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Computerized Registration

by Robin Cook

Bard College is considering making a significant change in the course registration process. According to the Registrar, Anns Wilson, the administration is thinking of adding a new computer system, which would eliminate much of the confusion of registration.

Under the new system, registration would proceed as follows: Students would still go to individual professors' offices to register, but after they had received their full course schedules, they would go to a computer terminal.

There, a computer operator would enter the student's course list into the computer, which would indicate any schedule conflict and whether or not a course was closed. Wilson hopes that the computer would be able to set up waiting lists for some classes.

Deans Meet Students

by Valerie Scinto

On Wednesday, Feb. 15, Deans Steve Nelson and Stuart Levine met with students for the first time to hear their concerns. Topics raised included the number of campus phones and their locations, especially in Robbins. Dean Nelson said that the administration had looked into this, although changes are still being considered.

The question of a new library or an addition to the present one was discussed. The deans verified that the plan is to have an addition on to the north wing. However, delays are being caused by architectural competition and by insufficient funding.

A new house for student residents in sculpture and continued on page 10

Controversial Hiss Chair

by Emily Horowitz

In the January edition of National Review, as well as in his nationally syndicated column, William Buckley stated that having an Alger Hiss Professor of Sociology is the equivalent of having an Adolf Hitler Professor of Linguistics.

Joel Kovel is the Algier Hiss Professor of Social Sciences at Bard. Why does Bard College have a Professorship named for someone who was convicted of perjury? According to Joel Kovel, the Hiss case is still not closed in the minds of many, and has always been controversial.

Alger Hiss was a New Deal bureaucrat who was accused by Whittaker Chambers, a confessed Communist and spy. He died in 1975.

He confronted the HUAC (House Committee on Un-American Activities), which Richard Nixon was a member. Nixon made the case his own, and finally came up with enough evidence to bring Hiss to trial. In 1950, Hiss was convicted for perjury by a unanimous jury and sentenced to five years in prison.

Whether or not Hiss was innocent was not what made the case so important. David Caute, in The Great Fear: The Anti-Communist Purge Under Truman and Eisenhower, points out that "the Hiss case was the cause celebre of the post-war anti-Communist crusade, and in addition, that, "he became a totem pole for a deeply divided liberal movement obviously guilty not only to conservatives but also to Cold War liberals, obviously innocent, the victim of a frame-up, to almost all who deplored the purge."

Alger Hiss is alive today, and continues to insist that he is innocent. Although the question of Hiss's guilt or innocence, is important, he is also important as a symbol.

Joel Kovel feels that the case was "a watershed in American political history—the first major attack by an emerging anti-Communist thrust at the beginnings of the Cold War and was a largely successful effort on the part of right-wing America to crush progressive movements and to prepare the way for the militarization of... continued on page 11

Acting Director

Lilla Wilson

by Lisa DeTora

The Career Development Office is an important part of the campus for many Bard students. When Susan Hart left her post as Director of Career Development, no one had been officially hired to fill the post.

Until the hiring committee finds a permanent replacement for Susan Hart in the Career Development Office, this post will be filled by Lilla Wilson, the acting director. Wilson is being considered as the permanent director for the Career Development Office.

She enjoys helping the students at Bard in any way she can. One reason for this is that her sons, Douglas and Greg Brownstone, both graduated in the early '70s. At this rate, although she has never before worked at Bard, Wilson is continued on page 11

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B & G Gets Contract

by Jim Trainor

Last month Bard College and SEIU, local 200-D, the union representing the building and grounds employees, signed a contract after six months of negotiations. This contract, which is effective for the three-year period between July 1993 and July 1996, marks a first in the history of the Bard Community, which has never before had a union presence on its campus.

All of the people involved in the negotiations have expressed satisfaction with the contract, although they also admit that they would have liked to have fulfilled more of their original demands and positions. However, they understand that such expectations are unrealistic.

Chris Townsend, the representative of local 200-D, said the settlement was "a good contract" and is "above average when compared to similar agreements elsewhere."

Peter Gibson, the college controller, who was Bard's chief negotiator and is the union's spokesperson, characterized it as "a fair and equitable agreement that will provide for a good working agreement."

Fred Hillius, a B&B electrician and the chief shop steward, said that he had heard no complaints from the rank and file about the contract itself and personally feels that it is a "pretty good deal."

However, several employees were paid what was owed them before Christmas, according to the office of the controller.

Union members will also be establishing a credit union which will allow many of them to obtain credit which was previously unavailable. The contract also promises improved promotion opportunities and improved protection of workers rights through the grievance process.

