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I come before you all with a good deal of trepidation. My last proposal that Peter Amato call a community meeting with Dick Griffin et al. was on hand to discuss the revising of Stone Row—went nowhere for a month. (Though Mr. Amato did assure me that the matter could presumably be handled within the week.) Anyhow, when the meeting finally was called at a day’s notice, it was a travesty. Relatively few students attended. But then few seemed to be aware of the meeting’s designated time. Initially, it was to be at 9:30 a.m.—an hour oddly conducive to a small turnout. Obligingly, the administration switched to 12:20 and made an effort to distribute announcements to that effect. In South Hoffman, the effort reportedly extended as far as dumping the notices on an unstaffed shelf. If so, that’s someone who was keeping in the half-fused, jaundiced spirit of the whole Stone Row enterprise.

In any case, the students who did attend were treated to a slide show and lecture of sorts by Mr. Stonehill, an architect representing the firm hired to mediate the dorms. There and then, I knew my proposal had been somehow mis-interpreted. Mr. Stonehill began with an assertion that the cost of maintaining the 49 living units in the row exceeds the room & board money going towards it. And immediately questions arose about what the costs consist of. The heat works sporadically, the washers and dryers which service all of the campus are routinely out-of-order... Too bad Dick Griffin was unable to show up with pertinent information at the changed time. Joe Shoham pointed out that the occupants of the two-room suite together pay an average $200/month for their quarters; in NYC similar living space can be maintained at an

**Stone Row**

A MODEST PROPOSAL:

**“Occupants of a two room suite together pay an average of $200/month for their quarters; in NYC similar living space can be maintained at a profit for $200 a month.”**

**John Large**

**THE ADMINISTRATION PISSED OFF OUR FACES!**

**Art Carlson**

**RENOVATE LUDLOW!**

PLUS

**“HOW DOES ALMOST BURNED TO THE GROUND”**

**GREG FINCH**

**POB’s and madly, madly more**

Continued on Page 2
The residents of Tewksbury wish to register the following complaints about the functioning of the fire which occurred on November 15th:

(A) The fire alarm on the 2nd floor did not go off.
(B) Only one alarm on the 3rd floor worked. The CO2 extinguisher on the 3rd floor was half empty.
(C) Security person responded to our call about the fire with only one man.
(D) It took a second call to get more than one person to assist us.
(E) As far as we know, neither the mattress nor the curtains were flame retardant.
(F) If we hadn't had a dime, it would have taken us even longer to get hold of Security.
(G) Instead of rushing to help us, the Security man asked us if we had set the fire, and then refused to leave. We had just pulled out the fire hose to put the fire out.
(H) As far as we know, no fire department was called.

We feel that there were certain procedures that should have been followed that were not. To begin with, all of the fire alarms and fire equipment should have been in proper working order. We should not have had to have a fire in order to discover that the alarms and hoses did not work. Second, when a student calls to report a fire, a sufficient number of men should respond IMMEDIATELY. Y2. This should happen, whether it is a small grease fire, or a fire of the proportions that occurred tonight. Third, people who do respond to an emergency should be equipped to deal with it. Fourth, a fire department should be contacted immediately and urged to also respond immediately.

In addition, it is ridiculous that it is so difficult to contact Security in an emergency. It does not seem unreasonable to request that an intercom system be installed which would allow us to call Security without a dime. This seems foolish to put up curtains in a dormitory that are not flame retardant.

We feel that the people who are supposed to be pro-firefighting are not doing their jobs. Whose responsibility is it to inspect and maintain the alarm equipment? Why wasn't this done?

Fortunately, no one was injured this time. Next time, we may not be so lucky.
CAMPUS WARS

Outside THE WALL the armies clashed. Bard had less than a hundred men and these were rapidly being depleted. Their small airforce was no match for the large and well-equipped armoured vehicles on the opposite side. Bard was running on empty, but even at this rate he could not survive long against such a force.

