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OBSERVER

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STONE ROW A MODEST PROPOSAL:



Evan Hall/The Observer

"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/month."

I come before you all with a good deal of trepidation. My last proposal that Peter Amato call a community meeting with Dick Griffiths *et al* on hand to discuss the revamping 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. Obliging, 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 unobtrusive shelf. If that's so, someone was keeping in the half-assed, lackadaisical 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 mutate 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 main campus) are routinely out-of-order.... Too bad Dick Griffiths was unable to show up with pertinent information at the changed time: Joe Shohan pointed out that the occupants of a two-room suite together pay and average \$200 a month for their quarters; in NYC similar living space can be maintained at a profit for \$200 a month. (Granted the taxes allegedly being paid on 600 acres of land are an added overhead expense, but then New York real estate costs run high.)

As well, the point was made that even if Stone Row does operate in the red, students who've been forking over \$100 each month for a 'closet' on Robbins' third floor are entitled to look forward to some compensation in upper college room draws.

Mr. Stonehill seemed to be under the impression that, were there not a financial problem, no one would bother to employ him or to deal with the HUD loan office. Which led to his second

Continued on Page 2

Women

and

Religion



"Women and religion are both important to humanity and culture, and they've both increased humanity and culture," said Rev. Fritz Shafer, moderator of the Community Focus discussion on Women and Religion, held on Saturday, Nov. 12. Rev. Shafer opened the discussion by saying that he has worked to end discrimination against women church-workers. However, while he sees no biological or moral reason why women cannot become priests, he sees no reason why they should. He feels that women priests weaken what little authority the church has by causing a break with tradition.

Rosemary Radford Ruether, author and Professor of Applied Theology at Garrett-Evangelical Seminary, spoke of the tradition of Christian sexism. In Christianity's early years the distinctions between men and women were seen as unimportant in the eyes of God; however, this soon degenerated to the belief that women were equal in heaven but not in nature, so that it was not proper for them to be on the same level with men politically or socially. Celibacy was seen as the only way that women could transcend the subordinated position that was equated in the male Christian mind with women's biological role, and the fear of sexuality was translated into the further oppression of women. Ruether sees the present efforts to incorporate women into the church on an equal basis with men as an extension of Enlightenment ideas, when the state of nature was seen as an ideal of equality that could and should be regained.

The church's attitude toward women and sexuality was stressed by Glenn Bucher, Associate Professor of Religion at the College of Wooster in Ohio and the author of a book entitled, *Straight/White/Male*. He told how he had been at a meeting to discuss the ordination of women and a man had seriously asked whether this would cause male sexual impotence. Most men, he said, react to the ordination of women either by feeling threatened, seeing the issue as trivial, or guiltily agreeing with everything women say. Like Rev. Shafer, Bucher seemed to care very

little in the church, and yet like Rev. Shafer, to have mixed feelings about the future of the church and the role of women in it. He wondered whether women becoming priests wasn't like their buying tickets on the Titanic.

Elizabeth Koltun, teacher, writer and editor of a book called *The Jewish Woman: New Perspectives*, spoke of the conflicts between being a Jew and being a feminist. She said that as a feminist she doesn't want to feel tied to a patriarchal religion and a tradition which says that woman's chief role is child rearing, but she doesn't want to forsake her religion either, especially in the light of the Holocaust. She feels that the subordinate position of women in Judaism will not change with women rabbis alone; the Jewish religious service itself must be changed to include women. Jewish services are run by the congregation more than the rabbi and men fill all the religious functions.

Rev. Barbara Schlacter, an Episcopal Priest from White Plains, sees herself as having a different approach to the ministry than men: that of a mother figure. She spoke of the Eucharist as being not only a symbol of Christ's sacrifice but a joyful occasion when celebrated by a woman, because of woman's traditional role of foodgiving and gathering her family around a table. Women clergy will kiss a parishioner when male clergy would be more likely to shake hands. Rev. Schlacter changes the language of the Bible in her sermons, saying, "Our God whom we call Father and know also as Mother." She said that women's struggle to become ministers leads them to identify with the struggles of their parishioners and of other oppressed groups.

A question and answer period followed the discussion. A man, in a tone of cross-examination, asked Ruether whether she was speaking as a Roman Catholic or Universal theologian. After a heated argument of about 3 minutes, Ms. Ruether said that she thought that Catholic and Universal were one and the same thing, and she received a round of applause.

A female Bard student then asked of Rev.

Schlacter, "Since Ms. Ruether pointed out earlier that Christ did not ordain any men, why are women still looking to men for ordination?" Rev. Schlacter replied that she wanted to stay within the church, "with my brothers."

A woman from the community asked the entire panel what specifically could be done to "feminize" the church. Rev. Schlacter said that it is up to the members of a parish to request a female minister whenever the need for a new minister arises.

A man from the community asked Ms. Ruether whether Christ's 12 Apostles were not in fact the first ordained priests. Ms. Ruether pointed out that all Apostles except John betrayed Christ, and furthermore, that the people who saw Christ resurrected and who were told

to spread the word were women; thus these women could also be conceived of as priests ordained by Christ.

Another female Bard student objected to Rev. Schlacter's equation of a woman priest with a mother figure; she said that her minister was a woman and she never regarded her as her mother or as a motherly figure. She asked why a woman could not simply be viewed as a person without Freudian connections, as male priests are. Rev. Schlacter tried to qualify her position, but the question of woman vs. mother figure was left largely up in the air.

Gina Flering
with Stephanie Carrow

INSIDE:

JOHN LARGE — "THE ADMINISTRATION PISSED ON OUR FACES"
ART CARLSON — "RENOVATE LUDLOW!"

PLUS
"HOW TEWKS ALMOST BURNED TO THE GROUND"

ALSO
GREG FINCH, PCB's and much, much more

BridgingTheGap

I am cognizant of the fact that belief in spiritual rebirth, faith in mankind and hope for the future (without casting a cynical eye at the world) is not exactly "in" here at Bard. Therefore, it should be of some interest to those who don't know about it, that out of the sheer generosity of several juniors and seniors, the whole-hearted support of the Language-Lit. Department (especially Prof. Fred Grab) and the budding enthusiasm of many freshmen, a Prose-Fiction Workshop designed specifically for freshmen has been started. It is a non-credit workshop which meets every Thursday evening in Bluecher Lounge and consists mainly of students writing short stories, satires, and anything which falls under the heading of "prose" or "fiction." This is an opportunity for younger students to have their work read by peers in a more-or-less informal atmosphere *outside of the structured classroom situation of teacher to student*. I cannot stress this point enough, for the whole idea behind the workshop is for the students to listen to "feedback" from other students, and hope-

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THE TEWKSBURY INFERNO

The residents of Tewksbury wish to register the following complaints about the handling of the fire which occurred in that dormitory on November 15;

(A) The fire alarm on the 2nd floor did not go off.

