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Bard College

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# **FREE PRESS**

VOLUME XX, ISSUE I



ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON

OCTOBER 2017

## staff

editor in chief: hayden f.w. hard

managing editor: rachel hodes

copy editors: amelia van donsel, liam mayo, cassidy polga, jeremy waldinger-white, stephanie kim, evin guinan, bronwyn simmons

staff writers: abigail rizzo, bronwyn simmons, cassidy polga, liam mayo

contributing writers: rose fischer, amelia van donsel, leonardo santoso

layout staff: amelia van donsel, chelsea cai, thea mcrae

photos: keegan holden, teddy trocki-ryba, leor miller, chelsea cai

comics: thea mcrae

cover: jackson siegal

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Dear Bard,

Welcome back to *The Free Press*, Bard's only student-run newspaper. We were founded in 2000 by an insurgent group of editors who were disillusioned by the state of campus journalism. They sought to deliver hard-hitting, investigative reporting that informs and empowers their community. Today, we follow in their footsteps.

We are the twentieth team to run the paper, and I'm extremely proud to call these folks my colleagues. But this publication is a community endeavor, so I'd also like to thank everybody who's contributed along the way, on the record or not. Without informants, statements, and you, our readers, us editors would have nothing to do. So thank you for going against your better judgement and speaking to *The Free Press*.

Sincerely,  
Hayden F.W. Hard  
Editor-in-Chief

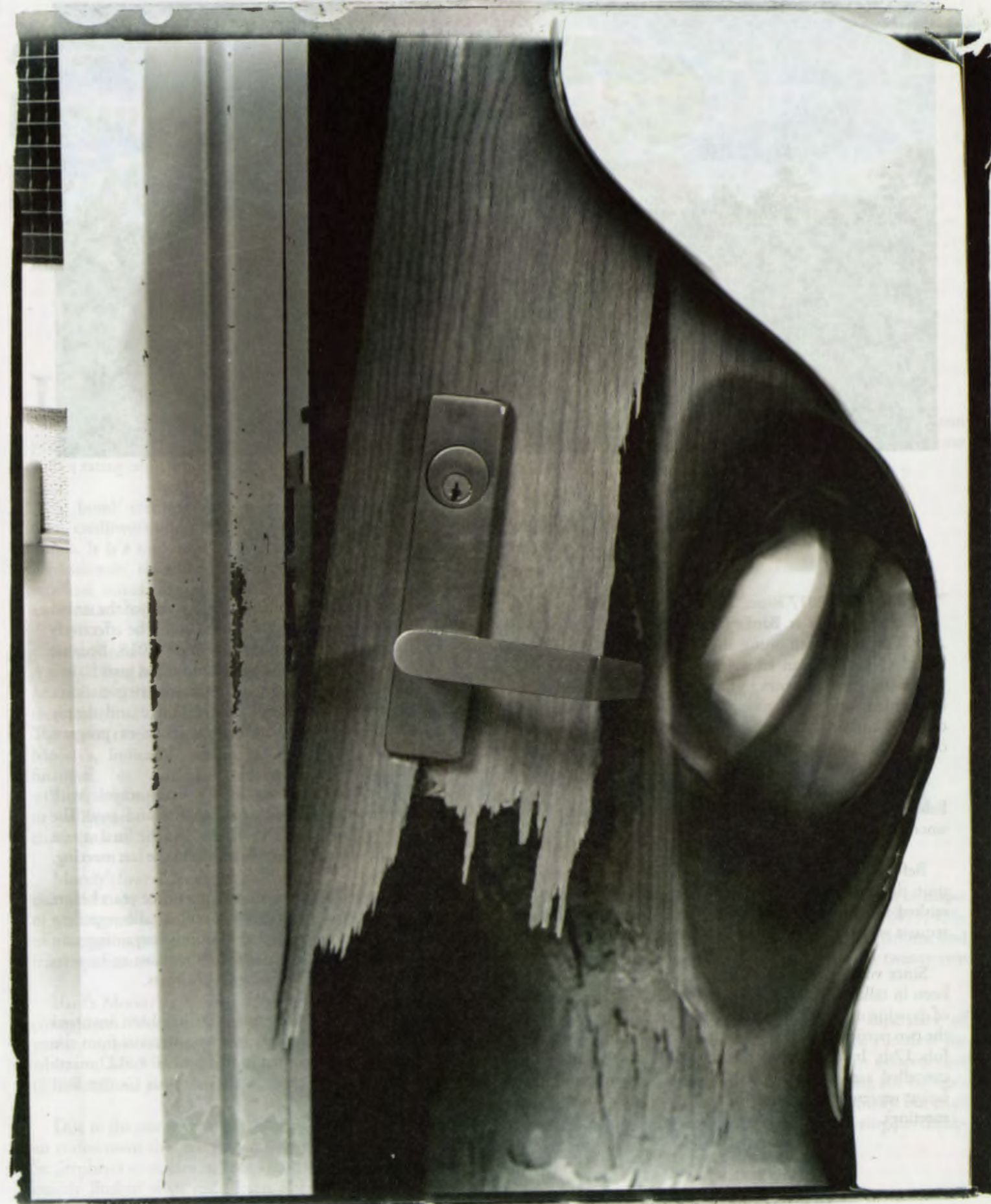


photo by keegan holden



### CCS Guards Fight for Unionization, But Contract Negotiations Move Slowly

Rachel Hodes

In our April, 2017 issue, *The Free Press* reported that the security guards at Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies (CCS) were petitioning the National Labor Relations Board (NLRB) in an effort to unionize. Since then, the NLRB sent mail-in votes to the roster of CCS guards, who then voted to form a union. The unionization efforts were officially authorized in mid-April, after about seven months of planning, negotiating, and organizing.

