

Bard College
Student Newspaper Archive
(1895-1999)

All Rights Reserved. Copyright © 1999 by Bard College

OBSERVER

Vol. 92 No. 1 October 28, 1987

Front Page	Crisis In Housing Duccio Donati
	Botstein Speaks Duccio Donati
Page 2	Editorials Sysco Must Go Major Nelson Opinion Contradiction Scott L. Licamele
	Housing Again
Page 3	New Focus for L&L Peter Stone
	Nelsons the Name Kristina Bullock
	New Proposal Dan Hillman
Page 4	Break In Security Jonathan Winsor
Page 5	Polshek Discusses New Dorms with Students Michael Damato
	Remember When Michele Norris
	Parking Problem Peter Stone
Page 7	Beyond The Wall Pink Floyd: "A Momentary Lapse of Reason" Joe Sisk
	Phone Sex is Safe Sex Cathryn Mangiamele
Page 8	New Gymnasium Peter Stone
	Northern Dutchess Jonathan Korzen
	Tennis Anyone?



The Bard Observer

Vol. XCII, No. 1

October 28, 1987

CRISIS IN HOUSING



Unfinished new dormitories in Tewksbury field.

by Duccio Donati

The new dormitories were to be finished by the beginning of the 1987/88 academic year, or so it was promised. The year has started and the dorms are far from being completed. The administration though assures the many students that are presently jammed in singles adapted to doubles and in doubles adapted to triples that the dorms will be livable by October. But what does livable mean? Will there be running water or will the inhabitants of the new dorms be forced to shower, use the bathrooms, and brush their teeth in Tewksbury? Will they be blessed with the privilege of electricity, or will the students be given a candle each upon entering their new rooms? In the meantime, anyone who decides to protest about the indecent conditions he or she is forced to live in is welcomed with huge smiles and effusively answered "It is only temporary" or "In other colleges it is even worse" or "There is nothing we can do about it." First of all, five weeks, probably more, seem to be an awfully long "temporary" time. It is hard enough to adapt to the academic rhythm and the scholastic pressure without having to worry about finding a place where it is possible to study. The administration states there will be study rooms open. Discussing this fact with a freshman I was told: "I like getting up at 3:00 PM sitting at my desk with a warm cup of coffee in my slippers and my pajamas and studying. If I know I have to get dressed and walk a mile to go study in a frigid room leaving half the stuff I need behind I'll turn around and go right back to sleep."

This is not an isolated case. Many people have mentioned the impossibility to study in their rooms and dorms. This will, no doubt, have very negative effects on student that would, in normal conditions, have had a very good academic standing. Another major issue seems to be the lack of consideration given to the students during these room changes (or, as some have called them, cramming arrangements). Smokers room with non-smokers, "night owls" room with morning people, musicians room with writers. This creates rather tense situations between roommates. But the administration is all united: this situation will bring unity among the students.

The only other people who will agree with this point of view though, seem to be those who are not directly involved in the room changes. Shouts like "I hate Tewksbury!" or "She must be kidding! I'd have problems living here alone imagine with somebody else." echo through the halls of the most crowded dorms. But those who have comfortable singles and doubles say: "It's not so bad." But for some strange reason, when proposed a room switch they will refuse.

Continued on page 6

Botstein Speaks

by Duccio Donati

Observer- The first question is obvious. When will the new dorms be completed?

Botstein- Within the first week of October, we hope. There is some uncertainty though as to the exact date. Actually we would like to open them the first of October, but we cannot say for sure. We had a late start, and the materials were sometimes delivered late. Another important factor in the delay was the weather conditions.

Observer- I'm sure you know that the first months of college may be crucial for a student's academic career. You also know, I suppose, that in these first months freshman go through quite a number of hardships. Adapting to a new environment, making new friends, leaving the family behind, dealing with the academic pressure and many other problems are encountered. If to these you add the lack of a place they can call home, and the being crammed in rooms with no space to study, don't you think this could be disastrous for the freshman's academic performance?

Botstein- No. I believe that this sense of closeness will have positive effects on the students. It will bring them closer together. For example during the Fifties, right after the war, housing was not sufficient for all the students and they had to live in a very limited amount of space. Nevertheless it turned out to be one of the best classes this school has ever had.

Observer- But people have different study habits (some don't have any at all). How

do you suppose one can study in a room with two other people who are talking, listening to music or distracting in any other way?

Botstein- There will be study rooms open 24 hours a day on the second floor of Apinwall and if it is necessary to keep Kline Commons open all night we will.

Observer- The Bard College Student Handbook states that each student has the right to have in his room: a bedstead, mattress, mattress cover, chest of drawers, desk, chair, and overhead lamp. Will each student be provided with these?

Botstein- Yes.

Observer- Do you think there will be enough living space in the room?

Botstein- The living conditions are not ideal but not impossible. Many students around the country live in two or three in a room.

Observer- Yes, but in rooms designed to contain two or three.

Botstein- If there were no public areas for studying, then there would be a problem. The priority at Bard College is academic performance. If students are not satisfied with the study rooms we could keep the library and the computer center open until 2 or 3pm. We are willing to go the extra mile. This is only temporary. Anybody who has ever moved into a new house knows what it means. Delays and a few hardships.

Observer- The Student Handbook also reads that it is the right of students "to be assured that his room is

his for the duration of the academic year...that he may not be moved without his request or consent. The only exception to his right to remain in his assigned room can be if he has selected a quiet area and, cause two, noise disturbances that are listed on the security report." Does this mean that a freshman could refuse to leave the room he or she has been assigned?

Botstein- The L & T program is not officially the beginning of the academic year. The Bard Student Handbook Rights protect the student from being handled and pushed around. It shows respect for the students and honors their capacities. But the students must understand that this is only a temporary inconvenience.

Observer- But don't you think it's rather frustrating for people who have their goods (TV's, refrigerators, ovens, etc.) and cannot use them?

Botstein- We wrote that there would be a delay in the completion of the dorms so

Continued on page 6



Lawlor — Cont.

Continued from page 5

In the counters across from him are Shirley Temple, Mickey Mouse and "I Still Like Ike" buttons, Dobey Gillis banks, assorted old-time comic books, 1920s and 30s Cosmopolitan magazines, and old Coke bottles. "There's no way of keeping it in order. There's no room for it," he said.

Indeed, there is not an inch of wall or counter or shelf space left empty. And none of it, "absolutely none" of it, is insured. "You just have to take a chance," he said, laughing. "If the place catches fire, I'm going to Dunkin' Donuts." Nor is any of it for sale. "A guy from Channel 10 (Albany) asked me, if he offered me \$250,000 for an item would I take it, and I said 'no'. I wouldn't part with any of it. Not for any price. It's memories. If they took it away, it wouldn't be a remember when shop."

Lawlor, it is at once evident, is not the average business man or collector. He's not sure what anything is really worth or how old it really is. He doesn't concern himself with such matters. He knows just enough ("You learn something everyday really"), from reading books and talking with others, to entertain inquisitive visitors, but that's all. Lawlor is only concerned that people "see the difference", a difference clearly made by the juxtaposition of items behind his desk.

A cash register with digital display sits opposite its solid brass counterpart. And Lawlor makes it clear that while the former holds his money, the latter holds his interest. "The highest it will go up to is \$7.99, but I still use the drawer and once in a while I crank the handle".

On occasion, Lawlor also shuns his modern telephone for his 1907 Candlestick. "You never could call out on it, unless you got the operator. So at the present time, I have it hooked up where you can just receive calls. You can't call out. If the phone rings, I could talk on it."

And although he'd prefer to

play music on his victrola, as he also does on occasion, he generally uses a modern stereo to furnish music for the shop. But, as if its a minor consolation, the stereo never cranks tunes dated after the '50s. "When I first opened up I had a jukebox," Lawlor adds, "but it just didn't go along with the shop—I just wanted it to play the old records of the '40s and '50s." Today, the only mementos of a jukebox era hang down from the ceiling: Connie Francis, Jim Reeves, Bobby Darin and Patsy Cline 45s, all taken off the original jukebox Lawlor's father had in the '60s.