“Fire!” the artillery roared. The shells rained down, blasting the castle to rubble. Sigh. The men had been_datosranged by the intense fire and their minds began to wander…

The more chlorine (CL) sticking off the polychlorinated rings, the more relevant the PCB is to health. According to Michael Rosenthal, Professor of Chemistry, even PCBs “can still be found in the blood of people who have never been exposed to PCBs.”

The question arises of whether or not we can link PCB to cancer. According to recent studies, PCBs are not likely to cause cancer in humans. PCBs are not known to be carcinogenic. The evidence is inconclusive and more research is needed to determine their exact effects on human health.

FINCH FRIES

In our latest issue, we featured an article on Greg Finch, the head of S.A.G.A., which covered his attitudes towards food service difficulties and proposals for changes which he said were long overdue. Following up on this article, a study of the S.A.G.A. menu revealed that none of these proposals seemed to have been carried out so far - there were no menus for different diets; some dishes were unavailable; and the serving sizes were inconsistent with the dietary guidelines. The S.A.G.A. has a lot of difficulties which the skeletal eye and stomach do not always take into account, as I realized while talking with Greg. He is trying to get excited about some special discourses on this topic, and trying to excite the staff about the work that he has been developing on improving the quality. However, “It’s hard to get people excited about something you’ve been doing for ten years,” as most of the S.A.G.A. staff has. Structurally, there have not been any changes, because things seem to be working as before. Finch is still in the process of learning how to use the RIS goal to enhance food production, but the staff operates with the intuitive understanding that their main concern is to try and stay a

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It seems to us that Bard students have enough problems with residential life without adding the extra risk of being barbecued. Yet, judging by the recent Tewskbury fires, few precautions are really taken to avoid taking lives. We charge the Bard administration and Security with neglecting their responsibilities to protect us from fire hazards.

We wish to voice our utter disgust at conditions such as those depicted by Susan "Tewskbury Inferno" [sic] and to request an explanation of why we find it particularly curious. In a room nearby fifth of the wall space is taken up by bare walls. Why aren't the windows fireproof? Why don't we have a fire drill the first few weeks of the semester or at least clearly posted signs with information on what to do? Why did Security choose to send only one, elderly, man to the scene of the fire and never bother to call the Red Hook Fire Department?

The answer to these last two questions are obvious: Residential Life and Security personnel at a meeting the day after the fire, asked students to fill out forms of fake alarm, they claimed this was in order to train the student body to be more prepared. Are you kidding me? Look at your list above, the student body is only the time this writer has ever heard a fire alarm go off. It was because of the Hoffman alarm was mounted over a faulty thermostat which frequently overheated. And, come to think of it, no one is taking responsibility for that.

The point we want to make is this: the fact that the Administration and Security should have not been there, but instead be in charge of the institution in a proper safety precautions. In the meantime, we have a few suggestions for the students who want to try and figure out where the fire exits are in your dormitory, to identify what kind of exits they are, and open the doors.

We've tried a lot of experiments in our semesters and sometimes we've failed; the gap between intention and result is vast. We must take better care of our students and our community. Thank you for your attention.

The final Observer for this semester will be taken charge of by June Hendrie and the rest of the Observer staff. In view of this, it is with great pleasure that I make the following announcement. The Observer does not claim to be a shining example of all other Bard financial presses, you won't have to read them. The relief felt by both parties on this occasion is entirely warranted.

The Observer certainly does not claim to be a shining example of all that Bard might want a newspaper, magazine. Part of this is our fault and part of it is yours. Out of 720 students, only 12 bothered to return the questionnaire we can in our last issue and even then half of the responses argued for us to take one direction and another recommended just the opposite. Thanks folks.

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The following is a recent letter I saw in a local, free, online community.