The new contract should have no significant impact on the tuition costs for students. According to Gibson, the economic portion of the settlement did not differ very much from a spending plan that the college began developing one year before the negotiations started in July.

However, according to Townsend, the college can expect to see some improvements in the functioning of B&B due to improved morale among the workers, and their closer relationship with B&B and the union, as well as a lack of workers from the involvement of students in the latter stages of the negotiations.

However, stability of the contract is such that the union still feels that they are not yet accepted by the college and that a trust relationship has yet to be formed between them and the college and that their relationship has not improved. In a statement to The Observer, Townsend said, "I am disappointed in the college's attitude towards the union" due to problems involving the handling of certain grievances.

The college's opinion of their relationship with the union was characterized by Gibson as being "businesslike." He said that, in putting the grievance process into effect, the union and Bard were in a situation similar to the beginning of the contract negotiations and that both sides were still "testing the waters, though maybe a little more than they needed."

On March 1, the representatives of the union and the college will meet with a member of the National Labor Relations Board in a labor-management meeting which will center on a general review of the issues and concerns of both sides. Townsend said that he expects to hold similar meetings about every two months. According to Gibson the college is willing to meet as often as necessary so long as there is an agenda to discuss.

Amnesty International Returns to Bard

by Chris Wise

Amnesty International (AI), the worldwide movement for the protection of human rights, now has a chapter at Bard. Amnesty International has three primary goals:

- it seeks the release of prisoners of conscience. These are people detained for their beliefs, color, sex, ethnic origin, language or religion who have not used or advocated violence;
- it works for fair and prompt trials for all political prisoners;
- it opposes the death penalty and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment of all prisoners without reservation. (AI Report, 1988)

The chapter provides issues to the community. AI focuses on publicizing human rights violations through articles, petitions, and letters. Exposing governmental abuses has been effective in achieving the release of prisoners of conscience and in stopping torture. In addition to these actions, the chapter plans to invite speakers to campus to address related issues.

At Bard is run by consensus; it is your organization. Students now have a way to act on their beliefs and, together with the over 700,000 members of Amnesty International, to have a significant impact on the world. Meetings are Tuesdays at 6:30 in the Committee Room in Kline.

Semi-formal

by Kristen Hutchinson

The semi-formal at Manoe on February 11, first in a series of events sponsored by the BSO for Black History Month, was a huge success. Vital to that success was the music, provided by the band WaaDaal and the Ethiopian Warriors. Brought to Bard by Professor Leo Smith, band member and Bard music professor, the band was able to give the partiers just what they wanted. They played a lively combination of reggae, jazz, and funk that defines definition in its originality.

But the dancing wasn't there to define and the beat moved their feet, though there was hardly enough room to dance. Many students were barely recognizable in their creative disguises: suits, ties, high heels (and rarely found on the same person).

Unfortunately, the band only played two sets. When they left the DJ was put on, but rap could not breathe the same fresh life into the smoke filled room. As the excitement of the evening wore thin, so did the crowd.

Hopefully, we will be able to convince Smith and his Warriors to visit again and stay longer next time.
Field School Presentation

by Chris Lindner
The Anthropology Department and Soc/Anth Club will offer a media presentation and interest meeting about the Bard Archaeological Field School on Tuesday, February 28 at 5:30 in Olin 307.

This student event will start with the premiere of a videotape about the summer '88 Archaeology Field School by film major Brenda Austin. Then Professor Chris Lindner will show slides and talk about his research on the ways in which floods impact archaeological sites. There will be time for questions about the project and how people can become involved.

This coming summer, June 5th through July 29th, the Bard Archaeological Field School (BAFS) will explore two locations. For the first three weeks, the new crew will learn how to prospect for colonial and prehistoric sites only a few miles from the college.

In the last five weeks excavation will delve further into an Indian site on Schoharie Creek, two hours Northwest of Amardale. Test digging there last summer suggests a settlement 2,500 years ago, that included a workshop for the production of ceremonial jewelry.

The field school group camps in spartan two-person tents, cooks great meals, and swims in beautiful nearby streams. The cost is $1,300 for six credits ($1050 tuition, $350 residential, food, transportation, and equipment fees).

Apply before April 8th by letter to the Director, Professor Chris Lindner (Aspinwall 207, Ext. 2185).


New Publication Planned

by Nina DiNatale
A new publication is in the works, "Private Language" will seek to represent strong student and faculty work not only from Bard, but from other colleges and universities as well. It is an effort the editors hope will foster new literary and artistic awareness as well as produce a publication contributors can take pride in.

One issue will be published this semester. It is another one of fiction, poetry, personal essays, creative non-fiction, articles, and art work. Submissions will be judged in a manner that will eliminate as much chance of personal bias as possible, e.g. the editorial board will not be aware of the identity of the artist/author until all selections are made.

