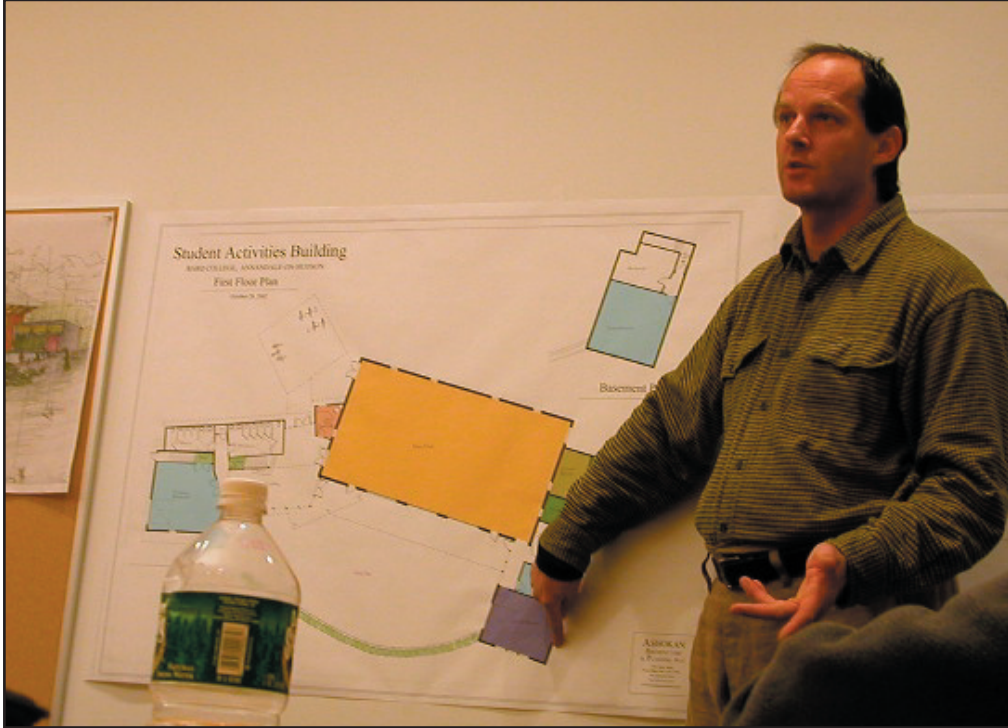


## Architect Remodels With Student Input

*Despite student reluctance, architect appeases with talk of plans.....*



by **matt dineen**

Although students continue to express reluctance at seeing their dear old gym crumble under the new construction of a science building, a recent meeting with the architects who are designing the new student space have offered a similar if inexact replication. On Monday, October 28th the revised plan for the "New Old Gym" was presented to students and administrators by the architects. A similar meeting was held a month prior in which the architects presented the original design for the building and collected student feedback. In the forum last week they incorporated the old suggestions into the revised sketches of the back and front of the structure, and the aerial site plan which they presented at the second forum.

There were a number alterations made to what the architects have labeled the "Student Activities Building." The proposed site is still behind the soft-

ball field and the Woods photography building. One key change is the addition of a second floor above the existing garage, currently known as "SMOG," that the new building will be constructed around. Perhaps as a response to student criticism regarding the one-dimensionality of the original plan, this second floor space will be lined with windows and will host a café that could replace the Old Gym's Root Cellar.

In terms of new spaces in this revised plan, a DJ and projection room was added above the "Main Hall" along with an additional practice room, making two in total, and a club space located next to the storage space which is adjacent to the main hall. One student suggested that the club space be a replacement of the Student Action Center, a meeting space for campus activist groups, which is currently located in the basement of the Old Gym.

*continued on page 4...*

## Servicemaster and Students Petition for Benefits

*Employees learn too late about revoked life insurance benefit*

by **lola pierson, gus feldman and kristin macleous-ball**

Servicemaster employee and member of the Bard community George Best passed away on April 29, 2002. While the student body has been receiving announcements about the passing of numerous faculty members, the administration neglected to inform the students of Mr. Best's death. He had been a member of the Bard community since 1987. George was a loving husband and father and is described by his friends as "someone who would give you the shirt off his back." Servicemaster union representative Michael Lonigro recalls that every Friday Mr.

Best would take his ex-father-in-law grocery shopping.

Before the passing of Mr. Best, in November of 2001 Servicemaster employees were notified that Servicemaster had been bought out by the Aramark Corporation, one of the world's largest management companies. Aramark supplies the food services for many of our nation's correctional facilities. They manufacture uniforms for workers in all types of employment, including security and police personnel. Aramark also manages and maintains

*continued on page 2...*

## Rally for Peace in Kingston



caption...see page 3

## Innovations In the Works at Kline

*Promises made, flaws excused to a small crowd*

by **liv carrow**

Students were invited to pose questions, suggestions and ideas to Chartwells' Dining Service representatives Chas Cerulli and Jim Eigo at an open forum in the Kline committee rooms on Wednesday, October 30.

