleased to hear that bonding was achieved during the workshops. "Bonding is a huge part of wellness," LeGendre said. She acknowledged that some students might have found the workshops redundant, but argued that the wellness initiative is important to the campus and community on a whole, saying it is a "valuable conversation" to have.

"Wellness is about balance, something you never quite arrive at but are constantly seeking - it's like a process of self-observation," LeGendre said. "We situated the workshops pretty early on so that it can be seen as a statement from the college about how much we value the wellness 'grapple'—because certainly, anyone who's been around here long enough can tell you that college is an extreme time for some."

According to LeGendre, the practices introduced during L&T can help to relieve the stress of college. When students start off their academic career with these practices, they can translate their excessive stress into a meaningful experience rather than a disastrous one, she argued.

LeGendre has taken on the role of Wellness Coordinator in tandem with her academic duties as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Humanities, mostly teaching dance. LeGendre is an accomplished dancer and choreographer, having performed not only in the United States, but also countries such as Peru and Hong Kong. She came to Bard 2010 after residencies in a range of institutions, including Connecticut College and Wesleyan University.

LeGendre considers her alternative sensibilities and background to be an asset. She is aware of the danger

that wellness concepts can start to sound like an "after school special," but dismissed that perception.

"The term 'wellness' can be so 'pure' and so 'Omega,' but wellness is really about sifting through what's bullshit and what's not," LeGendre said. "This isn't about people lecturing to you. We're trying to model an environment where conversation with students about their own trials.

"Wisdom and humor are part of practicing wellness, as well as being clear about some professional resources." She added that she appreciated the college seeking someone like herself to work in wellness, rather than someone from a more traditional health practicing background.

LeGendre hopes to implement a variety of activities to keep wellness fresh in the minds of Bard students, from extra classes to wellness-centric lunches. She cites a pet therapy activity she organized last semester as something she'd like to replicate. Moreover, LeGendre invites students to contact her and get involved.

"We don't want to be a too-totally institution," LeGendre said. "[We want] folks who are drawn to it and want to create and be in an alternative space. We would love students to collaborate and contribute ideas."

## ENVIRONMENTAL UPDATE

by adrienne vitullo

Throughout the summer Hanna Mitchell, a junior environmental/urban studies major, was the Sustainability Intern for the newly renamed Bard Office of Sustainability. She has worked to improve the campus' sustainability efforts - which are particularly important at this time because of Bard's enrollment in the STARS program, a self-reporting system for institutions of higher education to assess their economic, social, and environmental performance.

New developments which Mitchell supervised included the installation of new recycling bins on south campus; the formation of a food sub-committee in the Sustainability Council, which will improve local food options for on-campus eateries and potentially establish an on-campus farmers' market; and establishing a laundry rack rental system so that students can rent outdoor drying racks in upcoming semesters. These developments are contingent on student interest and involvement, but Mitchell seems excited about these new prospects for improvements to the Bard community.

\* This summer the Office of Sustainability also introduced Zip Cars to the campus, which they hope will be a low maintenance and convenient car share option for students and faculty. Those interested can make reserva-

tions online or via text message for the two cars, one of which is a hybrid.

\* The Office also received the campus' STARS rating this summer. Bard participated in the STARS (Sustainability Tracking Assessment Rating System) program last academic year, which is a self-reporting tool for higher education institutions aiming to improve their levels of environmental sustainability. Bard was awarded a silver level, and the assessment indicated that the campus is excelling in water and waste reduction. Issues still to be addressed included energy usage and building infrastructure. Other schools involved in this preliminary year of the STARS program included Macalester College and The New School, both of which received silver ratings, as well as Middlebury College, Duke University, Dickinson College, and the University of New Hampshire all of which received gold ratings.

\* Other developments that occurred this summer include the re-launching of the BERP program, now called Eco-Reps; a streamlined recycling sign, which can be found in all dorms on campus; and construction of a bike park on the north side of Security. Mitchell indicated that some

dorms may still not have Eco Reps, and that interested students should contact the Office of Sustainability at reduce@bard.edu.

\* Other opportunities for involvement include preparing for Moving Planet Day on Sept. 24 and Food Day in October.

With the creation of the Sustainability Council last year and increased involvement of the Eco Reps, as well as Bard's enrollment in the STARS program, the campus appears to be making significant progress. The Office of Sustainability continues to promote and coordinate new initiatives. Since she will be studying abroad with international honors program this semester, Mitchell will not be continuing her work as the sustainability intern, and her specific position will not be filled, though work-study positions may be available for similar roles.

Upcoming events include the Red Hook 10% Challenge, Moving Planet Day (9/24) as well as the election for the chairs of the Sustainability Council, which will occur around mid-September.

## SEMESTER AT OXFORD OR "HOW I LEARNED TO STOP WORRYING AND LOVE THE BARD"

by rebecca webb

Okay, so, the Princeton Review, pinnacle of collegiate truth that it is, ranks Bard among the "Best Northeastern Colleges." It goes on to list it among those colleges with most "Birkenstock-Wearing, Tree-Hugging, Clove-Smoking Vegetarians", where "Intercollegiate Sports are Unpopular or Nonexistent." A few years ago I wrote an article because we topped their "Reefer Madness" list too. If these groupings are stereotypical and kind of stupid, the population of our school can't deny that this is what it seems to be most recognized for at a glance—smoking, of all sorts, and ugly though effectual footwear—not some ambiguous and geographical standard of "best-ness" that would theoretically lump us in with Harvard. Of the east coast H's it's probably Hampshire we're more likely to pass for. But you know this; you go here.

The University of Oxford, on the other hand, as its website concisely explains, has since the 13th Century produced "26 British Prime Ministers, including the current one, the Rt Hon David Cameron MP; at least 30 international leaders; 47 Nobel Prize winners; 7 current holders of the Order of Merit; at least 12 saints and 20 Archbishops of Canterbury; and some 50 Olympic medal winners." Yeah. And this school, like Bard, has been featured in other books well known to college students - Chaucer's *Canterbury Tales*, for instance.