Lawlor looks around his shop, visually taking inventory. "The older stuff and the newer stuff—they both have their advantages and disadvantages really," he muses. "You take these old postcards, there's a lot of artwork that went into them, a lot of detail. And now everything just seems to be rattled off."

The beeping of one of the modern video games by the front entrance jars him from his thoughts. "I have a pin ball machine in the back. It's not even electric. You get seven balls for a penny—AND you can't tilt on it either. A lot of the older kids go for the video games," he continues, "The younger kids are more interested in the memorabilia than the older ones because they're seeing things they've never seen before."

Thanks to Lawlor they're doing things they've probably never done before either. Buying penny candy, for example. "Anything over ten cents in candy is taxable," Lawlor explains. "The reason a lot of people won't deal with penny candy is because it can be really a nuisance. A kid will go back and forth, back and forth, instead of buying it all at once. But I figure a penny's worth is \$2.00 to them."

For the older generation, Lawlor still has Blackjack gum in stock. "They've discontinued it and it's hard to get it anywhere really, but I've got displays of it and people always ask for it." He also still serves Coca-Cola in the 16 oz bottles. "They aren't original, but they look like it. You cannot get

it down the line any further than that." And he draws vanilla and cherry cokes from a soda fountain, parts of which were salvaged from the original fountain which burned down with the original store.

But most people who visit Lawlor's aren't primarily interested in drinking cherry cokes, or eating penny-candy and icecream from the recently installed sundae and ice cream bar. What they're interested in, aside from the memorabilia, is coming in to "sit down and relax". "You never know whose going to come in. They can sit in here all day or all night," Lawlor says. And indeed they do. "They reminisce", by

browsing through old Clipper yearbooks, and some even take that one step further—by writing their name and address in Lawlor's guest book "for people who'll stop by form their old school". Take Nick Yerkovich's message for example—"used to live in Germantown, 1928-34, miss the old group. Live in New York City...."

Lawlor seems unsurprised that his shop could play such a role in bringing friends back together. But that is the attitude he has toward most things. He works seven days a week, 12:00 pm to 10:00 pm, for a very simple cause—"I figure this stuff was put away for a purpose, and here it is."

Phone Sex is Safe Sex

by Cathryn Mangiamela

Is it real? Was it ever real? Could you get a membership? Was it fun?

Yes is the answer to all these questions. Phone sex, however, seems to have lasted the length of L&T and is no longer actively operating, although a girl invaded Trembly yesterday and accosted people in the hall wanting to know who the "Raging Italian Stud" really was.

Yes, phone sex seems to be dead, much to some peoples satisfaction. I remember telling my parents, "If you call and get Phone Sex, you're in the right place!" A friend told her dad this, and his reaction was: "so you're earning a bit of money on the side..." Not everyone was so open-minded. The Dean of Students, I believe, recieved quite a few annoyed phone calls, presumably from worried parents. Who knows what their impression was!

I remember what I thought, just about to go to bed and hearing ten people groaning in the hall. Goggily, I marched out to tell the unfortunate group what I thought of them, but I was so startled by the fact that all ten people were grunting at a phone that I let them off

with a "Can you keep the orgy down to a dull roar?"

Phone Sex was fun and enthusiastic -- at the beginning. A membership was only \$1.99 and featured such attractions as Cowboy, Red Hot Mama, The Exotic Mulatto, Lil' Bo Peep, Long Dong Silver, The Bulge, and The SoHo Psycho. Signs were posted everywhere -- even a large banner in our dorm. Girls would call, and I'd answer the phone for various members, male and female of the Phone Sex "team." If they weren't home, members felt uninhibited enough to moan their disappointment into the phone. Even the advertisement for the "Dress to Get Laid" party read: "In keeping with the safe sex standard at small liberal arts colleges, Phone Sex presents, not a Get Laid party, but a Dress to Get Laid party."

However, interest has waned, enthusiasm is dead, and Phone Sex seems to be a thing of the past at Bard. I know; I haven't answered a Phone Sex call in at least a week. There is always hope however, as long as the banner still hangs above the phone in Trembly, reading in its huge computer type: PHONE SEX. A monument to the Bard Tradition.

Beyond The Wall

Pink Floyd: A Momentary Lapse of Reason
1987, Columbia CK 40599

By Joe Sisk

Pink Floyd, the legendary group which formed in 1965, launched their career in 1967 with the release of their first album, The Piper at the Gates of Dawn. In the following year, they released their second album entitled A Saucerful of Secrets. With this album came the end of their short-lived psychedelic phase. This second album was also accompanied by drastic changes in the group's membership. The founding member, Syd Barrett, left the group at the request of the other members as a result of (what was rumoured to be) drug problems. He was replaced by David Gilmour who, along with Nick Mason, Richard Wright, and Roger Waters, went on to become one of the greatest and most progressive groups of all time.

The Dark Side of the Moon, their 1973 release (and probably one of their most well known), hit the charts not long after its introduction into the record stores and to this day is still on the charts. This album was unique in its mixing and background effects which later became trademarks of this group.

With their other major release, The Wall, six years later, the group's popularity continued to grow. This double album was characteristic of the talent and immense emotion of Pink Floyd. A monumental work of Roger Waters, it is autobiographical as it tells the story of his life and his emotional downfall. The extremely negative feeling, which is the groundwork for this album, is exhibited through the upsetting lyrics as well as in the powerful music which constantly goes through tempo and volume changes. The tracks range from the atmospheric hit single "Comfortably Numb" to the up-beat, powerful sounding "Happiest Days of Our Lives."

With their latest release also came another major personnel changes. Roger Waters left the group to embark on a solo career, leaving Pink Floyd without a bass guitarist, or a songwriter. He was thought by many to be the major force in the band, and there was much uncertainty as to what would happen to Pink Floyd. It was a great surprise to find that his replacement was none other than

Tony Levin, bassist for King Crimson. The addition of Levin to the group to the group gives the music a slightly Crimonesque sound. Of course, Gilmour's talent on the guitar is as sharp on this album as earlier ones and his vocal ability doesn't seem to have suffered too greatly over the years. Nick Mason had some help on drums with the introduction of Jim Keltner and Carmine Appice. These aren't the only new additions, though, as there are 13 other musicians (including three saxophonists) on this album, as well as Bob Ezrin, who not only plays keyboards, percussion, and sequencers, but also co-produced the album with Gilmour. Mr. Ezrin had worked with the band on The Wall as its producer and orchestral arranger.

The disc is a full digital recording with the exception of the acoustic drums and bass guitar which were recorded in analog, however, this doesn't seem to greatly effect the superb sound of the disc.

This album lacks that special influence which Waters exerted on the group, however, Gilmour seems to handle the compositions and orchestration very well. A Momentary Lapse of Reason is true Floyd, and, like most of their other albums, it necessitates repeated listenings

at first to acquaint one's self with the music. The band, even after the drastic changes it experienced, still captures most of that true Pink Floyd spirit (however, modernized, and with a King Crimson influence) on tracks such as "The Dogs of War," "Yet Another Movie," and "A New Machine parts I and II." However, if you are expecting another Wall, or Wish You Were Here, forget it.

I've been asked many times what this new disc sounds like, and the only accurate response is "new Floyd." It is incomparable to anything else.

Don't walk behind me, I may not lead, Don't walk before me, I may not follow, Just walk beside me, and be my friend.

Alexis; Remember - 12 pages a month.

Want to buy a used apple 2c or 2e computer? If you have one to sell, contact box 1044.

Hey, You with the blond hair and blue eyes on crutches - your place or mine?

Katherine, welcome to Bard! Keep showing that special smile. It adds a shine to the campus that never existed here before. Oh yea, keep an eye out for that chiuaua! J.
Hey, even if I flunk out, thanks for believing in me.
signed Linda



Steven James Nelson, the new Dean of Students.

New Focus for L & L

by Peter Stone

In the wake of the three new buildings on the campus, the Languages and Literature department decided that they also needed a new program. Professor Mark Lambert as well as a number of other L and L professors held a meeting on Tuesday, March 12th to try to explain and defend the new program.

Lambert said that the basic problem with the program that we have now, which includes Lyric Modes and Divisional Seminar and is thirty five years old, is that the first half of the Freshman Seminar program repeats the first half of Divisional Seminar. The Greek plays and Tragedies are concentrated on, when new material should be added.