Chartwells and the Student Life Committee arranged the forum through the Chartwells liaison and Dean of Multicultural Affairs Jennifer Jimenez. Approximately 14 students were in attendance, including two SLC representatives.

A wide range of topics was addressed at the 45-minute forum, including those on the Chartwells' agenda and concerns raised by students. Many of the topics initiated by Chartwells were based on the survey conducted by SLC two weeks prior to the forum.

Some of the main concerns of the forum were the grill line, the quality of the salad bar, and adding more vegan and vegetarian variety to the menu. Also, the new Green Onion Grocery was discussed and deemed a positive addition to the food service at Bard.

Eigo anticipates the grill line to be fixed over the weekend of November 2, and Chartwells is working to improve existing services, such as the salad bar and pizza line. A new salad preparation chef was recently hired, so students should expect to find fresher greens and more variety.

Chartwells' more ambitious plans include adding a milkshake bar and sushi line to the options, and they hope to have guest chefs from local area restaurants

prepare special dishes in Kline at least once a month.

"Most of the area restaurants want to take part in the guest chef idea. Milagros, Max's Memphis Barbecue and Julia and Isabella's have shown interest. It's good advertising for them," Eigo said.

Several comments were made about service in Down the Road Café, which is often understaffed at night and consequently slower than during the day. Cerulli explained that this is due mainly to the small staff available to work late shift hours. As a result, students generally take the night shifts, when the café is busiest, while many of the full-time professional employees work during the day.

Food is prepared and transported from Kline during the day, and more workers are needed to do these jobs. Since the café has

very limited storage space, all of its food is kept at Kline and transported and prepared daily. The low storage capacity is also the reason why frozen snacks like curly fries, chicken fingers and mozzarella sticks often run out in the evenings.

"Sometimes you go into the café, and it's like an entirely different company is running it. Things are always moving at Kline, and it just isn't like that at the café," commented one student.

Allen Josey, who eats in the café "more than any of you" had some praises for Cerulli and Eigo, and requested the return of daily soup.

Because many major concerns were addressed in the beginning of the meeting, questions and complaints raised by students were based on more personal preference issues, such as

food flavor, content and cooking processes used.

The Chartwells representatives explained one innovative addition to the vegan options at Kline, a food called Protein Chef.

A meat substitute made of wheat gluten, protein chef was created by Scott Adams Foods, the creator of Dilbert comics. "You'll see that showing up more and more- we're working on a vegan tuna salad and using it on pizza," Eigo explained.

Chartwells will also attempt to add a vegan dessert at least once a week, and they reassured some concerned students, wary recalling last year's meat-greased French fries, that no butter or non-vegan products are added to anything that has been labeled "vegan."

Some students had health concerns about additives in the

*continued on page 3...*

# Latest Phase in Plans for New Old Gym

*Architect's accommodations appease student distrust*

by **matt dineen**

On Monday, October 28 the revised plan for the "New Old Gym" was presented to students and administrators by the architects. A similar meeting was held a month prior in that the architects presented the original design for the building and collected student feedback. In the forum last week they incorporated the old suggestions into the revised sketches of the back and front of the structure, and the aerial site plan that they presented at the second forum.

There were a number alterations made to what the architects have labeled the "Student Activities Building." The proposed site is still behind the softball field and the Woods photography building. One key change is the addition of a second floor above the existing garage, currently known as "SMOG," that the new building will be constructed around. Perhaps as a response to student criticism regarding the one-dimensionality of the original plan, this second floor space will be lined with windows and will host a café that could replace the Old Gym's Root Cellar.

In terms of new spaces in this revised plan, a DJ and projection room was added above the "Main Hall" along with an additional practice room, making two in total, and a club space located next to the storage space which is adjacent to the main hall. One student suggested that the club space be a replacement of the Student Action Center, a meeting space for campus activist groups, which is currently located in the basement of the Old Gym.

Another student critique of the original plan was that, unlike the Old Gym, the "New Old Gym" only

included one entrance. The new plan includes two possible entrances; one entering into the lobby from a path that will be built behind Woods, and the other entering near the student club space across the "Plaza" which faces the trees.

After the plan was presented a debate broke out about student autonomy and the right to graffiti the new building. Students were concerned that it will be as sterile as the Multipurpose Room and that it will not feel like "their space" without such freedom of expression. David Shein and Allen Josey were concerned that some students may not want graffiti on the walls particularly if they are organizing events in the main hall. Shein cited the recent Drag Race as an example of this as the organizers for the event invested a great deal into covering up the spray painted walls of the Old Gym.

