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Bard College

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**FP**





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**CORRECTIONS:**

The writer credits for 'Security Guards Added to Robbins' were incomplete. Dakota Schuck should have been credited for additional reporting.

The headline on the article 'New Internet Policy' was intended to end with a question mark. As the piece noted, recent piracy crackdowns are not a new policy, but rather increased efforts to enforce an existing policy.

The article 'New Game Room Dubbed 'Bardian Lounge'' credited the effort behind the lounge partly to the 'Student Activities Committee.' In fact this effort came partly from the Office of Student Activities. The article stated that the

\$8000 cost of the redesign came exclusively from the Laundry Fund. In fact the cost was split between the Laundry Fund (\$3000) and the Campus Center Building Fund (\$5000), which is supervised by the Student Activities Office.

Writer Arthur Holland Michel's last name was misspelled as 'Mitchel' in the byline of his article 'The Smell of Rank: Why the Princeton Review is Dead Wrong.'

In sports, due to a layout error, 'Raptor Highlights' were printed in place of 'Upcoming Raptor Events.'

*think we got something wrong?*  
e-mail bardfreepress@gmail.com

To let acts of vandalism and disturbing behavior dictate attitudes towards Bard's campus and towards each other is to abandon the intelligence, creativity and individuality that we sought to be a part of when we accepted our places at Bard College. A few loud, negative actions and voices are not those of the majority and should not be allowed to taint our atmosphere.

Bard may be perceived as an isolated bubble but it is more continuous with the outside world than we think. Wherever a group of people live together there will be conflict, crime and a need for change. The tone we use to address these issues embodies the community we want to create together. And just like the outside world, there will be cooperation, resolution and celebration. The key is to relish these as a means to make the changes we need.

Many of us strive to accomplish a sense of belonging and acceptance both of which exist at Bard but can and should grow stronger. It is safe to assume that no one hopes to be defined by the negativity that exists here and will exist anywhere we go. What we can rally around is being sincere about Bard as a place to enjoy a fantastic education; a place to gain confidence in our quirks; a place to contribute our abilities to make what Bard does well its definition.

- Mackie Siebens, Bard Student

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cover by robbie brannigan  
back by will anderson

## FAN MAIL

To the Editors:

I read with interest and then growing consternation the February edition of the Bard Free Press.

When my son began applying to colleges three years ago his interest in Bard perplexed me. I knew Bard by reputation. It was a pricey refuge for the remnants of the 60's back-to-the-land, hippie, counterculture. It was home to lots of drugs. It was home to less academic integrity.

But the path to college enrollment is a winding one. Catalogues, campus visits, interviews and testimonials chipped away at my bias. Along the way an outreach presentation by a Bard representative had an impact, too. Her kids went to Bard. She worked in the admissions office. And she described to her curious audience a beautiful campus tucked away in the Hudson River Valley. She profiled a college president who was a musician, a visionary, and the standard-bearer for traditional liberal arts education. She emphasized that Bard's was a culture of scholarship, friendship and expanding intellectual horizons, and that Bard was a school of discourse, not rhetoric or polarized debate.

By the time my son finally had to choose between the colleges and universities that had accepted him my thinking had shifted and I was delighted when he chose the Bard College eloquently described by the admissions rep.

But yesterday while reading the Bard Free Press, here is what I found in the first few pages:

There had been an incidence of offensive graffiti that seemed to generate a reaction of "fight the power" rather than discussion or self-reflection.

"Persistent vandalism" was plaguing some college dorms and an attempt to collect fines for those damages had resulted in protest not apology or self-reflection.

Renovations to a student center had to be relocated because a goal of 24-hour accessibility invited acts of destruction not appreciation, and after the facelift, there seemed to be concern that the space might return to its "squalid origins".

There was student disgruntlement about security cameras and about copying fees.

There was a story about students who had arrived at Bard full of optimism transferring out, complaining they often felt isolated and were disappointed in the school.

And there was more. There was petty disgruntlement. There was serious disgruntlement.

But my consternation, after reading your paper was this. Maybe Bard is closer to my original prejudices and perceptions than I had come to believe.

Maybe Bob Dylan's "vandals" still have the handle and rule in Annandale but in a manner less charming than depicted in song. And maybe Bard students really are self-centered, spoiled and entitled young people whose boredom can be mitigated only by the adrenaline rush of destructive acts.

Or maybe Bard IS a unique outpost of the liberal arts; a school managing to maintain integrity in a world where colleges are morphing into trade schools and MBA's make money but struggle to find meaning in life.

If Bard is the former, I am saddened. If it is the latter, then you, as editors of a school newspaper, have a responsibility to accurately depict life on campus. Not a saccharine, "white-washing" depiction but a comprehensive depiction. There are many ills in the world. There is too much suffering. Some of those ills are to be found on any school campus. Some of that suffering surely is at Bard, too.

But if that is ALL there is, I would encourage you to join the ranks of those above-mentioned transfer students. Because you have only four years to wring the maximum from this academic experience. Soon you will be a banker, or a farmer, a teacher or a cab driver. You will go to work in the morning. You will cook dinner at night. You will juggle family responsibilities and work. You will fall asleep over chapters of books you don't have time to finish. And then you may wish that you had better used your college years.

Most sincerely,  
Rebecca Smith, Bard Parent

Hi Peer Health-

I appreciate Peer Health. I like what you are doing with the Stall Street Journals, and I believe that on the whole they are good. That is why when I read the Stall Street Journal "Fertility how it works, how to work with it" I was so confused as to how it managed to get published. I understand the merits of being in tune with your body, and that many people, despite our high level of education, do not understand mechanisms of fertility, but I do not think that the Stall Street Journal managed to strongly convey the message that the Rhythm Method is supposed to be used in conjunction with barrier methods. If I were to skim the journal, which I assume many people do on their quick trip to the bathroom, there is a high chance that my eyes would go immediately to "Don't get spooked- it can be kinda fun." instead of "...help you be more thorough in successfully using your other pregnancy prevention methods."

Last year, Health Services published a letter in the Free Press saying that they had seen an unusually high number of

pregnancies, and I know that this is true. I was with my friend when she realized she was pregnant and with her when she had an abortion. She practiced the rhythm method. I know it is "kinda fun" to understand your body, and it can make people feel empowered to feel like they are so in control of their bodies that they do not need to use other methods of contraception. I have heard so many friends complain about putting hormones in their bodies via the pill, the ring, or an IUD. It know there are young men who have learned wearing condoms reduces pleasure and young women who have learned that it is too much of an imposition upon their partner to insist. The coupling of these two factors with the idea of invincibility that we all possess makes the Rhythm Method something that leads people to believe that they are practicing safe sex when in reality they are putting themselves in danger of contracting STIs and getting pregnant.

Sofia Commito

Dear Sofia,

Thank you for entering this discussion and sharing personal information that informs your experience and your letter.

Peer Health tries to do a lot of research and collaboration with other groups and sources to be sure our Stall Seat Journals are grounded in fact and feel useful to the campus population. That said, sometimes we go with the gut and speak from a space that is more personal to one of us. Here, we felt that we were responding to a student's need to understand his/her own physiology before truly understanding of the complicated ways different methods of birth control function in our bodies.

One can imagine you responding, "I agree, but couldn't you just put one more emboldened line in there about using this in conjunction with other forms of BC, or some stats on the failure rate of fertility awareness as a prophylactic method?" We agree; we probably should have. We did make sure to include disclaimers in both of the fertility

awareness articles, but your point about people possibly misreading or skimming over those disclaimers is fair.

Some of the challenges we face around advocating for ourselves around protection can stem from not really understanding how our bodies work, and we are sensitive to the disempowerment that can come with telling anyone what to do. Though you are not advocating that, we just wanted to draw attention to the fine line between offering information versus telling/moralizing. The beginning of feminist health practice is self-advocacy, which demands complete, compassionately given information. We try to address all aspects of this long journey to self-advocacy in the Journals.

**We publish this email exchange believing that speaking out and transparent dialogue are powerful methods of health education too.**

Peer Health



## BREAK-IN AND VANDALISM AT MANOR CAFE

by david goldberg

The employees of Manor Café arrived at work Feb. 24 to find their workplace ravaged. Trespassers, most likely a group of Bard students, broke in through a window in the early morning hours. Once inside, the trespassers caused hundreds of dollars of damage, leaving the prep counter strewn with muddy footprints and taking a bite out of a giant block of cheese.

"We had to sanitize everything and throw a lot of stuff away," said Brian Grant, manager of Manor Café. "The place was just a mess."

The break-in most likely occurred shortly after 2:32 a.m., when the last security guard walked through the building, said Ken Cooper, Director of Safety and Security. The alarm did not go off because the motion sensors malfunctioned, he added.

Both Ken Cooper and representatives from Chartwells said they suspect that a group of Bard students was behind the break-in. They added that whoever it was must have had some familiarity with the kitchen area, both inside and out.

"Whoever did this did not realize the implications of their actions," said Chas Cerulli, head of Chartwells at Bard. "Manor employees were upset at the sense of entitlement and disrespect toward the space."

Grant, who has worked as a cook at Bard for 15 years, said he felt the break-in threatened the "good camaraderie" between students and staff. The break-in may have been seen as a harmless prank by the perpetrators, but it took hours of work to fix the damage.

"The employees of the café were able to get everything sanitized and prepared in time to open," Grant

said, "but morale was uncharacteristically low."

Morale improved throughout the day, however, as 15 to 20 students, all Manor regulars, dropped by to apologize for whoever was responsible.

Cooper said he was vexed by the "knuckleheadedness of some students who are so smart otherwise." He added that the break-in qualifies for felony burglary charges, but that neither he nor Cerulli plan on taking legal action if the perpetrators are caught. Cooper said that he hopes students will come forward with information, and he hopes that the culprits will pay for the broken window and perform community service in restitution.

Manor Café has responded to the break-in by installing a door alarm and new motion sensors. When asked if he would consider installing surveillance cameras in the café, Cerulli replied, "Yes. It is really unfortunate. I can deal with small thefts, but this? What else can we do?"

Alarm and motion sensor upgrades are not yet completed. Cameras are not yet part of the upgrades.

This Manor Café break-in is not unprecedented. Two years ago, a similar incident occurred. Cerulli said this break-in was not as bad as that one, during which trespassers caused thousands of dollars in damage.

"Nothing was stolen," Cerulli said. "It seems like this was more of a prank than a theft."

"Somebody put something small—like a finger or something—in an apple pie," Grant said. "Someone might be watching too many movies."



photo by jack bennett

## POLICY PROPOSAL WOULD FORBID STAFF-STUDENT ROMANCES

by lucas oppenorth & free press staff

Bard is considering a new policy which may prohibit romantic relationships between Bard faculty and undergraduate students.

At a faculty meeting Feb. 22, President Leon Botstein informed all present that the college was investigating the possibility of a new measure. No policy, however, has yet been put forward to the Board of Trustees.

The college currently has no formal policy in the specific area of faculty-student intimacy. Such issues are currently covered by the "Sexual and Other Unlawful Harassment" section of the Bard Faculty Handbook. The handbook defines sexual harassment as "unwanted sexual advances, or visual, verbal, or physical conduct of a sexual nature." Any reported cases are investigated by a third party, with confidentiality and anonymity protected as much as possible.

Speaking to the Free Press, Botstein explained that this lack of a specific policy creates a "gray-area" when the college is presented with such a legal case.

"Every year, without fail, there is some kind of allegation that comes forward involving a student and faculty member," said Botstein. "Many of these accusations fall by the wayside. But there also exists a large gray area with the absence of any formal policy on student-faculty relationships."

A majority of Bard's institutional peers have some sort of policy that regulates faculty-student relationships. These policies often fall into two categories: the Yale

model and the Harvard model. Under Yale's policy, any sexual relationship between a student and professor is forbidden and subject to disciplinary action.

Under Harvard's policy, which is more commonly used by other schools, faculty members are able to have relationships with students with whom they don't have a professional relationship, and professors are not allowed to be sexually involved with their students and advisees.

Botstein points out that there are issues with enacting either policy at Bard. "It gets very complicated when you simply forbid all relationships," he said of the Yale model. "What happens if it's between a graduate student and a faculty member. What is the difference between a 22-year-old and a 24-year-old engaging in a relationship with a faculty member?"

Botstein said the Harvard model keeps a professional distance between romantically involved faculty and students, but it could be problematic at Bard. "At a place like Bard, where there are just under 2,000 students around 150 professors," he said, "it's hard for a student to not somehow be linked to a professor, whether it be through classes, moderation, advising."

The exploration of a new policy is not in response to any specific incident, but rather an effort to cover up a general liability issue. "Because the college doesn't have any such policy, we are then liable for any trauma or distress students may suffer," Botstein said. "A

student who feels violated by a faculty member can, in turn, sue Bard College."

Such incidents are not unheard of at Bard. "What happens if you have incidents occasionally is, they indicate whether you have an adequate policy about it," said Mark Lytle, Lyford Peterson-Edwards and Helen Gray-Edwards Professor of Historical Studies. "There seems to have been a few happening."

Lytle, who has been at Bard since 1974, said it is unusual that Bard doesn't have a specific policy. "Especially when you're directing senior projects, you spend a year working with students. It's very intense and often very emotional," Lytle said. "Sometimes I think there's plenty of opportunity for misunderstanding in relationships like that, so being clear about what the boundaries are is important."

Botstein stressed that he does not personally wish to put the policy in place. He has resisted it in the past out of a desire to impose as few rules on the college as possible. But he feels the college may no longer have a choice.

"We are being reluctantly dragged into a sewer created by American journalism and the abuse of our courts," he said. "This policy is a horrific intrusion into the private lives of people, but we are a public institution and must react to the public sentiment."

A proposal is expected to be put forward to the Board of Trustees before next academic year.

## TWO BOOTS PLANS TO OPEN BY COMMENCEMENT

by hilary steadman

Construction is well underway on Two Boots, soon to open across from Bard's main entrance on 9G.

The new branch of the popular pizza chain will provide pizza and a bar within walking distance for students.

The location most recently housed the restaurant Cappucino by Coppola's. The building was purchased in 2010 with funds raised by alumni/ae after Cappucino's closed. It will also house the offices of Development and Alumni/ae Affairs Departments, according to Director of Alumni/ae Affairs Jane Brien '89.

"Quasi Bard alum" and CEO of Two Boots Pizza Phil Hartman has kept up a relationship with the college for a long time. "I was a guest student at Bard," Hartman said, "[and] two of my kids graduated [from Bard], one in '08 one in '11."

Hartman approached Bard about his idea. He felt there was demand for an on-campus food location, and communal gathering point. "I always felt bad since Adolph's closed," said Hartman, referring to a bar nearby campus which closed in the mid-1980s (following the change to the US drinking age in 1984).

"There wasn't any place for the students to go nearby," he continued. "I thought it'd be great to create a place for the kids to come to as well as faculty, staff, and local folks. I really hope it's a kind of place everyone can feel comfortable at."

Bard is leasing Hartman the left hand side of the building, while the offices will be on the right. "The third floor of Ludlow is pretty much moving out," Brien said. "The Alumni/ae are very, very excited to have a new location to call their own. They are also delighted that Phil has chosen to bring his special brand of pizza and fun to Annandale."



Brien recalls Hartman attending Bard in the late '70s to study with the late film professor Adolfo Mekas. Mekas founded the Film Program at Bard in 1971. He taught until 2004 when he received the Bardian Award, and died at the end of last May. There will be a memorial in honor of Adolfo Mekas the weekend Two Boots opens. "We want to create a pizza to honor him," said Hartman.

A local company is currently working to get Two Boots ready to open by commencement. The office move will not happen until later in the year.

