

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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Bard OBSERVER

The Official Publication of the Bard College Community

VOL. 5, No. 11

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

MAY 31, 1963

Bard Signs Ward Manor Contract

Art Building Plans Approved; Work to Begin

In a meeting with President Kline last week, the Art Faculty approved the plans for the new Art Building. Construction is set to begin soon, and the Administration hopes to have the building ready by February, 1964.

The college received a \$100,000 gift last summer from an anonymous donor, "a churchwoman and friend of the college," for the construction of an art building. Orient Hall, the old art building, was destroyed by fire in June, 1959.

The Administration had originally planned to renovate the Zabriski Drill Hall near Blithewood, but further studies revealed that renovation was unfeasible. "We would have had to demolish 95 per cent of the building to save the other 5 per cent," Dr. Kline observed.

As a result, the Administration decided upon a new building. Of Bard's several potential construction sites, the most probable is within the rectangle outlined by the Theater, the Chapel, Tewsbury Hall, and the Patrick's house.

Architects' plans indicate a broad, square one-story structure, divided into three sections — south, center, and north. The southern and northern sections both have inverted-V roofs, with sky-

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The Administration plans to occupy this building as a men's dormitory next fall. It houses 75 students. The other buildings on the Ward Manor property will be retained by Community Services for at least one more year.

Bard's acquisition of Ward Manor is imminent. A contract has just been signed with Community Services Inc. of New York, and negotiations are now underway with Aetna Life Insurance Co. for a loan to cover the purchase.

Ward Manor has been for many years a home for the aged under the auspices of Community Services. This organization has decided to concentrate its efforts on finding the right charity for the needy and is therefore closing down its own activities in the field.

For the past few years no new residents have been taken into Ward Manor. The main obstacle preventing Community Services from disposing of the property has been the problem of relocating the inhabitants. This process takes considerable time, since Community Services must find suitable housing for each of its clients.

The relocation will not be finished by December; the terms of the contract stipulate that Bard shall rent back to Community Services one of the two buildings on the property until new locations are found for all the residents. President Kline estimates that about seven months will be necessary for this task.

Both buildings have room for about 75 students; the one further from campus should be available this September. The Dean has held up room assignments until the purchase is completed, but the further building is already slated for men's housing.

Few changes will have to be made in the property, since both buildings were built for institutional use. There is ample plumbing, and the fire escape and alarm system are wholly adequate.

The further building also has "semi-basement space" (Albee Social is a semi-basement) which will be available in September for academic use. The Language, History, and Music Departments are seeking this space for offices and classrooms.

Because of the new property, Kappa House may become a women's dorm again in the fall.

Dance Concert Set For Tomorrow Night

The Bard Dance Department will present a ballet premiere, "Little Red Riding Hood," at 8:30 p.m. on June 1-4. Robert Rockman will do the narration and Ana Itelman will perform the role of Wolf. The characters of Little Red Riding Hood, Woodsman, Mother, and Grandmother will be played by Ellen Kennedy, David Jacobowitz, Diane Sisson, and Margaret Ladd.

The concert will also include compositions by Margery Apsey and Ellen Kennedy, with music by Villa-Lobos, Satie, Gunther Schuller, and Richard Perry. The

musical sequences for "Little Red Riding Hood" are from an I.B.M. 7090 computer and Luenig - Ussachevsky with choreography by Margery Apsey.

Other compositions to be presented will be "Lookie Yonder" and "Germinal" by Miss Kennedy and three Russian dances by Miss Apsey. Dick Perry will supply the music for one of the three solos as a part of his Senior Project.

Others dancing in the concert will be Carolyn Hammond, Wendy Hoffman, Helen Quigless, Martha Herby, Jane McCune, Eleanor Levine, and Donna Gilbert.

Miss Ana Itelman is production supervisor of the concert, and William Driver is special dramatic assistant. Lights and sets are by Stuart Whyte and Dana McCorkle. Wendy Williams will be the stage manager, and the costumes will be supplied by Bard's Wardrobe.