The architects of the New Old Gym have stated that they are committed to environmentally sustainable construction by, among other things, utilizing recycled materials. When asked about this in regard to the ecological ramifications of developing in a heavily wooded area the head architect replied, "You gotta break eggs to make an omelet." He proceeded to discuss the environmentally sound aspects of the construction and he mentioned that they chose the site because the trees were not as old, plentiful or healthy as other parts of the campus.

The discussion evolved to the present and future state of the Old Gym. Allen Josey mentioned that Service Master has recently complained about the increasingly filthy and dam-

aged state of the building, particularly in the basement. Jim Brudvig pointed out the hypocrisy of students destroying the space which they care so much about. He warned that if students continue to treat the Old Gym in this way then Bard will have to close it down before the new building is constructed. This would leave students without an autonomous campus space. "You need to keep in mind that we have not hired an architect for the new science building yet." Brudvig added that even after the architect of that building is hired it will still take a long time for the plans to come together.

The assistant architect added that if she was an administrator then she would feel hesitant to invest so much into a new student facility if students were destroying the space they have now. Shein repeated, "With autonomy comes responsibility." Students at the meeting explained that there has been poor communication between the administration and students about the future of the Old Gym and that some students feel that Old Gym will be torn down very soon so they do not have as much respect for the building. Students at the meeting also explained that it was an injustice for the administration to decide the fate of the most important student space on campus without their input.

Towards the end of the meeting Shein brought up the question of air conditioning in the new building. He was perplexed that at the previous meeting students overwhelmingly rejected the suggestion. The sentiment was the same this time as well. In general students just want the Old Gym and not the Multipurpose Room or a "New Old Gym."

Kovel depicted the Bush administration as "illegitimate," and the U.S. government as increasingly given to political repression and imperial war.

Woodstock resident Jane Toby, who initiated the Mid-Hudson's first weekly peace vigils by Women in Black (they also now take place in New Paltz and Kingston), described the work of her group. Local singer Stephanie Fix, accompanying herself on the guitar, captured the audience's attention with a moving new song.

This was followed by Bard College student activist Matt Dineen, antiwar organizer Fred Nagel of the Dutchess Greens, Vassar College activist Julie Tozer, Ulster Democratic legislator Gary Bischoff (who recently introduced an antiwar resolution that was defeated by the Republican county legislative majority), and Green Party candidate for Congress (20th CD) Margaret Lewis.

Popular Kingston folksinger Bob Lusk regaled the audience with two songs, as the rain started to come down heavily. He was followed by Rabbi Joshua Levine-Grater, also of Kingston, who noted that addressing a rally was not his usual preoccupation on the Sab-

Wellstone (D-Minn.), his wife and daughter who were killed in a plane crash. Wellstone was one of the 23 Senators who opposed the resolution granting war powers to President Bush.

The rally then officially opened -- with a bang -- as four members of the Radical Cheerleaders of SUNY New Paltz burst through the crowd to perform a series of "cheers" and acrobatic steps similar in form, but hardly in content, to those at college sporting events. These cheers excoriated wars and damned state repression.

The applause and good feeling had not yet subsided when people's song legend Pete Seeger, 83 and a local resident, strode to the microphone, banjo in hand, to warm the enthusiastic crowd and make it forget the rain. He succeeded with several stimulating sing-along songs. Seeger reappeared hours later as the rally was ending with other songs, including an exceptional all-join-in rendering of "This Land is Your Land."

The first speaker was Joel Kovel, the Bard professor and prolific author who has been denouncing Bush's war with regularity at local peace meetings.

# The Fast Runners

*Bard Cross Country Sweeps the HVAC*

by **david dash and emily schmall**

Running is the leading source of income in many villages throughout Kenya and Ethiopia. Champions donate prize money from long distance competitions in America to building and development in their communities. With the same energy if not the same purpose, the Bard men and women's cross country teams have come together this season to bring prosperity back home.

Under the magnificent tutelage of coaches Fred Pavlich and Natasha Hull, the Bard men and women's cross country team have once again shown unprecedented improvement in the fall season. Led by a crop of fresh faces, this year's teams have been contenders in every race, unlike in years past, when the requisite number needed to score, five runners, could not always be met.

This past Saturday, the women's team took first, and the men second at the Hudson Valley Athletic Conference championship race held at Bard. A cross country meet is scored by adding up the individual places of a team's top five finishers with the lowest total score winning. The women's 6K is a grueling 3.6 miles, a distance that was elongated this year from 3.1 miles, while the men contend over a five-mile race, or 10K.