The original petition request was sent to the NLRB in February, 2017, and unionization efforts have been active since September, 2016.

Before they petitioned to unionize as their own bargaining unit through the NLRB, the thirteen CCS guards had wished to join the existing security guard unit at Bard, a request which the administration denied.

Since voting to unionize in April, the CCS guards have been in talks with Bard's administration with the intention of drawing up a suitable contract. The negotiations between the two parties, and their respective representation, began on July 17th. In the following months, Bard's administration cancelled ten meetings with the CCS guards and their union representatives. As of now, they've only attended five meetings.

The contract must be finalized within a year of the union authorization, meaning that the efforts could be effectively nullified if there is no agreement by April, 2018. Because this is the first contract for the newly unionized guards, it is far more complex than the standard contract renegotiations. Contract negotiations are both time sensitive and deeply intricate— aspects which this languid pace of progress doesn't aid.

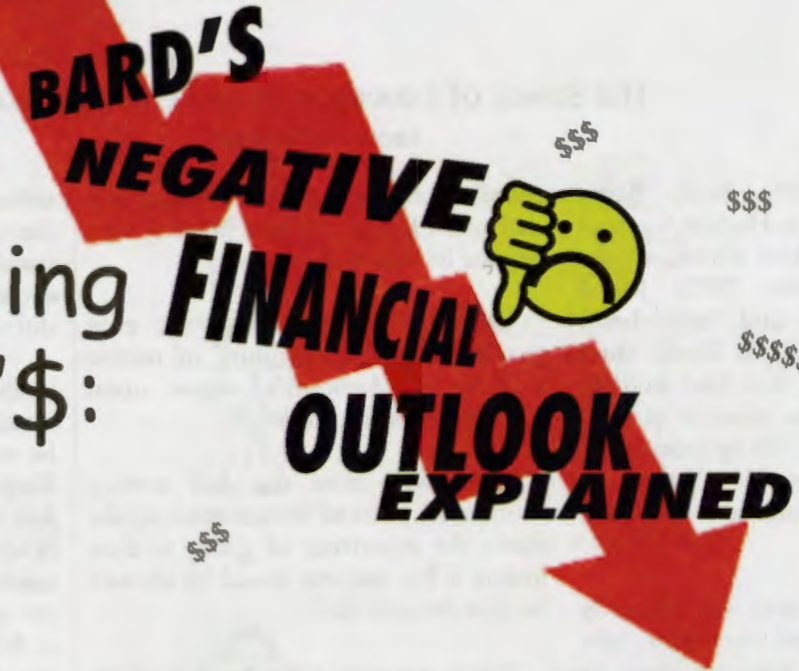
The contract itself remains in the early stages, with negotiations currently focused on benefits and pay. The Executive Director of CCS, Tom Eccles, has the final say on salary, though he was not available to attend the last meeting.

Bard's contracts with its unions last for three years before renegotiation processes begin. Because of this, talks regarding the contract for the Buildings and Grounds bargaining unit will begin in the upcoming months. It remains to be seen how this will effect the slow-going CCS efforts.

The Student Labor Dialogue (SLD) has been involved with the CCS guards' push towards unionization from the beginning. If you are interested in this issue, the SLD meets on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Campus Center Red Room.

photo from tripadvisor.com

## Another Downgrading by Moody's:



Amelia Van Donsel

Last year in August, 2016, the bond credit rating service Moody's Investors Service—infamous for significantly downgrading Bard by a few letter grades in previous years—again demoted the college, this time from a B1 to a Ba3 with a rating of "Outlook Negative."

A bond credit rating represents the creditworthiness of corporate bonds. It is a tool used by investment professionals to assess a company's financial status, including how likely an institution is to repay debt.

Securities are rated using a scale from Aaa to C. Bard had been downgraded by Moody's in 2013 (from Ba1 to Baa1), then again in 2015 (from Baa1 to Ba3). The most recent rating, according to Moody's, indicates "adverse business, financial, or economic conditions will likely impair [Bard's] capacity or willingness to meet its financial commitments."

Moody's found unsatisfactory: Bard's rising debt, declining total cash, dependence on operating lines of credit, and its additional debt incurred from the purchase of Montgomery place. They believe the institution's "cash flow from operations is insufficient to cover debt service."