To begin with, Lyric Modes and Divisional Seminar will be completely done away with as required courses. Students will still be able to take courses that are similar, though. Professor Rodewald will be teaching a course based on Homer's *The Iliad* and *The Odyssey*.

The incoming Literature Freshmen will be required to take a course that Lambert renamed English One over the previous title of "Masterworks." The English One program will focus on one major work instead of many. Works like *Moby Dick*, *Middlemarch*, *Paradise Lost* and *Atony and Cleopatra* will be concentrated on. To put the readings into perspective, students will also read supplementary material that will help them understand the work. If the course is based on *Paradise Lost* then, the students might be asked to read parts of the Bible.

Critical approaches will also be stressed in an attempt to make the student aware of the possible ways of interpretations.

After the English One courses the student will have to take at least seven courses in the Literature department before Moderation. Most of these courses will be called rubric courses. These new courses will also be more focused on individual periods, Authors, Genre and Theory. Authors offered next semester are Shakespeare and Keats. Genre courses offered are in kinds of Drama. Three of these courses must be in the same category.

The process of Moderation will remain the same with the addition of an exam given in the beginning of the Moderation semester. The exam will have three of four questions that a student can choose from. Lambert claims that the exam will not only give the Literature department an idea of what the Moderating class is like, but it gives the Professors on the student's board more to work with. The exam will not force a student

out of the department, but it could be detrimental. Students at the meeting expressed concern that the basis of Bard Literature was in direct contradiction to taking an exam. Lambert argued the exam would allow a student to focus on the work that he/she was strongest in.

In the Student's first semester of his/her junior year, they must enroll in one of the proseminars. The proseminar will be run in a similar manner to the Major conference, but it will be much more intense. The students will work with more advanced material and there will be more class discussion. The students should work more actively with the professor and the work than in the Lower College.

In the second semester of the student's junior year a major conference will still be available. The senior year will also remain the same with the senior project being the major focus.

Lambert said that as compared to the system that we have now, the new program "will serve our students better than what we have had." In the past, Lyric Modes taught techniques of close reading in poetry with Divisional Seminar teaching one way of thinking about several pieces. The new program will stress teaching different ways of thinking about the reading and different ways of looking at Literature. "Every way is one way, but not the way," said Professor Lambert.

The new program is basically final and will go into affect this semester. It will affect fifth level students and under. Juniors and Seniors are exempt from this new program.

In addition to focusing students on Literature more intensely than in the past, it was mentioned that the new program will also help students going on to Graduate School. The students will have had more exposure to Literature and more in depth work with it.

Although many questions were raised about the reasons for this new program and whether it made it more difficult for students to explore various options before declaring a major, Lambert said that the program is not completely rigid. If a student wishes to switch to Literature, then it is assumed that he/she has taking at least some literature in the past and during the student's moderation board, it will be discussed and the student's seriousness will be examined.

All in all, the new program seems to be a daring step for the Literature department to keep up with the times. The current plan has been in affect for thirty five years and Lambert said that it was time for a change.

Nelsons the Name

by Kristina Bullock

Stephen Nelson's work as Dean of Students of Bard College, began on September 8th. His face will not be a new sight to the many freshman students involved in the 1987 Language and Thinking Workshop, since he made many visits to the campus in order to talk with the students, faculty and staff of the college. By doing so, he hopes to gain a better understanding of the college and the people who learn and work here.

Mr. Nelson graduated from Gettysburg College with a Bachelor of Arts in History. He attended Wellesley College, where he received a Master of Religious Studies from the Hartford Seminary and a Master of Divinity from the Andover Newton Theological School. He is currently a candidate for a Doctoral Degree in Education at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst.

His experience in the world of student affairs began with six years as the Assistant Director of the Student Center at Wellesley. He has been the Director of Student Activities at Dartmouth College

since 1978.

His appearance at the reception held on August 20th in the President's garden was proof enough that Mr. Nelson is interested in the student affairs at Bard. While talking to a group of students, he expressed an interest in a student activities board. The board would attempt to set up events that one, some, or all of the clubs and organizations on campus could participate in. He also wished to meet with the leaders of each student group to set up a calendar of events. "My goal," he said, "is to keep students from going to New York for the weekends. I want them to think that there's something worthwhile going on here."

Mr. Nelson seems to be bursting with ideas to make Bard campus life exciting for the students. He spoke of the possibility of arranging "night-club" nights here at Bard, with professional comedians and musicians putting in appearances. He's also looking forward to seeing more coffee houses and dances.

The new Dean spoke about

New Proposal

by Dan Hillman

Professor Frank Oja of the psychology department recently proposed departmental restructuring which would involve organizing majors by divisions of programs as opposed to departments. The model for this is in Women's Studies, which although not a department, does exist within the Social Studies Division.

For example, all students of the social sciences must learn various methods of statistical analysis. At the present time, each department teaches statistics in a different manner, stressing divergent aspects of the topic. By combining departments, a general Social Science Statistics course could be established which would ensure not only that all social science students had experience with the subject, but shared a similar background. In addition, with the new setup, courses could be staggered so that a sophomore who would be taking statistics would be

sure that other courses for sophomores within the program did not meet at the same time.

Let's say you're not sure what you want to major in but you like Social Studies. No problem. Enrolled within the social studies program you'd have to take some required courses that, being relevant for all majors within that program, would help you decide where you'd like to concentrate. Then, beyond the program requirements, you could take courses specifically geared toward your interests.

At the present moment, Upper College students wishing to take an advanced course within their division and outside their major have a choice. They can either plan to catch up with the class or take something else. The specialized education of their major has left them isolated from other majors. With departmental restructuring

Continued on page 8



The Eat, Drink and Smoke In Where Neatness Counts.

Break In Security

by Jonathan Winsor

Last semester, in big letters by the phone next to my room read "Security Extension: 160". In little letters, under this safety-minded notice, was crudely penciled "Keystone Cops". This brings me to laugh. But the smile quickly fades if I or anyone else assumes that security is dependable in any conceivable emergency when in fact it is not.

Coincidentally, I later found a job as a dispatcher, staying up late at night and finding out what the flip side is like. I had a bit of time at four in the morning with which to drink stale coffee and stare at the memos on the walls. To security from the administration: "Please let returning students into their residence halls after field period,"; to security from B&G: "Students are not allowed into their residence halls after field period. We are remodeling." To security from Concerned Students: "Please ticket or tow violators of parking regulations. Illegal parking has caused inconvenience and damage to vehicles,"; to security from \$16,000 students: "We are upset about your towing raid. We are going to cause a little incident to test our security force's knowledge of first aid...". This particular notice was dated from a vandalism incident in which a gas line had been ruptured in the unfinished Olin building. This leak was detected by a student in Fairbairn.

This insanity to which I was expected to adapt was profound indeed. While attempting to explain to callers the nature of constant breakdowns in the antiquated, after-hours switchboard system, and trying to hail guards over a failing radio about the third Stone Row fire alarm since midnight. I would nod my head to the guard complaining about a certain administrator who sets off intrusion alarms on purpose then times security's arrival, or about being blamed for not breaking up an "unauthorized gathering" of two students who had done \$200 worth of damage on the sly. Student callers would be dumbfounded when I replied to Bard Security's lack of prompt service, explaining that the whole of our security force amounts to seven men, a shaky three of these trained in first-aid, none in fire procedures, except shutting off alarms and that these seven alternates, working in pairs with one work-study dispatcher, twenty-four hours a day all week excepting weekend days, when B&G becomes security.

When I began collecting data for an Observer article, I was surprised to find that the guards were not enthusiastic. "The students don't want to know the facts, they don't care. So why should I risk my job?" When I offered to speak to their superior, Gene Horne, they again were not enthusiastic, stating that Gene was "in enough trouble as it is" following the towing incident. Furthermore, they claimed, the article would be censored or banned by the administration.

I was offered a breakthrough at last. When Gene Horne resigned, "sick of the frustration" as I was told, I arranged an interview at

his residence in Saugerties.

I asked why is there a morale problem in security. "When I first tried to increase the guards' pay," Gene Horne picked up a nearby piece of paper for emphasis, "Papadimitriou said to me, 'This is why I want security. I want it only as a deductible on the insurance form.'"