This year's women's team is moving towards the end of the season as one unit. Five women have returned this year: Juniors Marcy Carlson and Molly Schoemann, and sophomores Lindsay O'Reilly, Abigail Morgan and Emily Schmall. A strong addition has come from new runners Katy Juha'sz, a PIE student, junior Hannah Janal and freshmen Rachel Atwood and Christie Seaver. Last year, only Carlson finished the 5K under 22 minutes, but this fall, four runners

cross the 5K mark under that time. The Lady Raptors placed second in the Bard Invitational and have repeatedly taken one of the top three places throughout the season.

The men's progress has shown to be equally impressive. Despite being able to barely field a team, the men's cross country squad has proven it can overcome adversity, surprising some unsuspecting opponents. The men's team only returned member is sophomore David Dash, but it has received a huge contribution from the new additions: Val Xharra, Dirk Fischer, Garret Albright, Tai Tokeshi and Blair Culver. Looking more like a band of rambling gamblers than cross country runners the men shocked the entire field by taking first place at the Bard Invitational. In reference to the upcoming conference championships Dirk emphatically states, "Our opponents will get a splendid view of the backs of our jerseys."

Bard cross country has steadily progressed throughout the season, consistently placing among the top teams at this year's invitationals. The team stands out in more ways than one. Runners show up in tattered sweatpants instead of uniform warm-ups, but their success has proved their unkempt appearance to be somewhat of a deception. Bard went from a presumed dead-last to a co-favorite position with Pratt University for the championship meet, proving that non-conformity can often lead to success.

Look out for Bard cross country in years to come. They will only be distinguishable from other Bard students because instead of a cigarette in hand, they will be holding a championship trophy.

# Kingston Rally

by **jack smith**

Over 50 Bard students attended a recent anti-war demonstration in Kingston. The protest was part of a national day of demonstrations across the country against Bush's Iraq policy. Besides spontaneously rerouting the march from its original plans, Bard students also hoisted a "No Blood For Oil" banner across a Kingston street during the protest. The following is excerpted from a report released by local activist Jack Smith:

An extraordinary peace rally and march took place in Kingston, N.Y., Saturday, Oct. 26. Despite a chill rain much of the afternoon, 2,000 Mid-Hudson activists, joined by demonstrators from outlying towns up to 90 miles away, jammed Academy Green Park and Uptown streets for the largest peace demonstration ever held in the Ulster County seat.

Several days before the rally, the organizers told themselves they would be happy if 500 people showed up, and ecstatic if 1,200 attended. The morning of the rally, as the rain poured down in sheets, our guesses dropped to 300 (happy) and 700 (ecstatic).

The meeting started with a moment of silence for Sen. Paul

Wellstone (D-Minn.), his wife and daughter who were killed in a plane crash. Wellstone was one of the 23 Senators who opposed the resolution granting war powers to President Bush.

The rally then officially opened -- with a bang -- as four members of the Radical Cheerleaders of SUNY New Paltz burst through the crowd to perform a series of "cheers" and acrobatic steps similar in form, but hardly in content, to those at college sporting events. These cheers excoriated wars and damned state repression.

The applause and good feeling had not yet subsided when people's song legend Pete Seeger, 83 and a local resident, strode to the microphone, banjo in hand, to warm the enthusiastic crowd and make it forget the rain. He succeeded with several stimulating sing-along songs. Seeger reappeared hours later as the rally was ending with other songs, including an exceptional all-join-in rendering of "This Land is Your Land."

The first speaker was Joel Kovel, the Bard professor and prolific author who has been denouncing Bush's war with regularity at local peace meetings.

bath -- but that Jewish religious law made exceptions for matters of life-and-death, "which, of course, this is." SUNY New Paltz student activist Julia Walsh then made an impassioned statement against the war, paving the way for Green congressional candidate Steve Greenfield (22nd CD) to put forward his own views against war, environmental despoliation and the Bush administration's abrogation of civil liberties.

Poet/activist David Kime of Saugerties succeeded in inducing the audience to disregard the chill and precipitation with radical verses articulated with the power of a jackhammer. He was followed by the softer ecumenical and religious tones of Tamer Osman of the SUNY Muslim Student Association. Nancy Rice of Highland, a lifelong progressive activist now in her later 80s, talked about the war and the activities of the Caribbean and Latin America Support Project. Beth Capen, a laywoman of the United Methodist Church, discussed the importance of religious opposition to Bush's wars. Two members of the singing group Princes of Serendip delivered a beautiful a cappella song as the event was coming to

an end. The rally was shortened by 15 minutes because the audience had been standing well over two hours in the wet and it was simply necessary to get people moving about.

Musicians from the group Asha Nan sang and drummed as the demonstrators gathered for the peace walk. The march itself, according to almost everyone, was simply fantastic -- and the rain had stopped for the day.