If funding becomes available, "Private Language" will be professionally printed and distributed to other colleges besides Bard, as well as locations in New York City.

The editor-in-chief, Liz Klein, and the editors: Daphne Gottlieb, Corin Red, Dave Ross, Jan Wimber, and Jesse Abbott, feel "Private Language" will be an opportunity for student writing to be taken seriously. To this end, they are contacting professional writers for contributions; their list includes Altena J. Grinter and Harry McCarthy.

"Private Language" will appear before the end of the semester. Please send submissions before April 1st, to "Private Language," Box 785.

LASO Events

by Ana Checco
This semester our Latin American Student Organization is planning a wide scope of events. One such event is PROBES, which is a travelling theater group that will do a skit about AIDS. Other events include a speaker on the topic Women and Latin America, Latin Night with a DJ, and several co-sponsorships. LASO is also planning to go see a play, La Casa De Bernarda Alba. Every one is welcome to go see the play, but I must mention that it is in Spanish. If you are interested in going, contact Ana Checco.

LASO meetings are on Tuesday 6-7:00 in the College room. All are welcome.

Forum

by Amara Wiltie
Something happened on the way to the Forum, but very little happened once we got there. The budget was voted down and sent back to committee.

Two members of the Planning Committee resigned and were replaced by Cormac Flynn and Helena D'Arms.

Jeni Klein was unanimously elected to fill the empty L & L position on the SFC.
Editorials

You all may have noticed that the size of the pages you are now reading is smaller than that of last semester. Our printer decided to change the size of their paper and thus the size of the layout flats (causing much surprise and confusion on the day of layout for the last issue). However, things are now under control and looking very positive for the upcoming semester.

I'm really pleased to see how many people are getting involved with the paper; interest in writing and in the production of the paper has grown by leaps and bounds.

Some students and faculty have simply sent submissions to The Observer in the last week. This is great! I want to encourage all of you to submit any article, cartoon, photograph, or idea to The Observer for consideration. This is after all your paper. My job is to organize the technical end of things, make sure everything runs smoothly, see that articles make sense. It isn't my job to write the paper; it's yours.

The Observer is willing to consider any contribution from any member of the Bard community. That means that any student, professor, staff member, or alumnus can make submissions.

Also, I hope all of you fill out the survey on this page. I'm not a professional newspaper editor; I can always learn from other people's ideas. Besides all you have to do is scratch a few answers (the more legibly, the better—hint, hint) cut out part of a page, and go to the post office (which you all do every day anyway). I have to read them all.

History Of Smoking

by Cormac Flynn

On the second day of this semester, Dean Levine did a surprising thing; he asked the student leadership to consult with him on the possibility of designating Preston Hall as a non-smoking area.

What was surprising about this was not the proposal itself, which has been rumored for over a year, students think. As with most events, this occasion can only be fully appreciated in its historical context. So, for the benefit of those too many who spend their years obliviously in a glassy-eyed academic haze, a brief recounting is in order.

On the twenty-fourth of September, 1985, Dean Levine issued a memorandum. The memorandum laid out, in four pages, a new set of sweeping campus-wide smoking regulations which impacted virtually every campus activity and every faculty except the dormitories and faculty housing.

The Dean's memo had hardly arrived in everyone's mailboxes when the reaction began. Whatever the various merits and demerits of the proposals, the Dean had clearly far exceeded his legitimate authority.

Faculty and students alike responded swiftly and furiously to the attempt to impose rules and dictate behavior without seeking counsel, let alone the assent of the community.

On October 2, the Dean met with the Central Committee. It was agreed that the authority to ban smoking in classes rested with the faculty, and that they be deferred to in that matter. They later insulated a ban.

It was also agreed that the Bard College Center for Health had authority to make such rules for the events it sponsored. It also passed a ban. Public gatherings, lectures, parties, or concerts sponsored by student clubs or groups were the responsibility of the sponsor (such bans are rarely exercised by student groups).

Birth Control Options

by Laura Gilotti

This month the FDA announced that although the risk for women on birth control pills of developing breast cancer was not as great as once assumed, the risk for women on the pill is greater than for women who do not use the pill.

In the eighties, the question for most people is not the risks of the pill, but how to introduce the idea of using condoms into casual sex. This dilemma does not add to the attractiveness of sex.

In The New York Times of January 6th, the headline read "FDA Panel Plans No Need for Change in Taking of the Pill;" meanwhile it endorsed the National Cancer Institute's plan to research the effects of taking the pill and if there is an increase in incidences of cancer for those who were or are on the pill.