So, being a Bard girl—well kind of—spending a spring semester in Oxford, where the almost four-thousand-year-old Bodleian library was a mere block away from Starbucks, was quite the experience. I was lucky I spoke the

language. To begin with I ought to explain that I ended up studying abroad through SUNY Brockport, a sad, if friendly place somewhere near Lake Eerie. Bard will send you to Russia, and several other Slavic countries, but otherwise you are on your own.

Oxford is hardcore. That is about all that I can really say about it academically speaking, which is, at this point, perhaps a bad sign. Rather than classes students attend "tutorials" with their professors. For the Americans involved in my program—Americans that came predominantly from The Catholic University of America and a small Evangelical college in California, which made the whole thing a kind of double culture shock—this meant weekly hour-long meetings with said professor. One-on-one. It is like staring down the barrel of a gun. A gun shaped like a gawky medievalist with unfortunate choice in lip color. No, I do not know who the rulers during the Anglo Saxon Wars were. I'm sorry. So, so sorry. I can tell you about the color blue in Stephen Crane's novel?

Socially, something similar can be said. 'Siburbia' is a term I have proudly coined for those of us study abroad students stuck in housing thirty minutes outside the city center with limited library privileges. We were living in some combination of suburban landscape with Siberian social standing, huddling together at necessarily incestuous house parties to stay warm. Luckily for me some fairy godmother, incarnated for god knows what reason as my brother-in-law, lead me to a coffee date with a "real student," as outsiders must call them. This tenuous position

as a friend-of-British-girl made me particularly able to assess the strange social anachronisms between the Brits and those less cultured masses—i.e. us.

I went to my first ball while at Oxford. To Oxonians both the term 'ball' itself, and the party it refers to are part of the normal university experience, but to us they are synonymous with a *Cinderella* type event. I do not own cocktail dresses, let alone a ball gown. When I explained to a friend that we wear jeans and dirty shirts to go out, if with a little mascara, she looked at me horrified and asked: "Even to big birthday parties?"

My personal princess moment didn't really come. The ball consisted of burnt and cold hamburger meat and oh so much alcohol in tiny plastic cups. Kline does Happy Hour. The night ended, if we're going to be honest, with friends crying on my floor and me crouching in the toilet. But I did like the dress, you know, the one I'll never wear again. However, I won't lie in saying that there was something nice about getting sick in a gown. There is something nice about a school that has a certain level of formality to all its aspects. Work as well as play. It takes itself seriously.

When it comes down to it, we have better bagels. Trouser pants are pants, chips are fries, crisps are chips, and a fizzy drink is a really awful name for a soda. And we really aren't so very different, those Brits in their gowns and us in our flannel; we all take ourselves too seriously, if in slightly different ways. Hey, if looked at from the right perspective England is both north and east.

## CENTER FOR CIVIC ENGAGEMENT A LOT OF THINGS ARE HAPPENING WITH THAT

by david giza

The house at 1442 Annandale Road seems unassuming from the outside. Step inside and no one would fault you for thinking this was nothing more than a simple administration building, the office space of just a few people. However, take the time to talk to some of those who call it home and you will quickly realize how far-reaching the work that goes on in this little building is.

The newly-established Center for Civic Engagement uses 1442, also known as Barringer House, as its base of operations. The Center encompasses every community-orientated group on campus, including the The Trustee Leader-Scholar Program, the Bard Prison Initiative, Citizen Science and many more. With its endowment of \$60 million from the Open Society Foundations, established by George Soros, a personal friend of President Leon Botstein, the Center looks to be poised to take charge of all the good work done at Bard.

This donation (reported in several major publications, including the New York Times) takes the form of a grant over 10 years, with \$6 million allotted to the program every year to help fund the wealth of programs it oversees. However, this money does not come without a catch: it is a 2:1 match grant, meaning that the Center needs to raise \$12 million every year in order to receive the \$6 million from Open Society Foundations.

While this fundraising requirement may be "challenging," a "number of people see this a benefit," said Vice President of International Affairs and Civic Engagement and Dean of International Students Jonathan Becker, speaking about the grant from his improvised workspace at 1442 Annandale Road. He feels that this will help to drive a large amount of additional fundraising at the school, "no doubt [...] good news for the college."

Becker is not alone in his enthusiasm for the new Center. Working out of a cramped, little room on the 2nd floor of the Center, Associate Director of the Center for Civic Engagement / Dean of Student Affairs Erin Cannan had much to say about the prospectives of the new organization. She wanted to stress that the Center will not be taking over the groups it represents and creating a larger body. "Each party associated with the Center will maintain full autonomy," said Cannan, with the Center acting as a sort of "umbrella, mainly focused on administration."

Having a dedicated administration is not the only benefit of having a concrete center, according to Cannan. The Center additionally functions as a central talking point.

"Before the Center was established, it was difficult to talk about all of the programs," said Cannan. "Now we have a construct, something concrete that we can discuss, something tangible."

The Center also plans to start a handful of new programs over the next year. For instance, "[n]ext summer [the Center for Civic Engagement] will have paid internships, up to 25," said Cannan. "If a student wants to work at an unpaid internship in, say, New York, now they will be paid for it." The Center will provide the students with compensation, allowing those who may not have taken an unpaid internship due to financial reasons the opportunity to work as an intern and receive pay.

Another new program the Center plans on starting is a collaboration with the Red Hook school system, allowing high school freshman the chance to experience their own sort of L&T as well as giving eighth grade students the ability to come and explore the offerings in science and mathematics at Bard.

However, the real work is being done off-campus. According to Cannan, "soon we will be graduating as many students outside of Annandale as we do at Bard central."

These satellites include the Bard Prison Initiative, the Bard Early College in New Orleans and the Al-Quds Bard Partnership program, not to mention the three Bard High School Early Colleges in New York and New Jersey, as well as several other programs. These are just a few of the many programs being sponsored by the Center over the next year.