Work started in January. The building was first gutted - then the restaurant side of the building had to be demolished due to some unforeseen foundation problems, according to Brien. However, the footprint and basic shape will remain the same.

"[Hartman] hopes to hire a crossing guard on Friday and Saturday evenings," said Brien, to deal with students walking across 9G to and from the restaurant.

"[He also] hopes to elicit the help of some art students in the decorative parts of the restaurant - in

the interior design," she added.

Hartman plans to meet with a professor in the art department to organize muralists. "We always work with local artists in all of our Two Boots restaurants," he said.

There will also be a stage for music and poetry performances by both Bard students and local talent.

Many Bardians are excited about the Two Boots project, but expect a lot. "There's not a shortage of pizza places around campus - I think Two Boots has to bring more to the table," said first-year Bennett Torres. "Two Boots is not going to live or die by just the quality of its food - it will be more about whether it can fill a social niche and be used as a hangout spot.

"Due to the proximity to the campus and the atmosphere I feel like it will become a great part of the community."

Two Boots will open at 11:30am and close around midnight, except on weekends, when Hartman hopes to keep it open until 2am.

Two Boots construction site

## SPRING FLING 2012 PLANS ANNOUNCED FREE BEER AND MORE SECURITY AMONG CHANGES

by will anderson

A number of changes have been proposed and enacted for this year's upcoming Spring Fling Weekend, including an added security presence and new locations. The decisions were made mostly based on feedback from a committee led by students representatives of EMS, BRAVE, Peer Health & Wellness and Student Government.

Ken Cooper, Director of Security, outlined the new security measures for the event. Perhaps the most visible change will be the closure of Annandale Road, along with security checkpoints at all of the college entrances.

To staff the checkpoints, the college has hired an outside security firm. In order to close Annandale Road, which is public, the college also hopes to partner with the Red Hook Police Department. Additionally, Cooper mentioned the possibility of bike patrol officers on campus. He stressed that the officers and checkpoints are designed to keep outsiders from taking advantage of Bard during the weekend, and not to crack down on student behavior.

"There's a certain philosophy we have at Bard, and I don't want to see that interfered with," Cooper said. "I just want to keep the people who know nothing about us, could care less about us, want

to sell us stuff, and want to hurt us, from being on our campus."

Julie Silverstein, Director of Student Activities, acknowledged that the guards may also be used to monitor student behavior during large events such as Block Party.

"Any time there is an event with a large crowd, there are lots of safety concerns to consider. We realized last year that Spring Fling events have grown to the point of needing this additional oversight," Silverstein said. "[The hired guards will] help keep an eye on the crowds to make sure everyone stays safe."

Another change made is the addition of a designated beer garden, along with free beer for all students 21 and older. Student with bracelets can come and go from the beer garden, but can only drink beer within the designated area. This will allow security to enforce a clearer alcohol policy and hopefully cuts down on visible underage drinking, according to Silverstein.

The location of block party will also change following space issues at last year's Village site. While initially the Rugby Field was considered, Silverstein confirmed that the Olin parking lot would be the new venue for block party.

"It was clear last year that we had outgrown the Village Walkway, and we ran into safety difficulties with emergency personnel getting to students who needed their help," Silverstein said.

Cooper hopes that Bardapalooza, which is currently will be held in the south quad, will also be moved.

"I don't like any parties near the dormitories," Cooper said. "It would be great to have all of the events in one place."

In response to a number of hospitalizations at last year's event, Health Services and EMS has created designated First Aid Centers to provide people relief from the large crowds and treatment for minor injuries. Additionally, ambulances will be on call throughout both Friday and Saturday nights.

The choices for outside performers at spring fling have been narrowed down to four options - Ok Drums, Chromeo, GZA and Kevin Lyttle. It is likely that two of these performers will be booked - one for each night. Final decisions will be shaped by the results of the poll sent to campus, which have not yet been made public, and financial limitations.

Spring Fling will be held the weekend of May 4 and 5. All performances and events will be announced in the coming weeks.



## SMOG TO REMAIN FOR THIS SEMESTER

by lucas opgenorth



A painting of a baseball diamond accompanied by the words "If you build it, they won't come," was quickly painted over.

SMOG, Bard's student-run space, will remain standing for at least the rest of the spring semester. Unforeseen complications have temporarily stalled the college's plans to construct a baseball field in the area south of the Ferrari Soccer & Lacrosse Complex.

A roughly half-million-dollar funding shortage, as well as the discovery of a population of bats and Native American arrowheads on the proposed construction site, have delayed the project's progress, confirmed Director of Student Activities Julie Silverstein.

If the construction does move forward according to the most recent plans, the field will relocate SMOG. Tentative plans for the project [see opposite page] show the field's parking lot in the area SMOG currently occupies.

Recent obstacles could see the field moved elsewhere. An archaeological survey in the coming weeks will shape the decision.

SMOG administrators have met with Vice President for Administration James Brudvig to discuss the future of the space. "The meeting was basically about the worst-case scenario," explained SMOG Administrator Eve Alpert. "If the field was built, what we would do."

The notion of moving SMOG to a pre-existing building, such as the Red Barn behind the RKC, was dismissed as implausible due to noise considerations.

According to Alpert, the meeting focused mainly on the possible construction of a new space for SMOG. "I think [Brudvig] understands that SMOG is re-

ally important, and the SMOG we have now is really important," Alpert said. "So I think he and the other administrators want to accommodate us as best as possible."

A student forum was also held on March 1 to discuss SMOG's future. Some attendees opposed the idea of the baseball field - others viewed the construction of a new SMOG as an opportunity student participation in the creation of a new space.

"[Brudvig] really gets what SMOG is for students," said Mackie Siebens, President of the Student Association Government. "We wouldn't be replacing it with some really fancy, high tech, impeccably neat thing, because part of the feel of SMOG is that it is a garage."

However, SMOG administrators would like to see SMOG remain in its present location. "We believe that the space right now has intrinsic value in terms of what SMOG is," said SMOG administrator Emmett Shoemaker. "It would be a lot easier to keep SMOG where it is, and I think everyone would be much happier for it."

Both Siebens and SMOG administrators said that, in recent talks with the college, this option was still on the table. "We would just have to factor in the baseball games and plan practices and shows around [SMOG's schedule]," Siebens said.

SMOG already negotiates its schedule with the athletics department due to its proximity to the lacrosse and soccer fields. This proximity limits both the time

slots during which the venue can be used and the appearance of the building's exterior.

"The exterior of the building is supposed to be beige; as far as I understand, that's the agreement," Director of Athletics Kristen Hall said. "We do have guests and families and children... as patrons using that part of our outdoor venues, so it should be presentable as a part of the campus."

Juniors Dan Gettinger and Erin Smith, Peer Counselors in Cruger and Keen North respectively, recently painted the outside of SMOG with their residents as part of a dorm activity. Though the event was cleared with both Silverstein and SMOG administrators, the PCs were later told to paint over the graffiti they and their residents had created.

The group had painted a baseball diamond accompanied by the words "If you build it, they won't come" - a reference to the iconic baseball movie 'Field of Dreams.' This mural particularly upset the athletics department and other administrators.

Smith said there was a miscommunication about whether painting on the outside of the building was permitted.

Gettinger said that the aim of the dorm activity was to create "ownership over part of our community." He felt that administrators had undermined this goal by forcing students to paint over the mural, and argued that student spaces such as SMOG should be subject to fewer administrative restrictions.

"I think there has been tension be-

tween SMOG and the athletics department," Alpert said.

The athletics department has been dissatisfied with trash cluttering SMOG and its surroundings after heavily attended events. SMOG administrators, however, note that trash has not recently been an issue, thanks to an increase in SMOG personnel at events.

"In my opinion, ideally, we wouldn't have multimillion-[dollar] athletics facilities next to a student space," said Hall. "If the students want to continue something like SMOG, we support that."

President of the Student Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) Jessica Philpott said her lacrosse practices are often 'soundtracked' by SMOG music, for better or for worse.

"Our Athletic Director has had to ask SMOG members to cease playing while we are trying to play games," said Philpott. "It sucks because it is supposed to be their space." She thinks that SMOG would work better in a different location.

SMOG administrators will continue to meet with administrators as plans for the baseball field solidify. They are also planning to continue their development of the space, with projects like the construction of a skate ramp on SMOG's patio, in order to expand the space's potential uses.

"Even if plans for the baseball field clear, I would like to think that, at Bard, if enough students were to voice their opinion, we could persuade the administration [to keep SMOG,] Shoemaker said.

## BASEBALL FIELD PLANS TAKE SHAPE



Though a lack of funding and other obstacles have temporarily stalled Bard's construction of a new baseball field, planning for the field is already well underway.

Director of Athletics Kristen Hall explained that, for any construction project, Bard needs the approval of the Red Hook Planning Board. The college must be granted a construction permit before the project can begin. This process entails studies of both the proposed construction site, and the effect the project will have on the area.

For example, when the college created the Ferrari Soccer & Lacrosse Complex, it needed to float balloons at the height of the proposed light fixtures to ensure that they would not be seen from historic mansions near campus.

Director of Construction Chuck Simmons has already held preliminary meetings with the Red Hook board.

The field may be located in the woods around SMOG, Woods Studio and Admissions, which Hall calls the "Enchanted Forest." The area was selected because it is flat and large enough to accommodate the new field.

The dump near the soccer field and the area behind the soccer field, used by Bard Paintball, were also considered. The dump was deemed too unstable for the planned light fixtures, while the Paintball field was deemed too small. The area near Manor and Robbins was quickly dismissed due to its dis-

tance from central campus and other athletic facilities.

Hall also added that she hopes to be able to pave Woods Rd. to eliminate dust around the soccer field and the mud that often gets tracked onto Annandale Rd.

"The plans sound solid and I think that all the sports can benefit from the addition of a new turf baseball facility," said President of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee Jessica Philpott, who is optimistic about the project.

However, not all are as enthused. Some students who attended the SMOG forum on March 1 were opposed to the field's construction, saying that the money should be used for projects that would benefit a wider range of students, like new dorms.

"[The field] is a donation so the college pretty much has no say because they don't want to break ties with donors," President of the Student Association Government Mackie Siebens said. "I think it's not a good idea for students to be... unappreciative of what people give... the baseball field can be used by other clubs and sports teams too."

By and large, the mild winter has allowed the project to move forward at a relatively quick rate. Hall hopes to have the four-month project completed by September, so that Bard's team can use it in the fall. However, she emphasized that construction projects are frequently subject to delays.



# SPRING CLEANING TO REVITALIZE ROOT CELLAR

## CLUB HOPES CLEAN SPACE LEADS TO FRESH START

by j.p. lawrence

The door to the Root Cellar is always unlocked. Inside is a kitchen, a space for concerts, and a massive independent magazine library—all available for student use.

The door is kept unlocked out of a sense of trust, says junior Maddy Strassler, one of the co-heads of the Root Cellar Collective.

"It stems from the idea that as students, we are responsible and we can definitely run a space of our own, without having the authority of the school breathing down our necks the whole time," Strassler said.

This trusting attitude, though, doesn't always pay off. Junior Rory Hamovit, one of Strassler's co-heads in the Root Cellar Collective, says that he has seen people trash the space, take stuff and not treat it well. "People don't really respect the space," Hamovit said.

"We want the Root Cellar to be open at all times," Strassler said, "but people end up abusing the thing we have."

Strassler has been involved with the Root Cellar for three years. She says she was drawn to the Root Cellar's ideals of student independence, radical politics and punk rock music. The Root Cellar, along with SMOG, is one of only two student-run spaces at Bard. It claims to be a space by students, for students.

"It's really nice to enter a space that you know is being taken care of by your fellow students," Strassler said. "I know a lot of people feel a lot better at the Root Cellar than they do at the Campus Center or at the

library."

Four clubs currently use the space for meetings, says Hamovit, and the club's spring calendar is full of readings and concerts.

One such upcoming spring event is Punk Rock Prom. Punk Rock Prom has hosted student punk rock cover bands at the end of each spring semester for a decade.

Punk Rock Prom usually takes place on the quad outside the Root Cellar. Last year, however, problems at the event got the Root Cellar Collective, as hosts, in trouble.

"A lot of people were being really rowdy and really drunk—throwing bottles and stuff," Strassler says. "We were told we couldn't have it on the quad this year."

The space takes a lot of damage during concerts, Strassler says. During her freshman Punk Rock Prom, someone kicked a hole in the wall. The hole is still there, next to the toilet.

The kitchen, too, has seen better days. The refrigerators and the drawers are both empty, and the hot water heaters and coffee makers have either been broken or stolen.

The kitchen once served as a vegan café that served cookies and tea. Strassler says she and a few of her friends tried to bring the café back her sophomore year, but thieves made off with both food and money.

"With any kind of student-run space, people are like, 'Oh yeah, there's no authority, we can just, like wreck

shit,'" Strassler said, "and I would like to have more faith in the student body."

Strassler hopes the space can include a café again one day.

Currently, the Root Cellar Collective is in the middle of spring cleaning. Residents from Robbins Addition have been helping out as part of the community restitution they're doing for a recent spate of vandalism in Robbins.

"It really needed a cleaning," said sophomore Lucas Duffy-Tumas, who has spent several weekends organizing, sweeping and mopping. "I wanted to help out."

Strassler hopes that by cleaning up the space, students will realize that it's a place for them to hang out, do homework, or make a sandwich. The hope is that students can walk in through that unlocked door and hold a club meeting, or perhaps browse its independent magazine collection, one of the one of the Northeast's largest.

The Root Cellar Collective hopes that students will respect the space, Hamovit said. The Collective believes that the only way for that hope to be fulfilled is for people to come to the Root Cellar and find out what the big deal is.

"I'd love for more people to just hang out here, spend time here, enjoy the concerts and use the free kitchen," Hamovit said. "Just use the space."

"Stop by whenever," Strassler said. "We leave it unlocked."



## BARD DEBATE TEAM TAKES ON ROBBINS FINE

by megan towey

The Bard Debate Union hosted a public debate Feb. 22 on personal accountability and communal responsibility in the wake of the Robbins community fine.

The debate followed a series of acts of vandalism at that resulted in a \$250 fine for residents of both Robbins and Robbins Addition.

At the beginning of the debate, 14 members of the audience favored the community fine, and 21 opposed it. By the end, only ten supported the fine, with 24 against it.

Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus Life, began the debate with a discussion on the financial importance of the fine.

"It is very contentious, and we know there is some inherent unfairness in the process," said Perry. "But how can we cover these costs? Is there a better way to do this?"

First-year Imaani Easthausen, who argued in favor of the fine, started the debate by sharing the intangible effects of the fine.

"Fines are positive because they create mutual responsibility," said Easthausen. "Students should hold each other accountable by creating an environment where this is not socially acceptable."

First-year Lexi Echelman, who also argued in support of the fine, claimed that it is a financial necessity, but incorporating it into student tuition creates distance from the root of the issue.

"It is not fair to do nothing," said Echelman. "How else can we get the money when something goes wrong?"

Sophomore Armaan Alzaki, on the side opposing the fine, argued that holding everyone accountable for the acts of the unpunished few is "inherently unjust," and that the administration should focus more on improving the feeling of community in dorms where vandalism occurs.

"The only thing injustice propagates is more injustice," said Alzaki. "We all know that it's going to be harder and more time consuming to build a commu-

nity, but it will be more just."

First-year Emily Epstein, also argued that the financial burden of the fine divides the community based on socioeconomic status.

"\$250 means something completely different to different people, and not everyone is being punished equally," said Epstein. "Community service makes this divide even worse because you can tell who can afford it and who can't."