The Times said that there were "three surprising and troubling new studies indicating that women who take the pill may be more likely to develop breast cancer than women who do not." The committee expressed "concern and confusion about the findings, changes in the use of the pill now, with no link to breast cancer clearly established, they might unnecessarily steer women away from a valuable contraceptive."

Until more information is available, those who have a history of breast cancer in their families may have cause to be concerned. The pill has also been linked to other problems, those of high blood pressure and blood clots. This is not the first time that the pill has been cause for concern. Unfortunately, it is one of the most effective forms of birth control.

Planned Parenthood of America has assessed the pill to be about 97% effective when taken properly. That means that out of 100 women, only three conceived while on the pill. It also means that it is 100% effective for 97 women. Compared to sponges, condoms and the diaphragm which weigh in at 85%, the pill looks attractive, if getting pregnant is your greatest concern.

The rate of pregnancy in women on the IUD (Intra-Uterine Device) is about 2 per 100 but is generally not given to women before they have children. The rhythm method is around 80% effective and if one used nothing at all the odds are 30-50%.

Looking at these statistics, I see that there are a lot of inconveniences in the other methods available. There are some of the same obstacles involved with the use of a diaphragm as with the use of a...
BLAGA is not Women’s Center

To the Editor,

When I was informed Friday, February 18, that the budget had not been ratified, I was also informed, as Women’s Center director, that someone had suggested that the Women’s Center and BLAGA, the Bard Lesbian and Gay Alliance, function as the same club with the implication that we should not receive two budgets. I am outraged that anyone could insinuate that the Women’s Center and BLAGA are the same club!

The Women’s Center forwards the interests of feminism and women’s interests and issues including those of lesbians (women with an affectional or sexual preference for women rather than men, gay is the equivalent adjective for men). BLAGA acts in support of gay students, both men and women, and helps to promote the ideals of the gay rights movement. Both clubs are currently active in distributing AIDS and safe sex information on campus, as this is an extremely important issue to everyone.

The women’s rights movement and the gay liberation movement were both born out of the civil rights movement. They are closely linked ideologically yet remain separate because the needs and interests of women as a class differ from those of gay men and lesbians as a class. Both groups share the unfortunate position of being undervalued by a society whose values remain primarily white, male, and heterosexual biasing a prejudiced bias towards heterosexual relationships, thus against those who choose alternate relationships. Women and gay people are subject to various types of prejudice: sexism, misogyny (hatred of women), heterosexism, and homophobia (fear and hatred of gay people).

The Women’s Center and BLAGA are part of the women’s and gay rights movements, even here at Bard. To insinuate that they are the same club devalues the importance of both of these groups on campus and devalues continued on page 10.

In an effort to make The Bard Observer more interesting and useful to the Bard community, we ask you to fill out the following questionnaire:

CLASS LEVEL:

What did you like most about this issue?

What subjects are you most interested in reading about in future issues?

Are there subjects covered in this issue that did not interest you? If so, which ones?

What improvements do you feel should be made in The Observer?

Please clip and send your responses to The Bard Observer, Campus Mail.
How to get into Medical School

by Rebecca Ames

Applying to medical school is a difficult and often consuming process. Further, many people in the Bard community may not know exactly what steps to take in applying to a good medical school or what the requirements are.

Professor John Ferguson is the pre-med advisor at Bard. It is his job to want to explain what students have to do to apply and get into medical school.

Ferguson believes that there are essential academic characteristics of getting into medical school and essential personal characteristics. Commenting on the personal ones, he said, "The people I've seen from Bard are self-motivated and ambitious. They have a clear goal to get into medical school and they pursue that goal with dogged determination. They may not be the smartest students, they may not be the most creative, but they are the most determined."

Medical schools set up a series of hurdles to jump over. They ask pre-medical students to take one year of Biology, two years of Chemistry, one year of Physics, and probably enough math to be able to survive the Physics course.

Ferguson felt that Bard Math 111 or 112 would be fine for that purpose. Medical schools ask that you do well in these courses. "There is no pretense that these courses are particularly relevant to the field of medicine, they are in what you might call the deep background of medicine."

In terms of Academic qualifications, the grade point average of students who are accepted to Medical School is 3.5. They have all A's and B's, and nothing else. Their average scores on the MCAT exam is about 12 out of 15. "All the publications that I've read suggest that these are the two most important criteria for acceptance. The letters of recommendation actually run a very poor third," Ferguson emphasized.

Host of the Bard Medical School seem to prefer a committee letter of recommendation which is not as essential as a science major. Medical schools claim that they are looking for well-rounded applicants. "You can major in music, art, drama/dance, social studies, anthropology, it doesn't matter as long as you take these core of courses and you end up with a grade point average of 3.5," Ferguson said.

