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# FP



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cover photo by will anderson

### Corrections from October issue

In 'Meditation in Motion: Sparring with Bard College's Brainiest Team,' it was stated Fencing Coach Hope Konecny has won two Connecticut state fencing championships. She has in fact won three Connecticut state fencing championships.

In 'The Man, The Myth, The Legend: Matt Taibbi,' it was stated that Adam Yauch was given an honorary degree as part of Bard's 151st Commencement. He was in fact given the Charles Flint Kellogg Award in Arts and Letters.

In 'Feitler House to Become Official Neighborhood,' Gabe Adels was quoted as saying, "It's not about clarification or whatever, it's about controlling Feitler." Due to a transcription error, this quote combined two separate fragments and does not reflect his actual opinion.

### Corrections from November issue

In 'Cheap Eats In Red Hook,' a review of Holy Cow was mistakenly printed where a review of Rusty's Farm Fresh Eatery should have appeared. (For the record, Rusty's is a fine establishment which we encourage students to frequent.)

In 'Put Your Money Where Your Bard Is: A Breakdown of the College's Finances,' a pie chart displaying the college's endowment stated that Undergraduate Funds made up 91% of the endowment, and restricted funds made up 8.5%. At Bard, undergraduate funds make up only 8.5%, with restricted funds making up 91%.

In the same article, a quote was attributed to Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou stating that funds for "new projects and buildings...capital projects" are drawn from a portion of the endowment. This was a transcription error. To clarify, funds for capital projects are raised separately from other income sources.

An opinion piece was headlined 'Letter From the Outdoors Club: A Personal Account of Recent Burglary Incident.' It should have been made clear that the author is not currently head of the Outdoors Club, but was the club's head last academic year.

In 'Bard Around the Globe,' Zachary Israel was quoted as saying, "We have many Arab-American students that actually do not speak good Arabic and there are another groups of students that never lived in the USA, so we have a mix between languages and personalities. So many different varieties of personalities and cultures." This quote was actually spoken by Haya Allabadi, a student at Al-Quds University.

## FAN MAIL!!!

To all of the students at Bard Free Press:

I am writing to let you know that I thought the recent issue of the paper was very fine work.

Cordially,  
Leon Botstein

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photo by anna daniszewski/bard free press

## COLLEGE CONSIDERS BRINGING WORKERS IN-HOUSE HOUSEKEEPERS ANTICIPATING CHANGE

by joey sims

In a dramatic shift from its previous position, Bard College has announced that it is now strongly considering an in-house option for Bard housekeepers following the removal of subcontractor Aramark. Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration, broke the news speaking to a rally organized by the Student Labor Dialogue, which marched across campus Dec. 2nd. The rally was organized to push the college towards an in-house option instead of a new subcontractor in place of Aramark.

The march was the culmination of a semester's worth of activist efforts in solidarity with workers' rights by the SLD. Around 70 students and campus workers (estimates of attendance varied from 60 to 100) marched from the campus center, through Kline Commons, to President Botstein's house, down the hallways of Olin, outside of the Aramark office and finally to Ludlow. They waved signs and chanted slogans - a favorite being, "What do we want? In-house! When do we want it? Now!"

Less than a month earlier, Brudvig had dismissed the notion of Bard operating its own housekeeping as "not likely," due to the cost of setting up management and purchasing equipment. Aramark employees had broadly favored the in-house option, but were skeptical that the college would consider it. "Not in a million years will that happen," one Aramark worker told the FREE PRESS in November.

According to Brudvig, the change in course was due in equal part to SLD pressure and dissatisfaction with subcontractors under consideration. "The numbers were not what I wanted them to be," he said of subcontracting companies he had interviewed. These concerns came together with student pressure to consider an in-house option, and both factors together "made a strong pitch for going in-house."

Though no decision has yet been made, SLD leaders are optimistic and pleased with the reversal. "What we're looking at is structurally readjusting the way 48 housekeepers will be treated for the foreseeable future," said junior Zeke Perkins. "They are going to join the B&G union...[and] that is huge."

When they are folded into the next Buildings & Grounds contract, housekeepers would gain a defined-benefit pension plan rather than the 401(k) offered by Aramark. They will also gain improved health care coverage. "In terms of wages and things of that sort, I'm just going to take their contract as is," said Brudvig. "When their contract expires, then they get folded in."

"We have a richer benefit program than [subcontractors] do," he added. "So that is where our money disappears to. I'm okay with that."

Before the in-house option became a possibility, many housekeepers were pessimistic about their future at the college. Some workers were skeptical of pledges by the college that the vast majority of housekeepers would have a job with any new subcontractor.

Now, one Aramark worker characterized the mood as more optimistic, but still cautious. "Everybody would like to go in-house, but some people, including myself, would be wary...due to the fact that Bard at one time did eliminate its housekeeping and sold them out," they said, referring to Bard's hiring of subcontractor Service Master in the 1980s. "Some people think we're definitely out of here, others think we're definitely safe."

"Nobody knows what is going on," confirmed another worker. Little official word is relayed to housekeepers on the ground; confirmation that the college had terminated Aramark's contract was reported in the FREE PRESS in November before workers were officially informed.

One recent rumor, passed on to workers by union

representatives, is that the college will bring in a subcontractor for one year to restructure housekeeping on campus, and then move to an in-house structure.

Brudvig promised a 60 day "golden period" following Aramark's departure, in which current workers' performance would be evaluated. "At the end of that process, I'm sure you'll have a high retention rate," he said. The SLD has voiced approval for this proposal, though it is their wish that all current employees keep their jobs.

"Some of the people here do need to go, that's just the reality," one Aramark worker said. "Just a minority, I'd say like seven or eight."

Brudvig voiced a hope that an in-house option will give students value for money. "I'd like to get real value on what students are paying," he said. "I think we can spend the same amount of money, maybe a little bit more money at first, and get more for it."

"I hope we can do a better job. If we don't, then there's always another company out there who says they can build a better mousetrap."

Workers, however, expressed a desire for stability and resolution. "Our retirement plans are again up in the air," one housekeeper said. "You're playing with people's money, that they worked hard for. I'd just like to see us get treated fairly, and not like machines."

The SLD points to the developments over the semester as proof of the power student voices can hold on campus. "This went from a corporation trying to charge people \$800 for health care which no one knew about, to being a hot button issue, to them getting a fair contract, and then to Aramark being gone," said Perkins. "Students have that power."

# CAMPUS DAMAGED RELENTLESSLY EVERYONE MODERATED INTO VANDALISM

by megan towey and the free press staff

Spraying fire extinguishers. Gluing locks closed. Smashing a vending machine twice. Destructive acts like tripping fire alarms and tampering with sprinklers.

The rise of vandalism at Bard College prompted Mackie Siebens, President of the Student Association, to hold an emergency student forum Nov. 21.

"There has been an increase in vandalism that both angers and frustrates me," said Siebens, a senior. "I feel very close to Bard, and I don't appreciate its self-destruction."

Siebens said even though the students who inflict such damages are the minority, their actions have real consequences for everyone. For instance, Siebens said a recent push to keep the library open 24 hours was quashed because of the outbreak of vandalism and the administration's loss of trust in the students.

Kye Ehrlich, a junior and Chair of the Planning Committee, said that due to the number of fire alarm pulls and stolen fire extinguishers, the Tivoli Fire Department warned the College that criminal charges will be pressed if these actions do not stop.

Students at the forum discussed possible reasons for the current spree, including a sentiment of disengagement with the Bard community, a paucity of campus events, irresponsible drinking and cramped housing conditions.

Squabbling won't stop the problem, Ehrlich said, stressing that student response of the campus to the recent vandalism is critical. "Everyone is willing to complain," said Ehrlich. "The issue is getting people to take action."

Siebens has proposed a series of events to allow students to vent their frustrations, including the installation of a graffiti wall and a community dinner that is aimed at

I don't want to get a punishment like social probation," said junior David Goldberg.

In response, the administrators stressed that they share the same community as the students and want to help them sort through these issues.

"We don't want to be the enemy," said Ashley Boltrushek, Area Coordinator for South Campus. "We want to work with you to figure this out."

Akhtar, remained convinced that more restrictions can only have negative impacts, such as pressuring students off campus and breaking up the community. "I don't know," said Akhtar, who serves on the Peer Review Board, "if these rules are helping us to act as adults."

However, both students and administrators agreed that, even in the midst of these events, they still have faith in the Bard community to clean

up after and stop such acts from occurring.

"This is the minority of people, and they make it feel

"THE TIVOLI FIRE DEPARTMENT WARNED THE COLLEGE THAT CRIMINAL CHARGES WILL BE PRESSED IF THESE ACTIONS DO NOT STOP."

generating conversation about these issues. She also suggested having a fundraiser for the senior class that involved charging \$3 for students to swing a bat at an old car. "We have to direct those feelings towards places where it's okay to express them," Siebens said.

Even though 95% of disciplinary decisions are handled by the Peer Review Board or the Student Judiciary Board, students at the forum said that they view the administration as a threat rather than a friend, and their fear of getting reprimanded for speaking up keeps them from helping to enforce campus policy.

"I'm going to view the administrators as people to be feared and avoided because

David Pack, Area Coordinator for Central Campus, stressed Bard's legal responsibility to be strict about enforcing the law, or else run the risk of "being sued out of existence."

Students were also concerned with how they should tell the administration about violations of campus policy without the pejorative connotations of tattling or snitching. Ehrlich emphasized that students have other ways of dealing with these issues than going straight to the administration.

"If you don't feel comfortable telling on them, just say something to them," said Ehrlich. "Just say, this is where I live, and I'm not comfortable with this."

Some students, such as senior Farah

like it's everywhere because it's more visible," said Erin Cannan, Dean of Student Affairs. "My guess is that it's a small group of people who are doing it and are getting a rise out of it. It's not an indication that the college is going downhill."

"Are they going to look back and regret that this got in the way of fully immersing themselves in an academic community?" said Cannan. "College is a very small window of opportunity. You can be entrepreneurial and ambitious and academically challenged. But people need to take ownership of their community."

## ROBBINS RESIDENTS FINED \$250 EACH

### ROBBINS IS NOT FINE

by megan towey

All residents of Robbins and Robbins Addition will be subjected to a \$250 fine to cover the costs of recent damages to the dorm, administrators announced at a community meeting on Dec. 6.

The fine, administrators explained, will go to replace stolen fire extinguishers, fix the broken sprinkler system, and support the Tivoli Fire Department, which has requested a higher contribution from Bard due to the increased frequency of campus calls. They also insisted the fine will be non-negotiable.

"We never want to do this again. We never want to do an across-the-board fine again," said Coleen Murphy Alexander, Assistant Vice President for Administration. "This points to a bigger conversation, and that's one I hope will be continued."

Even with the announcement of the fine, no person or persons responsible for vandalism incidents in Robbins have come forward. Some residents argued that this is

because the culprits are not residents of the dorm.

"This fine is not going to 'break' the residents of Robbins, because nobody is holding out information," said junior Will Smith. "Nobody has any."

Students in the "New Robbins Fine Protest" group on Facebook are organizing to avoid paying what they see is an unfair punishment.

"The vandalism itself doesn't affect me that much, but it's the unethical fine that insults me as an innocent resident," Robbins resident Xinyi Xu posted on the Facebook group.

Robbins residents stressed that the entire community should not have to pay for the damages inflicted by the few, especially when they have already suffered from the incidents.

"I know that I, for one, was angry about having to get out of bed twice in one night to go stand outside in the cold because some idiot was drunk enough to think that tampering with the sprinkler system was a good idea," said

Smith.

At the community meeting, attending students linked the incidents to a lack of community cohesion in Robbins, and in the college as a whole.

Students who cannot afford the \$250 fine will have the option of holding a fundraiser or putting in community service hours on campus.

Still, many students argued that holding everyone responsible for the misdeeds of the few is unfair.

"I will pay this fine when I have a defined reason for why it is my prerogative to stop criminals in my own dorm," sophomore Cameron West wrote on the Facebook group.

"I'll probably wind up paying the fine, but come next year, I'm moving off campus and not coming back," said Smith. "Thanks for that."

Residents announced they are meeting in the third floor common room of New Robbins on Dec. 11 at 8:00 P.M. to discuss protest efforts.

photo by emily wissemann/bard free press

# ICH BIN EIN BARDLINER: BARD INVADES GERMANY

by *Walter D. Rife*

Bard has assumed ownership of the European College of Liberal Arts (ECLA) in Berlin, Germany. It is the college's first step towards bringing the liberal arts model to Europe; the satellite institution will be renamed ECLA of Bard, a Liberal Arts University. ECLA joins St. Petersburg State University of Russia and Al-Quds University in Israel and Palestine among others in offering the Bard education abroad. Bard received ownership of the university with funding support from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation. The foundation established ECLA as a German not-for-profit corporation in 2002.

"It is time now that we transfer the leadership and responsibility for ECLA to the most innovative, dynamic and suitable partner... we are honored and grateful that Bard has agreed to be ECLA's new owner and champion," President of the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation Julie Kidd said.

The foundation presented Bard with a \$12 million grant that will enable ECLA to make an easy transition from summer school to four-year liberal arts college.

"We are honored and excited to have this opportunity to make ECLA thrive as part of Bard. The ideas of ECLA's program reflect the finest of the liberal arts tradition, as well as an important step in the extension of the liberal arts to European students," Bard College President Leon Botstein said.

Founded in 1999 in light of Germany's reunification and burgeoning democracy in Central and Eastern Europe, ECLA is one of Europe's earliest liberal arts schools. Its new partnership with Bard will see academic programs expand and Germany/United States-accredited dual degrees offered. The future of the merger will see increased appeal to United States students, with internships, study abroad and Masters of Arts degree programs planned for 2012.

"[ECLA is] a good, small liberal arts college with a somewhat different curriculum from Bard but an interesting one. It is centrally located to our other projects; we can use Berlin as a central point in our map of international partnerships," Susan Gillespie said.

Gillespie, founding Director of

the Bard Institute for International Education and Vice President for Special Global Initiatives, has been with Bard since 1985. Gillespie herself lived in Berlin for a year while the Berlin Wall was still up, and her passion for and familiarity with the city are an asset to the Berlin project.

"All of the partnerships we have been involved in have been about liberal education. It gives Bard and our students new opportunities to engage with the world. It responds to a felt need... our programs are typically in countries undergoing a change to a more democratic form of government, and there is an impulse to make education more democratic as well. ECLA was formed in part after the fall of the Berlin; we found that a lot of people were interested in reformed education in Eastern and Central Europe," Gillespie said.

According to Gillespie, Bard is a reform-oriented, progressive place. Instead of reforming the European education entirely, Bard has the ability to help strengthen the movement for reformed educational systems.

The college currently enrolls 65 students. ECLA is unique in that it offers a multidisciplinary Bachelor of Arts degree in value studies, which includes topics such as political theory and literature. With an international student body and class instruction in English, ECLA will appeal to those who may want to study abroad in the future. Gillespie is confident about what both the partnership and the city have to offer.

"We're going to institute a Bard in Berlin program with more of a focus in the social sciences, art, European politics and history. The kinds of changes that Berlin has been going through have been so interesting to watch. There has been a lot of rethinking and public reflection. It's a happening place to be intellectually and politically."

As for future international collaborations, many countries have shown interest in possibly partnering with Bard. However, Bard is instead focusing and continuing to develop its current international programs, though Gillespie adds that Bard is "always open to opportunities."

## SHUTTLE MONITORS INTRODUCED NO MORE VOMITING ON THE BUS?

by *Will Anderson*

In an effort to relieve overcrowding and other dangerous behavior on the weekend shuttle, Director of Security Ken Cooper announced that a monitor would be present on the shuttle during late-night hours. The decision comes after months of failed attempts to control and regulate the large number of students traveling to off-campus parties and bars. According to Cooper, a number of more drastic solutions were considered, including eliminating the late-night shuttle altogether.

On the first night, there was an incident involving the monitor and a student. Security was called, and the student was removed at the Kline shuttle stop. "This is the standard procedure we will be using for disruptive students. The fact that on the first night the monitor had to call security shows a real need for this service," Cooper said.

Previous attempts include adding special weekend shuttles, including a rented 44-passen-

ger school bus. However, even with additional seats, the shuttle has remained crowded and often unsafe during late night trips. "We've had students chase after the shuttle down 9G, throw rocks at it to make it stop, and push and shove to get a seat," Cooper said. "It is unsafe for the driver, it is unsafe for other people on the road, and it is unsafe for students riding the shuttle."

