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OBSERVER

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The Bard Observer

MAY 11, 1988

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SPECIAL CONTINUATION FROM ISSUE SEVEN

Committee or Committed?

We would like to raise a question here. If people want more recent and commercial films, and these cost much more than older and non-commercial films, then maybe we should replace the Film Committee with a Video Committee which could be in charge of renting popular films and could show them in a big video screen. This might not be a better alternative but at least it will be cheaper and some of the money that is being used in the present system could be spent elsewhere. We see many problems with this idea. While it would enable us to screen movies such as Top Gun and Beverly Hills Cop 3: Jason Meets Freddie, we might end up giving short shrift to foreign films, independent films, and lesser-known classics of cinema. In addition, video is simply not as good as film. The experience and the image quality are just not the same. In any case, the films that we present are a good alternative to the type of films which one can see at local theaters. One look at the marquis de Sade at the mall makes this apparent. You will never see outrageous independent films like Desperate Living, or old favorites like take the money and run, or excellent foreign films like Pixote and The Conformist at the mall.

Now, back to where we were. Once you submit your budget to the Planning Committee and they give you money, then you make adjustments by changing some films. Then you arrange, schedule, and order them by phone. Usually you can get a good deal when ordering a good number of films from the same company. After that, a written confirmation is required by these companies. Once that's settled, a

schedule has to be written, sent to Central Services and distributed.

The activities performed by both members are usually:

Choosing the films--this can be fun but also mind-boggling because there are lots of films and you may feel like a kid at a candy store but you can't get many of the films you want because there are only so many films you can show, then you have to keep in mind the criteria of quality and variety (although sometimes that can be cheated), but most of all you have to compromise with the partner, and take the requests of other students into account.

Writing the budget and the schedule. The schedule is usually fun to do.

Hiring projectionists and getting them to show up on time, or projecting ourselves when they don't show up at all (This involves one member of the committee being present at every show). Also, since there is no permanent set-up in Sottery, we have to be there getting the projectors and our little speaker ready for the shows (Yes, the sound is bad, the projection too, but we all know that!) We also have to deal with any technical emergencies that may arise (like Sottery after a party--that's the hardest one, a projector breaking down, sound problems, etc.) which we have to solve quickly. We also have to deal with people who criticize us and complain about our selection of films when they never go to see any of them. We have ways of dealing with these folks that won't be discussed here. Let's just say we've got a little deal with the food service people...

Then, the work splits in two. One person takes care of dealing with the distributors. This person has to call them, get a good deal, order the films, write and send confirmations, talk to them when a film is late or when

they didn't get the film back, etc. This person also receives the films when they are mailed to us. This person is also in charge of paying the bills, the projectionists' salaries, other expenses, and keeping track of the budget.

The other person makes the fliers and posters and is in charge of advertising the films in the Bi-Weekly calendar and other sources. Last semester we miscalculated and didn't send enough schedules to everyone. This semester, though, we are getting better and the fliers do actually tell more about the film than just the title. (A personal note from Francisco here - "Believe it or not it takes a lot of time and work to make those fliers and they are posted around for a purpose besides covering the walls. Please don't destroy or remove my pretty fliers before the films are shown! Afterwards, they are yours to do with as you will!") This person also makes sure the technical aspects are working fine and sends the films back after the showdates.

Now, passing on to a kind of report prepared from last semester's questionnaire:

36 people liked last semester's selection of films while 7 wanted us kicked out of the Film Committee.

68 people would go to an "American Classic" while 9 wouldn't.

71 would go to a foreign film while 9 wouldn't.

John Waters got 23 votes in favor, 5 against, 36 would give it a try and 13 didn't know. We wonder what answers we would get if we asked the same question again. In any case, about 120 people, in total, attended the film. About half and half for each show.

We feel that we've improved our advertising campaign although the general lack of attendance makes us wonder.

John Lepp was approved by 39 while 19 opposed him. 12 were indecisive. By the way, a personal apology from Francisco to John for misspelling his last name as Lapp. Sorry John!

Sound, projection and punctuality... we know about that.

