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## Bard Free Press, Vol. 13, No. 5 (February 2012)

Bard College

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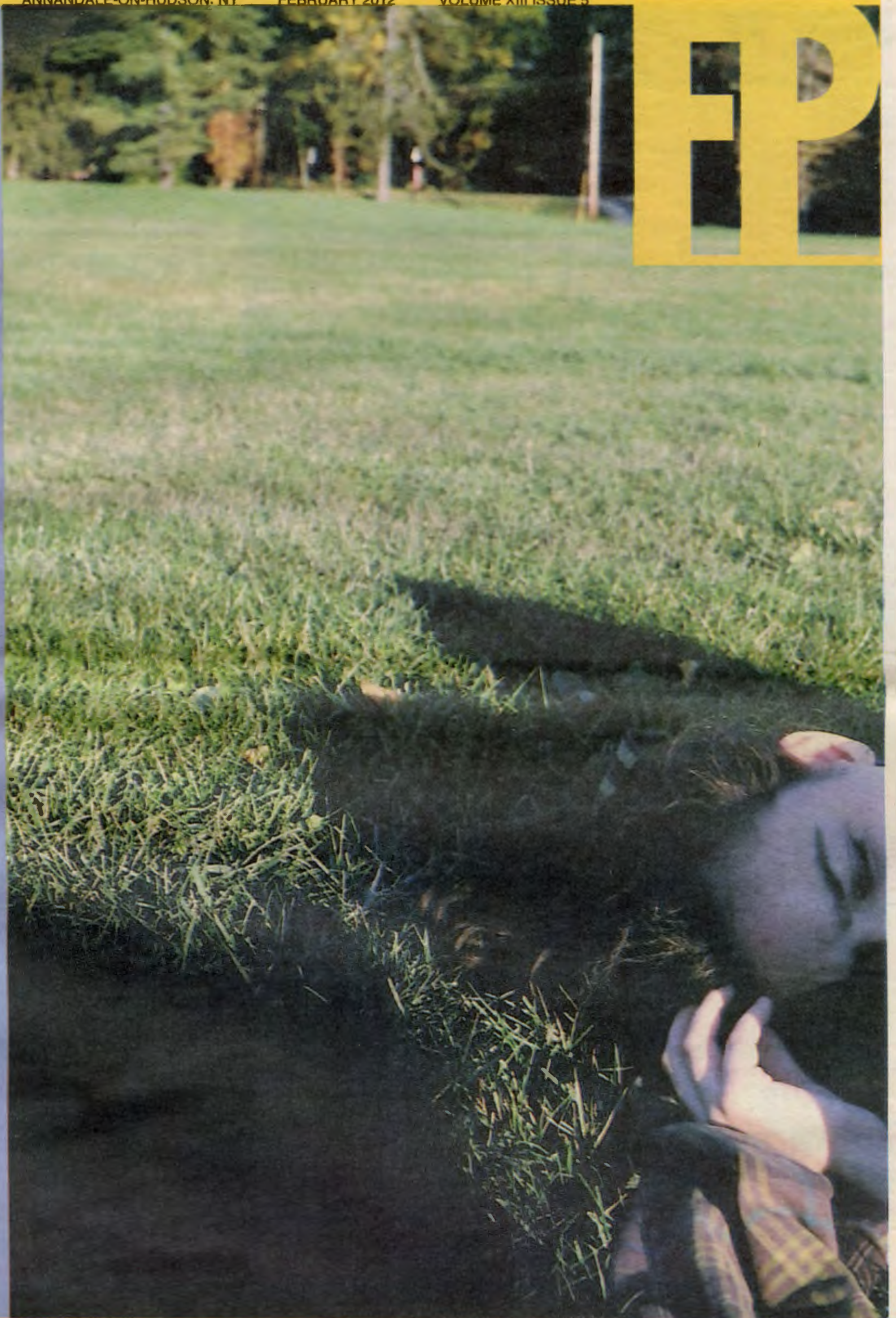
### Recommended Citation

Bard College, "Bard Free Press, Vol. 13, No. 5 (February 2012)" (2012). *Bard Free Press - All Issues (2000-2018)*. 95.

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# bard free press



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## STATE OF THE FREE PRESS:

Dear Bardians,

This past semester has been a very active time for the Bard Free Press. Over the past four issues we've published 156 articles by 62 contributors from the Bard community, with several of those articles finding themselves republished in local newspapers.

We have had a small army of talented writers, photographers and layout designers join the paper, and we're excited to be joining the Associated Collegiate Press, the oldest and largest national membership organization for college student journalists.

We've been increasing our presence in both the Bard community and the surrounding area, an effort that began earlier this year with two journalism workshops that gave students a chance to hear from a Vice President of the Associated Press, four newspaper executives and two nationally acclaimed writers (and Bard faculty) in Luc Sante and Daniel Mendelsohn.

One of ideas we're really excited about is our new free subscription service. People who want the Free Press can sign up with us and have their paper delivered straight to their mailbox. Simple. Just e-mail [subscribefp@bard.edu](mailto:subscribefp@bard.edu) and you'll get a fresh Free

Press in your campus mailbox.

Of course, we'll still have newspapers laid out around campus, but this new free subscription service will allow us get newspapers out more efficiently. You see, we've been noticing that many people who want to read the Free Press cannot find copies when they want one. People who live off campus, too, have a hard time finding a Free Press. By signing up with us, you'll help us save paper and make it easier for those who want a newspaper to get one.

Finally, to all our talented writers, thank you so much for bringing your talent, ambition, and enthusiasm to the Free Press. We have already come such a long way from this year's first issue and we're excited to keep the momentum going into the spring. Through all the hectic deadlines, last-minute revisions and setbacks you continued to work hard to make our newspaper work.

And that's a little crazy. The good kind of crazy. Thank you.

The Free Press Staff

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# OFFENSIVE CARICATURE DRAWN IN CAMPUS CENTER RAISES ISSUES OF RACE AND COMMUNITY AT BARD

by will anderson

During the first-year Citizen Science Program, bulletin board space in the Bertelsmann Campus Center was defaced with what was described in an e-mail to students as an "offensive caricature of a person of color." The incident prompted condemnations from both the Dean of Student Affairs Office and President Leon Botstein, as well as a community forum on the topics of race, community and freedom of expression.

Though administrators declined to describe it, the image was allegedly a hand drawn profile of a male with large lips and an Afro hairstyle. Under the drawing was the title "Afro-man: big lips, big hair" followed by the question "Can you guess who I am?" The image was attached to the bulletin board adjacent to Weis Cinema.

Reactions to the incident have been mixed. Perhaps because the caricature was posted while the majority of students were not on campus, dialogue amongst students has been less active than some had hoped.

"The forum was moderately well attended, but it didn't reach as broad an audience as I would've liked," said junior Erin Smith. "It was kind of the same 30 people you see at these types of forums."

Freshman Jasper Katz agreed that while the forum was effective, transferring the message to the larger student body was less successful.

"If administrators or faculty suggest something, then there's that immediate 'fight the power' reaction that so many students here have," Katz said. "And when student government suggests something, just the same 30-people show up to discuss it. And nothing seems to change. And whenever we try to bring something from these forums to the student body, nobody gives a shit. It's frustrating."

Administrators and some students were hesitant to label the image as deliberately racist, instead focusing discussion on what might have led a student to draw something so offensive to the majority of community members.

"Perhaps I'm being too optimistic, but I don't think the person sat down and said 'I'm a racist and I'm going to draw this to hurt people,' Katz said. "I think they were probably either drunk or just a dumb-ass who thought it would be funny."

However, some consider the incident as yet another example of a systemic problem of racism and prejudice on

Bard's campus.

"Defacing, graffiti, racial comments, homophobic comments, anti-religious comments - a lot of that happens on this campus," said Bethany Nohlgren, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Engagement. "There were a group of students who had seen it, experienced it, and been hurt and offended by it. The President and the Deans of Students and members of the administration were responding to a group reaction that felt big, and felt important to honor and recognize."

The event mirrors a similar incident from last year when a Black History Month display was damaged in the campus



photo by joey sims // bard free press

center.

During the forum, a number of students also attributed the incident to a lack of community on campus.

"When students don't feel some level of connection or camaraderie, then there's less of a chance that they'd respect buildings and respect each other," said sophomore Nora Delighter. "This is less about a student being racist and more about the fact that we go to a school where students don't realize that their actions affect others."

Seen in this light, the caricature would be an addition to a long list of vandalisms and disruptions by students this past year. In Dec., students living in Robbins and Robbins

Addition were each fined \$250 due to damage to the sprinkler system, and repeated false fire alarms. Most recently, on Feb. 10 residents of Tewksbury were threatened with a similar fine after an unknown student pulled the fire alarm at 3 AM.

"[When I was] a freshman, I noticed a lot more campus events and they were a lot more well attended. And now, there's not as much as there should be going. And what is happening is not well attended at all," Smith said. "There is also this polarization caused by so many students and events happening off-campus. There needs to be a way to merge and empower these two communities."

For many, the offensive caricature was seen out of character to Bard's politically correct reputation.

"I was surprised when I heard about this. You don't really see a lot of direct and open racism on campus. Bard has this reputation of being a politically liberal place," Smith said.

Despite this reputation, Bard has struggled with attracting a more racially diverse student body. Currently, around six percent of Bard's student body identifies as African American, a statistic below the national average of 14 percent.

"I think there definitely is prejudice on campus. We are a mostly white campus. And I know most people came here from mostly white high schools. Obviously the majority of us aren't going out and drawing racist things on the walls," Katz said. "There is a sense that Bard caters to a specific kind of student, and if you don't fit that mold then you either find a group that doesn't fit that mold either -- and the two groups never coincide."

Nohlgren hopes that the incident will help continue the ongoing dialogue on this topic. In the future, she hopes that such a dialogue will be as fundamental to the college's lexicon as L&T and moderation.

"Faculty including Ann Seaton and Brian Mateo have already been active in this dialogue, and I think that there is a movement amongst students towards creating more sustained and regular conversation," Nohlgren said. "There are moments in the cadences of a semester where, if an agenda needs to be pushed, we want it to be pushed. This is one of those moments."

As of yet, no student has been found responsible for the graffiti or come forward.

(Pictured Above) Comments written by students in protest of the offensive caricature left up during the freshman Citizen Science program.

## GOODBYE GARAGE?

## SMOG FACES MOVE TO MAKE WAY FOR BASEBALL FIELD

by grayling bauer and joey sims

Bard administration is planning to relocate SMOG, the student-run venue which sits behind the Stevenson Gymnasium, to make room for a new baseball field.

Though discussions are ongoing, Mackie Siebens, President of the Student Association, confirmed the move was likely.

"It will have to move - but it will not be shut down as some students might believe," said Siebens. "Ideally we are going to push to have a space set up before the old SMOG becomes a construction site."

Ken Cooper, Director of Security, also pledged that SMOG was not threatened. "If SMOG moves out of that

building, it would go somewhere else," said Cooper.

Plans are unclear as to where SMOG will go, if it is indeed moved to make way for this field. Most likely the existing structure will be removed, and a new structure constructed.

Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus Life, could only say that she is "not certain anything has been decided about SMOG in terms of where it will be relocated to."

This is not the first time the SMOG club heads - Kasra Sarikhani, Eve Alpert and Emmett Shoemaker - have been threatened by closure. They released a short statement saying they were surprised by the "seemingly sudden de-

velopments" around SMOG's future.

"We have worked very hard this past semester, both with the administration and with the student body, to prevent SMOG's closure," they said. "On a personal level, we would hate for these efforts to have been in vain. We believe in the importance of SMOG in its current iteration and are working to be part of the dialogue concerning its future."

Both the SMOG heads and Student Government representatives are meeting soon with Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration, to discuss SMOG's future.

## SECURITY GUARDS ADDED TO ROBBINS CAMERAS MAY BE NEXT

by joey sims



photo by will anderson // bard free press

Every day, at 7 p.m., a lonely security guard takes up residency in the lobby of Robbins Addition. Seven hours later, at 2 a.m., a new guard takes over. As students cycle in and out, the guards sit and watch. They might check IDs, or confront drinking students. But mostly, they wait.

Meanwhile, three or so residence hall monitors, or "casual guards," roam the hallways of the huge dorm. Like the security guards, they are on lookout for problems or suspicious activity. Like the security guards, they mostly observe.

Soon, they may be joined in their watch by security cameras.

At many colleges, this scene would be as typical as ID swipes or a peer counselor. At Bard, it represents a sea change - one that has set off a divisive debate amongst students and administrators.

One side believes increased security is a reasonable response to vandalism issues in Robbins. The other side believes more scrutiny would be an overreaction that goes against long-standing tenets of community policing at Bard.

The draining of the sprinkler system in Robbins twice in one night, coming after months of vandalism issues in the dorm and elsewhere on campus, prompted the college to increase its security presence across campus. This led to the deployment of security guards to the dorm last year, followed by casual guards this semester.

Soon, the college may also place security cameras in certain locations in Robbins, Robbins Addition, and elsewhere on campus. The college has historically had no video surveillance anywhere on campus, as cameras were long thought to be unnecessary. Recent events, however, has led Cooper to be particularly interested in placing cameras at entry points, back doors and parking lots.

"Big-brotherish" was how Catalina Llanas-Colon, a sophomore, viewed security's increased presence. It was a view shared by many Robbins residents.

Joe Salvo, a sophomore, questioned the purpose of the casual guard. "What they can do and what authority is granted to

them has not been made clear," Salvo said. Two Robbins residents reported that casual guards seemed to follow them from a distance until they arrived at their rooms, making them uncomfortable.

Yet other Robbins residents felt the new presence was unobtrusive. "It's not as if they're actually doing anything other than being a presence in the building," argued Moraima Ortiz, a sophomore.

"If [Bard security] were really big brotheresque, I think it would be a lot more of a problem," said sophomore Cameron West. "I don't really think they're going to do anything to impose on our freedom."

Ken Cooper, Director of Security, granted that Bard has never before dedicated security to a single location, but felt the policy shift was ultimately positive. In fact, Cooper plans to make the presence permanent - and is considering also adding stationed security to Manor and Tewksbury in the future.

Cooper personally came up with the concept of a casual guard, after Leon Botstein, President of Bard College, instructed him to "think outside the box" for solutions to the Robbins situation. Casual guards call security when they see a problem, rather than confronting it themselves.

Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus Life, acknowledges that Bard has long been uninterested in permanently stationed security, but says the college has been forced into this position. "No one wants to get to this point," she said. "Is there a need for it though? The beauty of Bard is that we're not this place, but are we being forced to become this place?"

Damion Dupuy, who is stationed in Robbins most nights, says he tries to keep his presence unobtrusive. He mostly escorts non-students to the room they are visiting, asks non-residents to show their ID and takes open

containers of alcohol. But instances of even these confrontations have been rare.

"I haven't had any issues," Dupuy said. He has noticed that students sometimes change their mind about entering the dorm when they see him, or call a friend to let them in rather than slipping in behind a resident.

The guards' presence will soon become greater, most likely with the addition of a front desk. Mandatory swiping is a possibility. Student concern with vandalism and safety may be superceded by concern that this extra security will be damaging in its own way.