According to Jeff Smith, Transportation Coordinator at Bard, late-night shuttle drivers are distracted by students' behavior on the shuttle. "Students are getting into physical altercations, throwing up, even yelling and swearing at the driver. If all of this is happening behind you while you're going 50 mph down 9G, that's dangerous," Smith said.

The conditions on weekend shuttle routes have become so intolerable that several drivers have quit rather than work the late-night shift. "These drivers are trying to make a living, and

we have college students being rude, yelling at them, threatening them with their jobs," Cooper said. "If you're treating people disrespectfully, then you're drinking too much."

According to Cooper, there has been mostly positive responses from students on the idea of a shuttle monitor. "I think people should behave better when riding the shuttle. It can get completely out of control at night," sophomore Nick Sugihara said. "One time this girl started crying and then throwing up next to me. It made me scared of riding the shuttle alone."

Both Cooper and Smith hope that students will adjust their behavior when using the shuttle service at night, and that the monitor will be an incentive for them to do so. "The shuttle service is expensive, and it's a courtesy. It's meant to help students take classes, not to help students party," Cooper said.

## PLANS FOR NEW DORMS PROPOSED WHAT 25 MILLION DOLLARS AND A DREAM CAN DO

by Bela Khanna

After several years of housing first-year students in temporary trailers, the Bard administration laid out plans at their last Board of Trustees meeting to replace Hudson and Catskill with a new permanent dorm. The new building, which will house nearly 200 students in single and double rooms, is expected to cost approximately 20 to 25 million dollars. Although no formal permission was sought, the presentation to the Board of Trustees demonstrated the sort of amenities the new building will provide.

"It may not be the dorm that we build, quite frankly," Vice President of Bard and Director of Buildings and Grounds James Brudvig said. "But we wanted to show the trustees what is possible in terms of that area and what we need."

The architectural firm Hill Miller Friedlaender (HMFH) Architects, Inc., a company that specializes in designing buildings for educational institutions, came up with the concept for the new dorm.

"[HMFH was] basically picked out of a pile," Brudvig said. "We interviewed them and they have a lot of dormitory experience."

The new building, in addition to dorm rooms, includes a large common room and study space for students. Official blueprints haven't been developed yet, but the administration presented some floor plans of the building to the board.

A project of this size and expense, Brudvig estimates, will take nearly two-and-a-half years to complete: one year for planning and 18 months for construction. Hudson and Catskill will remain during this time and the building will be constructed adjacent to them.

The biggest challenge in getting the project started is that it doesn't have the funds to begin proper planning as of yet.

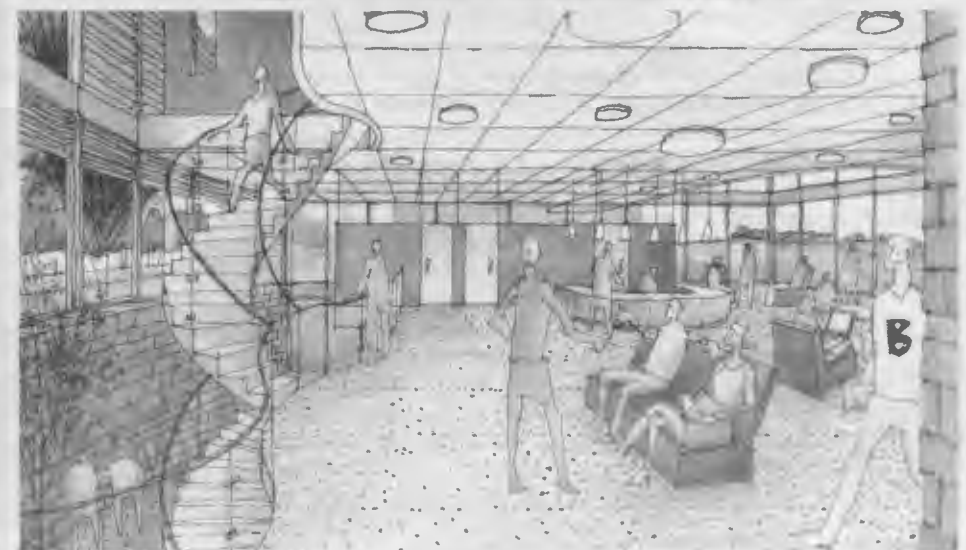
"The College, some years ago, decided that we're not going to borrow money from some bank but use alumni funds," Brudvig said. "We have plenty of loans out right now that we're still paying back and we don't want to add to the burden."

Most of the new construction on campus consists of unfunded projects, including a new music building and Kline commons. Although funding is hard to come by, Brudvig describes construction of the new dorm to be a high priority for Bard.

"We need good permanent housing for students," Brudvig said. "Student living space in general is a very high priority," but added that he is "not unhappy with the rooms provided in the trailers. Even though they aren't very handsome, they are functional. I think the community works and that's the most important thing. It's not fancy living but it's adequate for the time being."

However, in addition to starting this project, Bard is still in the process of finishing construction in the Village and Kline and would like to start construction for a new physics facility. All of these projects are completely contingent on the amount of funding alumni relations can provide. Although it may still take several years for the trailers to be removed, Bard's presentation of the idea to the Board of Trustees shows that the school is actively working towards providing permanent housing for students.

"We know that it's hard to raise money," Brudvig said. "But not borrowing money is a discipline that's actually pretty healthy."





## NEW DISCIPLINARY CHANGES PROPOSED

A new disciplinary change concerning marijuana violations has come into effect in November. Apart from this, some other disciplinary changes are under consideration and may come into effect in the beginning of next semester. These changes were drafted on Oct. 31 in the Peer Review Board (PRB) open committee meeting considering the suggestions made in student forum on "Rethinking Social Probation" held on Oct. 24, which was attended by more than three dozen students.

The PRB is a student-led board that includes representatives from the Student Judiciary Board (SJB), Student Life and the Dean of Student Affairs office (DOSA). While the change dealing with marijuana violations is now in effect, the other four changes are still in the process of being reviewed in regard to state, federal and legal requirements by the administration and the aforementioned student committees. Once the changes are worded appropriately and any legal issues resolved, the proposed changes will then be put to a student vote during a forum likely to be held in the first week of the spring semester.

"All the proposed changes were a fully student-led initiative and the forum gave everyone an opportunity to speak in completely honest terms about their thoughts on the system. I am confident that the reforms will make the disciplinary system more transparent and the people involved in the process more accountable," PRB chair Arthur Holland said.

The change that came into effect last month states that marijuana violations that do not also constitute a violation of the fire code will receive an official warning for first-time infractions. This would mean that if a student is caught smoking or in possession of less than 25 grams (0.9 oz.) of marijuana, and if it does not pose a fire hazard, then the student will receive only an official warning instead of social probation. However, students found smoking in their rooms, in

buildings, or on porches, balconies, fire escapes or any other place restricted by the fire code will still receive the same sanction as previously: social probation, community restitution and a fine.

"We realized that it made no sense for one to receive social probation for first-time marijuana offenses, given that people getting caught with lethal quantities of alcohol were only receiving official warnings and that marijuana sends far fewer people to hospital than does alcohol. I feel that social probation was not effective for changing peoples' behavior because it is too harsh punishment and people lose respect for the rules," Holland said.

According to Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus Life, most social probations are intended to be educational in nature, helping a student learn from the incident so as not to continue down a potentially negative or destructive path. While a first-time marijuana violation meeting the above conditions warrants an official warning and not social probation, Perry emphasizes that the changes serve only as guidelines and that each incident is handled on an individual basis.

"The staff and students who make conduct decisions try to be consistent in holding students accountable for conduct violations. This does not mean that a first-time violation is guaranteed to have a formal warning, as circumstances of the violation may warrant more serious sanctioning," Perry said.

Another alteration that hopes to encourage students under social probation to change their behavior promptly is that social probation may now be expunged by petition after a designated amount of time has elapsed since the social probation was successfully completed. This proposed change is still under review.

Another proposed change deals with making student-run boards the default body by which discipline is handled. If this proposed change is approved, all

disciplinary cases will be heard by a student-run Board (either the SJB or the PRB) except in extenuating circumstances pertaining to the health, rights and privacy of the students in questions, as to be determined by DOSA. If it is determined that a student is to be processed through administrative channels instead of the student-run boards, DOSA representatives must explain the reasons for the exemption to the chairs of the boards while maintaining the student's right to privacy.

"This change hopes to make the system as transparent as possible and make the whole process more student-driven. We want students to realize that they can have a say in the process and that rules set is not intended to be administration imposing them on students," Nate Zeitlin, chair of the SJB, said.

Another change proposed is that student-run boards will be established during Language & Thinking and Citizen Science to process disciplinary cases during those periods. Previously, students found breaking the rules during those periods would meet directly with an Area Coordinator or a Dean. With the proposed change, small board consisting of a few Peer Counselors will be responsible for hearing the cases.

The final proposed change will allow all students to be provided with a detailed explanation of the rule of which they were found in violation. Previously, unless asked, no formal explanation of the rules violated was provided.

"Hopefully the individual will have a better understanding of the policy violated, reason for the existence of the policy, the manner in which the violation has impacted upon the community as well as how a decision to violate a policy can adversely affect the student's academic success and long-term goals," Perry said.



# WHY NO WIFI? I WANT TO FACETIME IN THE WOODS

by david giza



Old Henderson is a building that many Bard students only enter once. As a freshman everyone stands in line outside, waiting to get their first semester's course schedule verified. Standing outside in the last days of summer with the hot sun beating down on you and listening to your classmates compare courses and complain about what courses they couldn't get into because it conflicted with some other one that they just "had" to take because "OMG! the professor teaching it is so kewl," you couldn't be faulted for missing the other reason that Henderson is so significant: it is the headquarters for campus' information services.

Dean of Information Services Jeff Katz's office is on the third floor of Henderson. It's a room with a recessed ceiling, three windows, two bookshelves, a desk, iMac, and two chairs. Though hidden away on the third floor of the building, this room is the nerve center of Bard's online presence. All Bard websites are run from this office. Among the many responsibilities of the information services team are keeping the school servers' firewalls up to date, managing the campus' bandwidth and, most important for the student body, installing wi-fi across campus.

With a staff fully committed to their work, the question naturally arises: why doesn't every dorm have wi-fi? "Maybe it's a concern about pirating things online," said Michaela Walker '15, a thought echoed by six other students in interviews. By limiting internet access, they speculated, Bard can combat piracy.

"That [rumor] is simply not true," Katz clarified when asked if piracy was preventing wireless expansion at Bard. According to him, the lack of wi-fi in certain dorms is "simply an issue of resources. Bard has never had limitless amounts of money. Even if we got a donation today that would give us the

money to install wi-fi everywhere, it wouldn't happen overnight. We don't have the manpower."

Lack of resources forces information services to be very selective about which dorms they install wireless internet in. "What it boils down to is simple math. When we have to decide between installing wi-fi in four small dorms [like the toasters] versus one large dorm [like Robbins], the choice becomes clear," said Katz. "We want everyone to be happy, but when we have to decide, we do what benefits the most people." Thus Robbins has wireless internet, and the toasters do not.

The other major issue hindering the development of a wireless infrastructure is the amount of bandwidth available. As anyone who tried to register for courses online on December 1st saw, the more people that use the internet, the slower it gets. When asked about the issue of bandwidth, Katz agreed that it was an important problem.

"Right now, we have a 200 megabit service," said Katz. "Clearly, that's not enough. Just looking at the numbers, we see that between 9 PM and 2 AM, 100 percent of the bandwidth is being used. We are hoping to increase [bandwidth] to a 300 megabit connection soon, but even then who knows what will happen."

But despite all of these problems, the issue is being gradually addressed. "Currently, 745 students have [official] access to wireless internet and 708 don't. We hope to increase the number that does by roughly 100 students by the end of the school year," said Katz explaining his department's plans for the current school year. Though the problem is being addressed more slowly than some would like, Katz did point out that "every student does have [a wired connection] in their room."

# WHY NO STUDENT SPACE? STUDENT FORUM VEERS OFF TOPIC

by joey sims

A student forum on Student Space and Chartwells, held Monday December 5th in 'New Kline,' covered a broad array of topics surrounding student life - including a couple not exactly on the agenda. The forum, hosted by the Student Life Committee, jumped from topic to topic, reaching no definite conclusions but hitting upon many hot topics of conversation amongst students.

The first section of the forum was focused upon Chartwells. Chas Cerulli, Directing of Dining Services, Alan Wolfzahn, Assistant Director of Dining Services, and Chris McMahan, Executive Chef were all present to answer student questions. The three stressed the importance of student input, and said they were always happy to make student requests and recipes happen.

"I can do whatever you want," said McMahan, a lively presence who frequently abandoned his microphone and instead shouted his answers. "It just needs to be a healthy dialogue."

Cerulli briefly previewed the coming expansion of Kline's kitchen and servery, which will take place summer 2012. He promised a new wok area, patisserie oven, gluten free section and rotisserie oven, among other additions. McMahan promised more protein options, acknowledging that current options can sometimes be limited.

One student asked why Kline food improves for Parent's Weekend, and why this improvement could not happen at

other times. McMahan denied that the food on Parent's Weekend is any different than other days, arguing that the food is simply displayed differently.

Cerulli granted that there is a distinction, however. "Every single menu item that we have on Parent's Weekend, you guys get - you just don't get them in the same meal," he said.

Cerulli explained why Chartwells insists upon students swiping for meals when their full meal plan have already been paid for. He noted that students with block plans might run in to Kline and then get another meal at Down the Road in the same period. He added that Chartwells also needs to keep track of the amount of meals they are serving for production purposes.

Attendees inquired why students on block plans couldn't be allowed to use more than one swipe in meal times. Cerulli replied that under the current system, this is not an option. "It would change the structure of our service," he said. "It would mean we'd serve more meals, which would change the rate we charge the school."

Kye Erlich, Head of Planning Committee, expressed frustration that on his Block 265 plan many of his meals go waste, as he is often away from campus on weekends. He argued the 175 meal plan is not an acceptable substitute as it only provides an additional 100 Bard Bucks, which he felt was disproportionate to the number of meals lost.

"It's not a dollar for dollar kind of thing," Cerulli replied. Meal plans were structured, he said, around how different students live. He pointed out that Chartwells will assist students often not in Kline by providing them packed meals or ingredients for cooking.

It was in the forum's latter half, devoted to the topic of student space, that conversation became more informal. Conversation about student space quickly became a conversation about recent vandalism issues on campus, after Cara Black, Head of Student Life Committee, explained that the notion of 24 hour spaces in the library and campus center had been shot down due to recent vandalism issues.

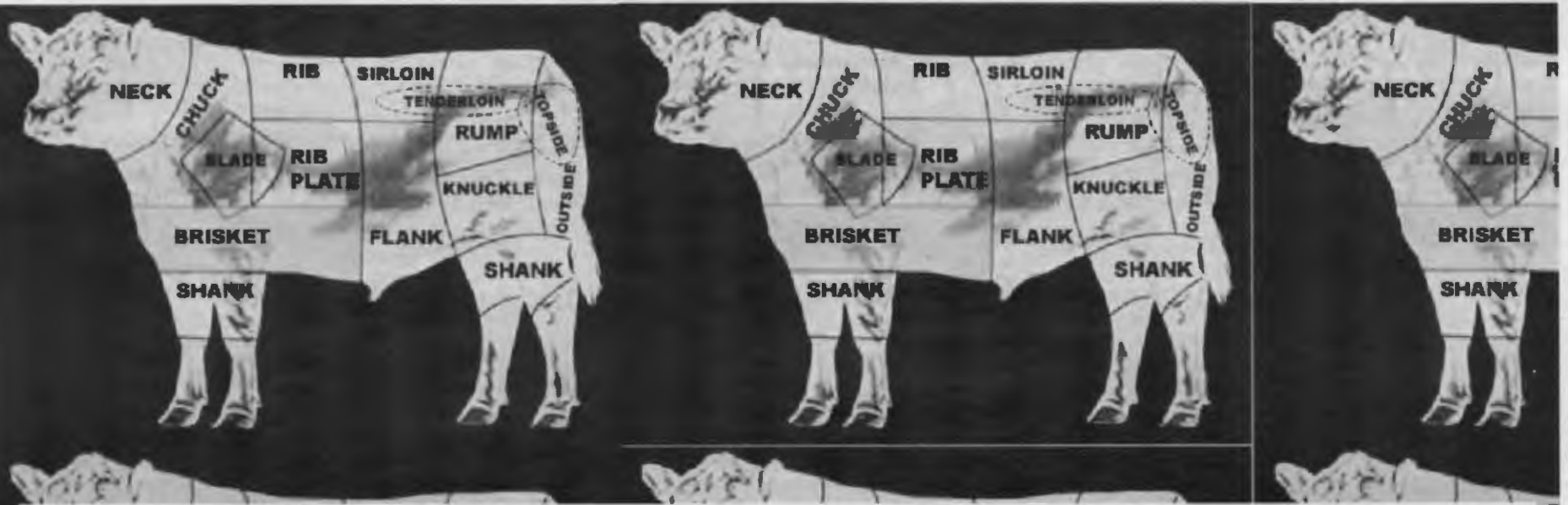
When a student inquired about what these issues were, Student Government representatives and others listed all recent incidents.