The pay of the security force here at Bard has been called the worst in New York State. As of this writing, the maids, whose responsibilities are not nearly as diverse, are paid over a dollar an hour more. Bard security guards make about two dollars per hour over minimum wage as opposed to Vassar's five over. This figure is starting and ceiling for Bard security while Vassar's have opportunities for pay raises. For Bard security guards, a couple of which have worked here for years, this is an improvement. Up until a few months ago, hourly wages were a whole dollar less.

"And that's only because I stuck my neck out. You see, in the end, their [the administration's] main concern is money."

Gene went on to describe to me an exchange he had with the vice-president at an administrator's meeting: "I want you to tell me why you can't keep employees, and don't tell me it's because of the pay!"

"OK, Dmitri. It's because of the pay."

"I told you not to tell me that! There are employees here who work for less and we have no trouble keeping them!"

"And those are work-study students."

Only two of those seven security guards have worked for Bard for more than six months. Gene described the difficulty in training guards for such techniques as CPR and first aid when they changed with the seasons and worked for all of their waking hours. The closest classes that are within budget range take place in Poughkeepsie. These are hours that would be added on to an already fifty hour work-week.

From Gene's words, the attitude of the administration toward these campus-safety and security related matters could be politely called insensitive.

On wage-related matters, Gene quotes our vice-president as saying, "Fire half of them and give the other half a raise."

On security's efforts to maintain a campus secure of suspicious vehicles and persons, Gene quotes our president as saying, "My visitors do not have to register at your security office."

On parking regulations, our President affirmed the faculty-student double standard. In this particular incident, because of one member's illegally parked car, in violation of federal regulations, the entire day's mail was in jeopardy of not being delivered. The professor complained to the administration when she was towed. Leon is quoted, "You deal with the students, but the faculty is exempt from your regulations." In contrast, the Dean of Students in reply to student parking problems said simply, "towing 'em."

When Gene decided to take his advice one crisp winter night, he claims it was not

a simple "towing raid," as Leon Botstein phrased it, but a failure on many different administrative levels. Parking at the time was inadequate in space (except for administrators who have special reserved spots) and poorly marked. Students at the time couldn't/wouldn't find the time to register their cars. Tickets given out for illegal parking were about worth the paper they were written on because the administration would accept calls from wealthy parents as placeboes for fines.

Twenty cars were towed. Thirty dollars were asked for each car impounded. The fine was returned. When Leon purportedly received a call from a foreign country, he called the security office, "Stop the towing!!"

Gene alluded to the rashness of his actions but insisted that this was fair play and that decisive action was necessary at the time, claiming that students failed to heed ample warning and that it was his last resort. He also claimed his actions to be within the regulations in the handbook and authorized by the Dean of Students.

Being the low man on the administrative totem, he and his department were to blame, "There are just too many bosses and they all think they know everything of how security is to be run...The problem is that they never ask the question of what the problem is, but who the problem is. And if no one else can be blamed, it's always security. That's the easiest way to explain away a problem when there's a board meeting to face up to." Other items two guards on duty have been blamed for in the last semester by the administration include the phone system going on the blink one evening, an injury suffered by a faculty member slipping on unsanded ice, and an incident where the power went off undetected in a professor's house outside of security's beat.

After the towing, at an "open meeting" scheduled in Botstein's office, approximately 200 students showed up to air their dismay. In answer to their dismay, "the security guards would be trained in CPR with all due speed," the "competitiveness" of the guards pay would be "looked into," and the switchboard's hours would be "extended" to lighten the load of work-study dispatchers who are busy with first priorities. As of this article, none of these requests, to the reporter's knowledge, have been "looked into."

Also brought up last semester was the question of limited infirmary hours. Leon favored reliable transportation over on-campus medical facilities. But soon afterward, a student needing transportation to Dutchess County Hospital was told by a dispatcher that the lone security vehicle would not leave its post. Fortunately, that student found her own transportation.

In parting, Gene remarked, "This campus is just too isolated. With the security we have now, it's insane... Down the road the 'Sleepy Hollow Estate' asked if Bard security could take their account. I spent a lot of time looking the place over and making an estimate on the cost of our guards patrolling the area, and at

what cost they could do it on their own. I told them, 'If you want them to stay and work late, you have to pay them. If you want them to walk through the mud and punch keys, you have to give them uniforms. If you want them to act like real, responsible, professional security guards, you have to treat them that way.' They refused Bard's account and took my advice. I've been up there, and it appears that it's worked out well... They've kept well-trained guards for more than a month at a time."

At the conclusion of the interview, I asked the pertinent question, "With these things in mind, what should we look for in a new security director?"

"Within a reasonable system, you are looking at a man with the type of experience that will cost you around twenty-five to thirty-five thousand a year... With the present system, save your money. Get the cheapest you can find."

At the conclusion of last semester, I and some other students interviewed someone who fit this bill. Bob Cragle has spent much of his career in public safety. Until recently, he was the security director at Dutchess Community College. Described by some as a "yes man" and by others as a "perfectionist who will not last," at his employment interview he described himself as "someone who liked a challenge... But no miracle worker." Despite the fact that he feels there is much to be done (he called Bard dorms "fire traps"), "I am no fool. I would like to keep my job." He came across as eager and sincere.

Is this still the "present system?" It's difficult to tell now. (There have been some mysterious meetings between Mr. Cragle and Leon this year...) With basically the same administration it may well be. If it is, and "time will tell" as one officer put it, then, in the words of Gene Horne "If anyone is going to change anything, it will have to be the students."

More on the present state of security in the next Observer.

Nelson — Cont.

Continued from page 3

being excited about the transformation of the old gymnasium into a student center. This, he believes, will form a community "core", something which he thinks is lacking here at Bard. With this center, it should be easier for student groups to gather together for meetings, planning sessions, and cultural events.

Mr. Nelson's greatest wish is to get to know every student on the campus. He feels especially close to the Freshman class because, as he puts it, "we're all in this together -- all of us new to the environment." He would also like to get to know the upper-classmen so that he can get a better idea of what it is the students want from him. "Knowing the students and what they want is the key I need to make my job easier."



James Stewart Polshek, the architect of the new dorms at the open meeting in Kline Commons.

Polshek Discusses New Dorms with Students

by Michael Damato

"I'm going to ruin your whole school before I'm done here," said Jim Polshek, the architect of the new, and as yet, unnamed dormitories of Tewksbury field. He was dropping some of the many visual examples of building materials he had brought at the time, and was afraid he might be damaging the furniture in the packed faculty dining room. James Stewart Polshek had come to meet his critics in an open meeting on a holiday weekend. The large turnout just a day before Easter, was a measure of the concern which had risen over the project. The dormitories were defended by Polshek with such polite elegance that one could immediately tell that the administration had chosen him carefully and with good reason. Over thirty people turned out to hear Polshek defend his ideas, and during the course of his introduction to the new buildings he had to respond to a lot of questions about the project.

Mr. Polshek had no specific answer for the round roof design; initial ideas for the new building attempted to blend it into its environment, rejecting the "cute" peaked roofs familiar with the "international" style. The round roof design, which has been compared to an airplane hangar by many, was used to leave the landscape unprovoked. The notch issue proved to be one of serious concern. Besides centering each building, the notch "breaks the continuous arch."

"Style is not an issue. Appropriateness is." Perhaps this best sums up Polshek's argument about the dorms.

"I'm not going to build something I'm ashamed of," he said, "I have no doubts." The vision in his mind is one that someone cannot get from a few minutes with some preliminary sketches. "Occupancy will relieve all doubts."

Apparently student fear of another Tewksbury was sufficient to raise questions about the design. Mr. Polshek said it was the failure of modern architecture to please people that spawned such anxiety.

This was not the first time the architects had met with students. The three students that participated in a committee helped to reach the final revisions of the original design. Polshek said he approved of the student participation and that his team "tried an awful lot of

things." Artistic indulgences need compromising to suit everyone.