According to the police permit, the marchers were supposed to walk along the sidewalks through the Uptown business district. This might have been feasible for a couple of hundred people, but with 2,000 fired-up antiwar demonstrators gathering in the street adjacent to Academy Green Park, up to 15 abreast, it immediately became apparent there was no way to for a march this size -- including drummers, musicians and large puppet figures brought by the Rosendale Puppets -- to fit on the sidewalk. Organizers at first sought to confine the marchers to just one side of the street to allow cars to pass, but this proved impossible as well.

Within a block, the marchers occupied the streets from curb to

*continued on page 3...*

# Oneida Reservation Under Control of Illegitimate Leader

by kiernan rok

On August 18 Danielle Schenandoah Patterson was arrested at her home on the Oneida Indian Territory in upstate New York. She was taken from her home and transported more than three hundred miles to a maximum-security prison in Pennsylvania. The police force that took Danielle had no warrant for her arrest, made no attempt to inform her family of the circumstances of the arrest, and denied Danielle contact with her attorney.

On Monday, October 21 Danielle was brought by private jet from prison in Pennsylvania to New York to appear before the Oneida Indian Nation Inc. court, facing charges of criminal contempt of court and assaulting a police officer. Danielle had the option of either pleading guilty to these charges and accepting an eviction order and the immediate demolition of her home, or being re-incarcerated indefinitely without sentencing. A single mother of three, Danielle agreed to the terms. As a result her home was scheduled for demolition and Danielle was told by the judge that she is no longer allowed on the Territory.

This is the latest development in the Oneida's ongoing struggle to retain their rights to Oneida birthright land. For nearly a decade the Schenandoahs and other families on the Territory have faced eviction and demolition of their homes as part of a "beautification process" sponsored by the Oneida's illegitimate leader Ray Halbritter.

Halbritter, a Harvard-educated businessman and CEO of the multimillion-dollar corporation Oneida Indian Nation, Inc., has established casinos in Mexico and the United States, including the Turning Stone Casino located on Oneida land east of Syracuse, NY. According to traditional law, the Oneida clan-mother may issue three warnings to a tribal

leader who is not acting in the best interests of the Oneida people. Upon the third warning the leader is disposed from his position and banished from the community. Only by violating traditional law has Halbritter been able to maintain his position of authority. He has ignored the traditional process of governance and the three warnings issued to him by Oneida clan-mother Macy Schenandoah. During his term as tribal leader, Halbritter has closed all community buildings on the Territory including the community long house (traditionally the site of religious and political gatherings) and arrested Oneida clan members for going near these buildings. He has formed an exclusive "men's council" which meets and makes decisions behind closed doors. The "men's council" is unprecedented in Oneida history, and contradicts the Oneida's principles of democratic governance and collective decision-making. He has hired a non-native police force that patrols the 32-acre territory. Known as the Nation Police, this force is directly employed by Halbritter who pays their salaries and supplies them with sports utility vehicles and arms. This is a privately hired police force; these individuals are not deputized (real) police officers. Residents have accused the Nation Police of spying on, harassing and using violence against the Oneida people.

Currently the most serious threat to the future of the Oneida people is what Ray Halbritter refers to as a "beautification project", in which he systematically inspects and condemns homes, evicts the residents and proceeds to demolition. Residents are forced to relocate to a housing complex in White Plains, NY where they pay rent to Halbritter who owns the complex. It is unclear exactly what his motives are for evicting the Oneida people, or what he plans to do with the

land once all the families have been removed, although it is difficult to imagine that he will not try to capitalize on the land in some way. Presently eleven homes have been demolished as a part of the beautification project. Seven homes remain.

Halbritter has maintained a dictatorship through his own repressive tactics, as well as through the support of the BIA (Bureau of

Indian Affairs), an agency of the federal government. Because he has disregarded the processes of traditional law, which would have removed him from his position, the BIA is now the only body with the authority to remove Halbritter. Despite repeated pleas by the Oneida people the BIA has refused to address the issue of Halbritter's unpopular authority.

The Oneida system of government is modeled upon the American system of participatory democracy, but it greatly differs in its system of checks and balances. Because the Oneida Nation Police and the court are directly employed and paid by Halbritter it is impossible for anyone who opposes him to receive fair and equal treatment under Oneida law. The very institutions of government that were established to serve and protect the people are now serving the destructive policies of an unpopu-

lar and self-interested dictator.

Realizing that the different branches of the Oneida governing structures were all working toward the same agenda, Danielle was forced to take matters into her own hands. She organized a campaign of nonviolent civil disobedience and direct action to defend her home and her children's birth right to Oneida land.