"The fire alarm was pulled twice in Robbins," President Mackie Seibens noted. Another student corrected her: "Four times!"

Many ideas for combating behavior issues were then discussed by students, including security cameras on campus, hiring freelance security to monitor student events, and having students present IDs to enter SMOG and get on the shuttle - to prevent unwanted off-campus visitors.

Others at the forum expressed concern that these ideas would prove restricting to student life. It was also noted that community members should feel able to utilize the Bard shuttle at most times, though perhaps not on weekend evenings.

The forum concluded with the approval of a handful of pre-budget requests. Though the discussion was spirited, the primary intended topic of student space went relatively unexplored.



## MEATLESS MONDAYS

by jessica merliss

Chartwells initiated a new weekly event in November 2011—Meatless Mondays—in an attempt to educate students about the benefits of cutting meat out of their diets. Meatless Mondays was orchestrated with help from Bard's Office of Sustainability, the Chartwells office, the Eco-Reps and the Environmental Collective. The plan was to show support for the rapidly growing Meatless Monday movement, in which people are encouraged to remove meat from their diets for one day a week in exchange for a slew of health and environmental benefits.

These advantages, as listed on the Meatless Monday website, include reducing risk of cancer and disease, as well as a reduction in carbon footprint, water use and fossil fuel dependence.

The four Mondays that were void of meat and instead stocked full of assorted vegetables—mainly tubers, hence the name Mashed Potato Mondays—were just a trial run.

"Meatless Mondays will be put on hold for the duration of the semester. We are having discussions, which we encourage students and faculty to be involved in, as to whether or not Meatless Mondays will be attempted again next semester," sophomore Julie Hackett, Chartwells Sustainability Intern said.

A Facebook event page was created and functions as a forum for students to voice their opinions about the new movement. The disappearance of Kline's most abundant source of protein was alarming for some, but enlightening for others, according to freshman Andrew Rybak.

Rybak recognizes the long-term benefits in avoiding short-term gratification. On the forum, he wrote: "Most complaints about the

quality of food at Kline should not be listened to, as most people do not treat their bodies well enough to be making claims on nutrition and sustenance. Meatless, or full of meat—it is hard to leave Kline satisfied—which means making Meatless Monday a referendum on Kline food would be a mistake; ANY attempt to limit our carbon footprint should be completely welcomed, as opposed to the rhetorical pandering that has been going on for the past day."

Rybak is a member of the minority of students that are supporters of Meatless Mondays. Most of the forum is littered with harsh criticism directed mainly at the quality of food served on Meatless Mondays and also at the impotence of the movement.

Senior Solomon Garber is extremely skeptical of the movement's efficiency and intentions. He posted within the Facebook forum: "...While Chartwells saves a couple bucks on cow products for the week, nothing about the meat industry, or agribusiness in general, or any of the myriad things that are causing the climate to change have felt the impact of the so called 'activism.'"

The majority of students have a problem with the over-idealized effects and benefits that Meatless Mondays are supposed to provide. Hackett acknowledges the minimal impact that Meatless Mondays at Bard will have on the environment and our health, but also points out that the route to a major impact would be financially unattainable.

"It is true that Bard College alone will not reduce America's carbon footprint; but, it is a step in the right direction towards a successful national campaign. Some of the beef that Chartwells serves is grass-fed, local beef. However, many do not realize the

expenses that come with that. And with the changing seasons, suffering local farms and businesses, climatic influences and general expenses, it is not possible for Chartwells to serve Bard such a diet," Hackett said.

Senior Dave Gookin feels very passionately about his meat and takes a strong stance against Meatless Mondays due to what he feels to be a strangulation of his freedom and repression of his natural instincts.

"As a species, we have been hunters and gatherers and that's how it should be. I am on a very strict diet that doesn't include grains, flour and pretty much anything with gluten in it. At Kline, it's hard for me to follow this diet and meat is usually the only thing I can eat there...along with salads," Gookin said.

Hackett points out that high prices make serving local food at Kline unrealistic, though he agreed it would be significantly more beneficial to our health and the environment. Gookin, though, feels that a compromise is the best way to approach the prospect of Meatless Mondays in the future.

"I definitely would sacrifice meat for two or three days at Kline if it meant that we would be getting local, higher quality grass fed beef and poultry," Gookin said. "It helps to support the local economy and the meat lacks additives and hormones that the meat at Kline is more than likely filled with."

Meatless Mondays have garnered support from students who believe that any steps towards reducing our carbon footprint are steps in the right direction. However, the movement has been criticized by most because it targets the wrong enemy. The discussions held about Meatless Mondays will continue in hopes of improving the student body's collective health and environmental awareness.

# SMOG REMAINS IN DANGER OF CLOSURE

## CLUB HEADS WORK TO KEEP SMOG ALIVE

by Lucas Opgenorth

The threat that SMOG, one of Bard's few student-run spaces, might be closed proved to be one of spring 2011's most controversial issues—an issue that has yet to be resolved.

"SMOG was very close to being shut down and in some ways it still is," SMOG organizer Kasra Sarikhani said. "It's really up to the student body to keep SMOG open."

Sarikhani explained that SMOG has been working closely with Bard's administration to decide on changes that can be made at the venue in order to keep it both operating and student-run. Next semester, SMOG plans on introducing a new "SMOG Monitors" program in an attempt to curb the irresponsible student behavior that has been an issue at some SMOG events. According to Sarikhani, the idea is a renaming of the "SMOG Cops" program which was put in place last year as a student-based alternative to the administration's request for stronger security presence at SMOG. The SMOG Cops were made up mostly of SMOG administrators, sound techs and their friends. However, few other students expressed interest in performing the job, causing it to be unsuccessful. Similarly, student response to SMOG Monitors will likely determine its success.

In an effort to open the program up to more students, SMOG is planning on collaborating with the Student Resources Group on recruiting and organizing the program. SMOG Monitors will be paid to watch out for reckless behavior during SMOG events. Sarikhani explained that SMOG is currently encouraging those interested to sign up by emailing them at smogbard@bard.edu.

"It's not going to be about punishing people, it's going to be basically about making sure that people behave safely and reminding people to respect the space," Sarikhani said.

However, if there is a serious issue (i.e. a student is

dangerously intoxicated or a fight occurs) the monitors are to walk up the hill and inform security. Sarikhani explains that the SMOG Monitors will handle situations by emphasizing the concept that drinking at SMOG and behaving irresponsibly puts SMOG in danger.

Those involved with SMOG don't believe that the space necessarily causes irresponsible behavior but rather that this behavior is the result of a wider problem at Bard. Director of Student Activities Julie Silverstein agrees that it is an issue that can only be resolved by campus-wide involvement.

"There's really only so much the SMOG club heads and show Event Hosts can do to prevent dangerous behaviors at SMOG events, so I continue to encourage all event attendees to take responsibility for their actions and the actions of others around them," Silverstein said. "We all need to contribute to keeping each other safe."

Sarikhani emphasized that SMOG is intended to be a student art space rather than a party space, though it is often misrepresented as a venue for student parties. The vast majority of SMOG events are calm, controlled and incident free.

"When I say party space, I don't mean that DJs can't play—it's more about the environment which isn't meant to be a party space," Sarikhani said.

Silverstein has been the main administrator involved in working with SMOG since the beginning of last year. While she has certainly been involved in bringing about change to SMOG, she attributes most of the efforts to the heads of SMOG.

"I've met with them a few times throughout the semester to discuss these proposals, but I give them all the credit for following through and really doing this on their own," Silverstein said. "Hopefully I will be more hands-off once the SMOG Monitor system is up and running."

Additionally, SMOG has expanded its team of student audio techs in hopes of preventing equipment damage and theft as well as allowing shows to run more smoothly. SMOG organizers are thinking about possible renovations to the space, namely interior insulation in order to improve the venue's sound quality. According to Sarikhani, Student Government has expressed interest in contributing funding to these renovations. For now, SMOG is going ahead with hiring audio techs and SMOG Monitors despite the small budget they were given for the semester.

"We didn't get as much money as we asked for, partly because Student Government wanted us to prove that we were serious about SMOG and are willing to make the changes necessary," Sarikhani said.

This small budget has prevented SMOG from hosting a few bigger musical acts but Sarikhani is confident that, due to SMOG's efforts to build new programs, the club will be in a much better economic position come next semester.

"In the end, we all want the same thing and need to remember that we are all on the same side," Silverstein said.

Sarikhani explained that his meetings with administrative figures have been time-consuming but he feels that he and the other heads of SMOG have demonstrated their dedication to preserving the space. However, the availability of SMOG as a student space continues to depend on responsible student behavior.

"Although we have seen some great improvements at SMOG, that venue will remain under a close watch by security and members of the administration," Silverstein said.

# THE SPIRIT OF GIVING

## HOW BARD PULLS IN ITS MILLIONS

by j.p. lawrence

The holiday season is a time for giving, for receiving, and for street corners staffed by hopeful ringing bells imploring frigid passersbys to give a little nickel to the poor. But for Bard College President Leon Botstein and the rest of school's fundraising team, the holiday season is just one more beat on a long campaign.

When Botstein came to Bard in 1975, the college was a small, struggling liberal arts school with troubled finances and no real fundraising efforts. Today, Botstein oversees an international liberal arts empire, with various campuses across the world and an endowment fund that has more than doubled in the last decade.

Additionally, in what the college has billed the largest and most ambitious fund-raising campaign in its history, the school's 150th Anniversary Campaign has raised almost \$320 million dollars out of a goal of almost \$600 million.

These millions are a pittance for large national colleges like Harvard or Yale, who boast endowments larger than the GDP of most countries. Even similarly-sized liberal arts colleges like Vassar and Williams have funds that dwarf Bard's.

But for a small liberal arts school with no nearby urban center, no nearby industry to serve as a benefactor and a tiny alumni base, the real question is how Bard has any business mustering the millions it has now.

The answer, said Sasha Boak-Kelly, Bard's Director of the Annual Fund, lies in Bard's ability to attract rich philanthropists who believe in the mission and the importance of international liberal arts education. Boak-Kelly, along with the rest of the Office of Program Development, the Board of Trustees, various alumni groups, Leon Botstein and others, are charged with maintaining Bard's finances.

Jane Brien, Director of Alumni/ae Affairs and Boak-Kel-

ly's peer, said that unlike many larger universities, most of Bard's fundraising comes from people who never went to Bard, including Yale University grad Charles P. Stevenson Jr. and Princeton University grad Richard B. Fisher, the namesakes for Bard's gym and performing arts center respectively.

Because these philanthropists often donate to causes that excite them, such as international outreach or the performing arts, gifts to the college often come in funds devoted to a particular cause. As a result, more than 90% of Bard's \$241 million endowment is currently restricted to specific projects, with the remainder unrestricted and apportioned for the general use of the undergraduate campus. This, Botstein said, is the donors' right, as "90% of where gifts go is at the discretion of the donor."

Boak-Kelly and Brien explained that the college tries to match needs that exist with donors who would be willing to pay for them - but that dorms are "a hard sell." The various current projects on campus, such as the new conservatory practice rooms and the gym renovations, occurred as a result of donors seeing a need and then donating money.

Over the years, Botstein said, he has had to reject some projects that didn't fit the Bard mission or came with messy ideological entanglements: a veterinary arts center, for instance, or a funded chair for the advancement of free enterprise. But on the whole, he said, Bard does not discriminate on sources, only on gifts.

What this can end up meaning, however, is that Bard becomes beholden to a small pool of wealthy do-gooders and their whims.

"That's the reality of the economic universe we live in," said Botstein. "Is that a fair universe? No. Would I defend it as just? No. Is it the reality? Yes."

Botstein said his priority is to "expand the family of givers." The hope is with time, the number of Bard alumni and relatives of alumni will continue to grow in both size and earning power and will then be willing to pay for such projects as dorms and campus facilities.

For instance, the renovations to the gym were paid for by the parent of a Bardian, and much of the ongoing capital campaign will fund projects on the undergraduate campus.

"As you'll notice in the capital campaign, 99% of those projects are more dormitories, improving the library, replacing and renovating old dormitories, expanding the gym, all related to the quality of life on the campus," said Botstein. "The rest of the money is for unrestricted endowment, for scholarships and faculty salaries."

This money should bring the undergraduate campus to a better financial position, one more equitable to Bard's special projects. Even then, the development office said they will continue to pursue funding for special projects, as donors interested in, for example, prison education often later donate to the general college.

In fact, these Bard projects are what attract many philanthropists to the college in the first place. Boak-Kelly and Botstein said when they talk to peers at other colleges, jaws drop at all the programs Bard runs and receives money for. "Ask anybody in the world of higher education," Botstein said, "if the amount of money Bard raises is far in excess of what is predicted, and the answer would be universally, yes."

It is idealism of some sort, Botstein said, that appeals to rich philanthropists, and that fuels Bard's fundraising team. "You have to believe," Botstein said, "in what you're asking for."

One of Bard's most fascinating aspects is its international community, which makes up 16% of the student body. This fact has had a huge influence on one of Bard's best programs, the Program in International Education or PIE. Every year, ten to twelve talented students are selected through competitive processes to come to Bard and have a life changing experience. Unfortunately, however, they remain invisible to the greater Bard community.

According to Jen Murray, the director of the program, there are twelve participants in the program this year. There are two students from Serbia, three from Russia, one from South Africa, two from Cambodia, and four from Hungary, three of whom are attending BGIA this semester but who will come to Bard in the spring.

According to the PIE program website, "Bard College developed the Program in International Education (PIE) in 1990, to promote friendship and democratic thinking among future leaders from the United States and from regions of the world that are undergoing a transition to more democratic forms of government." Initially, PIE accepted students from "Eastern and Central Europe, Russia, and the former Yugoslavia. In 1994, it expanded to include southern Africa. Beginning in 2009, the program's reach was broadened to include students from Afghanistan, Iraq, Myanmar, Palestine, and Nepal, among others." Since 1991, PIE has brought more than 200 students to Bard from twenty-three countries.

Tamara Pavlovic from Serbia is a junior studying art history. When asked how she was liking Bard, she didn't hesitate to say that she found the school "academically very stimulating and challenging at times because of studying in a second language." She further added that Bard is "a very diverse community" which she found to be "fabulous!"

Pavlovic has been busy both on and off campus. Those who attended the ISO cultural show might remember the Serbian dance performance by three girls in red dresses. Yes, they were all Serbians, and Pavlovic was one of them. "The ISO cultural show was amazing," Pavlovic said, and added that she hadn't expected so large an audience. She has also been volunteering at the Red Hook public library. Volunteering, she added, was a "fun and pleasant experience... since the culture of volunteering is not nearly as developed in

Serbia as it is here."

When asked why she chose Bard, Pavlovic usually responds by saying that "Bard chose me." Pavlovic said that Bard while might not be an example of a typical US college, it is "way more interesting than [she] expected." She did add, though, that Bard is secluded. This sentiment is understandable: the University of Belgrade is only forty five times bigger than Bard and located in a city with a population of nearly two million.

Timothy Lai, a sophomore from South Africa, had never been to the States before Bard. He too comes from a large, University of Witwatersand (Wits), which has approximately 30,000 students. Lai, who is majoring in political studies, has been quite active on campus since arriving at Bard: he is a member of the school's swim team, model UN, and the debate team.

When asked about his academic experience at Bard, Lai said, "Liberal arts education is completely foreign to me." He described his hometown university as a more "bureaucratic" one which gives "professional-based degrees." Lai also mentioned that choosing your own classes and talking to and visiting professors in their office was foreign to him as well. In fact, he said that when he goes back home, his professors might not even realize that he has been gone for the entire year.