(B) Only one hose on the 3rd floor worked. The CO₂ extinguisher on the 3rd floor was half empty.

(C) Security 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 mattresses 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 who had set the fire, and reprimanded the student who had 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. This should happen, whether it is a small grease fire, or a fire of the proportions that occurred tonight. Third, persons who do respond to an emergency should be equipped to deal with it. Fourth, a real 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. It also seems foolish to put up curtains in a dormitory that are not flame retardant.

We feel that the people who are supposed to be protecting us against crises (B&G) 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.

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A PROPOSAL cont'd from Page 1
assertion—that his plans were justified by the fact that they met with HUD'S approval. Without er, um... "agreeable" plans, loans are not forthcoming from any source. Without loans, no immediate renovation is possible.

George Lyons and Arthur Carlson questioned the need for an *immediate* overhaul. Arthur advocated waiting until funds are set aside for smaller renovations carried out by student and non-union labor at minimum wage since the government must pay union wages. Moreover, we could proceed with plans satisfying the student body rather than a government agency.

Stonehill declared that this raised the bygone issue of "why renovate?" and that he was called in to discuss how that issue had already been resolved by the administration and what was following from it. And then he continued to reiterate his claim that Stone Row is "dys-economical." He reiterated his reiteration. Then he made his case again. He did this for forty minutes. (So much for my first proposal; please stand by, the second's on its way.) In the midst of this, Philip Stillman asked one especially revealing question: *Are the plans to convert the floor of each dorm made so as to make room for an enlarged student population?* We'd all assumed they were. Dean Sugatt volunteered that no, the new rooms would attract students from off campus and students who live in 'substandard' quarters, and thus have more people 'ideally situated' in the hustle and bustle of main campus. Now, who the hell wants to give up a house for a room that affords at most five square feet for storage and

shelves, hardly enough closet and dresser space for one's belongings, and no space for a hefty appliance like a stereo? Of the 200 people answering a tenants' union poll, only three said they might care to live in the proposed rooms. Stonehill incidentally admitted that the new common areas, or "ancillary spaces," could not work as study areas. He suggested they might allow three people a place to play cards.

In short, the new suites can only encourage more students to live off campus. Unless cramming six students into one suite catches on, the way stuffing 20 kids into a phone booth did in the early 60's. No matter. Arthur informed us that Peter Amato had already told him that the plans were irreversible.

At which point I felt compelled to pronounce the whole meeting a sham. It was postponed until it could do no good. Even then, it was poorly publicized and kept away from the central issue of *why can't there be less formidable renovations?* We told Mr. Stonehill that we felt sorry that he'd been set up as a distraction and left to catch the angry sentiments flowing from the students. I said that Stone Row was obviously a dead issue in and of itself, and that what was really at hand was another case of the administration gleefully waving at the student body while it pissed in our collective face. Mary Sugatt said that, wow, she was sorry I felt that way. And she probably was. I do not think that the administration is consciously arrogant, pig-headed, and lacking in common sense. But their behavior is effectively so. Most people offering a professional

service feel a professional responsibility to listen to the expressed desires of their clientele. I think the administration is simply unaware of its responsibility. They listen and wave the banner of "student input" only after the fact.

In the meantime, we're totally screwed. If we grin and bear it, they'll feel free to be just as arbitrary and unresponsive in the future. If we show our resentment the gulf will widen and more decisions will be made in more vacuums. Would that we could negotiate. Would that they would listen to students' ideas about making Stone Row more "energy efficient" and so, less costly. Or to plans for refurbishing the areas which Mary Sugatt considers "substandard." Why not go to work on the housing problems where they actually exist?

That question strikes me as being important beyond all others. Why not make improvements where they're most needed? We must converge on the worst site on campus. Bring mattresses, and furnishings into the deans' offices and proclaim, "Look, this space is a luxury, but it's dys-economical." Play ping-pong on Amato's desk, assuring him that, "This is our new multipurpose ancillary space." Have six people partying, making love, and/or blaring stereos on the second floor of Ludlow while Dean Sugatt tries to concentrate on her work.

Verily, this is my second worthy proposal. For "Utilizing unproductive space" at Bard.

Anarchically yours,
John Large

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Pollution in the Hudson

the Observer/Mike Iantosca

CAMPUS WARS

Outside THE WALL the armies clashed. Bard had less than a hundred tanks and these were rapidly being depleted. Their small airforce was now nonexistent. Their artillery was still running strong but even it could not survive long against such odds.

"Fire!" The artillery roared. The spent shells clanked on the ground as they were ejected from the enormous guns. The men scrambled around, hefting the live shells and loading the guns. These men were experienced. They were fast and efficient. Each gun had a crew of ten men and could fire a hundred rounds in less than an hour. That was doing very good for these enormous 380 mm cannons. The emplacement contained forty of these guns and each had a range of thirty miles. They had the capability of devastating whole towns and villages. These guns, along with THE WALL, were what made Bard one of the most powerful colleges in the area.

Captain James McGiver again lifted his megaphone. "Fire!" Much of the small armada on the Hudson had now been destroyed. Ships were breaking up and sinking all along the river. The water was covered in flaming oil. McGiver was proud of his men. With luck they could totally repel the attack. The artillery emplacement was outside THE WALL and well protected by concrete. It could sustain any ground attack. McGiver was confident because of this. And then he heard that low whistling sound. Jets - he hadn't thought about that.

Flight Commander Fred Kahler banked his plane. The forty-seven fighter-bombers under his command followed his move. He was over the target area. The river was flaming and the air was filled with a dense black smoke. He saw his target - the gun emplacement.

The last time he'd been here was twenty years ago in the big attack. He had been in the cavalry then and that battle had left an immense psychological scar on his life. He remembered the intense fight around THE WALL. He remembered the *Hejeman*. He remembered the frenzied orgy. He remembered the shame. He remembered his embarrassment as the effects of the drugs wore off

and he found that he'd been having sex with his horse. All the men had seen him. When the devastated SUNY army had been rebuilt he'd immediately transferred to the airforce. He never wanted to see another horse as long as he lived.

"The bastards will pay!" he said to himself. He switched on his intercom and opened the channel to all his planes. "Dive!"

Pvt. Jimmy King was a machinegunner on THE WALL and today was a field day for his job. His section of THE WALL was taking the brunt of the infantry attack. He was mowing down soldiers left and right and thoroughly enjoying himself in the process. He was just seventeen and this was the first time he'd been in action. "Goddamn!" he said with a grin as he let fly another burst of his 50 cal. The troops kept coming and he kept shooting.

His ammunition man looked up at him with a frown, "You're really getting into it aren't you?"

