Women's Studies: 1
Gloria Vistica
In recent years, there has been an increased concern for a women's studies program at Bard. An increasing number of female students, headed by Susan Knaiss, has carefully considered the implications of the issue, and is doing its utmost to make the concept viable. Bard, with its history of flexibility and emphasis on independent thought, would seem an ideal place for the proposal to meet with receptivity. Petitions encouraging the implementation of a women's studies program were circulated in the spring and fall of 1977. There was an immediate positive response from students. The enthusiasm exhibited toward the prospect is understandable, considering that the majority of Bard students are women. Two thirds of the student population were female last year; this year, there is somewhat less of a discrepancy, due to the more balanced status of the freshman class. The group advocating women's studies is desirable that the Bard community become aware that the value and contribution women are able to make. The existence of a women's studies program would serve to focus on those achievements which, in a traditional academic curriculum, tend to be either ignored or re-emphasized.

Some individuals have questioned the necessity of isolating the intellectual and artistic endeavors of women. They feel there is a danger of reverse sexism when women are placed in a special category. The argument countering that assumption goes something like this: until the rich and complex heritage of women is explored in full and equal a manner as that of men, alternative channels must be sought to bring to light the true place women have held in society. History must be rewritten before her-story receives adequate attention. Extraordinary procedures, including a great deal of specialized research, must be utilized for a group where women fit into the world view can be assessed. Unfortunately, all too often teachers and textbook writers have slanted their focus to show the unwanted. Definitive steps must now be undertaken to ensure that courses of the human race receive the fair and truthful treatment due them.

Issues centering on women's issues have been successfully, if sporadically attempted at Bard. I admit my own skepticism upon signing up for a course entitled: Women in the European History taught by John Fout last spring. Was I surprised, and enlightened, to realize that a whole realm of human potential was just sitting to be tapped. This eye-opening course proved to me only that

Apathy? Why Bother

Lee Kessler
Student apathy is a very in-flated and overrated problem. When one begins to look at the crust of the matter, who really cares? There are seventy-one hundred of us in our illustrious college community, each with our own lives, our own pursuits, our own varying degrees of bank accounts. People get around; they go somewhere. Now why do you think that a course, once that was a couple of years back, about peerless counselors and what happens to them? They stuck him in a room and we didn’t even hear from him. Thank God for Franciscus for our Leon’s a College Pres-ident and he knows how to tell people what to do. He’ll tell you and he’ll tell me too. It’s not the sixties anymore kids, and we don’t have to bear the oppressive responsi-bilities of our own education. It provides a shoulder to think that we were so close to those weighty times. We have our Leon and what scherchie and what Dutchess Hospital can. Thank God for them and all the melting pot of international intricacies. Imagine having the terrible task of diagnosing a case of terminal diseases. It just may be that we’re not as bad as we should be. They’re not as bad as they’re supposed to be. It may just be that... uh... excuse me, I’ve got to go now.

New York Mathematics Society Visits Bard
Roy Lisker
The number of people on campus who have heard of Benjamin Banneker, divide this by the number of male science majors who attended the seminar given by the New York Mathematics Society on Saturday, October 22 (sponsored by the Bard Black Student Organization), and one can get the idea of the existence of math for minorities, an idea I believe is unnecessary.

You’re divided by zero. The science majors shouldn’t bear all the titles: half the mathematics department and the staffs of all the other science departments also stayed away. That as much as half the mathematics department did put in an appearance was comparable to meeting a Greek-alpha function over the breakfast table. The guys who brought with him were needed, because the four black mathematics majors of the New York Mathematics Society put the boundary conditions of the differential equations of the Bard universe under heavy fire. What is saddest of all, however, is that none of the black science faculty of Bard put in an appearance.

"We live in a racist society," Professor Sylvester, who proposed a working hypothesis, told the students. "We are a society dominated by the white man, yet he continues to exercise this control over us as an exercise. Reese learned in his history class that the black is comfortably hidden by the African park-like garb he picked up during his teaching bout in Tanzania. He spoke about "Math Anxiety," the false belief that mathemati-cians, inoculated into schoolchildren from the earliest grades, and even more so to minorities. America’s