Some of the factors that were included in the decisions were not only artistic, but practical. Besides the problem of obtaining materials at reasonable costs, there was also the surrounding architecture to ponder. Tewksbury was the most dominating of these factors because it was closest. Polshek recommended a new line of trees be used to help make it more pleasant. It could not be ignored, even though it lacked proportion and relation to its surroundings. The road, the Ravine Houses, Proctor, and the chapel created too small an area for the builders to utilize, so they had to "create" space. The new building had to do more than house, it had to repair. The only solution was to bring Tewksbury into focus.

The faculty housing created a new problem that was solved through "rectilinear" meshing with Tewksbury. This, in combination with a new system of pathways, will create two sides of a quadrangle that will "clean up the whole area." Another problem, parking, was solved by moving the main parking facility to Proctor. Although there was some protest to the distance from the dorm, lack of space and the planning guidelines given the Polshek firm, requires it.

Last issue, The Observer gave its opinion on the subject of the new dorm. Since then we have heard the response of the architect, who stands by his ideas, and the administration which stands by him. A new building affects everyone, yet the majority remain silent. In the future, as an expanding campus grows around us, one should remember to observe the decisions that are going on, and be part of them. Apathy should be for those who don't know better.

WANTED: One (1) "light-haired woman... compassionate, intuitive, perhaps clairvoyant" to fulfill a psychic prediction. You can find me in a paranoid delusion alternate Sundays. I'll be the one teasing Edgar Cayce with a pickle.

GAFU Uninc. 5 1/4 inch diskettes - \$1.00; soda - 50 cents; 45 rpm records - 25 cents. Tewks 219. Open sometimes.

Remember When

by Michele Norris

"Driving down 9 G, there's no way of telling there'd be anything down this way..." Jim Lawlor, owner of Lawlor's Remember When Shop, says, pushing back his red and white baseball cap. But for a shop owner, he doesn't seem particularly worried. Indeed for a shop owner, he doesn't seem like a shop owner. His only business philosophy, if it can be called that, is attested to on the blue-trimmed front door of his Mainstreet Germantown shop--"Come in. Sit down. Relax. Remember when."

Inside, on one of the countertops are two signs--PRIVATE KEEP OUT and TRESPASSERS WILL BE EATEN--neither of which seems to apply. Niko, the dog, sleeps contentedly on the floor. And Jim Lawlor is constantly inviting customers behind his desk: "Walk right behind back if you want", he says, pulling items of nostalgia; a 1907 candle stick telephone, a victrola, an 1864 civil war sword, an 1800s clock; off rows and rows of shelves, all in the name of "showing people the difference."

It's a mission he's been fulfilling for the past two years, and one that dates back four generations. "Back in the late 1800s, early 1900s, my great grandfather had the store, that was the original place that burned down in November of 1923. The present structure was built after that and my grandmother ran it. Then my father continued the business until he leased it out in the 60s."

When his father died two years ago, Lawlor changed his profession, "got my act together", and reopened the family business. This time as a mini-museum, or what one New York State journalist dubbed "a browsing shop". "Anyone can sell something," he shrugs, "but I just wanted people to see the difference, that's the point of 'Remember When'."

He did not have to look far to stock his shelves. "You take four generations living on the same spot and you're

not going to throw anything away," he said. "The basement was filled with different things they had in the other store. Everything down there was saying 'save', so I decided to put it on display."

In that basement, among other things, he found a "Johnny" wartime advertisement poster that was being used to keep the family lumber dry and three trays covered with paint. Stripping them with finger nail polish remover ("It just seemed like the thing to do."), Lawlor discovered they were Coca-Cola trays dated 1924, 1927 and 1930.

What was not in the basement, fellow well-wishers have donated. An 1837 large one cent coin, for example. Attached to it is a simple handwritten note: "I found this part of history in Germantown and have decided to return the coin to you so you can put it on display in your store as part of remember when--Robert J Foley."

But the treasure hunting, Lawlor's and everyone else's, did not stop there. For Lawlor is surrounded. Behind his is a red metal box. "That's a Powerhouse cooler. They used to put ice in it and sell Powerhouse candies for five cents each." Above him, dangling from the ceiling, are Howdy Doody puppets from the fifties, an old pump b-b gun, and an antique fire extinguisher among other oddities. To his left, is a display of '30s postcards in their original rack, a jar of clay marbles and an old bubble gum machine still filled with the original gum--complete with bored holes. "In the center of each gum ball there was a number," Lawlor explains, "You'd punch the number out and match it with the card in front of the machines and maybe win 50 cents or \$1.00 worth of merchandise. It's the same principle as these punchboards," he says, reaching overhead. "By filling in certain numbered holes, you could win a 10 lb turkey or two 3 lb chickens. Of course, they're outlawed now by New York state..."

Continued on page 7

Parking Problem

by Peter Stone

This semester, the college will pave most of the parking lots on campus. Due to be paved are the commons parking lot, the barracks parking lot and the road leading to Cruger Village. The plan behind the paving is to centralize parking on the campus. The administration is trying to create a pedestrian campus. The Master Planner of the school, Oliver Lundquist of Oliver Lundquist and Associates, as well as the Board of Trustees and the Faculty all support this plan, according to Jim Kridler.

Kridler [Dean of Students at the time this article was written] claims that it is the intention of the school to create a centralized parking facility instead of a decentralized one. The college plans to shut down the parking lot outside of Tewksbury and make parking on the ravine road illegal. A lot somewhere between the new building and the Blum Gallery is planned in the future, but no actual site has been chosen. "We don't know when expansion of Proctor will take place," said Kridler. A problem with this plan might

occur next semester when three hundred and twenty three students, the number of residents in Tewksbury, the New Dorm and the Ravines, try to park in the existing parking lot outside of Proctor. The Proctor parking lot only holds thirty cars now. The overflow from these buildings might be taken up by the commons parking lot, but another problem arises. What happens when the new Stevenson athletic facility is built? The Chapel, the Music department and Brook House are also in the area. The commons parking lot will have to accommodate these buildings as well as the overflow from Tewksbury and the New Dorm. In addition to which, the lot will continue to serve as primary parking for Kline Commons.

The administration is also thinking of assigning parking sometime in the future, but the planning for this is also nebulous. "We are not now planning to assign parking, but we may well do so in the future." Perhaps they should worry about the parking situation as it stands now before planning too far into the future.

Botstein — Cont.

students should wait to ship their goods until they were settled in. What is the purpose of arguing? It is a circumstance that has its positive and negative aspects. We are not just promising, you can see it for yourself. Just go on the site of the construction. When the students came here they knew the inconveniences. They could have said: "I want to go home." I went to see the temporary rooms for myself and found them quite adequate.

Observer- If you were to point out someone responsible for the fact the new dorms have not yet been completed who would it be?

Botstein- It's hard to say. The dorms could have been built rapidly if constructed with prefabricated materials, but what would they have looked like after they were finished? The new dorm will be a high quality building built of fine materials and made to last many years. It was also designed by a very prominent architectural firm.

Housing — Cont.

Continued from page 1

That's quite a mystery since it's "not so bad".

Some people have also tried to overcome the passive attitude most students have towards this situation by passing around a petition. Although not very successful, (everybody laments but few people are actually willing to take a firm stand) this petition brought out one point that deserves to be highlighted. It demands a refund of the boarding expenses. This is not wrong because the college is using less rooms than it was last year (Blithewood was closed) and has more students. This means that heating, electricity and other utility expenses are less than last year. Since the furniture given to the "temporaries" is old (and it is old) and the new dorms have already been paid for, where do the housing charges of the extra residents go?

The real problem seems to be that the administration knew the dorms would not have been finished by the beginning of the year and accepted more freshman than they could house. If this is acceptable, and the student body clearly thinks it is not, what is unacceptable is that Blithewood, which could have hosted the homeless students comfortably, was turned into an economics center. The reasoning behind it seems to be "They don't have space but once they're in there's nothing they can do about it".

But this time the administration might just be wrong. Bard is well known for creating individuals and individuals are well known for treasuring their private space. Now that their private space has been annulled and the limits of tolerance have been surpassed, these individuals seem to be uniting for a common cause. At the first Forum meeting of this year an unusually large turnout (approx. 200 people) voted without dissent to file a class action suit against the college. Recently a Senior was seen wearing a T-shirt that read: "Bard. A little college is a dangerous thing." It could become one; but it's up to the students.