"Well, sheet! It's my job, ain't it?" Jimmy replied. He smelled burning oil and heard the swoosh of flames. They were using flame throwers. That could be a problem. He went right on shooting though and didn't stop until the silver nozzle protruded into his gun slot. He could smell the strong stench of gasoline. He lunged at it and frantically tried to cover the opening with his hands. Between his fingers the light began and in an instant the room became as bright as the sun.

Sgt. Arnie Anderson was half asleep in his bed on the third floor of Tewksbury when he heard gun shots in the hall. He crept out of bed and peered out the door. At that moment a corner of his door jam was shot off by a stray bullet. He jumped back in his room and slammed the door. "Holy shit! It's SUNY!" he whispered to himself. A big grin formed on his face. It had been a long time since he'd seen action. He ran to his closet and grabbed his fatigues. They were dirty but they'd have to do. He spent several minutes searching for his gun and then realized that it was in the shop. "Shit!" he yelled. Outside, in the hall the battle still raged and three bullets

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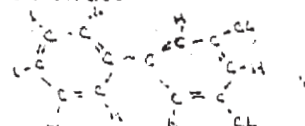
Pollution, Cancer, and Bard

Originally, the purpose of this article was to examine the alleged pollution of the Hudson River by Pepsi-Cola company. However, I could find little documentation of this, and that which I did find was based on rather shaky ground. So that approach has been discarded, at least for the time being.

Actually, the problems of the Hudson go far beyond whether or not Pepsi-Cola pollutes the river for, even if they do not, scores of other businesses and industries do so, and often do so legally. For a number of years General Electric was dumping 30 or more pounds of PCB's into the Hudson daily. They were not sneaking anything into the river; they had a state-issued permit allowing them to do this. According to state estimates, at least 458,000 pounds of this chemical now lie within the sediment of the Upper Hudson. It wasn't until recently, when the dangers of PCB's became known (or at least suspected) that General Electric ceased to dump the chemical.

PCB's and other related chemicals, such as Kepone, are a more subtle and insidious type of pollution than has ever had to be dealt with previously. There aren't any simple, clear-cut answers and at this point no one can claim to have a solution.

PCB is an abbreviation for Polychlorinated Biphenyls, which have a structure



The more chlorines (CL) sticking off of the polycarbonated rings, the more resistant the PCB is to

breakdown. According to Michael Rosenthal, Professor of Chemistry, some PCB's exist "practically forever" due to this fact.

A study done by the State Health Department ties PCB concentration in the Hudson to the increased rates of rectal and colon cancer for those communities drawing their tap water from the river. Both the towns of Rhinebeck and Poughkeepsie draw their tap water from the Hudson, with the exception of those individuals who have private water systems. In Poughkeepsie, from 1950 to 1970, the death rate from rectal cancer jumped from 6.5 per 100,000, while statewide, the death rate decreased from approximately 10 per 100,000 to 8.5 per 100,000.

The question arises of whether or not we can link the increased cancer rate to the PCB concentration in Poughkeepsie's tap water. The answer is, probably. Cancer caused by drinking water would most likely manifest itself in the digestive tract. It is these types of cancer that have been found to be abnormally high in Dutchess County. At any rate, there have been several tests done that more than prove the dangers of PCB's.

Perhaps the tests most relevant to our situation are those that were done by Dr. Del Wayne Nimmo, in Escambia Bay, Florida. Dr. Nimmo was studying the effects of an accidental PCB spill in the Bay. He discovered that when shrimp were placed in water con-

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FINCH FRIES

In our first issue, we featured an article on Greg Finch, the new head of S.A.G.A., which concerned his attitudes towards food service difficulties and proposals for changes which he said were soon to go into effect. Following up on this article, it struck me that none of these proposals seemed to have been carried out so far -- there were no menus up on the boards; no noticeably different changes in the vegetarian entrees; the deli-bar and salad bar, which B.&G. was to have had built by October, are not up; and as I walked into Finch's office, I did not find him "diligently reading Natural Foods cookbooks," as indeed there were no cookbooks of natural or other persuasion in his office that I could see. When questioned as to why the menus were not up, Greg responded that they had posted them once, but as there has been subsequent muddle concerning their design, they have decided to hold off till next semester to post the menus on a weekly basis. He claimed to still be in the process, "diligently," of constructing "good, solid entrees for vegetarians," the results of which remain, also, to be seen next semester.

The problem of the deli and salad bars, however, is B.&G.'s department, and Greg stated that B.&G. has "had other priorities, and haven't been able to get around to it yet." He says that a lot of their problems arise from the equipment itself, which is owned by the school and not by S.A.G.A. The food service itself is responsible for sanitation, over-

all housekeeping, utilities, trash removal, decoration, and maintenance, and is responsible for equipment repairs, but it is B.&G. who handles these repairs and the construction of some of the equipment. The deli bar should be complete by next semester, Greg says, and it will be a sort of variation on the sandwich stuffs served at lunch, with lots of rolls and breads and a soup du jour. Because the deli bar will be out of the main line, and will be staffed instead of self-serve, it should help congestion in lines. The salad bar will be a larger version of the bar which was set up in the beginning of the year, which was taken down because it was far too small.

S.A.G.A. has a lot of difficulties which the skeptical eye and stomach do not always take into account, as I realized while talking with Greg. He is trying to get excited about these specials, which he promises lots of, and trying to excite the staff about the ideas which he has been developing on improving the quality. However, "it's hard to get really 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 work best the way they are, and Finch is still in the process of learning the method as it is. His goal is to enhance food preparation, but the staff operates within a highly pressurized format, and their main concern is generally just 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 Tewksbury fire few precautions are really taken to avoid baked Bardians. We charge the Bard administration and Security with neglecting their responsibilities to protect us from fire hazards.

We wish to voice our utter disgust that conditions such as those listed on page two (see "Tewksbury Inferno") prevail and to emphasize a few questions which we find particularly curious. In a room where nearly 1/4th of the wall space is taken up by windows why aren't the curtains fire-proof? Why the hell 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 was attempted by various Residential Life and Security personnel at a meeting the day after the Nov. 15th fire: "Students set off too many false alarms," they claimed. (In three years as a Bard student the ONLY time this writer

O.K. Ludlow-ites, when it comes to matters concerning students' daily lives you've established a pattern of doing exactly as you've wished to do, without really consulting students. When you leave your offices at 5:00 every day you go home to warm, dry places where the food is good (or at least edible). No one makes plans to re-vamp your houses without asking you how to go about it and it's a safe assumption you'd be pretty upset if they

has ever heard a fire alarm go off it was because the S. Hoffmann alarm was mounted over a faulty thermostat which frequently overheated. And, come to think of it, no one is taking responsibility for that either.)