## CHARTWELLS EMPLOYEES SPEAK OUT AGAINST THE TENT IT REALLY FUCKING SUCKED

by anna daniszewski

"In two words: hating it." A Chartwells employee offered this concise response when asked to describe their overall experience working in the Kline Dining Tent, which became the only food destination at Bard from June through August this year. Retained after commencement to accommodate Chartwells during the first phase of a two-part renovation of Kline Dining Commons, the tent will be utilized again next summer for the same purpose - a prospect many Chartwells workers look towards with a degree of concern.

For students, the Kline Dining Tent may live on as a memory to bond over. Perhaps a fellowship grew out of the struggles inside the enormous, humid white tent, bustling with the recently landed freshman class as well as the Language & Thinking faculty and other scattered Bard staff. At times, it was referred to as "The Circus" or "The Big Top."

For some Chartwells employees, however, excitement over the hustle of the tent diminished quickly once they were faced with the working conditions. One Chartwells employee, who requested anonymity because of concerns over workplace discrimination, said they "thought it was a novelty being in a tent" at first.

But after witnessing hazards in their temporary work environment, several food service workers say it became apparent that the tent, for some, would be not only inconvenient but potentially dangerous as well.

The first phase of renovations, originally planned to have been finished by mid-September, would have resulted in an expanded indoor seating area. The second phase, to be completed next summer, will make for a larger kitchen area with more culinary possibilities and modernized equipment. Because of unforeseen complications with the renovations, however, the first phase of improvements will be completed gradually through the course of this year. [For additional information see page 3.]

Alan Wolfzahn, Assisting Director of Dining Services and Catering Manager, said the remodeling of Kline was necessary, despite the issues encountered with the tent. "The building needed desperate renovations to be up to date and accommodate the numbers of people coming through as well as give them more state-of-the-art equipment and

food," he explained.

"It was a double edge sword: very exciting, new and different," he continued. "It required of me a new way of being and all these new things and challenges that I had to address in some way. On the other edge of the sword, we became very conscious and aware of some of the immediate problems that we didn't know we were going to have until we confronted them when there."

While Kline was housed in the tent this summer, employees had to work in between trailers and the serving area. There were preparation, cooking, and dish-washing trailers, as well as two cooling units and two pods for equipment. There was also an office trailer and a grill for barbecuing.

The distance between the trailers and the tent and the steps along the way created hurdles for employees, several said in interviews with the FREE PRESS. Employees said they had to maneuver up and down stairs between the structures, often carrying heavy loads and sometimes encountering passersby. This is how "a couple" of people were injured, according to the anonymous source.

Among these injuries was a severe ankle sprain suffered when exiting a trailer cooler, leaving the employee using crutches for weeks afterward - they were reassigned to an alternative, less physically active role. A second employee, also granted anonymity, said, "it was a constant thing, everybody getting hurt."

While the tent's humidity and heat - estimated by Wolfzahn to have reached 100 degrees Fahrenheit during a week in July - were difficult for Kline's patrons on some days, the cooking trailers' conditions were apparently far worse. One anonymous source from another servicing department of Kline reflected upon their experience entering the cooks' workspace: "It was worse than a sauna ... I'm surprised that they didn't get sick. I don't know if it's legal or safe for them to be doing that, but it'd probably be a lot healthier for everyone" if the temperature were lower.

Despite these issues, Wolfzahn said the employees performed their jobs well. "They really showed up strong," he said. "I really got a sense of what true grit is all about ... I'm

really proud of all of them."

Talking to employees, however, suggests some did not feel they could control the situation. One employee said about the heat, "I don't talk about it anymore because I know nothing is going to be changed." When asked if there is a procedure in place for suggestions or changes, employees seemed unsure. Another staff member said, "No one said anything [about the tent]. People here are too afraid to say anything." They continued, "I don't think it was fear of losing their jobs, but just of being looked down upon for speaking up."

Wolfzahn said employees should not have felt unable to come forward with concerns. "From my perspective, from management's perspective, I don't think that's real or true," he said. "If that is how they feel, of course that is how they feel. That [office] door is open anytime. We have to look at things realistically and say, is it just complaining or is that a real issue?"

The Chartwells employees at Bard are unionized with Workers United, but its role here seems ambiguous. While there have been past union actions, they have been in reaction to companies other than Chartwells but within the same food service group, Compass. FLIK, also with the Compass Group, was the catering company prior to Chartwells. After removing vacation days, as well as shifting staff to new roles while ignoring seniority and skill level, masses of students protested to restore these and other benefits.

Since then, however, employees report that apart from brief interactions on practical matters, Workers United's presence is not generally felt at Kline. According to the employees, the union representative has never visited Bard and has not been called upon to investigate the tent situation. "I'm not sure how many students would be willing to fight on our behalf," one employee said. "I don't see it."

Wolfzahn does not get involved in the union at his level, but he said, "For me what it is, the union, we take care of our people. We are here for them and we take care of them."

# THIS SUMMER, GRAYLING WENT TO PITCHFORK.COM AND THEN WROTE ABOUT IT

by grayling bauer

Summer is good. For various reasons. One of those overarching reasons: not having all that much to do. Consequence of said reason: having time to find and listen to good new music. This is a brief list of what kept my ears busy while my body tried to keep cool.

**CULTS BY CULTS.** I had been following this buzz band ever since their song "Go Outside" became a cult hit over a year ago. Composed of multi-instrumentalist Brian Oblivion and vocalist Madeline Follin, the duo transforms classic pop-rock sounds and turns them into something distinctly indie-pop. Favorite song: "Abducted".

**BON IVER BY BON IVER.** (I guess this was a summer of eponyms). This might be my favorite release from over the summer. The band's sound has evolved, filling out aural space that was previously left empty on *For Emma, Forever Ago*, but Justin Vernon's ghostly wall of vocals remains to be the most captivating aspect of Bon Iver. This album expands over an immense array

of sounds, ending with a song that sounds like it might be using a Bette Midler instrumental. It is almost as if it was placed there just to say, "Yeah, I did this, and it works." Favorite song: "Michicant".