Historically, Bard sends very few students to Medical School. "Most students at Bard, I think are a little too creative, sometimes a little too undisciplined and don't have the kind of dogged effort that it takes to keep that grade point average high."

Like the majority of students elsewhere, most Bard students who go to medical school are science majors.

There's no such thing as the ideal pre-med student at Bard. Ferguson said, if a student wants to go to medical school, there is a series of courses to take that can be comfortably done in three years.

The time frame can be tight unless a student enters Bard wanting to be a doctor.

During the second year of chemistry and a year of introductory chemistry can be taken in the same year. Then the second year of chemistry and a year of math to prepare for physics can be taken the second year. In the third year, the second year student can take the required year of physics and, at the end of third year, sit the MCAT exam.

This year the MCAT exams are scheduled for April 29 and September 16.

If the student started out wanting to go to medical school as a freshman at the end of the junior year, the student takes the MCAT, writes away for application materials in the summer between the Junior and Senior year, and begins negotiating the committee letter of recommendation.

Medical schools begin opening applications and sending them through them about July 1 or August 1. "Since many entering classes at medical schools are filled by November, this time table is really greatly accelerated," Ferguson said.

An unfortunate consequence of these hurdles is that selecting for hyper-determined people you select for very ambitious people who are frequently regarded as cut-throat, Ferguson said. Bard College is about the best place to be a pre-med because its not socially acceptable to be a cut-throat at Bard, he added.

Unfortunately, that often means that Bard the pressure of competition doesn't help you get into medical school. "Those people whose motivation comes from personal competition have a tough time of it. Those people whose motivation comes from inner desire to become a doctor do fine and its a great place for that," Ferguson said.

Unless a student has a 4.0 GPA and above by his junior year, the MCAT, Ferguson suggests that he or she should apply to somewhere between ten and twenty medical schools. "I have seen students who have applied to forty; I think that this is a bit excessive," Ferguson added.

The whole process of becoming a doctor is rather expensive. In 1986-87, tuition at Harvard Medical School was $14,000, student fees were $730, and the total average was $29,500 for all other expenses was $8470. "The expenses are on the order of $20,000 - $25,000 thousand dollars a year to exist and go to medical school, so one could easily graduate between $60,000 - $100,000 thousand dollars in debt," Ferguson said.

Luckily, it's not difficult to borrow money for these expenses. "People will cheerfully loan you the money because they assume that you will make a lot when you get out," Ferguson commented.

There are very few fellowships to go to medical school, but there are MD/PhD programs. If accepted, these are designed to train medical researchers. Very frequently students receive support for both the medical and the doctor of philosophy degrees. How do state medical schools...continued on page 12.
Health Talk

Chlamydia trachomatis is a bacterium that can cause a sexually transmitted disease in both men and women. It is one of the most widespread sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in the world. Genital infections caused by chlamydia can result in a variety of medical problems.

In men, chlamydia is the leading cause of nongonococcal urethritis (NGU). This is an inflammation of the urethra that resembles gonorrhea, but is not caused by the gonococcus bacterium. NGU is twice as common as gonorrhea among American men. If untreated, NGU can lead to epididymitis, an inflammation of the testicles that can cause sterility.

The consequences of chlamydia are much more severe in women. Chlamydia most often starts as an infection of the cervix. If untreated, it can spread through the uterus to the fallopian tubes. This condition, known as salpingitis, may block the tubes with scar tissue, which can cause infertility.

Chlamydia is also believed to be a major cause of pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), an inflammation of the entire female reproductive system.

Often men and women with chlamydia do not realize they have the disease. It's estimated that 60 to 80 percent of women and 10 percent of men have no symptoms. In men, when symptoms are present, they include painful urination and watery discharge from the penis. Women may suffer itching and burning in the genitalia, vaginal discharge, dull pelvic pain and bleeding between menstrual periods.

Use of condoms by men and diaphragms by women can help limit the spread of chlamydia. The key to stopping the disease is better detection. Once it is identified, chlamydia can be cured quickly with antibiotics. Detection of chlamydia requires a test that is not part of a standard medical checkup.

Stopping the disease is largely the responsibility of the patient. Sexually active people are the highest at risk of getting the disease, and, therefore, should discuss chlamydia with their health care provider.

This information is provided by the Bird Student Health Service.

by Michael O'Leary

(CPS) Prompted by the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to rule in a case that could make abortions illegal for and against abortion have broken out on a number of campuses in recent weeks. Both sides say they will step up efforts to recruit more students to walk their picket lines.

