

12-1-2017

Bard Free Press, Zine (December 1, 2017)

Bard College

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Recommended Citation

Bard College, "Bard Free Press, Zine (December 1, 2017)" (2017). *Bard Free Press - All Issues (2000-2018)*. 129.

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TOWN AND GOWN: THEN AND NOW

HAYDEN F.W. HARD

Nobody finds themselves in Tivoli, NY by accident. Bordered by the Hudson River to the west, this no-stoplight village of roughly a thousand people is only accessible by a few country roads sprouting from Route 9G. If you walk around Tivoli, where everybody walks, you'll find quaint Victorian architecture, a couple of upscale restaurants, neighbors conversing on the bakery porch, a boutique general store, and even a couple of small hotels. The non-native pool primarily consists of New Yorkers escaping the city for the weekend and a rotating cast of Bard students.

But for some local residents, treating Tivoli as a college town is a major point of contention. It finally came to a head in July, 2015, when the village held a public hearing to discuss three proposed ordinances that target public urination, excessive

noise, and 'nuisances.' Dozens of students, locals, and town officials attended the two hour long meeting—a huge turnout in this town.

The Free Press took a look at the notes from the public hearing.

The proposed ordinance, which passed a week later, specified a noise violation as, "The shouting, yelling, calling, or hooting at any time or place so as to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort and repose of a reasonable person of normal sensibilities; The use of any sound reproduction device outside a structure or inside a structure in such a manner as to result in the sound from such apparatus to be projected there from between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 am; [And] Sound which can be heard from inside a structure across any property boundary, where all exterior doors and windows are closed, shall be deemed to be pro-

BARD FREE PRESS

DECEMBER 1, 2017 • ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY



ZERO WASTE CLUB'S FOOD WASTE AUDIT IN KLINE

BRONWYN SIMMONS

On the Thursday before Halloween, Bard's Zero Waste Club conducted a food waste audit in Kline to calculate the amount of waste generated in a single meal and to raise awareness about the issue of waste on campus. The club's members set up a table in front of the dish room and collected students' left-overs. There were separate containers for edible food waste, inedible food waste (such as banana peels or chicken bones), liquid waste, and landfill (such as disposable plates, utensils, or napkins). Students brought their waste to the collecting table on Thursday from 4:30 to 7:30, and Zero Waste sorted it into the different containers.

656 students swiped their cards that night. The total amount of waste was 121.25 pounds. The amount of edible food waste was 73.13 pounds, the inedible food waste was 4.02 pounds, the

liquid waste was 28 pounds, and the landfill was 16.1 pounds.

Olivia Horowitz, one of the Zero Waste Club heads, says that she was expecting there to be more waste than there was. She thinks that because the waste audit was held on the Thursday before Halloween, when people were away from Bard, the data collected is not as accurate as it could be on a different day. Additionally, the collection ended at 7:30, leaving those who were still eating at that time out of the waste contribution. Nonetheless, Olivia says, "The amount of disposable dish ware that we do have is ridiculous. There was so much waste."

Some students were thankful and even displayed signs of pity for the members of the club, who had to deal with their food waste. "Don't feel bad for us," Olivia laughed, as she scraped foodscraps into the compost bin. "We're just trying to collect data."



jected within the meaning of this subsection."

These ordinances have been on the books since 1997, and the only change was a stiff increase in fines. Under the previous noise ordinance, penalties ranged from \$50, \$100, and \$250 for each recurring offense, and the new proposed penalties begin at \$150, then increase to \$300 and \$500 dollars for repeat offenses.

The "nuisance law" is focused on cracking down on parties, which in addition to excessive noise, covers such infractions as unlawful possession of alcohol, trespassing, disorderly conduct, and parking illegally. The "nuisance" fines range from \$250 for the initial offense, to \$1,000 and eventually \$2,500.

At the beginning of the

meeting, Mayor Joel Griffith stated, "Tivoli and its residents have suffered too long from disruptive late-night noise caused by partying in the Village. Hollering in the streets and house parties. That is why this legislation has come forward."