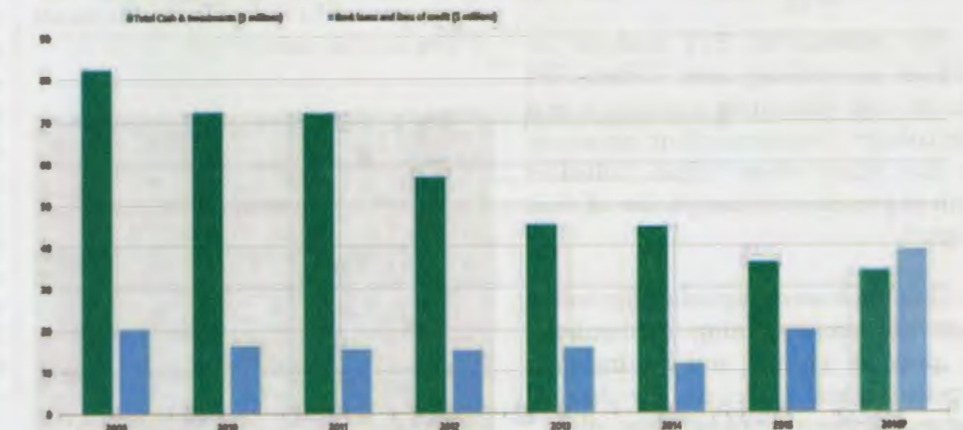
Bard's Moody's ratings tend to be lower than many of our competitors. Moody's claims it's due to the college's declining student application rate and comparably small endowment, which at \$267 million, is significantly smaller than Vassar (\$928 million) or Amherst College (\$2 billion).

Due to the unconventional history of the college, Bard lacks an endowment that has grown over time. Initially founded as St. Stephen's seminary in 1860, Bard's clerical alumni were not exactly flushed with cash. Even after the school secularized, the relatively small college didn't receive the alumni support

required to build a well-invested nest egg.

Bard as we know it is a recent development, and Leon Botstein has made it possible by scoring a few enormous donations.

Exhibit 1  
Bard's Total Cash and Investments Have Been Declining Even as Bank Debt Has Increased



Source: Audited financial statements through FY 2015, preliminary college guidance for FY 2016

However, the college's heavy reliance on a shortlist of major donors leaves it in a precarious financial position. In 2015, 43% of Bard's operating budget came straight from donations, and in 2016, Bard had enough cash on hand for merely twenty-two days of operations.

While Botstein courts the international superstars of philanthropy, such as George Soros, Bard's Vice President for Enrollment and Strategic Initiatives, Taun Toay, believes that consistent alumni support is essential to securing the college's future. This long-term strategy may pay off eventually, but until then, or some *deus ex machina*, Bard will keep living paycheck-to-paycheck.

## The Stakes of Education, In and Out of Prison

Leonardo Santos

On May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2017, Bard's Annandale-on-Hudson campus welcomed three alumni of the Bard Prison Initiative (BPI): Jennel Nesbitt, Jule Hall, and Salih Israil. Started in 1999, BPI is Bard's sister program founded by then Bard student, and current executive director at BPI, Max Kenner. Today, BPI operates in six different prisons across New York State, and offers full Associate's and Bachelor's degrees.

Around 300 inmates are currently enrolled in BPI, and over 450 have graduated from the program since its inception.

BPI students, from an educational standpoint, are equivalent to those on the Annandale campus. They receive the full treatment of Bard's education, including L&T, first-year seminar, and senior projects.

The presence of BPI students on campus is nothing new. Often, BPI alumni and graduating students attend the college's commencement ceremony, at least those whose release coincides with or precedes the completion of their degrees.

This, however, was the first time they have come during the semester to speak on a panel, and hearing their experiences and stories entirely changed my perspective of my education.

Nowadays, BPI does not lack any publicity. For example, in 2015 BPI's debate team triumphed over Harvard's, which has been well documented by *The Washington Post* and *CNN*. However, for two of our panelists, Jule Hall and Salih Israil, who were part of the early cohort, BPI was a radically different experience.

During their time, BPI, which is itself an experiment, was experimental not only in concept but also tenuously so in perception. Scrutiny was omnipresent for all those involved in this experiment: the administrative staff at the prison who

approved of the program, the faculty and staff of BPI, and the very inmates who became its first students.

Early BPI students were not even guaranteed the opportunity to receive a B.A. or Associate's degree upon completion of the program.

Salih, who then was still serving another 15 years of his sentence, spoke about the experience of going to class unsure if his teachers would be allowed back in the next day.

While we were giving our panelists a tour of Olin (Bard's humanities building), Salih—in his characteristic enthusiasm and energy—shared with us the sense of responsibility he felt as a student which many of us are spared. In the midst of his uncertainty about the immediate and long-term future of his education, he was keenly aware that a large part of BPI's fate lay in the hands of him and his peers.

**'he could no longer look at himself as a victim, because now he had knowledge, and knowledge is power.'**

"Imagine," he said, "if BPI students had decided to skip classes!" The program would certainly crumble before it got off the ground. Then I remembered the luxurious classroom policy that lets me skip two classes without facing a penalty on my grade.

As anyone who has ever read Michel Foucault might know, prison is never just about restricting one's freedom of movement; prison is the shaping of identity through the careful and detailed regulative exercise of power on the bodies of the incarcerated. However, the

existence of an educational space within the walls of a maximum-security prison became a site which allowed the creation, exercise, and embodiment of an entirely different identity: the student.

Prior to his admittance to BPI, Jule had been incarcerated for six years. One day, he suddenly sat face-to-face with Daniel Karpowitz, an educator. Karpowitz told Jule something he thought was insane: "Don't look at yourself as a prisoner. Look at yourself as a student."

Jule's identity, constructed over six years, was told to be replaced at the drop of a hat. But surprisingly, it worked. As Jule said to us that afternoon, he could no longer look at himself as a victim because now he had knowledge, and knowledge is power.

For all the incredible opportunities BPI provides, entrance is extremely competitive. There are only about a dozen slots available each year, and many inmates fail to gain entrance even after multiple tries.