"I think it went really well," said Stephanie Presch, a first-year who argued in support of the fine, after the debate. "Both of the sides were represented in a way that people could give them equal consideration. I think it's raised some awareness along the lines of facilitating that discussion and getting people to consider both sides."

Debate coach Ruth Zisman encouraged students to get involved in debates on campus, hailing debate as "an integral part of community life." Meetings are on Monday nights at 7 p.m. in the Red Room.

photo by will anderson

## Tales From Tewksbury: THE CASE OF THE FALSE FIRE ALARM

by david giza



3:50 AM. All is quiet on South Campus. The residents of Tewksbury Hall are, for the most part, asleep. Suddenly, the whole dorm is awakened by the high-pitched, eardrum-shattering, teeth-chattering, shrill bleating of a fire alarm.

Soon the dorm's residents stand outside, irked beyond all belief as they rub themselves in the brisk winter morning. Some asked, "Who the hell stages a fire drill at four in the morning?"

This was the scene outside Tewksbury Hall in the early hours of the morning on Saturday, February 10. Many wondered whether the alarm really was a drill. Fortunately, the school isn't that sadistic - it was a false alarm.

"No one was expecting [the alarm] that early in the morning," said Tewksbury Peer Counselor Rushell Reid. "It took us all by surprise." Incidents like this are uncommon in the dorm this year. "This is the first [false] alarm this semester and only the second one the whole [academic] year," Reid said.

The next day Area Coordinator for South Campus, Ashley Boltrushek, sent an e-mail to all Tewksbury residents asking that whoever pulled the alarm, or anyone with knowledge of the incident, come forward immediately so that a communal fine could be prevented.

"I would like to avoid a communal fine being assessed because of this incident and

the only way to prevent that is to have the responsible person come forward," Boltrushek wrote.

Asked in late February about the likelihood of a fine, Boltrushek replied with a resounding and definitive maybe.

"It all depends on whether or not the person or persons responsible comes forward. If [they do], then the issue becomes a lot simpler," she said.

According to the Bard College Student Handbook, the punishment for setting off a false fire alarm is a maximum fine of \$500 plus the cost of repairs, and a minimum fine of \$100 plus 20 hours of community service. Why, then, are the residents of Robbins being fined and not those of Tewksbury? Boltrushek explained that the issue is scale.

"The Robbins and Robbins Addition fine was due to repeated fire alarms in the same 24-hour span and the draining of the sprinkler system," Boltrushek said. "Those are major incidents. The Tewksbury incident is just that, an incident. One."

The college continues to weigh its options, and Boltrushek hopes to resolve the issue without a fine becoming involved. "What people don't think about is while one or two people may have been involved in pulling this alarm, there were 88 other students sleeping in the building, not being disruptive," Boltrushek said.

## ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE SEEKS TO ENGAGE STUDENT BODY

by megan towey

The Entertainment Committee, a historically elusive group that provides funding for outside bands to perform on campus, is getting in tune with the student body.

According to co-head Nick Kiersted, a junior, the committee has started polling the student body to determine whom to book for a "larger-scale" performance. The committee also now hosts open forums at the beginning of each semester in order to be more transparent and accessible to the community.

"A lot of the changes we've been going through are actually things that have always been required of us by the student constitution," said Kiersted. "They've just been overlooked in past years."

Unlike similar groups at other colleges, the Entertainment Committee, alongside organizing their own events, also gives funding to students who are interested in hosting shows themselves, according to Julie Silverstein, Director of Student Activities and the Bertelsmann Campus Center.

"They have been allotting money to students interested in hosting shows at a higher rate than in the past," Silverstein said.

"We mostly leave it to the student body to book and promote their own events," said Kiersted. "We simply act as guides, helping students negotiate with performers and booking agents and also try[ing] hard to disperse the budget fairly and evenly throughout the school."

This semester, the Entertainment Committee will select a band to play for Spring Fling. A ballot was sent to the student body on March 5th containing, among hipster darlings Sleigh Bells, Atlas Sound and Toro Y Moi, Caribbean soca artist Kevin Lyttle, known for his 2004 hit "Turn Me On."

The list was compiled "using our best judgment," Kiersted said.

"We tried to use our public meeting this semester as a forum for people to suggest bands for the poll, but unfortunately the meeting this year was extraordinarily under-attended," he added.

Some students, though, found the bands on the list a little obscure.

"I hadn't heard of any of the bands except for Atlas Sound, so I voted for him," said first-year Ana Freeman. "I guess my musical tastes aren't cool enough for Bard."

"We've received some backlash here and there over the popularity of the artists included in the poll," Kiersted said. "A lot of people need to understand that Bard's Entertainment Committee doesn't get the big bucks that other, larger colleges receive. We are met with the challenge of finding an artist that is both well-known and is able to perform for a fee that the committee can afford."

During Kiersted's first year, he said, the committee's funding was "wildly mismanaged." That year, the committee failed to conduct a poll to select a larger-scale act, host an open forum for criticism and suggestions, and hold elections to fill its open seats.

"The Planning Committee... kindly mentioned that aside from the accounting errors, we were also neglecting certain duties that the student constitution had required of us," Kiersted said.

This year, according to Kiersted, the committee's efficiency has improved.

"At this point in the semester, we have filled the vacant seats of the committee, held our forum, and begun the polling process," said Kiersted. "When the results of the poll are in, we will then move forward with booking our big event."



# FORMALIZATION OF RED HOOK AND MAS'HA PALESTINE SISTER CITY RELATIONSHIP IN ITS FINAL STAGES

by abhishek dev

Red Hook and Mas'ha, a Palestinian village with a population of about 2000, are in the final stages of formalizing a sister city relationship. Sister city relationships are defined as broad-based, officially approved, long-term partnerships between two communities in two countries.

Once Mas'ha and Red Hook are officially recognized as sister cities, Red Hook will be the eighth American city/town to have a sister city relationship with a Palestinian city and the third with a population under 30,000 to do so. Mas'ha will be the first Palestinian town of its size to be sister cities with an American town.

The idea of initiating a sister city relationship was proposed by Dan Gettinger, one of the organizers of the Bard Palestinian Youth Initiative (BPYI). BPYI, a student-run project in the Trustee Leader Scholar (TLS) Program, has been organizing civic engagement, cultural exchange, and educational programs in Mas'ha for more than three years now.

Paul Marienthal, Director of the TLS program, Micki Strawinski, Student Employment Manager at Bard College and former member of the Red Hook Town Board, and Erica Freudenberger, head of the Red Hook Public Library (RHPL), have all played important roles in making the idea a reality.

"I think that the more we can expose our children and residents to people from all cultures, religions and backgrounds, [the more we will] all benefit and grow," Strawinski said.

In the summer of 2010, BPYI built a Children's Library in Mas'ha with RHPL's help. Since then, BPYI and RHPL have reached out to the Mas'ha community in various ways. For their first exchange project, elementary school children from both towns made murals about their idea of community, citizenship and society. BPYI has also made several presentations about their relationship with Mas'ha to the Rotary Club, local public school administrators and the Red Hook Chamber of Commerce.

"I just wanted to extend and give a face to this relationship between Red Hook and Mas'ha, and a sister city relationship was a natural outgrowth of the exchange project," Gettinger said. "[It] sounded like an excellent idea to solidify cultural exchange between the two towns, which will allow for more collaboration and communication and a direct exchange of ideas."

The sister city resolution was proposed in a March 2011 meeting of the Red Hook Town Board by Gettinger and Marienthal. The resolution was endorsed by Strawinski, who was serving on the Board at that time, and all town board members present approved the resolution unanimously. Following the meeting, the Red Hook Sister Cities Committee was formed. It includes a number of Red Hook town leaders and residents.

"As a librarian, my role is to connect people to information so that they may be empowered, explore their passions and make informed decisions," Freudenberger said. "It's a tremendous opportunity for both the towns to access first-hand information and have discussions on any number of topics, and to create a new community that is not defined entirely by geography."

Sister Cities International is a nonprofit citizen diplomacy network that creates and strengthens partnerships between United States and international communities. For Sister Cities International to officially recognize the Red Hook/Mas'ha relationship, the local city council has to approve it. This will be followed by a signing ceremony with top elected officials from the two local jurisdictions.

The sister city resolution has been approved by the Red Hook Town Board, and the signing ceremony has yet to be completed. Gettinger and BPYI have raised funds and are planning to bring members of the Mas'ha village council—including the village Imam, the head of the village council and the head of Mas'ha's youth group—to the area in the spring to complete the official process.

This past February, the Red Hook Sister Cities Committee also decided to look into expanding the relationship to include an Israeli town, thereby creating a triangular sister cities relationship.

"I'm excited about the sister city relationship between Red Hook and Mas'ha," Freudenberger said. "I think it's powerful when small communities can connect on a direct basis—we get to see firsthand our commonalities, establish relationships and find ways to move forward in a positive way."

## STUDENT GOV'T UPDATE

The community dinner that took place Feb. 23 proved to be a wonderful way to create community through simple discussion of what we enjoy about Bard. Two working groups developed out of the meeting. The first is looking to organize a finale event for L&T where first-years can meet and mingle with upper classmen. The second hopes to start a mentorship program to strengthen the ties between under and upper classmen throughout a student's college life. If you want to be included in either of these working groups please contact me at [vote@bard.edu](mailto:vote@bard.edu).

Please come to the next community dinner in the faculty dining room March 22 at 6:30pm to share your thoughts about how we can enhance the Bard community.

Please note that elections for Student Government positions are coming up. Information sessions on each open position will be held in April. Stay tuned for more details!

Mackie Siebens  
President of the Student Association Government

First I want to thank all the club heads this semester for doing, overall, a very good job with the boring bureaucratic side of being a club head. That said, over \$450,000 was requested by over 120 clubs this semester compared to \$280,000 requested last semester by 160 clubs. In both instances we had about \$200,000 to allocate so as you can imagine, we had to cut quite a bit of each clubs' proposed budget.

Our hope is that clubs will spend most if not all of their money this semester so that we can request an increase in the Student Activities fee, which, compared to other similar institutions, is appallingly low. Keep your eyes open for a petition that we hope to start circulating in the near future.

Kye Ehrlich  
Chair of Planning Committee

## NEWS BRIEFS //

by joey sims and kurt schmidlein

Permanently stationed security guards have been removed from the lobby of Robbins Addition.

Ken Cooper, Director of Security, confirmed that the added security presence in the dorm now consists only of casual guards.

Security guards have returned to their regular patrol shifts around campus, including through Robbins Addition on occasion.

"If we need a professional guard the casual guard will call them in," said Cooper. He added that casual guards will remain "at least for now."

Cooper also said that conversations around

an access system to the dorm are ongoing. He remains concerned about non-students entering the dorm without a reason for being there.

Whether added security in Robbins is still needed is a question that will not be addressed immediately. "That's a conversation that's going to be continual," said Cooper.

But he feels recent community efforts in the dorm have had some success.

"The shock of the fine and...the understanding of responsibility - it seems to be working," he said. "Students are taking ownership of it." "The ship always rights itself," he added.

The college will be introducing a new computer system for students to report policy violations and student concerns.

The system, called Maxient, will allow students to submit reports to the Office of Residence Life and Housing. These can be reports of suspected policy violations or concerns about another student.

Students will be able to submit reports anonymously if they choose, according to Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus Life. She noted that students cannot currently submit reports without talking directly to a staff member or security, which students may not be comfortable with.

Perry said the system would help the Office of Residence Life and Housing in report tracking and record keeping. But she stressed the potential benefits to students as well.

"[This system will] help get students who need help to the appropriate resources as soon as possible," she said. "It will have administrative benefits and student benefits."

The system was purchased by the college in February and will go live at the beginning of next academic year.

More details on this system will be included in a future issue of the Free Press.

Many residents of Robbins and Robbins Addition are currently in the process of paying the fine imposed last semester - many of them through community service.

The \$250 fine was in response to an outbreak of vandalism last semester. Students have a choice of how they pay their fine: paying the full \$250, paying \$150 and fulfilling five hours of restitution, and paying \$50 and fulfilling 10 hours of restitution.

Students received an email from Gretchen Perry, Dean of Campus life, laying out the options for restitution. Among the options available to students are: cataloguing photographs for TLS, remodeling the Root Cellar, fundraising for local volunteer fire companies, and working on horticulture projects.

According to junior Andres Medina, a Peer

Counselor in Robbins, a fourth option is offered to Peer Counselors: paying the entire fine with 12 and a half hours of restitution.

Medina has done five hours of community service so far; he has interviewed prospective Peer Counselors for two hours and cleaned the Bard shuttle for three hours. "I should be able to finish the 12 hours by this Friday [the 16th]. I'll be working for student activities, [organizing and cleaning up] the craft night," said Medina.

Those who are paying their fine in restitution have to record and submit their hours to the Office of Residence Life and Housing by March 16.

"The full fine will be placed on student accounts for those who have not submitted hours by the 16th," said Perry in the email.

# BARDIVERSE

## BARD AWAY FROM BARD THE NOLA EDITION

by hannah khalifeh

This past January, a group of twenty-two Bard students from the Trustee Leader Scholar Program's New Orleans Project settled into a small, Pepto-Bismol colored house in the business district of New Orleans. Out of these twenty-two students, four interned at the Bard Early College to help develop the relationship between Bard's New Orleans and Annandale campuses.

Bard Early College in New Orleans has been operating since 2008. High school students enrolled in BEC take their morning classes at New Orleans public high schools and come to BEC to take Bard classes in the afternoon.

These Bard classes count for undergraduate credits, but unlike students at similar institutions like the Bard Early College in New York, students here cannot earn an associate's degree. Despite the school's slightly different structure, BEC students still take courses modeled after Bard classes.

Moira Donegan, who organized the New Orleans Project, said that one of the highlights of working at BEC was soliciting, editing, and organizing submissions for an anthology of student writing.

First, the four Bard volunteers went to BEC's two New Orleans campuses (one just outside the French quarter and another in the Tremé) to encourage submissions from students.

Then, when they had enough submissions—"way more than we had been expecting," Donegan said—they arranged one-on-one meetings with students to help edit the pieces. Prior to the trip, the Bard students had received training in peer tutoring from Jane Smith, Assistant Director of Bard's Learning Commons.

Katie Bondy, a senior involved in the New Orleans Project, said she loved the BEC students' enthusiasm. "A stand-out moment [for me] was when a particularly passionate group of student-poets we'd been working with held an impromptu reading in the hallway," she recalled.

The Bard interns' work didn't limit them to the BEC campuses. They also got a chance to explore the city as they put together a list of summer jobs and internship opportunities

for BEC students.

"One student told us he wanted to be a detective," Donegan recalled. "We found him an internship doing evidence collection for the New Orleans Public Defenders office."

Several students were interested in fashion, and so the team of interns found summer positions at a line of boutiques in the city. Others students were able to secure internships at the Audubon Park Zoo.

The two-week trip ended with a fundraiser organized by the Bard interns, which Donegan described as an evening of music and cocktails at the "endlessly generous" New Orleans bar The Rusty Nail. The night generated several hundred dollars, which will go directly to funding BEC's student-run civic engagement initiatives.

Though the two-week stay may seem short, Bondy says that connecting with the students and getting familiar with the BEC environment wasn't hard. Whether they were talking to students about academics and college applications or giving them pep talks on their love lives (as Donegan did) both Bondy and Donegan enjoyed the free time they had to get to know students. "My two-week long presence there felt very natural," Bondy said.

Stephen Tremaine, a Bard graduate and Nola native who is now the director of the BEC program in New Orleans, emphasized the importance of Bard's ambitious outreach program—whether the college is setting up schools in New Orleans or forging a relationship with Al Quds University in Jerusalem.