Being a political science student, Lai didn't hesitate to get involved in U.S. politics. He joined the protesters at Occupy Wall Street and was arrested on the Brooklyn Bridge along with other Bard students. "At first, I didn't think [the NYPD] could arrest everyone, but they did. Don't underestimate the NYPD," he added. He was released under the condition the he stay out of trouble for six months.

The PIE program runs a number of events during the course of the year. According to Murray, this includes visiting sponsors of the program, outdoor activities like hiking, and a PIE retreat where students reflect and share stories about their yearlong journey.

When asked about the feedback the director receives from students, Murray said, "[PIE] students are quite happy to be here. They are happy to have had the opportunity and are also quite thankful to the individuals and the community."

## PIE @ BARD

by mehdi rahmati

Freshman Paisley Maxwell left Atlanta this year to attend Bard College on full scholarship, leaving to open her mind not only to higher education, but a new setting, new people and the support of other Atlantans that had been given the same opportunity.

"If you stay in the same place your whole life, you think the same way your whole life," Maxwell said. "Because of Posse I came to Bard and I found out things about myself that I probably wouldn't have if I had stayed in Atlanta. There were these things in me and being at Bard brought them out. If I stayed in Atlanta it would of been in me but would have never came out."

The Posse Foundation has sent 10 students from Atlanta to Bard College on full tuition leadership scholarships for the past three years.

"This is a wonderful opportunity because coming from Atlanta I didn't know about Bard," sophomore Jonathan White said. "Going to school here took me out of my comfort zone. I'm from this big city from the South and now I'm in the North at a very liberal college, and I get to experience different things here."

Posse is a national foundation that has sites in eight major cities and is partners with 39 top colleges. According to the foundation's website the goal of the program is to give Posse members the help and support of each other in a new college environment. In turn, Posse members bring diverse cultural and geographic perspectives to campuses in which it might be lacking.

Junior Brandon LaBord, who was a part of the first posse sent to Bard, expressed that attending Bard has widened his perspective.

"I've learned a lot about different cultures," LaBord said. "I feel like when I was in Georgia I was in a little bubble. Coming here I get to meet people from all different walks of life and learn that we're not that different. We have things in common."

Bard Posse students went through a rigorous interview process their senior year of high school to earn a spot in Posse. From hundreds of applicants, 20 finalists are chosen based on their leadership and teamwork skills. Bard faculty members fly to Atlanta, interview the 20 finalists and handpick the 10 that will be offered scholarships.

"[The Posse Foundation] looks at you as a whole," White said. "They look at grades, test scores, personality, what you do in school and what you do out of school. It's an all-around scholarship."

After being chosen, the Bard Posse members underwent eight months of pre-collegiate training with each other working on further developing leadership and teamwork. Maxwell recalled how as a part of a teamwork building activity in pre-collegiate training her posse once had to navigate to different places like a scavenger hunt using the Atlanta subway system, MARTA.

When Posse students finally arrive on campus they are required as a part of the scholarship to meet with their posse once a week for two hours to discuss acclimating to Bard, being leaders and working together as a team.

"I can count on [the other Posse members]," White said. "I can depend on them if I'm having a bad day or if I'm struggling in school. Those are the people I can come to.

They're my support system."

Maxwell explained that being a part of Posse wasn't always easy and sometimes as is natural with any group of people that must work together there are disagreements.

"Posse has taught me how to work with different people," Maxwell said. "It's made me be around people I may not agree with, but you're not going to agree with everyone in life, so you have to learn how to adapt and work with different people."

Ariana Stokas, who acts as the Posse liaison between Posse students and the administration, said that other Bard students could learn from Posse members who, despite their differences, work together.

"They are a dynamic group of distinctive individuals who have very different ideas, but they're asked to work together," Stokas said. "I think that that's a really powerful model for other Bard students to see how people who have different ideas can still work together."

Some Posse members thought Bard students might have misconceptions about the program.

"People think Posse is a minority scholarship for the under privileged," White said. "That's not true. I can see why people think that, but it's not true. It's very diverse. People from any race, background, socioeconomic status can get this scholarship."

According to Stokas, Posse is about more than racial or economic diversity. During selection, Posse tries to create a very diverse group and help a campus community "re-conceptualize the meaning of diversity" to create a complex and multi-faceted group.

Next year there will be an additional Posse from New Orleans. Stokas accredited this expansion to Bard's commitment to New Orleans.

"Bard has a longstanding relationship with New Orleans and it has developed over the last seven years since Katrina," Stokas said. "I think the college feels a large commitment to the city and has a presence there already."

LaBord explained that since Posse scholars are given the scholarship based on leadership a lot of them come to Bard with excitement to start new initiatives on campus. He spoke about his work with junior Durante Baringer, a Posse member as well as TLS scholars on the Hudson Valley Tutoring Project, a program in which Bard students tutor and mentor children from the Hudson Valley area. They hoped to use the structure created for the Hudson Valley Tutoring Project to expand the program to other places.

"Posse showed me the leader in myself and showed me if I put myself out there I had the potential that I always knew I had," Baringer said. "Also, it helped me become more accepting of other people's views."

Maxwell said Posse gave her the confidence to believe in herself.

"Posse has accepted me for who I am," Maxwell said. "I get that feeling that that is a big part of it because you become comfortable with who you are and you realize there's not a certain way that a leader looks. You can be a leader just by being yourself. You realize you do have something to offer."

## TLS PARTNERS WITH RED HOOK TEEN CENTER

Upper Red Hook holds more than that awkward gas station/bodega/liquor "Cornucopia" on Route 9. The Red Hook Residential Center is a minimum security juvenile detention center in Upper Red Hook on Turkey Hill Road, located no more than 15 minutes from our campus. The center hosts between 14 and 22 male students, in grades 8-11 and aged anywhere between 11 and 18, at a time. This is the last stage for most of these young men, so they are only in Red Hook for four to 12 months. With so few of them staying at the center at the time, there is huge potential for positive impact.

Bard's connection with the center began in 2008 through the Community Expressive Arts Program, or CEAP, a Bard TLS project. CEAP students are currently conducting three weekly expressive art workshops with the students. Even with this extended relationship established, Bard and the center are still very much unaware of one another.

Malka Roth '10 was introduced to the center her sophomore year at Bard through CEAP, and as time passed the connection only grew stronger. Roth began a playwriting and theater workshop at the center her senior year. The program saw six gifted students, two at a time, through the playwriting and performing experience. Two of these students wished to perform their pieces, but the show was cancelled due to the abrupt dismissal of one of the students. Residents of the Center are often not told when they're going to be able to leave until a few days before.

"You have to be ready for anything. There isn't always a chance to say goodbye, and they often act out when they're getting ready to leave. You can't take it personally," a teacher at the Center said.

Now that she has graduated from Bard, Roth wishes to deepen Bard's relationship with the center "Connection is what the project is about. We have so many great resources and skills to offer. They're itching for this," Roth said.

Roth is acting as the liaison between eight pre-existing TLS programs and Bard's Learning Commons and the Residential Center. Bard Upbeats, ESL, the Math Circle, Hudson Basketball Clinic, Science Outreach, Germantown College Mentoring, Germantown Tutoring, Students for Students and the Learning Commons have met with leaders at Red Hook Residential to brainstorm how they can expand activities and resources at the center.

This new, local commitment will not cost anything to start up as all of the programs involved are already established. Each program may only visit the center bi-weekly or once a month, but there are, promisingly, many different groups involved. Each program would offer something different, but the presence of each would be equally beneficial.

"My hope is to create a space for dialogue on higher education to bring the possibility closer to them; to show them the value of higher education no matter where or how it is gained," Roth said.

Bard students think and develop ideas in ways that the students at the center may not have been exposed to. Bard students can ask something different of the residents than what is demanded of them on a daily basis. Similarly, the residents can challenge Bard students in a way that their fellow students or professors may not. Close in age and proximity, but different in many other ways, students of Bard and of the Red Hook Residential Center have a lot to offer one another.

"Bard has created so many incredible programs abroad, but there is so much that we can do while at Bard during the semester. A project like this can help bring students out to connect with something right outside of their front door," Roth said.

The eight existing programs that have expressed interest in the project will determine their time commitment to this new project and begin working with Red Hook Residential during the upcoming spring semester.

## FALL RECRUITING CONSORTIUM PROVIDES NEW OPPORTUNITIES

by J.P. Lawrence

At 7:30 a.m., Bard student Juan Bages woke up, put on his suit and got on the subway toward the building on 48th and Broadway in which he hoped to find his future. He took the elevator to the eighth floor, got out, and took the stairs to the ninth. His suit was dark grey lined with navy blue. His tie was slim and purple over his white undershirt. He carried ten fresh copies of his resume.

At 9:25 a.m., Bages sat nervous in an empty waiting room, empty of people but filled with chairs: fifteen of them in a row with the names of large companies above them. At 9:30 a.m., Bages heard his name, saw two suits walking toward him, and shook hands with the people he was supposed to impress.

Bages, a senior and an Economics major, knew full well how unforgiving the job market is for a student just out of college. He knew that a great interview with one of those fifteen companies could land him a job before he even finishes his senior year. He knew that the Fall Recruiting Consortium offered him a chance. That's why he signed up for the program one month earlier.

Bages learned about the consortium at an event hosted by the college's Career Development Office, which assists students and alumni with career planning. The Fall Recruiting Consortium consists of six liberal arts colleges. Each year, these colleges work together to bring employers to one big interview extravaganza. These employers can then interview the seniors from each school for a paying job starting in the summer.

For students, the FRC offers a better chance of snagging an interview than going in alone. "When you send in your resume blind to a company, you are up against hundreds of applications," April Kinser, CDO director said. "But with this, you have a chance of actually getting face-to-face time with the recruiter from a company that's hiring."

Kinser has been trying to get Bard into the club for eight years. There are only two or three top consortiums, Kinser said, and Bard was only able to get in this year after Middlebury dropped out. This year, Bard's first in the program, twenty-six Bard seniors trekked to Manhattan for interviews.

Students began the process by looking at the jobs listed on the FRC website. Then they applied for interviews, with the CDO helping them with their resumes, cover letters and wardrobe. The CDO also conducted mock interviews to help students with the standard questions. *Why are you interested in this company? What are you studying? How do you work in groups?*

Questions like these echoed in Bages' head as he left his interview at approximately 10:00 a.m. Immediately, he began reliving it in his mind. The nervousness he felt. The cheap, plastic folding table. The two suits playing good cop, bad cop. The way it was like a game. How good it felt to really nail that question where they asked what he knew about the company. The confusion he felt about that question that he answered in circles. "You tend to focus on the bad," he said.

His next interview went more smoothly. The interviewer belonged to a small startup company. Her enthusiasm and friendliness had an affect on his interview.

"I was like, 'Wow, words are coming out the way they should be coming out,'" Bages said. "I think maybe because it was a startup company, maybe they didn't know how to be mean yet."

The interview was short: fifteen minutes or so. "Pumped," Bages left the interview carrying a case study, homework he was supposed to prepare in case he advanced to the second round of interviews. All that was left to do was wait for a response.

"It's just very exciting that 26 seniors got invited for interviews, because even if they didn't get a job offer right now, they have a chance to interview and meet a recruiter," Kinser said. "And maybe that will pay off down the road."

According to Kinser, the first consortium was a success and hopes to bring more employers to the party in the future.

"I think it's good that Bard did FRC," Bages said. "It's going to give a lot of opportunities to Bard students in general. It's a good experience. At least you can say you tried."

It's always a good time to invest in one's future, and Bages said he got a lot from the experience. In fact, one week later, the company from his second interview invited Bages to a second round of interviews: one more time to break out the suit.



# STUDENT GOVERNMENT WANTS YOU TO KNOW THINGS

We are Student Government, and we make up a portion of the Student Association of which every student on this campus is a member. Student Government provides every Bardian with links to administrators and resources that can help get student projects off the ground. We also work together to make sure that this campus is kept safe and that any problems or concerns that arise are addressed using the voices of Bard students. Our job is to listen and respond to students' ideas, questions and concerns.

Thank you,  
Student Government

## Student Life Committee Update

Chair: Cara Black

This semester, we are working on student space. SLC has talked to Director of Libraries Jeff Katz, Vice President for Administration Jim Brudvig, Assistant Vice President for Administration Coleen Murphy Alexander and Director of Student Activities Julie Silverstein about the possibility of setting up a 24-hour student space.

Although all of them seemed very willing to set this space up with me at first, the increased number of vandalism and fire alarm pulling incidents on campus has made the administration very hesitant to open up a space such as the library or Campus Center for 24 hours. It is very unfortunate that these things are happening on campus because it is preventing good things from happening for students.

In the meantime, SLC has decided to renovate the 'Game Room' in the Campus Center (also known as the blue room with the TV). We think it would be really great to bring in some new furniture and give it a homey feel.

We meet every Tuesday at 9 pm in the Red Room of the Campus Center and you are welcome to join us.

## Student Judiciary Board Update

Chair: Nate Zeitlin

As of Nov. 18, the PRB has met with 42 students and the SJB has met with three. The cases range from marijuana consumption, fire-code infractions, alcohol consumption, un-registered events and vandalism. The Boards have, as of Nov. 8, reduced the sanction for first-time marijuana violations that do not simultaneously constitute a fire-code violation from social probation to an official warning. The PRB accepted the applications of nine student members to serve this semester. The Boards have worked closely with its Vice-Chair and Student advocate to process appeals, to follow-up on disciplinary hearings, to answer questions about the disciplinary process, to assist students complete their community restitution hours and the payment of fines assigned for vandalism and fire code infractions.

The PRB, along with the SJB, is also working with a dedicated student committee to reform the Bard disciplinary system. These reforms are currently being held in review by the Dean of Student Affairs Office and will be proposed to the student Body for ratification soon. The Board has increased its emphasis on peer-accountability and student-led adjudication this semester and is actively working to increase the student participation in the Bard disciplinary processes.

## Planning Committee Update

Chair: Kye Ehrlich

This semester Planning Committee has been very active in continuously reviewing and making decisions regarding various requests. This semester over 90% of requested budgets were allocated. Surprisingly, clubs spent about half of their funds - all club heads are urged to keep in mind that it is important to take full advantage of the money you have been allocated. With early allocations due on Dec. 2 and the forum to approve these allocations taking place on Dec. 5, we are looking forward to next semester and the events and activities each club might plan. Also, we encourage those who have been thinking about starting a club to do so now. It is easy and a good way to reach out to people who might share your interest and who you might not have met previously.

For next semester we have two open positions on Planning Committee that we would like to fill. If you are interested please contact me at ke3395@bard.edu.

## Educational Policies Committee Update

Chair: Celia Feldman

The EPC has completed its reports for the evaluation of faculty who are up for pre-tenure, non-tenure track and tenure evaluation. Our reports are based on SOTC and CAFÉ forms, so we encourage you to submit your CAFÉ forms and write thorough comments so that you can add your voice to the evaluation process!

We are continuing our effort to gather input on what students expect from the adviser-advisee relationship, especially in their first year at Bard. Hopefully we'll be able to use your input to recommend changes that will enable first-year students to be more adequately matched with advisers according to each person's expectations of the advising relationship.

Feel free to send your comments about your advising experience to the EPC Chair, Celia Feldman, at cf875@bard.edu. Your responses will be kept confidential.

L A R L T U S N O H N R Y R Y E  
 E V H L C E G I O P N O R E E E  
 Y T T S N O G R A T S E O Y T S  
 D L E A E E W R K T C L T I M T  
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 S I U A I B M U L O C B A O R R  
 R S A S T O O B O W T H O N S E

## Now you know

- They think we like dinner parties.
- The President of Bard from 1960-1975.
- What did Botstein get his Ph.D in?
- Not a Meth lab but a \_\_\_\_\_.
- Reem \_\_\_\_\_ Center.
- The basement of Manor used to be a \_\_\_\_\_.
- A group of owls.
- Retro Bard College
- Botstein's favorite ice-cream flavor.
- Rumored to have been on the roof of Tewks.
- Bard's Bard.
- Student \_\_\_\_\_ Operations Garage.
- Ken Cooper's alter ego.
- The 1944 split.
- Professor who lived at studio 54.
- Leon Botstein's brother is a famous \_\_\_\_\_.
- Bard's biggest antenna.
- Almost a lit Professor at Bard.
- Bard Space Program's shuttle.
- Future of Cappuccino's.