Concerning the alternative projection space: 23 wanted Olin and 22 Preston while 15 said Sottery is just fine. A few people made a few "unrealistic" (sometimes close to stupid) suggestions. The fact is that after showing Danton in Olin we came to the conclusion that the Olin auditorium is a terrible place for showing films. It is too impersonal, too cold. Also, the acoustics are lousy and the sound system is the worst, although the equipment there is gorgeous. The art history room, on the other hand, is too small. The only other place which is suitable for showing films is Preston, precisely because that's what it was made for. It's comfortable and well equipped. It is the ideal place to show small and serious films and films in Cinemascope (ha!). But you will have to convince Adolfas to let us use it on a regular basis. Anyway, Sottery is still the place of excellence for "party" films (that is, before the actual parties take place because after Saturday night the place becomes a disgusting mess). This is so because people can drink, eat, smoke or do whatever they want with cucumbers during a film. It's also good for big crowds which we wish we had more of. We had a plan of showing "fun" films on Fridays in Sottery and "serious" films on Sundays in Preston. Unfortunately that is not possible at the moment and who knows what's going to happen once the new Student Center opens, whenever it may be.

As to the suggestions for films, there were a lot and a very disparate lot. Be it enough to say that the most popular ones were included in this semester's selection of

films. Believe us. By the way, now that we are at it, you can start sending your suggestions for next semester's films to box 321 or 950. But do it before May 10 so there is enough time to choose the films taking your suggestions into consideration. If we don't get reelected (Ha! Perish the thought), we will forward any suggestions we get (for films and uses of cucumbers) to the new Film Committee. They might not be as responsive as we were, but that would be your tough luck, now wouldn't it?

Finally, to conclude this long, long article, a few words. Being part of the film committee means a lot of work, many frustrations and disappointments, many conflicts and criticisms, headaches and anxieties, and a few good moments. It's a dirty, low-paid job (just \$100.00 per semester for each person) and the satisfactions are few but, as they say, someone's got to do it. You may wonder why would anyone want to do it? We can answer with the immortal line said by Clint Eastwood in the classic Dirty Harry: "I don't know, I really don't". Anyway, if you want to run for the position let us give you a couple of tips: be ready to fight for it, even to kill if necessary, get a responsible, hard-working partner who loves good movies, get to know people in the film department (especially Adolfas), find yourself a bunch of androids to project the films for you, and get ready to ask for a raise. If you win, then we'll see you guys worrying, posting fliers, and carrying projectors and film cases around. Ha, ha, ha...but first, you've got to ask yourself one question. "Do I feel lucky?" Well, do you...punk?

The "Peoples"
Film Committee

Observer Classifieds

THE BEST OF THE CLASSIFIEDS
1983-1987

Dear Manly-hands, We appreciate your masculine dexterity with our dishes. Keep up the scrub work!

ARE YOU OVER SIX FEET TALL, well-built, alert, keen, with a smart mind, a good education and think you deserve a better chance in the world today? Cocky little bugger, aren't you?

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.

If u cn rd ths thn y're prbly th btch who chrgd me tn bcks t typ my trm ppr.

Wanted: college-age females to help with women's studies sr. project. No experience necessary. Wear loose clothing. Right?

Butch and Spike: noticed your ad in the bathroom. I am the exotic animal trainer from Morocco and will supply the circus animal of your choice; sorry, no boos, but plenty of good ostriches. Ointments extra. Raphael, 206 Tewks.

To the evil yellow fungus that broke the side mirror off my Toyota. Come talk to me. You don't have to pay for it, I just want to stomp on your face a little. — T. Scott.

To the injured player on the soccer team: Two is company but three's a crowd.... Forget it! From your red and pink dream girls.

To those two geeks who go on the geek bus all the time — I love you — G.

JS. It's a matter of time. Soon you will be consumed by passion, enveloped in its depths. You will have no time to even glance at the classifieds. T.B.

Snookums love Sweetums lots, Wahoo!
FOR SALE: "The Essence of Decombolondopostnovistica-tionalism" by Max Scaffil. \$5.00. Write to box 8008.

Who writes this crap? — The Typesetter.

Can I get my Bard Weekly precrumpled for easier disposal?

Hey, Dave. Getting any?

Not until you come back, Pete.

Swedish Art History Major not exceptionally interested in homesick Art History Major. Look elsewhere!

Blonde in Physiological Psychology: Please stop sucking on your pen, it distracts me.

An hour and a half... oh my, are you a god or just a biological mutation?

WANTED: Live-in House Pet. Pref. 6'2", broad shouldered, male, neutered, nice teeth, expensive to keep, and well-dressed. Available for specific duties, on call. Salary determined by experience. Call Wanda, ext. 310.