**BLACK UP BY SHABAZZ PALACES.** I had not heard of Shabazz Palaces until I saw them live at Pitchfork Music Festival over the summer. Their demeanor reminded me of Mos Def and Talib Kweli in *Black Star*—in other words, they weren't just rapping about getting bitches and smoking weed (which is cool, too). This is one of the best hip-hop albums that I have encountered in a long time. Tightly composed beats with smooth lyrical flow. Favorite song: "An Echo From The Hosts That Profess Infinium".

**GLASS DROP BY BATTLES.** I can't count the number of funny looks I got from other drivers at red lights because of how furiously I was drumming on my steering wheel. Battles gets pretty funky in their new album, but the math rock influence is still evident. John Stanier's

drumming skills are a force to be reckoned with. Favorite song: "Futura".

**ROAR BY DIRTY GOLD.** Okay, so this is an EP, but I like it so much that it deserves a spot here. I think "California Sunrise" might be my most played song from over the summer. It really does not get old. I'm still listening to it. This 5-track piece opens up with "The North", an all-too-short mbira-based song that instantly makes you think of Vampire Weekend. Though while there are a lot of similarities, Dirty Gold uses lo-fi to their advantage, delivering something extremely catchy that sets them apart from other beach-themed indie bands. Favorite song of the summer: "California Sunrise".

Honorable mentions: *Watch the Throne* by Jay-Z and Kanye West, *True Loves* by Hooray for Earth, and *Gardens & Villa* by Gardens & Villa.

The attack on campus from Hurricane Irene was well organized and well planned, arriving the same weekend as the returning students

Saturday went well, with little discomfort. Chartwells worked hard to prepare Kline Commons, so the large tent was not needed.

Sunday, Security was prepared for that tent to be the largest kite flown on the east coast.

Irene hit the campus Sunday with torrents of rain, but lighter winds than expected...initially. - The rain slowed and the storm hid for a time - all

responders and emergency services began to relax and take a deep well deserved breath. Then the wind hit - the trees fell - the flood waters rose:

\*The Main Lot was an Olympic swimming pool

\* Bard Hall was hit by a huge Locust tree-hole in the wall, but minimal damage.

\* Schaefer House (MAT building) we thought would float away - It survived... mostly

\* Fallen Trees on Annandale Road nearly severed us from the outside world. Randy Clum, Assistant Director of B&G saved our bacon...once again

\* Mike Bemis, B&G's new Director, is now acquainted with the entire campus -

he knows the first name of each tree.

\* Flooding of basements caused much damage. The Bike Co-Op, Free Press Office, Squeegee Collective and other student spaces needed to be evacuated.

We were lucky - other outlying areas were completely devastated. The damage is horrific, lives were lost.

The Assistant Director and I walked the entire campus - asking students to shelter in place and walking with some who had no flashlights.

The resident students were calm, totally cooperative and aided our staff by their maturity and responsible behavior - many thanks

We have the best students  
ken





## STUDENT AND WORKER DEMOCRACY AT BARD

by zeke perkins

Students and workers at Bard experience limited power in the decision making process of their institution. This situation is frustrating as these groups are the most directly affected by these decisions. Pay and benefit cuts, construction projects, tuition hikes, and faculty changes are a few of the issues in which students and workers appear to have little to no voice. Labor unions have been a useful tool for many workers on campus but certain groups of workers have yet to be organized. Students, on the other hand, have only the mostly symbolic participation of Student Government. In general, the decisions of the college are incredibly non-transparent and fail to take into account the concerns of consumers and day-to-day producers of the services of the college.

Otherwise, how could construction projects still focus on the needs of a minority of conservatory students while many first-years still live in trailers? How could a supposedly progressive college deny its workers living wages? How could we have contentious decisions regarding the tenure, hiring and firing of our faculty? How could student space be attacked year after year?

What I would like to propose is an alternative model to the one seen at Bard today. I would like to propose a model in which the students and workers have their voices heard. This would mean a campus where every group of workers on campus is afforded the right to collectively bargain for a contractual agreement with the administration. This would mean a Student Union or Student Association which functions as a coalition between all student groups to leverage pressure on the administration on any issue which is deemed important to students whether it be tuition or dormitories, transportation or faculty retention.

I envision this structure as being both a mouthpiece for the students as well as a way to build community amongst students, which is something that can be lacking at Bard. The Student Union would be something in which all students could band together and feel that they are a part of something beyond individual intellectual pursuit.

This vision could easily be tossed aside as overly idealistic but one must look only to the United Kingdom to see that this model is viable on a much larger scale. Almost every University in the UK has a Student Union with card holding members and remarkable power. These unions contract out services such as cafeterias, dormitories, and janitorial services as well as negotiate tuition, faculty changes, and construction on their campuses with their administrations. Hundreds of students have been known to occupy buildings for months on end until their demands are met. I am not proposing anything quite so grand but simply a coalition of student groups that would function collectively to make the voices of the students heard.

Anyone interested should contact Zeke Perkins at [ep7338@bard.edu](mailto:ep7338@bard.edu)

## OBSERVING THE ARAB SPRING FROM BARD

by john jeworski

On Aug. 21 2011, after six months of civil war, thousands of Libyan rebels advanced into Tripoli hellbent on overthrowing their dictator, Muammar el-Qaddafi. Once in the capital, one of the last areas still under Qaddafi's control, they encountered little resistance from his forces and overran his tightly secured compound. To replace his 40-year regime, the rebels moved the headquarters of their provisional government to Tripoli and shakily began managing the country. The battle for Libya is far from over, but control over Tripoli represents a substantial victory for the rebels.

Qaddafi's downfall is a consequence of the 'Arab Spring' -- a wave of revolutionary fervor that has spread rapidly throughout the Middle East. Sparked by the successful ouster of Tunisian President Ben Ali on Jan. 14 2011, the unrest soon reached Egypt, where hundreds of thousands of protesters spent weeks occupying Tahrir Square before ousting former President Mubarak. Demonstrations have since spread to Yemen, Iran, Bahrain, Syria, and over a dozen other countries in the region. Some Bardians know little about the uprisings, but others feel an intense affinity with Arab revolutionaries. Given our privileged position in the West, it is important for our community to critically reflect on how it views the Arab Spring.