Cameras may also be placed inside dorms. Cooper points out that in a public space like a dorm, "there's no presumption of privacy." But he stressed that their placement would not be invasive. "I'm not gonna put a camera in an area that would violate people's feeling of sanctity," he said.

He also promised that students would be a part of discussions about whether to install cameras, and how to do so. "There is stupidity out there, so we have to overcome that without compromising too much about who we are as Bardians," he said. "I think it's a compromise."

Students are broadly frustrated with the administration's handling of the Robbins affair, and feel that current security measures are a delayed overreaction after initial incidents drew less response.

"The vandalism and disrespect for the commons is really irritating and needs to stop, but the idea of security cameras and a sign-in desk is really intrusive and quite frankly even worse," said senior Chip Gibbons, a Robbins resident.

"They don't see it now, but I think they've lost a lot of respect and that's going to cause some problems for them," said West. "We see it, but they just choose not to."

# ROBBINS RESIDENTS PROTEST FINES COLLEGE OFFERS RESTITUTION

by lucas oppenorth



Last semester, residents of Robbins and Robbins Addition were fined \$250 each for persistent vandalism issues during the fall semester. Earlier this month, Bard's Office of Residence Life & Housing came to collect.

In an email sent to all Robbins residents on January 30, the office offered students three options: a \$250 fine, a \$150 fine and five hours of restitution to the community or a \$50 fine and ten hours of restitution. If students select a restitution option but come up short on hours, they will be charged \$20 for each hour they did not complete.

A list community service projects was offered, including a Root Cellar remodel, fund raising for local volunteer fire companies, and sustainability projects, among others. Students also have the option of creating their own restitution project.

Jennifer Forbes, Assistant Director of Residence Life, says these restitution options are typically offered to students facing fines from the college. According to Bard's Student Handbook, vandalism fines are left to the discretion of Residence Life - this approach has been favored above others.

Sophomore Cameron West, creator of the "New Robbins Fine Protest" Facebook group, is glad that the college is offering restitution, but remains frustrated by the course of events that led to the fine. "I started the protest because the administration had waited so long to do anything about what was going on," he explained. "When somebody broke the vending machine, they didn't really do much about it."

Another outspoken opponent of the fine is senior and second year Robbins resident Andy Hoffman-Patalona. He felt the administration communicated poorly with Robbins residents.

"It was extremely unclear as to why the fine was being levied," he said. He was unable to attend the meeting initially announcing the fines, as were many other students. News of the fine then spread by word of mouth, he said, until the Vice President's office eventually sent an email to residents.

Both West and Hoffman-Patalona also pointed out seemingly conflicting messages from the ad-

ministration regarding the purpose of the fines. Different reasoning was stated at different times - punishment, at the request of local fire departments and to cover repair costs.

Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus Life, says the fine's purpose was threefold: to encourage the individuals responsible for the vandalism to come forward, to cover the cost of the damage, and to prevent further incidents.

"It has felt like there's been conflicting statements .... [because] it's all of those three things, so when they are not heard together, it can feel conflicting" she explained.

A petition with over 200 signatures from both Robbins residents and non-residents was collected and sent to administrators. The petition proposed that the fine be distributed across campus, as it could not be confirmed that the vandals were Robbins residents. According to West, no administrators responded to the e-mailed petition.

Other talk of protest proved to be ineffective in getting the fine voided. "[Protest] was basically confined to a Facebook group," said Hoffman-Patalona. "Basically a bunch of angry people just posted about how they were screwed over by the

fine....people fought and there was not a huge sense of unity going on there. But it was better than nothing."

Junior Linnea Marik sent a letter to Perry arguing the restitution option opened up a class divide amongst Robbins residents - between those who could easily pay the \$250 fine, and those who would be forced to do community service.

"It's a really valid point," admitted Perry. "It's maybe not fair. The way I really view it is, the people who pay the \$250 fine gain nothing from this, and the students who choose to do the restitution option can really gain a lot from that."

West, like many others, has chosen the restitution option - he plans to preform for Red Hook children with fellow Robbins musicians. But the incident has changed the way he views Bard's administration "They've already lost a lot of respect, at least they've lost mine," he said. "I definitely respected them. I wasn't one of those people who was like "screw the administration!" But when they really show that they're not on your team [it changes]."

Residents must decide how they intend to pay the fine by Monday, February 13th, and restitution hours are to be completed by mid-March.



photos by j.p. lawrence // bard free press

# BARD OFFICIALLY TAKES IN HOUSEKEEPERS

by anna daniszewski and lucas oopenorth

Bard College has announced that it will bring housekeepers in-house for the first time in 20 years. The decision comes after months of uncertainty regarding the future of Bard's housekeeping staff.

The news became official when housekeepers voted unanimously on the new contract on Jan. 27.

This comes after a series of negotiations before and after the vote between Vice President of Administration Jim Brudvig and Assistant Vice President of Administration Coleen Murphy Alexander, the housekeepers, Service Employees International United (SEIU) Local 200, and the Student Labor Dialogue (SLD).

The announcement came after the termination of Aramark's contract with the College Nov. 7 and after a student rally Dec. 2, when students pressed the administration to reject proposals from other service subcontractors.

Several factors led to this decision. Alexander said her office had been receiving more vocal complaints about the cleanliness on campus and the mismanagement of employees from Aramark's corporate management. "Those things filter through our office, and they just exploded in the past six months," Alexander said.

Employees said they felt the lack of direction as well. "People in these dorms weren't doing their jobs, no one was going in to check on their work so, with that said, ... [they were] getting away with it," said Jason Bailey, who said he worked at Bard for two years in almost every building.

Brudvig and Alexander said they were considering two local, smaller corporations to replace Aramark, but these companies couldn't offer the wages, pension, health benefits and education package the College desired:

The administrators noted it is part of a greater move on the part of colleges and universities to bring labor in-house. The hope is that over the long term, employee relations will improve and housekeeping costs will be reduced through improved efficiency.

Once the College had indicated that they were leaning to going in-house, the 90-day probationary period became an issue of contention. Typically when hiring, there will be a period of evaluation after which management will decide whether to take on the individual as an employee.

However, there was the belief that because of the ambiguity of the clause's writing, housekeepers would not receive the full grievance process and union representation during and after the probationary period. The SEIU, the SLD, and administrators worked to clarify the clause. "I think it's much less ambiguous," Alexander said. "The intention was always right but now we just clarified the language."

"Not everybody's going to make the whole 90-day period but, as far as those who work and know they work, they shouldn't have nothing to worry about," Bailey assured. He later added, "[They've] got to figure 'well if I've been slacking off, now's my chance to pick it up,' and if they don't do it in 90 days, I feel sorry for them, but then again I don't, because they had a chance."

The shift in-house will bring with it great organizational changes. Housekeepers will enter the new Environmental Services department led by the newly-appointed director, Michael Bemis, who currently holds the position of Director of Buildings and Grounds. His current assistant, Gerard Nesel, will replace him. Brudvig and Alexander noted Bemis' experience at Bard will be an improvement in management structure.

While Bailey said he looks forward to the change, he is concerned that some of the basic managerial problems will not be resolved. "I'm a little nervous about some of the structural changes because with change comes pressure," Bailey said. "[The campus center] is the hardest building to be under pressure in. ... [And] that's my biggest worry as an employee, that people understand where I'm coming from as a worker, doing everything I can to maintain this place on my shift." Bailey is responsible for cleaning two more buildings in addition to the campus center, which he attributes to current under-staffing.

"You can have change but if you still have the same amount of staff, not doing what they're supposed to and calling out, you're still in the same predicament, you just got different management," he added.

Student pressure was among one of the key factors of the decision. The SLD is claiming their campaign—which Brudvig described as an "incessant refrain"—as "a big win," said sophomore and member of the organization, Molly Jacobs Myer. Alexander added that the issues, "coupled with the momentum of the students [made it] clear that it's now the time to do this."

"I think what's really important to remember about the SLD-Aramark story," said Chip Gibbons, a senior and SLD member, "is that it's ultimately a story of student power and a story of the successful impact students can have on their campus at Bard when they mobilize, when they organize, and when they stick with something and that students do have a voice on this campus and can change policy but they have to struggle for it."

Aramark will be officially off campus come Feb. 29.

## SAUNAS CLOSED DUE TO INAPPROPRIATE USE

### CRUISERS SENT PACKING

by joey simis

The men's sauna in the Stevenson Gymnasium, infamous as a supposedly "cruisy" local hot spot, closed indefinitely last semester - their second closure of the year.

Soon afterward, the women's sauna also closed after an influx of male trespassers.

The decision to close the saunas, and recent indications that new saunas are not a part of the gym's current expansion, has left many students and community members frustrated.

Yet the college has defended the decisions, pointing to reports of property damage and inappropriate sexual behavior in the saunas.

The saunas in the gym have earned infamy, to the administration's displeasure, for their listing as a "cruisy" spot on cruisinggays.com. The author of the listing claims to have had "no fewer than 6 (wanking and/or oral) encounters" at the saunas and showers.

A commenter added: "I've gotten a few BJs there... always a few guys to look at and hook up with." The listing is old - comments are dated from 2008.

Kristen Hall, Director of Athletics, explained the decision to close down the saunas was related to this listing - which she says the college has tried to take down, with little success - and recent reports of "suggestive

behavior."

"We've had reports of Bard students being approached and feeling very unsafe and uncomfortable," she said. There has also been one report of suggestive behavior to a minor.

"It was just too great of a risk for our students and other patrons to be exposed to that suggested opportunity," Hall added.

Instances of damage to the saunas were also partly to blame for their closure. Patrons "fried" the heating element on several occasions by pouring water over it. Administrators posted signs cautioning patrons against this, but the problem continued. Before their closure, "the saunas [were often] out of service because of misuse or maybe misunderstanding of use," Hall said.

For all of these reasons, the upper administration closed the saunas in collaboration with the Athletics Department. The decision annoyed many students and community members who made frequent use of the facility. "We have had some push back," confirmed Hall. Older community members and swimmers in particular complained about the decision.

Senior Sarabeth Doble does not make regular use of the saunas, but questioned the logic behind the closure. "If they closed down every place on campus

where there's been inappropriate sexual behavior, they would have to just demolish all of Bard," she argued.

Marsha Davis, Director of Health Services, said the saunas had often proven therapeutic for anxious students. "I prescribe exercise and use of the gym for stress reduction, and I encourage students to use the saunas," she said. "Bard is actively trying to promote activities that are stress reducing and do not involve alcohol."

Discussions are ongoing as to whether new or improved saunas could be part of the current expansion. Hall noted this would be easier in an entirely new facility. "If we were going to have saunas, we'd locate them in a very public place... it would be a far more public and available space for monitoring," Hall said.

For now, Hall acknowledged that the saunas' closure was regrettable, but insisted all other options had been exhausted. "The sexual [intimations] to a couple students, in addition to the advertising of the saunas - it's not worth the risk of something happening, the kinds of behaviors that were swirling in that space," she said.

photo by ezra glenn // bard free press

# new printing quotas cause frustration amongst students

by abhishek devi

Starting this semester, Bard is implementing a printing quota system billed as an effort to reduce paper waste on campus. The first step in this new system, set up last September, required students to swipe their ID card to print for data-collection purposes. Starting this spring, students now have an initial balance of \$37.50 for printing, which is gradually depleted.

Many students have expressed outrage at printing privileges being limited, and argued that the proposed quota is insufficient for printing needs. The move was also seen as unfairly extracting more money from students on top of existing costs.

In the new system, single-sided printed pages are charged five cents each, while double-sided prints cost nine cents, and scans half a cent. These costs work out to 750 single-sided or 833 double-sided printed pages a semester, or 7500 scans. New Henderson, Stevenson Library and the CSS Library have all implemented the new system. It has yet to be introduced in Old Henderson, the Campus Center and other locations with older printers.

Students who exceed their quota can purchase extra pages at the Student Accounts Office. 200 additional copies cost \$10, placed on the students' FLEXprint account.

Jeff Katz, Dean of Information Services, says the new system has come after many discussions with administrators and student groups about a new paper-reduction policy on campus. Discussions around the new system were first reported in the April 2011 issue of the Free Press.

Before the quota system, "Students would often print hundreds of pages of unnecessary material without even considering printing duplex, or would forget their print outs and leave them...to be thrown away," Katz said.

Defending the new initiative, Katz pointed out that at least 150,000 sheets of paper—the equivalent of 18 trees—were wasted each semester prior to recent measures. The administration's solution was to give an allotment to students each semester and charge them for printing beyond that allotment. Deciding on an appropriate allotment was difficult, according to Katz. Administrators looked to other colleges with similar systems, and contacted them for suggestions.

"While there was an extreme variation between colleges, 90% of the other similar colleges that we looked at charge for printing, and our subsidies are among the highest," Katz said.

Since the installment of the swipe system last semester, Katz reports that there has been a dramatic decrease in pa-

per waste, along with better service and improved print quality. The swipe system gave the students the ability to track their print queue and cancel any accidental print jobs. This first phase saw a generally positive response from most students.

Students, however, have had a mixed response to the second phase of the plan. Some agree that the new initiative is more eco-friendly and will reduce unnecessary printing, thereby decreasing their carbon footprint.

"Before, like others, I used to print an entire book without giving it much thought," said Zana Chan, a senior and Mathematics major. "But now I print judiciously and try to limit myself to the quota by using my Kindle and laptop during the class."

Students in printing-heavy classes argue the new quota is too small for their needs.

"I just spent \$6 on just two days of my readings; at this rate the quota will not even last a month," said junior Elissa Fitterman. "Taking [my] laptop to the class is not an option for me either, [because] some of my professors forbid students from using laptops during the class."

Students involved in clubs or TLS projects may be the earliest victims of the initiative, along with seniors. Sophomore Rory Mondshein thinks that students who require extra printing for extra-curricular work should be given a higher quota - otherwise the system will make these extra responsibilities harder. Mondshein argues that setting an arbitrary policy and forcing students to follow it is not the right way to educate students about environmental consciousness.

"Charging for printing might sting to the students, but it has dramatically started reducing waste," Katz said. "At the end, it just bogs down to whether students are willing to change [their] habits and make choices to limit their printing."

The administration considers this a test run and said they may alter the current allotment for everyone - or for select groups, like seniors. However, according to Katz, changes for students according to their majors would be unlikely; it would be difficult to track students who switch majors, he noted. As for club heads, Katz recommends that they use the printers in Student Activities Office, which can be paid for separately using their club's account.

There are also plans to divert the resources saved from this initiative to make all of Bard's dorms wireless and to start providing color printing - at higher rates - and laptop-enabled printing. The college is also moving towards introducing the printing system on other parts of campus.

## PRICES JACKED UP IN DOWN THE ROAD AND MANOR

by lexi echelman

Price increases and changes to the meal swap system at Manor and Down the Road cafes have prompted frustration and outrage amongst many Bard students. The changes were put into effect after the conclusion of Citizen Science, surprising many as upperclassmen returned to campus. Chartwells, the dining services provider on campus, has defended the reformed point system, arguing that it is beneficial for both the company and the student body.