During the Q&A phase, someone asked Salih how he found the motivation and the courage to try, knowing how slim the chances were. Salih responded, "If I didn't get in, what was I going to do for the next 15 years?"

Unlike Salih and many other inmates, we on the outside apply to multiple colleges at once, with the ever-sound advice that we should think of three categories of schools, "reach," "match," and "safety." For me, and perhaps many of you too, the sheer number of possibilities afforded to us obscures the very real stakes that lie behind our performance, past and present.

But I learned something from the BPI alumni: the stakes are always real, regardless of whether we can see them clearly.

Jule and Salih, who now work for the Ford Foundation in New York City, spoke about how easy it felt for them

during their job interviews. Jule said that compared to his senior project board, where he was grilled by professors Nancy Leonard and Daniel Berthold, the job interviews were "nothing."

The lesson here is that our education offers us something whose true value is often hidden.

Hearing their stories has given me tremendous respect for BPI, and all those involved in its mission, but it has also transformed my perspective on my education. I am doing relatively well in school; I enjoy my teachers, my classes, and the company of my peers. And sometimes I enjoy the moment so much that I forget that my education is meant to be a preparation for my life. The stakes are obscured.

Since that afternoon, I have never let myself forget the importance of what I am doing today with my education for the future. If I become the person I want to be in the next ten, twenty, or thirty years, all depends on what I do today.

This acute awareness has given me new courage, strength, significance, and gratitude for my education. The tremendous hope for the future which BPI afforded its students, embodied by our panelists, has inspired me to risk embracing the spirit of hope, rather than than dwelling in the safety of my fears.

### Bard Clubs Struggle with Small Convocation Fund

Bronwyn Simmons

This fall, after club heads submitted their budget requests to the Fiscal Committee and attended the Budget Forum, it became clear that many clubs did not receive nearly enough money from the Convocation Fund to support their operations this semester.

The Convocation Fund is the amount of money that's earmarked for student club spending at Bard. "This money is meant to be allocated to clubs each semester and used for club activities and



Costumes seen on Halloween Night

events," explained Julie Duffstein, Bard's Director of Student Activities. All students at Bard's Annandale campus pay into this account through the 'Student Activity Fee,' which has been \$105 since fall of 2014.

The Convocation Fund is smaller in 2017 than in past years due to a decrease in enrollment and a relatively smaller incoming freshman class of 470 students.

Accordingly, the Convocation Fund this year is about \$10,000 less than last year, as there are about 95 fewer students in Annandale.

The Fiscal Committee gives each club a budget allotment, and then clubs are able to submit an amendment request. These amendments and the final budget are both voted on during Budget Forum. Any money that clubs do not use during a

semester goes back into the Convocation Fund to be given out again the following semester.

Julie says that Bard hopes to increase the Student Activity Fee by implementing either a sliding scale or tiered system. "We don't want to put a burden on those who can't afford it," she said. She is currently in conversation with Kevin Barbosa, Speaker of the Student Body, and Sophie Logan, Chair of the Student Life Committee, about the issue.

The allotment for the fund will not change until students make a pitch to the Board of Trustees, which could then approve an increase in the Student Activity Fee. This increase would not go into effect until Fall of 2018.

Until then, clubs will have to get creative to stay in the black.

# What You Should Know About

# BDS

Thea McRae

In a March, 2015 article in *The Free Press*, Bard Divest claimed that these corporations make billions of dollars from the displacement, subjugation and killing of Palestinians. For instance, HP sells the surveillance technology used at Israeli-controlled checkpoints, and Lockheed Martin makes the bombs dropped on civilians.

According to the BDS website, "Israel maintains a regime of of settler colonialism, apartheid and occupation over the Palestinian people. This is only possible because of international support. Governments fail to hold Israel to account, while corporations and institutions across the world help Israel to oppress Palestinians."

In 2013, The American Studies Association unanimously passed a resolution endorsing the academic boycott of Israel. Afterwards, many academic institutions with close ties to Israel criticized the A.S.A. for joining the BDS movement. In a New York Times article published in January, 2015, President Leon Botstein denounced the boycott.

"As an active member of the Jewish community, I recognize that the American Jewish community is disproportionately generous to American higher education," he said. "For the president of an institution to express his or her solidarity with Israel is welcomed by a very important part of their support base."

This statement seems to conflict with some of Bard's other goals, including the college's program in the West Bank at Al-Quds University. While the administration did not take an anti-Palestinian position, they opposed the tactic of BDS.

According to a former member of Bard Divest, the administration claimed that the BDS movement could have put the already precarious Al-Quds program at further risk.

Bard Divest eventually ceased their protests after the school quietly divested from the target companies during the Summer of 2015. The administration denies that they pulled their investments due to protests. Although their divestment was not public, one former Divest member, who wishes to remain anonymous, still considers it a win.

## New Health Services Committee Introduced by Student Government

Rachel Hodes

Last May, *The Free Press* reported on student struggles with the STI testing methods at Health Services and the strained relationship between the health professionals at Bard and its student clientele.

In the first weeks of the Fall semester, Student Government unveiled the new Student Health Service Advisory Committee. The committee has two elected representative seats for Bard students. According to Student Government, the role of the new advisors will be to "gather information about student needs (as they relate to health services)—possibly including the

development and implementation of new policy."

With goals of improving services for and communication with students, this committee could significantly change the ways students and Health Services professionals interact. The representatives meet monthly, and the newly elected student committee members are Nadia Russell and Katherine Skinner.