Armstrong, disguised with books on abstract algebra and number theory and working on paper in mock-Zeta functions and incompatible polynomials. Sure enough, as each of these mathematicians entered the lecture hall, they glanced suspiciously at me until, unable to further contain their curiosity, they asked me who the hell I was. I told them as best I could—only 3 or 3 other minds in the world can understand it. There was never an apology, and the ice was broken. The conversation became general, they began telling me how much they admired the physical beauty of the campus, the trees, foci, grass leaves, masonry, etc., the usual remarks of tourists. Eli then asked me how large the mathematics department was. When I told them that it consisted of two people, and that one of them was going on sabbatical next year, they broke out into guffaws. Until that moment, they had not realized that they had been invited to talk on the teaching of mathe-matics, by a school in which mathema-tics was almost non-existent! We quickly stopped discussing the beauty of the grounds, and speculated, with the help of 3 geometry, polynomials and diagonal approximations as to what percent-age of the Bard faculty would be found teaching math. At 10%, we could not be expected to hire three new math instructors, with perhaps a geologist thrown in. They had come under the misconception that 20 to 30 math majors would be waiting for them. But apart from the two "minority" math majors, no other science students were present.
Human Rights

Anthony Bennie

Today a small drop of symbolic relief echoed in the cavernous well of oppression. The U.N. Security Council, in an unprecedented move, approved a mandatory arms embargo against the Republic of South Africa. But to a great extent, this is a symbolic action and, in my opinion, reflects the gross hypocrisy of U.S. foreign policy.

The recent adoption of the admittedly abhorrent policies of the Pretoria government, especially the broadening use of "looking," indeed justifies the anger of the free world. But what about that large part of the world which, by American standards, is anything but free?

Earlier in Carter's administration, progress in reducing concern over human rights violations was far more pronounced. But Carter, in the light of the already occurring SALT talks, has largely ceased these admissions. In view of statements made only months ago by Carter blasting Soviet policies towards intellectual dissent and the emigration restrictions on Soviet Jews, it is astonishing to see Washington and Moscow going hand in hand in the primrose path of "equal rights." Interestingly, it is easy to divine the Soviet motives here: Russian designs on Africa in general are well documented, notably by Russian and Cuban support of the Marxist MPLA in Angola. This move against Pretoria could certainly not hurt the cause of leftist guerrillas throughout the continent. But even larger than this further American concession in the cause of "de- tente" looms the hypocrisy of United States arms sales around the world, and their total disregard for the same issues that supposedly influenced U.S. participation in the U.N. embargo.

Iran, for example, is not at all restricted in its purchase of arms from the U.S. Yet Iranians in America are constantly telling horror stories about life under the Shah. Torture and political imprisonment are commonplace, and control over domestic media is so tight that the extent of violations can only be guessed at. But under the sand of Iran huge oil reserves fill Iran's nearness to the U.S.S.R. and the U.S., making such support essential to the "balance of power." If South Africa was an economic and military necessity along these lines, I imagine that the re-entanglement of slavery itself would not be impetus for U.S. support of an arms hail.

Fatouh's Saudi Arabia, where the prisoners are overflowing with those who have attempted reform of the objekt poverty which exists in this fabulously oil-rich country, is one of the single largest purchasers of American armament.

I could outrage the reader with more examples of American military support of oppressive regimes, and American unwillingness to upset those nations which, despite their stranglehold on dissent, are important to the U.S. as suppliers of oil and other resources. But the main point is that Carter's support of the embryo is more than statement than substance. It reflects, it seems, American sentiment against oppression. But under Jimmy Carter's frayed banner of "Human Rights," it even more to highlight America's unwillingness to do anything about such violations if such action would be inconvenient to other policies.

Thoughtful response encouraged; address to "COMMENTARY," c/o the Observer.

Women's Studies (cont'd.)

examining the origins of injustice, women would attend to both men and women begin to grow. Women who are discouraged and women who are being discouraged are the ones who must be supported. It is to be hoped that the classes that are dealing with women's issues are in line with this mandate. The course title, "Women's Studies," is a valuable reminder that we have a lot more work to do in order to educate women about their own history and culture. Women's studies courses will be available in the different divisions at one time and at the same time, courses will be available in the different divisions at another time. Women are being asked to learn about the different divisions and to integrate the different divisions into their own studies. The seminar has as a goal the establishment of a program that will provide opportunities for women in the field of women's studies. Women's studies courses will be available in the different divisions at one time and at another time. 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Empire Builders

Alex McKnight

The mood engendered by Empire Builders was depressing. Sitting through almost two hours, filled with a building sense of doom, left one feeling defeated and morose. Frederick Howard's production, staged at the new theater October 22-23, certainly achieved what no other play recently seen at Bard has done.