The cost of most items at the cafes shot up this semester - an increase which Chas Cerulli, Director of Dining Services, defends as inevitable in a market economy. "Once the general cost of food increases [in markets nationwide], the prices at Bard have to increase as well," explained Cerulli.

As a result of price increases, the system for points and meal swaps has also been altered. Most beverages are now worth too many points to fit into a meal swap with most food options. Only bottled water and Izze Sparkling Juice, a new option this semester, are priced to fit into a typical 12-point meal swap.

Freshman Laya Kayas, who eats four to five times at Manor and six to seven times at DTR each week, has found these changes a daily frustration.

"Since the drinks are more expensive, it is harder to fit them in with a meal plan now, and that is frustrating,"

she said.

Senior Amith Gupta, who eats at Manor every morning, is equally unhappy.

"I simply don't think that it's fair for a small breakfast at Manor to be so expensive," he said. "It does not exactly help me get through my day."

Many students also rejected the notion that the new point system is a mutually beneficial deal for Chartwells and students.

Cerulli pointed to new products such as Izzes as an attempt at compromise. "[Though] the price increases at Manor and DTR were a necessary change, we added new items that...work [more effectively] within the meal swap system," Cerulli said. He argued that Izzes not only costs less for Chartwells, but are already a popular item amongst most students. An Izze fits more easily on a meal swap than the Lipton Iced Teas and Tropicana fruit juices that DTR also offers.

The real intent behind the change is to correlate the price of items to their profitability for Chartwells, as the company needs to stay on par with its profit margins from previous semesters.

Some students, like sophomore Ismary Blanco, have no issue with the new point system. Blanco frequents DTR six times a week. She understood that Chartwells has to adjust to the market economy, and feels that the

new prices are not too high.

Junior Brandon LaBord, however, has mixed feelings about the changes at DTR and Manor. His complaints about this system stem from meal swaps' lack of flexibility.

"College students tend to be really busy and active, and I think that Chartwells' limited choices prevent students from obtaining the nutrition they need," LaBord said. He noted, however, that employees at Down the Road and Manor are not indifferent to this issue, and try to work with students individually to address it.

Sophomore Dee Cao dislikes the new Izze drink and feels that fountain Iced Teas are not an adequate trade-off. She is also unhappy with the disappearance of the Lipton Pure Leaf Iced Tea, a further limiting of options.

Cerulli intends to add improved Lipton fountain beverages to Manor and DTR that have an equivalent point value to bottled water and Izze. This planned change would not provide as large a variety of tea flavors as bottles.

"Food is personal," Cerulli said. "That's the issue.... Though I am fiscally responsible for Chartwells," he continued, "being a long standing member of the Bard community I am dedicated to the students here and the services that we provide."



# BARD INTRODUCES MBA PROGRAM IN SUSTAINABILITY

by leela khanna

The Bard Center for Environmental Policy, or CEP, recently celebrated the launch of a new academic program that will offer graduate students a Masters of Business Administration degree in Sustainability. The graduate program, which will take place in New York City, begins Fall 2012.

The MBA program will provide a rigorous business education based on the idea of helping corporations reduce their ecological footprint and restore the environment through innovative efforts.

"The real motivating factor behind this program is that we need a new business model, and we need new businesses and people that can protect and restore the planet," said Eban Goodstein, Director of Bard's MBA in Sustainability and the CEP.

The CEP already offers two Masters degrees, one in Environmental Policy and another in Climate Science and Policy, which engage students in the public policy realm of initiating strategies centered on enforcing green technologies and green habits.

"The two degrees Bard CEP offers [have] students help governments at the state and national level, corporations in their internal policies, and NGOs change the rules of the game," said Goodstein. "But the MBA program is really designed for people who want to play the game and figure out how to build companies that are financially stable while reducing ecological impact."

The two-year program is unique in that it is structured around low-residency weekend intensives that allow students to work 30 hours per week while taking classes. Intensives last from Friday to Monday once a month, and online classes are twice a week. Another unique aspect of the course is the New York City lab, where first-year students engage in consultancies for companies as well as government and non-government agencies in New York City.

"We have two visions," Goodstein said. "The first is that we really want to engage students in understanding how to start sustainable enterprises and how to transform existing companies around the vision of sustainability. But we also want to have an impact on business education globally by first being successful in New York City."

Over the past few decades, corporations have begun to slowly move towards more

environmentally friendly practices, working to find a balance between making profit and reducing their ecological footprint.

"I think 90 percent of the sustainability actions corporations are taking is sustainability-like, saving some water and energy here and there. Only 10 percent is serious sustainability, trying to figure out how they are going to radically transform the business world. Our goal is to really make that 10 percent go up to 100 percent. That is the purpose of our program," said Goodstein.

One of the companies Goodstein believes is taking the right steps towards sustainability is the company Ecovative Design, which has designed packaging material out of organic mushroom fungi to replace non-biodegradable Styrofoam.

"Styrofoam is a really horrible thing made out of petroleum, that will last 10,000 years and you really only want to use it for two weeks," Goodstein said. "This new organic fungi design is really the kind of incredible, innovative thinking that is at the heart of sustainability."

A generous grant of \$575,000 from the Margaret A. Cargill Foundation played a large role in helping launch the MBA program as well as new research and learning initiatives for the Bard CEP.

"It's been a very Bard-like experience, which means it took a year to launch the program. Most places are bogged down with committees for years evaluating things, but at Bard, we say 'That's a good idea, let's go for it,'" Goodstein says.

Goodstein expressed the urgency of initiating sustainability practices now.

"In 30 years the world may be four degrees to 12 degrees hotter," he said. "To put these numbers into perspective, during the Ice Age when Bard was covered in about 1,000 feet of ice, the world was only nine degrees colder than it is now."

"The big idea behind this program is that your generation has an immense amount of work to do," he went on. "You've got to rewire the entire world with clean energy. Redesign every city on Earth, re-imagine the global food system, and reinvent transportation. How are we going to meet the needs of nine million people in the world without a new business paradigm?"

## NEW INTERNET POLICY

by david giza

All Bard undergraduates received an email Oct. 27 outlining a system of reprisal for Internet violations on campus. The email made it clear that the school is taking a firm stance on the use of Bard's Internet connections for illegal downloads, file-sharing and copyright infringement. This message made it seem like this is a new problem, one that the school is just getting around to addressing. However, the reverse is actually true. "This is really not a new policy; it has been around for a while now," said User Services Manager Joe DeFranco.

"The section about Internet violations is right at the top of the official campus computing policies [page]," elaborated Dean of Information Services Jeff Katz. The official campus computing policies, readily available on [inside.bard.edu](http://inside.bard.edu), already include guidelines for acceptable Internet usage.

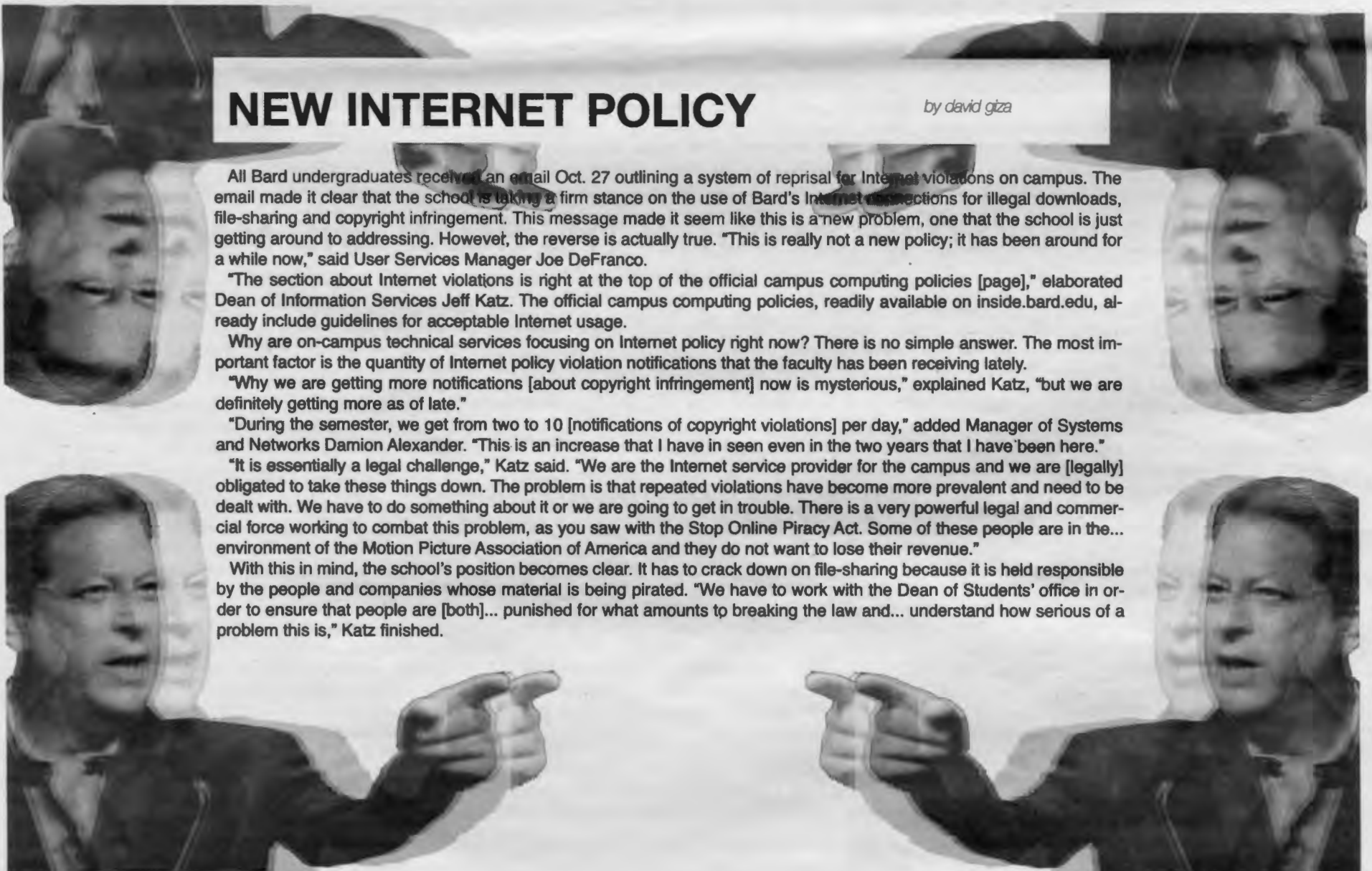
Why are on-campus technical services focusing on Internet policy right now? There is no simple answer. The most important factor is the quantity of Internet policy violation notifications that the faculty has been receiving lately.

"Why we are getting more notifications [about copyright infringement] now is mysterious," explained Katz, "but we are definitely getting more as of late."

"During the semester, we get from two to 10 [notifications of copyright violations] per day," added Manager of Systems and Networks Damion Alexander. "This is an increase that I have seen even in the two years that I have been here."

"It is essentially a legal challenge," Katz said. "We are the Internet service provider for the campus and we are [legally] obligated to take these things down. The problem is that repeated violations have become more prevalent and need to be dealt with. We have to do something about it or we are going to get in trouble. There is a very powerful legal and commercial force working to combat this problem, as you saw with the Stop Online Piracy Act. Some of these people are in the... environment of the Motion Picture Association of America and they do not want to lose their revenue."

With this in mind, the school's position becomes clear. It has to crack down on file-sharing because it is held responsible by the people and companies whose material is being pirated. "We have to work with the Dean of Students' office in order to ensure that people are [both]... punished for what amounts to breaking the law and... understand how serious of a problem this is," Katz finished.



## NEW GAME ROOM DUBBED 'BARDIAN LOUNGE'

by Owen Duff



photo by Anna Daniszewski // Bard Free Press

On Tuesday, February 9, the Student Activities Committee unveiled its latest project: the newly renovated "Bardian Lounge" on the second floor of the Campus Center. While the room still serves essentially the same purpose, providing a comfortable space both for relaxation and study, it has been refurbished with a new sofa, lounge chairs, a bench, and even a small library.

The project was spearheaded by Cara Black, a member of the Student Activities Committee and chair of Student Life Committee. Though her plan originally was to bring 24 hour accessibility to the Campus Center and library, the recent acts of vandalism at New Robbins and across campus prompted the administration to cancel those projects. As an alternative, it was suggested that the Committee instead make use of preexisting student spaces.

Taking up this idea, Black spent the past semester redesigning the TV lounge in close co-operation with the school administration, who she says did "whatever she wanted." Tom Carpenter and the employees of B&G also lent their services to the project.

Black was allocated a significant budget of \$8000, the majority of which came from the school's laundry fund, managed by Taun Toay, Executive Assistant to the Executive Vice President. The laundry fund draws from Bard's on-campus laundry service

profits, and in recent years has been allocated to public works, such as Black's renovation project.

Black made full use of her budget, purchasing most of the new furniture online from Pottery Barn, Modern Office Furniture, and One Purple Frog. The TV lounge's original decor has been replaced with more modern boutique furnishings, including a dark mahogany table with rolling desk chairs. Among other noteworthy additions is a new set of adult-sized beanbag chairs with matching footrests.

There was a general sense of approval at the opening as students curiously tested out the new furniture, relaxing on the couch and watching television or examining books from the new library. One student remained seated in one of the bean bag chairs for the duration of the evening.

The reception of the lounge's new design was generally positive, though students were most outspoken in their appreciation of the room's improved smell. The odor of the lounge (both past and present) was a frequent topic of conversation, with praise for its new smell matched almost equally by unanimous denunciation of its former taint of DTR.

Still, the real question facing the Bardian Lounge seems to be whether or not it will be able to avoid a reversion to its squalid origins. For all of the lounge's tasteful redecoration, the question still looms: has the Student Activities Committee simply provided a more expensive set of furniture for

people to soil with Chipotle mayo and various bodily fluids?

Black thinks not. While she recognizes that the success of the Bardian Lounge will depend on more than a new collection of armchairs and sofas, she points out that the best way to win a group's respect for a public space is to make that space feel "like a home." Black, who is among those affected by the New Robbins vandalism fine, sees the issue of public defacement as a question of ownership and belonging. If students do not feel that they belong to a space, Black argues, they are less likely to respect it.

With the Bardian Lounge, Black hopes to provide the student body with a space worth caring about—a public space, that is, worth turning into a home. To enhance this sense of belonging and "campus unity" Black also had the idea of framing pictures of Bard alumni in the lounge. Photographs were donated by artists Peter Aaron '68 and Fred Greenspan '75. Helene Tieger '85, Bard's resident archivist, helped Black compile a collection of old Bardian magazine covers which Black intends to turn into a collage for the room.

Whether or not Black's renovations will foster the "campus unity" she is looking for remains to be seen. Members of the SAC, though, report that this is only the first of many efforts on their part to "improve student space."



### NEWS BRIEF:

## STEVENSON GYM CONSTRUCTION ON SCHEDULE

Construction on the expansion of the Stevenson Gym, which broke ground on October 29th of last year (during Parent's Weekend), is continuing on schedule thanks to a mild winter.