Quorum Needed For Meeting on Amendments

A committee consisting of Spencer Layman, Chairman, Alan Boxer, and Harvey Sterns has been working throughout the semester on revising the Bard Community Constitution. Two years ago the present Constitution was ratified over a proposed Student Government Constitution by a Community referendum. After two years of operation under the accepted Constitution it became apparent that certain aspects of it deserved revision to facilitate the operation of various community governing organs. It is with this in mind that the committee considered the amendments it will formally propose. It was never its intention to rewrite the basic articles or revise the underlying student-faculty-administration relationship set forth in the Constitution.

The amendments that the committee will propose are numerous, but mention of a few will make clear its intentions: earlier election of the Community Treasurer, House Presidents, Committee Chairman, and Orientation Committee Chairman; a clarification of the powers of such committees as EPC, HPC, Institutional Committee; clearer definition of what is involved in Council vacancies and club recognition; and a revision of the quorum requirement for Assembly meetings.

An Assembly Meeting will be held Monday night, June 3, at 8:30. At this time the committee amendments will be set forth in full. Other suggestions will be added to the list of committee amendments if they are offered. The amendments of the committee and those proposed at the meeting will be explained more fully and debated. No vote, however, will be taken. On the following Thursday, June 6, a referendum will be held. The

(Continued on Page 4)

Council Vote

Primary elections for Community Council were held last Wednesday. The eight students who won, including three freshmen, will compete for the Council vacancies in next Wednesday's balloting.

Pat Johnson, Harvey Bialy, and Mark Mellett are the freshmen among the finalists. Pat is also the first girl to enter the run-offs since June of 1961.

Spencer Layman topped the list with 126 votes, and David Jacobowitz finished second with 102. Also among the finalists: Paul Mueller, 90; Johnson, 65; Bialy, 60; Victor Marrow, 58; Greg Young, 54; Mellett, 51. Next in order were Stan Reichel, 50; Harvey Sterns, 49; Paul Gommi, 48; Ethel Manaker, 47; Mike Lipskin, 43; and Louis Proyeet, 42.

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Molly Francis to Speak Here



A reading by Molly Francis of the Old Vic will be presented in Bard Hall, on June 4, at 8 P.M. at Bard College. The Community is invited.

Miss Francis is a distin-

guished actress who has recently made her home in this country after 25 years on the London stage. The program is sponsored by the Bard College Literature Club.

Psych Journal Sent to Printer

Robert Wachman, editor, announced today that publication arrangements for the Psychology Journal have been completed.

Because the Journal draws heavily from Senior Projects, it will be printed near the end of July. Through the courtesy of Mr. Russell's office, it will be mailed to all students at that time.

EDITORIAL

State of the College

The acquisition of Ward Manor and the construction of a new Art Building are two more steps in the steady growth of our college. Once again the energy and determination of our President have paid off in large dividends. The great haste of this expansion has been remarkable. On some occasions, the benefit has been small and the expense great, but there is a real need for energetic action.

Bard has a shortage of eating space, office space, dormitory space, and classrooms. The only answer, for the conscientious college administration, is new buildings. Last year the College raised far more money than in any other year in the past decade. In the past two years the Administration has used this money to acquire Sottery Hall and Schuyler House; numerous other improvements have been made, like the paving of the road to Blithewood, the lighting of River Road, the new parking lot, and others. We are pleased to learn that the coming year will bring new improvements: a new kitchen, an expanded Dining Commons, an Art Building, and Ward Manor. An impressive list, to be sure. Our Administration is doing a tremendous job for the College. President Kline has said repeatedly that Bard's academic qualities are stable enough that the Administration can turn its attention almost entirely to expanding the resources of the school.

But there is one shortage we failed to mention above: Bard has a shortage of good students. Perhaps this results from our unusual way of education, but the financial pressures upon the Admissions Office are in part responsible.