It is tempting to hastily proclaim solidarity with the revolutionary spirit. Maybe you have even considered packing up your bags, heading to Libya, and picking up arms against Qaddafi forces. You wouldn't be the first: 21-year-old UCLA student Chris Jeon travelled to Libya this summer to fight alongside the revolutionaries. Clad in an American basketball jersey and a Kaffiyeh (an Arab headdress), he tells United Arab Emirates newspaper *The National*, "It is the end of my summer vacation, so I thought it would be cool to join the rebels." Jeon's co-opting of the Arab resistance is painfully crass: he now calls himself "Ahmed El Maghrabi Saidi Barga," although he doesn't speak Arabic. Unsurprisingly, the rebels have asked him to leave.

Jeon's antics show that American college students live in a society vastly different from the Arab world. Indeed, the thrall of Middle Eastern dictatorships contrasts sharply with the relatively safe, affluent, and comfortable conditions at Bard. According to the *Review of African Political Economy*, the oppressive nexus of factors suffered by Arabs include: "a revolving door between wealthy businessmen and ruling party members, monopolistic and oligopolistic economies, rising food and housing prices, slashed wages/prices and protections for workers and farmers, dropping standards of living with weakened public welfare programmes, [and] heightened restriction of rights and liberties." These social problems, among others, instigated the Arab Spring.

We cannot forget that we speak from a society that has a dark history of meddling with the Middle East. Consider that the American government has historically supported Arab dictators for resources and business opportunities. In 2004, the Bush administration placated relations with Libya by halting economic sanctions against Qaddafi's regime, enacted in response to his backing of terrorist groups. Bush opened an American embassy in Tripoli, likely for access to Libyan petroleum, without concern towards Qaddafi's repressive reign over his people. Similarly, billions of dollars in US aid specifically allocated for the militaries of Tunisia, Egypt, and Jordan strengthened each regime while increasing the profits of private American military corporations.

For many, the Obama administration represents a new, enlightened era in American foreign policy. It is indeed refreshing to hear Obama's exalted support of the Libyan rebels, human rights and democracy. Despite his good intentions, however, he has failed to keep in check the intersection of corporate and governmental powers attempting to capitalize on Middle Eastern autocracies. In Sept. 2010, for instance, Obama supported a \$60 billion arms deal to Saudi Arabia, a country ruled by a theocratic monarchy notorious for its human rights violations. Like Bush's Libyan policies, the deal was passed to benefit the private sector; aeronautics companies like Boeing and Lockheed Martin lauded it as a way to create domestic jobs and boost the economy.

These revelations may provoke some Bardians to distance themselves from their sympathy with the Arab world. But our Western lens shouldn't shame us into silence. As Slovenian philosopher Slavoj Žižek points out, everybody should embrace the fight against oppression; the struggle transcends national identities. During an interview on Al Jazeera television in the wake of the Egyptian revolution, Žižek declares: "There, where we are fighting a tyrant, we are all universalists. We are immediately solidary [sic] with each other. That's how you build universal solidarity...It's the struggle for freedom!"

America's bloodstained imperialist past makes it clear that the US is not the beacon of democracy it purports to be. Consequently, we should resist the urge to teach Middle Easterners about democratic values, and instead take the Arab Spring as a learning opportunity. We need to internalize the message of Arab resistance fighters: in order to truly alleviate the suffering caused by corporations and governments, we need to stand up to them together, with courage. There may be no better way to express our solidarity with the Arab world.

# TAKING ON THE COLLEGE BOARD

by emily conant

Imagine being part of an institution where you are only a number, a statistic, a student whose identity is of no importance. Part of Bard's mission is to ensure its students do not feel this way - but some schools do not have similar priorities. Recent revelations that some colleges claiming to be 'SAT optional' secretly purchase names of students who do well on the test from the College Board have highlighted this problem.

President Leon Botstein describes the relation between Bard and standardized tests as incompatible, saying the philosophy of the school does not match that of the SAT (a standardized test created by the College Board and utilized by colleges to measure applicants' intelligence).

"We have our doubts about the AP tests as well; the quality of the tests and how they drive the curriculum," Botstein told the FREE PRESS. "We have never been friendly to this operation." Though many schools view success on this test as a necessity for admittance, others give it little weight. However, should schools use this test as a way to project a student's college performance? According to a July 19 Bloomberg report, many schools have found the test to have very little significance in this area.

This should not be surprising. Perhaps a student cannot score well on bland material that no one really cares about, but they are extremely knowledgeable and passionate about a subject area which this test does not cover. The Bloomberg report noted that some schools saw their ranking improve after tossing the SAT requirement.

However, this has not stopped some of these schools from spending tens of thousands of dollars

on buying the names of students who scored exceptionally well on the SAT. "Colleges from Bowdoin in Maine to Pitzer in California dropped the SAT entrance exam as a requirement, saying it favors the affluent, penalizes minorities and doesn't predict academic success," the Bloomberg report detailed. "What they don't advertise is they find future students by buying names of kids who do well on the test."

Botstein, quoted in the article, wants to draw attention to this hypocrisy, but he understands its root. "It is a very competitive world, and they need to recruit what they think are good students," he said. "It helps their rankings. I understand that everyone is desperate to get better applicants. And the College Board is only in the business for money."

Bowdoin College, a well known elite liberal arts school in Maine, became testing optional in 1969, a decision they like to advertise. I find it extremely hypocritical, as does President Botstein, that they advertise this policy while going to the College Board and spending tens of thousands of dollars for names of students who scored "above average."

This is true of many other colleges, according to the Bloomberg report: American University, Bates College, Denison University, Dickinson College, Mount Holyoke College, Pitzer College, Smith College, Union College, and Wake Forest University are all cited. These institutions are buying people without them even knowing. It is always important to look into the underlying intentions of any institution. These colleges should be held to account for their practices.