"We think it's a pretty powerful thing to create an intellectual community that spans across all of these people and all of these contexts," Tremaine said. This opportunity to reach out to students across the globe is unique and valuable to the student experience here in Annandale, he added.

The other two groups in the New Orleans Project worked at a K-8 charter school in the Broadmoor neighborhood and volunteered at a post-Katrina development group. The Project is looking forward to welcoming new members for next year; its Wednesday night meetings are open to everyone.



# BARD TO SEND FIRST-YEAR STUDENTS TO BERLIN PLANS FOR NEW SATELLITE TAKE SHAPE

by zappa graham

Bard College's plans for its newest satellite institution are beginning to take shape - and for twenty-five incoming first-years, they will mean a radically different start to their Bard life.

The European College of Liberal Arts, located in East Berlin, Germany, was acquired by Bard in November 2011. ECLA will provide an educational alternative for students in Europe, where liberal arts colleges are scarce.

For Bard students, study abroad options will be made available to juniors and, in a first for Bard, incoming first-years. Twenty-five members of the class of 2016 will have the choice of studying in Annandale-on-Hudson or Berlin, for the fall or spring semester. Students can also study at ECLA for both semesters if they wish.

"There is tremendous interest for this institution, for what this can be in Europe and what it can be for students in Annandale," said Florian Becker, future Program Director for ECLA of Bard, and Assistant Professor of German.

The ECLA curriculum consists of an eight-credit course that is comparable to, yet more rigorous than, First-Year Seminar. It also includes electives in the humanities. Classes are taught in English.

Meanwhile, students will be interacting with their peers from around the world, including non-Bard students. "This is a genuinely international environment in the middle of Berlin," Becker said.

In future years, it is expected that all incoming first-years will have the opportunity to spend their first-year year abroad. The historical significance of ECLA's location may attract many; the five buildings that make up its campus formerly belonged to the embassies of such countries as Egypt, Cuba, and Nigeria.

Study abroad in junior year will be limited to German studies majors, at least initially. Once at ECLA, they will be able to choose from a broad selection of academic divisions.

In the fall of 2011, ECLA received academic accreditation by the Berlin Senate's Administration for Education and Science. Subsequently, the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation transferred ownership of ECLA to Bard College. Other interested parties included Middlebury College, according to Vice President for Special Global Initiatives Susan Gillespie.

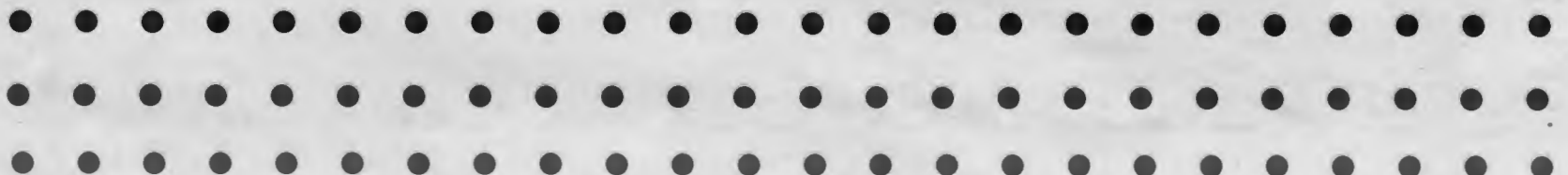
But President Leon Botstein has been involved with ECLA since its inception in 1999. He is currently part of its academic advisory board, alongside Gillespie, Vice President and Dean of Graduate Studies Norton Batkin, Vice President and Dean for International Affairs and Civic Engagement Jonathan Becker, Vice President and Dean of the College Michele Dominy, and President of the Endeavor Foundation Julie Kidd, among others.

"My hope is that Bard students studying political theory and philosophy will be able to spend time at ECLA Bard learning both German and the German tradition of philosophy - from Kant and Hegel, to Nietzsche and Heidegger," said Roger Berkowitz, Academic Director of the Hannah Arendt Center for Politics and the Humanities.

There is also a hope that the strong philosophy and humanities faculty at both Bard and ECLA will be able to offer courses at both schools, Berkowitz added.

The educational styles of the two institutions suit each other well, according to Garry Hagberg, James H. Ottaway Jr. Professor of Philosophy and Aesthetics. ECLA is a small college, with sixty students and less than twenty faculty members. The current curriculum is only concerned with the humanities, without classes in math or science.

Under Bard, the college will grow to accommodate more students and include more academic divisions. "There is a pool of outstanding people in Berlin and America who want to teach [at ECLA]," Becker said. "There is tremendous energy behind this."





## FARM TAKES ROOT

### STUDENTS LOOK TO START FARM ON CAMPUS

by rebecca swanberg

There are 500 acres of Bard campus. That's 500 acres of trees, of fields, a few academic buildings, a few dormitories. There are the fields that stretch from the Levy Institute to the Hudson, fields that span from the Manor estate to an extensive treeline. Overgrown and untouched fields that hide behind the cut grass that Bard's soccer teams dutifully tear apart.

The 500 acres of potential was the first thing John-Paul Sliva noticed when he came to Bard in April 2011. As a local farmer and the organizer of the Red Hook Community Garden, Sliva came to observe how college students interact with their own garden—and ended up with the title "Farm Coordinator."

"When I came here, I fell in love with the space and saw the potential to see it become beautiful," Sliva said. "I said I would commit for the season."

Sliva was only intending to help TLS Director Paul Marienthal with the Bard Community Garden for the growing season, which ended in October 2011. However, he's found himself finishing a project in progress—the Bard Farm.

At the end of the season, Sliva says Marienthal was excited about the Bard Community Garden's appearance and feedback due to Sliva's hard work. When Sliva suggested expansion, Marienthal agreed. Sliva and volunteers created a petition which about 200 students signed in support of the Bard Farm and farm, food and sustainability-related classes.

"I'm not just a farmer, I'm a food activist. Someone that is interested in allowing others to discover food that is not only healthy for the person, but for the planet," Sliva said.

The Bard Community Garden is a small but functional garden that is surrounded by a field of about one acre—an acre that is now officially the Bard Farm plot. Half-plowed, the farm doesn't look like much yet. But Marienthal, Sliva and first-year Carter VanDerbilt have plans.

The farm is intended to be a model of the future of sustainable farming. It will be a no-till farming system that doesn't disturb the soil and lets the soil build its own ecosystem. According to Sliva, the soil will regenerate over and over again. The farm will also employ drip irrigation, a method of irrigation that allows water to slowly drip to the roots of plants, reducing water usage by 70 percent. In addition to the crops, the farm will also include chickens that will become a source of eggs for students. The model farm will be an expansion to the Bard Community Garden that shows students the systems and strategies that make up sustainable agriculture, Sliva says.

"A farm is for production, which is different than the experience of growing that students get at a community garden," Marienthal said. "There isn't anyone on campus who doesn't think the farm will be a good thing."

Though Marienthal says no one is against the idea of a campus farm, there is one reason that the plot is left half-plowed and not planted: money. According to Marienthal, Bard has agreed to account for two-thirds of the funding needed to start the farm if the students come up with their third in less than a month. The students' third will be \$20,000—meaning that Bard will front \$40,000 if students follow through.

VanDerbilt, the Head of Bard College Farm, has spearheaded the student activism for the farm. Though support and volunteers are available in abundance, funding is not—something VanDerbilt is working to turn around.

"It's about seizing enthusiasm and making it convenient enough for students to ask their parents to support them in this," VanDerbilt said. "My parents know that I'm excited so they are eager to help."

VanDerbilt is organizing tables at Kline, the faculty dining room and the Campus Center to increase awareness. He

also made a brochure to send that will include self-addressed envelopes for donations. The Bard Farm is also starting a Kickstarter fundraising page. Marienthal noted that if just the 200 students who signed the petition fundraised \$100 each, the 'students' contribution would be accounted for.

"We have to pay the farmer. We have to buy materials to put up a deer fence, pay a plumber for the water main," Marienthal said. "Extraordinarily generously, the administration will cover two thirds of this, and we're not an agriculture school. It's not like we can't live without this, as far as the college is concerned."

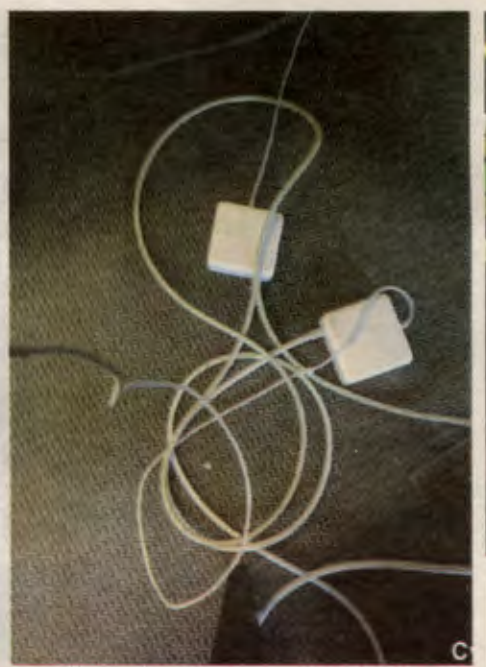
Though an original plan was to offer summer courses for full credit and donate the tuition to the farm, there is not yet a strong enough academic tie, according to Marienthal. In the future, he says, there will be a lot of academic ties. Though first-year and farm volunteer Levi Shaw-Faber says the farm could benefit the Environmental and Urban Studies program, no programs are prepared to take on the farm yet.

Though a formal academic tie cannot be drawn yet, Sliva says the farm will have many other benefits to students. Chartwells has donated \$3,000 in exchange for food supply. Options like stocking the Green Onion and Kline Commons have been discussed. It is a chance to bring Bard students closer to their food in a school that is surrounded by agricultural communities, Shaw-Faber says.

"Students are really disconnected with their food. They don't know where the plant or animal product came from or if it is one at all—they don't know how to identify the plants, they don't know about their food," Shaw-Faber said.

"There is no better way to identify, be connected and bring yourself closer to your food than having your food walking distance from where you eat - grown where you eat."





**UPLOAD  
ME  
NOW**



**CELL PHONE PHOTOS  
TAKEN AT BARD,  
OF BARD,  
AND BY  
BARD STUDENTS**



*Will Anderson (A)  
Grayling Bauer (B)  
Ezra Glenn (C)  
Kurt Schmidlein (D)  
Emily Wisseman (E)  
Mikhail Yusfov (F)*

*(a photo essay inspired  
by mikhail yusfov)*







# THE TAMING OF TEWKKS?

by ben powes and free press staff

Most members of the Bard community have heard legends about Tewksbury Hall. From the Beastie Boys' alleged collegiate antics, to students smoking opium on the roof and mixing jungle juice in the bathtubs - many tales are associated with the dorm.

This year, however, residents report that despite the routine weekend partying, their experiences do not match the debauched tales they've heard.

"Compared to what I've heard about last year, it's definitely tamer," said first-year Ian Thaire. "Last year they used to have wild, crazy orgies and a tattoo gun."

These traditions have not carried over.

Eric Arroyo, a first-year, also said his experiences in Tewks don't match the stories he has heard.

"I've heard everything from flaming couches being thrown from the third floor to rotting pig's heads being posted at the entrance—nothing like that ever happens," Arroyo said.

First-year Jonian Rafti said the dorm's reputation was acknowledged at the beginning of the academic year.

"On the first day we had a bunch of meetings with the [peer counselors] and they brought up the fact that Tewks had that reputation, but we could make [Tewks] our own," Rafti said. "It definitely gets its reputation from people actually trying to live up to it every year—but we have made it our

own."

Nevertheless, some of this year's activities seem to bear a resemblance to those of last year. Thaire recounted stories of vomiting in the halls, students urinating on the floor and some vandalism.

"Last semester we had someone who would take 'shrooms often and play bongos very loudly and badly," Thaire said. "They're not there all the time, but occasionally."

South Campus Area Coordinator Ashley Boltrushek said that, so far, she's received fewer complaints about the environment in Tewksbury than she had at this time last year. She added that this was not because the Office of Residence Life had changed their placement criteria.

"No changes have been made to our placement process for incoming students," Boltrushek said. "We try to match students with the environment they most prefer - small community, large community - and with a roommate that matches most closely, based on the compatibility indicators they select."

Boltrushek believes many of the changes in Tewksbury stem from discussions held in the past. Last year, a series of violations culminated in a meeting between residents and Boltrushek. Residents discussed a number of measures at this meeting, including a chore chart to improve dorm

cleanliness and a monthly Tewksbury Forum to discuss dorm life.

"The ideas that were implemented last year have been carried out in a less formal way," Boltrushek said. "[Students have] spoken with [peer counselors] relatively closely about issues they observe and, as a result, follow-up happens more quickly and effectively."

However, former Tewks resident and sophomore Evan Dunn recalls that participation in the chore chart and the Tewks Forum were low.

"I think, last year, what happened was that we all got fined and everyone bitched about it for a while, but then calmed down," he said, referring to a door-propping fine levied against the dorm. "I don't think it had much to do with the chore chart."

About this year's crop of Tewks residents, Dunn said, "Jody [the dorms' housekeeper] has complained about it. She thinks they're boring."

Current residents have also attributed this year's relative calmness to a periodic security presence in the dorm and increased strictness on part of the dorm's PCs.

"They have been more strict about everything," Rafti said. "Before Robbins got one of their guards, we had a security guard for one or two weekends here." Rafti added that the security guard was placed at Tewks after its kitchen was "decorated

with eggs." Thaire also said that, at times, he will return to the dorm at night to find security patrolling the hallways.

"[The peer counselors] used to be very strict about everything, especially at the beginning of the year," Thaire said. "They used to have a policy that whenever they smelled weed they'd knock on everyone's door. They used to crack down on alcohol at parties."

"They've either stopped doing that as much or the parties have moved elsewhere," he added.

Tewks remains a popular party destination for students campus-wide, Arroyo said. "I think the issue with maintaining a set of rules in Tewks is the number of people constantly present who don't actually live there," he said. "From about late Wednesday every week [on], Tewks becomes more of a campus-wide debauchery forum than it is a dorm. In my opinion, we need to more closely monitor the people coming in and out of the dorm."

As far as many of the residents are concerned, the famed Tewksbury is now just another dorm.

"Aside from inebriated maniacs running around screaming and some minor vandalism," Arroyo said, "Tewks is a pretty typical college dorm."

# UNDERDOG DEBATE TEAM DOMINATES

by j.p. lawrence



When the Bard Debate Union Team walks into a room, people notice. Every other debate team dresses in suits and dresses. Polo shirts and khakis, at least. But the Bard team's duds are jeans, ripped shirts and goofy hats.

Anna Daniszewski is a Bard debater. She's pretty good, for a rookie. She and Max Taylor-Milner, her debate partner, form one of the top-20 novice policy debate teams in the entire country.

Daniszewski, a first-year, recently won 11th place at the Novice National Championships. Taylor-Milner, also a first-year, won 6th. They and the rest of Bard's Debate Union team have won 14 total awards over the last semester, including multiple top-10 speaker awards.

They're not your average debate team. No. They are combat philosophers. Critical warriors. Fast-talking, chain-smoking, Heidegger-reading hipsters. Over the last year, they've walked into rooms filled with future colonels, politicians and lawyers, and they've won.

"We're probably the coolest kids at these tournaments," says Mike Luxemburg, one of the team's coaches, "or at least, the least nerdy."

Luxemburg is the team sensei. A junior at Bard, he was once a big-deal debater himself. He says Ruth Zisman, the new debate coach, asked him and junior Sam Jaffe-Goldstein to come out of retirement to coach. The job: teach these two novices.