Amy, a former Tivoli resident and landlord who now lives in Kingston, thought the fines were too punitive against students. Instead, she along with a couple other residents and students, suggested community service in lieu of police action and stiff financial punishments.

While the fines seem rather steep, they're intended as deterrent, and perhaps for good reason. A number of residents complained about being woken up by parties, or beer cans strewn

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Others were visibly angered at the food waste audit, complaining that it was a "shaming technique." But Olivia responded, "It's not to shame students but to build awareness and to create a dialogue about waste on campus. People should know that when they throw away food, it's not just going to disappear because it's out of their sight."

"It would be great to conduct food audits monthly," Olivia expressed. "If we were to do more, it would be interesting to see which food item is wasted the most. That quantitative data could help Chartwells decide which recipes to stop serving."

So what is the solution to Bard's waste issue?

Olivia believes a lot of it has to do with the layout of Kline, starting with the server, which has a lot of disposable items. She says there are more disposables due to a lack of dishware, a problem caused by people bringing plates and cups back to their dorms. Thus, there are 15,000 disposable cups in Kline every week. Many people even use two dispos-

able cups when carrying hot liquids so as not to burn their hands. One possible way to address this, Olivia believes, is to purchase thicker compostable cups.

Besides backend decision making, Zero Waste is working to correct some of these issues by educating students about composting and the implications of throwing something away. Often, people's eyes are bigger than their stomachs, and they overload on food, knowing they have a long walk back to the cafeteria from where they sit down to eat.

Looking into the future, Olivia hopes that Zero Waste can audit DTR next time. She would love to get rid of plastic bags there, and to require students to bring reusable plates to eat at the cafe. These new measures will come with time as the Zero Waste Club grows. "There is lots of potential but not enough people in the club," Olivia says. "When the club can focus its interests with the help of more students, it will be able to create change on campus in many ways."

DESPITE POPULAR OPINION, STUDENT RETENTION RATES RISE

ZOE ROHRICH

Whether it's your first year at Bard or your last, odds are that you, or someone you know, has considered transferring. Once planted, it's a thought that can unfurl across campus, into the minds of many during the more difficult college moments. To sum up this tendency, senior Gaby Berbey says she thought about transferring her freshman year at Bard, "just because it seemed like something everyone was doing."

However, the rate of students who began their studies in Fall 2015 and returned in Fall 2016 was 86%, and according to Taun Toay, Bard's Vice President for Enrollment and Strategic Initiatives, this percentage has been on a steady climb over the past four decades. Toay believes that the desire to transfer is not specific to Bard, but rather that transferring has become a recent trend among colleges across the

country. "When you look on aggregate, over 50% of students transfer once in their college career, and it's pretty amazing that around 1/4 of students transfer more than once. So that is a relatively recent phenomenon."

When asked why he thinks that is, Toay responded, "This is just speculation on my part, but I think students are more consumers of what they want in an education as opposed to being tied to what the local university is, or the state school, or the legacy of where their parents went. These patterns are breaking down and students are more willing to move if another school serves their interest better."

"I do think it's a national trend," agreed Assistant Dean of Students Timand Bates. "I can tell you that because in my day, in 1997, when I first got here and did L&T, talk of transferring among the first-year class was relatively unheard of."

Bates equates the nation-

al trend of transferring to the rising rates of anxiety in young people, referencing an article in The New York Times Magazine, titled "Why Are More American Teenagers Than Ever Suffering From Severe Anxiety?" This comment is not off the mark—Bard's Health Services has seen an increase in requests for therapy and other mental health needs. And it's true. This anxiety can be hard to cope with in a physically isolated place like Bard.

Bates works with students on problems he be-

lieves can be fixed within the Bard community. However, he says that the number one factor in why students decide to transfer is Bard's location, an unfortunate problem that cannot be mitigated.