Observer- Cormac Flynn (who wrote an article on the last issue of The Observer in which he bitterly critiqued the design of the new buildings comparing them to Disneyland) did not seem to think it that way.

Botstein- Oh yes, I remember that article! It's a matter of aesthetic opinion. Just like the famous Yogi Bear quote says: "It's not over 'til it's over". Before making any judgments let's wait to see it finished. Cormac based his article on a drawing. There are some buildings that seem beautiful on paper but when constructed are absolutely horrifying. This is the first new dorm built in Bard in 25 years. No, excuse me, in 15 years. It is the first stone, solid building in 25 years. Let's wait and see.

Observer- There have been rumors that the new dorms must be completed by Parents Day so the parents will not see the conditions their children are living in. What do you say?

Botstein- No, no, no. We would like to have the new dorms completed by Parents Day to show it to them, not to hide where their sons and daughters lived before. Even if the parents saw the living conditions their children are in they would tell them that is how they lived when they were in college.

Observer- Yes, but the price of boarding was not as high 25 years ago.

Botstein- The price of housing is per dollar the same of twenty five years ago. (He pulls out a calculator and a small catalog and starts making some calculations). You pay 240 dollars a month for a

room with furniture, a secure building, and all the utilities.

Observer- There is a note in Kline Commons in which a girl was looking for a person to share her apartment with two bedrooms a large kitchen and a lounge for 250 dollars.

Botstein- But you would have to rent it for a whole year, not pay as you use. Furthermore, consider all the extras. In the winter it would cost you much more money. No utilities, the bills for the electricity, the phone, the heating. You would also need a car. But we have nothing against students living off campus, many do.

Observer- Is it possible there could be delays due to adverse weather conditions?

Botstein- No, after the roof has been put on the weather conditions will not create any more problems. The only hold up could be caused by the construction suppliers. No matter how early you order the materials suppliers will wait until the last minute, when you really need it, to produce it. Most of them do not have storage room. They'd rather have their men work on something they will give away immediately. This is what makes construction a business full of bribe and corruption. We are at the mercy of the suppliers.

Observer- Don't you think the administration broke faith with the students and the parents?

Botstein- No, we did not break any faith. We had no motivation to voluntarily do so. The worse thing one could say is that we knew we were very tight with time. It was not impossible to do if everything worked out right.

But there were some unfortunate and undesirable events. But what is the real harm of being doubled up for a few weeks? It is an inconvenience that placed in a four year plan of college is not very relevant. What does it say about an individual who chooses to look only at the negative side of this whole story?

Observer- The problem is that for a Freshman starting college is difficult enough, without having to deal with the fact he might be placed in a room with two "party animals".

Botstein- Closeness will encourage discipline and respect. If you have a single and the stereo of the person next door is too loud, if you ask them him to turn it down he'll say: "This is my room, I'm not disturbing you. You have your own room." Instead, living so close together, people will say: "We're all in the same boat. Everyone has to compromise. There is no private space and..."

Observer- Then you admit there's no private space.

Botstein- Don't try to trap me. That's not what I'm saying.

Observer- I'm not trying to trap you. It just seems to me that living in three in a room that should keep two does not give much private space.

Botstein- Almost all Freshman will be living in singles adapted to doubles. Furthermore this is not an urban campus and we are not in the depth of winter, so there is plenty of open space where one can study. There will be some difficulties for the students, but I assure you that the people who are working at this project are

working hard and doing their best for something that will be of benefit to the students.

Classified Policy: How to place an Observer classified:

- 1) Think of something to say.
- 2) Write it down (try to keep it ~~less~~ than 30 words).
- 3) Send it to: "Classifieds,"

Typewriter for sale. Ancient and black with carrying case. Works well, just cleaned. \$15.00 box 898

WANTED: two gorgeous members of the male species to share luxurious, spacious accommodations. Originally a cozy single, recently converted to an ever cozier quad. Great opportunity to view and hear architecture at its finest. If interested contact box 882 or 823.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE***** "You may NOT be excused from the table! Listen to me children, I want you to clear your dishes and clean up after yourselves.. Kline is NOT a pig-sty!"

Are you female, age 17-22? Positions now open at Blithewood. Must be prepared to drag chains, make scratching noises, levitate furniture, and die dramatically. Inquire within.

Lisa how many times did you see Dirty Dancing? Really, now! - K.B.

Andrew in Tewks: Hey! How's it going? From the girl with the Power Station shirt.

Tennis — Cont.

Gilman and Welch 6-3, 6-4. Nevertheless, the chance to attend the nationals was a fitting and satisfying cap to seniors Dalton and Phillips' careers.

Joel Thomson believes the year's team was the most competitive Bard has ever been in terms of (player) depth. He felt a sense of enthusiasm and commitment from the players which he attributes to player pride when a team feels successful and able to compete. He hopes that returning players will have practiced during the summer and this fall to displace the loss of Dalton, D. Phillips and Driver, while he also hopes for a talented group of freshmen.

This fall saw the reimmersion of the Bard women's varsity tennis team, which trades semesters with the men's team. Under their new coach, Daniel Berthold-Bond, the team has run up a 2-1 record so far, which is "pretty good considering the inexperience of many of the players," according to assistant coach Carl Berry. The team record is reflected by individual players, with junior Beth Ann Finisdore and freshmen Kristin Cleveland and Karen Hollenbeck, second third and fourth seed, respectively, all chaulking up 2-1 records.

According to Berry, it is still a "young team," with several of its members never having played competitively before, and a few of them new to the game altogether. Besides Finisdore, Cleveland and Hollenbeck, the team includes sophomore Linda Halli-

day (top seed and also captain of the volleyball team), freshman Emily Horowitz, who has been plagued by injuries this season, and returning senior Robin Sweeny. Junior Randi Israelow practices with the team daily, but is unfortunately unable to play competitively because of her status as a transfer student. Freshman Gracie Nicholson has just learned to play this year, but is said to be progressing excellently. According to Berry, "if they all stick at it, were going to have a really good team in a couple of years".

Perhaps the brightest spot this season has been doubles play, where the teams of Halliday-Cleveland and Finisdore-Hollenbeck have performed quite impressively. Halliday-Cleveland even have a chance at making it to the nationals this year, although "the next few matches will tell". If they don't make it, it will not be from lack of effort. Everyone has worked hard this year, Berry said. Enunciating the basic team philosophy, Berry said, "winning is nice and we all want to win, but winning isn't everything, as long as the players get something out of it and enjoy the sport, that's what's important".

To the Leonard gang - color any tapes lately? - Kristina

Saxophone, Senior Dave? Curly black hair....I wish I knew ya!

There is no greater sorrow than to be mindful of the happy time in misery. - Dante

Editorials

Sysco Must Go

Things go from bad to worse according to the old adage. It is an expression which, unfortunately, seems to fit the college food service. Such an assertion is no doubt incredible to those who have been spared, either through graduation or non-resident status, this fall's meal plan. To those on the plan who recall the old days of just last semester, the poor service and mediocre food seems a suddenly pleasant memory. Everyone was so cocky, making jokes about the food and often believing it the worst of all possible worlds. They were wrong.

This summer, T.J. McDermott, which holds the food service contract with the college, was bought out by a larger firm, Daga Incorporated. The first act of the new management was almost universally praised, the switch in soft drinks from Pepsi to the more popular and politically stomachable Coke. Unfortunately, that was not the only changeover. Under the new management, all prepared goods from ketchup and mayonnaise to hamburgers and meatballs must be bought from the Sysco Corporation. We're sorry, but as far as we're concerned, Sysco's products are substandard, and if they don't like us saying so, they or their lawyers can give us a call. One wonders if the potatoes are Sysco, being, as they are, served as an entree almost every other day.

Of course, if one is very lucky, one won't be able to make it to the meal until halfway through, by which time service will be out of "food." If one does make it in before they run out of "food," one is then confronted with an extra-special long line, the result of there being only one serving station open. If someone doesn't wish to wait on line, they could always just get a salad or drink and sit down and wait. They could, that is, except that the salad bar is barren, the beverage machines empty and both areas unmanned. Said one student now serving in the reserves, "We get treated better in the fucking army!"