"We literally had no idea what we were

going into," Daniszewski says. They had joined the team on a whim. They showed up to their first tournament with no practice debates under their belt. They massacred the first team they met.

They got better as the year progressed. With Zisman, Luxemburg and Jaffe-Goldstein as their guides, Daniszewski and Taylor-Milner say they learned how to make complicated arguments and how to grind through all-day debates: five grueling rounds, one after another, like five final exams in one day.

They learned in time to talk like locomotives. Debaters read cards from bins filled with evidence and counter-evidence. The more cards read, the more evidence.

"You want to talk as fast as you can, while still being understandable to listeners," says Luxemburg. He says good debaters reach speeches of six words a second.

The effect is staggering. When Daniszewski stands and reads Foucault's first speech, her words whoosh. Big Latinized words, full of syllables and prefixes, rush from her lungs like water from a fire hose. Bio-politics, capitalism, hegemony, normative, discourse. Her arms flap in circles, and she rocks back and forth. She gulps to breathe every 30 words. She reads the speech through in 43 seconds.

When Taylor-Milner transforms into speech mode, on the other hand, he stands ramrod straight. His quick-fire babbling is soft, composed, authoritative. Unlike Daniszewski, who normally speaks in mea-

sured, rolling phrases, Taylor-Milner can be brash, even appear cocky.

Debate, after all, is a performance. A judge looks for confidence, assertiveness and acting like you know what you're talking about. In policy debate, students research and debate one resolution the entire year. Students prepare several cases: one defense of a specific aspect of the resolution, and multiple attacks on possible opponent defenses. It's like chess, Luxemburg says, knowing how to attack and then defend against counter-attacks.

As a critical team, Daniszewski and Taylor-Milner win through rhetorical jujitsu. Instead of arguing whether the United States should or shouldn't give more aid to Yemen, for example, they'll cite Foucault and Heidegger and argue that geopolitics as a concept is a dead end. It's not their opponent's response to the question that's wrong, they say, but the question itself.

"Teams are usually just like what? You just questioned everything that makes up the material," Taylor-Milner says. "What the hell man?"

The point is to take debate from an intellectual, cold experience and turn it in something lively and relevant, says John Jeworski, a first-year on Bard's varsity debate team. Jeworski says he has danced and taken off his shirt in debates.

"We're known this sort of radical approach," says Jeworski. "A lot of teams take similar roots, but Bard is renowned for pushing the envelope."

Other teams are less enthused about this strategy. Most opponents have positive views of the team, but others are wary. The whispers, Daniszewski and Taylor-Milner say, cling to old stereotypes: "Crazy bard kids...They're just like those fucking hippie stoner whatever - we'll get them...Those Bard kids, they're going to pull some fucking shit."

"Some teams get mad," Luxemburg says. "A lot of schools think it's cheating, or that it's not what debate is. The way I think about it, anything's okay in debate, as long as you can justify it."

The team will have one more tournament this year. The whole team flies to Oklahoma March 22 to compete in the 2012 Cross Examination Debate Association National Debate Tournament.

Next year, however, the two will make a long-overdue move up to varsity. There, they'll join Jeworski, who got them into debate in the first place.

Because of him and their coaches, Daniszewski and Taylor-Milner are the debaters they are today, the two say. The team this year spent long hours together, especially on the van rides home from tournaments. There they talk about, in order: their last rounds, the debate in general, future debates, classes, everyone's personal lives, and cigarettes. They don't talk as fast as they do in debates, but their minds still race. "We're a motley crew of hipsters," Daniszewski says.

It's a lesson their opponents learn fast.

# MAX BLUMENTHAL:

Max Blumenthal writes for the Daily Beast and is the author of the New York Times bestselling book "Republican Gomorrah: Inside the Movement that Shattered the Party." But Blumenthal is better known for his video-journalism work in Israel and Palestine, much of which has stirred controversy. Blumenthal visited Bard on February 29th to give a talk during Bard's Israel-Apartheid Week.

At the beginning of his lecture Blumenthal commented that Bard was "dramatically different" from other schools he's visited, noting that there was no Zionist-organized group here protesting his presence.

Blumenthal talked at length about his work in Israel-Palestine, and the role that the pro-Israel lobby plays in American politics. He also spoke about the BDS (Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions) movement against Israel, as well as sanctions currently imposed upon Iran, which he called "instruments of economic terror."

Blumenthal's appearance at Bard comes at a pivotal time for the affairs he covers. Tensions between Israel and Iran are mounting, and many within the U.S. are calling for the Obama administration to take military action against Iran's nuclear program.

Blumenthal said that the timing of the GOP primary has significant implications; Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has made his preference for a Republican president clear. Blumenthal also contended that Republicans stand to gain from an attack on Iran: military strikes would drive up gas prices, which would not bode well for President Obama.

After concluding his lecture, Blumenthal opened the floor for a Q&A session.

**Blumenthal agreed to a short interview with the Free Press.**

# DIVISIVE JOURNALIST TALKS ISRAEL-PALESTINE

by kurt schmidlein



photo courtesy of mark primoff

**FP:** How did you get from studying history in college to the work you're doing now?

**MB:** I wouldn't draw a direct link between what I studied in college and what I'm doing now. I would say that anyone who wants to be a journalist doesn't have to study journalism or necessarily prepare for it except for reading a lot and writing a lot.

I was raised in a very political family - my parents were active liberals, active in the democratic party - and we would always discuss politics at the dinner table, but Israel and Palestine was something we never really discussed.

So I started doing journalism around 2002, however old I was then. I mostly stayed away from Israel-Palestine and focused on U.S. politics. I covered the conservative movement, the religious right, who I considered the power behind the throne in the Bush Administration and the Bush era, and I thought the mainstream media was derelict on this. But even then I couldn't ignore the Israel-Palestine issue, because of this incipient influence of Christian Zionism in the religious right.

Israel's second invasion of Lebanon was extremely upsetting to me, but it really took Operation Cast Lead [Israel's 2008 military offensive against Gaza] for something inside of me to just break and say "I am going to take everything I've learned about this and all the skills and talents I have and expose what Israel's doing to the Palestinians, [and] what the Israel lobby is doing to American politics, without any apology, completely unvarnished."

My philosophy is just see what happens, I just throw myself into a situation.... so long as I'm confident that what I'm doing is ethical and I think I'm right and I have the facts. That's what I did with a video

I did of pro-Israel groups and activists celebrating this attack on Gaza in Times Square with the Governor of New York and Senator Chuck Schumer, the liberal Democrat, lauding them and celebrating with them. And it really was a celebration, there was dancing, it was so tasteless. They were using genocidal rhetoric about eradicating cancer in Gaza, things that had been said about Jews throughout history.

I put the video out and it generated a massive response.

Activists from Israel and Palestine, journalists starting reaching out to me, from Tel Aviv to Ramallah, from Lebanon, Gaza, saying 'come out here and we'll host you and show you around.' So I booked a ticket the next day.

**FP:** But you also got a significant negative response to your videos, correct? Is it true that some of the work you have done on Israel-Palestine has been taken down from some sites, such as YouTube?

**MB:** Yeah. The Zionist, pro-Israel community in the U.S. isn't really able to debate the facts, [so] they're very disturbed when their behavior, their violence and extreme rhetoric is exposed, especially the way I do it. They've been able to manage the mainstream press for a long time, but when some wild man like me comes out of the wilderness and starts doing these videos it's deeply threatening.

The first thing I did that really shocked them was with Joseph Dana, who's an Israeli-American journalist I met in Jerusalem. It was the night before Obama's speech in Cairo, and Obama was already the target of Islamophobic attacks. Joseph was living in central Jerusalem, which is an area where a lot of American

Jews... go out and get drunk and they're all hyped up on their Ziocane, as I call it - ultra-nationalism is a very powerful drug.

So we just walked down an alley and asked people what they thought of Obama. Immediately, it was young guys lining up in a competition to see who could say the most racist thing about Obama, with no shame about calling for his assassination, calling him a 'nigger,' that kind of stuff. And I released it, and it upset so many people across the spectrum even though I touched on something so real. This is the first time that Americans, especially in the Jewish world, have been confronted with the deep, latent racism that was starting to bubble up and explode about having a president whose middle name was Hussein, who had some Muslim heritage, who was African-American.

One of the mothers of the kids in the video was behind the campaign to take it off YouTube. She was relentless, and she sent a note to me. She said "Because of you, my son has been forced to go into rehab to seek therapy and quit drinking." And I'm like "And I did bad thing? You raised this kid to act like that and you're condemning me?"

But YouTube took it down. The Huffington Post took it down too, they said it wasn't 'news.' But the same day they had a piece about Denise Richard's boobs, I remember that distinctly. I could go on and on about attempts to censor my work, about attempts to discredit me, to somehow portray me as a fabricator. It's not that they don't believe that what I'm doing is factual, it's that they don't want it out there. It damages something they believe in very deeply and is linked to their identity, and they see it as a personal attack.

**FP:** In your book you wrote about how it's easier for fringe GOP groups to throw rocks when the GOP isn't in power. How is the fact that the GOP won control of the House of Representatives in 2010 shaping the primary race now?

**MB:** My book was called 'Republican Gomorrah' but the subtitle was 'Inside the movement that shattered the party.' A lot of right wingers would say, 'The party isn't shattered, we won the midterms.' Of course that can happen, there's a Democratic president.... you have all these gerrymandered districts, [Republicans] are going to win congressional seats.

But my point is that on a national level the party has completely been shattered by this radical-right element which has consumed the Republican base and driven out all moderate elements. We see that playing out [now] in the battle between Romney and Santorum. In my book, I wrote about how McCain was forced to pick Sarah Palin because she was the choice of the radical right, because she excited them.

This is such a long primary process.... because.... [voters] identify with Santorum on a visceral, emotional level, on a psychological level, and they think Romney is an infiltrator.

But they might not actually even want to win the White House, because having Obama in there, even more than with Clinton in there, has been a boon to the right wing, to their groups, to their fundraising, to their movement-building. This is why they often prefer to have Congress and not have the White House. I think that will be the dominant trend going forward with the Republican party, and Democrats I don't think have adequately prepared for that.



# NADIA IDLE: THE ANTI-"TWITTER REVOLUTION"ARY

by iliana hagenah

A group of Bard students sat in a crowded room, anticipating a lecture praising Twitter's role in the Egyptian Revolution Feb. 21. However, their assumption was soon corrected when author Nadia Idle began her lecture.

"This is not a twitter revolution," said Idle, co-author with Alex Nuns of the book *Tweets from Tahrir*. "People assume because we used tweets to tell a story we are celebrators of Twitter."

Idle said she considered the "quick and snappy" medium through a creative lens, using the tweets she came across to construct a narrative.

"This book uses Twitter as a lens to understand the Egyptian Revolution. I wanted to tell the story of what got me off of my chair to a plane to Egypt," Idle said.

Egyptian-born Idle was sitting in her London apartment browsing the Internet for news of the Egyptian uprising when she stumbled upon an unlikely source of reportage—Twitter.

"We get little information [of the revolution], except through Al Jazeera and [Twitter] hashtags," said Idle. Overcome by the

Tweets she'd seen, she traveled to Egypt.

Idle had left Egypt 10 years before moving to London and remembered her country as a society stripped of its soul.

"Women were sexually harassed on the streets and there were many other public displays of violence. The people were like zombies," Idle said.

Soon after arriving in Egypt, Idle spent three weeks putting together a narrative about the revolution using just the tweets she came across.

Idle said, however, that she believes there is an "arrogance displayed in the 'Twitter revolution' argument; it dismisses how revolutions begin in the first place."

On the contrary, Idle said, revolutions begin as a growing reaction from people who have experience a lack of opportunities and brutality from their government.

While Idle dismisses Twitter as a cause of the revolution, she recognizes it as a form of "citizen journalism."

While some tweets were stoic and informational, others hinted at an emergent solidarity and

emotional disillusionment.

Some tweets all centered around a single event, giving the narrative cohesion and connecting individual experiences.

"Blogs allow people to identify themselves, whether they are written by a gay man or a woman. I think Twitter does the opposite. It removes the identity preamble a lot of us have when we write," Idle said.

Some students attending the event agreed with Idle's disapproval of the term "Twitter revolution."

Hannah Khalifeh, a sophomore from Syria, was involved in Syrian protests over this past summer, in which Twitter also played a major role.

While Khalifeh commented that Twitter helped protesters mobilize and organize, she said that "[The term 'Twitter revolution' and others like it] oversimplify the situation so that it becomes easy to credit social networks with creating the revolutions, when in reality these communication technologies were simply tools that assisted the process."

## COURSEOLOGY 101

by aubrey tingler

### HOW FACULTY SHAPE THE BARD COURSE LIST

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'Persons and Things.' 'Eukaryotic Genetics.' 'Religion and the Secular in American and British Modernism.' 'Reading Baseball as Metaphor.'

These are just a few of the course titles you will come across glancing through Bard's catalog. Though Bard also offers most of the standards - English 101, Biology 202 and the like - many of the classes offered here are atypical and, in some cases, specialized.

That is because Bard allows its faculty to play a major role in the creation of new courses. Unlike at many other colleges and universities where the curriculum is administratively driven, course creation here is primarily in the hands of the faculty.

Registrar Peter Gadsby said that course creation at Bard involves conversation among faculty members both in casual settings and official division meetings. Faculty in each division meet to discuss what they would like to teach and what needs to be taught. Rejection of a course is rare; most are approved.

"I can't remember an instance of something not being approved [unless] there was a general feeling of 'This is really, really weird,'" said Gadsby. "I hate to put it that way," he added with a laugh.

"If a course comes to the point of coming to the whole division, it's very, very rare for something not to be approved," he went on. "It's like moderation."

Bard wants to allow professors to have a strong voice in course cre-

ation. "Everyone has things they are particularly passionate about," Gadsby noted.

Assistant Professor of Humanities and Director of the Language and Thinking Thomas Bartscherer teaches a class about the relationship between poetry and philosophy called 'Ancient Quarrels.' "The central question [of the class] is one I am very interested in," he explained.

Not all universities celebrate professors' individual interests. "I taught at a major university—I won't say which one—before I came here and...you were told exactly what slot you were hired to fill," said Nancy Leonard, Professor of English.

The situation Leonard describes is not uncommon. "I've taught at the University of Chicago and had a syllabus given to me," Bartscherer said. Bard only gives professors a syllabus for First-Year Seminar, and even in that course, faculty members have some limited freedom.

Students, too, can influence course creation. If they persuade a professor to offer a tutorial on a topic of interest to them, it may result in the creation of a new course on that topic later on - as was the case with a tutorial on Emily Dickinson led by Leonard.

"A lot of new faculty are attracted to Bard because of their ability to create new courses," Leonard said.

The relatively open curriculum works especially well for visiting professors like Professor of Literature Maria Cecire. "I've loved having so much freedom in designing my litera-

ture courses," Cecire said. "As long as you can pitch what you want to do and the educational benefits, there tends to be a lot of freedom in what you teach."

Cecire has taken advantage of this freedom, such as with a class she taught last fall, 'Early English Literature Reanimated: The Further Adventures of the Body and Soul.' (The class was taught in partnership with Assistant Professor of English Lianne Habinek.)

"I taught at Oxford, which is extremely different because it's a tutorial based system," Cecire went on. "You're kind of told what to teach, although you have leeway within each given topic."

Even in the seemingly more rigid Science, Mathematics and Computing Division, there is room for faculty to incorporate their individual interests.