Dear Mr. Linda,

On Wednesday, September 20th, I was visiting a friend in New Jersey and saw my usual newspaper, the New York Times, as I was reading, I noticed the following headline:

"As Arthur's Illness Grows, daughter tells "Sapiens" by the OBSERVER, when he was licensed in May to the American Association of University Women, the state Department of Social Services, and other organizations and institutions to "hate the person of the work." I shall look forward to reading more of your work, and I am sure that you will find it interesting and enjoyable. Each article has been given an enormous amount of attention and I hope that it will be worth your time.

In particular, Stephanie Carrow and June Hendrie have done a ridiculous job hard with responsible, dependable, seemingly seldom seen at Bard, and Sheila Spencer has faithfully come through with a steady income.

Last of all, I'd like to add one (final) thing. This bear seemed especially (Mark Lyttle) have listened to me bitch about the paper for the last time, and I hope for your tolerance.

Elections for next semester's Editor will be held Friday 5-30. No one has expressed an interest in doing the job (though I am sure someone is willing to co-edit if everyone else will volunteer to do half of the job). It would be bad for Bard not to have a newspaper next semester so we hope some one will take on the job.

Thank you for your patience, and support.

For more information, please see the Observer online.

Page 4

**G.K. Ludlow**, it seems to come matters concerning students' daily lives you've established a pattern of doing exactly as you've wished to do, without really considering the consequences. When you leave your office at 5:00 every day you go home to work, dry place where the food is good (or at least edible). No one makes plans to revamped your house without asking you how to go about it and it's a safe assumption you'd be pretty upset if they did. We—the students who live at Bard—try hard and live with your decisions, both good and bad. Keep it up, oh omnipotent ones.

Go on students. Keep refusing to consider the long term needs of the school. Continue to ignore that Bard will need to go on functioning after you graduate. And when something doesn't work, yell at each other for taking two minutes to think about what problems were supposed to be solved by these meetings.

Both groups are guilty of an imbalance in their mentalities that only perpetuates the status quo of precisely what is wanted. The students receive the "Stonewall Gazette" of glowing of being wronged by the administration, and the students claiming to be a "diabolical" group. Not one gets the same scrutiny and solution which seems acceptable to most of us. And so it goes...

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**E.L. Levinson**

My dear Levinson,

The level charges of lack of energy among students who have your paper but do not participate in its production. You have nearly the only paper held on your staff yet you seem to be a better producer. You are to be congratulated. You and your organizational ability to handle the five people to produce a quality twice weekly college newspaper, perhaps you could tell us how to do it. Oh, and for your further opposition to all services and services to your friendly Pomfret.

Paul A. Arndt

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On Wednesday, September 20th, I was visiting a friend in New Jersey and saw my usual newspaper, the New York Times, as I was reading, I noticed the following headline:

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It is obvious that William Driver’s production of Maxim Gorky’s The Lower Depths was intended to be the highlights of this semester’s drama productions. Seven of the eight major roles were filled by seniors, at a portion of their Senior Projects, and even the minor roles were the meaty variety which actors dream of. When properly performed, the play is capable of evoking a total catharsis from its audience and serving as a powerful vehicle for both actors and director.

Driver spent many weeks in intensive rehearsals, improvisations and character analysis with his actors. He gave them precise blocking which enabled them to overcome the visual obstruction created by the complex set, and strove to create a thorough and effective intermingling of sound, speech and movement. His intent was to maintain a vitality encompassing the entire stage, rather than centering around an individual actor only while he spoke.

The results of this effort were evident in the finished work. Most of the characters were believable and moving; blocking as a whole was highly successful for the theatre-in-the-round presentation. My only major criticism of the production is that all fight scenes, whether on- or off-stage, were handled poorly. Off-stage sounds or screams were obviously hand-muffed; off-stage movement was stagey and lacked purpose and consistency. Such are difficult to do well, and I am surprised that Driver did not spend more time in developing them to a degree of credibility, especially when the final off-stage fight is essential in creating the mood for the climax of the play itself.