A peer counselor for three years, Bard senior Vikramaditya Ha Joshi also says that when students have come to him in the past with thoughts of transferring, the main reason has been Bard's location. In his three years as a peer counselor, however, he hasn't noticed an increase of stu-

dents transferring out. Rather, it's a fluctuation from semester to semester. "They have a good week, they have a bad week. A lot of these students have momentary glimpses of thinking about transferring, but the ones that actually go through with the process are few." In counseling students through conversations about transferring, Joshi says that he tries to focus on a student's interests, rather than the school itself. "Their experience has colored the way they look at the school," not having so much to do with the college itself.

Whether it's the location

of the school, that more students are becoming consumers of their education, or that rates of anxiety have risen, transferring is a topic very much on the minds of young adults across the country. Bard's current first-year class of 2018 seems to be no exception. Dezi Hall, a freshman, says that she's been thinking about the possibility of transferring since September. "So have many of her peers. I don't know if anyone's actually going to do it—I'm sure there will be. But people are talking about it. It's definitely an idea. It's a big idea."



(Continued from pg. 2)
 on their lawn, or witnessing public urination. (While many speakers' full names were published in the meeting's transcription, we'll use first names here.) Melinda, a local resident who lives next to the park, was frustrated by late-night basketball games, trespassing on her property, and the slow police response after she reported a couple having sex behind the community garden.

Ineffectual police action pervaded many local residents' complaints, but especially so for Rich, a middle-aged resident of Montgomery Street. He said that if laws on the books aren't adequately enforced, people will take the law into their own hands. He'll do what must be done to defend his home, Rich said, citing his ownership of baseball bats.

His comments were in response to concerns expressed by a woman named Mary, who earlier in the meeting, cited two incidents when a man threatened students with a gun, then returned from his home with a baseball bat.

While threats of violence and an 'us versus them' attitude peppered the conversation, an overwhelming majority of people on both sides voiced their love of and appreciation for Tivoli's community and the desire to improve it.

But that was two years ago, and as a student-journalist and village resident, I wanted to take the temperature of Bard's current relationship with Tivoli to see how things may have changed. But I soon discovered that the distinction between the village and the college is extremely murky.

Like any dedicated journalist, I began my investigation at the bar, Traghav-

..Tivoli's a real place."

Gideon Berger, their friend and a waiter at the bar, agreed with Elijah when he dropped off their check. "Tivoli's an authentic place, and not in a New York Times 'Authenticity on the Hudson' kinda way, but it's a real community where people know each other and help each other out."

If you stop by the bar, chances are a wiry boy with freckles and a wide grin will pour your beer. Devin Mello, a current Bard student and Tivoli resident, has been bartending here for a year and a half. He seldom walks down the street without bumping into acquaintances. Sometimes locals ask him for help, like Joel, who recently needed a hand for the annual Tivoli street painting festival.

But it hasn't always been this way. "I think a lot of kids have this idea that 'it's them and us,' and I believed that for a while," Devin said. "But I quickly squashed that stereotype in my mind because it's 'all of us.' I think everyone who works and lives in Tivoli, and makes an effort,

has really enjoyed the people here and the community."

This sentiment was echoed by Emily Majer, with whom I shared a meal during a Bard-Tivoli potluck in November. She said that working in the village gives students a lot of opportunities to interact with locals. That kind of personal, face-to-face interaction, she said, is the best way to improve the relationship between the college and the village.

She, like many others I've spoken with, thinks that that relationship has gotten a lot better over the past few years. But legislation is only one small part of the equation, and while she thinks that the stiffer noise ordinance has helped to set boundaries, she emphasized the importance of talking to one's neighbors.

Jake of Murray's agrees. Located on the ground floor of a converted church, the coffee shop and daytime gathering spot has always employed students. When he went to Bard in 2010, few students worked in Tivoli, but now, more students

solve the problem, because there isn't an adequate venue to party on campus. The Old Gym, now a black box theater and Bard Security headquarters, used to host massive all-campus parties, but that was discontinued in the early 2000s after numerous cases of alcohol poisoning sent kids to the hospital.

Today, students party in a cramped anteroom in Manor, dorms like Tewksbury, and at the music venues Smog and The Root Cellar. But dorm rooms struggle to fit more than ten people comfortably, and both the music venues are alcohol free spaces, which encourages students to drink heavily beforehand in secret. The college is liable for underage drinking, so legally speaking, they can't condone large on-campus parties.