"Most of the programs in the division have moved away from [requiring] 'x-one' and 'x-two,'" Associate Professor of Computer Science Rebecca Thomas said. Instead, faculty members teach introductory courses but are also allowed to focus on areas in which they are particularly interested.

The study of science is always changing, and new developments in the field often lead to the creation of a new course. "I think the students benefit because we can react to the growing importance of certain topics," Thomas said. "You're free to design a new course at any time."

# CREEPY CORNER: HOPSON COTTAGE

by *jessica merliss*

Bard Security Officer Fred Kimlin has been working on this campus for five years now, and for all five of those years, the light bulb on the second floor of Hopson Cottage has remained on. None of the security guards can find the switch. The bulb has never burnt out.

Kimlin has refused to enter Hopson Cottage for the past three years. I assume I caught Kimlin on a good night because he agreed to take me to the cottage, which is now the Admissions building. Perhaps he thought that nothing would happen as long as we were expecting it to. This was the first time that Kimlin had gone back to Hopson Cottage since the night of the incident.

One night three years ago, Kimlin stopped by the cottage to make his lunch at 4:30 AM. He walked through the front door, past a heavy, red antique chair, past the secretary's desk, through the hall and into the kitchen. After putting his food in the microwave, Kimlin had the urge to walk back towards the front door, where he found himself staring at the red antique chair that he'd seen sitting against the wall just minutes before. It now lay between Kimlin and the exit, facing him. Kimlin says that someone was sitting in the chair looking at him.

Kimlin doesn't remember how he got outside after that. He called his co-worker, Gino, immediately and told him to get down to the admissions building as soon as possible because Fred was never going to go back in there—and he needed his lunch.

The history of Hopson Cottage is slightly hazy. What we do know is that the cottage was built around 1857 as part of the pre-Bard St. Stephen's campus. The cottage housed Reverend George Seymour, St. Stephens' first warden. After Seymour's resignation in 1861, Reverend George Hopson lived in the cottage until his death in 1913.

Helene Tieger, College Archivist and Reference Librarian, recalled some details about Reverend Hopson that she had gath-

ered from archived information.

"He had no sympathy for anyone that didn't do their assignments. He was a very nice man, and well respected, but he was a no-nonsense kind of guy," Tieger said.

The property became part of the Zabriskie estate until it was given back to Bard in 1951. Nothing is known about the cottage's inhabitants during the period of its ownership by the Zabriskies. After its acquisition by Bard, the cottage housed faculty and later became the Admissions building.

Kimlin says that Hopson Cottage is haunted. It's believed by some that a man who was living there killed his whole family and then himself. Kimlin thinks that man might have been the one who was sitting in the red chair looking at him. He remembered feeling threatened. It's possible that these homicides might have taken place while the property was part of the Zabriskie estate, which would explain why no records of them exist. However, the ghost that Kimlin came face-to-face with could have been Reverend Hopson himself, unhappy with Kimlin's late-night intrusion into his home.

Hoping to see a ghost, I convinced Kimlin to bring me to Hopson Cottage. When we went upstairs so that Kimlin could show me the ever-burning light bulb, we left the downstairs lights on. When we returned, the lights were off. Kimlin asked me if I had turned off the lights, and I said no. He turned to me and gave me a look. I was about to burst with excitement at the idea of actually stumbling across some ghostly activity. We took a few steps forward and something roared. I screamed at the top of my lungs. It was just another security guard, Bob Bathrick, playing a prank on Kimlin. He had heard about Fred's decision to come back to Hopson and he didn't want to miss his chance to make sure that this was really Fred's last visit to the cottage.







Bard has been taking part in the Campus Conservation Nationals for several years. The competition is essentially a tournament in which six hundred colleges and universities in the United States and Canada participate. The schools all initiate recycling initiatives during the eight weeks of Recyclemania, tracking and recording their levels of recycling as well as their garbage production—measured in pounds—and reporting this information to the tournament organizers.

Each week the leading schools are posted on the Recyclemania national website. After eight weeks, the scores are tallied and

the schools with the best and worst recycling and waste records are reported and posted online. This will be the competition's eleventh consecutive year.

Bard's Eco-Reps hope that Bard will be among the top schools in the competition this year. In 2011 Bard ranked 219th out of 630 schools. In 2010 Bard ranked 165th out of 607. Students can help out by putting as many of their used resources as possible into the various recycling and reuse bins on campus. The Office of Sustainability also urges students to use the UNO machine in Down The Road's dining area. It accepts hundreds of

brands and types of bottles, and students can win prizes for using it.

Recyclemania is currently holding a composting competition similar to the one organized last spring, which will culminate on May 16 in Down The Road. Baked goods will be handed out as prizes, and students will have the opportunity to decorate their dorms' composting bins.

The winners of the Campus Conservation Nationals will be announced at the last Recyclemania event of the year, which will take place on March 24 in the MPR and feature bands, raffles, prizes, and games.

by avery lamb

Bikers at Bard have been active during the last months of winter in spite of rain, ice and snow. Various groups at Bard have been working to keep it that way.

Junior Justin Gero, for instance, helped build a shelter in Cruger Village to protect bikes from inclement weather, and another shelter was installed adjacent to the Bike Co-op's headquarters in the Old Gym.

Gero is working with the Office of Sustainability to implement a new program, Bard Bike Share, that will allow faculty, students and staff to rent bikes at any point during the semester. After paying a membership fee of \$25 and signing a waiver, students will be able to rent a bike for 48 hours at a time, as many times as they'd like. The program's goal is to provide "the fun and convenience of bicycling without the bother of buying or maintaining a bike." Gero applied for this work-study position with the Office of Sustainability because of his previous experience with biking and his interest in maintaining the strong presence of bikers on campus. Fellow bike enthusiast Jack Bott restored about 25 bikes last summer, all of which will be available for this program. The plan is for the bike keys to be distributed by Security and dropped off in the same place. If security takes responsibility for key

distribution, Gero can focus his time on basic bike maintenance. The program will levy fees for damaged or stolen bikes.

At this time, the program only has three members and hasn't generated enough interest to implement the distribution of keys by Security. Senior Jocelyn Edwards and sophomore Logan Hollarsmith, both Bike Co-op volunteers, are also working on the program but are disappointed in its progress thus far.

"We are definitely working on the same side," Edwards said. "We just want to see those bikes being used."

However, Edwards and Hollarsmith both commented on the ineffectiveness of the current system, and Edwards suggested that the Bike Share program donate the bikes they collect to the Bike Co-op on campus, which would distribute them to students. Though an extension of the rental period has been considered to improve the success of the program, the majority of students who have expressed interest in rentals would use their bikes to ride from class to class and not utilize the full 48-hour rental period.

The Bard Bike Co-op, located in the basement of the Old Gym, helps students to repair their own bikes free of charge. The Co-op accepts donations, and many seniors end up

leaving their bikes to the Co-op after graduating. The Co-op, by teaching interested students how to repair their bikes themselves, encourages them to maintain their own equipment.

Co-op volunteers work on an average of three to four bikes per night, two nights a week. The Co-op experiences no lull in popularity during the winter though fewer students appear to be actively riding. Winter weather does not deter Jason Gregg and junior Nathan Steinauer from riding their bikes into Bard from their Barrytown homes every day. All volunteers interviewed agreed that Bard is a pleasant and safe campus to ride on, although a little extra care would go a long way.

"Helmets should be 'cooler,'" Edwards said. "If people locked their bikes and didn't leave them in the snow all winter, things would be a lot easier for everyone."

As for stealing, Edwards admitted that the only solution is to continue carefully locking bikes. Edwards has lost two bikes to thefts and last year, Hollarsmith witnessed several people putting unlocked bikes in their cars.

Along with repairing bikes and providing information regarding riding, the Bike Co-op sponsors cross-campus bike rides. The first Alley Cats



race of 2012, "Hunks and Babes," was a non-competitive cycling scavenger hunt across campus. The Bike Co-op also treats the students that ride with them on the occasional Friday afternoon to ice cream from Holy Cow in Red Hook.

"The bike Co-op is a very useful resource that could and should be used by more people," Edwards says. "It is completely free, which some people are confused about. It is also the most graffiti-ed place on campus."

Check out the Bike Co-op's blog at [bikesatbard.blogspot.com](http://bikesatbard.blogspot.com) for pictures and more Co-op news. Anyone interested in joining Bard Bike Share should contact Justin Gero at [jg9415@bard.edu](mailto:jg9415@bard.edu) or by phone at (413) 320-5580. The Bard Bike Co-op is open Tuesday and Wednesday nights from 7 to 9 PM and is located in the basement of the Old Gym.





# CAMPUS CULTURE

## INSIDE THE KITCHEN: TIVOLI BREAD & BAKING

by zoë ames



Photo by Jack Berner



### HOURS:

Wednesday-Friday 6:30 AM to 12 PM  
Saturday and Sunday 6:30 AM to 3 PM

Tivoli Bread and Baking has been in business since May 2003. It's set back from the sidewalk and advertised by a small street sign hiding behind the boughs of a tree, which makes you feel like you're entering an enclave. It's your secret, especially at 7:30 in the morning when you feel like nobody but you in your age group is awake. You're the only 21-year-old in town, and your 6:30 alarm was an accomplishment. So, too, was not hitting snooze.

You make your way down the path and up to the porch, which isn't exactly a hot spot on 30-degree days but is the only option if you want to sit down. From there you can watch, say, a patron's pug careening around the lawn or the Bard kids and Tivoli locals trickling in. Inside, it's a cozy scene. There's only room for about four or so people to crowd inside, and you can see right into the room in the back where the baking takes place. Owner Mikee Gonnella employs four people, not including himself. The Rolling Stones' "Ruby Tuesday" is playing, and somebody's whistling and singing along.

On the L-shaped counter in front of you is an ample array of croissants, brownies, brioche, muffins, macaroons and almond pinwheels with dollops of marmalade in the middle—all of which looks glowingly good and is smiling up at you in the most inviting way.

My favorite thing by far is the chocolate croissant (\$2.50). It's a little twist of a thing that's full of still-soft squares of chocolate and so flaky it falls apart as you bite it. No Shaw's/Star Market pre-packaged thing, this. Sink your teeth into one of those and you feel like you're biting into a muffin—but ten times as fluffy and insubstantial. Look inside these croissants when you're halfway through stuffing your face—if you can possibly stop—and you can see each divine layer distinctly. Gonnella sells them on Saturday, but says that they start their lives on Thursday as "one layer of dough and one layer of butter, and through the magic of time, technique and determination... end up as 135 or so [layers]."

The brioche (\$2.25) is also ace. Chocolate chips cling to the sides of the hollow inside of it, and a single chip is pressed like a kiss into the outside, bottom up. Don't miss the delicate little macaroons either. They're crisp on the outside, chewy on the inside,

and pack an almond-flavored punch for just \$1.00 each.

I didn't think my blueberry corn muffin (\$2.25) would be thrilling—it just couldn't compete in looks with those alluring little croissants, after all. It had a flat top, tapering to a surprisingly skinny-looking, maybe inch-and-a-half across bottom, and sat on its top, bottom up. Its sides were smooth, corn-colored, blueberry-splotched. I sized it up. I'd eat it for thoroughness' sake, sure, but it was a run of the mill muffin, I thought. I was so wrong, and it was so good. Moist and seriously flavorful, it had a hint of almond like the macaroon. Working my way from the bottom down, I ate the round disk of the top last: it was crunchy and subtly sparkling with large-crystal sugar.

As far as savory goes, you can't go wrong with a robust slab of pushing-three-inch-thick quiche (\$3.50) bursting with crunchy onions, bits of bacon, and Swiss cheese. Far from light and fluffy, its filling is thick and full of flavor. On the bottom the crust is thin and unobtrusive, but around the rim it's so tough you feel like you're fighting with it. And it's winning.

Another lunch-like pick is the baguette with brie and your choice of ham or prosciutto (go with prosciutto). Inside, you'll find just the right amount of creamy cheese, topped with, of course, prosciutto, and surrounded by bread that's soft on the inside, with a pleasantly crunchy crust. Sub-shaped, with a subtle dignity, this sandwich comes wrapped in a pretty twist of paper for \$4.50.

Gonnella said that he loves the "simplicity and beauty inherent in [a baguette]. Flour, water, salt and yeast. A long, luxurious sixteen-hour process from start to finish... [The bread and I] likely agree better than ninety five percent of the time, and I try to listen better to what the bread is saying the other five percent." And bread can be chatty: "Well done bread crackles loudly as it cools," Gonnella said. "A former assistant used to say it was singing."

A cookie is a cookie at Tivoli Bread and Baking, not a cookie with a twist, and a croissant a croissant. But what a croissant. This bakery's aim, it appears, is fidelity to the tried-and-true classics, and the achievement of excellence in each. But Gonnella doesn't take his job too seriously: "I sometimes feel like a child playing in the kitchen," he said, "and usually I enjoy it as much."



# CONTEMPORANEOUS ENTERS THIRD SEASON RELEASING DEBUT ALBUM IN APRIL

by madeline scholl

"Let's turn this into something big" announced sophomore and co-artistic director of the music ensemble Contemporaneous, Dylan Mattingly - and he means it.

Contemporaneous has been making noise at Bard for two and a half years, and entered its third season this spring. The group functions as a not-for-profit organization and, according to their mission statement, "is dedicated to performing the most exciting music of this generation, music that describes our world and captures the spirit of the present moment."

Contemporaneous does not formally associate itself with or receive any funding from Bard. The students involved with Contemporaneous own and operate everything about Contemporaneous, and plan to take it with them when they leave. Even now composers who call Julliard, the Midwest, and even Brooklyn home play with Contemporaneous.

Mattingly, with the help of the rest of the group, is in the midst of producing a three-song album with Innova Recordings (a label affiliated with the American Composers Forum). Contemporaneous will receive 100% of the profits from this project. The album is titled "Stream of Stars" and set to be released on April 3rd. The album has already been recorded, but money is needed to seal the deal.

Inspiration for the songs on the album comes from sources like Amelia Earhart's final journey and the vast unknown of the Pacific Ocean. "Life does not

exist in a 4/4 meter," Mattingly said. He seeks to emulate the sensations of the real world in his music with unusual rhythms like 11/32.

"We all feel ownership of the pieces [on the album]," said senior David Bloom, the other co-artistic director of Contemporaneous. All of Dylan's pieces were written for and performed by the Contemporaneous musicians.

The making of this album is described as a group effort - thirty musicians affiliated with the group were part of the sometimes tedious process of recording the album. This meant a lot of do-overs, long recording sessions, hours of post-production and headaches on the business side of things.

To raise money for the album, the musicians are using the micro-funding website Kickstarter. At press time, Stream of Stars had 70 backers and \$5,411 pledged towards a \$6,000 goal - with six days to go.

The group is optimistic that they will hit their target. A variety of swag options are available for backers - a sporty Contemporaneous totebag, an oil painting by Cassidy, and lunch with the directors of Contemporaneous.

Coming off their recent 'Just For Us' and the Kickstarter campaign, no new projects are currently upcoming for Contemporaneous. Both Mattingly and Bloom say that the emphasis of the group will remain on producing unique work.



photo by david albin nazi / courtesy of contemporaneous

## LANDING ON DIARRHEA PLANET

interview by josh kopin

Diarrhea Planet is a six-piece rock and roll band from Nashville, Tennessee. Their sound has often been described as The Ramones holding Van Halen hostage with an arsenal of fireworks and explosives. The Free Press caught up with frontman Jordan Smith before a show at the Root Cellar on March 2.



photo by anastasia moreno

**FP:** How did Diarrhea Planet come together?

**JS:** It originally started with me and this other guy named Evan Donahue in Nashville, Tennessee. It was like a noise band that we just decided to make involving a lot of people.