In December 2001, Danielle's



home was forcibly broken into by the Nation Police and cited for violating housing codes that Halbritter created. Facing the destruction of her home Danielle sought help from outside the Oneida territory. Danielle's home became a Peace Camp where radicals and Christian peace-workers alike lived and visited to support Danielle's cause from all over the united states as well as internationally. For months Danielle welcomed a fluctuating crowd of non-native supporters into her home, her front lawn becoming a permanent camp ground. Bard students went up to support Danielle near the due date of her home demolition on the weekend of September 15.

The risk for an American is far less than that of an Oneida Indian. All those who participated in the March for Democracy in the 1990's were stripped of their Oneida Indian citizenship and are

now considered aliens to their own nation. Thus the need for non-native recognition of the situation and support is very present, and the appreciation for non-native involvement is great. The relationship that develops is one of generosity on both sides.

When Bard students went up to Danielle's home this September, we met other supporters from Amherst, Montreal and Albany, as well as the Christian Peace Makers group who have camped out at Danielle's for months. As students we were there to defend her home, as well as her right to live on Oneida Birth-right land, with her three kids.

Being there it is hard not to become attached to Danielle and her family, Preston (13), Claire (9) and Jolene (8), plus their dog Sasha. Each night fires were lit to share hopes and fears, grill marshmallows and plan for the possibilities of the coming day with the looming possible arrival of the Nation Police. The kids ride their bikes up and down the main road until after dark, and are yelled at to keep away from the grass around the Cooks House (which is where the women used to cook for community gatherings before Halbritter ordered it closed). Each morning you wake up to gather in a circle for prayer because it is believed that smoke carries prayers up to the creator. It is a familial feeling to everyone there, whether native or non-native.

One of the major concerns for Oneida citizens is that if they are all forcibly removed from their birth right land the United States is no longer obligated to recognize the Oneida people or nation. Now that Danielle's house has been demolished, there are seven other homes that are facing the same struggle. However, with the same persistence demonstrated by one native woman, and the dedication of outside support, the fight will not be over.

...continued from page 2

curb, chanting, singing, waving their homemade signs, and having a wonderful empowering time. The front ranks of the procession were largely composed of students who have participated in lively peace and anti-globalization marches in Washington and New York City. They imparted a real sense of both exuberance and anger at the warmakers that spread throughout the entire march.

Reaching the corner of Wall and John Sts. the marchers were virtually dancing down the avenue when they encountered a phalanx of smiling students, shoulder to shoulder, blocking the way. It soon became apparent what was up, or about to be up. The city had strung a rope 20 feet high over the street from building to building, holding a long, narrow banner about a local event. The students were attempting to throw another rope, attached to a bicycle tire for guidance, over the elevated sign in order to erect a message of their own. A few minutes later, to much applause and joy, the students

had managed to hang a large sign high over Wall St. proclaiming, "No Blood for Oil."

Although police cars tracked the parade -- materializing from time to time two blocks in front of the marchers, or behind, or from the sidestreets -- no police officer approached. The only incident took place when a motorist, evidently perturbed by the traffic delay and possibly by the nature of the event, gunned his car perilously close to the marchers, leaving Rob Robinson of New Paltz with bruises of the foot and shin -- shook up, but okay. The motorist has not been apprehended.

Twenty minutes after the sign-raising, the first of the marchers returned to Academy Green Park to conclude the day -- but it was such an engaging afternoon that hundreds of people remained in the park for an hour or more, picketing with peace signs along Albany Ave., listening to the drummers and musicians, dancing and talking among themselves. Hanging around after the march, probably

a half-dozen people told this writer that Oct. 26 was the biggest peace rally ever held in Kingston and the environs, and in the enthusiasm of the moment twice as many said it was the best demonstration they had ever attended.

The event sent the messages it was intended to send -- first, to the activists, that their movement is viable and strong and that if we all remain united for the duration, there's a chance we might be able to stop, if not prevent, the next war; second, to the working people and our neighbors in the region, that contrary to the mass media's one-sided observations, there's great antiwar sentiment in their communities and they should find out more about it. In general we wanted it known throughout the Hudson Valley that our movement is proud to be committed to the demands chanted by the marchers in Kingston: "No attack on Iraq -- stop the war before it starts." "No more imperial wars!" And last but hardly least, "Hay, hay, ho, ho -- Bush and Cheney got to go!"