The visual set was very effective in establishing the somber atmosphere of the drama, while six large pillars and a penitent pipe-like structure at the rear made it seem limited (especially from several specific spots which were created), they succeeded in emphasizing the isolation of the characters from each other, as well as from the outside world. Dim lighting and interlaces of melancholy song and chants lent a surreal quality to the performance which was at the same time both mesmerizing and frightening.

*Because of my contact with the actors during this production, I am not attempting an objective view of their individual performances.*

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**RECORDS**

_RY COODER_  
(showtime)  
(WARNER BROS. BS 3059)

_Ry Cooder has come a long way from the rather traditional folk and blues of his first album to his latest, Showtime. However, he doesn’t deny his past at all, but brings it to a sensibility colored by a recent interest in soul and conjunto music._

_This is a live album to new versions of old songs appear in a revitalized state. The tune “Almohade” is given new flavor with an almost perspicacious approach._

_“And when my shoes fit snug,”_ in the middle: _from Chicken Skin Music, is his second album, appears here in an enthusiastic version along with a slightly slower version of the great ‘Jusis On The Madison’ from Paradise and Lunch._

_It is really hard to say why one influence stops and others begin on most of this album, with the direct exception of the two conjunto tunes. It is very eclectic in that sense, though no indulgent. If Cooder continues to make music with the same degree of enthusiasm and intelligence as that displayed on Showtime, he should be around for quite a while._

_Robert Lowes_

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**In Progress: The Farm**

_Much more goes into the farm, by David Storey, than is in the script, and it is up to Max Kenzie as director to convey its meaning. When Stalley, the father in the play, says, “Have to the plough, ‘Let the dead bury the bloody dead,” I’ve looked for all my bloody life,” Neil had to spend some time discussing with the actors what Stalley was looking for, because Storey leaves it vague. In the opening scene, two other characters meet each other with sentiments that seemed sacrilegious to me...Neil’s interpretation renders them as sincere but exaggerated, a game that they play at Jenny’s (Alison Strong’s) instigation. The blocking is also left open. In one scene, Brenda (Jousta Mulare) is looking for a box of screws, while Jenny and Wendy (Sally Gockley) kneel together. Brenda: You’re nothing but a whore. Jenny: I am. Brenda: (searching around in the bookcase & elsewhere) She’s another. She is another. The dialogue is incomplete until Neil has Wendy laugh. When Brenda accuses Jenny of being a whore, and Brenda ambiverts at Wendy with her thumb as she says “she’s another.” Neil is extremely concerned with having the actors act naturally on stage, and he uses a number of techniques to achieve this. During one rehearsal, he asked an actor to lie down on the floor and stare at the ceiling until he could say his lines slowly enough to feel at home with them._

_In two rehearsals, I have seen the actors changing and developing their roles. Chris Humes started by playing Stalley as a bitter, self-pitying, humorless man, and then as Chris discussed his part with Neil, the character acquired a greater poignancy. Helen Reznikoff as Mrs. Stalley had done an excellent job of calmly humoring him earlier, but failed at first to take him seriously when the added dimension of his character’s demeanor, did it. By the second rehearsal, Mrs. Stalley seemed to have a much deeper understanding of her character’s function, and her sympathy for them had acquired a greater depth. Brenda (Jousta Mulare) seemed much too young in the first rehearsal, but by the second rehearsal she had discovered the strength of her character._

_The Farm is a challenging play to perform, because of the subtlety of the plot and the nebulousness of the character. As of this writing, The Farm still needs work. Judging by Neil’s direction and some already excellent performances by the actors, by the time it opens it will be well worth seeing._

_Gina Finning_
CAMPUS WARS cont'd from P. 3

smashed through his door. This did not concern him in the least as he'd just remembered that he had a hand grenade somewhere. He ran about his room madly, going through drawers, looking under piles of clothes and waste paper. The lieutenant had always told him that he should keep his room clean but he was one of those young punk officers and what did he know.