"My opinion is that the SATs are bad testing fraudu-

lently put forth to the public," said Botstein. "They are corrupt near monopolies that have distorted the college admissions process and the quality of more ambitious high school education for decades. [It is] an outdated test methodology."

I do not doubt that these colleges and universities can offer a wonderful education. But they are nonetheless using their students to achieve higher rankings and better reputations, acquiring more money and power as a result. These schools' connections to the College Board, a dehumanizing and possibly corrupt institution, suggest they are not looking out for the best interest of their student body (and prospective students).

Botstein has put forward ideas for a new system to replace the SAT, in which students would take a test on a computer which would immediately tell them what they got wrong and why - so students could learn from their mistakes. "The test becomes instructional, not punitive," he argued. "The whole multiple choice test system is flawed."

It is a shame that these kinds of testing options are not available - no doubt because of the omnipresence of the College Board. They have built an empire which must be broken down. The majority of us have all been victims of this horrible system that has devalued our education system and us as individuals.

I believe we are all intelligent, innovative people who need to come together and realize how powerful we actually are in society. We can live in a world that looks for the betterment of its people if we change the system with the strength of our collectivity.

# THE RIGHT'S ATTACK ON EDUCATION, DEMOCRACY

by alex d'alisera

*Democracy cannot succeed unless those who express their choice are prepared to choose wisely. The real safeguard of democracy, therefore, is education.*  
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

The right has staged a malevolent assault on education in this country since the beginning, and the onslaught continues today. Our conservative acquaintances desire, among other things, to keep the rich wealthy, the poor destitute, and the middle class complacent. Furthermore, they have their eyes set on maintaining a permanent underclass - an underclass that can be mercilessly exploited to further the gains of opulent corporations, large businesses, and affluent citizens. To achieve these unsavory goals, conservatives must reduce the once-proud American education system to a traditionalist wreck, for they realize that the education of the masses is the key to progress, and this very progress is the device with the capacity to initiate their downfall.

The right begins this process by cutting government spending in critical areas of the nation's budget, notably in the field of education. Republicans like Representative Paul Ryan of Wisconsin - who in early 2011 proposed a series of budget cuts that

would have cut the nation's education spending by an astonishing 13% - claim that these cuts are for the "fiscal sanity" of the country. Yet Republican proposals that grant egregious tax breaks to the top economic strata of people and increase national defense spending seem to imply other, more underhanded motives.

The reasoning for these budget cuts is particularly corrupt in and of itself, but it is the cuts' potential effect on the American education system as a whole that deserve particular scorn. One troubling issue that has arisen is the continuing corporatization of public higher education, and the most shocking effect of this corporatization is the drastic increase in costs of attendance at public schools across the nation. The California Postsecondary Education Commission reports that in 1975 - before the era of Reaganomics and the reemergence of conservative political domination - it cost a mere \$3,093 for a Californian to attend his or her in-state school. For the 2011-2012 academic year, according to current data from the University of California at Berkeley, it costs that same citizen a pricey \$31,566 to attend the school, and for an out-of-state resident, an astonishing \$54,444.

This alarming trend is growing across the nation - similar instances have occurred in states from Michigan to Illinois to North Carolina - and it does not show any signs of stopping. This tragedy is the direct consequence of conservative leaders such as Paul Ryan getting their respective ways in regard to education spending cuts. As a result, it is becoming harder and harder for poor and middle-class Americans to access higher education. If this horrifying trend is not halted, the right's dream of creating and maintaining a permanent, easily-manipulated, and exploitable underclass will soon be realized.

The once-proud American education system is deteriorating, and this is exactly what the conservative powers desire. Until there is a drastic change, until we as students realize the malicious trap into which we are falling, and until we as a people take action against these powers, they will win. Franklin Roosevelt understood that the key to maintaining a successful democracy was universal education of the people. The right is clearly opposed to this idea, so it is safe to say that the right is opposed to the very ideal of democracy itself.

# OUTSIDE.BARD.EDU

## G.M.OH NOS!

by Kurt Schmidlein

On August 18th, the New York Times published a disturbing editorial about Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs). The letter, titled Engineering Food for All, was written by Nina V. Fedoroff, a professor at Penn State and long time advocate of GMOs. While her considerable resume may appear to give her opinions more weight, don't be fooled: GMOs are not the miracle she professes them to be. On the contrary, they pose many threats to our health, our small farms, and the Earth on which we live.

GMOs were first created in the 1970s, and advocates such as Nina Fedoroff believe that such scientific advances are necessary to feed a growing population. She said in her August editorial, "The use of chemicals for fertilization and for pest and disease control, the induction of beneficial mutations in plants with chemicals or radiation to improve yields...have all increased the amount of food that can be grown on each acre of land..." She also claims that genetic engineering will help small farmers, since yields will increase while costs fall. Unfortunately for everyone, she is either misled or trying to mislead.

First of all, a recent study published in the journal Pediatrics claims that pesticides are extremely harmful to humans. Indeed, children who consume food sprayed with pesticides are twice as likely to develop ADHD. Organophosphate pesticides, the focus of the study, have also been linked to childhood leukemia and the declining population of bees. These chemicals are also terrible for the environment, as they quickly enter water sources and soil after being sprayed on crops. Ironically, one of the supposed reasons for modifying vegetables is to make them resistant to certain pesticides. For example, Round-Up Ready soy beans are immune to the herbicide Round-Up, which is indiscriminately sprayed on a crop to destroy all weeds. The crops repel the pesticide, but the pests and weeds will often simply mutate, negating the point of the original genetic modification and also requiring use of new herbicides.

In regards to small farms, the spread of GMOs makes farming on a small scale less sustainable. Companies like Monsanto have started to patent strains of vegetables (i.e. their Round-up Ready soy bean) and require farmers planting their strains to buy new seeds each year. This destroys a farmer's ability to use seeds from the previous year, which raises production costs. And farmers who are not interested in GMO crops can't always avoid them: bees don't distinguish between types of crops when they pollinate, effectively cross-breeding genetically modified crops with organic, untainted crops.