"The lack of snow and warm temperatures have helped," confirmed Kristen Hall, Director of Athletics. Thanks to the weather, an unveiling at the 2012 Commencement for the new complex is a possibility.

"It would be amazing and a great presentation if it were done by commencement," Hall said hopefully.

by Joey Sims

# LAUNDRY LAUNDERING

by avery lamb



photo by camilla sorbal // bard free press

Students across Bard Campus have taken to outlets such as social media and the Student Union to demand changes to the coin-operated laundry system currently used on campus.

The current system is washed up, these students say, and Bard ought to upgrade it immediately.

Freshman Eric Arroyo initiated the conversation online in early January. He suggested that a school as expensive as Bard should consider making laundry complimentary.

"With vending machines that eat your money," Arroyo posted on Facebook, "high-end tuition, and pricey selections at DTR and Manor, I'm sure Bard can deal with a minor reduction in its income."

Approximately forty students 'Liked' the initial post, and twenty-five posted in response over the next 72 hours. All students that commented favored somehow altering or minimizing the cost of a load of laundry.

Students agreed that the amount of money they pay for laundry is probably double what it should be. A student living at Bard who does laundry biweekly at \$3.00 a load will end up spending \$45 a year. That is assuming that each student does one load at a time, the machines do not eat their quarters, and after one cycle in the washer and dryer, the clothes are clean. This is often not the case, students noted; machines often leave clothes dirty and almost never dry them entirely.

Freshman Yaesmin Akturk posted that she would not mind paying for one wash and dry, but that "putting one load in the dryer three to four times is insane, and all too common." Because of inadequate dryers, freshman Charles Henahan pegged the actual cost of one load of laundry at \$4.50.

"My only complaint is that the laundry service doesn't seem to have enough maintenance, especially considering how much one wash and dry costs," Henahan said.

Many students end up lugging duffel bags of dirty clothes home on weekends and vacations to avoid the cost. Freshman Justin Orf is one of many students that circumvent the fee by bringing laundry home.

"Personally," Orf said, "I'm not in as tight a spot because I come from pretty close by, but obviously most

people don't have it that easy. And even so, I'd much rather do my laundry here than have to lug a few bags of dirty clothes home all the time."

Students have been vocal about possible solutions at Student Union meetings and online. Sarah Bechtel, a freshman, suggested minimizing or eliminating laundry costs for students on financial aid. Antonia Perez, also a freshman, proposed a system that would eliminate the cost of washing, while maintaining the fee for dryer use. Students could then save a significant sum if drying racks were installed in the dorms or clotheslines constructed outside. This alternative system would also reduce energy costs.

Many students proposed a swipe card system to replace quarters, with students having the ability to maintain and replenish a "laundry account" on their Bard IDs.

"It's the same concept as using printers," freshman Megan Snyder said, "in many schools, you get so many free swipes (swipes that come with room and board), and any additional swipes cost you."

Cara Black, a junior and head of the Student Life Committee, is familiar with the laundry debate. Several years ago, Black said, the machines were "horrible, severely energy insufficient, [and] ugly" things that generated constant complaints.

Black worked to replace all previous washers and dryers with more energy-efficient substitutes. She said she tried to convince the administration to go coinless in 2010 when the laundry contract expired, but unfortunately she was met with resistance.

"The administration absolutely does not want to do the card swipe," Black said. "They said it is enormously expensive, and they would rather spend it on other things that they feel are more important."

All across campus, however, many students feel that the administration must do something concrete. The system will have to change, these students say, if the rattle and hum of the college's laundry machines continues to empty its students' wallets.

Freshman Andrew Campoli summed up many students' frustrations: "There is obviously a problem if the majority of students can't afford to do their own laundry."



## NEWS BRIEF:

photo by anna daniszewski/bard free press

## CHANGES @ KLINE

by anushka mehrota

This semester, the students have returned to Kline to find its new wing completed. They also found another small but significant change - new oval plates.

"Toward the end of last semester, we were once again getting low in plates as students continued to remove wares from Kline without returning them" Chas Cerulli, Director of Dining Services, explained. "So I decided to temporarily use the plates that we use at the Spiegel tent in the summer."

To Cerulli's surprise, students responded well to the new plates. Students especially liked that there are now two sizes of plates to choose from. Additionally, they are more durable than the original plates. Cerulli says that moving forward Kline will be transitioning from the original round plate to the oval style platter.

# BARDIVERSE

## NOT AN ORDINARY SEMESTER ABROAD

by saim saeed

When I went abroad to study at Central European University (CEU) in Budapest, Hungary, I was originally expecting to have a stereotypical semester: weekend jaunts to Vienna, bad Eurotrash blaring in clubs full of people people wearing too much cologne and everyone (myself included) vomiting on the streets at four in the morning. This idyllic image of mine changed, however, once I started looking up information about Hungary. What I found out had been going on before I arrived was quite different from my expectations.

Hungary held elections in 2010 during which the center-right party, Fidesz, won a 2/3 majority in Parliament and therefore had the required number of seats to pass a new constitution. This in and of itself is fine. However, the amendments that they have made and the changes that they have brought—even outside of the work that they have done on the constitution—have fundamentally changed Hungary's political culture for the worse.

Fidesz brought the central bank under the purview of Parliament, so that they could hire and fire officials as they please. They did something similar with the judicial branch, forcing 200 judges out of office by inventing (and enforcing) a new retirement age. These measures are significant not only in scope but also in the precedent they set. Independent institutions that are free from the auspices of Parliament are integral to a healthy democracy. Americans understand the need for checks and balances more than anybody else. Under this new Hungarian government, the number of checks and balances has been significantly reduced. Unsurprisingly for a government attempting to be autocratic, Fidesz passed new media laws as well, culminating in the closure of Hungary's most popular opposition radio channel, Klubradio.

So let's look at the list again. No free and independent judicial branch—check. High inflation due to Parliament's meddling with monetary policy, bringing Hungary to the brink of economic collapse—check. Stifling of free and dissident expression—check. So far so good. But that's only the tip of the iceberg.

Populism has also reared its ugly head (as it is wont to do) in the wake of the government's attempt to push through these reforms. Even though Hungary is dependent on the European Union and International Monetary Fund to provide debt relief and loans to make sure Hungary doesn't default on its debt (which is

the highest in Europe, at 80% of GDP), its leaders—Viktor Orban, the Prime Minister, in particular—have made Euro-bashing a national sport. Just this week, in the State of the Nation address, he said, "Let's follow our own hearts [and] ignore Europe." By alluding to the slave-like dependency that Hungary had on the Soviet Union in the past, Orban has been mobilizing Hungarians to view the EU the same way—and it's working. A few weeks ago, I got caught up in the largest rally since Fidesz's ascension to power. 100,000 pro-government supporters walked up Budapest's most famous street towards Parliament holding signs featuring a photoshopped Viktor Orban. Other signs read "EU=USSR" and generally displayed signs of overt Hungarian nationalism.

Another of Fidesz' easy and effective but morally repugnant moves has been to speak darkly about immigration. Minorities such as the Roma (gypsies) are already treated like second-class citizens, and it's always been easy to blame such groups and their high unemployment rates for being a drain on the welfare state. Ironically, however, Hungary is suffering more from emigration than immigration right now: many Hungarians are leaving to find better job opportunities in neighboring countries.

More ominously, there's an exhibition in the Hungarian National Gallery displaying paintings commissioned by the Prime Minister himself, an artistic display that is strikingly similar to the nationalist paintings in Italy and Germany during the 1930s [see images at right].

So where does this leave us? The students at the Bard-CEU program here are witnessing a crucial moment in Hungary's history, a moment that still isn't over yet. There's political upheaval in the air, and the students in the program are lucky to be living through it, putting all our petty pictures in front of monuments and our shopping escapades in perspective—and to shame. I'm glad for that, because I really didn't want to write stuff about CEU that would have felt at home in a stereotypical study abroad brochure.

Which isn't to say that I haven't been enjoying the city. Budapest is beautiful, and no one place in it more so than the colossal neo-Gothic parliament building. But it's tragic that, in a building so beautiful, the Hungarian parliament is enacting policies that are so ugly.



### what's this?

Bardiverse is a new section. Each issue will feature stories from one of Bard's many satellite institutions. This section will reflect Bard's growing status as the mother-ship guiding a fleet of academic institutions which carry our unique mission.

photos courtesy of bard college archives and jennifer may // bard publications



## CITIZEN SCIENCE RECEIVES MIXED REVIEWS

by zappa graham

The first run of Citizen Science received less than positive reviews from most students. As a first-year student, some warned me that I was in for three weeks of hypothermia and eighth-grade level science. Citizen Science came to a close with first-years undecided as to whether Bard's new science-oriented program, in its current state of development, is worth exchanging the latter half of their six-week intersession for.

I largely support the program's spirit, and I really appreciate the effort that the faculty and administration have put into improving certain aspects of the program since its inception. However, my experience and the conversations I have had over the past three weeks revealed various shortcomings both in the classroom and the lecture hall.

The first thing I noticed in class was how little our instructors expected of us. We could tell in the tone of her voice. This had a considerable impact in my classroom, but it showed itself in different ways from class to class. I spoke to students whose instructors told them that readings were optional, a statement that immediately reduces engagement with the material and splits discussions into two camps: those who read and those who did not. Other students read packets of articles en masse. These differences often correlated with whether or not instructors were part of Bard's in-session faculty.

Challenge was simply lacking. "I was wasted for six nights in a row," one anonymous student said. "I should not be able to do that and go to class every morning."

I received four packets, the Citizen Science "anthology," over the course of three weeks, and, regrettably, was assigned a total of three nights of reading, although a few

students had reading nightly. As readings are given at the instructor's discretion, it would be wiser to provide readings online. That was so many pages wouldn't go to waste.

Compared to the average level of work when the regular semesters are in session, the required effort during Citizen Science was laughable. It left one wondering if those with science backgrounds were considered before asking the entire freshman class to attend. Many students from this group described the program as disrespectful of time that could have been used for more productive work, although Eric Reed, a sophomore who experienced Citizen Science last year as a first year and this year as a lab assistant, pointed out, "You won't hear from the kids that found it hard."

The program failed to achieve "collaborative learning at its core," as promised by President Leon Botstein. On one hand, the lab module achieved some level of collaboration and I really appreciate the experience I acquired. Yet smaller classes would create a more vibrant classroom environment.

"That's something we've been thinking about, something we have been hearing," said one professor, Stephanie Stockwell, said. "It has to do with lab space" at the Reem-Kayden Center, she added. It's hard to do smaller class sizes.

The number of students per class should be halved, and labs should be shared. This way, students would be able to engage in more meaningful discussion in a round table format, in the manner of the Language and Thinking program.

I had varied experiences with the smorgasbord of lectures that were given. Student attendance at the lectures at Sos-

noff was embarrassingly low. It was torturous to sit in the immense hall, among only 100 students, scattered along the rows farthest from the stage. I can't imagine how it feels for the speaker. This reflects very poorly on Bard, especially considering the exceptional quality of most of these lectures. The faculty talks, however, were frustrating.

"I talked to my friends who were there and they said that... the talks went straight over their heads," said freshman Marissa Shadburn.

Five talks took place in a 150-minute stretch. While it is understandably difficult for a scientist to distill their work into simple terms, there could have been a bit more effort to make these talks accessible to students who, allegedly, had very little scientific background. The difficulty of these talks stood in ironic contrast to low classroom expectations.

The most fundamental criticism of Citizen Science is curricular in nature. When professors must tackle all aspects of infectious disease in three weeks, depth is lost. For the best results, instructors should be able to teach at their discretion whatever material they feel most comfortable with inside the confines of the program's theme.

Leon Botstein, President of Bard College, and others in the administration have given a tall order, but Citizen Science has yet to become one of Bard's trademarks. Clearly, efforts have been made to improve the program, as displayed by the number of faculty who requested formal evaluations (one-third of the 23 instructors, according to Stockwell). Yet, the verdict on Citizen Science 2012 can be conveyed in one word: inconsistent.

## CIVIC ENGAGEMENT DAY: A WORK IN PROGRESS

by helen bendix

Nearly the entire freshman class volunteered for various local organizations during Bard's second-ever "Civic Engagement Day," which took place during Citizen Science.

The list of organizations including but are not limited to Habitat for Humanity, the Girl Scouts, the Queen's Galley Soup Kitchen.

"There's lots of room for growth," said Erin Cannan, Associate Director of the Center for Civic Engagement and Dean of Student Affairs, "but I think it went really well."

Some students, though, remain ambivalent. "You didn't really know what you're signing up for," said freshman Abraham Mahallati, who volunteered at Habitat for Humanity spin-off ReStore in Hudson. After signing up before winter break, most students reported having little idea of where they would be going or what they would be doing when the day arrived. Also, the overbooking of some of the more popular opportunities—Planned Parenthood and the Queen's Galley Soup Kitchen, for instance—led to some last-minute reshuffling.

Some Civic Engagement activities lasted only two hours and others all day. Participants in some of the shorter activities felt less satisfied with the experience. They said they might have chosen a longer-lasting activity had they been aware that it was an option. Freshman Elisa Caffrey described her time at the Ulster County Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals as "petting kittens for two hours." She

said she enjoyed it, but she did not feel particularly useful.

The attendance rate at this year's Civic Engagement Day was nearly one hundred percent—twice as many people as expected based on last year's turnout of around 50%. There are several possible reasons for this increase, according to Cannan. For one thing, this year's Citizen Science schedule was far more lenient than last year's. Also, though participation in Civic Engagement Day wasn't strictly mandatory, many people believed it was required for successful completion of the program.

While feedback from the volunteered-for programs is still being gathered, some, like Big Brother, Big Sister, have already responded enthusiastically and are looking to create long-term relationships with the college. Cannan cited statistics showing that college students who take part in civic engagement express higher satisfaction with their college experience. She hopes students who have an interest in participating in more such opportunities will contact the Center for Civic Engagement with ideas.

Cannan described Civic Engagement Day as a "reorientation" after the first semester, to help students discover and contribute to the local community. Many participating seemed to be on the same page as Cannan, expressing appreciation for the opportunity to volunteer.

Lissy Darnell, who worked on a local farm for the day, laments that there are not enough volunteering opportunities

readily available. "We could start a soup kitchen club!" she suggested. Otherwise, she was thrilled by the experience: "I felt like I was actually being useful," she said. Many other participants, such as freshmen Emily Parker and Natalie Marshall, shared her sentiments.

In addition to Civic Engagement Day, students also participated in a civic engagement program with five local school districts during the computer module of Citizen Science. Though it seems to have made less of an impact on the students than Civic Engagement Day (many had to be reminded of its existence in interviews) most report that they enjoyed it—though, again, the organization left a little to be desired.

For Cannan and Brooke Jude, Director of Citizen Science, this program was almost more important than Civic Engagement day. They noted that several local school districts are in need of more scientific education than they can afford, and Bard's vast resources can benefit them. The organizing process for next year's work with the schools will start this semester.

On the whole, Civic Engagement Day seems to have been well-received, though understood by all to be a work in progress. "If I were to describe it in one sentence," said Habitat for Humanity volunteer Corinna Cape, "I would say I burned a lot of calories and the people were extremely friendly."