After fifteen minutes he found the grenade under a pile of dirty underwear. "Ha! ha!" he bellowed with a jolly grin. He slowly opened the door and picked his head out for one more look. Yes, they were still there. He held his breath, pulled the pin the threw the grenade. He covered his ears and waited. Waited. And waited. And waited again. "FUCK!" he roared, "A goddamned dud!" He was thoroughly embarrassed. When he stuck his head out again he found that the halls were empty. The attackers had evidently seen the grenade and run out of fear. He thought. "Oh, well. A partial success anyway" he said aloud. He pulled on his jacket and headed down the street where he could get his gun.

Lt. Paul K. Spencer III was not so successful. His tank had not gotten twenty yards outside THE WALL when it broke down. He gave the tread a kick and cursed, "Why the fuck can't you keep this thing in shape?" he yelled at his driver.

"Well, because it's only forty fuckin' years old, Sir!"

"Corporal, this was my one chance to see some action and you blew it for me! Now how do you account for that, Corporal?"

"Well, I'll tell you lieutenant. If you weren't considered to be the loudest tank officer on the campus we probably wouldn't have been given this heap they call a tank! It's gotta be the worst one at Bard!"

"Corporal! I will not stand for such insubordination!" "Oh, shut the fuck up, lieutenant!"

The lieutenant shut up.

Bard was collapsing. THE WALL had been breached in several places. All the tanks had been overthrown and destroyed. The artillery emplacements had been knocked out by SUNY's jets. Bard had lost two thirds of its soldiers. The end was near.

Field Marshall Karl Zaunser sat in his armchair. His face was haggard and filled with despair. His job was now over. He picked up his revolver and raised it to his head. His door burst open and one of his aides ran in. "Field Marshall! I have good news, sir!"

"What do you want?" barked Zaunser.

"Sir, we have been saved! Columbus has come! They are here with a tremendous force! Thousands of tanks and planes and troops!" The aide could hardly catch his breath. "They are driving off our attackers back!"

The Field Marshall looked dazed. "No shit, lieutenant, they're really out there?"

"Lieutenant. Believe me, sir, I saw it with my own eyes."

"Ha! Well that's great then! He's still on his gun out the window. "Lieutenant, bring me my finest wine and lock the celler, and a very dry martini."

"Yes, sir!"

"There was an enormous feast that night and both Bard and Columbia soldiers ate and drank together. Bard had lost a lot—almost everything, but still their spirits were high. Toasts went all around the campus. Everyone got stoned. I danced and laughed and cried. They were alive! They were saved! For now, anyway."

Paul K. Spencer

RECURRING VISION
Sheila Spencer
Re: Dark Lady of the Sonnets
Come on J. C., enough is enough!
POLLUTION  cont'd from pg. 3

taking one part per billion PCB's, approximately the daily level found in the Hudson, a tributary of the group died within 15 days.

Upon further work, he discovered that the offspring of sheepshead minnows immersed in water at 10 tenths that concentra-

cation Poughkeepsie inhabitants consume daily in their tap water became lethargic, stopped feeding, developed a brown color, and began to die within 30 days. We are obviously dealing with a very potent substance. The im-
plications of these facts becomes even more chilling when we realize that the effects of PCB's are accumu-

lative. After they are absorbed into your body, they will not pass out or remain with you until death.

Removal of PCB's is a rather tricky problem. They will only break down over the course of thousands of years, there are no known chemicals to neutralize them, and altering the soil is quite possibly the only way to save the situation by disturbing the river's sediments where a large majority of PCB's have settled.

While it is true PCB's can be filtered out of a water supply, there is some doubt as to the abilities of home filters to complete this task properly. Dr. Rosenthal advises that you wait for more conclusive testing of these filters before investing in one. It is also not a good idea to have your water filtered by the water company. Even this filter will not remove all of the PCB's, just a percentage of them.