These environmental threats are alarming, and so are the implications of consuming GMO foods. In a UK Progressive article refuting Fedoroff's claims, Theodora Filiis quotes the American Academy of Environmental Medicine as saying,

"Several animal studies indicate serious health risks associated with GM food, including infertility, immune problems, accelerated aging, faulty insulin regulation, and changes in major organs and the gastrointestinal system."

Unfortunately, GMOs have already become prevalent throughout our food system. Two staples of the American diet—hamburgers and pasteurized milk—come from cows that are fed corn instead of grass. Cows are not designed to digest corn in the first place, but to make matters worse much of that corn is genetically modified. Also, high fructose corn syrup, which has effectively replaced sugar as a sweetener (and is already much worse to consume), is often derived from genetically modified corn.

According to the Center for Disease and Control and Prevention, not a single state in 1985 had an obesity rate of 15% or higher. Today, twelve states have obesity rates higher than 30%. The percentage of people with diagnosed diabetes also continues to rise dramatically, and childhood obesity is a growing epidemic. Typically, lack of exercise and increased sugar consumption are blamed. But sugar consumption has fallen in recent years, and don't forget that the side effects of consuming GMOs include changes in insulin regulation and digestion.

Our deteriorating health has serious implications for the long term solvency of our federal budget: the unhealthier we become, the more we pay in health care costs. The more those costs rise, the less sustainable our Medicare and Medicaid systems become. But unfortunately for everybody, loosening the hold of GMOs on our agricultural system will not be easy, since members of both political parties, distinguished physicians, and respected figures such as Nina Fedoroff have either condoned their use or turned a blind eye. Indeed, Nina Fedoroff was appointed to the National Science Board in 2001 by President Bush, and later served as Hillary Clinton's Science and Technology Advisor from 2007 to 2010.

This entrenchment—like so many issues we currently face—defies the normal political spectrum. The environmentalists of the left should be appalled by the threats GMOs pose to the earth; the religious right should be enraged by the very idea of patenting forms of life; the deficit hawks should recognize the opportunity to save long term, and politicians of all stripes should inform the public how harmful GMOs really are.

Eliminating GMOs from our day to day life and supporting small organic farming needs to become a priority in this country. But it's not enough to legislate or mandate a change: the change needs to be made by individuals, families, communities. The change needs to be made because people want to live healthily and responsibly.

## RAPTORS SCOREBOARD

Date	Opponent	Result
<b>Men's Cross Country</b>		
9/3/2011	@Vassar Invitational	5th of 10 Teams
9/10/2011	@SUNY Purchase Invitational	2nd Place
<b>Women's Cross Country</b>		
9/3/2011	@Vassar Invitational	8th of 11 Teams
<b>Men's Soccer</b>		
9/1/2011	@SUNY Cobleskill	L 0-2
9/3/2011	@ Southern Vermont College	L 2-4
9/7/2011	vs. Sage	L 1-2
9/10/2011	vs. Green Mountain College	W 3-0
9/11/2011	vs. NYU-Polytechnic	W 2-1
9/14 /2011	vs. Skidmore	L 0-1 1OT
<b>Women's Soccer</b>		
9/1/2011	vs Mount Saint Mary	L 0-2
9/3/2011	@ Farmingdale State	L 0-1 2OT
9/4/2011	vs. Ursinus College, in Farmingdale, NY	L 1-2
9/10/2011	@ MCLA	W 3-2

Date	Opponent	Result
<b>Women's Tennis</b>		
9/10/2011	@SUNY Purchase	W 5-4
9/14/2011	vs. Sage	W 8-1
<b>Women's Volleyball</b>		
9/3/2011	vs. SUNY Purchase	W 3-1
9/6/2011	@ The Sage Colleges	L 0-3
9/9/2011	@ Johnson State College	W 3-2
9/9/2011	vs. The Sage Colleges, in Brookline, MA	L 0-3
9/10/2011	vs. Lasell College, in Brookline, MA	L 0-3
9/10/2011	vs. Newbury College, in Brookline, MA	L 0-3

## SPORTS

## BARD JOINS LIBERTY LEAGUE JOINS THE RANKS AMONG OTHER PLACES TO THINK

by *valeriana dema*

The Liberty League announced in 2009 that Bard College had been accepted into its ranks. The move into the Liberty League, an athletic association of eleven institutions including Vassar, Skidmore, Union, and St. Lawrence, is a step up for Bard Athletics and a huge challenge for Bard's varsity teams.

The departure of Hamilton College from the Liberty League allowed schools to jockey for its spot. Ithaca, Nazareth, and Rochester Institute of Technology spent months preparing formal applications, but last minute bids by Bard and RIT were ultimately successful.

The new league will require Bard athletes to raise their standards in skill, fitness, and overall commitment. It will also place Bard against opponent schools more academically similar. The Skyline Conference, in which Bard competed during the past two years, consisted of small Catholic and large state schools with academic profiles dissimilar to Bard's.

"At the end of the day you want to feel like you're competing against people who are doing the same things as you are," said Bard men's basketball coach Adam Turner '06, a

former member of the basketball team. "Division III doesn't play Division II or Division I because there is such a separation in priorities. Even in Division III you want to play with people who have the same priorities and lifestyle as you."

Turner says that although the cardinal difference between the leagues is depth. "The best teams aren't better than the best teams that we have played in the last two years, but the worst teams are better, so every night is really a test."

Coaches and student-athletes alike hope that the move into the Liberty League will bolster school spirit at Bard. "I just wish that more people appreciated what we do. There seems to be this general nonchalance about sports," said Lena James '13. "There is a lot of stress on how Bard is such a close community...if we're such a close community why don't more people come watch games?"

"I've been to dance shows and theater productions. I take pride in what my friends do. I wish more people took pride in what we do as athletes."

Big steps have been taken in recent years to expand and improve the athletic program, such as increased recruiting, launching a modern and informative website, and, most

notably, joining the new league. Other institutions in the Liberty League recognize the dedication of the Bard athletes and athletic staff.