The point we want to make is this; despite the fact that the Administration and Security should be responsible for providing adequate safety conditions, they aren't at the moment. Possibly we'll have to have someone actually burnt before the proper authorities get around to instituting real safety precautions. In the meantime we have a few suggestions for the students who don't wish to end up charcoaled. First take five minutes TODAY to figure out where the fire exits are in your dormitory, to identify what kind of extinguisher is near your room (since some extinguishers only put out grease fires) and see if the hose is still intact (as some of the more ancient fixtures have rotted away).

Secondly, we implore people not to play with the fire extinguishers since this only helps the Administration and Security to continue with their excuses. Pardon us for the Smokey-the-Bear commercial but it looks like we've got to take care of ourselves.

Are you listening Ludlow?

did. We--the students who live on campus--stay here and live with your decisions, both good and bad. Keep it up, oh omniscient ones.

Go on students. Keep refusing to consider the long term needs of the school. Continue to ignore the fact that Bard will need to go on functioning after you graduate. And when something doesn't work out, just yell instead of taking two minutes to think about what problems

were supposed to be solved by these measures.

Both groups are guilty of an Us vs Them mentality that only perpetuates conflict. Ludlow usually gets what is wants. The students receive the Romantic glory of being wronged by an "unsympathetic," "impersonal," and/or "diabolical" group. No one gets the satisfaction of a solution which seems acceptable to most of us. And so it goes...

g. f. levinson

The final *Observer* for this semester will be taken charge of by Jane Hurd and the rest of the *Observer* staff. In view of this, it is with great pleasure that I make the following announcement; since I won't have to write any more editorials, you won't have to read them. The relief felt by both parties on this occasion is surely manifold.

The *Observer* certainly does not claim to be a shining example of all that Bard might want in a newspaper/magazine. Part of this is our fault and part of it is yours. Out of 720 students, only 15 bothered to return the questionnaire we ran in our last issue--and even then half of the responses urged us to take one direction and another recommended just the opposite. Thanks folks.

We've tried a lot of experiments this semester and sometimes they failed; the gap between intention and result prove to us that sincerity alone is not enough to fuel an effort like this one.

I won't bore you with the same old speeches about how this is your newspaper because Stephanie Carrow's letter on Page 7 makes the point much better than I can. The people who have

given of their time and energy, these last few months must surely know how grateful the other staff members are for their labor.

In particular, Stephanie Carrow and Jane Hurd have been tireless in their efforts. Catherine Williams has given an enormous amount of energy to jobs that she is undoubtedly sick of, Andy Abbatepalao has done a ridiculously hard job with responsible dependability seldom seen at Bard, and Shelia Spencer has faithfully come through on a hard task.

Last of all, I'd like to add one final personal note. My friends (especially Mark Lytle) have listened to me bitch about the paper for a long time and I am grateful for their tolerance.

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

Thank you for your patience, gflvinson

To the Editor:

It is two months since Heinz Bertelsmann answered my 2/77 *Observer* article pointing out the overzealous misrepresentations of a citizen activist diatribe against nuclear energy. I had written the original article broadly with the intention of stirring discussion. As Heinz observes I had asked him to respond since he is an informed and articulate proponent of a different point of view, and I had hoped that someone else would in turn respond to him, to avoid characterization of the controversy as between science and humanities. Heinz in fact describes me as a humanist, which I appreciate: we must all be humanists, and we must all participate in decisions on how to best use our total resources, including the full range of accessible technologies, to advance human goals.

I cannot seriously fault the specific points of Heinz' rebuttal (although I could point out that the military has been generating far greater nuclear wastes for years so the attack is misdirected, and I could ask for the basis of such statements as that "a 'melt down' could well involve the loss of many tens of thousands of lives"), but I do disagree with the underlying premises which he makes most clear in his closing question: "Does additional energy production give us the opportunity to maximize human happiness and total human fulfillment or are those goals more readily attained by a development of those human potentials which are not based on the ever increasing accumulation of largely meaningless material things?" In answer:

(1) If it were a matter of just electric can openers I might agree, but light and heat, cardiac pacemakers and steel production for bridges also use energy.

(2) Are technology and the development of those other "human potentials" mutually exclusive: is a "return to nature" either feasible or desirable?

(3) Although I hate to bring it up, as much as I am a scientist/humanist Heinz is a political scientist/humanist: there are unfortunate political imperatives in these matters, as well.

I believe that many of the technological problems that have not been solved will be; it may be better to keep wastes uncompacted until still more investigations elucidate the unforeseen problems of this new technology. I believe we make such cost/benefit analyses as with nuclear energy all the time, balancing risk against benefit in our daily lives; where is the difference between a coal miner's emphysema and a uranium miner's cancer... or for that matter, as I mentioned in the original article, how can anyone choose to live in higher radiation Boulder instead of Salt Lake City? On the other hand I am not

sure all the technological problems have accessible answers. Perhaps other energy sources are a better bet. And I must admit that I am currently very suspicious of the nuclear establishment: I believe they have lied and played naive in their own (short-sighted) interest.

The decisions on nuclear energy are especially difficult because the data are inadequate and the variables are complex, so we must continue studying, keeping in mind both the relevant facts and the underlying assumptions which will dictate our decision.

Burt Brody

To the Editor:

After reading Arthur Carlson's letter to the editor, I realized why the student community is in so much trouble. I agree with Arthur that his definition of good journalism is simple; when I compare his lack of experience in running a newspaper with Gail's three years on THE OBSERVER, I tend to listen to her ideas. She has put a hell of a lot of effort and time into the newspaper, which I don't see it critics doing. It's amazing how most accusers can throw stones but never gather and build something useful from them.

In regard to Kevin McKiever's letter, I think he has the right to voice any opinion he feels is necessary. We don't have to agree with him, but we should guarantee that right. THE OBSERVER has fulfilled that obligation and to have cut any part of the letter would have brought cries of censorship. You just can't please some people.

As to Arthur's disenchantment with the use of the word "depose" by the OBSERVER when he was removed as President at the Association meeting, I think it was fitting. When one-sixth of 720 vote to represent the entire Association, install a new President (with 45 votes) and decide to initiate constitution revision proceedings, assuming it was valid, is a fool's opinion. Electioneering, faulty polling procedures, and attempts to ostracize students from the government made the whole event cheap and disgusting.

Yes, meetings of the Constitution Committee are open; too bad nobody (except some of its members) knows when or where. A person standing on a chair at 6:00 P.M. in Kline Commons shouting "Hey, there's a Constitution Committee meeting at 6:30 in one of the back rooms", is not public notification.

To Arthur, "politics is a game for those who show up." You're not playing with a toy, Art, especially not one worth \$50,000. You also forget that you're an elected representative of those who don't want to play and it's your duty to include them whether you like it or not. How could you make that statement and still say that your constitution is oriented towards "massive student participation"?