The group has yet to meet, but Director of Health Services Barbara-Jean Briskey hopes that students will bring some interesting new ideas to the table.

# Al-Quds Exchange Students Denied at Border

Bronwyn Simmons

On April 7, 2017, three Bard College exchange students studying at Bard's Al-Quds campus in the West Bank were denied re-entry into Palestine by the Israeli Defense Force (IDF) after leaving the region to renew their expired visas in neighboring Jordan.

Upon first entry to Israel, Cole Rainey-Slavick and both of his fellow exchange students had trouble making it through Israeli airport security but were eventually allowed access. "I was searched by the Israeli airline," Cole said. The IDF pulled him off the plane, took him into a room, took off his shirt, and forced him to hand over his possessions.

Another student was interrogated for more than twelve hours by the IDF. This student was first denied entry to Israel from Spain, so he had to arrive through Turkey instead.

Cole and his fellow Bard students studied in Palestine without conflict for about three months before they had to renew their visas. The college semester was longer than the duration of their visas because the Israeli government refused to grant them student visas to study in the West Bank. "Israel doesn't recognize Palestinian universities so it doesn't grant student visas," Cole said. "They gave us visas that lasted for a shorter time than the time between our flights." Al-Quds university advised the students to renew their visas in Jordan.

Along with a professor from Al-Quds, the students traveled to Jordan and stayed there for three days with Jordanian visas before trying to cross the border back into Israel. Cole and one of the students were granted visas and would have been allowed to cross the border, but they waited for the third student and their professor, both of whom were held up by the IDF.

Cole thinks that the reason the professor was interrogated was because he spoke for too long when answering

questions. He's sure that the third student, however, was racially profiled, as he is "a Palestinian, a muslim, brown-skinned, and has an arab-sounding name. [...] Israelis don't deny that they racially profile Palestinians," Cole said. "It's just a normal part of life for them."

The IDF withdrew Cole and his fellow students' visas after interrogating the third student and the professor. They were detained for almost ten hours and interrogated "without food or water." There were two people in the room

**'I knew they wouldn't torture me because I was white.'**

with Cole during his interrogation: one "muscly man who flexed a lot and a mean woman who made fun of us." Cole remarked that he was asked "really weird questions: 'Are you religious? Are you atheist? What's your dad's religion? Grandfather's? Why did you come to the Middle East if you don't have a religion? Why do you have a muslim beard?' And I didn't even have a muslim beard," he said jokingly.

"I was just dumbfounded and didn't know what to say in response. I think they were trying to find out if I was a convert. They definitely tried to gather information about the college."

Cole says that the Israeli interrogators asked the third student racist questions and made him stand in the hot sun for hours. They were rude to him and "made fun of him when he was praying," Cole told me.

Eventually, all three of the students were given "denial of entry" forms for "illegal immigration." The professor had a visa from an NGO so he was able to return. "I don't know why he left," Cole

shrugged. "Maybe he was worried he wouldn't get back in. He had to downplay his connection to the university. They knew what Bard was."

The students were "marched back across the border into Jordan with guns" by the Israelis. At one point, they stopped, and the IDF shouted at them that they had to cross.

Once back in Jordan, the three students booked a hotel room and managed to contact the school. They were flown to Bard's campus in Berlin to finish the remainder of the semester. "We were the only exchange students at Al-Quds, and we were all kicked out," Cole said. He went on to say that the IDF was known for raiding the Al-Quds campus.

"Because Israel is at war with the Palestinians, they thought we were sympathetic. They don't recognize the university as legitimate. Israeli forces want to prevent Westerners from seeing the West Bank. They want people to spend time in Israel instead."

When asked if he ever feared for his life while being interrogated by the IDF, Cole said, "I was nervous but I wasn't worried about my physical safety. I knew they wouldn't torture me because I was white. It's a common practice to torture Palestinians at the border though."

Cole thinks that American Al-Quds students never had this border problem before because previously, there had always been one Jewish exchange student there. Israel has tightened its borders recently, and has passed an anti-boycott law. Cole has a history of supporting BDS movements, and he believes that the IDF investigated his social media and found evidence that he sympathized with Palestine.

"In the context of BDS, people talk about obstruction of academic freedom. Israel doesn't honor academic freedom to Palestinians and to people sympathetic to them. And there is an effort to crack down on BDS movements all over the world."

No other Bard students have studied in the West Bank since this incident.

# Bard to Use USDA Loan for New Construction

Liam Mayo

With the paint still wet on the recently constructed New Annandale House, Bard is already planning the next wave of construction on campus. In the works is a major renovation and expansion of Kline Commons, as well as a new science building.

Kline is going to see major changes both inside and out. Behind the scenes, the dining service's supply chain will be reorientated towards farm-to-table policies, making greater use of the Bard Farm and the orchards at Montgomery Place.

The school also plans to add a 'food laboratory' to the space, so that when students have opportunities through their classes for cooking, brewing and the like, they can consume what they create. This is prohibited in standard laboratories due to regulations around hazardous chemicals.

The biggest proposed change is the addition of a second story to 'old Kline.' The new floor will be further up the hill, with an elevator connecting the two levels for improved handicap accessibility from the upper campus.

The new story will stand directly across from another new building, the Digital Science Commons, creating what Bard's Vice President, James Brudvig, says will become "the true nexus of the campus."