Donald Bennett, the food service manager, says that the problems in service are caused by understaffing. They just can't get anybody to work for them. What he really means is that they can't get anybody to work for them at current salary. To raise wages would make the contract unprofitable for them. In other words, T.J.'s (or Daga, or whoever they are) can't handle the contract.

The response of the management has, for the most part been "let them eat cake, we have a contract." An example of this attitude was furnished recently. The service had, once again, run out of food. Donald's secretary said that there would be more food in "about ten minutes." Ten minutes later they closed the line. When this was brought to Donald's attention he replied, "To be honest, I just don't care."

There is only one way to reply to this attitude and solve this year's food problems: complete cancellation of the T.J. McDermott contract.

Major Nelson

On his first day on campus, Steven Nelson was officially informed that the student body had voted to file a class action civil suit against the college regarding the housing crises. In short order he had to deal with a civil disobedience action, a student protest against the planned conversion of Sottery Hall into a library annex, several confrontations between students and security officers about party registration, and hardest of all, the death of a student. Then the second week started.

It has been a rough start for the new Dean of Students, a true baptism of fire, if you will pardon the cliché. That fact makes his performance all the more exhilarating. It may still be too early to pass final judgment, but Mr. Nelson's efforts so far have been outstanding. In his few short weeks here, the new Dean had already had great success reforming party regulations and has taken several steps toward reform of alcohol regulations. He showed great sensitivity in the difficult and painful task of handling the tragic death of Neil Wells. Thanks to his efforts, Sottery Hall will remain a student space at least until the end of the semester and probably until the end of the year. Indeed, it is possible that Sottery will remain available through the opening of the new Student Center. Dean Nelson is perhaps the only major administrator to come out of the Olin controversy with his honor intact and while negotiations are continuing on the housing lawsuit, he has shown an unwavering commitment toward making conditions in the overcrowded dorms as bearable as possible.

Perhaps what is most shocking and refreshing about Mr. Nelson is his attitude. Problems are dealt with on a substantive basis rather than, as so often was the case in the past, as public relations difficulties. The new Dean's candor is winning him converts as well as the respect of the unconverted. Unlike many members of the administration, Mr. Nelson does not seem to see the student body as the opposition or regard them with the self-righteous condescension of one who knows what is best. Said one student after dealing with the new Dean, "We could have avoided a lot of trouble for everyone if the administration had just played it straight, like this, with us from the start."

As we said, it may still be too early to tell; Mr. Nelson's luster, or faith, or effectiveness may yet fail. The new Dean himself expresses the hope that people "don't have me walking on water." Nevertheless, Mr. Nelson has so far remained true to what he says is one of his guiding principles. In August, at a time when Mr. Nelson had been offered the position but had not yet agreed to take it, he met with the Peer Counselors and asked what they most wanted from their Dean. The response came in a single sentence, "Walk down the hill." At least for now Mr.

Opinion Contradiction

by Scott L. Licamele

Frequently, foreign policy goals are understood purely on a superficial level. The lingering problem of U.S. support for the Contras has flustered individuals around the world. This piece will not discuss the issues of morality and human rights pertaining to the Contras, but rather, some economic aspects of U.S. foreign policy goals. It is possible to see the Contra issue not as an incidental battle against a Marxist nation, but rather, as economic manipulation by the U.S. and the Soviet Union. If one can understand this manipulation, then some light may be shed on the true motives of U.S. foreign policy goals.

In my opinion, the ultimate goals of U.S. foreign policy towards Nicaragua are very different from commonly held beliefs. The Reagan administration has repeatedly explained of one day helping the freedom-fighters reinstitute a democratic government. Most individuals would agree that this goal is virtually impossible in the near future. What is absolutely possible, though, is a foreign policy that hinders the economic stability of a third world nation which in turn threatens the economic and geopolitical development of Central America.

The economic deterioration of Latin American nations over the past decade has frightened many economists. With the default of various "southern" nations on American bank loans, the possibility of Marxist revolution has become a prevalent fear within certain political and investment circles. Coupled with the possibility of revolution are the powerful and influential actions of Cuba. Castro himself has

repeatedly chanted the Marxist doctrine of export revolution, specifically, Latin American nations. He has acted on its leaders' words and budgeted vast amounts of Soviet subsidized materials to Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala, to mention a few. The mere fact that the Soviet Union is exercising economic aggression in the U.S. sphere of influence (its present relations with Nicaragua) can only justify economic retaliation on the part of United States. It is a fact that economic hegemony dictates the state of affairs, and U.S. foreign (economic) policy is only securing its national interests by carrying out support for the Contras.

I believe that the ultimate goals of foreign policy to Nicaragua are as follows: (1) to impede the economic development of Nicaragua (2) to force the Nicaraguan government to budget vast sums to national defense (3) to deteriorate the nationalistic support for the junta government (4) to prove to the Soviets that Nicaragua will not become another Cuba without extensive budgetary losses.

In many aspects, these goals have been achieved. The junta government must spend a large sum of its annual budget on defense to prepare for the "upcoming American invasion". This destructive maldistribution of government funds impedes the economic equilibrium of Nicaragua. It is this lack of economic stability that persuades the Soviet Union to constantly reconsider its role in Nicaragua (i.e. the reduction of 200,000 barrels of oil to Nicaragua last year). Ultimately, economic manipulation of certain regions is a vital aspect of U.S. foreign policy if the United States is to preserve the political status quo of Latin America.

Nelson seems willing to make that trip, and although it may be just a short journey, the student body had been waiting for someone to make it for a long, long time.

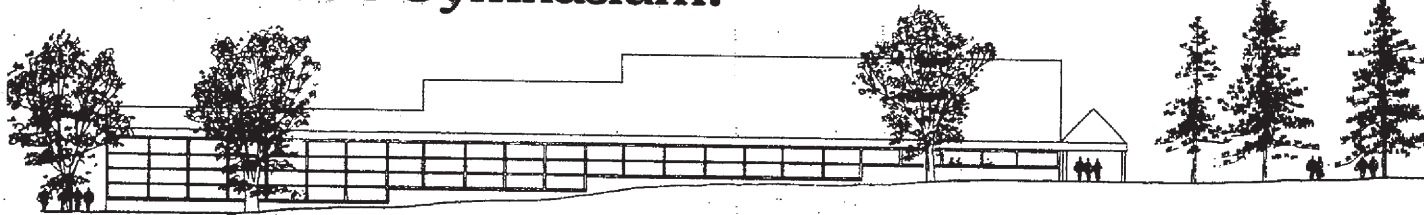
Housing Again

Much has been said and will be said about the current housing crisis and its effects. Rather than rehash well-known and widely circulated grievances we would like to mention an unsung victim of this crisis: Activities. Activities refer to clubs, films, bands, publications, and all other sorts of non-academic and/or recreational pursuits.

Two years ago the student body strongly protested when the positions of Assistant Dean of Students for Activities and Director of Housing. It was maintained by the students that housing was a full-time job in itself. One thing has become clear in the housing crisis, quite aside from the issues of administrative mismanagement and duplicity is that the students had indeed been right about the job of Director of Housing. Whatever one thinks of Ms. Kuriger (and this editorial does not intend to slight her) it is clear that there is simply too much work for one person to handle both housing and activities. Since housing is the more basic and urgent of the tasks, it occupies all of the available time, leaving activities floundering. This problem has become acute with this fall's difficulties, but would and did exist in any event. In addition to what under optimum conditions would be an unmanageable workload, the position of Assistant Dean for Housing and Activities is saddled with the basic contradictions of its functions. A Director of Housing must make hard, often unpopular, decisions. An Activities Coordinator must have a sense of fellowship and trust with the student body. No one person could successfully perform both charges of such a schizophrenic position, particularly not in a community as small as Bard.

The solution to this unworkable situation is obvious. The positions of Housing Director and Activities Coordinator must be separated.

The Stevenson Gymnasium:



Elevation of the new Charles P. Stevenson Gymnasium.

New Gymnasium

by Peter Stone

Along with the three other major building projects on campus, there will be a new athletic facility rising to the southwest of the tennis courts sometime in the near future. Bard Trustee, Charles P. Stevenson, Jr. made this new athletic facility, which will be named after him, a gift to the school.