Thus, Tivoli becomes quite alluring for the soon-to-be shitfaced. Cool upperclassmen with their own houses are just a shuttle stop away. What's not to like?

For my neighbor Matthew, a lot. He's a middle-aged guy who's lived in Tivoli since 1993. Before he let me into his home for an interview, my only other interaction with him was when he rebuked me for leaving my trashcans on the sidewalk. Litter is a sore spot for him. He moved up here from the city because it's a picturesque community, and he represents having to pick up beer cans from his lawn and stepping over shattered glass on the sidewalk.

But Matthew doesn't have a problem with Bard or its students. He likes going to concerts and lectures at the

That kind of personal, face-to-face interaction, she said, is the best way to improve the relationship between the college and the village.

en. Opened in 2014, it's a cozy pub with a wood-burning stove and a whiskey menu as long as Ulysses. After ordering a Six Point IPA, a 'Trag' staple, I took a seat next to some old regulars. As it turned out, they were all affiliated with the college to some degree. Some were professors, like Ben Hale, while others, like Art Carlson, graduated many years ago and stuck around after falling in love with the village.

But former Bardians don't just hang out at the bar. The mayor, who everyone just refers to as Joel, graduated Bard's MFA program in 2003. Emily Majer, the deputy mayor who can be found strolling around town wearing a sawdust-coated flannel shirt, earned her undergraduate degree in the early '90s and has lived here ever since.

Many local businesses were also founded by ex-Bardians. Santa Fe, a Mexican restaurant, was founded in 1987 by a Bard grad. More recently, Jake Stortini and Jesse Feldmus left Bard to start Murray's

coffee shop and café in 2011. And Kazio and Natalie Sosnowski, class of 2011, opened Tivoli General in 2015, where they sell everything from artisanal shaving cream to artisanal sandwiches.

What's more, a lot of businesses in town, mostly restaurants, employ Bard students almost exclusively.

On the bar's back patio, I spoke with Yuma Carpenter-New and Elijah Jackson, two students who have lived in Tivoli for a couple years. Yuma's relationship with the village has changed a lot since they started working at Murray's over the summer, which has made them "less of a consumer and more of a participant in the community."

Elijah chimed in, "There's always a couple people at The Corner who I talk to when I host them. But then there's also the bar, which is like a meeting point between Tivoli community members. And here I feel more a part of the community than I ever have. It used to be a place to get fucked up, but it's no longer just a playground...."

work in the village than ever. According to Jake, "when you have students that are literally interacting with residents of the village, the students feel a lot more a part of Tivoli...and they develop a respect for residents that they otherwise wouldn't feel."

Many of the issues that residents have with students, he said, usually aren't with those who actually live here. "There are students [who] come here on the shuttle on Friday or Saturday night, and they only come here to party, and they don't have those connections with residents that live here full-time."

But in Jake's experience, problematic partying has been on the decline. He partially credits the noise law, but he thinks that the shuttle to Tivoli stopping at midnight, as opposed to 2:00 a.m., has drastically reduced the number of drunk people wandering the streets.

Another big factor, he added, was that Gerard Hurley, the owner of Traghaven, is extremely strict about refusing to serve

people under 21. The previous bar in the same location, called The Black Swan, was notorious for serving kids, and in December, 2012, the police shut it down in an undercover sting operation.

One way to improve Bard's relationship with Tivoli, Jake said, is for the village to crack down on the cleanliness and order of Tivoli's rental properties. "If you're living in a shithole,

"There are students [who] come here on the shuttle on Friday or Saturday night, and they only come here to party, and they don't have those connections with residents that live here full-time."

you're gonna treat it as such." Back in his day, he remembers going to parties in these "shitholes," and he said that's where kids give themselves permission to go crazy.

While recent legislation may have diminished the frequency of Animal House-style parties, Emily Majer said it doesn't actually

college, and he said that Bard has been a major boon for Tivoli, whose prosperity is only made possible by its proximity to the school. Except for a few "terrible neighbors," most of the students he's met have been respectful.