The Digital Science Commons will be a 35,000 square foot, three-story building placed next to the current Rose Science

Laboratories, which are part of Stone Row. This space will house 'makerspaces,' where students will have the chance to create and experiment in a well-stocked lab, supervised and assisted by teachers.

The top floor will contain an observatory, while the rest of the building will consist of classrooms and offices.

This construction is funded by a \$190 million loan from the United States Department of Agriculture's 'Rural Development Community Facilities Program,' which offers funding to projects benefiting rural communities. While this project is still in the planning stages, Bard's administration predicts significant foreseeable benefits to the local area.

Short term, the construction jobs created for these projects have promised

to help stimulate the local economy. And once completed, the new spaces will host a variety of learning initiatives, such as food science programs. In the new science building, local high school groups can use the makerspaces, and local astronomy clubs can take advantage of the observatory.

Through this loan, Bard is also looking to restructure a significant portion of its financial portfolio. New funds from the USDA will be used to pay back older loans with higher interest rates. Bard is taking out this loan through a holding company called Annandale Campus Holdings, a non-profit entity wholly owned by Bard. Ownership of much of the Annandale campus has been transferred to this company, and the buildings used as collateral for the loan.



photo by teddy trocki-ryba



photo by leor miller



# A Q&A with Harvesting Justice

Abigail Rizzo

Harvesting Justice is a student-run collective that fights for social justice by providing concrete support for local farms. To break down the barriers of access in the modern food system, they also engage in conversations about race, class, gender, and ability, while working to make fresh produce available to everyone. I had the opportunity to ask Harvesting Justice members Livy Marie and Sarah Goldberg some questions about the farm and social justice-centered collective at Bard.



**When was the collective founded, and by who?** Amelia Goldstein, Giulia Bambara, and Lou Stainback launched Harvesting Justice in 2015 after attending a retreat hosted by the Bard Food Initiative.



**Why is it important for Bard students to play an active role in supporting up-and-coming farms in the Hudson valley?** Getting off campus, out of your routine, and putting your energy toward learning about your community is valuable—you'll find this to be true with other TLS (Trustee Leader Scholar) projects as well. Visiting farms rooted in social justice is a unique experience, and all Bard students interested should give it a try and see why people keep coming back.



**What stigma is there surrounding agriculture, and how does Harvesting Justice work to address that stigma?** What we do is help local farms that have a social-justice tilt, by providing low-income families with fresh produce. Many farms in

the Hudson Valley have worked with the Victory Bus Project, which facilitates the distribution of fresh produce to prisoners in facilities not far from here. Small-scale farming and produce is something that should be accessible and available to all.

**What are some of the ways that Harvesting Justice has benefited small-scale local farms in the past? What are the group's plans for the future?** Once we've helped a farm, we keep in touch with them and then schedule regular visits. Right now, we're regularly helping out Rock Steady Farm in Millerton, a queer and Latinx owned farm. We build relationships with these farms, and we're letting them know that they can depend on us. They teach us about what they do, why they do it, and we assist them with a day of work.

**In your personal opinion, what about the modern food system needs to change? How can we work to make farm-grown food more accessible within marginalized communities?** Chartwells, BarDEATS and the Bard Farm provide Bardians with locally sourced produce, but that kind of privilege does not exist for everyone. Amelia, Giulia and Lou founded Harvesting Justice with the desire to glean produce for the Victory Bus Project, an organization that delivers produce to people in prisons. What we can do is support farms that put their own time and goods toward addressing food justice and social justice issues. Learning about food disparity within and outside your community and the larger world is always important!

**How can Bard students become a part of Harvesting Justice or get involved?** Drop us a note at [harvestingjustice@gmail.com](mailto:harvestingjustice@gmail.com) and let us know that you're interested and we'll loop you in! Also follow @harvestingjustice on Instagram, and join our Facebook group!

**Lastly, is there anything you'd like to address or mention?** Stay tuned for a panel featuring local farmers and potentially Jalaal Harris of the Victory Bus Project! We have also been invited to a few bonfires, so stay tuned for those as well.

photos by harvesting justice

## 'New' Rule Requires Clubs To Order From Chartwells

Rose Fischer



Earlier this year at Budget Forum, many students were surprised to learn that 20% of all club funding spent on food must now be spent through Chartwells.

Besides making sure every student gets their morning coffee, Chartwells has also collaborated with the student body on the Bard EATS initiative, which seeks to increase food purchasing transparency, reduce waste, support local farms, and promote sustainability.

The multi-national food-service company signed their most recent contract with Bard in 1996, and according to Julie Duffstein, Associate Dean of Students, the "new" 20% rule isn't exactly new.

Within the original contract, there has always been an exclusivity clause, which mandates that all food on campus purchased with college or club funds must come from Chartwells, unless the company approves an exception. Last year, Chartwells alerted the administration that few student organizations were

adhering to this clause in the contract. In fact, a clause stipulates that Chartwells has the legal right to choose the music in Kline.

Beginning last spring, Chas Cerulli, Senior Director of Dining Services for Chartwells, met with Bard administrators to discuss this issue. After recognizing that Bard clubs often run on limited budgets and frequently host events that require special, outside ordering, a compromise was achieved.

Now, student-run clubs on campus must spend at least 20% of their food budget through Chartwells. To ease ordering and incentivize students to obey this stipulation, Chartwells has created a 'club friendly' menu that offers "competitive prices" for frequently purchased items. The current platter for Chartwells club food is a sparse array of coffee, donuts, and fruit, and students are beginning to express discontent with the menu.