I came from a hardcore punk background, and Evan is just the best songwriter I've ever met, and we were just sort of like "Hey, let's make a band that's really ridiculous and over the top."

**FP:** What do you think Diarrhea Planet sounds like?

**JS:** To be honest, at the center of everything we've always done have been pop hooks. [Our music is] loud and fast, but with a lot of pop hooks, and it really depends on the era that you're looking at. There was one point where we were really sloppy and crazy and there was one point where we were really just like a normal four-piece, and then we were the way we are now where we shred a lot, and we can be noisy at times, and pretty crazy at other times, and we practice a lot. I dunno. I just say that we're catchy.

**FP:** You guys are about to go on tour with Titus Andronicus. How did you guys hook up with them?

**JS:** We started talking to them two years ago, they found our first EP on a blog or something, and they reached out to us through our blog, and we just kept in contact with them for a while. In two weeks we actually have a split seven-inch coming out with them.

**FP:** What's that called?

**JS:** I dunno if it has a title other than the songs... ours is called "Enter the Great/Babyhead" and I can't remember what the name of their song is, because I've only heard it twice. That's coming out. They started a label, and they were like, "We want to do you guys for the first seven-inch on it," and we were like, "OK, cool." They tried to get us on a tour a while ago, and some stuff fell through with their booking agent because of our name, which is a normal thing we've had to deal with before. It's a long process, but it happened.

**FP:** Other than that seven-inch, you guys got anything else coming out?

**JS:** Not officially, in stone, but we're planning on doing another EP and then an LP this year. Be looking for those: the EP will probably be three B-sides and a single, from the new full length, and then the LP will be somewhere between 12 and 20 songs.

**FP:** Are there any other acts you'd like to tour with?

**JS:** Yeah, definitely: I love touring with our friends Jeff the Brotherhood, we're friends and labelmates with them. As far as really big bands though... we played a while ago with Fucked Up, and that was really fun, they'd be fun to tour with. Santigold would be super badass to tour with, or like, the Beastie Boys would be super fun to tour with. I dunno, Slayer? I wish I could do stuff with Dinosaur Jr. and Sonic Youth and Pavement, bands like that. Most of them are done, or they just kind of stopped making relevant music. Fucked Up would probably be our first choice.

# TALKING WITH BARD ANIME ESCAPE

by alexa frank

Bard's anime club, Bard Anime Escape, started three years ago and is now run by sophomores Sam Goldie and Katie Rielly.

"Originally, it was either two or three people for a good period of time. For a while, it wasn't even a full-fledged club," Goldie said. The club has since gained a small but loyal following. Bard Anime Escape is one of the many clubs on campus that, like the Surrealist Training Circus or the Poi Spinning Club, serve a particular and perhaps unique niche.

The niche in question is anime, or Japanese animation. Pokemon, Dragonball Z and Sailor Moon are nostalgic favorites, but Bard Anime Escape showcases series of wildly different styles and genres. Goldie and Rielly want to represent how varied a medium anime is, and screen series that appeals to different tastes.

"Pre-planning is fairly extensive. We pick the episodes but it can be difficult. There's always a sickening feeling when someone walks out and you feel like you could've picked something that could've held their attention more. You can think about it forever," Goldie said.

The club heads admit that anime "stereotypes itself," but they believe that the medium's appeal is vast and underestimated. Kristy Maier, a first-year, joined the club last semester, and finds both anime's art and storytelling technique appealing.

"Anime is able to show emotion in an abstract way. Eastern storytelling tends to be about the journey. There's a lot more still moments and pauses for reflection that I find appealing," Maier said, adding that she was also drawn to anime's story arcs and character development. Goldie said that the "attitude" that generates anime's action and drama is intriguing and exotic.

The community element of anime fandom is another important aspect of its appeal. Junior Haley Bader found out about the club from Rielly, and thought it would be a good way to meet people. After returning from a semester abroad, she has found the club's presence comforting.

"What I like about anime, weirdly, is that it's kind of cultish. Some people

get embarrassed to be associated with it and... hide it. I used to not tell people I liked anime because I would get weird looks. Some of my friends would laugh at me. But I don't hide it anymore. I don't care what other people think," Bader said.

Rielly felt similarly. Finding an anime fan population was important to her when she was searching for colleges.

"My closest friend liked anime and I kind of missed that we weren't going to be together. I wanted to make friends at college who I could share my interest with. At the club fair on Accepted Students' Day, I saw the anime club table. I wasn't sure if I was going to join the club. But just knowing that it was there and that there was some sort of population it was serving was a comfort to me," Rielly said.

The club has faced some challenges. Some do not take the club seriously, which can affect its funding at Budget Forum.

"There used to be some issues getting money for our club because our club wasn't taken very seriously. We were told to, basically, illegally download everything," Rielly said. Considering Bard's piracy policy, Goldie said that this was an awkward moment.

Though they understand that anime does not always attract the most social people, Goldie and Rielly want to make the club more fun and inclusive for new members. They have talked about including more discussion and Japanese culture-centric activities. The club is also organizing a trip to see the new Studio Ghibli movie, *The Secret World of Arrietty*.

In addition to meeting on Thursdays from 7-9 PM in Olin, the club also hosts series marathons every other Sunday at Weis Cinema at 8 PM. Their most recent screening was of the series *FLCL*, or *Fooly Cooly*, a show often played on the Cartoon Network's Adult Swim block.

"The more you watch [*FLCL*], the more sense it makes and the more apparent its nuances are. I feel like it's a very Bard show, even though it may not be very digestible. It's very experimental—the themes can speak to a lot of different people," Maier said.



**FP:** Tell me a little about yourself.

**MB:** I live in New York City. I was born in Israel and I grew up in the States. I'm half-Israeli and half-Armenian. I did my undergrad at Vassar college, down the street from here - I majored in drama and English there. And then afterwards I went to the Julliard school in the directing program, which is where I met JoAnne Akalaitis, who was the co-chair of the department.

After I graduated, my very first directing job was directing a play here [at Bard.] JoAnne had just become the chair - this was in 2000 - and she hired me to come up here and direct a student-written play. A beautiful play called 'The Why' by Victor Kaufold. It was my first directing job, and the idea that I was getting money to direct a play felt shocking to me. Shocking and thrilling. And then I assisted and freelanced and worked for Wendy Wasserstein in my twenties.

And I'm in my mid-thirties now and I direct plays... that's what I do.

**FP:** So you're here directing 'Stage Blood' because of Joanne?

**MB:** Yeah. Joanne asked me to come here and do this, but this is a play... 'Stage Blood' by Charles Ludlam is a play that I love, and I have a very long history with it. When I was a freshman at Vassar, I was the assistant stage manager on a production of this play. Then in the fall, I had a fellowship to be at UC Davis and I taught a class to the MFA students there. And I taught this play...[along with] Hamlet and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern.

Because of course, 'Stage Blood' is about a company of actors putting on Hamlet. I had no idea that I would be coming here to direct it. So this play was very fresh in my mind when I got the call asking me to do it.

They said, "Do you need to read it?" I said, "I don't need to read it, I just taught it!"

**FP:** So how has the experience of directing the show been?

Barakiva: It has been wonderful. We've got a great ensemble of actors whose natural comedic instincts and eccentricities sync up beautifully with the material. The play was written by Charles Ludlam, who founded the Ridiculous Theatrical Company. He died of AIDS in the late 80s. He wrote and produced I think around 30 plays in his company's fifteen year life. Which is an extraordinary amount. He was incredibly prolific. And he was a cult figure. He had this amazing company and people would come downtown to see his plays, which were a combination of spectacle and camp. It's a real pleasure to be working on such idiosyncratic material.

**FP:** Tell me more about the play.

**MB:** A company of actors are trying to put on a production of Hamlet, and everything that can go wrong, does go wrong. The real journey is that... the events of Hamlet, mirror into the company. So, the protagonist [is] Carl Jr. [and] his father Carl Sr. founded the company, but now he's too old to play Hamlet, so [Carl Jr.] has to take over, and he is deeply ambivalent about whether or not he wants to be an actor.

The play is a love letter to the theatre. It's about falling in love with the theatre. And it mirrors Hamlet in really beautiful ways, and it makes you realize that even though Hamlet is a tragedy it's also a very funny play. There are a lot of very funny things that happen in Hamlet.

We're also doing something really fun. Ludlam's company often performed in drag. This play, the way it was written, it does not have any drag. But I've cast women in two of the male roles - but they're playing it as men, sort of as 'britches'. A 'britches' role - which is a 19th century convention where a woman plays a man. 'Peter Pan' is a great example of that. And that is bringing a wonderful, very sexy and very fun element to the production.



# THE WILDLIFE OF BENJAMIN HALE

by david dewey



Benjamin Hale's debut novel is about a speaking chimpanzee that falls in love with a human woman. "I just ended up writing an autobiography," said Hale, Writer in Residence at Bard and winner of the 2012 Bard Fiction Prize.

Hale said he started writing "The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore" as a joke. The book was originally intended as a continuation and re-imagining of Franz Kafka's short story "Letter to the Academy."

Hale said he found, however, how fascinating it was to try to understand what it is like for an animal to move "from one kind of consciousness... to a consciousness that has language."

Hale said he was influenced by both stories and studies on feral children and by Temple Grandin, an author and activist whose empathy for animals informed her career. In all, the book took three and a half years to write.

The book is the result of an eclectic life. Born and raised in Boulder, Colorado, Hale received his B.A. from Sarah Lawrence and his M.F.A. from Iowa University. He left graduate school with a substantial amount of completed material and went on to work a series of random jobs, including night shift baker and painter of trompe l'oeil deco-

ration.

His study of ancient Greek also aided his writing, Hale said, in that it forced him to view language in a more fundamental light. "There's something about translating from a dead language that... makes you feel like a surgeon," he said, adding that he advises all aspiring writers to give themselves entirely to reading and writing all the diverse kinds of literature.

The Bard Fiction Prize is awarded once a year to an author below the age of 39. The Fiction Prize is constructed to allow for ample time spent on writing and reading, and requires only that its recipient host informal meetings with students. Past recipients include Writer in Residence Edie Meidav, Visiting Assistant Professor of Writing Paul LaFarge and author Karen Russell.

Recipients are given a \$30,000 cash prize and a house on Faculty Circle in the middle of campus to live in for one month. Hale said his home for the semester is "a gingerbread house [with a] raging fire."

He holds a book club in this house every other Thursday,

7:00 p.m. The group picks its books democratically. Students can read almost anything as long as they have not read it before. Their current pick is Tove Jansson's "The True Deceiver."

"He's a really cool guy -- really laid-back," said Megan Towey, a first-year and a member of Hale's book group. "We eat pizza and have a casual discussion."

Perhaps one day, Hale's book club at Bard will be just another odd job in his autobiography. For now however, students can delve into the life of "The Evolution of Bruno Littlemore," published in 2011 by Twelve Books.

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*alex d'alisera*  
**BARD'S UNHEALTHY  
SOCIAL DICHOTOMY**

On Feb. 19 at the hour of 2:35 a.m., first-year Christina Miliou-Theocharaki posted on the Bard College Class of 2015 Facebook group, recounting an event that had happened to her friends earlier that evening.

According to Miliou-Theocharaki, her friends were walking near the Village dormitories when they heard noises and found themselves surrounded by multiple Bard athletes. She further asserted that these athletes began chanting insults at the group in a derogatory manner before dispersing.

The incident was never reported to Village Area Coordinator David Pack or anyone else in the Bard administration, and Pack could not confirm that it had occurred. Nonetheless, Miliou-Theocharaki's post drew significant student attention.

Almost immediately in response, one student exclaimed "Wow, ignorance." Another stated "Repugnant, I'm sorry to hear." The comments soon degenerated into further affronts, with a third student going so far as to accuse all athletes of displaying "chauvinism, belligerence, and general standoffish-ness."

In the face of such a hostile response, first-year athlete Sionduh Burnette pointed out that "many of the kids on the sports teams have been insulted [often to their faces] by students who consider sports here at Bard a joke," and called blanket generalizations of athletes "extremely offensive and ignorant."

Soon, more students joined into the online fray. Many agreed with Burnette's post, but others continued to broadcast the very generalizations that he had rightfully criticized.

Miliou-Theocharaki later maintained a defense of her original post, despite her initial harsh words towards Bard athletes (she had written "[incidents like these] are why no one comes to your games"). She insists that she originally made it public in order to raise discussion about what she sees as a significant divide between athletes and non-athletes in the student body.

"It's very sad that we have reached this point at Bard," she said. "Athletes and non-athletes simply don't respect each other."

Indeed, the social rift between the two

groups is unhealthy not merely for the individuals caught up in the middle of this divide, but also for the Bard community as a whole.

For the sake of this very community – one already splintered by increased acts of vandalism, widespread apathy, and a general lack of respect for the common good – this issue must be addressed as soon as possible.

Many Bard students have a particular image of athletes – an image that is certainly less than flattering. This perception could be based on any number of influences, but regardless, the harboring of a prejudice against a subset of the population (particularly when the entirety of that population is relatively small to begin with) based on a generalized perception is damaging, to say the least.

On the next level, speech and action based on this prejudice is beyond detrimental and can often be extremely hurtful.

When individuals of a certain group commit acts of ignorance, it is simply wrong to judge the entire group based on those individuals' actions. In this case, it is not even clear what happened. As one student justifiably stated in response to the online post, "Turning on a significant part of the Bard population isn't gonna solve anything."

Everyone can agree, certainly, that if individuals surrounded, taunted, and insulted their fellow students, they should be reproached for their actions. But even still, it is a mistake for the community to use this conflict as a justification for the application of a particular social stigma to their fellow students.

Admittedly, this social dichotomy is not the largest or most pressing problem that the Bard community currently faces. Nevertheless, it is up to the community as a whole to work together towards alleviating even the smallest issues.

The onus is not on one single group to change their behavior – in fact, the onus is on all of us to change our generalized attitudes towards each other. Progress, after all, can only be achieved when old and backward ways of thought give way to forward thinking. Only when we recognize this can we build a positive environment where we can work, learn, live and ultimately, coexist in harmony.

*dan gettinger*  
**SAVING CIVIC LIFE**

The so-called 'conservation' initiative of printing fees is intended to save countless trees from the redwood forests to the Gulf Stream waters. Yet outside the depths of the library, the rest of us are a bit bemused at the College's newfound enthusiasm for 'going green.'

Just who exactly charted the path to find this gleaming green grail? Did it come out of a conversation among faculty, administration and students? In fact, like seemingly most of the decisions on this campus, printing fees are the product of a selective decision-making process mainly between administrators.

Printing fees are a fine idea, but we should be asking how this decision was reached and then implemented. We've been told that a few faculty and some students here and there were asked to suggest an appropriate printing balance. However, the initiative for the project lay with one department, when it should have involved members of the entire community – since the decision affects all of us.

This cross-campus dialogue was absent and in its place were selective inquiries that denied the administration a full picture of the impending affects printing fees would have. Since the possibility of printing fees was floated two years ago, the House of Bard has remained silent on the subject.

This leaves the rest of us picking up the pieces and finding that our academic lives and our social environment have suffered. The plight of those who constitute the bulk of civic society at Bard (clubs, TLS, PCs, Student Government), appears to have come as an afterthought to those within the Holy Mountain. Their supposed solution for these organizations, a cumbersome process involving going to the SPARC office where one is more likely than not to be told to come back later, is wholly inefficient. I doubt the Student Activities office was even consulted in the decision to institute printing fees.

The consequence is the undermining of student-driven civic society at Bard. Clubs are forced to spend more time and money on each event, adding greater stress to the organizer. The likely scenario is that clubs will become more insular, preferring to host events for their own members and bypass all the effort spent on public relations.