# WHY STUDENTS TRANSFER ROTTEN CAMPUS CULTURE SOWS SEEDS OF DISCONTENT

by j.p. lawrence

Luke Brossman came to Bard College last fall a Colorado boy enamored with the idea of college on the East Coast. He brought a banjo, a guitar and those high school dreams of finding friends that last a lifetime.

Bard had drawn him in with promises of its top-notch academics, its sense of individuality, and its proximity to the New York City. Brossman only went to the big city once, with his aunt, before deciding to transfer.

This spring semester, Brossman will begin his education at the University of Puget Sound near Tacoma, Wash. Bard's registrar's office said they do not keep exact figures on the number of transfers, but official records report that 12% of Bard students will drop out or transfer during their career at Annandale - a number that reached 26% as recently as 2005, according to Forbes Magazine.

These students usually transfer for a number of reasons. A desire to be closer to home. Academic and athletic programs. Money.

But over and over again, a common element emerges at the source of each student's story: a little seed of discontent that grows with every smile rebuffed, every nod ignored, every morning greeting dismissed with a quick look away.

Brossman, tall and gangly and eager to please, almost to a fault, said he didn't find many friends his first few months at Bard. It was an experience he shared with many students who transferred

Sophomores and upperclassmen tend to leave Bard to pursue specific academic programs, while freshman transfer for many reasons, Nohlgren said, such as money, grades or loneliness.

Nohlgren spends hours each semester talking to freshman who are homesick or don't feel like they fit in. Her goal, she said, was not to convince them to stay, but to find out what they want but can't find at Bard. Often, students pine for things that come only with time or are already on campus: a group, a sport, a class or a club.

"Often it's not the place they're having a hard time with: it's their perspective of a place," Nohlgren said. "If they're looking for a lot of things that are here, but they don't know about it, then I try to steer them in that direction."

Maya Lang, a student who transferred to Yeshiva in the middle of her freshman year, did not talk to Nohlgren very much. Looking back, she said she wishes she had.

A quiet girl with black frizzy hair, Lang came to Bard from France with dreams of going to medical school. Like many Bard students, she first began thinking about transferring during L&T. She went home for Thanksgiving, where her family told her it was much more likely she would get into med school if she left Bard.

Lang came back convinced. She filled out the withdrawal form, requested her transcripts - it was easy. "You just speak with Bethany, and then you leave, come back and bring back the paper,"

sively with her boyfriend from high school. "I felt isolated," Imbascani said. "Maybe I built it up too much."

She came back home to Staten Island, where two days a week, she'd attend school at Brooklyn College. Four days a week, she'd also take the 90-minute commute to Manhattan. There she worked at a Footlocker, watching people run on treadmills and telling them what shoes to buy. Her days were tiring but unrewarding.

One day she realized she hadn't sat and read a book in weeks. "I just missed being challenged," Imbascani said, "and I had a feeling I would never get what I was getting at Bard from Brooklyn."

Bard's academic programs and individual attention are the biggest reasons students come back, said Lora Seery, also an Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Engagement, and when they do, Bard makes the process as easy as possible.

Seery, who meets with sophomores who want to transfer out and students who want to transfer in, said she remembers one student who left Bard for a large state institution. After two days of classes, he showed up at her door and asked to transfer back. "He graduated last year," she said.

In Seery's mind, everything other than academics - the social scene, the athletics and extra-curricular activities - can be addressed. Many students, however, said they were satisfied academically. It was the culture that got them in the end.

"There's no reason for people to care about another student at this school," Bruce said.

"Could you think of one reason to get all 2000 students at this school together and have them all excited about that one thing? Not even 2000 - 500? 400? 200?"

from Bard. The students the Free Press spoke to said they found Bard's campus culture "stifling," "cliquey," and "boring," a place where antisocial and unfriendly students formed small, exclusive groups.

All students, to some extent, struggle to integrate into a new environment, but for many of the students who transferred, the constant chilliness took its toll.

Students like Michelle Strayer, who transferred at the end of her freshman year, said they felt isolated at Bard. Strayer considered herself outgoing and friendly, but said she simply could not connect with students at Bard. The students were aloof. Her interactions were always one-sided.

Strayer loved her classes, loved the teachers, the individuality. But within the first few weeks of classes she knew she wanted to transfer.

"Everyone assured me that the first semester was always hard and that I would find my niche," Strayer said.

But she didn't.

She knew for sure she needed to leave at the end of Thanksgiving break. After saying goodbye to her boyfriend at the time, she sat in the Penn Station and waited two hours for the Amtrak train back to Bard. She said she cried the entire time.

"The thing that upset me most," Strayer said, "was simply that I didn't want to return to Bard."

She spent Christmas break filling out applications to other colleges.

Bethany Nohlgren has heard many such stories. Every year, Nohlgren, Associate Dean of Student Affairs and Engagement, helps hold group and individual conferences for students thinking of transferring.

Lang said. When she came back to return it, no one was there to speak with her. "I just left it in an envelope."

Then Lang learned from her biology teacher that med schools didn't care where a student got their undergraduate degree. She was shocked. By this time, she had already delivered all her forms. She had ignored her grades. She had registered for a dorm room and paid her deposit.

She had also made friends, and she felt she might want to stay after all. But in the end, she chose Yeshiva University.

"No one gave me the information I needed to really look and ask around," Lang said. "I guess I went on my own."

Nohlgren said she is disappointed when she hears about transfers having bad experiences. She spends hours making transferring as painless as possible, helping students with paperwork and finding new schools.

Less than 50% of the students she talks to end up leaving, Nohlgren said. Bard students simply have a sense of wanderlust, a skepticism that leads them to question their futures.

Despite all this, Bard has a retention rate of 87%, which is typical for a liberal arts school.

A few students every year even come back.

Erica Imbascani, for instance, found the grass outside Bard not as green as she hoped. Imbascani, who transferred at the end of freshman year, came back this fall.

A Staten Island guidette prone to dying her hair purple, Imbascani had her heart set on Bard since her sophomore year of high school. But then she got to Bard and, like many other former students, didn't fit in. She found herself hanging out exclu-

Anna Millard, for example, was a brash Bard theater major, resident of Tewksbury Hall, and wholesale subscriber to the Bard ethos. But looking back, her time at Bard was drug-filled and miserable: the same day repeated ad nauseam. Nights of just following the crowd, drinking recklessly out of boredom, all to disastrous results. "I felt like a lot of people at Bard are very depressed," Millard said, "or maybe misery just loves company."

Millard transferred at the end of the year to a school much nearer to home: Emory College, near Atlanta, Ga. There, she was amazed how happy everyone seemed to be.

Bard needs a happier campus, many former students said, a community to match its academics. Alaric Bruce said he grew tired of "awkward friction" whenever he tried to talk to someone new. Bruce yearned for the school pride he saw on other campuses, with their parties and barbecues and football games.

Bruce left for Clemson University in the middle of his sophomore year. He didn't say goodbye to many within his large circle of friends.

Brossman, for his part, vowed in the coming semester to be friendlier, to work harder on his grades, and to be better dressed. He said he brought too much to Bard. His banjo and half his clothing will stay in Colorado. He will also carry fewer expectations.

"I'm going to take things slowly - I'm not going to have as big of expectations as I did and take things as they come," Brossman said. "I'm just bringing the essentials. My clothing. A guitar. Some juggling equipment. And bedding."

## STUDENT GOVERNMENT BULLETIN

The Student Life Committee spent the majority of last semester redesigning the Game Room, newly renamed "The Bardian Lounge." Its grand opening took place on Tuesday, February 7th. The room includes a TV area, a group study table and a lounging area. It will also be home to the new "take and leave" library. Soon, the room will feature pictures of Bard students and campus architecture from the past 150 years. We hope you'll enjoy the new room.

Student Life Committee continues to seek out opportunities to improve student space on campus this semester. Anyone is welcome to help and to attend SLC meetings to share their ideas. Please contact Cara Black, Head of Student Life Committee, at [slc@bard.edu](mailto:slc@bard.edu) if you'd like to get involved.

Student Government would also like to continue the conversation regarding the increased quantity and severity of vandalism on campus. A community dinner will be held on February 23rd to discuss community-building initiatives, as well as issues regarding race, class and gender on Bard's campus. We want Bard to be a safe, accepting and friendly place. Anyone is invited to join these conversations by attending the community dinner, Student Government forums and contacting us via [vote@bard.edu](mailto:vote@bard.edu). Let's keep talking.

Thank you,  
Mackie Siebens  
*President of the Student Association*

The Educational Policies Committee is looking for new members to fill its three open seats. We need moderated juniors or seniors to fill one seat in the Division of Science, Mathematics and Computing and two seats in the Division of the Arts. This semester, we'll be writing evaluation reports on eight visiting professors and working on several projects related to academic affairs at Bard. If you're interested in running, come to Budget Forum on Wednesday, February 15 at 8pm.

We are also joining with the Center for Faculty and Curricular Development (CFCD) to host a panel discussion on academic advising at Bard. This is a joint student-faculty panel consisting of Zoë Ames, Steven Tatum, Karen Sullivan, and Swapam Jain. After the panelists discuss their views of advising at Bard, we will open the floor for discussion. The panel will take place on Thursday, February 23 at 5:30pm in Hopson Cottage (Admissions Building). We hope to see you there.

Thank you,  
Celia Feldman  
*Chair of the Educational Policies Committee*

## STUDENT UNION UPDATE

*by the student union*

The Student Union is an organization that seeks to empower both individual students and the community as a whole in this college's decision-making process. As a collection of individuals, student clubs and government members, we represent a vibrant cross-section of the student body. When it comes to common student concerns we endeavor to make our voices heard, and offer a forum for individual interests to be aired and acted upon.

We would like to recognize the efforts of our members and all of the students who participated in our "Do You Have a Bone to Pick?" forum that took place during Citizen Science. Initiatives that grew out of this meeting include increasing the amount of public art around campus, improving pedestrian walkways, and seeking sustainable co-op housing.

Our first meeting of the semester continued this conversation around public spaces and community development. In light of the new printing fees, a system for the centralized distribution of information is a priority for this semester. In addition to the Art Collective ([bardartscollective@gmail.com](mailto:bardartscollective@gmail.com)), other initiatives planned for this semester include a bike-share program, political direct action, and student space improvements. We plan to host a public forum in the next few weeks with Vice President of Administration Jim Brudvig to discuss Bard's finances. This represents an ongoing effort to include student voices in decisions affecting the long-term interests of the college.

Please don't hesitate to email [bardstudentunion@gmail.com](mailto:bardstudentunion@gmail.com) with comments or questions, or if you'd like to be included in our mailing list. All are welcome to attend our meetings and participate in our projects.

## CONNECTING RED HOOK AND BARD

*by megan towey*

I met Kimberley McGrath-Gomez, the Executive Director of the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce, in the Me-Oh-My Pie Shop and Cafe across from the shuttle stop. She wasn't surprised when I told her this was my first time in the cafe.

"Whenever I meet with a student, I try to take them to a place they might not have been before," McGrath-Gomez said. "There are so many great things about the village [that] people don't know about."

McGrath-Gomez is on a mission to bridge the gap between Bard and the community of Red Hook. She hopes by encouraging local businesses to open up to the student population, she can turn Red Hook into a "real college town."

"[Bard and Red Hook] have been living parallel lives for too long, with no mingling," McGrath-Gomez said. "There's a history of misunderstanding from both sides. We need to embrace what we have—an amazing college right in our backyard."

McGrath-Gomez said that students are the most consistent source of revenue for local businesses. In the current economic climate, Taste Budd's Cafe, Tiki Boutique and other businesses that cater to the Bard community are the most prosperous.

"Most of the clothes we sell here are directed towards Bard students," Tiki Boutique employee Jackson Kovachik said. He described the store as having a Bardian flair, selling mostly "vintage clothing, funky and cool stuff."

Michael Uccellini, the owner of Red Hook Natural Foods, felt that the notion of an antagonistic relationship between Bard and the community is outdated.

"Bard makes the community of Red Hook thrive," Uccellini said. "I think that any business that opens in Red Hook, if it doesn't cater to the students, doesn't have a chance at being successful."

However, there is still work to be done to integrate the two worlds. According to McGrath-Gomez, the goal is to get students familiarized with the village, starting with a Red Hook tour catered to students.

"Most of the time, [students] aren't comfortable getting out of the bubble," McGrath-Gomez said. "I can't believe it's taken this long. We have all these possibilities."

McGrath-Gomez used to live in Middlebury, Vt., another rural town that depends on a small college for business. Middlebury, which McGrath-Gomez considers to be more "lively" than Red Hook, is only one source of inspiration. The rest depends on feedback from the Bard community.

"We want to open up the world to the Bard students and build on what we have," McGrath-Gomez said. "What's missing? What do you want? I want to pull people together to make it happen."

Some Bard students wanted to see more restaurants that are accessible to college students. According to freshman Emma Robinson, Taste Budd's is not enough—though a quality cafe, Robinson says the prices are high and it is consistently crowded.

Making the restaurants more affordable for students by using meal plans is one way to bridge the gap, according to freshman Kelsey Welborn. Welborn is originally from Amherst, Mass., another rural college town.

"I know in Amherst, they have an off-campus meal plan where you can get food at local restaurants," Welborn said. "It would be cool if we had something like that."

Other students feel that there is a narrow selection of shops geared toward the college demographic. Freshman Frances Clark says that though she loves antique stores, she wishes Red Hook had more clothing shops.

"Whatever you want, we can make that happen here," McGrath-Gomez said. "Look at all the potential that's out there. Every vacancy is a possibility."

# VOLUNTEERING MONTH: BOOKS TO BRIDGE CULTURES

by ali muratkaliyev

Last February, a group of Bard College students became teachers in Oaxaca, Mexico for a month. The pupils were from Teotitlán de Valle, a Zapotec community. They were adults and children hungry to learn about Gmail, Facebook, Google and the English language.

"I'm going to get on Facebook", Kunaatxi Darani said excitedly as political studies major Myat Su San stood over her shoulder with his hand on the computer mouse. Señora Darani, a resident of Teotitlán and a third-generation tailor, said she was thrilled to finally get caught up on the Internet—a tool that will improve the accessibility of her business.

The opportunity to fight poverty in Oaxaca

can communities was offered and organized by non-profit organization Fundación en Vía. This trip was one of the programs that resulted from Bard's collaboration with Instituto Cultural Oaxaca (ICO), which offers language immersion programs and volunteering opportunities for students.

Nicole Caso, Professor of Latin American and Iberian Studies, accompanied the group to Mexico. Caso stressed to his students "the need to spend significant time outside our own borders, trying to integrate ourselves into a 'foreign' culture seems particularly important at this moment in our history." The objective was not only to immerse students into a different

culture but to give them a chance to contribute to Mexican residents.

"I guarantee you this month right here is going to stick in your brain," Evan Lamont, a sophomore, said, watching the parade near the street of Benito Juarez. "We can sip the essence of the language through a straw."

As students learned about Teotitlán residents, they helped them start or expand their small businesses and offered support for their successes. Señora Mitzari Nizaguie, a crafts-woman who works 12 hours every day in a homeless shelter in Colonia Reforma, shared hope with students about how to plan her future. Nizaguie spoke of the strength that her



faith in God and her recent thirst for knowledge had given her.