Concerning Barry Patrice; he is a student who generates the type of energy that Bard desperately needs. But it is one thing to be a leader and another to become a political messiah. The last Alternative Viewpoint saw this danger as have the Student Judiciary Board and concerned students. Take care Barry; messiahs have short lifespans.

Students here are apathetic; they have opinions, but don't care to voice them. And can you blame them, when they read letters like Arthur's and mine? Let's stop using all this energy for damning and put it towards improving.

"Love"
Edward Colon

To the "illicit" animal-owning and caring community:

The following is a recent letter I sent to John Loda, a local veterinarian. Over the past several years, I had heard excellent reports concerning his skills and attitude. On the basis of my one experience, I have filed a complaint with the ASPCA and plan to contact the N.Y. State Board of Veterinary Examiners. Don't bring your animals to this guy: I think he's only in it for the money.

Dear Mr. Loda:

On Wednesday, September 28th, having been referred to you by the Rehwald Kennels, I brought my male Great Dane to your offices for an examination. As you will remember, the animal was securely muzzled and quite sluggish. When you entered the examining room, he growled and turned at you, and you ordered us to leave. I had related a careful history to your assistant, describing a set of disturbing symptoms originating with what appeared to be an infected tail.

The following day, the dog was worse and his tail looked - to my lay eye - gangrenous. By the time I returned to New Jersey and saw my usual veterinarian, Ivan was acutely septic, running a temperature of 108 degrees (having received 2 aspirin every four hours). He underwent an emergency amputation of his grossly

necrotic tail and although he nearly died twice following the operation, is now recovering well.

I have handled a variety of animals (domestic and otherwise) in a variety of difficult situations so I am somewhat sympathetic to your timidity at examining a hostile Great Dane. However, as a putative - medical professional, it would seem incumbent on you to at least attempt to provide medical help for an obviously sick patient, especially if there be no immediate threat to your safety. I am convinced that had even a cursory examination been given, my animal would have been spared considerable pain and endangerment.

I regard your behavior in this instance as unethical and unprofessional, to say nothing of insensitive and arrogant. And I am prepared to do everything within my legal means to ensure that you will not have further opportunity to refuse your services to an animal in need.

Sincerely,
Paul S. Arthur

My dear Levinson,

Ah! You level charges of lack of energy against students who hate your paper but do not participate in its production. You have nearly thirty-five people on your staff yet you complain about lack of input. Tsk! Tsk! If you cannot organize your managerial skills and organizational faculties to handle thirty-five people to produce a qualitative (sic) bi-weekly college newspaper, perhaps you had better retreat into the labyrinth (sic) of anomony (sic). Everyone would be better off.

Your paper seems to be an outlet for egotistical (sic) steam. You let people engage in their superfluous (sic) dabblings at the expense of qualitative (sic) comprehensive and knowledgeable coverage of simple campus events. "Campus Wars" belongs in someone's diary, preferably unseen by anyone. The "Midget's Voice" title suggests, quite accurately, that it belongs in an elementary school, sports flash over the P.A. system. It should never be broadcast during lunch though because there would be a rash of stomach sickness.

cont'd pg. 7



THE LOWER DEPTHS

Shelia Spencer



left to right: Frederic Krause, Ian Blackman, Suzi Litt and Wendy Elman (and an anonymous boot) in a scene from *The Lower Depths*

the Observer/Mike Iantoscá

It is obvious that William Driver's production of Maxim Gorky's *The Lower Depths* was intended to be the highlight of this semester's drama presentations. Seven of the eight major roles were filled by seniors, as 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 analyses 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 inter-mingling of sound, speech and movement. His intent was to maintain a vitality encompassing the entire stage, rather than centered 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 shouts or screams were obviously hand-muffled; on-stage movements were stagey and lacked purpose and consistency. Both 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 on-stage fight is essential in creating the mood for the climax of the play itself.

The dismal gray set was very effective in establishing the somber atmosphere of the drama; while six large pillars and a suspended pipelike structure at times made vision extremely limited (especially from several specific blind 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 interludes of melancholy songs 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 my 'In Progress' dealings with this production, I am not attempting an objective view of their individual performances.

RECORD

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 to it a sensibility colored by a recent interest in soul and conjunto music.

This is a live album so new versions of old songs appear in a revitalized state. The tune "Alimony" is given new flavor with an almost 'Persuasions' acappella introduction. "Dark End of the Street" is making the rounds again - first by Linda Ronstadt and now on *Showtime*. Cooder's treatment avoids cliché, utilizing accordion and showcasing a beautiful solo on slide guitar.

Cooder has shown more than a passing interest in conjunto music with the addition of Flaco Jimenez on accordion a few years ago. Conjunto music is a mixture of polka and Latin music, utilizing at times some of the same elements and forms of Salsa. It is peculiar to the Southwest, the result of early German settlements in an area once owned by Mexico.

Jimenez is well known in the Chicano music world, and his accordion playing is infected with much more vitality than most who play polka-based music. He is very important to the success of the two conjunto songs "Viva Seguin/Do Re Mi" and "Volver, volver." This album should open up a rather ethnic music to a larger audience since Cooder's reputation is much bigger than that of any Chicanos playing this kind of music.

"Smack Dab in the Middle" from *Chicken Skin Music*, his previous album, appears here in an enthusiastic version along with a slightly slower version of the great "Jesus On the Mainline" from *Paradise and Lunch*.

It is really hard to say where 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 not 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 Levers



In Progress: "The Farm"

Much more goes into the farm, by David Storey, than is in the script, and it is up to Neil McKenzie as director to convey its meaning. When Slattery, the father in the play, says "Hand to the plough... Let the dead bury the bloody dead... all I've looked for all my bloody life", Neil had to spend some time discussing with the actors what Slattery was looking for, because Storey leaves it vague. In the opening scene, two sisters greet each other with endearments that seemed sarcastic 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 (Josefa Mulare) is looking for a box of screws, while Jenny and Wendy (Sally Gockley) tease her:

Brenda: You're nothing but a whore.

Jenny: I am.

Brenda: (searching around in the bookcase & elsewhere) She's another.

The dialogue is incomplete until Neil has Wendy laugh after Brenda accuses Jenny of being a whore, and Brenda gestures 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. In the first rehearsal, Chris Humes started by playing Slattery as a bitter, self-pitying but humorous man, and then, as Chris discussed his part with Neil, the character acquired a greater poignancy. Helen Reynolds as Mrs. Slattery 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 demanded it. By the second rehearsal, Mrs. Slattery seemed to have a much deeper understanding of her family, and her sympathy for them had acquired a greater depth. Brenda (Josefa 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 direction. 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 goes up it will be well worth seeing.