# CHEAP EATS

## AROUND THE HUDSON VALLEY

by david giza and | p. lawrence

### RHINEBECK

**Del's Dairy Creme**  
6784 Route 9, Rhinebeck, NY, 12572  
845-876-4111  
Everyday 11-9PM

Not ashamed to throw off all pretenses. The menu is full of greasy, filling food, all priced under \$10. You can get a burger, fries and a shake, all for a tenner. Burgers are a handful, the sort of sandwich where the grease starts to melt right on though the bun until you're afraid the whole shebang will dissolve in your hand – and that's not all bad. A seasonal joint, the place is closed November through April. No seating. Cash only. Probably not a good place to take a date, but definitely a great spot for some better-than-average fast food.

**Eveready Diner Rhinebeck**  
6595 Route 9, Rhinebeck, NY, 12572  
845-876-1900  
Everyday 630AM-midnight

Doing its best to capitalize on nostalgia, from period uniforms for the staff to vintage posters, the Eveready Diner is a fun place to eat. The menu is typical diner fare, full of sandwiches, malts, and comfort food. For the best deal get one of their hot sandwiches, fries and a soda. If you are feeling a little more adventurous, try one of their homemade flavored sodas. Open from 6:30 AM to 12 midnight every day and with a fully stocked bar, the Eveready is a great place to catch any meal with friends.

### TIVOLI

**Luna 61**  
55 Broadway, Tivoli, NY 12583  
(845)758-0061

Dinner Mon, Tues, Thurs, Sun 5:00 - 9:00, Fri, Sat 5:00 - 10:00, Brunch Sun 9:30 - 4:00

Luna 61 is the township's longtime cozy vegetarian establishment with something for everyone. While prices for entrees may be beyond the budget of some students, the sandwiches and wraps are a delicious and filling alternative. The award-winning falafel or "Bonza" burrito, both served with roasted curry potatoes, will leave you satisfied and in the mood for a slice of Luna's famous banana cream pie.

**Sante Fe**  
52 Broadway, Tivoli, NY 12583  
845-757-4100

Tues, Wed, Thurs, Sun 5PM-930PM, Fri, Sat 5PM-1030PM, Closed Monday

In the mood for a romantic Latin dinner? Then why not try Sante Fe, conveniently located in the center of Tivoli? While the prices on the main entrees are a little high, the appetizers and quesadillas are not only affordable, but very filling. A fully stocked bar ensures that your meal will always be complete with a wide range of imported beers. Try to get a table early in the evening; the place tends to get crowded on Friday and Saturday nights. Wednesday wing night offers 12 wings for \$3 and \$2 beers, but come early, before food runs out.

**Broadway Pizza**  
60 Broadway, Tivoli, NY 12583  
(845) 757-2000

Sun-Thu 11AM-11PM, Fri-Sat 11AM-12PM

If you are looking for cheap, greasy, authentic New York style pizza, then this is your place. With a wide variety of slices available every day starting at just \$2 per, there is always something in every-price range. With regular and Sicilian pizza available, every lover of this quintessential college food can find something they want. For just \$6 you can get 2 1-topping slices and a can of soda. Talk about cheap. For the lactose-intolerant, there are sandwiches and pasta. Cash only.

**Tivoli Bread and Baking**  
75 Broadway, Tivoli, NY 12583  
845-757-2253

Wed-Fri 730AM-12PM, Sat-Sun 730AM-3PM

A hidden treasure, disguised as a house. Enter through the porch and a pillow of heat and bakery smells caress you. Cozy, inevitably crowded with Tivoli locals waking up early to chat, drink coffee. Most impressive-looking display: a plate of brioche, muffin-shaped croissants with chocolate chips inside – \$2.25. Banana chocolate chip muffins go fast; as do walnut brownies, which, like all good brownies, straddle line between cake and fudge. Scones with bacon, nuts and cheese offer a more serious option; they taste like a quiche in bread form. Come early. Best bet for awkward interactions with teachers outside school setting.

### KINGSTON

**Dominick's Cafe**  
34 North Front Street, Kingston, NY 12401  
845-338-4552

M-F 730AM-7PM, Sat 730AM-5PM, Sun 9AM-4PM

A fusion of diner and coffee shop. You feel as if this place belongs in Little Italy, with its red-brick wall behind the counter, library of books about Frank Sinatra and Italian cooking and piped-in lounge music consisting mainly of more Sinatra. The menu: Italian staples and breakfast all-day. The meatball Parmesan crumbles in your mouth, indicating how loosely packed they are fresh out of the oven. The tastes of garlic, tomato, onion and fresh mozzarella will help to put you in the right mindset and believe that, just for a moment, you are eating Sunday dinner with the family.

**Lucy's Tacos**  
38 John's St, Kingston, NY 12402  
845-338-2816

Mon-Sat 11AM-9PM, Sun 1PM-7PM

The original. With its pastel orange walls, purple floor and 90's alternative rock sound track, Lucy's Tacos in Kingston seems destined to be a place for hip, poor teenagers to take each other on dates. The menu, written in pink and blue chalk, is extremely reasonable, with most of the tacos under \$3 and all the burritos under \$8. Just don't expect fine dining. Expect your tacos to fall apart in your hands and to be covered in store-bought shredded cheese, but that's acceptable for such low prices. Service is fast, friendly and even includes homemade ice cream as the finishing touch.

**Dallas Hot Wieners**  
51 North St, Kingston, NY 12402  
845-338-6094

Mon-Fri 10AM-8PM, Sat 11AM-8PM

A delightfully named hot-dog diner. A local tourist attraction. More than 75 years old. Prices reflect its age. A hamburger is but \$2.10. With lettuce, tomato, and fries: \$3.95. Signature dog comes with mustard, onions and special sauce for \$1.65. Sauce is family secret; secret ingredient is chili, or something like it. A narrow diner with bar seats, a long counter and a color scheme that evokes Archie Comics, milk shakes and the 1950s. Bonus: add sauerkraut, relish and onions to your hot wiener for free. A good place to take your date, but only if you don't intend to kiss them afterwards.

# BANG FOR YOUR BARD BUCK

## PICKING A MEAL PLAN FOR 2012

As finals approach and the semester draws towards an unseasonably warm end, there is only one thing on the mind of most Bard students: which meal plan will I choose next semester?

This is an understandably precarious dilemma, as there are many factors to consider. But freshman, there's no need to worry: Chartwells has generously removed most of the difficulty from the equation by leaving you with the sole choice of switching to the Block 265 plan for the spring of 2012. Upperclassmen, however, remain faced with a plethora of meal plan options of varying flexibility. For the most part, these plans consist of different combinations of meal swaps and Bard Bucks and are designed to fit different meal habits.

But before we get to the different meal plans, some background information. For starters, if you are a Bard student living on campus you are required to be on a meal plan. And no matter what meal plan you are on, students are only permitted one meal swap per meal time. If you want to eat again during the same meal time or have a guest, you must pay for that meal in Bard Bucks or cash. Bard Bucks can be used at any of the three dining halls on campus, as well as the Green Onion Grocer, which is currently housed in Manor. However, unused Bard Bucks don't rollover; if you don't use them all by the end of the semester, they're gone forever.

photo by anna daniszewski/bard free press

### RESIDENT PLANS

Resident plans are quite standard. Students on resident plans are permitted a maximum number of meals per week, depending on the plan. On week days, there are 3 meal times, and on weekends there are 2 meal times, bringing the total weekly mealtimes to 19. Each student is permitted one meal swap during a meal time. Each week, your meal count resets on Friday. Kline is buffet style, offering larger portions than are available at DTR and Manor.

#### Resident 19 -

19 meals per week and 150 Bard Bucks

Freshmen, this is the plan you are automatically on when you begin your time at Bard. While you don't have much choice in terms of where you eat, you are permitted a meal at Kline during every meal time.

#### Resident 14 -

14 meals per week and 200 Bard Bucks

As Bard's Dining webpage states, this plan is intended for those who don't usually make it out of bed in time for the morning meal swap. However, the plan compensates by providing more Bard Bucks, which can be used at any of Bard's Dining halls, as well as the Green Onion.

#### Resident 10 -

10 meals per week and 250 Bard Bucks

Resident 10 is ideal if you like to cook for yourself at your dorm, which can be supplemented by supplies from the Green Onion. However, this plan is only available to students in Village Suites, tree houses, and Sands and Brooks Houses.

### SEMESTER BLOCK PLANS DEMAND/ FLEX ACCOUNT

Block plans offer more flexibility than the standard resident plans. Most notable is the fact that students can use their meal swaps at DTR and Manor. Since DTR is available to those on block plans, that also offers a late night meal swap period during which students can grab another meal. The number in plan title is how many meal swaps you get per semester; if you run out, there's no getting more and if you have leftover, there's no refunds or rollover.

#### Block 265 -

265 meals per semester and 100 Bard Bucks

Careful though, that doesn't mean you can eat during each meal time all week long: you'll be out by tuesday of week ten if you don't pace yourself.

#### Block 175 -

175 meals and 200 Bard Bucks  
An increased amount of Bard Bucks allows for more random snacking, but, again, pacing is key to not running out of meal swaps long before the semester is over.

#### Block 65 -

65 meals per semester and 850 Bard Bucks

This plan is also ideal for those who prefer to cook for themselves, and permits about 4 meals per week at one of the three Dining Halls on campus. However, like Resident 10, this plan is only available to students in the village suites, tree houses, and Sands and Brooks Houses.

More commonly known as 'Flex Bucks,' this option is in many ways ideal. For starters, it's the only plan that rolls over, meaning if you don't use up all of your Flex Bucks by the end of a semester, the remaining stay in your account. And according to the Bard dining website, FLEX Buck users get a 13.5% discount off their purchases. But there are two catches: this plan is only available to those who live off campus, and FLEX bucks can't be used at the Green Onion. Like regular meal plans, students use their Bard ID to hold their flex bucks, and can start and/or update their Demand/ FLEX Account at the Bursar's office.

*Students do not have to make a decision until the beginning of next semester, giving more than six weeks to weigh the pros and cons of each plan. Upon returning to Bard, students have two weeks to change their plan.*

#### weekday meal times...

**KLINE,**  
breakfast 07:30am-11:30am  
lunch 11:30am-03:30pm  
dinner 04:30am-07:30pm  
late-night closed

**DTR,**  
breakfast 07:30am-11:30am  
lunch 11:30am-04:30pm  
dinner 04:30am-07:30pm  
late-night m-th 08:30pm-12:00am  
fr 08:30pm-01:00 am

**MANOR,**  
breakfast 08:30am-11:30am  
lunch 11:30am-04:30pm  
dinner 03:30pm-07:30pm  
late-night closed

**GREEN ONION GROCER,**  
11:00am-07:00pm

#### weekend meal times...

**brunch** 10:00am-03:30pm  
**dinner** 04:30am-07:30pm  
**late-night** closed

**brunch** 10:00am-03:30pm  
**dinner** 03:30pm-07:30pm  
**late-night** sat 07:30pm-01:30am  
sun 07:30pm-12:00am

**brunch** closed  
**dinner** closed  
**late-night** closed

closed





photo courtesy of ben hopkins

by elena watson

"H2-Oh No!", an Original Musical Comedy by Harry Beer and Ben Hopkins opened November 17th, and its reception was undeniably warm, with a nearly full house at each of its four showings, and an audience eager to laugh at every crazy caper of the colorfully costumed cast.

The energy of the actors was universally excellent. Besides Beer and Hopkins, who were portraying the hero and the villain, respectively, other audience favorites included Lissy Darnell as the adorable, drippy-nosed Lispy Buckingham, Paul Weintrob as the forlorn Sandwichface (whose dad is maybe Magneto?) and Javan Richards as Black God, because—well, c'mon.

"H2 Oh-No!" is a musical that openly mocks the traditions and stereotypes of other musicals, from the big showy dance numbers, to the grandiose finale in which all the familiar tunes from earlier in the show are brought back in an awkward refrain.

Comparisons that come immediately to mind are other musical satires like Matt and Trey Parker's "The Book of Mormon" and Joss Whedon's "Doctor Horrible's Sing-Along Blog," but I couldn't help drawing the

connection to movies like "Borat," and the kind of all-inclusive mocking humor that movie did so well. No minority (or majority, for that matter) is safe from being the butt of a joke. While some might find that offensive, in "H2-Oh No!" the effect is to level the playing field, so that the main focus of the play is ultimately straight-forward comedy. When no one group is being singled out and everyone is being made fun of, then we can really just sit back and have fun!

While the enthusiasm of the cast was brilliant, I couldn't help but think that giving them all mics would have made things a good deal easier. Not only would it have saved the leads from having to shout over the (live) music and waves of laughter, but it would have given the audience a better chance of catching all the one-liners, which, although very funny, sometimes came too thick and fast to keep track of.

Perhaps one of the most enjoyable parts of H2-Oh No! was simply getting to watch co-writers, directors, and stars Harry Beer and Ben Hopkins interact with each other on stage. They both possess the same

exuberant, self-deprecating kind of humor, and watching them crow and fling themselves around the stage was like watching some kind of comedy death match... except with more costumes and more water-rape jokes.

When it comes down to it, H2-Oh No! is a musical, with about as singing as straight-forward dialogue in its hour-long runtime. With the exception of a couple of songs, most of the music was written by

Hopkins, while Beer came up with most of the lyrics—most of which are very tongue-in-cheek, if not downright self-conscious. Early in the show Beer's character, Spank Dawson, yells at his sidekick Yung Cuk to: "Stop breaking the fourth wall, we're done with that now!" (On that subject, there is an excellent bit of audience interaction involving the janitor, who is portrayed by Claire Thompson, a girl whose squinting eyes can make you want to shower for days.)

If you were too busy, not paying attention, on strike, or doing anything else that might have caused you to miss the four live productions of H2-Oh No!, the whole thing is being spiffed up by a video editor, and is expected to go up on Youtube sometime soon. And of course, Beer and Hopkins won't stop here—insider sources say they are already hard at work on the sequel, H3-Oh Yeah!, which is expected to go up sometime next year.

## "BUT AT LEAST I'M NOT QUEER" THE POLITICS OF H2OH NO!

by felix bernstein

Sophomore year is an apt time to produce a show full of sophomoric humor, an immature brand of comedy that is typically delivered by young men who make fun of everything, including themselves, and tend to elevate themselves above the naïve chicks and queers who don't share their sense of humor.

Therefore, Bard sophomores Ben Hopkins and Harry Beer picked just the right time to open their musical "H2Oh No!", a show which lampoons a large array of cultural clichés: the Asian, the ambiguously gay villain, the loser straight dude, the flamboyant drama teacher, the genre of musical theater, geeky superhero culture, etc...

"H2" had a full audience during all four of its performances and for good reason: it was funny, outrageous, crude, and a welcome upbeat change of pace from the usual array of melodramas and psychodramas presented by Bard's theatre students. The show was written and directed by Beer and Hopkins, who also led a very talented ensemble cast.

"H2" is derivative of the trendy parody-pastiche musical genre exemplified by South Park creator Trey Parker's "Book of Mormon" on Broadway. Indeed, sophomoric humor has a long history of being passed on from commercial, comedic geniuses to college campuses and amateur comedians. But as I watched "H2", I wondered if this particular regeneration of the specimen of sophomoric humor was not to be among its last.

The Disneyfication and sentimentality of Broadway has been so sufficiently spoofed on Broadway that I assume this sort of parody itself will soon be exhausted by its popularity in mainstream culture. The fact that parodies of the mainstream have become the mainstream is parodied within the mainstream shows themselves via an uncanny self-awareness as to their futile radicality. So it would seem that parodies of the mainstream could be reproduced within the mainstream ad infinitum. And yet, I did wonder if "H2" was not among the last of its kind.

The key to the popularity of these parody-pastiche musicals, such as "Avenue Q," "Book of Mormon" and "H2", is the reliable assumption that musicals which ridicule musical theater will somehow make musical theater more tolerable to jaded viewers. But even though these musicals make fun of musicals, they also transmit the joy of the original musicals they make fun of. That is the catch and the charm of these cultural products.

This is fine enough, but the problem seems to get hairier when these parody-pastiche musicals also insist on deriving popularity from their outrageously high levels of dated sexist and racist content, which becomes justified by the pretense that the sexism and racism is being parodied. The problem is not a moral one, but rather that this kind of humor has grown tedious and dull.

Parody-pastiche musicals tend to retain the monogamous heterosexual happy ending, especially when they utilize the "revenge of the nerds" narrative, in which the pathetic lead male ends up with their sexy female love interest...often at the expense of queerer options, such as fucking their sycophant sidekicks.