Sophomore Emma P. Horwitz, a creative writing major, said she understood that what seems basic to her might be harder to grasp for someone who had not grown up in an English-speaking environment.

"The things I have accomplished were uplifting," sophomore Nick Carbone said. "This trip taught me a lot of things. It was an inspirational month."

The sense of fulfillment and of having gained something invaluable from the experience was common among the students. Junior Matthew

Needleman expressed similar feelings after giving books to his students—15-year-old Andrea picked out a British edition of Paulo Coelho's "The Alchemist" and her friend chose a dark green "Grimm's Fairy Tales."

"Seeing my students' reaction to the new culture reminds me of how I felt when I was of their age," junior Matthew Needleman said. "Giving them books in my ancestors' language makes me feel happy."

Needleman's work, along with the other students on the trip, did not go unnoticed by the residents.

"It's a beautiful thing to volunteer their time,"

Alejandra Brijida, an unemployed mother of two from Velacruz, said. "We fell on hard times, and this year has been really hard for us. Today is probably going to be my children's best day."

Sophomore Liz von Klemperer said she liked volunteering because it forced her to interact with strangers. "The border is in your mind," Klemperer said. "It brings me out of my shell because I have to talk to the families."

After her pupils thanked her for her patience in explaining English idioms, senior Kandra Knowles, Latin American studies major, said, "I learned a lot about myself while teaching."



## CREEPY CORNER: BLITHEWOOD

by jessica merliss

It was 2:30 a.m. when my interview with Fred Kimlin, Bard Security Officer, ended in the lobby of Robbins Addition. I had spent the previous hour listening to Kimlin's various tales of paranormal activity in Blithewood and around campus. After all this talk, Kimlin was ready to see some ghosts. The second he offered I accepted. I was about to embark on a ghost hunt that would run until 5 a.m.

Many mysteries surround the history of Blithewood and the nature of the hauntings that have taken place there. Most shrug off the stories as common Bardian folklore, but ask a security officer or Aramark worker that is assigned the night shift and you will discover the truth. They have all seen unexplainable things and are shaken from these mishaps. Many refuse to even go inside of Blithewood alone when doing nightly rounds.

In 1835, John Cruger sold the property that the mansion is on to Robert Donaldson. Donaldson hired an architect and landscaper to design the house and garden. He cleverly named it Blithe Wood because the location made him happy. In 1853 they sold the house to Marg and John Bard. They renamed it Annandale.

They stayed there for a while, but Captain Andrew Zabriskie, a 19th-century Gary diMauro, if you will, bought it in 1899 and renamed it Blithewood (one word this time).

Zabriskie revamped the entire house and turned it into a 30-room Georgian mansion with an Italian garden.

Zabriskie had a wife named Francis, and two children, Julia and Christian. They spent half

of their time at Blithewood and the other half at their apartment on Fifth Avenue in New York City. When Julia was twelve years old, she fell out the window of their eleven story apartment building in the city. The family was devastated, but many believe that Captain Zabriskie actually pushed Julia out of the window. It is said that both the Captain and Julia haunt the grounds of Blithewood to this day. Julia never liked the City.

When Blithewood was a women's dormitory in the '80's, several disturbances were reported.

Donna Ford Grover, Visiting Associate Professor of Literature, attended Bard while Blithewood was a female dormitory. While staying in the mansion one night, she had a terrifying experience that was shared by many other students who lived there.

"I woke and saw a man wearing a jacket with epaulets staring out of the window," said Grover. "I knew I was awake because I thought he was real, and I was trying to figure out if I could make a run for it and get my friend out too who was sleeping in a bed across the room. Just as I was about to take off he disappeared.

"Also, there was a story that people were seeing these shadows everywhere," Grover said. "Rumor had it that the activity of the shadows was so intense several students asked for room changes."

Today, Blithewood still hosts a significant amount of paranormal activity. Several members of the school's security and Aramark team that work the night shift have witnessed chilling manifestations at the mansion.

Nothing ever happens during the daytime,

because the Blithewood ghosts reserve their mischief for nighttime. He told me that lights often go on and off. He tried to blame it on faulty wiring, but he knows that to be untrue. Every time he put a key in a doorknob in the mansion, it sparked. And every time we touched a doorknob, it shocked us.

"I eat lunch up here at around three in the morning in the parking lot and this happened to another security guard as well - separately from me," said Kimlin. "We both felt on several occasions that there was someone looking at us from the second story window in the corner. Like, a little person. She likes to mess with us."

One of Kimlin's co-workers, Bob Bathrick, also had some bizarre experiences within the mansion.

"I was walking down the hallway one night and I smelled a nice chicken dinner coming from the kitchen," Bathrick said. "It smelled real nice, man oh man. I had to go in the kitchen to check that out but there was nothing there."

Blithewood soon ceased to be a dorm to become the home of the Levy Economics Institute. I'd like to think, and will continue to tell people, that the change happened because of the threatening spirits that still haven't come to terms with their painful memories. They remain suspended in time within the mansion.

*If any of your are feeling adventurous and want to explore the grounds, I encourage you to stay away from the barn because it's filled with toxic bat guano.*



# CAMPUS CULTURE

john kisch '76 and brooks parsons '76 in their freshmen-year dorm room in tewksbury, 1972. photo courtesy of bard college archives.

## PHILIP GLASS SPEAKS ON COLLABORATION

by rebecca swanberg

Composer Philip Glass pulled on a cap and slung his backpack over his shoulder. Nodding goodbye to music professor Kyle Gann, he wove his way through the backstage paths from Theater Two in the Fisher Center to Sosnoff. At Sosnoff Theater, Glass stood at the backstage entrance to the stage, watching the Bard Conservatory Orchestra. After a few moments, President Botstein noticed the visitor and paused.

"Ladies and gentlemen," Botstein said, gesturing to the doorway, "Philip Glass."

The crowd of young Bard musicians applauded for Glass and, after a brief exchange, Glass nodded goodbye to Botstein and took his leave.

Safe in his car, Glass had just narrowly escaped the 200 enthusiastic students and faculty that poured out of Theater Two (T2) after watching his lecture on Feb. 7. In addition to the lucky few who got seats in T2, many more students jammed into Resnick Studio to listen to a live audio stream. Students arrived over an hour and a half early to win their spot in the theater and catch a glimpse of Glass.

The lecture that claimed to focus on the difference between composition for theater and for opera drew large crowds, but Glass strayed from the topic. Sitting opposite Gann, he spoke mainly of his use of collaboration in his pieces.

"Being a composer is part of a collective creative process," Glass said.

Glass began his career about 55 years ago when he was 20 years old. As a composer, he learned quickly that the best way to utilize his skills was to combine them with other artists' talents.

"Once you've elected to be in the arts, it is a world that is vibrant and nourishing," Glass said in his lecture. "We are fortunate to live in a time with so many talented people—the most interesting people are those who live [the artist's] life."

As a rule of thumb, Glass says he always switches up the collaborative team he works with. He may find new directors, authors or choreographers, but will always keep one person on the team who he has experience working with.

James Bagwell, the director of the music program at Bard, was recently a part of one of Glass' collaborative teams. In a project with the NY Philharmonic in November, Bagwell conducted Glass' famous 1982 soundtrack to Koyaanisqatsi. The production included the Philharmonic and the Philip Glass Ensemble, with Glass on keyboard. The film was projected simultaneously.

"[Glass] is always collaborating because he is a performer himself," Bagwell said. "His music works very well with visual elements and contributes so clearly to visual imagery. Any composer who writes for opera, ballet or film is automatically a collaborator."

Bagwell and Glass have future plans for collaboration as well; Bagwell will be conducting Another Look at Harmony – Part IV. Bagwell agrees that working with other artists is one of the most important parts of a musician's career. As a conductor, Bagwell says that everything he does is done in collaboration.

"I think to be a great composer you need to know as much as you can about other art forms—visual, film, theater—nobody should live in a bubble," Bagwell said. "They should try in every way to absorb all the different art forms and let that feed their work."

kyle gann (left) and philip glass (right), photo by karl rabe // bard publications



Glass began his collaborative work during his days at Julliard. At Bard, many students are also working in conjunction with other departments for their senior projects and recitals. Emily Cuk '11 directed a highly synergistic work for her senior project—a patchwork opera that stitched together vocalists, actors, dancers and instrumentalists. Cuk's end result included full costume and makeup, poetry, and art songs.

"I really like working with people to continue to push art or it begins to become stagnant, especially with opera which is often perceived to be inaccessible," Cuk said.

Cuk's project became more collective as it evolved—she found that the story became more approachable for audiences when she added a chorus, dancers, an atmosphere and poetry. This is something that Glass calls the "sublime synthesis"—music, movement, image and text. "Like earth, air, fire and water," Glass expressed. All of these aspects working at their highest level of function is the true goal of art—it will have the ability to reach more people.

"If you have a work that plays with dance, music, film—you will get more people with an interest and understanding of the piece," Cuk said.

According to Cuk, it is often very difficult to give up full control of one's piece. This was a problem she faced working with an artistic production team and performers who played a part in developing their own characters. Glass says that is a significant part of the process of collective work. A successful collaboration, Glass claims, is comprised of confidence, willingness to accept others' work on the terms that they are doing it and mutual respect.

"The more collaboration you experience, the more and more flexibility and empathy you bring to [a project]," Glass said. "We may have to overcome our own attachment to ourselves and our ideas, but to share a theatrical space means a lot of give and take."

For Cuk, collaborating with other departments required a lot of individual effort since the departments generally operate separately. According to Glass, however, it is the artist's responsibility to find and build these relationships with other young artists.

Glass stood outside of Fisher with his backpack resting on the ground beside him. He waited for his car to pull up and drive him away from yet another lecture filled with hundreds of students, musicians, admirers.

"You have a dance department at Bard," Glass said. "Find them. Find the people who want music, who need music. That's where it all began for me."

by grayling bauer

**GNU GNUs****THE ARTISTS FORMALLY KNOWN AS THE SLUMBER PLUMS**

It started last spring when Zach Taube and Gabe Adels, freshman residents of Keene South, started trekking out into the woods and playing guitar together. Sophomore Rufus Paisley soon added a bass to the group and the three started jamming together more and more frequently. Summer put the project on hold, but the members stayed in touch and grew ambitious of starting something more serious upon their return in the fall.

"I was driving up to Bard and I texted Rufus and was like, yo, let's try to make it actually happen," frontman Gabe Adels recalls. As soon as the three were back on campus they were already making music. Gabe had moved into the Feitler Vegan Co-Op, which gave them plenty of playing space, as well as the opportunity to meet fellow housemate, sophomore Matt Norman who soon became their drummer. The band was complete, and they called themselves Slumber Plums.

Gabe had been writing and making music for some time already, so he had an abundance of content for the band to try out. Gradually more and more songs were created out of long, freeform jam sessions, and by October the band was playing their first show at SMOG.

They call their music Punk Pop (not to be confused with Pop Punk), but they acknowledge that that title doesn't quite do enough justice. When asked about their influences, they are quick to shout, "Weezer!" Lead guitarist Zach Taube cites Joey Santiago of the Pixies, calling him a "really super guitarist." Gabe also says he likes Fleetwood Mac. Needless to say, the band takes on an eclectic sound. Their poppiness makes their sound fun, but there's a dirty, heavy rock element in there that makes you want to bang your head ever so slowly. In their song "Love," plenty of lyrical clichés are thrown around, but the music is so engaging with oft-changing tempos that you don't have time to think of it as cheesy.

Lately, Zach has started writing more songs, and the band has been busy recording their first EP in the studios at Blum. Thinking that 'Slumberplums' was too cute, they recently changed their name to 'GNU GNUs' (pronounced "new news"). 'Gnu' is another name for a wildebeest, but it does not seem certain that everyone in the band has fully settled on this name. They are hoping to embark on a New England college tour soon, and you can expect them to keep playing more shows here at Bard. In the meantime, the project serves as a positive creative outlet for the band.

photo by will anderson // bard free press  
Pictured Left to Right: Zach Taube,  
Rufus Paisley & Gabe Adels  
Not Pictured: Matt Norman

# BARD HOSTS BRESSON FILM SERIES

Bard College is known for its strong Film and Electronic Arts Program, and has long provided screenings of rare films and talks by directors, cinematographers and other important figures in the film industry. These events are free and open, not just to students and faculty, but to the public at large. This spring, Bard will feature a semester's worth of screenings and related discussions focusing on the work of French director Robert Bresson. Originally a painter, Bresson's entry into the world of film in the mid-20th century contributed to ongoing debates about the genre's status as an art form and inspired a legacy of other filmmakers influenced by his unique style. As Richard Suchenski, Assistant Professor of Film and Electronic Arts at Bard said, "Bresson is universally recognized as an important filmmaker, even by those who are bewildered by his style."

Suchenski planned and coordinated the entire program—including its associated class, "Robert Bresson and His Legacy"—because, as he explains, he wanted to "give a sense of both the breadth and depth of Bresson's global influence on art cinema." It was a process which took him over two years to complete. Financial and logistical support was provided by a number of organizations within and outside of the college, including the Hannah Arendt Center, Bard's French Studies Program, the French American Exchange and the Cultural Services of the French Embassy.

All of the films in this program are to be exhibited on 35mm prints, as opposed to digital exhibition, which has become almost universal in the 21st century. As Suchenski notes, "the difference in photographic texture, immersive capacity, and general audiovisual quality between a good 35mm print and a computer file or even a DVD is enormous." Due to the increasing shift towards digital distribution and exhibition of films, some of these prints, particularly of Bresson's rarer films, were very difficult to come by, and Professor Suchenski would particularly like to thank James Quandt of the Toronto International Film Festival: Cinematheque for his help in procuring them.

At Bard, the 20th century technology of exhibiting films

on 35mm prints is still highly valued and respected. As Suchenski points out, "The Jim Ottoway Jr. Film Center is specially equipped for this type of presentation and we are one of the very few colleges or universities in North America where actual films are shown under these sorts of conditions on a regular basis."

Bard College is not the only venue participating in this tour of Bresson's films, which is timed to coincide with the publication of a new anthology of the director's work. His films will also be shown at the National Gallery of Art, the George Eastman House, the Toronto International Film Festival: Cinematheque and the Harvard Film Archive.

However, Bard is the only organization to be expanding on Bresson's original thirteen films, with related events and film screenings, as well as the course "Robert Bresson and His Legacy," which Suchenski teaches. Students in the class are expected to attend all screenings of Bresson's films, as well as the related screenings that follow. It's a rigorous courseload, but the importance of the subject and the quality of the films is not lost on students enrolled in the course. "I feel we're lucky to have this class at Bard. It gives us a chance to see these films in a way not a lot of people could. I really appreciate the effort the film department has put into this program, and it's really great to be a part of it," junior Film Studies major Mickey Silberstein said. A full calendar of the events planned for this semester can be found on the Bard College website.