Charles Porter Stevenson, Jr. grew up in Buffalo, New York and attended St. Paul's School in Concord, N.H. He graduated from Yale college, magna cum laude in 1969 with a B.A. in English. He is now the President of the Stevenson Capital Management Corporation in New York which handles diversified financial services. He is also the president of Capcor, Inc.

Charles Stevenson is concerned about the future of the college and feels that the new program will help almost as much as the facility itself. "Many schools have first-rate athletic facilities, but they don't have programs that involve the whole student body," he said. Stevenson hopes that the new gym will help get more students involved with sports.

The architect for the Stevenson Gymnasium is John Copelin, of William A. Hall Partnership, who has designed other recreational facilities. Most recently, he designed a new gymnasium at Hollins College in Virginia. "The gymnasium is often the repository of a school's spirit, and the building ought to reflect that," says Copelin. To this end, the new gym will be constructed of a white stucco material that is similar to the material used in the Milton and Sally Avery Center for the Arts. A horizontal red stripe will run along the corners and edges. "A glass-enclosed two-story spine opening onto the woods runs down the entire south facade of the building," Copelin says.

President Botstein sees the new gym as a way to set the college apart from the rest of American colleges. He feels that there is too much commercialism in American Sports and the new athletic program will help take Bard away from this. The new program will not focus on varsity sports, but an attempt to involve more students in sports. President Botstein wants to keep genuine amateurism alive and the new athletic program is a means to that end.

The gym will have enough space to play two basketball games at the same time and will have volleyball and badminton courts as well. There will be a six-lane competition length pool with one and three meter boards; four glass squash courts and a weight center with extensive Nautilus equipment. In the weight room, there will also be stationary bicycles and other exercise machines. Locker rooms, showers and saunas will also be available.

Seating for games and other events will be provided through bleachers in front of the basketball courts and another set facing the pool. The new gym seems to be an attempt to get people to watch sports if they don't want to play. With Bard's track record of involvement in the past, the new gym may have to be very impressive to inspire students. "We must build a facility that will excite people and attract them to come down there," says Copelin about the location of the gym. In the past, Copelin has designed facilities that are close to the center of the campus. With Bard, he didn't have to worry about the gym's design fitting into the surrounding architecture.

The community surrounding Bard will be invited to use the new facility in the new program. The new gym will be the most modern and fully equipped athletic facility in Northern Dutchess County. It will take approximately nine months to finish and the projected completion date of the building is August of 1988.

The community surrounding Bard will be invited to use the new facility in the new program. The new gym will be the most modern and fully equipped athletic facility in Northern Dutchess County. It will take approximately nine months to finish and the projected completion date of the building is August of 1988.

Oja — Cont.

Continued from page 3

ring, students in a given program will have all had similar educational backgrounds, allowing the course to begin at a more advanced level and thus enhancing learning. In addition, Upper College courses could all be cross-majorial within programs, allowing a larger selection of available courses.

Faculty would know in advance the number of students in the program and could plan the number of courses for various levels accordingly. As a result, numbers of courses offered would tend to reflect the quantity of student interest as opposed to professors'.

Professor Oja remarked, "In a sense this would increase graduation requirements but give someone the option of which requirements to choose." This merging of departments, whether done within the divisions or throughout the college, would merely combine similar aspects of subjects. Decreasing intradepartmental specialization would contribute to a broader liberal arts education within the programs and increase the educational level for specific courses.

Tennis Anyone?

The Bard College men's varsity tennis team, coached by Joel Thomson, finished the 1987 season with a match record of 4 wins and 5 losses. Scott Dalton remained undefeated in singles play with an impressive 8-0 record acquired with a mixture of play at the two top seeds. Sharing the top two seeds with Dalton, Dave Phillips ended the year with a 3-5 record. Playing as the number one doubles team, Dalton and D. Phillips slated a 6-2 in the record books. Scott Clay (3) ended the season 4-4. Carl Berry (4) showed a 2-6 record, James Millerick (5) a 2-3 record and Trevor Rivera (6) a 3-5 record. Unseeded players included Chris Driver (1-2), Joel Stoeffler, Greg Phillips, Rick Lemley and, on occasion, L.J. Goldstein.

Bard captured the NAIA District 31 championship this year under the leadership of Dalton and D. Phillips. The pair won the men's doubles championship and battled each other for the singles crown - Dalton emerging the victor. As a reward for their fine play, the two made a trip to Kansas City in May for the NAIA National Tennis Championship. Although both were eliminated in the first round, Phillips losing a hard fought match to Tom Byrne of the Northwood Institute in Michigan, 6-4, 7-5, and Dalton falling to Kevin Johnson of Southwest Baptist U., Texas, 6-1, 6-1, they played very well and made a quite a respectable showing. In doubles play, Phillips and Dalton were again frustrated, losing to Northwood's team of

Northern Dutchess

by Jonathan Korzen

A cut lip in need of stitches, gave me the opportunity to watch the medical staff of Northern Dutchess Hospital emergency room in action. I was fortunate enough to be an observer. Bard student Sasha Noe was the patient. After being examined and "prepped" by an intern we waited twenty minutes while the proper forms were filled out. The doctor who was to do the stitching arrived and took off his jacket. His stethoscope fell to the floor. I did not know whether to laugh or grab Sasha by the hand and run. I settled on suppressing my laughter, which was no easy task. I did not want to be asked to leave, thinking that Sasha might want an eyewitness sometime in the future. The doctor proceeded to examine the wound and prepare a shot of novocain. When he tested the flow of pain killer through the needle, the position of the needle caused novocain to fall on Sasha's cheek and mouth. The doctor was not aware of what he had done. It was too late to grab Sasha and make a dash for the door, so I had to sit in my chair quietly and wonder what was going to happen next.

As the doctor was about to insert the needle, the intern commented on the type of material the doctor's glasses were made of. A discussion ensued. The doctor lowered the needle to Sasha's cut after each time he spoke to the intern, only to raise it again without making the injection. This was due to his having to answer the intern on each point of their discussion. I will always remember

the pained expression on Sasha's face, huge eyes and split lip following the needle back and forth. Throughout this entire episode, the intern repeatedly made comments about the doctor's procedure, such as, "Oh, I see that you are using dissolving thread," to which the doctor replied, "No, as you should know, this is nylon, and it does not dissolve." He made about four such errors.

At this point the nurse came into the room and told the doctor that Mrs. White was on the phone. The doctor said, "Oh good -- be tactful, tell her that the diagnosis has been reevaluated -- that's it, reevaluated, and that she must not follow the prescription that she has, but will have to come tomorrow for a different prescription." The sewing of Sasha's lip finally began, and all went smoothly from then on. The last thing that should be mentioned was that when the intern, saw the doctor's work he said, "Good work, indeed."

What seemed indecent in the attitude of the intern, a kind of "patting on the rear and between peers" and the monopoly that the medical industry has in general in situations like this. What else could Sasha have done but go to a place where the doctor is a veritable butterfly-fingers regarding his stethoscope, the intern has a habit of continually confusing the facts, and as a team they give improper prescriptions? This experience taught me one thing which might prove to be very valuable: if being whisked to the hospital, one thing, my last dying breath, will be: "Kingston, promise me we are going to Kingston!"

The Bard Observer

Established 1895

Editor-in-Chief
Cormac Flynn

Managing Editors
Michael Damato
Michele Norris
Peter Stone

Photography Editors
Duccio Donati
Cathryn Mangiamale

Classifieds Editor
Lisa Perles

Music Editor
Jonathan Velsey

Staff
Angela Alexander
Lisa Bornstein
Colleen Brondou
Kristina Bullock
Morgan Cleveland
Ana Corey
Duccio Donati
Tabitha Fronk
L.J. Goldstein
Stephanie Gwinn
John Haberman
Matt Hill
Nick Katz
Jessica Klein
Jonathan Korzen
Jessica Kysiak
Scott Licamele
Greg Lipton
Cathryn Mangiamale
Lynda Maurice
Keith Moorman
Kathleen Morgo
Mike Pignatella
Patie Reilly
Liz Rosenberg
Ray Rosenberger
Kari Rydju
Blake Schulman
Ges Selmont
Ken Simon
David Singband
Joseph Sisk
Jason Szep
Jan Tofferi
Jonathan Winsor
Josh Wolff