Now 75 more places need to be filled. Part of the space will be taken up in relieving the overcrowding of Stone Row and in bringing all students on campus. But many more places are left for whoever wants them and has the money. At present, the college accepts 70% of its applicants. Obviously Bard needs many more applicants to choose from; intensive publicity is the only answer. But with 75 additional places open in the fall of 1964, and with another dormitory holding 50 to 100 planned for 1966 or 1967, we would appear to need not publicity but a stampede.

Here, then, are the results of rapid expansion: a decided improvement in the physical plant, but a serious problem for the Admissions officers. They need a rapid increase in applicants to counterbalance the rapid increase in dormitory space. They need a reputation, not publicity. And making a name for a college is slow work indeed.

Who has heard of Bard, for that matter? As many bad things as good are said about us, and the situation is not helped by the inarticulateness of students about their college. We find it difficult to explain ourselves. Perhaps Mr. Walter Karp can explain us to many other people in the article he is writing for Esquire, to appear in the fall. But a lot more is needed. The new buildings have a great deal of space that must be filled with students. Not ciphers, *students*. We earnestly beseech the Administration to consider how enough actual students may be found to populate its fine new buildings.

Bard Review Ready For Printing

The Bard Review, which has been redesigned and reorganized this year, will make its appearance sometime during the last week of school. The Review will be divided into two sections: one containing fiction, poetry and plays, and one comprised of four essays.

Last year the essays and the creative writing were printed side by side. Previously, there were two magazines, the Bardian and Bard Papers.

The members of the Review's editorial board, Lane Sarasohn, Charles Hollander, Joan Schwartz, Bill Tinker, Kathi Tinker, Margaret Ladd, Spencer Layman, Bob Lear, Bonnie Markham, Larry Johnson, and Geoffrey Magnus, have selected twenty-three poems, four stories, four essays, and a play from work submitted to them by the students.

The essays include a case study on patents by Spencer Layman, "The Last Symphonies of Beethoven and Mozart" by Charles Hollander, and a discussion of Thucydides by Marguerite Fisher. Fred Feldman is contributing an essay on "Dionysian religion in Thrace," which is a chapter from his Senior Project.

The Review will also publish poetry by Paul Pines, David Fauver, Harold Donohue, Rayna Silvera, Susan Veit, Charles Hollander, Lane Sarasohn, and Amy Wohlgemuth. The play, written by Bob Walker, is a verse drama entitled "The Passing Through of Lao-Tan."

Bibi Wein has the most intriguing story

title: "Who Put the Silverfish in Sidney Gottesman's Ironing Board?" Allan Kronzek's novella "Liebestod" is the longest piece of fiction to be published. "Like Passing Jewels" by Rayna Silvera and "As You Really Are" by Joan Hand are the other two stories.

Observer

THE BARD OBSERVER, the official publication of the Bard College Community, is issued every two weeks during the Fall and Spring Semesters.

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Letters To the Editor . . .

Two Views of "Backgrounds"

Brilliant Lectures

To the student body of Bard College:
An Open Letter Concerning Backgrounds Of Western Traditions:

There has never been a time when knowledge was an easy thing to acquire; neither have truth or wisdom been given freely to anyone. The central problem of modern philosophy is responsibility and in the last analysis there is no rational system that claims freedom to be a gift. Why is it then that there are those who expect "instant enlightenment" without making the prerequisite commitment?

I fear there are few who know a good lecturer and fewer still that recognize a good lecture. We are not in a school where lectures are substitutes for thought. A large class does not preclude the possibility of learning, nor does it eliminate the necessity for thorough preparation. Why do some have the nerve to expect to understand Erasmus when they haven't even read him? Or, why do others expect the Renaissance to unfold before them when they haven't taken the time to appreciate the problems involved?

We claim we are students, yet most have never taken the time to ask themselves what a student is. We are fortunate to have a gadfly for a professor, yet most would rather tend their wounds than face the problems with which he is stinging us.