For example, in "H2", Spank Dawson (Beer) ends up with a female prostitute rather than his stereotypically Asian sidekick and Sparkly Gloves (Hopkins) ends up with a female know-it-all "bitch" rather than his twinkish candle-holding sidekick. The bottom sidekick becomes reduced to a tool that allows the nerd to look more powerful. They are used for laughs and then discarded.

"H2" is an equal-opportunity offender, ridiculing everything it can, including the show itself. But it does fail to ridicule one thing: that which enables Ben and Harry to take on the badge of sophomoric humorists is their lack of visible queerness. Well, Harry's character Spank Dawson does say to his superhero friends, "The best part of musical theater is beating up theater queers"; when they question, "Weren't you a theater queer?" he replies, "Well...I was a theater kid. But I wasn't queer."

This formula is also used to justify the parody-pastiche genre: "Yes, it's a musical, but at least it's not a naïve, old fashioned musical." In fact, the underlying formula "Yes, I am some strange category of difference, but at least I'm not some other strange category of difference" is used across our culture from our social interactions to our entertainment. This formula is common, even on this campus: "Yes, I am a flamboyant/metrosexual guy but at least I'm not actually homosexual"; "Yes, I am a bisexual female but at least I'm not a lesbian"; "Yes, I am lesbian/gay but at least I'm not trans," "Yes, I'm gay/trans/lesbian but at least I'm not a loser,"...and finally, Harry Beer's/Spank Dawson's:

*"Yes, I am a straight male loser but at least I'm not queer."*

A recent episode of "South Park" makes me believe that we are growing sick and tired of this formula. In it, Stan turns ten and finds that he is so sick of everything in his life (movies, friends, family) that it all starts to look like poop. The doctor diagnoses him with cynicism.

One has to suspect that Trey Parker and Matt Stone share Stan's boredom as they write their 223rd episode of "South Park." But this cynicism can be a starting point for imagining change. And as we come to this crux in our demand to change the same old, same old of Wall Street, so too do I hope that we will insist on changing the same old, same old formulas that govern our social interactions and our popular entertainment. Not just because these formulas are offensive, sexist, racist, homophobic, and problematic but also because they're just plain boring.

# PALESTINIAN FREEDOM THEATER

## COMES TO BARD

The company members of Palestine's Freedom Theatre gave a special presentation on October 20th at Bard, with a theatrical introduction to the theatre's work, a video with highlights of their productions, and a discussion of the impact and legacy of founder Juliano Mer-Khamis.

The Freedom Theatre is one of very few professional venues in the West Bank. The company arrived in the United States at the beginning of October, and has visited a number of theater programs in the northeast, including those at New York University, Emerson, and Yale.

While "Waiting," their adaptation of Samuel Beckett's "Waiting For Godot," debuted on the 18th at Columbia University. It is the graduation project of the students of the acting school, addressing the Palestinian struggle for statehood. "Palestinians are waiting for something and no one knows if it will come or not," said member Batoul Taleb.

Mustafa Staiti delivered an impassioned history of the theatre, which is the legacy of Arna Mer, who arrived in Jenin in 1989 in the same year as the First Intifada. In 1992, she was awarded the Alternative Nobel Prize for her organization, Care and Learning, which opened Children's Houses in the camp - peaceful centers that sought to meet children's needs for education and creativity. She used the prize money to build the Stone Theatre, the first theatre in the West Bank.

Mer was initially alienated "because of the borders that humanity created between people," said Staiti. "She's Israeli: first border. She's Jewish: second border. We're Palestinian: third border. Arna in a short time, broke down all of these borders... Every house in the camp was open for Arna."

In 1993 her son, Juliano Mer-Khamis, a successful actor and filmmaker, moved to the camp and established an acting circle around himself, and in the same year their first play was performed before a few hundred children. The theatre became the central point of the camp.

"Not only watching the play, we not only danced, not only sang, but we asked, 'Who are we? What are we going to do?'" Staiti said.

In 1995, Arna Mer died of cancer, and the Stone Theatre was shut down due to lack of funding. The Second Intifada, beginning in 2000, came to Jenin Refugee Camp in 2002. Palestinian forces inflicted immense damage to the camp, destroying hundreds of homes, demolishing the Stone Theatre, and killing all of its students.

"A generation finished," Staiti said. "Children's minds killed." In 2004, the residents of the camp asked Juliano Mer-Khamis to return "Because we saw, when we lived all of this, we lived the Stone Theater, we lived the Intifada, and we lived after the Intifada, there was no time better than this time that we open a theater again." The Freedom Theatre was opened in 2006, alongside the first acting school in Palestine, and two years later its multimedia center opened, which involves photography, filmmaking, creative writing, psychodrama and drama therapy.

This year, Artistic Director Mer-Khamis was shot and killed by a masked gunman while holding his one-year-old son. April 4th, the day of his death, concurred with the anniversary of Martin Luther King's assassination, as Staiti noted. He said, "Somebody, to kill such a human being [...] knew how right this message is. So we decided to go on, despite everything. We are holding the message of the man killed for his idea."

The company's visit was made possible through collaboration between Acting Chair Erin Mee of Swarthmore College and JoAnne Akalaitis, the Wallace Benjamin Flint and L. May Hawver Flint Professor of Drama. A number of organizations in the United States, including The Public Theater, New York Theatre Workshop, and the Friends of Jenin Freedom Theatre sponsored their trip. Eight actors arrived from Palestine; a few were unable to travel due to inability to acquire visas, or their detainment by the Israeli Defense Forces.

"It is very important for us, for all of us, to support these independent movements, to support freedom and equality," Akalaitis said.



scene from "While Waiting"

## CINNAMON REVIEW

by Richard Hagemann

Indian restaurants are very popular in this day and age, but it seems next to impossible to find a good one. Questions of authenticity aside, the food itself is often oily or extremely heavy and does not generally sit well in the stomach. The Curry House, one of two Indian restaurants near Bard, is, in my mind, such a restaurant, and I have met many who agree. Taking that into consideration, Cinnamon, a South Indian restaurant that recently opened near Rhinebeck, is truly a step up.

First of all, the food is not half so oily or so heavy as the Curry House's. The standards are all there: flavor-packed sauces, naan, tandoori, and delicious papardam are available, but the quality is relatively high: no grease and you are not left feeling nauseous or over-stuffed afterwards.

While Cinnamon advertises itself as a South

Indian restaurant, it offers a variety of dishes from the north of India as well as Sri Lanka. A notably good dish was the lamb saang, lamb cooked with spices and spinach. The sauce did not overpower the meat, and the strong savory flavor of the lamb was accented by the sweet, rich flavor of the spinach. The tandoori chicken, dramatically served on a sizzling platter, was wonderfully moist. For those not looking for meat, the Bandaka Beduma is a good choice: okra fried with onions and lightly spiced. All of this is served with delicious rice.

All of these dishes, which I had on my first night there, were fantastic, but I was disappointed with my second meal. The food lacked the rich flavors of my previous meal: they were one-dimensional and bland. The chicken korma was unexciting and the tomato soup (tomato rasam) and the fried eggplant (wambatu moju) were simply vin-

egary in character. This may indicate that Cinnamon's wide-ranging menu is a double-edged sword, promising diversity but also the chance of inconsistent quality.

The only other problem Cinnamon may present to Bard students is the distance; it's at least thirty minutes away by car. Those without wheels will find it impossible to get there. But it is definitely affordable; if one avoids the pricey fish dishes or omits an appetizer when buying something a little more expensive they should not feel apprehensive when paying the bill.

Cinnamon is not a culinary revelation, but it is a solid choice if one is looking for decent Indian food, and it's definitely better than Curry House. The menu is a mix of good and bad, but contains a few gems. Cinnamon is thus a welcome addition to Bard's selection of local restaurants.

WHAT ARE  
YOU  
LOOKING AT?

# OPINION



## BREAKING CHAIRS & WOLFHUNTING: A RESPONSE TO GENERAL MALAISE

by david goldberg

pretend that they were scratching their ears or something when that person pretends not to see them, and then they go to drink a beer, and there is nowhere to drink it on or near campus, so they wait for the shuttle and it doesn't come, or it's too crowded to get on, so they have to drive to the bar (which has been proven to lead to dangerous activities—such as driving back). These things are frustrating. None of them are individually significant, but they add up, and maybe the smashing of broken chairs is a relatively healthy way of dealing with these minor absurdities given the spectrum of other options.

For example, scapegoating. It's easy to follow up on your frustration with "the administration this," "the administration that" or "Botstein this" or "Botstein that," but what about them? Did Botstein personally buy the dysfunctional dryers from Ikea? The administrator on duty who had to call for the end of a fucking glorious party (during which, unfortunately, five people went to the hospital with a burning sensation in their eyes from puke-splatter); did he/she invent the policy? And does the administration have a secret brainwashing committee that inculcates some Bard students with a characteristic unfriendliness and apathy, which for the most part is probably just a defense against social awkwardness? No. Sometimes responsibility is a multidimensional construct much like a spider's web.

But the malaise and dysfunction of our community radiates outwards from its source. The other night I saw three cop cars stalking a block away from the Black Swan while a Bard girl was puking in the alley. Two older dudes on the porch were talking about how she's cute when she bends over like that. Creepy bastards. On a recent Tuesday evening, without any provocation, a drunken non-student punched a student in the back of the head while the latter was walking with headphones to his dorm from the library. For God's sake, somebody set a fucking car on fire in one of our school's parking lots. I doubt that was a Bard kid. The cop cars, pejorative sleaziness, random acts of violence, and egregious vandalism reflect a troubling dissonance between the school and the greater community.

Maybe this dissonance is not unique to Bard. Maybe whenever American 18- to 22-year-olds amass together at an institute of higher education, there is some friction with the administration, and maybe there is always some resentment from the citizens of the surrounding communities—both of an imbalance of opportunity and the intrusion of our libertine ways. Maybe I just need to settle for the inevitable and infinitely reproducible situation. But I reckon there is something unique and peculiar going on here. The animosity from the greater community could be a reaction to the chair-smashing/get-fucked-up-'cause-there's-nothing-else-to-do mentality of some Bard Students (not necessarily excluding myself).

Art is a good outlet—making art and seeing art and talking about art. (Art being liberal arts—painting, writing, anthropology, chemical synthesis, theater, etc.). The experience of art brought and brings us together. But the quandary is formality; formality is crippling to genuine (extracurricular) camaraderie. There is a unique insight from pissing away time—a humbling release from dissolving into the crowd. Real camaraderie is formed through this kind of informal aggregation.

A very wise professor put it well: there seems to be a shortage of the "collective silliness" that makes for community. Nobody is going to link arms about the apparent paper towel famine or the dysfunction of library printers because these are "first world problems"—and how could we when we are daily immersing ourselves in much more vital discourses? These discourses build a certain type of community—a very adult and important type—but this type of community does not do much to ameliorate the basically existential problem of accumulating minor absurdities. (I probably just used the word "existential" wrong).

On 4/20 every year, people gather at Blithewood in a gigantic circle and smoke weed until Cliff comes (with his big old grin) to break it up. That's the kind of thing I mean: not necessarily the celebration of chronic nuggets, but rather the informal large gathering with its collective goofiness, excitement, and brazen disregard for bullshit; the friendly, open congregation of well-worn strangers whose only stated goal is to do the same thing in the same place as other people who happen to like doing that thing, self-assembling like phospholipids into a circle (around which was passed a gigantic six-legged joint replete with abdomen, head, and thorax—speaking of art).

(Inevitably, somebody is reading this thinking I am advocating more collective pot-smoking. That is not the point. If you are that person, fill in the following blank with an activity you like: collective \_\_\_\_\_-ing.)

An untested hypothesis suggests that destructive, anti-social behavior (like excessive hedonism or the violent disassembly of broken chairs) is only discretely cathartic, but in the absence of collective silliness/solidarity through which to healthfully diffuse the build-up of minor frustrations, it may be wholly necessary, as there is no other way to discharge the spark.

Maybe I am overestimating the problem; or maybe we are reaching the crest of a wave, and eventually it will just pass (at which point I'll be long gone—wearing my golden arches hat backwards and writing poetry in ketchup on cheeseburger buns). In the meantime, I have two Magic Hats in my backpack, and one of them has got your name on it (but you may have to tell me your name when we finally meet). I'm down to plot random acts of kindness or hunt wolves—whatever takes the load off.



photo by ezra glenn/bard free press

There is a Bard student who used to take broken wooden chairs from Kline Commons (with permission from Chartwells) and bring them out to the woods behind the Free Use Store where she would bash the chairs to smithereens against innocent trees and the immovable cement walkway. Who's to blame her? The chair was broken anyway, and she had permission to take it—probably on the pretense of an art project—but in another sense, it is a symbolic gesture that at least a couple other students can sympathize with when they go to wipe their ass and there is no TP, and then they go to wash their hands, and there is no soap, and then they go get their clothes from the dryer and their clothes are still wet, and as they're waiting for the second \$1.50 to spin, they wave their (dirty) hand at a person they met the night before, and they have to

## The Scandals of College Sports: Indicative of a Troubling System

I have grown up watching and loving college sports, always loyally supporting my hometown Arkansas Razorbacks through thick and thin. I spend my fall Saturdays watching as much football as possible, I devote the month of March entirely to basketball, and I even tune in to some baseball here and there.

And every time a scandal erupts, the likes of which make the sports that they are associated with seem trivial, I am outraged.

I am outraged on behalf of the alleged victims of former Penn State defensive coordinator Jerry Sandusky, eight boys who were molested and abused by the football coach over a fifteen-year period, as well as for the three individuals who purportedly suffered similar fates at the hands of former Syracuse assistant basketball coach Bernie Fine. Without a doubt, these alleged acts are heinous and unforgivable.

But such crimes, in all their atrocity, are only a part of a larger issue.

In the wake of such instances, from the minor scandals to the major offenses, it is often discovered that powerful people within the university attempted to cover up the crimes committed. Penn State represents the extreme end of such a cover-up: a large and frightening web of concealment regarding the ongoing child sex abuse has swiftly emerged in the past few weeks.

According to the Pennsylvania Attorney General, at least twelve people associated with the university, many in the administration's upper echelons, had knowledge of Sandusky's crimes (some of which are said to have occurred in Penn State athletic facilities) and failed to notify authorities. The list includes President Graham Spanier, Vice President Gary Schultz, Athletic Director Timothy Curley, and the school's legendary head football coach Joe Paterno, among others.

Spanier and Paterno have since been fired, and Schultz and Curley have been indicted in the Pennsylvania courts along with Sandusky.

There is a question that begs to be answered: What could prompt these very powerful individuals to participate in covering up such acts?

The answer lies in the traditional incentive that drives people to corruption—*money*. According to *Forbes*, Penn State's football program is valued at about \$70 million each year, while bringing in a profit of around \$51 million. Essentially, the more games the Nittany Lions win, the more money the university rakes in. Conversely, if the team puts up a poor or mediocre season, revenue is sure to fall.

Take, for instance, the scandal surrounding the Southern Methodist University football team three decades ago. The Mustangs were among college football's great powerhouses in the early 1980s, but a financial scandal emerged which resulted in sanctions from the NCAA that gutted and ultimately destroyed the program. Indeed, SMU did not have a winning season for more than 20 years.

More recently, some of the players and the head coach of the Ohio State University football team were implicated in a scandal that resulted in punishment from the NCAA, and the Buckeyes immediately faded to mediocrity, though they were nearly undefeated just a year before.

If the powers at Penn State noticed that mere recruiting violations could bring unprofitable results to once-profitable college sports programs, they surely must have realized that the revelation of a football coach molesting young boys on school property would hold much more drastic consequences for their corporate athletic program.

Hence the coverup.

This is what is truly frightening—the fact that certain institutes of higher education put so much emphasis on turning a profit from their sports programs that heinous criminal acts are hastily covered up in order to protect this profit.

And in the midst of this athletic-industrial complex, eight young boys had their lives forever changed for the worse.

Fortunately, the Penn State coverup has been exposed, and hopefully the criminals will be brought to justice. But given the current state of profit-hungry college sports, it is highly unlikely that this represents an isolated incident.

Perhaps in the coming days we will see something similar uncovered at Syracuse University, whose basketball program is valued (according to *Forbes*) at around \$20 million. Or perhaps the school's powers covered their tracks better than their Penn State counterparts, and we might never know the extent of the crimes committed.

What we do know is that college sports programs are run like corporations, where the quest for profit trumps all. And as with corporations, everyone not lucky enough to be at the top is hurt in some way, be it the athletes who are turned into money-making machines without getting a salary of their own, professors who do not get well-deserved raises because funds were diverted from academics to athletics, and everyone in between.