Gina Fiering.

Judaic Resources

Elizabeth Koltun, editor of *The Jewish Woman: New Perspectives*, was at Bard on November 12 and 13 as a participant in the weekend program on "Women and Religion." Her presence here prompted some serious exchanges on the image and role of women in traditional Judaism. The discussions focused more broadly on how contemporary attitudes, epitomized by feminism, can be reconciled or integrated with our religious traditions. Bard students and community residents of both sexes expressed a desire to connect or reconnect, with classically Jewish knowledge, customs, and values—but they felt cut off from such understanding and its potential spiritual nourishment in their daily lives because they were unaware of Judaic resources at the College and in the wider community.

There are different avenues of access to "the Jewish tradition" (which is far from monolithic) here at Bard. Everyone is invited to the Chavurah dinners, held at 5:30 on Fridays in the Kline Commons Committee Room. The typical "format" for these occasions includes the voluntary sharing of personal prayers, poems, or reflections, blessings over the ceremonial candles, wine, and challah (bread); dinner and conversation; and after-dinner singing.

Another human resource should be noted here. Dr. Basil Herring, who serves as the rabbi of Congregation Agudas Achim in Kingston, will be teaching a course at Bard this spring, tentatively titled "An Introduction to Jewish Philosophy." Dr. Herring is an excellent teacher, as well as a warm and easily approachable fellow, worth getting to know even if you don't take his course. Since he is the most learned Jewish scholar in this area, his presence at Bard will present unique opportunities to raise and answer questions about Judaism. Any stereotypes one may have about Orthodox rabbis should be shelved when encountering Basil, as he prefers to be called—spend some time with him and

you'll see why I say that.

The seeker of Jewish knowledge and wisdom also has access to a range of bibliographical resources in the Bard Library. We now have the 14-volume *Soncino Books of the Bible* (in Hebrew, with English translation and commentaries). The English translation of the Talmud (Soncino Press, 18 volumes), the repository of rabbinic insight and interpretation, now graces our reference shelves. The 10-volume *Midrash Rabbah* is on order, thanks to a contribution from the Women's Campus Club, and it should arrive soon. The *Midrash* is the collection of poetic, homiletical, and ethical interpretations of Scripture advanced by the rabbinic sages, and it complements the Talmud as a essential component of rabbinic literature. When it gets here, browse through a volume and see how it is imbued with spiritual passion and remarkable psychological wisdom, as well as poetic joy.

Other recently-acquired classical texts, all with English translations, include these titles: *The Chumash* (Pentateuch) with commentaries by Rashi (Solomon ben Isaac, b. 1040/d. 1105), the French scholar who is still the foremost authority among Jewish exegetes of the Bible and Talmud; the *Mishneh Torah* of Maimonides (Rabbi Moses ben Maimon, or the "Rambam," b. 1135/d. 1204), the great medieval philosopher's codification of Jewish law, in 2 volumes; the translation and commentary on *The Psalms* by Samson Raphael Hirsch, the German founder of modern Orthodoxy; and *The Path of the Just* (*Mesilath Yesarim*), the classic testament of Jewish ethics by Moses Chaim Luzzatto. Another new book worth perusing is called *Challenge: Torah Views on Science and Its Problems*, an anthology of contemporary essays edited by Carmell and Domb.

Rick Landau

For more information on Jewish literature resources at Bard, see our next issue.

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 poked his head out for one more look. Yes, they were still there. He held his breath, pulled the pin, threw the grenade. He covered his ears and 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 smiled. "Oh, well. A partial success anyway," he said aloud. He pulled on his jacket and headed down to the shop 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 *lousiest* 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 overrun 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 Zaussner 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 Zaussner.

"Sir, we have been saved! Columbia 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 our attackers back!"

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

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

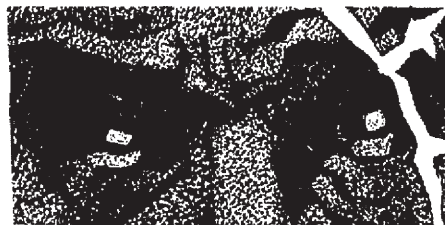
"Ha! Well that's great then!" He threw his gun on the couch.

"Lieutenant, bring me my finest uniform my saber, 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 stinking drunk. Everyone danced and laughed and cried. They were alive! They were saved! For now, anyway.

Paul K. Spencer



RECURRING VISION
Shelia Spencer

Re: *Dark Lady of the Sonnets*
Come on J. C.; enough is enough!

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LETTERS cont'd from pg. 4

The same goes for the whole lousy paper. As Arthur Carlson's letter quite accurately pointed out in the last issue, you cannot even cover a simple student senate election and changing of presidents without becoming muddled in the pool of subjectivity and erroneous reporting. You replied to his letter with a simple, mundane and weak response that "For reasons of time and space, we will not dispute Mr. Carlson's claims here." No, now that I think about it, his claims were undisputable (sic). Maybe he ought to start running the paper and you start running for office. However, in your quest for some kind of response, you seized upon Carlson's last paragraph as being worthy of being "wholeheartedly applauded." If the lack of input is as serious as you supposition (sic) it to be, then you probably would have composed a lengthy reply as you did to my first letter. But Mr. Carlson hit you right where you deserved a good punch - your very integrity. Lack of input is no excuse for subjective and shitty reporting. Perhaps you and your staff should go to a local high school and learn how to produce a qualitative (sic) newspaper in some decent fashion. Perhaps you will not ignore this letter like you did the last one and shove it into the pigeonhole of "minority opinion." It is fast becoming a majority. I am yours in

Total Disregard and Putredness (sic)
Mike Long

P.S. This letter is signed so I see no reason why you should not print it unless it offends your ego.

Dear Mr. Long,

Where are you? When THE OBSERVER holds its regular weekly meeting, open to all members of the Bard community, why are you never present?

Why haven't you submitted to YOUR PAPER a single article of any sort, let alone one that is qualitative and objectively written?

Why haven't you graced us with your presence on lay-out weekends, when we need proof-readers to help us put out a qualitative newspaper to satisfy our readership? When we need your help, your comments and your constructive criticism, where are you?

No, my dear Long, your letter is a perfect example of the unfortunate apathetic attitude which pervades this campus and which is felt very strongly by the handful of students who show their concern for THE OBSERVER by being here, showing up, contributing their time and effort. You, like many others here, are full of opinion, but when it comes time to lend assistance you are nowhere to be found.

No one will argue that THE OBSERVER is perfect, and we who care, want to improve it; that is the reason for our recent questionnaire. I find it significant that you returned the questionnaire partially blank: if you can't even fill out a simple questionnaire qualitatively, how can you expect us to put out a qualitative newspaper that answers your needs? Tsk! Tsk!