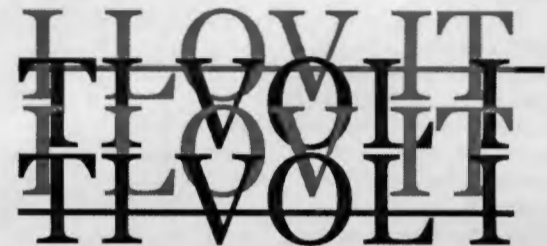
The issue of Bard students' respectfulness was also brought up by Julia Tinney, a current senior who lived in Tivoli her junior year and now lives in Red Hook. She said there's a narrative of students acting like entitled socialites, and she said that's true to some extent. But overall, she's surprised by people's resentment for Bard kids. When she lived in Tiv, Julia felt like some locals treated Bardians as disrespectful until they proved themselves otherwise.

On the condition of anonymity, I spoke to one of Matthew's "terrible neighbors," who felt that some residents don't recognize students as their fellow Tivolians. He's been ticketed three times for noise violations, and while he admits he was blasting music, he

wishes that his neighbors would have knocked and told him to turn it down before calling the police. And according to him, the police have entered his home illegally, without knocking or announcing their presence.

For better or worse in Tivoli, Bard isn't going anywhere. For decades, the college has played a major role in developing the village's economy and identity. According to Art Carlson, class of '79, Bard makes the "Tivoli Renaissance" possible. While some may trade an expensive meal for a good night sleep, Art adds that "Tivoli has always been a place for artists, intellectuals, weirdos, and just regular folk."

The best way to balance the needs of students and locals may be contested, but everybody who lives here agrees: Tivoli is a special place.



HOROSCOPES

DECEMBER 2017



SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22 - Dec 21

Nothing is fucked, dude, NOTHING IS FUCKED! Okay, think think think think. Uh. Uh. Your cousin Jimmy has a bathtub that you can dissolve the body in. Shit, man, we are so FUCKED!



CAPRICORN
Dec. 22 - Jan 19

Collect 200 Bard Bucks as you pass Go. But swappity-swap them for gold, because Mercury is moving all weird like.



AQUARIUS
Jan 20 - Feb 18

Bring at least two casseroles to the party or gathering you are planning on attending this weekend. Ask Donna for her best recipe. Don't ask questions. It's all in the sauce.



PISCES
Feb 19 - March 20

Your week will be bad. And I mean that in every sense of the word. Very bad. The mean people at The Free Press won't like it when I say how really bad your week will be. Sad! And really bad.



ARIES
March 21 - April 19

You're an Aries. You're bold and adventurous. This week, take the plunge and show everyone what you're made of. Submit to The Free Press.



TAURUS
April 20 - May 20

Mercury is in retrograde, which is a fancy way to say 'moving backwards.' idk dude, you're probably fucked. Buy gold.



GEMINI
May 21 - June 20

Outlook not so good. You'll be rather disappointed when you open your great aunt's Christmas present to find a gift card to a movie theater. But you're a gemini, the celestial fake friend, so your aunt will think you're overjoyed to sit through Justice League.



CANCER
June 21 - July 22

Cancer. The Big C. The ol' C-A-N, C-E-R. If you go to Chipotle this week, the clerk will be dealing with too much of their own bullshit to confront you when you pour soda in your free water cup.



LEO
July 23 - Aug. 22

You're a brilliant actor with incredible range. You're destined for an Oscar. But I gotta say, The Departed, very confusing movie. Were you some kinda cop or something?



VIRGO
Aug. 23 - Sept 22

This week you will feel a bit preoccupied. Spend a day reading escapist novels. It won't matter if you can't remember those!



LIBRA
Sept 23 - Oct 22

This is your time. You run this city. Stand on a balcony with a couple friends tonight and look at the majestic Tivoli skyline. This town won't know what hit it.



SCORPIO
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

The Zumba class you'll take next Wednesday at 5:30 will leave you feeling ready to take on the world. Whatever you do, don't forget to pack a snack.

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