*Dale Small Custom Originals*  
*Dale Small custom made Plec-*  
*trim Banjo: All Inlaid With 8"*  
*head*  
*\$500, firm*  
*Includes case, music stand, some*  
*music, foot rest. Call Louise at*  
*(845)-758-0468*  
*Red Hook*  
*Leave message and phone number*  
*or see Louise in the Kline servery,*  
*or give message to Donna.*

# Mike D. and Basketball: Rocking on and off the Court

by matt dineen

*This is the third installment of the series chronicling the history of the Old Gym from the perspective of students that helped shape what it is today. Part III covers the Reagan/Bush/Botstein years of the 1980s, a decade characterized by new wave and music videos, the anti-nuclear and environmentalist movement, a plethora of suspect American military interventions, AIDS, the rise of the Religious Right and the fall of the Soviet Union. In front of this backdrop, Bard students created their own culture and their own analysis of the complex world they lived in. They also witnessed and participated in the evolution of the building that for seven decades was known as the gym.*

## Student Music.

In the early 1980s Bard had a vibrant student music scene. A number of new bands cropped up after the demise of Virus and the Twilites, the two most popular student rock bands of the late '70s. In October 1980 a campus "Battle of the Bands" featured The Units, Lost Cause, The Caucasians and The Samoans. The Units won the competition with a cover of Gary Numan's radio hit "Cars" and two songs from the Beatles' "White Album" (Observer, Vol. XXI, No. II). Throughout the early part of the decade most large social events, such as the Battle of the Bands, were held in Kline Commons although some seasonal dances and concerts were located in the gym or in Albee, Manor or Blithewood.

On March 7, 1981 The Lost Cause played a memorable show in Manor that made Observer writer Charles Lenk realize that, "one of the more exciting factors about the Bard band scene [h]as always been the unpredictability at the musical directions that these bands take." In their case they had improved musically making it the Lost Cause's "best performance to date" (Observer, Vol. XXIV, No. VII).

In the same issue of the student newspaper, Alexis Papachelas published two opinion pieces; one addressing racism at Bard, specifically the absence of any black or otherwise nonwhite faculty members, and the other urging for a student co-op space on campus. Papachelas was concerned about the lack of student space on campus and the general inadequacy of the coffee shop and the bar at the triangle. She suggested an alternative to the current monopoly:

" My proposal is the formation of a student cooperative society which will run a students' pub and general supply store. I am talking about a place where non-junk food (i.e. health food) would be served...Beer could also be sold along with other supplies like records, periodicals, used clothing, etc. A jukebox could be put there so that people could dance." In 1981 there was no vacant space in the gym as it was exclusively utilized for athletic purposes.

Papachelas felt that, "A great place for the co-op would be the Stone Row basement..." (Observer, Vol. XXIV, No. VII). The idea of a student co-op did not materialize for several years to come.

A year later Adam Yauch of the blossoming New York hardcore punk band The Beastie Boys gave up an offer to play bass for the legendary Cro Mags so that he could attend Bard College. On November 13, 1982 The Beastie Boys played their eighth show ever in the college's gym. Band member Adam Horowitz was attending Vassar at the time. Yauch was only at Bard for two years, since the Beastie Boys exploded nationally during the 1980s (<http://www.geocities.com/dynomited5extra2/tourinfo.htm>).

## Student Sports.

In the early 1980s Bard's athletic program was limited to intramural sports including basketball, volleyball, softball and tennis among others. The intramural basketball league epitomized the general lack of interest and lighthearted approach to sports. There were a number of teams with such names as The Academics, The Gunners, Little Future, Faculty Staff, and the infamous No Future. The latter represented what some may consider the true essence of Bard. In a 1981 feature on the team, student Bruce Handleman referred to No Future as "the eternal underdogs." They had an anarchistic method of playing basketball with their "anti-coach" and "anti-captain," and would smoke cigarettes and drink Genesee Cream Ale during games in the gym. (Observer, Vol. XXIV, No. VIII)

By 1984 sports began to grow at Bard. The women's softball and men's tennis teams competed against other schools from around the Northeast. Intramural basketball remained a staple. That year athletic director Joel Tomson reported that, "it was one of the best supported intramural basketball seasons, in terms of both players and fans" (Observer, Vol. XXVI, No. 3)

The following year Bard joined the Central Atlantic Collegiate Conference (CACC) and the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA). In October 1985 The Observer reported that this expansion of the athletic program was accompanied by "growing pains." This was due to the unsatisfactory and limited resources that gym had to offer. "It is an embarrassment to play in that gym," Tomson told the paper. "We have to go to Red Hook High School because coaches and players refuse to play here." This is when discussion of building a new gymnasium was first considered (Observer, Vol. XXVII, No. IV). Although the athletic department was growing in some ways, there was still little student interest in sports, which made it difficult for a new facility to be realized. Tim Leshan of The Observer illustrated the situation this way:

"If there were better facilities

available, more sports-minded students would be attracted to Bard, and interest would certainly rise from those already on campus. But without much student interest, the school feels no compunction to aid the department's growth; thus facilities are not built, and interest remains low. Until this cycle is broken, Coach Tomson and company will be stuck with an inferior department." (Observer, Vol. XXVII, No. IV)