I hear cries of righteous indignation from some, from others complaints that there is no continuity in the course. To these I put the Socratic question, "Surely you must be right, for you imply that you understand what these things are. But please, explain yourself a bit more since I am stupid and would learn from you."

To sin and suffer—that offends us still:

But who is ever blest against his will?

—HARVEY BIALY

Course "Far Short of Objectives"

To the Editor:

On my first day at Bard last September, I was handed a plain manila envelope containing a seven page course description entitled "Backgrounds of Western Traditions — The Required Freshman History Course at Bard College." Before beginning the first assignment, I read this description several times. It was an impressive document: I decided the course would be ambitious, difficult, and fascinating. Unfortunately it has been none of those things, and after spending nearly two full terms in vain pursuit of the goals presented in the original handout, I am forced to conclude that the course falls far short of its objectives.

One very basic difficulty is simply that this is a lecture course. The handout declares, "A lecture course is neither inherently better nor worse than a 'seminar' course." This may be so, but a seminar course, in which material is discussed and papers assigned, gives the student a feeling of involvement and participation that cannot be duplicated by a series of lectures, question periods, and four objective examinations. Granted student performance in seminars is often disappointing, it is nevertheless true that some of us are active and intelligent contributors.

The question period might help this situation, but I for one have not succeeded in an even one dozen attempts to ask a question of Professor Toomey. Each time he interrupts me before I can finish. This is discouraging, to say the least, but I am sure the professor means no discourtesy to me personally because other people frequently have the same experience.

It is necessary to ask questions because the lectures are often elliptical, full of generalizations and aphorisms. Consequently they require considerable clarification and explanation.

A fine example of Professor Toomey's lecturing style is contained in "The First Sentence of Herodotus," Appendix C in the course description: "The Iliad begins 'Sing, goddess, the wrath of Achilles Peleus' son—' and the Odyssey 'Tell me, O Muse, of the man of many devices—' The beginning of the Theogony ('Let us begin our song with the Heliconian Muses—') has already been quoted. In short, Greek civilization was created by poets." This cryptic statement requires some additional explanation and justification, but I was never able to obtain it.

The course examinations are memory exercises which consist of fifty items of uncorrelated information abstracted from the reading and the lectures. Professor Toomey is correct in maintaining that they are not difficult, but where is the motivating force to do well on such exams?

That I can no longer contemplate attending a Backgrounds lecture without laughing or becoming angry is perhaps an indication of my disillusionment. Although I have listened to every lecture and read every book assigned, I can not now think of the course as a learning experience: it has become an ordeal to be surmounted with a little expenditure of effort as possible. I am not proud of my attitude, but I believe it is shared by many others in the course. Such widespread cynicism poisons the educational process and injures the Community. Therefore I am presenting these criticisms publicly in the hope that some antidote may be found before the beginning of the fall term. The intellectual aspirations of many Bard freshmen may be abysmally low, but at the present time "Backgrounds of Western Traditions" frustrates even those of us who are sincerely trying to take advantage of our educational opportunities.

—Don Baier

Letter on Drama

To the Editor:

We would like to congratulate those members of the editorial and writing staff of the Bard Observer who were responsible for putting together one of the best issues of the paper that we have yet seen.

We have one deep, and, we feel, justifiable criticism of last week's issue, however, and that is the presence of Leonard Leokum's review in a newspaper written by and for the Bard College community. While Mr. Leokum is as entitled to his own opinion as anyone else, we do not feel that he, being no longer a member of the community, has a right to express it in the Observer.

We disagree not only with Mr. Leokum's being allowed to publish his review, but also from his very first sentence. With his interpretation of Thornton Wilder and his view of Mr. Kakatsakis' production of *The Happy Journey*. Surely more important than Wilder's giving a new treatment to America's "time-worn customs" was his interest in giving new life to the theatre, which, at the time, was overridden with realism and with what Mr.