Students at Stephens College in Missouri, Iowa State, Yale, Western Michigan Universities and the Universities of Houston, Washington, Texas and Illinois, to name a few, have rallied for and against abortion in recent weeks with an intensity unusual even for this issue.

Organizers predict more campus efforts will appear as the term rolls on and as the Supreme Court's decision—due this spring—approaches.

In early January, the Court agreed to rule on a Missouri law that limits abortions in that state.

If the Court concludes the law is constitutional, it would effectively alter or even overturn its landmark 1973 Roe vs. Wade decision, which stopped states from passing laws restricting women from obtaining abortions.

"We've grown up with this right to abortions." Stephens College Sophomore and pro-choice activist Jane Drummond said. "Now it may be taken away from us."

by Michael O'Leary

Hoping to drive that lesson home and portray how profoundly an anti-Roe vs. Wade decision would affect college women, pro-choice advocates are farming out to speak at college campuses wherever they can.

The National Abortion Rights Action League (NARAL), a nationwide pro-choice group, and the National Organization for Women (NOW) have long "ignored campuses," admits NARAL's campus coordinator Marcie Wilder, who now says, "It's time to focus on them again."

NARAL and NOW already have pro-choice groups on about 55 campuses. Wilder said, and hope to mobilize students at 400 schools in upcoming weeks. Then they will try to draw "hundreds of thousands" of supporters to Washington, D.C. in April to support abortion, she said, to counter the large pro-life demonstrations held in January.

"What needs to happen is that the pro-choice movement needs to become more visible," Wilder said. "The anti-abortionists have been very visible. We need to do the same."

"College women are the perfect activists for this issue," said Ronni Rothman of the American Association of University Women. "They're a relatively untouched batted for this issue, and many pro-choice activists are already tapping into that grassroots energy."

continued on page 10
A Particularly Graphic Page

The author was, frankly, quite shocked at the very idea, and ran off to find solace in a Victorian novel, where at least someone knows something about morals.

Feeling myself rather consolationless it seemed rather odd for a man in prison about to be killed for something he had no choice about to be conspired by philosophy. The author, hearing the lapse in "Atom Heart Mother" polished her head cautiously inside the door and suggested that on considering the near occasion of death one might find comfort in the meaning of life.

The author then poled around the refrigerator and threw out some green fuzz that had once been either cottage cheese or macaroni salad, and took the wheat thins off the picture molding. I balanced a few more.

The page editor came in to see if there was any ginger ale for a Shirley Temple, and was shocked to which the author and myself arguing.

"I put up with that scone she bought at the British Museum.

She shellacked it and used it as a paperweight," said the author indignantly, gesticulating wildly at the wheat thins.

The page editor blinked three times and ran off to find the friend who had suggested the controlled substances.

I balanced wheat thins on a pile of empty glass jars, and thought about Boethius. If he had had the consolation of narcotics, then we would probably be without The Consolation of Philosophy. My only consolation, much of the time, is babbling, and I had been babbleless. I was reduced to cracker balancing and gluing license back together for some art project of the page editor's. I tried talking to my cow slippers, but they only stuck their tongues out at me.

The author had decided to give me the consolation of listening to my babbling while she gargled ginger ale in front of the bathroom mirror and read the comics.

I explained that she would have to gargle the ginger ale to be of any use, but all she got was "geling ran" and I wasn't sure that was up to the mark.

The author and I were busily babbling ginger ale on green index cards when the page editor returned with the editor. My friend had disappeared.

The editor told the page editor that she was tired and ought to take a nap. The author decided that it was unclear which of them was tired, and went them both to bed.

Then the author put the Dead Milkmen tape into the tape player. She said that either she, the scone or the wheat thins would have to go.

I tossed them all out so that I would have the consolation of hygiene.

Zoo Talk

Deer don't like cars or trucks.

Zoo ALK

Alligators worry about their bad press. After all, eating the young is quite understandable, especially at 4:30 after a bad day at the river.
Observer Classifieds

How to Place an Observer Classified in our next issue:

1) Think of something to say (sometimes the hardest part).
2) Write it down (try to keep it less than 30 words).
3) Turn in to the desk assistant at the front desk of library.
4) Keep your money-Observer classifieds are free to the Bard community!

PERSONALS

Cormac: Glad to hear you're not taken! Why won’t you notice me? —an interested underclassperson.

‘Mac: Notice that the above person said “underclassperson”. ‘Was the eyes in March.

Why is famed called the boy wonder?

Black Bolt, my love, try not to scream...

I love your chicken glop. I love you.

Death to the Narnians. Death to Romantics! When the Revolution comes you will be the first to go!