"Teams are going to be sadly mistaken if they think Bard won't sneak up on them," Robin Deutsch, Vassar's Assistant Director of Athletics for Communications, Marketing and Promotions, told *The Miscellany News*. "Bard and RIT will be taking this very seriously."

Bard's friendly rivalry with Vassar is also expected to gain more meaning now that the rivals are in the same league. "[Bard's] proximity to Vassar and academic profile are the closest to align with us within the conference," Kirsten Hall, Director of Athletics at Bard, told *The Miscellany News*.

"I'm sure [Bard will] become a member of the rivalry between the 'downstate' schools (Skidmore College, Union College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute)," she added.

As the fall athletic season gets under way, Bard will certainly be put to the test as a member of the Liberty League. Whether the change will lead to greater enthusiasm about sports at Bard remains to be seen.

## BASKETBALL TEAM GOES TO IRELAND PLAYS AGAINST DEMONS, THUNDER, NEPTUNE

by *lexi echelman*

A green breast of rolling pasture lowers from sight as Blarney Castle comes into view. At the crown of this ancient fortress rests the Blarney Stone, a mythical gem that many kiss for good luck. This past August, Bard's basketball team was there, and kissed the stone one by one - as they were undertaking a new and exciting task in Bard's athletic history.

The Bard basketball team brought four sophomores, one junior, two seniors, one graduate, and two coaches to Ireland for eight days in order to compete against three professional teams: the University College of Cork's Blue Demons, as well as Neptune and Dublin Thunder.

"This was the first summer trip abroad in Bard's athletic history," said Adam Turner '06, the coach of the men's basketball team.

On this trip to Ireland, the team had time to see the country. They visited many sites around Dublin and Cork, including Dublin Castle, the Guinness Storehouse, the Charles Fort, and the Rock of Cashel.

"Ireland was a different place, where everyone was friendly," said Lamar Powell '14, a music major from West Orange, New Jersey and the shooting guard on the team. "[Ireland] has a cultural history that is very unique to the country."

Even though the team had time to relax in Ireland, they were also serious about bringing their best against the teams they played. That they were afforded the opportunity to go reflects the athletic department's growing appreciation for challenging competition.

"There was not too much funding for the basketball team in the past, but a new opportunity for our division three team shows that the college is taking athletics to a new

standard," said Jeremy Arnstein '13, a captain of the team. A biology major from Washington D.C., Arnstein is the shooting guard on the team (and is currently one of the best shooters on the team, according to Turner).

The team's trip was not solely paid for by Bard. The basketball team raised twenty thousand dollars by starting a pre-season league for high school students in the area. The team also used the Stevenson gym for a kids' night out session open for students to play basketball and participate in arts and crafts projects.

The team's veteran members clearly worked hard for this opportunity and benefited from the extra practice before the season started.

"With a week of practice beforehand and the tough competition from three professional teams, we had to get into the mindset to truly work as a team and perform our best," said Yonah Greenstein '12, another captain. Greenstein is a sociology major from Queens, New York and is the starting point guard.

With three games against top-notch teams, the players believe that the new-and-improved Bard Raptors will be a formidable force on the basketball court.

"Playing in Ireland gave the team a chance to build on last year's skills and play on a more aggressive tempo," said Ben Kane '14, a point guard on the team.

In addition to a stronger technique, the team also believed that they acquired an

enhanced value of teamwork.

"Not having internet access really allowed us to experience Ireland and bond with each other," said Matthew Shubert '12, a team captain from Westchester, Pennsylvania. He joined the team his sophomore year, and is now the shooting guard on the team.

Turner is glad that the team got a lot out of the trip, aside from an improved three-point shot and court skills.

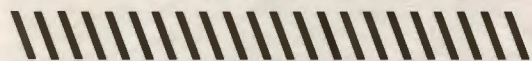
"The parts of the trip that were not related to basketball were the most influential for the team," said Turner.



photo courtesy of adam turner



# MR. CONNEX/ MIST CONCHS/ C-KING/SEAKNG



I saw u at SMOG. U were banging the booty. I grazed ur butt. I'm rly smooth so it seemed like an accident. If ur reading this, let me know.

I met you at the train station in Rhinecliff. You went north, my luck turned south, and ever since I've been spinning. Please track me down soon. My cowcatcher is empty.

I called you over and over again, but all I got was a dial tone...like, an old-school dialtone...I mean, get with the times...and call me back.

Irene: we met and sparks flew. Our relationship was brief and intense, but now you're gone, and my basement's flooded. You owe me one office.

You: Smoking weed outside of the new FP office.  
Me: Slaving away on this issue for a million hours. Is that fair???

To the freshman with the jewfro: that's not how you pong.

You: Village L  
Me: Other dorms.  
Why are you so big and fancy? What about me?

You: Dorms  
Me: Everyone. Can I have you?

People that I yelled at in the village on Saturday: I'm sorry that I called you cocksuckers, I got carried away. Let's be friends. xoxoxoxo

Seeking: Bandmates for new project - Stephen and the Sick Foxes. Ken Cooper will be sending out an email with details.

You: Michael Jackson: \$1,000,000. You feel me? Holler.

You: Soey Jims  
Me: Schmut Kidlein.  
Hi :) I have a crush on you. Let's share an email account or something. I hope Ezra's couch is still there when we get back ;)

Party under the Kline Dining Tent. Friday. Midnight. It's a huge empty tent that's just sitting there come on.

Party under the smaller Kline Dining Tent. Saturday. Midnight. It's a medium-sized tent that's just sitting there COME ON.

You: Fancy new Kline bathrooms. Me: The rest of Kline. Step off bitch.

You: Newly 'renovated' Kline. Me: A freshmen. What the hell did you *used* to look like?

You: The Book Exchange and the Squeegee Collective. Please stay away from me, I hate you.

You: Black Mold. What happened between us? We used to be so close.

General Announcement: The Hurricane is kind of over.