Though it remains to be seen how harshly this rule is enforced, some students remain skeptical about the

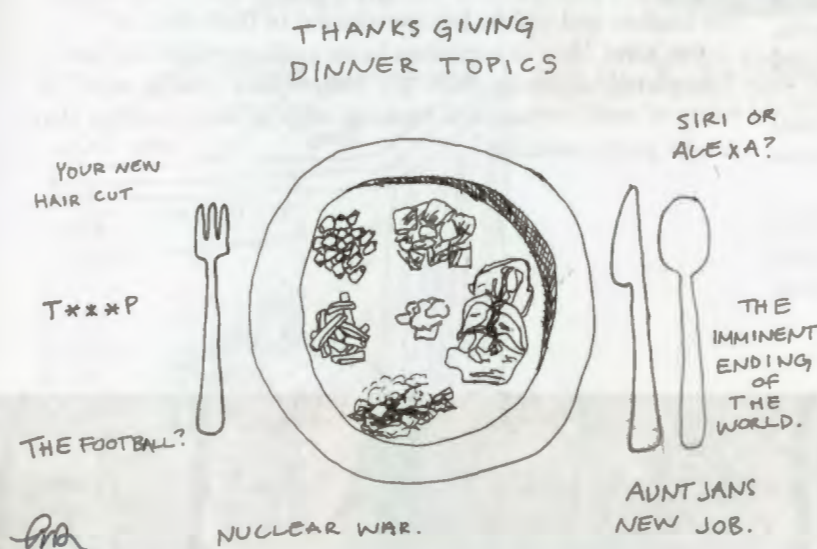


photo by chelsea cai 13

# Shannon Hart: Chartwells' New Executive Chef

Cassidy Polga

“I want the Bard community to be vocal. I genuinely want to provide you guys what you want, and if sometimes our opinions conflict, we'll work on it; we'll figure it out.”

So promises Shannon Hart, Chartwells' new Executive Chef, and so it seems to be, if Hart's clear commitment to connecting with multiple sections of the Bard community is anything to go by. In addition to the suggestion board, which she makes a point to regularly respond to, Hart is cultivating a relationship with the students running the Bard Farm in an effort to serve as many locally-sourced ingredients as possible.

Locality is a major component of Hart's attitude towards food service, which she began honing even before her days in culinary school at the Culinary Institute of America, an elite private college and culinary school located in Hyde Park, New York. Her long career spans across the culinary industry, from being a cook at Dutchess County Community College to serving the entire Saints football team in the high-end New Orleans eatery August.

Renowned as celebrity chef John Besh's flagship restaurant, August taught Hart about sophisticated food presentation and the potential inter-personal toxicity that breeds in professional kitchens. While she stresses that she was “really happy for the experience” of working in such a high-end and demanding restaurant, the social hierarchy in the American south proved too much to handle. “Literally, black people would wash dishes, Spanish people did prep, and men cooked. There was a very small peppering of women here and there, and it was morbidly depressing.”

Hart believes that she is a more conscientious boss thanks to that experience, but says she doubts she will ever want to return to New Orleans, where the stark racial inequalities are far from confined to one restaurant.

After August, Hart moved on to run Gadaletto's, a seafood restaurant in New Paltz, where she dealt with “every kind of fish you could ever imagine.” She then took a position at Aurelia, in Millbrook, where she cooked for a high-end clientele and indulged her tendencies for beautiful plating.

After stints at Matrix Conference and Banquet Center and Sodexo Management, Hart officially started her current position at Bard in September, 2017.

So what does a chef who once helped cook a meal for Prince (no, she did not get to see him) and has met Gordon Ramsay (an “excellent person,” one of the few celebrities Hart praises) think of Bard students?



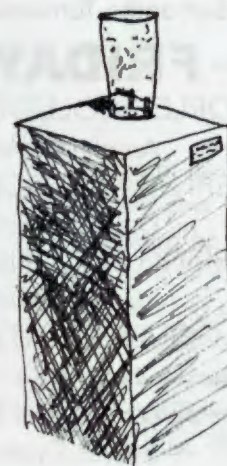
She admits that she misses the opportunity for more artful touches in her dishes, but so far, she's found that “people here genuinely care.” Hart is constantly looking for ways to fix the “mistrust” she sensed between the Kline staff and the student body.

One way is by helping the community understand the realities of what eating local actually means, i.e. “swiss chards, kale; what grows local this time of the year.” Hart believes that Bard students often want to support local food suppliers in theory but gravitate towards options like onion rings and fries when given the chance. By fostering better communication, Hart hopes that students will understand what to expect from the kitchen and will be less complacent in their choices.

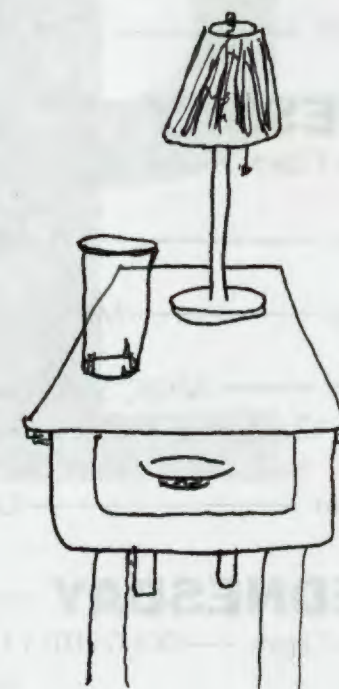
For now, Hart is happy to be at a place which she says is “completely different than any other place [she's] seen,” in terms of non-institutional cooking, with a “food program that can be pretty amazing.”