To the Elvis Club: If Elvis were alive, he would never have anything to do with you!

To Asian: I've seen your country through the door. If you've been correctly, send me a sign. I seek entry—daughter of wild.

To Tipper and Crow: don't forget the wine coolers, eh? There in the icebox—swan.

Tipper: Glad you're here. I missed you. Swan.

Swan: Glad you missed me. Now shudder and drink; your cools getting warm.

I hate copy editing. I'm bored. Are we there yet?

Boo: Love many, trust few. Always paddle your own canoe.

J.P. is a colonfiend!

Vulva train leaves at noon from Lisa’s room!

Oh Leon, we love you, yes we do.

Look, there's enough room for a dead goat!

Special: Oh yes.

Brenda: I feel the same way about you. Otherwise I wouldn't be caught dead gluing candy back together. tupp.

To the person picking on the Elvis Club, cut it out. We don't like you, so there.

The Narnians refuse to die.

Bill, I refrained from sending you a classified this semester. I hope you appreciate the effort. Quick, what's Old English for “armour”?

Tai Pan, I looked in Warriner's English grammar, but I couldn't find it. Too bad. —The author.

99, thanks, Max.

Why can't the Deerslayer be drippy? Maybe the carriage will stop.

Dear girl w/pink glasses: This is your lookalike once more. Life is HELL for me. I don't understand how Creation can fit us both. I know I am a mere representation of the true girl w/pink glasses, and I can't BREATHE the thought. Have mercy on me, O girl w/pink glasses!!! Life has become unbearable for me!!! Sincerely, your lookalike.

Oh, Shut Up — the editor

Dear ed:
Thank you. Thank you for all you have done for us. We, the people (HAH!) thank you.

—Signed the people
(I lied, I really am only one person. No people here.)

I love the Bard Observer. I go there every day. I love the Bard Observer, I do anything for it!

Quotes of the Issue:

Nobody will ever win the battle of the sexes.
There's too much fraternal sing with the enemy.

—Henry Kissinger

The average, healthy well-adjusted adult gets up at 7:30 in the morning feeling just terrible.—Jean Kerr

No more deerslayer stuff, ok? (eerrrr)

Guy with red glasses, thanks for the beads—girl with pink glasses.

Cormac, quit fooling with the monitor. Wanna see Lisa get really upset indeed.

Mom, I'm sending you the paper, and even your own classified. Thanks for the candy. Hugs to your daughter, let's hope you know which one. Wink wink.

Doo wop, Doo wop!

Pippi: Isn't it wonderful we have smaller pages than last semester?

Yes, now we can be more succinct.

Robin Bobbin. Congrats on the new editorial position. P.S. how's the sewage at the Grand Union?

I dunno.

One more personal, we need just one more personal.

WANTED: Slinky, sexy blond. Must be easy to enter and exit. Send photo and SASE to the box that drips sleep.

S: H could have been great. Instead it wasn't anything. Maybe at the next semi-formal.

F:

S/W/F seeking S/W/H for night of light-hearted banter and possible sexy interlude. Meet me on March 1 in the last paranoid at lunch.

Lisa, my friend, be assured that you are worth more than gold and without your friendship my life would certainly be empty.

Swan, know this: you are a true friend and I am happier each day when I wake and know that I will see you. Swan.

Crow, know this: you are a true friend and I wouldn't want you any other way. Olive Juice. Tipper

Deerslayer: you're getting drippy. Stop that.

I lost my key in the Kline parking lot last Thursday. It's about 5 inches on the side, made out of crystal, and comes in six pieces. If you find it, will you drop a note to B, Guardian, Box 666?

I lost my key too. Would you please return it? It's to Tewks 112, Laura.

To the girl with the pink glasses: without your inspiration everything would be blurry. The guy with the red glasses.

For Sale

1978 Honda Accord hatchback. 20,000 miles on rebuilt engine, new exhaust system, some rust, needs new clutch. $400.00 O.B.O.

Phone: 759-4269
Abortion

continued from page 2

Since the Supreme Court bases its decision on the Constitution, common law, case law and previous rulings, it's much less susceptible to public opinion than Congress or the president. "Unfortunately, you can't picket the Supreme Court," said Rothman.

Yet, Wilder says, "If we can convince the Court there will be a lot of confusion in American society if they overturn Roe vs. Wade, they may act less drastically."

Pro-life activists, too, are recruiting students to pressure the Court—and sway public opinion—to limit or criminalize abortion.

In Texas, for example, pro-life students at Rice, St. Mary's and Our Lady of the Lake Universities, Del Mar College and the Universities of Texas and Dallas have formed a statewide network, Texas College of Life, to press their case.