I can only hope that the Penn State tragedy will never repeat itself on another campus. But with the way the system is currently run, I fear that my hope may not be realized.

## Iran the Boogey Man

There's something gratifying about seeing the world in terms of heroes and villains, good and evil, Gandhi and Hitler. The way these two entities interact has an almost epic feel to it. "Axis of Evil," "tyranny," "the battle for hearts and minds," "duplicity"; the Economist rightly said that "there's a temptation to imagine the world of foreign policy as a broad extension of a Robert Ludlum novel: a desperate time-constrained race to stop evil madmen from committing atrocities. This vision is morally clarifying and inspiring."

It's also wrong. Diplomacy spans years, if not decades. Despite the debt crisis that took place this summer, U.S. debt reduction schemes would only bear fruit by 2023. Withdrawal of American troops from Afghanistan will be complete by 2014—thirteen years after the bombs started falling.

Iran's alleged nuclear weapons program, which they still maintain is peaceful, is similar. Though the United States and Israel have shouted themselves hoarse saying so, Iran still doesn't have the bomb. (It won't for a while either, given the cyber bombardment from the United States that has put off the program for at least a couple more years.) The warmongering that has taken place, especially from Israel, is quite terrifying, especially given U.S. support. There was an explosion at an unidentified location in Iran that killed more than twenty people; the cause of the explosion (if you're naïve) is still not known. And Iranian nuclear scientists have been disappearing one by one like teens in a slasher flick. Roger Cohen, in an article called "Doctrine of Silence," refers to all the covert and rather lethal operations that Obama has been conducting during his tenure as president: Pakistan, Yemen, and, relevant for this article, Iran. The point is that Iran has been blacklisted by the Obama administration as a serious threat, and the U.S. is taking a number of measures, fair and foul (mostly foul) to quell the Shiite, turban-clad, Anti-Semitic, Hezbollah-funding, oil-rich, heavily sanctioned, potentially nuclear, threat.

I don't like nuclear weapons. I've heard enough about mile-wide fireballs in the sky, people being fried, baked and vaporized and a post-apocalyptic Earth where only grass and cockroaches exist for me to realize that no good can come of nuclear weapons. But I also know of their perceived worth to countries, particularly in the context of geopolitics where it isn't so much their detonation, but their possession, that matters.

So putting aside my own aversion to the extinction of mankind for now, I can see why Iran would want a nuclear weapon: Israel, its biggest threat, has made it abundantly clear that it wants a fight, and the only thing that has been stopping it is America, ironically. Moreover, Israel actually has the bomb. It's frightening for Iran to think that it can be blown to oblivion without being able to do anything about it. A nuclear weapon would bring Iran up to par with Israel both militarily and strategically. It might even bring peace between the two if they both are deterred from being militarily hostile towards each other. Also, apart from Syria—whose own problems hardly need to be mentioned—Iran does not have any friends in the Middle East. Saudi Arabia of all countries implored the US to bomb Iran: to cut off the head of the snake, so to speak. Iran needs military security in an unfriendly and volatile neighborhood. For Iran to *feel* (if not actually *be*) secure, a nuclear weapon makes sense.

The arguments against Iran having a weapon that have been put forth by the US and Israel are less convincing. First, they say that Iran is run by a madman. We assume the presumed madmen to be *irrational*, and therefore unable to deal with a nuclear weapon. We have some illustrative examples of madmen: Saddam Hussein, Kim Jong Il, Muammar Qadhafi. And admittedly, all the aforementioned gentlemen have tinkered with splitting atoms. But this is a weak theory. Saddam and Qadhafi actually willingly *dismantled* their nuclear programs. I am less sure about Kim Jong Il. Either China controls North Korea's weapons program, or the US knows that the DPRK won't use them. In either case, the US itself undermines the Madman Theory by not focusing on North Korea.

Ahmedinijad does qualify as a madman, I think. Even Al-Qaeda published a press release ordering Ahmedinijad to shut up about 9/11. But the truth is that Ahmedinijad has nothing to do with Iran's nuclear program. That, and all of national security, falls under the auspices of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, an altogether less crazy individual. Conflating Ahmedinijad's empty threats of wiping Israel "off the map" with Iran's nuclear weapons is shortsighted and very Orientalist of the U.S. Having authoritarian rulers as opposed to democratically elected ones controlling nuclear weapons is no indication of whether they will be deployed or not. This assumption that democracies are wiser with nuclear weapons is fallacious. Lest we forget, it was the United States that brought the world to the brink of nuclear war in 1962.

The second reason cited as justification for acting against Iran's nuclear program is its violation of the Non-Proliferation Treaty. One more country having nuclear weapons would be a travesty, but the United States has not been given the mandate to thwart such an event, nor would such a mandate be entirely sincere. While a nuclear-free world might be a great rhetorical device that wins Nobel prizes, the fact remains that the United States has the largest stockpile of nuclear weapons in the world, and that isn't going to change anytime soon, despite the New Start Treaty. And seeing who has fought the most wars ever since nuclear weapons came about, and who has willingly used them, a far bigger threat to peace in the Middle East than Iran is the trigger-happy manner in which the United States and Israel are approaching that country. Nothing good can come out of treating Iran like a CoD mission—spies, covert ops, machismo et al.

# FILL OUT YOUR CaFE FORMS!

by zoë ames

It arrived in all of our inboxes on Monday November 28th, no doubt soon to be followed by many of its ilk: the first email exhorting us to fill out our Course and Faculty Evaluation (CaFE) forms. So if you're wondering if or why you should go to the trouble of doing so—and you really, really should—read on.

CaFE forms are a crucial part of the faculty evaluation process. Professors at Bard are evaluated on the basis of professional work, work within the community, and their skills in the classroom. CaFE forms arguably provide the most important evidence of teaching effectiveness, and are read by many people: the Faculty Evaluation Review Committee, or FERC, the College Evaluation Committee, or CEC, the Divisional Evaluators, the Educational Policies Committee, and of course the professors about whom they are written.

Not only do these people read your forms, but the DEs and the EPC incorporate the facts they find into meticulous reports that are read by the five members of the FERC, Michele Dominy, the Dean of the College, and President Botstein, who has the authority to make hiring, firing, and promotion decisions. As a member of the EPC I can attest to the fact that the Divisional Evaluators' reports, which run to six or more single-spaced pages, devote at least three of them to summary of student feedback, including extensive quotations from your CaFE forms. The same goes for our own EPC reports.

So how can you fill out a CaFE form that all of the above people can utilize effectively?

**Not-so-helpful (bland):** feedback about the program in which the professor teaches (such as students complaining about the obligatory nature of First-Year Seminar, or the structure of the Classics program, for example). EPC, FERC, and CEC reports focus on the professor's teaching, research, and community involvement, not broader issues like those mentioned above; therefore, those reports don't take such feedback into account. Your typical FYSEM professor doesn't have the authority to make the class optional, so this kind of feedback isn't useful to them either. Because it's not read by the right people, it is essentially irrelevant.

**Sort of helpful (mild):** comments like "Professor X is awesome," "I love Professor Y," "I want to be Professor Z when I grow up/I want Professor Z to adopt me as a son" (and I have seen stuff like this!). While these comments clearly reflect well upon the professor

in question and paint a good overall picture of student opinion, they're not informative enough: they don't specify why X is so outstanding, or why you want to turn into Z, so they're unlikely to be useful.

**Extremely helpful (spicy!):** feedback that pinpoints a specific way in which a professor excels. Have they struck a balance between control and fluidity in class discussion? Are they approachable outside of the classroom? Do they return papers promptly? And so on. These sorts of comments can tell a professor exactly what students would like them to continue doing, or alter, about their teaching.

Of course, you may have criticisms to make, too—and if you've had a less than satisfactory classroom experience, the above also applies. Don't just say "so-and-so doesn't care about his students," for example; ask yourself why you think so and explain: "he is always late to class," "he doesn't show up to his office hours," or what have you. In writing my EPC reports, I look at professors' teaching statements, and frequently see them outline specific ways in which they are addressing negative feedback. Your constructive criticism is just as important as your praise.

According to an analysis by Mark Halsey, Associate Professor of Mathematics and Associate Dean of the College, the return rate for Student Opinion of Teaching and Course or SOTC forms for spring 2009 semester, which were handed out in hard copy and completed during class, was excellent: approximately 80%. However, when the online CaFE form was piloted in 2010, it plunged to a paltry 40%. Since then, it's been climbing: the average return rate for spring 2011 was 55%, but that's still not ideal—Halsey says he hopes that rates will continue to climb until they reach at least 70% and would no doubt jump for joy to see a return to the good old SOTC glory days of around 80%.

Groups like the Student Union are always looking for ways for our voices as students to be heard, but we all too easily forget that such avenues exist and are sadly under-utilized. 55%, people? Your feedback isn't just sitting in a forlorn and dusty file; people are going over it with a fine-toothed comb and using it to make pivotal hiring and firing decisions. Please take the time to submit the thoughtful, thorough, and insightful evaluations of which I know we are all capable.

## THE OHIO STATE OF EDUCATION

It all began when a startling New York Times headline provoked Arthur to turn to Dan and Nolan and exclaim, "Did you happen to notice that Urban Meyer is being paid twenty-six million fucking dollars, not including bonuses, over the next six years?" To do... what?

Well, being a rational person, and taking into consideration the average household income, which is roughly \$46,000, one might imagine that Coach Meyer must be doing an enormous amount of work: ninety-four times as much as one household, to be precise. One might further reason that Urban Meyer must stay very late at his office. If the average American works eight hours a day, then Urban Meyer would need to work 752 hours, or 4.4 weeks, in one day to satisfy his contract—if money and time were exchangeable. However, they are not, and so Urban Meyer must be doing something astounding, which takes ninety-four times the mental capacity and effort, with 94 times the benefit for human civilization than the average American household.

Well, Mr. Meyer is actually a football coach, and while it shouldn't really strike anybody as unusual that a football coach is earning millions of dollars, it should strike one as odd that he is the coach of the Ohio State University football team. Honestly, what mortal human being needs that much money? He earns \$100,000 every week. If he wishes to send his son to Bard, he can pay for four years at full tuition in just over two weeks. In one year, he could buy eight new Ferraris and eight forty-foot yachts, and still have over \$1 million left over to buy groceries and pay for heating.

We know sports can be valued more than the average Bard student gives them credit for, but we'd find anything short of a cure for AIDS or the blueprint for a Nazi-hunting hot tub time machine equipped with eight Taiwanese hookers to not be worth fifty times the average salary of a professor, many of whom actually are trying to cure AIDS. And, by the way, as coach of Ohio State University—which is public, hence its name—Meyer is paid with Ohio taxpayers' money; money that is collected by a group of Ohio state officials and promptly spent on Urban's Ferraris, yachts, and his eight ball of cocaine, snorted off the bosom of a \$1,000-a-night escort.

What self-respecting academic in their right fucking mind would give one man \$26 million of taxpayer's money just to coach college football? The money is not used to give 1,300 Ohio residents free admission into OSU, not used to build two entire hospitals; no, it is just spent to coach football, for six years.

Meyer's salary could also pay off the average debts of 1,121 college graduates. This got us thinking about student debt, which in the U.S currently stands at \$961 billion. This is more than the combined yearly military budget of all European countries, added together, multiplied by three. It is also higher than total U.S credit card debt.

Wait, we owe more money for education than we do for general consumption of goods and services? Yep. At this point, we are finding it kind of hard to fight the gag reflex. Now, the interest on that debt is 9%. This is three times the average rate of a mortgage. Now, the heartless freaks deciding to fix the interest rate at 9%—they couldn't possibly have anything to do with universities, could they? We don't have to commit murder-suicide quite yet, right?

Well, actually, a quarter of Ivy League graduates go into finance after graduating. This does not mean that a quarter of these students planned to go into finance before going to college. On the contrary: only about 2% wanted to fuck up the economy when they were freshmen. The rest wanted to become high school teachers, civil servants, engineers, and poets.

In case it's not clear, our point is that universities, especially the good universities and especially the public ones, should be a corrective of social injustice—but instead, Urban Meyer, and student debt, and the Ivy League's romance with Wall Street show that quite simply, they're not. As college students ourselves, we can't stand for this.

Before our game of seven-bullet Russian roulette ends with Arthur calmly spinning the barrel of a .45 and the other two looking on helplessly, we leave you with a final question. Who is the highest paid U.S. government worker? It's not Hillary Clinton. No, it's Troy Calhoun, coach of the Air Force Academy football team, the Falcons. Bang.

by dan gettinger,  
arthur holland michel  
& nolan reese



# CON

by kurt schmidlein

# MEATLESS MONDAY

## PRO

by victoria antin

Meatless Mondays have been a long-debated and much condemned institution on the Bard campus. This fall, Meatless Mondays have been attempted again and again they've been defeated by a passionately carnivorous population of Kline eaters. For those of you celebrating this victory right now, let me just say: congratulations.

Still, the question remains: why all the drama? Why has this seemingly small issue become the massive and fervently debated topic that it is? Meat is tasty, yes—good for you too. It is without doubt a natural part of the human diet. Still, *is it really such a huge deal* to give it up just a little bit of the time?

The recent activity on the now infamous Meatless Monday Facebook board has proven that, to Bard Students, the answer is yes, yes it is. Within a period of seventy-two short hours, the board was flooded with indignant and aggressive responses, all heavily anti-Meatless. The reaction from the community was completely unexpected and overwhelming. The gist of it all was that Meatless Mondays are the worst, that Kline can't make vegetarian food to save its life, that Chartwells is forcing this conspiracy upon unwilling students in order to save money during the recession, and that sacrifices would be better made elsewhere.

Despite substantial rumors that Kline food has been greatly improved upon in the last few years, I do recall quite well the horrors of being entrapped by the forced on-campus meal plan. While it is true that the vegetarian options at Kline are often atrocious, and that mashed potatoes and corn do not a main dish make, I really must ask: are the meat options at Kline truly any better? Does anyone really crave those wonderful pre-frozen burger patties or the wonders that Kline can make out of a frozen filet of tilapia or those little chicken McNuggets? Anyone who's ever eaten at another college's dining hall knows that most facets of Kline's food production, especially considering the high price we pay comparative to other universities, are well below average. Are the choices at Kline on a Meatless Monday really any worse than the choices on any other day?

This stance continues to be contested. Still, what astounded me most about the Meatless Monday opinions was so many students' complete unwillingness to compromise on the issue, or even discuss it in a rhetorically responsible manner. So many students held the position that "I want it because I want it and therefore I deserve it and I need it." Without caring to do any research on the potential environmental benefits of giving up meat for one day a week (or even one meal), so many students, instead, opted to demand meat as a toddler would demand a toy.

Other students seemed to be insulted by the moral implications of the choice to eat or not eat meat. Meatless Mondays have never been about taking a stance on any individual's lifestyle decisions, but many students made it about just that. Outrage erupted over Chartwell's alleged vegan agenda, which was allegedly taking away the students' right to choose. Rhetoric such as "Meatless Mondays are only fair if we have All Meat Tuesdays" obviously falls into this category. Meatless Mondays do not deny students of any key nutrient; they simply encourage them to try to get those nutrients from other sources. All Meat Tuesdays, however, would deny students of every key nutrient except for one.

For now, the issue has once again been put to bed. Meatless Mondays have been postponed indefinitely until a satisfactory solution can be found. Did Chartwells do all they could do to make Meatless Mondays a success? No. Did students give it their all either? Definitely not. Kline Eating Students, you disappoint this Bardian.

But hey, at least Pizza is still a vegetable.

Week three of Meatless Monday was characterized not only by the absence of meat, but also a distinct lack of accurate information about how eating meat affects one's health and the environment. Though the posters displayed around Kline were no doubt effective in promoting the meatless mantra, they were at best overly simplistic, and at worst overtly false.

As the posters stated, the American meat industry has a huge carbon footprint and its practices are, at best, environmentally questionable. But the Meatless Mondays-sponsored posters did not take into account how the meat was raised and what effects different practices have on our health and the environment.

Take beef, for example. The majority of beef cows in this country are fed corn instead of grass. Corn-fed cows yield meat that is substantially less healthy, since cows are ruminants and meant to ingest grass. This leads to inefficient digestion, which in turn causes more methane emissions. The Meatless Monday posters didn't acknowledge this distinction, nor did they consider that much of the meat industry's carbon footprint is transportation-related, since corn must first be grown and then shipped to where the cows are being raised.