WHERE ALL THE  
KLINE CUPS WENT.

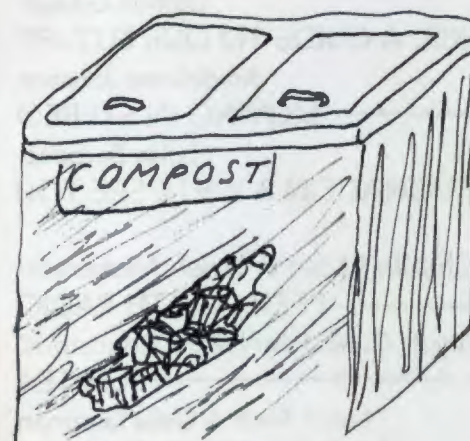
ON DISPLAY  
AT THE HESSEL



BOTSTEIN'S  
BEDSIDE TABLE



KLINE  
COMPOST BIN



# Fall 2017

## MONDAY

- 10am-12pm — PEARLIPHERY  
Jane Vick
- 2-4pm — WINE MOM  
Kady Drorbraugh
- 4-6pm — MATTHEW AN  
Matthew An
- 6-8pm — THE UNKNOWN HOUR  
Raphael Lelan-Cox
- 8-10pm — AKONI KAMINOFF  
Peter Akoni Kaminoff
- 10pm-12am — METERED MARGALOMANIA  
Preston Fulks
- 12-2am — HANDLE WITH CARE  
Mariel Cupp

## TUESDAY

- 10am-12pm — FREE FALLING  
Clara Griffin
- 4-6pm — PASSING THROUGH  
Maya Alfia
- 6-7pm — MAYBE IT'S MY SHOW!  
Miranda Whitus
- 7-9pm — WXBC STAFF MEETING TIME
- 10pm-12am — DUHH!  
Summer-Grace Flemister & Saul Amezcua
- 12-2am — LA FETE TRISTE  
Liv Soussan

## WEDNESDAY

- 10am-12pm — 0000110111101010101110  
Harrison Kroessler
- 12-2pm — UNCONVENTIONAL NARRATIVES  
Kate Buettner
- 6-8pm — MELOMANIAC BEATITUDE  
Loey Gregory-Wiley
- 8-10pm — SUBJECT TO CHANGE  
Jack Lustig
- 10pm-12am — EXCUSE ROLADEX  
Coco Goupil
- 12-2am — MARINATE  
Jeszack Gammon

## THURSDAY

- 12-2pm — SOUP FRIENDS GOOD MUSIC TIME  
Thea McRae & Jess Belardi
- 4-6pm — BURP TIME  
Cullen Drissell & Lourdes Garcia
- 6-8pm — S.W.A.K.  
Victoria Wayland
- 8-10pm — QUALITY CONTENT - SOUND PARTY  
Basil Pemberton & Lucas Depetris
- 10pm-12am — SINCERELY BLACK  
Justyn Diaz & Talaya Robinson-Darcy
- 2-4am — BARD RUMBLINGS  
Samantha Tomecek

## FRIDAY

- 12-2pm — WORLDS COLLIDE  
Amelia David
- 2-4pm — ALTERNATIVE COCK  
David Benson
- 4-6pm — BLURRING THE LINE  
Aidan Galloway
- 6-8pm — SLIPPER WHEN WET: GREATEST HITS  
Bel Simek & Jack McKeon
- 10pm-12am — JEWEL TONES  
Jewel Evans

## SATURDAY

- 10am-12pm — TONED  
Meyer Fisherman
- 12-2am — TALK IT OFF  
Glarifa Shanabrook & Ruth Kohl

## SUNDAY

- 12-2pm — INNER RADIO  
Walker White
- 2-4pm — ONLINE TELEGINIA  
Djimon Gibson
- 4-5pm — POST BREKKIE: A GUIDE TO OUR FUTURE  
Madeleine Johsson
- 5-6pm — MOVING IN STEREO  
Luisa Barbano
- 6-8pm — A LITTLE CARBONATION & WE'LL SEE YOU NEXT TIME!  
Charlie Miller & Noah Nickerson
- 8-10pm — PEER HEALTH RADIO  
Olivia Berkey (& Guest Peer Health Educators!)
- 10pm-12am — HIGH TEA  
Maya Teich & Dalia Glazman
- 12-2am — SCINTILLATING SUNDAYS  
Noah Wurtz

From all the staff at *The Free Press*, we thank you for your continued support. We value feedback from the Bard Community and invite you to take part. Is your voice represented by *The Free Press*? If not, let's change that. Our publication is yours too. Our editorial team wants your articles, reports, and think-pieces. Although we primarily publish text, we need your documentary photo skills. We also like comics. The topic is up to you, provided you deem it pertinent to our community. We value precision in language and information. You can remain anonymous. If you have any scoops, articles, or ideas, please let us know.

You're welcome to join us at any of our meetings, which are usually Thursdays at 6:00 pm in Olin 203. Contact us directly at [bardfreepress@gmail.com](mailto:bardfreepress@gmail.com) or the editor-in-chief [hh5684@bard.edu](mailto:hh5684@bard.edu)



**FP**