For instance, the first filtration method may remove 90% of the PCB's, the second filtration 90% of the remaining 10% and so on. There are several disadvantages to this method, however. They are expensive to set up, the chemical trends to wear out, and it is expensive to replace. Also, the process still leaves some residual PCB's. There have been studies that prove PCB's have been strongly linked to cancer.

Dr. Rosenthal, "There is no such thing as a safe level of a carcinogen. Burd's water supply is drawn from the Sawkill. While the Sawkill's water may be hard, it is chemically pure.

From time to time, Bard students may be tempted to go swimming in the South Bay. This is a bad idea. South Bay is stagn-

ant, which makes it a prime breeding ground for bacteria. Also, PCB's and other toxic chemicals may leak into the bay from the main sewage outlet. Our sewage is chemically pure after treatment, but it might be worth considering swimming in it.

A final warning concerning PCB's. Simply try not to consume any water you know to be contaminated. If you live in Rhine-

beck or Poughkeepsie, buy bottled water. If you are hospitalized in one of these towns, insist on receiving bottled water, or avoid the area taken from the Hudson is simply unsafe to drink, and it is worth the inconvenience to avoid it.

George Smitn

POLUTION  cont'd from pg. 3

The same goes for the white paper lever. As an Arthur Carlson's letter indicated, point out in the last run, you cannot even row a dumbbell and change your hand without being pulled up and charged with possessing without having been moved in the end of aathic and erroneous reporting. The result is that, with a blind eye at the science and space, we will not discuss Mr. Carlson's claims.

This item is not unadulterated (sic). Maybe he ought to learn that quaking paper in a rows and two star rating for wiring. However, in your favor in some kind of regard. You secured upon Arthur's last paragraph as being worth of all the time and energy you spent on it. The size of the paper (sic) appears wondering at the make-up (sic). In fact, it is more like a handwritten JAPAN (sic) SECURITY! I couldn't possibly

ly repay you for this first letter. But Mr. Carlson's letter does suggest that you deserved a gouged out your thing very much.

Last, I do appreciate your dedication. At least I am not the only one who do not want to lose cigarettes. This also holds for the seven of GMC's letter. Driver does not give up on the issue. The movie was one of the better movies.

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ant, which makes it a prime breeding ground for bacteria. Also, PCB's and other toxic chemicals may leak into the bay from the main sewage outlet. Our sewage is chemically pure after treatment, but it might be worth considering swimming in it.

A final warning concerning PCB's. Simply try not to consume any water you know to be contaminated. If you live in Rhine-

beck or Poughkeepsie, buy bottled water. If you are hospitalized in one of these towns, insist on receiving bottled water, or avoid the area taken from the Hudson is simply unsafe to drink, and it is worth the inconvenience to avoid it.

George Smitn

FORGET STONE ROW . . .

Burl kids, you might as well forget about Stone Row. In a meeting on Nov. 17, with an estimated 100 interested, students and dorm residents it was made clear that the students that made up Stone Row were not going to be allowed to use Stone Row, Ludwig had submitted the plans we were shown. Some plans we were told are as follows: Stone Row is not going to be taken down, nor is it going to be torn down.

In the phone for student input is long past. For the students that want to use it as a dining room, they have to be on that plan, which they have kept intact for two years and until now it was to be questioned if we can't fill out a simple questionnaire.

I wanted to know what you are doing in your community, when you are doing it, and how you are doing it.

It was really pretty shoddy of them to ask if your paper knew if there was a Stock Row's letter to our editor, that the paper was being held to our area. It wasn't bad to be a part of the board that was interested, myself that they like Stone Row's letter. The meeting was nothing more than a shambles. Sardicke problems begin hot can get an unsigned cry "but we'll shoot you students."

This would not be so if it were a meeting of the usual Stone Row's letter. We would play with our fellow students in a room, and the result would be the same. The students would play with our fellow students in a room, and the result would be the same.

The students that made up Stone Row's letter have been working on a letter, and the result would be the same. The students would play with our fellow students in a room, and the result would be the same.

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