To make matters worse, Meatless Monday's misguided agenda was implemented at Kline by replacing protein with carbohydrates. At lunch on Monday, November 21st, the usual meat options were replaced by four potato options. At dinner that night, meat was substituted for by four pasta options, which were accompanied by waffles, eclairs, and the usual assortment of deserts.

When it comes to fighting obesity and diabetes, this approach could not be more wrong. Many credible studies have come to the (fairly obvious) conclusion that processed foods, not meat, lead to obesity, diabetes, and heart disease. In fact, in a study done by Diana Schwarzbein, M.D. (as described in her book "The Schwarzbein Principle"), rates of obesity and diabetes were lowered by including a healthy portion of meat, as well as other animal products such as butter and milk, back into participants' diets.

But processed sugary foods have become staples of the American diet, even at Bard. On a daily basis, Kline offers eleven soda options, several varieties of cake and/or pie, several flavors of ice cream, and a make-your-own-waffle station complete with chocolate syrup and brown sugar. In addition to this, there is always a wide range of processed starch options such as pasta, bagels, and pizza. A serious approach to curbing diabetes and obesity would involve reducing the number and/or amount of these sugary options by implementing "Sugarless-Saturdays" or "No Fruit-Loops/Fries/Fluff Fridays" policies instead.

Better yet, Chartwells and the Sustainability Council could implement a "Duchess-County December" policy, or something along those lines, during which only local, organic food would be served at Kline. Not only would this practice promote healthier eating habits, but we would reduce our collective carbon footprint and support local businesses.

Buying local is more expensive, of course. But if we want to be healthy and environmentally conscious, we can't keep sacrificing quality for lower prices. How can we justify paying our huge monthly cell phone bills but not buying organic, grass-fed meat? When did we convince ourselves that buying healthy food was less important than cable TV and the latest Apple product? It's a question of priorities, and the answer is as simple as choosing to spend a little more on local, organically grown food.

This solution is right up the alley of those who support the Occupy Wall Street movement: by buying local, more money goes into the pockets of local farmers instead of lining the coffers of an industry whose political and economic power is already exorbitant.

But Meatless Mondays fails to address that undeniable fact, and denies by omission that agricultural interests of all stripes are deeply entrenched in our political and economic systems. Indeed, any food movement or diet fad that does not make the distinction between local, organic food and non-organic, pesticide-ridden, genetically modified foods does nothing to curb the power of those interests. Like many industries whose priority is profit, much of the meat industry and those involved with it have long buried the serious health and environmental concerns that surround their practices, and Meatless Mondays does not offer a serious alternative to those trends.

It's time to dig up these forgotten, yet simple, truths. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to figure out that the human body has a hard time handling processed foods, nor does one need a business degree to deduce that many companies produce unhealthy food products simply because it's profitable (Google Coca-Cola or McDonalds if you need an example). Unfortunately, these pieces of common sense have eluded Americans for decades now, the result being disastrous effects on our health, our environment, and the very way we think about food.



## RAPTORS SCOREBOARD

DATE OPPONENT RESULT

### men's basketball

11.15	John Jay College	L 58-69
11.18	Wesleyan U	L 53-86
11.19	Johnson State	W 78-73
11.29	Mount Saint Mary College	L 44-78
12.01	Albany College of Pharmacy	W 87-57
12.03	St. Joseph's	L 55-66

### women's basketball

11.15	Albany College of Pharmacy	L 33-74
11.18	SUNY Canton	L 33-65
11.19	Morrisville State	L 30-65
11.22	Yeshiva	W 36-55
11.30	Coll. of New Rochelle	W 42-53
12.03	Elms College	L 31-71

### men's squash

11.11	Siena	W 7-2
11.13	Fordham	L 2-7
11.13	Vassar	L 1-8
11.19	Hobart	L 0-9
11.19	Vassar	L 0-8
11.20	St. Lawrence	L 0-6

### men's swimming

11.30	Bard Early College at Simon's Rock	W 112-79
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### women's swimming

11.30	Bard Early College at Simon's Rock	W 95-93
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by valeriana dema

Kathleen Davis gushed about her new team's first meet. "I'm still in shock," said Davis. "Everybody swam so well." Davis is the head coach of the Bard varsity swim team, who won their first swim meet against Bard Early College at Simon's Rock on November 30th.

"A couple of people weren't sure if they wanted to be in the event," said Davis. "They thought they couldn't do it or that they would do poorly and I just said 'Don't even think that! We need you. We need everyone swimming as a team to win this event.'"

The women's team won 95-93, and the men's team, which Davis also coaches, won 112-79. Davis said that if even one swimmer chose not to compete in the women's match, they might have lost.

"It makes such a difference when you're in the pool swimming and you have people cheering for you," said Davis. "I think that really made a big difference on us winning the meet, the spirit and everyone supporting each other."

The women's swim captains, Nicole Rosato and Abigail Zwick, were a part of the swimming club last year but wanted to elevate the program to the varsity level.

"There were a few of us who were really consistent and our coach told us if we wanted it to become a varsity sport that we should petition for that, so we wrote letters during finals week somehow," said Zwick.

Kris Hall, the Bard athletics director, attributed the start of the varsity swim team to the interest from the Bard swim club members as well as the interest of incoming freshman.

"I think the timing was just right. I don't think that we could have said ten years ago or even five years ago that we were going to try to launch swimming because the student interest just wasn't as peaked as it was now and will continue to be," said Hall.

The swimmers said that the intensity of the program has progressed from the swim club last year.

"There was no real motivation [on the swim club] like there is now," said Jacob Reyes, a swimmer on the men's varsity team. "Now I'm working towards something. I want to cut seconds off my time. I want to be competitive"

Rosato accredited the improvement to her coaches. She said the workouts designed by Davis and Christine Berg, the assistant coach, are very structured and effective. She pointed out that the team has made a lot of progress from just a few weeks of practicing.

"The new coaches are pretty hardcore. Last year was a lot of fun, but, although I couldn't have known at the time, we definitely could have been pushing ourselves more like we do this year,"

added Zwick.

Coach Davis said that swimming has always been a big part of her life. She has competed in U.S. masters swimming, a national and international organization, after college. She has also worked as a life guard, swim instructor and recreational director for several years.

"When I was growing up my father was a part of the Marine Corps, so we moved around a lot. On the bases there were swim teams and that's what we used to do. We swam year-round," said Davis.

She explained that she understands some of her swimmers' feelings of nervousness and excitement.

"I have experience teaching swim lessons, lifeguarding, but this is the first time I've been a coach at the collegiate level, so it's a new experience for me too," said Davis.

Assistant coach Berg is a physical education teacher and has been the swimming coach of a high school in Hyde Park, N.Y. for the past eight years. One of her sons coaches at Kenyon College and the other coaches at Cornell.

"Swimming has meant a great deal to my family. All three of my children have been division one swimmers," said Berg. "I've been coaching high school for eight seasons, so I feel I have a lot of experience there but also just being around the pool deck with my three kids has given me experience."

Berg described the Bard varsity swim team as very friendly. She hopes the team will grow closer as the program develops and they begin to compete and travel together more.

"The team dynamic is evolving," said Berg. "Many of our swimmers may just see each other for the hour and a half that we have practice, but we got to travel together at the meet and eat together afterwards. That is really good bonding because you're seeing people in other settings. It really helps bring the team together and you become like a family, that is what is really neat about swimming."

The team hopes to compete in two to four more meets this year. They are trying to schedule meets with other schools that have new swim programs like Bard's. The coaches encourage any Bard student to join the team which has a wide range of skill levels. Students can join second semester. Practices are 7:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The coaches are planning to develop the program and recruit swimmers in the years to come.

"At this point it's really hard to say what's going to happen, but I think it's a start. I'm hopeful," Davis said.

## STUDENT ATHLETE ADVISORY COMMITTEE: ATHLETES HAVE RIGHTS TOO

By J.P. Lambert

The heads of Oprah and O.J. Simpson made an appearance at Bard's Hopson Cottage Nov. 13, albeit as printouts taped to the backs of members of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee.

These 20 students, delegates from Bard's varsity and club sports, flitted from person to person as they tried to deduce just which celebrity's head shot was attached to their backs.

The room was filled with the sounds of frenzied motion and laughter, as well as the smells of the freshly laid-out Chinese food in catering trays, but once the icebreaker ended and everyone took the printouts off their backs, it was time to get down to business.

That business is representing the concerns of varsity, club and intramural athletes at Bard, said SAAC president Jessica Philpott (who had Oprah on her back). Twice a semester, these students meet, eat Chinese food and talk to assistant athletic director Adam Turner about concerns such as athletic facilities, events and balancing schoolwork and sports.

The SAAC, which has existed since 2004, has through the years successfully lobbied for increasing per diem meal payment for athletes traveling to games, getting lights for the soccer field, creating new meal plans for students who cannot eat during normal hours, and allowing students to go to games without being punished for missing classes.

Turner, '06, was a forward on the Bard Men's Basketball team and is now its head coach and the SAAC advisor since 2009. Since then, Turner said he has worked with the SAAC on gathering support for the current \$2.1 million gym renovations, a project in which the SAAC played an instrumental role, at one point even making a

presentation to the Board of Trustees.

Kim Larie, a women's soccer player, women's volleyball player and SAAC member, distributed questionnaires during the campaign. The Bard Senior said the questionnaires echoed the desire for more gym space even from students outside varsity sports. "We don't have enough space for people to go to the gym anymore, and that is a general health concern for our community," said Larie, who had O.J. Simpson on her back, "not just the athletic teams but the Bardians who don't have enough space to exercise."

Armed with a 500-signature petition, questionnaires, and letters from parents, students, coaches and alumni, the SAAC met with Turner, who forwarded their concerns to Kris Hall, Bard's athletic director, who then forwarded their concerns to Jim Brudvig, Bard Vice President for Administration, which eventually led to finding a donor for renovations.

"That was really good," Philpott, a woman's lacrosse and woman's volleyball player, said, "because apparently Jim Brudvig came here and walked around in the summer and said, 'We definitely need more space; there's not enough room in here for everyone.'"

Currently, SAAC members are involved in the design process of the new gym, Turner said. A large part of the fall semester meeting was talking about what specifically SAAC members wanted to see happening in the renovation.

"Things as specific as how much new weight equipment versus cardio equipment, and what kind of organization do you want to see in that space," Turner said. "We feel like it's really important to get the opinions of student-athletes and have this \$2.1 million expansion fit

their needs, not just what we see as admins."

For instance, discussion about the creation a study hall with computers and desks in the gym, so athletes can study before and after practice, is ongoing. Projects like these, Larie said, are a reflection of the unique demands on student-athletes. "We're serious about athletics, but we're also serious about schoolwork," she said. "That's why we have these special concerns."

The next big project, Turner said, is finding a community service project so student athletes can make a difference outside the campus, but internal concerns are also addressed within the meetings. These include such matters as raising attendance at games and updating members on changes in NCAA regulations.

"We're also the voice for our own teams," said Philpott, "so if there's something we need on our team, we talk about it and go to our SAAC leaders or our athletic department and talk about it."

Philpott said that meeting and hearing the concerns of members from each sport helps build a sense of community among Bard athletes. "Varsity athletes are a big chunk of the Bard community," Philpott said. "There's roughly 200 of us walking around, so getting all our voices together is really powerful."

Turner and Philpott both said that while SAAC is entirely a student initiative, they feel lucky to have access to an athletics department they feel is attentive to the needs of student athletes. "They want us to be successful as athletes, so they want to give us everything that they can as far as training and opportunities go," Philpott said. "We also want to make sure we're happy at Bard, happy and healthy."

## FOUR SQUARE: THE MONARCHY OF BALLWHACKING

By Jimmy Garcia

In a remote village far from the comforts of modern civilization, a sizable structure with a large, brightly lit room blares music while a dozen or so individuals wait in line to play with each other in activity that involves slapping, pounding, whacking, spinning, rolling and a good deal of dancing. There's scattered banter, the occasional scream or yelp, even a smattering of applause, but conversation is minimal. While most of those involved appear relaxed, some are clearly more serious and truly exert themselves, sometimes double-teaming unsuspecting participants. No, this is not a Satanic sex ritual, or a weird Bard orgy. It's four square—the most exciting sober activity at Bard since, well... ever.

According to Aaron Strauss, the Four Square club's head honcho (and sole member), the activity originated over twenty years ago as "Forties and Four Square" in the Old Gym until the building was condemned in 2004. Since being relocated to the multi-purpose room (MPR), the sport has been transformed into a more, for lack of a better word, "abstinent" pastime. But this, even for the more reckless among us, is part of the activity's charm. As the most popular extra-curriculars at Bard (getting shlammered, booty-banging, etc.) seem to have progressively found their way off campus, it is nice to have a diversion at school that students can engage in regularly.

In elementary school I used to love four square. But that was elementary school, not college. What dorks play four square (sober, at least)? However, upon min-

gling in the chaos of somersaults and punk rock, I realized this outlook was unjustified and probably the result of an undeserved reputation, a traumatic childhood and a disdain for activities that the various authorities in my life might actually approve of. I have little desire to discuss the PTSD I may suffer as a result of the rebuke I received for "cherry-bombing" the ball into a peer's in the fourth grade. Nor do I particularly wish to address my current tribulations (I've had a hard time shedding my delinquent nature). In all likelihood, you probably don't want to hear about my woes anyway, so I'll avoid damaging my reputation and try to improve four square's.

Although there is an abstaining minority, Bard kids like to imbibe. And when it comes to activities, what hip, cancer stick-loving individual would capitulate to the childishness of four square? Not this guy. Well, that is until I actually gave the sport a try: and boy, was it fun. But not only is it enjoyable, it's an all-around great diversion from a school Newsweek ranked above Harvard in its "most rigorous" college rankings (we're #16, they're #17. Take that, Uncle Bob!) The vibes are absolutely fantastic.

"It's great—it's a place where students can be themselves. Look at the kids dancing over there!" sophomore Dani Dobkin explains. "There are so few quality activities on campus, it's nice to have something where students can choose to be sober and still have an enjoyable time."

But the notion of sobriety should not be overstated,

however, as 1) It will scare away a fair share of students and 2) When asking students what they liked about four square, I heard "getting drunk" more than once.

"The way that four square fosters an organic, low pressure community is very important," Strauss says. "If [participants] want to drink (or whatever) on a Wednesday and come out and play—fine! That's a personal choice they can deal with Thursday morning during class."

But whether you come in a Speedo and cape or toasted off that devil's lettuce, nobody is going to judge you at four square, and that's what is important.

Due to my permanent residence in the library and my overly-competitive nature, four square is unfortunately not for me (the burning desire to just rail the kickball with my fist has not yet subsided). However, if you find yourself whimpering about a lack of entertainment on a Wednesday night, definitely go down to the MPR and rage to some DMX, Nick Minaj and Dropkick Murphys and play some four square, because it's a lot more exciting than it sounds.

*Four square takes place from 10 p.m. to 1 a.m. every Wednesday in the MPR.*



## BARD TWEETS

Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

**@yo\_lan\_duh** Lana

Dreamt last night that I was at my college graduation at a luxurious beach estate. Woke up to a number of harsh realities.

**@willanderson** Will Anderson

The Red Hook intersection #bardshuttleproblems

**@bardkidproblems** Bard Kid Problems

How many Bard kids does it take to screw in an energy efficient light bulb? FUCK YOU. #bardkidproblems

**@graylingbauer**

Thought my alarm was going off earlier and when I cancelled it started saying my name. Turns out my sculpture prof was calling me. Oops.

**@snacktaube** Zachary Taube

a wonderfully racist thanksgiving

**@bardboyproblemz** Bard Boy Problemz

Porn taking so long to load getting distracted by facebook chat #bardboyproblemz

**@jmerlwhat** Jmlerwhat

Someone in my history class just asked if Ronald Reagan was in Fast Times at Ridgemont High. I think he was serious.

**@g\_lazer** zrglrr

Girl on the second floor of the library wearing a sweater vest and, for some reason, no bra: I just saw your whole right breast.

**@bardgrlproblemz** Bard Girl Problemz

"Pending". #bardgrlproblemz

**@bardgrlproblemz** Bard Girl Problemz

"Denied". #bardgrlproblemz

**@inboundtraveler** Olivia Noel Huffman

I hear theres an editor on the #bardcollege free press that's "obsessed" with me. #LittleDoTheyKnow the feeling is mutual. Xoxo

**@uncle\_annie** Anna Swann-Pye

We had a science text book??



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## 3. RECEIVE

further information

(BETA)\*