## New Gym, New "Student Center."

Plans for a new campus gymnasium were announced two years later in October of 1987. The financial constraints the college faced when the idea was first proposed disappeared when Bard Trustee Charles P. Stevenson Jr. decided to donate the funding of the new gym as "a gift to the school" in hopes that it would "help get more students involved with sports." Leon Botstein hoped that the new gym would help separate Bard from the "commercialism" overly present in American college sports at the time by focusing more on "amateurism" than varsity sports. What managing editor of The Observer Peter Stone wrote was less optimistic about the gym's potential; "With Bard's track record of involvement in the past, the new gym may have to be very impressive to inspire students." (Observer, Vol. XCII, No. I)

Construction of the \$4.32 million gym lasted throughout the following year. The scheduled opening date of September 1, 1988 was pushed back due to a heat wave in July that affected the drying process of the floors. According to Joel Tomson, "the primary purpose of the gym is to get a larger amount of students involved in fitness activities." Carla Davis, the Assistant Director of Athletics added, "this facility is not for athletes. It is for Bard students whoever they are." (Summer Times, Vol. I, No. I)

While construction of the new gym was finishing up, the college was also in the process of removing asbestos from various buildings on campus including the older dorms of Manor, Albee,



and Blithewood, along with the Admissions Office, the Presidents House, the science building and the old gym (Summer Times, Vol. I, No. I). The old gym was also being remodeled into a student center. This created a problem for the women's volleyball team, as they now had no place to play or practice. (The Observer, Vol.

XCIII, No. I).

In early September 1988 a student named Sara Willig wrote an article entitled, "Whatever Happened to the Old Gym?" Willig worked as a security dispatcher over the summer during the renovation process and decided to find out herself what was happening to the building after being asked about it every day. The security and dispatcher offices were changed

around moving the dispatchers to the front entrance from the second floor. There was also discussion at the time of moving around the post office and bookstore, which both had been located in the basement of the old gym. (Observer, Vol. XCIV, No. I).

Willig also learned of a new policy in regard to events held in the building. She reported that any party or concert held in the "Gym proper" that reached volume levels affecting security's ability to carry out his/her duty would be shut down. "The average lifespan of a party may just have been shortened to about five minutes," Willig warned. (Observer, Vol. XCIV, No. I) In addition, when off campus bands played, the security that guarded Kline Commons during the day, would be rented for the night. (Observer, Vol. XCIV, No. III)

She also mentioned the popular idea of a "student-run, healthier, less expensive alternative to the coffee shop keeping much later hours..." The only question was, should the alternative coffee shop be located in the former weight room upstairs or in the former boys locker room in the basement? A student forum was held a week later, in addition to other issues, the possible uses for the student center in the old gym were discussed. Students wanting a bar in the new student center were disappointed to learn that such a space would have to wait until the renovation complete as it would be too expensive to "install temporarily, only to be torn down during reconstruction" (Observer, Vol. XCIV, No. III).

Other changes discussed at the forum included turning two racquetball courts into practice spaces for student bands and the other into an art/performance space for student groups, turning Joel Tomson's old office into an audio co-op for bands to store their equipment. The open space in the basement was turned into a "recreation room complete with a TV lounge, pool table and ping pong tables." In addition, "all of the video games in Kline will eventually be installed there as well."



The estimated cost at the time for the renovation of the old gym was between \$1.2 and \$1.5 million (Observer, Vol. XCIV, No. III).

By the end of September 1988 the Bard Community Co-Op was fully operating out of the new student center, "in that section of the Old Gym basement heretofore used as a boys locker room and not in the weight room," Sara Willig reported. The Co-Op operated differently than Alexis Papachelas' original vision and the way the Root Cellar operates today. Students and other members of the community could fill out an order form based on a catalog of bulk, all natural food. The Co-Op was due to open full time by the second week of October (Observer, Vol. XCIV, No. IV). By that time there was general consensus amongst students that there should be a bar in the student center, but there was not enough money to fund it. As the building became an exclusively student space almost all social events occurred in the old gym. Pamela Goldstein, Class of 1990, recalls: "The old gym was the place where they held parties and where most bands performed. I remember seeing the Red Hot Chili Peppers at the old gym in '88 on a freezing Monday night...I also remember that we had formals or semi-formals once or twice a year and I believe they were held in the old gym."

By the Fall of 1989 the old gym was fully established as the student center. Although it was the main venue for parties and concerts the recreational facilities provided did not meet the needs of some students. In a humor column called "A Fresh Look" first year student David Biele wrote, "I wondered why many upperclassmen referred to the Student Center as the 'Old Gym,' when Stevenson has been here for over a year. Then I went to the "Student Center and I learned why: one broken down ping-pong table and one moth eaten pool table do not a Student Center make" (Observer, Vol. XCIV, No. V).

It was now the Old Gym.

To be continued...