The administration has said that they will review the printing fees policy at the end of next semester. In the meantime our ownership and agency in this community will be ceded to those who have the luxury of sending emails to undergrad@

bard.edu.

The diversity of student interests at Bard is one of our strengths. If we are to have a community we must emphasize the aspects of life here that define who we are. We should be celebrating our strengths and creating opportunities for students to explore the values of others. Actions that restrict this exchange among students, intentionally or not, reflect poor choices in priorities.

If the College were really concerned about conservation it would turn off the heat in dorms when we're not here in winter and use light dimmers in the hallways. It wouldn't cut down dozens of trees for a baseball field that a small portion of the student body will use.

After the implementation of card swipes for printing last semester, the number of discarded printouts was cut drastically. This prompted many students to ask this semester: why add to our stress with fees? Why leave us out of the conversation? Is this about saving trees, or money?

Fortunately, our student body is not one to be rolled over and has already been thinking up creative solutions for the advertising deficit. The Student Union has suggested plans for a system that centralizes the distribution of information like a giant chalkboard outside the Library. The Environmental Collective is working on tackling real conservation efforts, like removing the paper plates in Manor. These groups operate on a shoestring budget, while Student Government devotes an excessive \$8000 to the quixotic Game Room renovation.

Instead of pursuing the singular intensity that has so far defined administrative decisions this year, we should be coming up with creative solutions together. We can start by using the money that the school saves on paper and ink to create a fund for seniors, clubs, etc. for printing and projects that reduce waste. The money can be allocated as the budget for the new Student Government committee on conservation.

It's a simple idea, but one of many that could have been reached before the breathless implementation of printing purgatory. Much good can come from the printing fees, but we just have to start talking with each other so as to avoid further missteps. We can't wait two semesters for changes to the system. Nor may we sit back and watch civic society at Bard be dictated by administrators and see clubs become increasingly insular. Some common sense and conversation will go a long way.



# ON ISRAEL APARTHEID WEEK

by josh calvo

Jan. 31, 2005 marked the beginning of the first international "Israel Apartheid Week," the objective of which was to "educate people about the nature of Israel as an apartheid system." Seven years later, as an unusually warm winter turns to spring, "Israel Apartheid Week" again made an appearance on campus. It was received, as most things including the words "Israel" and "Apartheid" are, with both enthusiasm and frustration. To those who turn a deaf ear to discussions of Middle Eastern politics, February 26th through March 3rd did not differ too drastically from the norm; Zionists armed themselves with defenses, anti-apartheid activists with offenses.

Having heard from others about their disenchanting experiences in past years, having heard also the scream of Internet commentary across all spectrums, one eventually ignores the increasingly audible battle cries and questions why they need grow louder in the first place. To what do end do we polarize ourselves? Do we, if we wish to attain justice in Israel-Palestine, gain much at all by becoming increasingly vociferous? If "Israel Apartheid Week" is alive after seven pugnacious years, why do we then allow it to become the antagonistic seven days that many insist it need be? Netanyahu and Abbas may refuse to engage in

meaningful dialogue; why must we as well?

Part of what makes Bard educationally and socially appealing is its nuance and complexity. From locations as mundane as DTR to the intensity of the 300-level classroom, Bard students—and the intellectual environment they proliferate—reflect a multi-layered and admirable mosaic of cultural and political identities that cohere most brilliantly with a sense of tolerance and understanding. Bard is not a "place to think" of ways in which we can best each other intellectually—it is a place in which thought itself is made more complex, whereby we attempt to untangle the roots of others, and to dig ourselves out of our own. A week whose self-declared goal is education should not be mired by the way in which it has, in the past, proliferated hostilities. As receivers of Bard's educational tradition, we would be better suited to approach education, in all of its forms, with all of its controversies, as a serious endeavor through which we can bridge gaps, achieve understanding, and work to better the specific and generic world in which we live.

That being said, I am no stranger to being firmly ensconced in cultural and political positions that won't budge without excessive force. I was raised in a community that

classified support of Israel as a compulsory Jewish activity. I have visited Israel (and the Occupied Territories) five times, and devour the Haaretz daily newsletter every morning. I am prepared, if I choose to be, to face questions of Israel as an apartheid state head on, and in all likelihood will be for quite some time. Given my history, I joined a newly refurbished wing of J Street U at Bard, and attended two of their workshops that focused not on the "what" of Israel-Palestine, but the "why"—the personal experiences that have shaped many Jews and Palestinians to both physically and emotionally engage with the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Next "Israel Apartheid Week," I will not plan note cards for myself that outline various factoids of Israeli political "realities." Instead, I plan on working, along with my peers in J Street, toward engaging its participants to do whatever it would entail to understand what makes someone so compelled to hold a view I disagree with. Putting the lessons of those J Street workshops at the forefront, I invite the reader, whatever their views on the conflict, to join me in my effort to make "Israel Apartheid Week" 2013 less about stirring up controversy, and more focused on education.

## ATHLETICS VERSUS CONSCIENTIAS

by arthur holland michel

Smog is going to be replaced with a parking lot. Not the baseball field, as we originally thought, but with the parking lot for the baseball field. Yes, the administration has been quick to explain that these plans aren't final. But five years ago even the idea of replacing Smog with the parking lot for a baseball field would have been unthinkable.

So, even though "nothing has been confirmed," the fact is that a group of people at this college have entertained the idea of replacing one of our most important centers of art and culture with a parking lot for a baseball field. That alone is a good enough reason to stop, do the Bardian thing, and think about this in light of some of Bard's academic needs.

Last semester, Paul Marienthal and a group of students inaugurated Bard's Farm program. This is a project that matters. It is a project about food security — one of the most significant issues for the coming decades. The Administration said sure, that sounds important, and gave the farmers \$40,000, far less than would be required to begin a full farm.

This year, the Learning Commons was revamped: its name was changed, more tutoring hours were added, more staff were added, extended tutoring was offered during L&T and completion week.

Though they have received an increased budget to pay for extra tutors, they have not received funding for long-term improvement projects, such as a relocation to a better space.

If the Learning Commons received even a fraction of the money that is going towards the Baseball field, we could significantly drop Bard's transfer rate and significantly raise the standard of writing and studying above the already exemplary standards.

Individual students are losing out too. Three months ago, one of my friends, who I will call Ron, had to add seven thousand dollars to his student loan because the college denied his request for additional financial aid. Each year, Ron has had to ask himself whether he can afford to stay at Bard.

And then there are the 70 first-years who are still living in mobile buildings. And the library, which is already at capacity before anyone has even thought about midterms.

The money for  
t h e

baseball field could cover a full farm project, a desperately needed new Learning Commons, and the tuition of hundreds of deserving students. This money could make Bard an innovator in food security. It could create an academic system that could support a far higher proportion of the student body. It could reduce student debt. It would be irresponsible to ignore this fact.

The powers that be are not fully to blame here. Both the gym and the baseball field projects were initiated by individuals who approached the college and offered specific donations restricted to these projects. Apparently, these donors wouldn't be interested in a farm or in the Learning Commons. Well, we don't actually know that, because we haven't asked them.

To make it fair, we should request that the donors also give us \$200,000 each for academic projects as part of their donations. This way we ensure that we continue to enjoy a healthy balance between athletics and academics at Bard. People have told me that this is unrealistic. I say it's worth a try. Even if the donors laugh in Leon's face, asking will be the right thing to do.

Or if we really want, we can go ahead and develop a big athletics program. It will put our students on TV. It will generate an alumni/ae base that's just dying to throw money at us every time one of our soccer players kicks a ball. It might even spread our name across living rooms throughout the nation. We could technically do this, but there will be a real cost to Bard's unique character.

Because, for what it's worth, it just doesn't seem right to take and spend millions of dollars on the gym and baseball field while neglecting the projects that are central to the mission of the school. Projects that will make us better eaters, better thinkers, better readers, better writers, and (dare I say it) better citizens. Bard's mission is to "provide a challenging academic program...to foster... the ambition to achieve excellence" — these are the projects that will help us achieve our goals.

Ultimately, there needs to be a discussion about how to make the relationship between academics and athletics at Bard harmonious. We can't spend disproportionately on athletics, but neither can we forget that athletics is important. Academics are our number one goal, but they aren't our only goal.

If, as many people have told me, Bard's survival and prosperity really depends on the development of athletics, then we also need to discuss how to make sure that Bard remains Bard. What we mustn't do is act without thinking, because thinking is what we're here to do.



# SPORTS



HORSES HORSES HORSES  
HORSES HORSES HORSES  
HORSES HORSES HORSES  
HORSES HORSES HORSES

by rebecca swanberg

## RAPTOR HIGHLIGHTS

Men's basketball beat Vassar 56-55 on Feb. 14 for the second time in the 2011-12 season. Senior Matt Schubert was named as Liberty League Performer of the Week, also for the second time in the season. First-year Siondueh Burnette was selected as a member of the Liberty League 2011-12 All-Rookie Team.

Women's lacrosse won its two opening matches of the 2012 season, beating the College of Saint Elizabeth 16-4 and Regis College 14-3.

The Bard hockey Raptors won the Saugerties Community Hockey League Championship with a 5-4 victory over the Loggerheads in Saugerties on Mar. 11.. The championship was a best-of-three series; the Raptors won the first match 5-1. The Raptors finished the regular season in first place, with a 15-3 record.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Men's tennis will host Mount Saint Mary College on March 22, and women's tennis will host Manhattanville College on March 28.

Men's volleyball will host Vassar in the Stevenson Gymnasium on March 28, which will be the last home game of the season.

Women's lacrosse will play its first game in Annandale on April 16 against the University of Rochester.

Blue is waiting in crossties. He hears my footsteps down the barn aisle and flicks his ears forward. When I stretch my hands out to him, he rests his grey nose in them. His warm breath fills my palms. When I lower my head to him and breathe on his nose, he blows air back. His breath sweetens the air with the smell of hay. My favorite way to speak to a horse is to breathe with it.

The horses at Cedar Crest aren't school horses. School horses are horses meant to be burnt out. They're supposed to do their job. They make no mistakes. They take advantage of novices. They are bored.

But horses like Blue feed off the energy around them. Every horse that comes to Cedar Crest seems to slip into the same rhythm. They seem at peace.

When the Bard Equestrian Team first moved to Cedar Crest at the beginning of 2011, I was intimidated by the intensity of the barn. Our coaches take fleeting sips of their morning coffee between chores. Before I even arrive for a riding lesson, I find my mount tacked. The stable runs on efficiency, the day's schedule is printed and posted on the tack room door every evening. But once I became a part of the process, I found myself slipping into the Cedar Crest rhythm, too.

On Blue's back, I can feel his power and potential rippling beneath my calves. My coach knows Blue, knows how to make him reach his potential. She stands on the ground and guides me. Slowly, Blue and I establish our communication. When he gives, I give. My arms are an extension of the reins.

I give and take gently with the outside rein, his velvet nose drops and he drives himself forward from his haunches. Blue won't do what you want him to do unless you ask him correctly, and I can't speak to Blue with language. The way we speak to each other is through our mutual respect.

As his muscles warm and soften, he lengthens his stride. His leading leg cuts through the air and as we approach our first fence, he gathers his strength. He knows what to do, it's instinct. I just have to stay out of his way.

But then again, Blue doesn't always know what to do. That's why he's not like any school horse. He loses confidence, just like I do. We have to inspire each other.

My coach stands in the center of the arena and challenges me with exercises. Close your eyes, drop your stirrups and canter. Tie a knot in your reins and let go of them when you go over the jump. Look at the ceiling and identify the movement of each leg of the horse.

Sweat has gathered in my temples. Blue stands with his neck relaxed. The reins are looped. I kick both feet out of the stirrups and swing my right leg over the saddle to meet my left. I slide to the ground. Blue reaches his soft muzzle around and nudges me, smearing my shirt with the foam that has gathered around his bit. I pull off his tack and put him back in his stall. Through his window, the sun spills onto his back. He drops his head and pushes his shavings around, looking for hay.

I bend next to him to say goodbye. Blue heaves a sigh onto my neck. I can't think of a better way to start my morning.



# RE: BARD TWEETS

**@airaSIRAaira** The Syra Banks Show when donna makes you swipe your own damn card because she don't give a fuck

**@causticematics** Christian Letourneau This education is separating me from my ability to bullshit. #theyneedthat

**@allicatubic** Alice Bard College: a place to fuck with your hair and be judged 100% by everyone that sees you. #nevergiveup #neversurrender

**@robblebrannigan** Robble Brannigan My pee hitting that waterless urinal sounded just like Daft Punk.

**@willanderson** Will Anderson Someone didn't log out of Moodle in Henderson. I'm gonna print out of ALL of their PDFs hehehehheh #hacker

**@jmerlwhat** Jmerlwhat The ugly side of the train ride to new york is actually way prettier. Fuck the hudson river.

**@bardfreepress** FREE PRESS Interested in subscribing to the Bard Free Press? Email us at subscribeFP@gmail.com and include your name, your email, and your Bard PO Box

**@graylingbauer** Grayling Bauer Didn't know Kony was running for president. Kony 2012.

**@g\_lazer** ezrglenn I reach4 a condom& accidentally grab a ramen-seasoning packet. I rip it open& cover our bodies in MSG dust. It forms a paste.

**@emilywisemann** Emily Wisemann FREEPRESS OFFICE

**@willanderson** Will Anderson I can't quite put my finger on it, but something about the food at DTR really just makes me wanna shit

**@hallegreenberg** Halle Greenberg Just sitting in Kline #yay

**@bardconnections** Bard Connections Solve your problems. @BardBoyProblemz @BardGrilProblemz

**@chrishille** Chris Hillis cajoled into making an OkCupid account to meet new ppl, only to find out everyone else at bard had the same idea. #bardproblems #fml #horny

## SPRING ARTS CALENDAR

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	MARCH
11				Celebration A Short Play by Harold Finter Blum Hall 7 PM			Gabrielle Spitz Sydney Meneses Bard Hall 7 PM	
18			Nathan Smallwood Blum Hall 7:30 PM		Sean Colona Bard Hall 7:30 PM		Tyma Kheiri Olin Auditorium 8 PM Rachel Becker Olin Auditorium 8 PM This Must Be the Place by Ezra Glenn Woods 8 PM	
25	Luke Henry Olin Auditorium 8PM							

	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	APRIL
8		Balazs Erdelyi Olin Auditorium 8 PM				Tian Xu Olin Auditorium 8 PM	Art Opening PBS Red Hook 2:5 PM Photo Exhibition Sarah Fole Curtis Wallen Heilly Miller Woods 8 PM Victoria Hale Campus Center	
15		Yuan Xu Olin Auditorium 8 PM			The Story of Life Before Life Ends Written by Andrew Levy Directed by Gavin Price Fischer PAC 8 PM (thru Sunday)	Photo Exhibition Gregg Cartelli Maddy Nimoy Brendan Whittaker Woods 8 PM Selina Cote Campus Center	Matthew Morris Bard Hall 3 PM	
22		Kierstin Daviau Bard Hall 7 PM	Amy Cohen Bard Hall 8:30 PM		Photo Exhibition Ajana Campbell Mari Kon Molly Berman Woods 8 PM Lily Rosenthal Campus Center	Brianna Reed Blum Hall 7 PM	Molly Trostel Fischer Arts Studio 8-10 PM	

\*Featuring Ali Dineen, Anna Ratner, Taylor Deltz, Janet Wiles, Leyla Mozayan, Monica Shreck, Alice Han, Eddie Aparicio & Jocelyn Edwards with thanks to Malika Roth