The first two weeks of the program are devoted to showing the entirety of Bresson's work—thirteen films on new or archival 35mm prints, with screenings on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. The rest of the semester will focus on the legacy he left behind, showing films from more than a dozen countries that bear his artistic influence. The screenings of Bresson's films have so far been very well attended, attracting people "from all over New York state and beyond." Suchenski remarks, "We have packed the theater at every screening so far and it has been gratifying to see so many people return again and again."



## SPOTLIGHT ON SUNDAY FILM SCREENINGS

Whether you are done with homework or not done procrastinating, some may find Bard's Sunday Night Film Screenings the perfect close to a lazy Sunday. While not an official club, this group reserves Preston Theater every Sunday night at 7 o'clock to screen films for the Bard community. The first night of the Spring semester featured Fritz Lang's silent masterpiece, *Metropolis*, which tells a story of romance and class warfare in a futuristic dystopia.

While neither Sunday Night Film Screening co-founders, Liza Batkin and Hannah Beerman, are film majors, both share a mutual love for film. "It started because [Hannah] and I realized we both had an interest in Hollywood films from the 1930s through the 1960s," explained Batkin. "Like films directed by Howard Hawks, and movie stars of the era like Katharine Hepburn and Cary Grant."

It was Batkin's grandfather, famed philosopher and Harvard professor Stanley Cavell, who originally inspired Batkin to take film seriously.

"My grandfather was the one who encouraged me to watch these films and learn their vocabulary, and as I got older, it became clear how rewarding film as a medium is," she recalled. "I realized not only that I could

watch films more than once and really enjoy it, but...[discover] the layers that re-watching them revealed."

Cavell's books about film philosophy include *Pursuits of Happiness*, in which Cavell coined the term "comedy of remarriage." Citing 1930s and 1940s films such as *Bringing up Baby* and *The Lady Eve*, Cavell argues that these comedies promoted marriages based on mutual love rather than religious or economic factors. "Remarriage comedies" were featured prominently last semester in the Sunday Night Screenings. The official theme last fall was 'Old Hollywood.'

"The club was initially based on watching the films of Alfred Hitchcock. We watched *Rear Window*, *Vertigo* and *North by Northwest*. We then felt like we needed variety. We later screened *Sunset Boulevard*, *Night of The Hunter*, *Philadelphia Story*, *The Lady Eve* and *Monkey Business*," sophomore and regular attendee Madeleine Scholl said.

Some of the attendees' favorite films were *Sunset Boulevard*, *The Lady Eve*, and *It's A Wonderful Life*. Scholl also named *Monkey Business* as a favorite, for being "trashy in the best way."

"Weis Cinema can be hit and miss in what they offer," said Batkin. "I don't usually go to

Weis Cinema; I love Preston.

"This semester, we're opening up the theme—we're not sticking to the 'Old Hollywood' genre because we may be scrounging for films that fit that theme. *Metropolis* was suggested for its significance. We're planning to screen films that are really worth seeing on the big screen. We're also trying to fill in the gaps between the Robert Bresson retrospective and Weis Cinema for screening essential films that aren't being screened elsewhere."

Batkin is open-minded about what movies to show. Films are chosen by attendees, though ultimately decided by their availability via Netflix. 'Foreign films' is the new theme for semester, with Federico Fellini's *8 1/2* and the oeuvres of Eric Rohmer and Francois Truffaut likely to be screened. There is also talk about getting Bard film professors, John Pruitt and Richard Suchenski, to come and guest host screenings.

If interested in screening a movie that you can make a case for, contact Liza Batkin at [bardfilmscreenings@gmail.com](mailto:bardfilmscreenings@gmail.com).



# OPINION

## SLD VS. ARAMARK: A HISTORY

by the student labor dialogue

The Bard Student Labor Dialogue (SLD) is a coalition of students and campus workers. Together, they work to ensure Bard College does not neglect human rights in its labor relations.

Over the past few years, the SLD has advocated that the college re-hire its housekeepers. The college had employed the housekeepers directly before outsourcing the task to two different for-profit multinational corporations. As employees of Bard, the housekeepers had enjoyed a range of benefits available to Bard staff, including health care, a better pension plan as well as "tuition exchange," which allows the children of Bard employees to attend Bard (or another institution cooperating in the exchange). However, after housekeeping was outsourced, housekeepers were employed by an outside corporation, and thus not entitled to Bard benefits.

The latest iteration of this struggle started when the housekeepers in the SLD asked for support with their contract negotiations in the fall of 2009. Aramark Corporation asked the housekeepers, who were making \$11 an hour, to pay more than \$800 a month for family health care. Housekeepers in the SLD shared their stories of having to choose between putting food on their tables and providing health care for their children as well as stories of mismanagement and harassment while working under Aramark. Student members of the SLD responded by rallying student support with petitions and other forms of direct action.

After many attempts to schedule a meeting with the administration to deliver the petitions and convey our con-

cerns, the SLD organized a rally during which more than 50 Bard students marched to Ludlow to deliver the petition, with more than a thousand signatures, calling for a fair contract that included affordable health care. During the ensuing rally, Jim Brudvig, the Vice President for Administration and Finance, accepted the petition and agreed to meet with the SLD.

From then on, the SLD met with the administration several times a month and escalated its campaign with larger demonstrations and increased pressure. From the beginning, the SLD advocated for the dismissal of Aramark, and for offering our housekeepers affordable health care. A week after the SLD's largest and most aggressive rally in the fall of 2010, the administration agreed to pay the difference so that the housekeepers could get affordable health care. For a family plan the housekeepers would pay around \$350. Mr. Brudvig came to an SLD meeting shortly after the rally, where he said that student involvement in the contract negotiations, specifically the rally, was a key factor in his decision.

Still, the SLD's desire for the housekeepers to be hired directly, become members of the Bard community, and receive Bard benefits had not been met. Housekeepers still want to go in-house and have asked for student support. The SLD continues to have meetings with the administration, but there were many obstacles.

With the help of student support we began our current campaign, "Human Rights Start at Home," in order to point out the incongruity between Bard's attempts to pro-

mote human rights and democracy abroad and its use of subcontractors leading to unjust practices regarding the treatment of workers at home. We made video petitions in support of campus workers, educated the campus and continued to meet with the administration in order to bring up issues of mismanagement and mistreatment of the workers. In the end of the fall semester, after years of Bard workers and students working together, the administration finally agreed to meet our demand to terminate its relationship with Aramark.

With Aramark gone, the question arose what would replace them. The administration, while considering going in-house, appeared to be leaning towards hiring another subcontractor. The students and workers had something else to say about this. We quickly mobilized a rally of about 70 students to Ludlow before the end of the semester demanding that our housekeepers be hired directly. During the rally, Brudvig addressed the crowd, informing us that the administration was now "leaning in our direction".

Over the winter break, with a degree of struggle and compromise, the housekeepers agreed to be brought in-house under a number of conditions that the administration laid out for them. One of these conditions was still contentious for many of the housekeepers, in that some believed it might jeopardize their job security. The problematic clause/sentence stated that there will be a probationary period at the end of which the college could fire the housekeepers without due-cause and the union would not have the right to challenge those dismissals. Still, the housekeepers unanimously agreed to go in-house because they very much want to be Bard employees, and they will be, effective March 1. Since then, in a recent meeting, Brudvig assured us it is not the college's intention to fire large numbers of housekeepers without reason and that they will ratify new language which ensures a fair grievance process for the housekeepers.

After years of student and worker campaigns, the housekeepers will go on to receive less expensive healthcare, a better pension plan, educational benefits, and a number of other benefits such as gym and nursery access, which all Bard employees receive. Finally, the housekeepers will officially become a part of our community.

Bard's administration has been reluctant but incredibly generous in their dealings with the housekeepers since students have brought these issues to their attention and that of the campus. In the end, the struggle of the SLD is a case study in how students at Bard can have an impact on policy when they are active and organized.

Although the job of defending workers rights on Bard Campus is not yet finished, what students and workers were able to accomplish on this campus is something everyone who was involved in any manner should be extremely proud of. If you came to a SLD meeting, rally, or just told your friend or parents about the Aramark situation, you made a difference. The SLD hopes that anytime anyone wants to change anything on this campus, they know it can be done. Students have power. They just have to use it.



photo by anna daniszewski // bard free press

## SCIENCE: THE FAITH OF THE MODERN ERA

*"Science is an all-pervasive energy, for it is at once a mode of thought, a source of strong emotion, and a faith as fanatical as any in history." — Jacques Barzun*

One of mankind's overarching goals has been to attempt to explain everything in this world and beyond. Historically, organized religion served as the primary source for such explanations, beginning with early Mesopotamian legends and continuing through the more contemporary Judeo-Christian tradition. Though all religions are inherently distinct from one another, it is clear that they have shared, and continue to share, this common explanatory motive. Furthermore, religion has had a societal monopoly over such explanation.

The Age of Enlightenment curtailed this religious predominance. Ways of thinking based in logic, rationale, and reason arose out of this cultural movement, forever changing the landscape of Western philosophy. Most significantly, empirical science was heavily promoted and, more recently, it has become the mainstream way of thought. The goal of science is a familiar one: explain everything.

Today, we as a society are generally empirically minded. We seek observational evidence for many claims and desire practical answers to all of our questions. We also have a desire for instantaneous gratification, a product that science can often easily provide.

What we have forgotten is that science is merely just another perspective, providing its own version of answers to questions that man has attempted to answer for millennia.

We were raised in the Western tradition—a tradition grounded in Enlightenment empiricism—and therefore we do not question the majority of scientific claims. We listen to the men in white lab coats without skepticism, simply because their assertions are logical. Indeed, we forget that this logical way of thinking is merely representative of the empirical perspective and nothing more.

We should not blindly accept the claims of science, even if it is the dominant perspective of our time, as the consequences of such faith are rather dangerous.

Recall the times of the Romans, when age-old pagan perspectives had dominated society for centuries. Soon after the rise of the Roman Empire, a new way of explaining the world arose out of the Near East in the form of Christianity. Those who adhered to this new perspective were initially persecuted by the pagan majority, but soon enough, Christianity spread to the point where it became the dominant way of thinking in the West.

The resulting centuries of singular rule from a single perspective were dark times indeed.

The rise of science during the Enlightenment strongly parallels the advent of Christianity. For centuries, like the Christians, scientists had been persecuted for explaining the phenomena around them from their own perspective. Eventually, like Christianity, science grew to the point where it became the dominant way of explaining the world.

Today, we no longer question the claims of scientists—much in the way that adherents of Christianity did not question the claims of their priests—because our society has become so empirically minded.

The scandal surrounding Dr. Andrew Wakefield in the last decade more than epitomizes this lack of skepticism. In 1998, Wakefield published a paper claiming that there was a link between a common measles vaccine and autism. This sparked worldwide alarm, and the belief that vaccines caused autism, particularly in children, became rather common.

Eventually, Wakefield's claims were proven to be deceitful, and his name appeared to be connected to groups with special interests in the areas of vaccines and autism. Fortunately, he is no longer a licensed doctor, and is now considered one of the greatest frauds in scientific history.

Unfortunately, Wakefield's assertions were accepted without question simply because he presented his argument as empirical and scientific. And society's blind faith in the sciences led to a widespread public panic that, in the end, had absolutely no basis.

Ultimately, we must ask whether science can explain everything; beyond any doubt, it is impossible to answer "yes" to this. Thus, there must be some things out there that are supra-scientific or supra-logical—some things that the empirical perspective simply cannot explain.

Empiricism is the god of science. Empiricists, like Christians who have blind faith in their God, have blind faith in their own system of logic. Perhaps both faiths are equally fanatical, as Jacques Barzun points out. Perhaps not.

Regardless, even if science seems to make the most sense to us, we must remember that it is a mere perspective—an outlook that has its clear benefits, but inherent limitations as well. Because of this, we cannot continue to assume that science will provide all the answers. If we do so, we will certainly fall into the dangerous traps of singular thinking and blind faith once again, to the detriment of societal progress.

dan gettinger

## STUDENTS FOR STUDENTS

The Bard community appears broken right now - but looks can be deceiving. Vandalism is on the rise. Security cameras, fines, printing fees, and the permanent shutdown of SMOG, and other initiatives being swung into action will define our Bard for generations to come. Lulled into a false sense of powerlessness, we have come to believe that our right to define our community is set by the number of years we spend here. I say that the depth to our community will be known by those who live, have lived and will live in it. Students share a common bond and the model for association that we set today will be echoed in the classes that follow.

We students are not really a transient group - the impact we leave on the community lives on for years. Many administrators devote large portions of their professional lives to this school, but the experience is not the same. Few will say that it was here that they decided what they wanted to spend their lives doing, or form the same kind of life-long relationships. We will. We know that the experience we have here will affect the rest of our lives, and that we will look back again and again. Bard will always be part of us.

So naturally, we wish to leave the right mark on the college before we go. In two years student government will only be as strong as the trust we place in it now. These are the boundaries that define our community and that reinforce the inclinations of one student to instinctively place greater trust in another student over an individual with whom he does not share such similarities. Five years down the line I'll still be able to relate to another former student about SMOG and Kline. The commonalities that bind us won't be eroded by time.

Despite this solidarity of purpose and of means, we have lately been confounded by the question of community on this campus. The assumption that we are a transient group allows administrators to make unilateral choices as to the operation and future of the College - and most students allow them to do so. In perhaps one of the most defining moments of last semester, a high-ranking administrator sent a letter to our parents detailing the implementation of new security measures in dorms, such as security cameras. Time and time again, the terms for inclusion and participation in this community are designed to protect the interests of the College, when they should be set by those that live here.

Actions such as fines and threats to shut down SMOG sow undercurrent feelings of powerlessness among students. This alienates many students from the idea that there is a 'greater community' at Bard in which we all participate as equals. The administration does not wish to foster this environment, but they do nonetheless.

Recent vandalism has angered many. We should not condone these destructive and hurtful action against their neighbors. But we can still understand the cause. The vandals aren't outcasts but our peers, in whom we may recognize our own circumstance. Despite our strong common bonds, our community of students has been defined by an undisciplined individuality that threatens the very fabric of our association.

This is a critical time for our community. It's time to stop playing catch-up to decisions made without our collective voice. Those in the administration who seek to sing Kumbaya and write the lyrics for it too only perpetuate feelings of alienation between us. We can have a model for community that realizes our authority in the decision-making process, and that empowers individuals to recognize themselves in each other. Whether this model comes in the form of art collectives to reclaim public spaces or initiatives to centralize the distribution of information on campus, we are already strengthening our long-term claim to this campus. We will determine the shape of this community, and those to come.

*Dan is a PC, a member of Student Government, and an organizer for the Student Union. Future editions of this column will consider in more precise terms the path for our community.*

# The Smell of Rank

I have nothing against hippies. My parents were sort of hippies in the 1970s, and I love my parents. But when I read that the Princeton Review had included Bard in their 2012 list of the top schools for "Birkenstock-Wearing, Tree-Hugging, Clove-Smoking Vegetarians"—in other words, the "Hippie List"—I still got very angry. Because I just know that this list isn't meant to be a compliment. They think of students who wear hemp and who don't mind recycling as something to be ashamed of. They want to call us dirty environmentalists. Well, we shouldn't really mind that. We're fine with who we are. We like Birkenstocks and the left side of the political spectrum. We're also the ones who'll be having the last laugh.