Tinker, in his review, describes as "public truth in all of its initial integrity" (bold face ours), and especially with lively experimentation. We feel, Mr. Leokum to the contrary, that Mr. Kakatsakis did realize the essential qualities in Wilder's little play, namely, experimentation and liveliness. Furthermore, it is quite incorrect to speak of the members of the drama department as being "at the mercy of Charles Kakatsakis as [a] director and actor" as it is to say that in his production Mr. Kakatsakis has wrongly assumed "that one must infuse life . . . no matter how it clashes with . . . sense." Mr. Leokum has worked with Charlie Kakatsakis, as we have, and surely has not been outside this community and into "real life" so long that he has forgotten that Charlie has in fact a deep sense of reality which is perhaps more sophisticated than young and cocksure talents are able to grasp immediately.

Very Sincerely,
David Johnson
Margaret Ladd
Susan Veit

How Northerners See The South

Having had an ample opportunity to see a great deal of the North in the past four years, I have frequently noticed what I consider to be a serious lapse in the attitudes of liberal Northerners, and it is of this lapse that I wish to speak. My qualifications for discussing this question are varied but most of them derive from the fact that I have lived in Alabama all of my life—a fact which, I suppose I should add, I am not particularly proud of, but not one I am unduly ashamed of either.

To begin with, I should stress that most Northern liberals I have met have seemed to be completely sincere, at least abstractly, in their beliefs about the South — sincere, surely, in the sense that white segregationists are sincere, by which I mean to imply no irony. What I find often lacking, however, is the ability or the desire to understand the white segregationist as any more than an illiterate bogeyman.

The reason for this is easy enough to understand. In an attempt to express concern with the plight of the Southern Negro, which is in itself admirable, Northerners too often have unbalanced the equation to such a degree that they wind up viewing the white Southerner in much the same way that the white Southerner sees the Negro; the battle against irrationality has become emotional enough, on occasion, to represent an equal amount of irrationality on its own. The Northerner adopts his badge of brotherhood with a self-righteousness and pride that appears at times to have far less to do with the Negro than it does with himself—as if there were something intrinsically “noble” about believing the Negro to be a human being like every one else, rather than merely basic. I wonder seriously how many of these Northerners would voice their sentiments with equal vehemence if they were currently going to, say, the University of Mississippi, where they would have to do so under the risk of losing their social standing, their personal safety, and possibly even their lives. Thousands of students now going to Ole Miss have ‘o make this decision, and it is far from being an easy one, especially for the Southern students who hope to spend the rest of their lives in the South, which represents the overwhelming majority.

(It should be noted parenthetically here that there has been a considerable change in the minds of Southern whites over the last few years, which most Northerners have little means, or desire (or both) to find out about. The changes, to be sure, are couched in negatives terms—five years ago, most people said they were opposed to integration, and that it would never come about; now they are saying that they are opposed to integration, but believe it will inevitably come about, despite any of their efforts; there is also a growing respect for obeying federal law, despite personal objections to it. The problem is that the North usually hears Southern opinion expressed only through the mouths of Southern politicians, who find it necessary to gain power by seeking out the lowest common denominators in the people, and then exploiting them. This is especially true of George Wallace, the governor of Alabama. Ross Barnett is somewhat a different case, since Mississippi is virtually run by the White Citizen's Council—I mean this literally—and his decisions do not originate from his own desecration.)

Even assuming that a Southerner has the courage to speak out for the Negro on a Southern campus, is this always invariably the right thing to do? When one is faced with prejudice that operates sporadically at best, how often can pure declamation be useful, or even desirable? When the Freedom Riders came into Montgomery, several

Negroes who were injured and even murdered had nothing to do with the Freedom Riders aside from the fact that they were Negroes and happened to be in the vicinity of the bus station when the riot broke out; the same situation occurred in Oxford on the night of Meredith's arrival.