The theme of this play by Boris Vian was very elusive. However, after hours of consideration, a few things seemed evident. Man according to Vian, builds his empire without a sense of its temporary nature. When his empire begins to crumble little by little he will not face its imminent doom; he loses all those around him and finally realizes his own time is over. In an eleven-hour attempt at contrition he pleads for forgiveness...too late. Man's empire is his life and its inevitable end is death.

Michael Findman as Leon (the empire builder) gave a villiant performance. In what had to be a physically and mentally exhausting tour de force he managed to overcome the vague and ambiguous dialogue. His comedic moments were brilliantly crafted into interwoven, and his long soliloquy was commanding and memorable. Cynthia Rentoulle and Julie Comeon as the daughter and maid respectively, gave believable dimensions to what were intentionally stereotypical roles. Felice Joy Kilmor as the naive and whining mother, was consistent and solid, Tom Hunter made an amusing cameo appearance as the actor.

But Rube(Schmuz) was innovative and imaginative at all times, despite his silent role and runway-like costume. Bud gives the impression that he could probably play a stick and his life per se, but upon a series of striking incidents and a powerful message. It was in the first decade of the twentieth century that the stimulus provided by the Moscow Art Theatre of Stanislavsky and Danchenko brought the theatre of Gorki and Chekhov to fruition. Chekhov's Three Sisters was first performed in 1901; the Gorki play in 1903; and Uncle Vanya in 1902. The Lower Depths is a play in which all the techniques of the Stanislavsky Method make a great deal of sense. More than in most theatre, the actor is required to get entirely "under the skin" of the character being portrayed. This is a theatre of realism carried beyond the real, so real that we are dealing with a new, strange, and strange, a surrealism.

The language of this play is the language of murder, death in an internal and external environment of sorrow, brutality, sordidness, and despair.

Frankenthal Slides

Robert Leyers

As 3:00 p.m. on Wednesday, the 15th of November, the well known painter Helen Frankenthaler will show slides and discuss her work in Sottery Hall. She recently received an honorary doctorate from Bard. This semester is a Distinguished Visiting Artist. She has already conducted a question and answer session with a group of junior and senior art majors who on the 30th of this month will travel to her studio in New York City for more discussion.

Frankenthaler is known for her stain paintings, the result of a process in which unprimed canvas is saturated with washes of paint. She has been credited with introducing the techniques to Kenneth Noland and Morris Louis, though their use of it differs much from her own. In addition to painting, which remains her primary mode of expression, she has tried her hand recently at woodcuts and sculpture. Few would urge that people attend this lecture because of Ms. Frankenthaler's considerable importance in contemporary American art.

Lower Depths

Roy Lisker

"The Lower Depths" is Maxim Gorki's most famous play, and the only one that is regularly produced. It portrays the daily routine of a cheap, unsavory hotel, kind of "warehouse for bodies" in a village on the Volga at the turn of the century. There is little plot per se, but an endless series of striking incidents and a powerful message.

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The language of this play is the language of murder, death in an internal and external environment of sorrow, brutality, sordidness, and despair.
Leonard Michaels
Sheila Spencer

Oy! Oy! Oy!!! quit the pomposus critic.

Only this I have to say to such a twitcho: despite the insistent tone which is inherent to Leonard Michael's writing technique, there is also a sense of humor which modifies it and creates a mirthfully bittersweet style. These qualities were totally lacking in the critic's crude attempt at parody. I was unable to determine myself as an observer staff member to be the object of such a drivel. My weekly presence in one of his classes and my enjoyment and appreciation of the reading Mr. Michaels gave last month has now not erased my feelings of guilt by association. However, the subject was immediately broadened and resolved; though Prof. Michaels was surprised and disappointed by the article, he dismissed it with an ease I have yet to match.

Neither of us felt a pull toward the construction of a sterile biography; names and facts, dates and psychological analysis based totally upon avoiding a mundane response to an even more mundane point made inevitable. 'Why Bard?' were abandoned in preference to a less informative but more enjoyable conversation. As visiting professor of English, Leonard Michaels is teaching two courses this semester: his reason for accepting this single semester's position at Bard was straightforward enough: he had been raised in New York, family and friends are largely centered in this area, and his familiarity with Bard made the prospect even more inviting. The last fifteen years of his life were spent in Southern California (his last ten at the university at Berkeley), giving him little opportunity to visit this part of the country.