Because while the Princeton Review people are all sitting in a boring white boardroom in Massachusetts, with their ugly ties pulled hard against their necks, laughing at Bard and our "hippies," their genius children, locked in their rooms and listening to Jacques Brel, are secretly conspiring to apply here. But something more sinister is at play in this, something we actually should be angry about. You see, while the Princeton Review makes fun of us, they're throw-

ing unqualified adoration at schools that are guilty of far more grievous crimes than our crime of liking Brel, Bashō, and Beckett.

They worship Dartmouth and Cornell, even though fraternity pledges there are put through horrifying hazing activities, including physical and sexual degradation and being forced, like poor George Desdunes, to drink until death. Yale gets almost perfect rankings even though only 52% of Yale students get Financial Aid compared to 68% at Bard, and despite the fact that Yale is currently being investigated for Title IX violation as a result of continuous sexual abuse allegations. Application rates at Princeton and UPenn have exploded in part because of the Princeton Review. Meanwhile, the UPenn Student Government consistently hazes its new members, and at Princeton students are often beaten and degraded upon joining clubs and fraternities.

None of this happens at Bard. And yet somehow we're at the butt-end of the joke. A few months ago, a letter to this paper complained that President Botstein should care more about college rankings so that we can get the recognition we deserve. I disagree. Bard should completely boycott the Princ-

## WHY THE PRINCETON REVIEW IS DEAD WRONG

by arthur holland mitchel

eton Review, because it is run by men and women who refuse to open their eyes and notice what's clear for everyone to see. And though eventually we'll all accept our bad rankings, we shouldn't accept the fact that people actually take the Princeton Review seriously.

One might think that any self-respecting person would completely ignore a (for-profit) company that hunts for hippies at some schools while ignoring human rights abusers at others. But that's not what people do. Instead, they start believing that they shouldn't go to Bard because, unlike Bard students, they don't smoke cloves and they do eat pork. And yet as any Bard student well knows, most of us prefer tobacco to clove, and there's plenty of pork in our cafeteria, usually boiled with canned peaches on top. As a result, many people who don't apply to Bard are smart people. They just don't recognize a blatant double standard when they see one.

Everyone should worry about this because it is a problem which, if you will permit a small digression, in fact extends far beyond colleges, and right into politics. You see, like Bard, John Huntsman never stood a chance

in the Republican presidential race because he was a peace-loving, Mandarin-speaking moderate. But apparently you remain a suitable candidate for the presidency if you: shoot wild animals from small aircraft, pay 13% tax on money you earn by creating unemployment, cheat on your first two wives, believe that the earth was created six thousand years ago, equate homosexuality with bestiality, refuse to believe that the trillions of tons of greenhouse gasses released into the atmosphere each year are affecting the climate, consider space colonies a serious campaign platform and still have the utter gall to claim that immigrants, Bardians, gays and scientists are the people making this country worse.

Well, just as with the Republican Party, we have a choice when it comes to the Princeton Review and its double-standards. We either stop taking this crap, and spread the word and do everything we can to prove them wrong; or, we just give in, and accept the system as it is. You are free to choose the latter (easier) choice, just don't be surprised when Santorum takes the White House, and the sadist Princeton graduate takes your job.

## RON PAUL: YOUTH SUPPORT FOR A SEASONED CANDIDATE

by hannah khalifeh

Dr. Ron Paul is one of four candidates still in the race for the Republican Presidential nomination—out of the eight that were originally running—and yet you'll barely see him on the news. He's been shunted aside while Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich—and, lately, Rick Santorum—vie for the spotlight. Even with this lack of coverage, a curious thing has happened: Democrats and voters who identify as liberal have increasingly turned to Ron Paul as a viable candidate in the upcoming elections, as demonstrated by a Public Policy Polling survey conducted in Iowa in late December. How has Paul managed to win the hearts of young voters across the country, including some right here at Bard College?

I spoke with Ethan Rosen, a sophomore who worked on Ron Paul's campaign over winter break, hoping for insight into what Ron Paul and his supporters advocate for. The general idea of libertarianism is to get "big government" out of your life and allow individuals the freedom to make their own choices, and Rosen believes that Ron Paul is true to this philosophy. "His political philosophy is constantly in favor of individual decisions, opposed to government intervention, and in my opinion, he seems to be one of few people on the political stage who is able to properly distinguish between government and society," Rosen says.

Ron Paul wants to limit government authority as much as possible. This means eliminating funding for public schools by cutting the Department of Education, as well as slashing social programs like Medicare and Social Security. He opposes the 1964 Civil Rights Act on the basis that the government has no right to restrict what people can and can't do in private businesses, and in a Republican debate in early September Paul stated that he wants to abolish the minimum wage in order to "help poor people." In addition, he believes *Roe v. Wade*, the landmark Supreme Court decision that made abortion legal in the United States, is unconstitutional, and his official website lists repealing this decision as one of the immediate actions Paul would take as President.

When asking several Bard students what they thought was the most appealing part of Paul's campaign, most cited his foreign policy. Dr. Paul's stance opposing the war on drugs and the war on terror is certainly enticing to a generation that has grown up with war as a backdrop. The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have cost us a combined \$1 trillion

at the lowest estimate, not to mention the deaths of almost 6,400 American soldiers, and the war on drugs has, by most accounts, failed, but has persisted for four decades nonetheless. Under an Obama administration that has not differed drastically from the previous Bush administration when it comes to foreign policy—see President Obama's controversial use of drones in Pakistan and Afghanistan as well as his failure to close Guantanamo Bay—it's not surprising that many liberals who sought change and peace with Obama are now turning to a new option.

Paul differs drastically from his fellow Republican candidates on a number of issues, but especially when it comes to foreign policy. For instance, any casual observer of the numerous Republican debates will have noticed the intense warmongering against Iran that Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney have enthusiastically spouted. Paul, on the other hand, warned during a debate in December against "another Iraq" and rejected the recent anti-Iran tone as "war propaganda."

But when Paul speaks of ending America's imperialistic overreach, he isn't just talking about pulling out of wars and preventing future ones. Rather, he wants to put an end to any and all humanitarian interventions, completely cut foreign aid, pull out of the UN, and eliminate the Peace Corps. The US' record of humanitarian intervention is notoriously spotty, and foreign aid often does not end up in the hands of those who need it most. But under a Paul administration, there would be no promotion of human rights around the world, nor any official retribution for international officials that commit abuses and crimes.

The Texan Congressman is full of puzzling contradictions: supporting individual freedom for all citizens and yet staunchly opposing abortion, for instance, or opposing the wildly unpopular National Defense Authorization Act passed early this year yet failing to actually cast his vote against it. But the growing threat to our civil liberties (especially, as you might have noticed recently, attacks on Internet privacy), our often disastrous interference in global affairs, and our rapidly increasing debt should be talked about more in the political arena. And if it takes someone like Ron Paul to get people talking, maybe that's a good thing.



# SPORTS

## SHORT-SHORTS AND SPRINTS

BY IAN MCCANN

### A NIGHT WITH BARD'S BASKETBALL TEAM

#### Raptor Highlights

In its Liberty League debut, the men's basketball team beat Vassar 59-57 on Jan. 10. The victory came a mere six months after a staff member of the Vassar athletic community said publicly that Bard would not win a Liberty League game in any sport for at least two to three years. Senior Matt Shubert scored 27 points against Vassar, and the Liberty League selected him as the Performer of the Week.

Senior Nick Chan was chosen as a United Volleyball Player of the Week for the week ending Jan. 30.

#### Upcoming Raptor Events

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I look ridiculous. The lumbering figures of the Bard basketball team, fresh off a win against long-time rival Vassar College, stride proudly in front of me in their warmup suits and jerseys. Meanwhile, I stand at the periphery of their hardwood home, wearing short-shorts, a tie-dye shirt and a headband.

I have almost no knowledge of this band of Bard hoopers or their ilk. If it wasn't for the two Bard basketball players, or Raptors, who would return to my dorm exhausted every night, I might never have known we had a basketball team at all.

So I do what any curious Bardian would've done. I show up to a practice, look the coach in the eye, and say, "Let me basketball."

Adam Turner, the coach, is good-natured, congenial, but says no. It's all very technical, he says, but I am welcome to watch and interview after. Sullen and disappointed, I take a seat. Words cannot express the tragedy of donning a bright yellow sweatband and not having the chance to sweat in it. Bitterly I watch.

What ensues is nothing short of laborious and above all, technical. With clockwork synchronicity, the gym becomes an echoing chamber of screams and shouts and rubber screeching against the court. With a single sharp whistle blow, the players take off toward the baseline, all watching the clock. If they don't make it in under 10 seconds, they'll have to do it again. A flurry of feet bolt across the court. Some fall and slide towards the baseline—they all make it.

Next: the real practice. An endless multitude of drills. Turner, an undersized post player, a man who left Bard with the Raptor's career scoring record, watches like a hawk from the sidelines.

The offense and defense make the mistake of not communicating in one drill. Punishment is swift: more running. No whines or complaints can be heard, only the exasperated breathing of continued commitment. There are almost no breaks. When there are water breaks, they last 30 seconds - a minute if no one works the clock.

Those injured watched from the sidelines intently. After all, basketball is strategy in action. One can't miss a moment. Between every drill, the players circle around Turner as he points out flaws and instructs his players.

"I feel like what I get to teach every day," Turner says later. "Yes, it's basketball and a lot of x's and o's, but a lot of it is life skills. The ability to work with other people for a common goal is something that all 16 of our players are going to have to do for the rest of our life if they want to be successful."

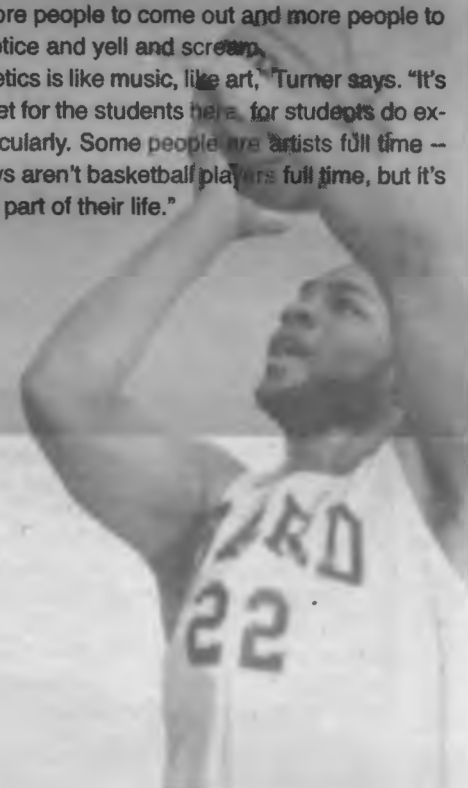
The drills push on into the night. My short-shorts begin to ride up, and my butt grows sorer and sorer. I have been sitting down for two hours, and I look more disgruntled than the guys who had been running the whole time.

Practice finally ends. I ask the players why they looked so happy. I wanted to know how they could muster the gumption to come back every day for two hours to sweat and wheeze and embrace those bygone byproducts of high school gym class.


"We love each other," Pat Lichtenstein replies. "We love the team. We love coming out here every day and getting after that. Basketball is really a passion for all of us."

Turner, for his part, wishes the rest of the Bard community could share in that passion. "The commitment that all the athletes at Bard put in," Turner says, "we would really like to see that rewarded with more people to come out and more people to take notice and yell and scream."

"Athletics is like music, like art," Turner says. "It's an outlet for the students here. For students do extracurricularly. Some people are artists full time -- our guys aren't basketball players full time, but it's a huge part of their life."







## THE OLD BARD, AND SECURITY CAMERAS:

### AN EDITORIAL FROM THE BARD FREE PRESS

No one came to Bard College because of the lack of security cameras. We did come here, though, because it is a place where the notion of security cameras is a big deal. More than that, it's an offensive notion that goes against everything we take for granted about the college's community.

That may be changing. This semester we already have security roaming the halls of Robbins and Robbins Addition and occupying its common room. Further measures on the table include adding a front desk attendant to the building's common room, putting permanent security in other large dorms, and installing security cameras around campus.

No longer would Ken Cooper be able to proudly proclaim that Bard has zero security cameras because we don't need them, because "we have the best students." We used to have the best students. Then, we had a bad semester. What are we now?

How did we get here? Some highlights: Smashing a vending machine - twice. Spraying fire extinguishers. Gluing locks closed. Knocking down exit signs. Tripping fire alarms. Draining sprinkler systems.

A fine semester's worth of work.

Without minimizing the severity of these incidents, it needs to be pointed out: We are talking about a handful of acts almost certainly perpetrated, as the administration itself has said, by just a handful of students. (Never mind the argument that they could have been non-students - that is not a helpful refrain at this moment.) The big question has been, is it fair to hold all students responsible for the actions of just a few?

The incident most stressed as having put students in danger and having prompted the security presence is the draining of the Robbins' sprinkler system (twice) late one night last semester. Which means we are talking about compromising a fundamental tenant of the college's ethos, beliefs that have been held dear for decades - because of a single night's activities. That doesn't make a lot of sense.

To be clear - the rash of vandalism on campus is a serious issue, one which effects all students.

It is not something to be dismissed as 'not a big deal,' or 'not my problem.' The conversation about why these acts took place needs to continue.

It's easy to blame these events on a few drunk idiots. But many Bard students impair themselves and are still able to go four years without so much as a run-in with se-

curity - let alone smashing open a vending machine and stealing the contents. That is not a drunken mistake - that is vandalism and theft.

So the conversation needs to continue and be taken seriously. But greater restrictions on student life are not the answer. Restricting student life is the instinctive response of any college administration to a crisis. In these moments administrators concern themselves with liability, and focus on containing a problem instead of addressing its root causes.

Not long ago, you could walk around openly with a single serving of alcohol during Spring Fling or at SMOG, because administrators realized that ignoring this was ultimately safer than forcing drinking into dorm rooms. That realism is no longer a part of the conversation. With each little policy shift, concerns about liability and lawsuits have overtaken a realistic consideration of what life on campus is really like.

As for Robbins, will security cameras really help? No. They will just increase student resentment and alienation, for all the reasons stated. Even leaving aside 'Big Brother' concerns and the slippery slope argument (if Robbins, why not Honey House?) - campus community and student-college relations can only be hurt by this move. Nothing could be more out of touch with the feeling on campus.

Administrators at this college, right up to our President, make an effort to be accessible to students. Tightening security, against the wishes of the student body, would go against years of this unique relationship.

Student Government has pushed for a campus-wide discussion on these issues. Everyone should try to be a part of it, because this stuff matters. Sometimes the tone of forums has been dispiriting - too much focus on what do about the awful vandals in our midst, not enough about why feelings of alienation or unhappiness might have led to the acts. Students have also seriously floated notions like extra security at events, having students present IDs to enter events, and security cameras. We doubt they have really thought those ideas through.

Still, the conversation is important. The onus is ultimately on the student body. Change is evidently needed - so what does it need to look like? Ideas will differ, but only good could come from sitting down and talking about it. Hopefully the college will be listening - but not watching.