The purpose of this documentation is by no means to slow down the efforts of the southern liberal movement; I'm only suggesting that Northerners pause long enough to consider the relative worth of different forms of liberal action, and above all to think of what they're saying. Hasn't it become evident yet that the white Southerners, liberal and segregationist alike, are going through much of the same hell that the Negro is going through? Both are undergoing traumatic changes in the patterns of their life, changes which in one way or another affect every aspect of their existence. In this sense, the white and Negro Southerners share an awareness of what is going on that the usual Northerner can only catch a glimpse of.

Surely the difference that will matter most in the long run will be that of the Southerner's attitude towards the Negro, and it would be incorrect to believe that Northern excursions into the South improve any of this. There is something undeniably insulting about some one walking into your house and telling you how to run it—and indeed, what else was the Reconstruction, which started so much of this mess, other than that? The Northerner cannot fully extricate himself from guilt about the Southern problem any more than the Southerner can, not to mention his guilt in the subtler forms of segregation which dominate his own home ground. There are, in fact, many Negroes who prefer the South to the North, by virtue of the fact that at least the Southerner is honest about his bias, rather than evasive. The fact that the usual Southerner accepts his own bias as a tacit assumption—even if he calls it something else—means that he is, in a sense, free to show kindness within this assumption—and it would take a narrow Northerner indeed to believe that genuine kindness of this sort does not exist in the South—while the Northerner's brand of segregation, being backed up by hypocrisy and often a conscious violation of humanity, is potentially even more disgusting in some ways.

I hope that whoever is chosen by Council to go to the South this summer will give some consideration to this point of view. It is far from an easy one to take, but this does not diminish its necessity if we are to change the South from a battleground into a part of the United States.

If what we all want for the South is improvement, rather than bolstering of our own egos, and flagrant expression thereof, it is essential that we try to understand more deeply—and have compassion for—the white segregationist. It is this, I believe, which is ultimately the most difficult challenge in the whole battle, and, in the final analysis, the most important one, if we are at all concerned about the future of the South, as opposed to the chaotic present. Too often I have heard a Northerner, in conversation or in written statement, begin with a tacit, almost smug expression of love for humanity, and end up by tearing to shreds the dignity of Southern whites, as if they were somehow exempt from this consideration. If we ourselves are to act with any dignity, we must consider the plight of the white Southerner, without using the patronizing tone we reserve for children and idiots—who equally don't deserve it—if we are to understand the current Southern condition, which is, indeed, a tragedy.

—JON ROSENBAUM

Tennis Team Finishes Undefeated Season

On May 23rd at New Paltz State University the Bard tennis team won its final match of the season against an inferior State squad (7-2). Mike Shafer, undefeated number one man for Bard won a close match from the New Paltz number one man Jerry Ziering (6-3, 7-5). James Banker, ace number two man for Patrick's netmen, took with great ease two sets from Jerry Roth, (6-2, 6-2). George Thompson and Parry Young, five and six seeds respectively on the Bard team, won their singles

matches, (6-3, 6-3) and (6-2, 11-9). Bard won all three doubles matches, clinching the honors and making it an undefeated season for the Bard racquetmen.

Commenting on this season's undefeated tennis team, (6 wins, 0 losses) Charles Patrick, Director of Athletics at Bard, was most pleased with the spirit and performance of the squad. He felt the competition this year did not offer enough of a challenge to the Bard team, and he hopes to arrange for a tougher schedule next spring.



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Amendments

(Continued from Page 1)
 amendments will be voted upon individually, each requiring a two-thirds vote to secure passage.

This could be the last Assembly meeting requiring a large quorum, provided that 231 members of the Community attend. If there is no quorum, the amendments cannot be voted upon later in the week. In addition, the Assembly meeting will become meaningless procedure in view of the quorum requirement necessary for such meetings. The debate over the invitation to George Lincoln Rockwell, which by all means should have been subject at Community referendum, was hampered by the large quorum rule. The only way that this and other shortcomings in the Bard Community Constitution can be rectified is if 231 members of the Community attend the June 3 Assembly meeting on Constitutional amendments.

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