Lower Depths (cont'd.)

The other point is that suicide is not caused by wretchedness in and of itself, but by the unresolved boredom that accompanies it. One of these days, I expect some of our publish-or-perish psychologists at some large university to come up with the brilliant idea of setting up experiments in which the rate of suicide of the subjects can be calculated as a function of induced boredom. They would have a lot of subjects on their hands in short order. Or, they could read or see a good production of The Lower Depths, and save quite a number of lives by doing so.

Gorki does more than show his influence: he has influenced others notably Brecht. Here is a line from Act I of Galileo: 'Satini says: everyone wants his neighbor to have a conscience, but it turns out that nobody can afford one. And its the truth.'

Brecht could well have stuck this line verbatim into The Threepenny Opera, St. Joan of the Stockyards, or Mother Courage, without any break in continuity.

Yet Gorki is in some ways more profound than Brecht, though it is evident that Brecht is far more often and developed as a writer for the stage. With his limitless fund of experience and wit, he has no time for cynicism, and he never goes beyond cynicism. There is a cynicism in The Lower Depths, the cap-maker Bulhov. Gorki makes him merely amusing, wearing his threadbare shield of contempt and insensitivity to cover an over-obvi-

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Page 5
CAMPUS WARSM CAMPUS WARSM

Kabirinsky was on his feet first and drew his pistol. Both men wore expressions of total blood. Ville Davis raised his hands above his head. Kabirinsky was about to tell the man to get up when he remembered what the lieutenant had told him before he'd left on the mission. He closed his eyes and pulled the trigger. He looked down at the dead man. He stared at him for a long time, stunned. He'd never killed a man before. "No prisoners," he whispered to himself.

6:30 a.m.
The sun had risen now to illuminate the heap of battles which now took place in and around THE WALL. Small arms fire could be heard from all corners of the campus. The air-raid siren whined in the background. Small groups fought hand-to-hand here and there. The black-clad figures of the defenders mixed with the green-clad attackers. Explosions erupted everywhere.

Outside THE WALL, Bard's tough-armed force engaged itself against overwhelming odds. For every Bardian tank, Vassar and Marist had five.

Bard's heavy artillery was engaged with both the opposing armored forces and the amphibious units which were now landing on the eastern banks of the Hudson. The artillery was holding its own, but the size of the attacking force was ominously foreboding.

Corporal Steve Raskin was awakened when his indulgery in Tewksbury was shattered by machine-gun fire. He was a sound sleeper but this was too much. He rubbed his hands over his face and yawned. He propped himself up on his elbows and looked out the window. Outside three Bardian defenders were trying to hold off at least a dozen SUNY attackers. With a weary sigh he said, "Oh, fuck," and went back to bed. The battle had now begun.

Paul K. Spencer

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In our next issue, David Pember will be covering the activities of the Basketball team.

midget's voice

Now that soccer is over and basketball has yet to begin, I'd thought we'd take a break and talk about a few things that have been bothering me. A primary concern at this point is why it is the Coffee Shop sells Women-Managed Potatoe and no Women-Managed Life-Size Blow-Up Dolls? I think it would be a hot item. They could give them away if you buy a case of Dannon's new 'oyster' yogurt. It would be a mite.

Getting away from that for a moment, I would like to discuss some more serious matters. I, for one, cannot get too concerned over the "heated" issues facing Bard students such as the chippie problem or the apathy toward student government when there are pressing matters of far greater importance. For example, you did know that a Bard student can be arrested for going to the bathroom with his pants on? THIS IS TRUE and no one worries about it except me and I'm scared to death. What happens if some drunk overnight? All it takes is one step and you're a cop. All right, maybe I'm the only one who worries about these things and I should probably go home and play with my blunt instruments.

ALL SERIOUSNESS ASIDE DEPT.

The Midget asked me to repeat the deal with Intramural sports. Guys, get the teams together and go see Charlie pronto so we can get going. "Charles' Angels" are always looking for girls interested in playing hoops. Stop saying you can't play and get out there. Work-outs are held on the Obstacle Course on the lawn next to the Chaps. NO I'm sorry, they're held in the Gym naturally and to tell you the truth I don't even know why they even have that obstacle course set up anymore. I can't see anyone using it. What the hell. So much (maybe too much) for this week, Midget fans. Until next time, good, Midgets, and don't take any wooden Mongolians.