As far as integrity is concerned, I question the integrity of someone who can't

write a letter to the editor without leveling a crude and unfounded personal attack against someone he has never even met. It is ironic that you berate us for subjectivity when your letter wallows in it.

I must admit that I was surprised and disheartened to discover that you are a freshman, since apathy and hostility are not usually characteristic of new students.

Perhaps when you realize you have something to contribute to THE OBSERVER you will drop by. Why don't you do yourself and us a favor and come to our next meeting?

I might add that your spelling is atrocious.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Carrow
Associate Editor

To the Editor:

Once again people are smoking in the dining alcove where smoking is - by common consent - not permitted. Smokers, please observe the signs on the walls, and be considerate of those who do not want to inhale cigarette fumes. This also holds for the seven o'clock film showing: please do not light up before, during or after the movie. Wait until the later showing. Non-smokers do not want to have to ask you to put your cigarettes out anymore than you want to put them out. Comply with the non-smokers' simple standards and we'll all be happier.

Thank you,
Lea Magee

To the Editor:

I appreciate Roy Lisker's concern but shallow polemic and posturing do not substitute for intelligence. Mr. Lisker finds a value of INFINITY for a fraction with a denominator of the number of white science majors who had attended the seminar he discussed: another application of that type of reasoning would indicate that ALL the Bard science community who had been given more than two days' notice had attended! Again, while Mr. Lisker states explicitly that "none of the black science faculty at Bard put in an appearance," why, all did! That's just silliness.

After that carefully reasoned beginning Mr. Lisker goes on to report that the visitors described the proof that "we live in a racist society" as trivial and left it to the students as an exercise, and that they dismissed Bard as a school in which mathematics was almost non-existent because there were only two math faculty (were they unaware that Bard has a student body of less than 700 and a total full-time-equivalent faculty of less than 100?), and that they speculated on what fraction of the B&G budget would hire three new math instructors (again, was there any sense of reality in these frivolities?). All this buttressed with inane references to Tchebyshev polynomials and orthogonal approximations.

There were serious issues to be discussed here. The organizers might have thought to contact the science faculty some time before the event, to participate in the dialogue. And as for the reporting of the event, foolish polemic is demeaning to intelligence.

Burt Brody

POLLUTION cont'd from pg. 3

taining one part per billion PCB's, approximately the daily level found in the Hudson, one-half of the group died within 15 days.

Upon doing further work, he discovered that the offspring of sheephead minnows immersed in water at one tenth that concentration (approximately the concentration Poughkeepsie inhabitants consume daily in their tap water) became lethargic, stopped feeding, developed fin rot, and began to die within 24 hours.

We are obviously dealing with a very potent substance. The implications of these facts becomes even more chilling when we realize that the effects of PCB's are cumulative. After they are absorbed into your body, they will not pass out but 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. Dredging will quite possibly make the situation even more dangerous 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. The only type of filter with proven efficiency in removing PCB's is a granular activated charcoal absorption filter installed at a town's water treatment plant. Even this filter does not remove all of the PCB's, just a percentage of them. For instance: the first filtration

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 charcoal tends to wear out, and it is expensive to replace. Also, the process still leaves some residual PCB's. PCB's have been strongly linked to cancer. According to Dr. Rosenthal, "There is no such thing as a safe level of a carcinogen." Bard'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 stagnant, which makes it a prime breeding ground for bacteria. Also, PCB's and other toxic chemicals may leak into the bay from the main channel of the river.

If you are inclined to swim, try the old swimming pool on the Sawkill. The water moves quickly, reducing chance of bacterial growth, and it is above Bard's sewage outlet. (Our sewage is chemically pure after treatment, but it might be rather disconcerting to swim in.)

A final warning concerning PCB's. Simply try not to consume any water you know to be contaminated. If you live in Rhinebeck or Poughkeepsie, buy bottled water. If you are hospitalized in either of these towns, insist on receiving bottled water, or avoid the water altogether. Water taken from the Hudson is simply unsafe to drink, and it is worth the inconvenience to avoid it.

George Smith

"Forget Stone Row"

Well kids, you might as well forget about Stone Row. In a meeting on Nov. 17 with an architect, Amato, Sugatt, interested in students and dorm residents it was made clear to us that if HUD approves the plans Ludlow has submitted, the plans we were shown, those plans will be enacted this summer with only slight variations possible. The phase for student input is long past; the "student input" these plans are based on was solicited at least three years ago. The project itself originated in 1971 when there were 4 persons per suite and Stone Row was worse than Tewksbury. Now the administration plans to bring those days back. Their plans, which they have kept inaccessible for two years and unveiled only now that it is too late, call for tiny rooms and chopped up suites that will bear little resemblance to the buildings we know now. The result is that no students like the plans and in a Tenants Union survey only 3 out of 200 said they would live there after the renovation. Soon we'll have another Tewksbury situation, an all freshman dorm, then the damage bills will soar and they'll need peer counselors and everything. Perhaps they could put Dr. Lifrak's office in the renovated basement along with the pub. This would be the natural result of what we heard Friday, that Stone Row is economically unfeasible, that this and that were "economically necessary" and so on. All we heard was economics - no consideration of the human factor at all. No consideration for the fact that many Upper College students will be forced off campus in order to get the sort of space they could only get now in Stone Row. Just last Spring, in the peer counseling debate, the administration was telling us that these same students were one of Bard's most valuable resources. Their argument goes: since Stone Row is the biggest, some say the best space, it is somehow the most expensive (no mentions of the mods here) and therefore it has to be made more economical (i.e. more average, that is, worse.) And they have to spend \$60,000 to do it. Is that economical? Why not spend the money to upgrade the worst, first? And why should we undertake superfluous projects we can't even afford?

It was really pretty shoddy of them to drag that poor architect here to absorb our anger. It wasn't his fault - he admitted himself that he likes Stone Row better now. He was merely conforming to the dictates of Ludlow's inverted economics. The meeting was nothing more than a sham, a pseudo-historical occasion so that later when the problems begin they can let out an anguished cry "but we had student input!"

This would not be so upsetting if it weren't the typical Ludlow pattern; first they develop the plan, with some token form of student input that will not contradict them - then they drop it like a bombshell on the student body with the preface "Now it's too late to change any of this, but we'll listen to what you have to say." They are very long on patience, which is perhaps why they never hear anything we say, and cannot remember whatever they themselves have said. When we finally go to Leon he manages to defer as much responsibility as possible, and divert those lines of inquiry he does not wish to address. At this point the policy becomes a meta-policy, viewed as an edict from god which cannot be questioned or changed, which no one in Ludlow takes responsibility for (except to enforce), which Leon has disowned, and which no one in Ludlow can change. These administrative creations have become more powerful than their creators. The list is long; policy programs, parking violations, financial hassles, pets, peer counseling, stables, etc., etc., and now we can add Stone Row.

At this point there is one strategy left - we must derail the HUD loan, stop it from going through. If the administration insists on building stupidly we cannot let them build at all. My God - one need only look at their last four efforts - Tewksbury, the Theatre, the Mods, and Kline Commons - all acknowledged "failures we have to live with" - to know that these academicians are not architects. In the past 20 years they have created nothing but eyesores. Are we going to let them do it again? RENOVATE LUDLOW!

Love,
Art Carlson

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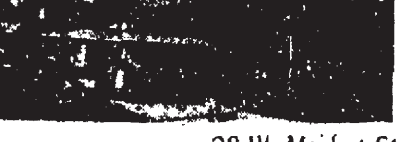
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What is this about not hearing from Lewis? Why just last summer I saw him at Times Square and heard him making strange sucking noises as Puerto Rican girls walked by.

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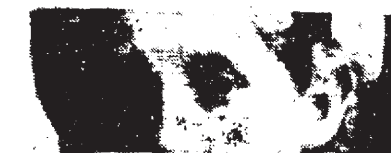
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The Almost Final

midget's voice

READ THIS ARTICLE

Question: How the hell can someone threaten the LIVES of three other students and be allowed by the Bard administration to stay on the same hall with much less be allowed to remain in Bard College? LISTEN UP LEON CAUSE THIS IS FOR YOU. In a totally different incident, an accused "acid thief" is roughed-up by our local pushers. Not CCNY gang - Bard. All one has to do is read the notes on the bulletin boards in the Commons and

Post Office to get an idea of the respect people have for each other in this school. Tewks. is vandalised, things are ripped off left and right from dorms, classrooms, labs; hell someone even stole all of this guy's clothes out of the dryer on Stone Row and someone had the incredible balls to steal \$10 from a maid. And it's not "Townies" baby, it's your fellow students. My theory is if a person can't leave his room open or walk to the bathroom without carrying a blade to fight his way out this isn't saying much for the people attending Bard. It bothers me to think certain folks have to be told all this. I thought we were past that. Sorry Midget Fans, see you soon with the Midget's farewell. Danny O'Neill

Bridging the Gap. cont'd from P. 2

fully to gain some new insights into both the strengths and the weaknesses reflected in their writing; insights which they might not have picked up on their own or in the classroom.

While it is perhaps too early to adequately judge the success the meetings, I can honestly say that it is off to an excellent start. What surprised and delighted me about it was the complete lack of competitiveness among the students, the freedom with which criticisms were made con-

cerning an individual story, and the readiness with which those criticisms were accepted. Having experienced peer-learning programs in the past which had gone sour shortly after their inception, it was a pleasure to see one in which all involved were truly eager to learn and improve. Reynold Klein, a senior, and one of the organizers of this workshop, echoed my sentiments exactly, and I wish both Reynold and the other peer instructors the best of luck.

Elliot Junger

FINCH FRIES cont'd from pg. 3

head of that pressure. The main problem is usually the equipment, especially the food warmer, which doesn't always function that well. Hence the food is not always hot. Also, there has recently been a network of difficulties arising from the water, (the reason for the malfunction of the Pepsi machines), and there is not too much they can do about that at the time being. As far as the quality of the food itself goes; it is not so much the shipments S.A.G.A. receives as its preparation. However, there is the problem of availability and the price of the produce they purchase. As they must contend with the enormous waste and rip-off factors presented by students that will always be a problem. Finch assured me that if there was less wastage of food the board rates

would not be as high, but, if the current situation continues, they will just increase with the climb of inflation.

Finch's disposition seems to be pretty sound -- he maintains that he enjoys working here, loves the staff, and sees the suggestions he receives from students as quite a boon. He wants criticism in order to be constructive, and urges that students voice their gripes directly at him. He says, with an oddly jovial attitude, that it's "tough being the most unpopular guy around," but he's glad that students are "concerned about what they eat." We'll have to wait till 1978 to see what is going to come of his plans for renovation -- hopefully, since he seems to be a fair man, the changes will at least be fair. Jane Hurd

BALL

The Bard basketball team which came two seconds away from capturing a league title at Columbia Green last season, will attempt to resume that form, starting Saturday, November 19, 7:30 at Mt. St. Mary College.

Returning to this internationally balanced club are the talents of: Waverly Robinson of the Bronx and Clifford Forrest of Manhattan-both four year men and graduating this year; the singular Rolando Irizarry de el South Bronx; Eladio 'The Black Magic Man' Abreu of Cuba; Antonio Velaquez who sat out half of last year over a contract dispute; and the two year vet: 'Lucky' Lucien Lindo of Haiti.

The addition of Jay Brewton (New Rochelle) gives the team an able replacement for the departed Billy Moss, and the tallest front-court Bard has had since a rookie named Cliff Forest teamed with a player named Frank 'No Show' McKrea eons ago in 1973.

Also strengthening the squad this year are the additions of Robert Grant, a quick ball-handling guard from New York; the burly Lance Lavender from Germantown; an accurate shoot-



Lucky Lucien Lindo the Observer/Mike Jantosca

ing Galen Wilcox from Norman, Oklahoma; and three other hustling rookies named Steve Okeniewski of Eastchester, Greg Dument of St. Louis, and Richard Gussoff from Brooklyn.

This is a very scrappy, hustling squad, with good jump shooting and potential depth. What will determine the fortunes of the team will be how well conditioned they are, how hungry Jay Brewton can become, and if twelve able bodies can be well utilized.

David Penberg

VARSITY BASKETBALL 1977-78

Date	Day	Opponent	Place	Time
Nov. 19	Fri.	Mt. St. Mary College	Away	7:30
Nov. 22	Tues.	Stevens College	Away	8:00
Nov. 29	Tues.	Vassar College	Away	8:00
Dec. 2	Fri.	Albany College of Pharmacy	Home	8:00
Dec. 6	Tues.	St. Rose College	Home	8:00
Dec. 9	Fri.	Stevens College	Home	8:00
Dec. 12	Mon.	Berkshire Christian College	Home	8:00
Dec. 15	Thurs.	Columbia Greene C.C.	Away	7:00
Dec. 17	Sat.	New Paltz State J.V.	Away	6:00
WINTER BREAK				
Feb. 13	Mon.	Vassar College	Home	8:00
Feb. 15	Wed.	Mt. St. Mary College	Home	8:00
Feb. 17	Fri.	St. Rose College	Away	8:00
Feb. 21	Tues.	Columbia Greene C.C.	Home	8:00
Feb. 23	Thurs.	Albany College of Pharmacy	Away	7:30
Feb. 24-25		N. A. C. Championships	Away	

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