"We think there should be alternatives to abortion," said Joe Posen, a University of Texas graduate student who is the group's president. "No woman should need to have an abortion because there are no alternatives."

The Missouri law which has led to the renewed abortion controversy states that human life begins at conception, bans public facilities from performing abortions, and requires pregnant women to undergo tests to determine "fetus viability" before being allowed to get a private abortion.

Legal scholars say the Court could declare the law unconstitutional, thus leaving women's rights to an abortion unchanged.

Alternatively, it could declare the Missouri law constitutional but leave Roe vs. Wade intact. The Court could also overturn it.

Activists on both sides of the issue predict that if the status quo is changed, life for collegians will change dramatically.

"We're not really sure what this all means yet," said Rothman. "The Court could chip away at Roe vs. Wade, giving the states more leeway in regulating abortion. The worst case will be that while the rich will always be able to find abortions, the poor won't. Students will be hard hit since most don't have a lot of money."

"A lot of it just depends on where you go to school," Rothman continued, explaining that if Roe vs. Wade is overturned each state will determine its own abortion statutes.

Wilder reports that five states--Idaho, Illinois, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Kentucky--already have laws to make abortion a crime if Roe vs. Wade is overturned.

"Abortion, consequently, could become much more expensive and difficult to obtain.

Pro-life advocates say such a turn could have a profound effect on collegians' behavior.

"Regardless of the legalities, abortion is still seen as a need. That's the problem," said Pamela Wilson, president of the University of Houston's Students for Life and Feminists for Life of America.

The way to change that kind of thinking, said Wilson, is to push for greater access to birth control and sex education for students, and for more day-care facilities for young children.

"It's sad we've accepted (abortion) as a compromise. We've been led to believe abortion is a cure-all."

While Posen, on the other hand, also would like to see more day care and adoption programs, he sees sex education--as well as abortion--as a cause of student pregnancies.

"When abortion is not available, people act more responsibly," he said. "People are using it as an escape valve."

Sex education and access to contraceptives "is in trouble if Roe vs. Wade goes," said Rothman. "This doesn't bode well for a lot of issues."

Speak Out

continued from page 1

the completion of the student center are also being delayed by funding problems.

Yet, the student center delay falls on other factors. The final layout plans for the center have not been completed. One reason is the possible move of the post office to the basement of the building.

The problem with campus communication and the size of the bookstore were addressed. The school advertises events on campus through the mail, the Bard bi-weekly notes, and on the various bulletin boards. However, a way to adequately handle the communication has not been found and other alternatives are being examined.

The bookstore, like the post office was also in the plans for the student center. Yet, the size needed for the bookstore would eliminate space intended for other features. The school is looking further into the matter.

On the student front, the impact of the new gym was highlighted. "The presence of the gym has made an enormous positive impact on my life," noted Dean Levine.

The Speak Out was successful in that questions asked were answered. However, the number of participants was greatly lacking—only three students attended.

Dean Nelson described the ideology behind these events. They are a relaxed, informal meeting ground for campus concerns and not just for times of crisis, said Nelson. "I would like to see a handful of people attend," he added.

Other Speak Out's are scheduled for March 15, April 19, and May 10 at 7:30 p.m. in the Faculty Dining Room of Kline Commons.

CJ'S RESTAURANT
NORTH
FAMILY DINING
ITALIAN DINNERS
CALZONEs
SALADS
SOUPS
PIZZA
TAKE-OUT AVAILABLE
OPEN FOR LUNCH
BEER
WINE
SODA
FAMOUS PARMESAN SANDWICHES
RT. 9G AT OLD POST RD.
RHINEBECK
CALL 876-7711

Mon.-Sat. 10-5:30
Fri. Nite till 7 pm
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RHINEBECK, NY 12572
876-2555
Lunch counter open
11-4 daily

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Baseball Cards & Supplies

Rt. 9, Astor Square Mall
RHINEBECK, NY
876-7849
JAYNE BROOKS
OWNER

Rt. 9
HYDE PARK, NY
229-0800
Hiss Chair
continued from page 1
America."

For these reasons, Kovel feels that it is important to take a stand on Hiss's side as a way to call attention to the immense destructiveness of anti-Communism in our society.

Bard College makes an important statement by having an Alger Hiss chair. Mark Lytle, Professor of History, feels that having the Hiss chair is an affirmation of "Bard's statement that it believes in the tolerance of the widest range of intellectual views and choices."

Kovel adds, "History does not measure people whether or not they ran afoul of the law."

In addition to comparing the Alger Hiss chair to an Adolf Hitler chair, Buckley uses a quote that Joel Kovel made at a conference called "Anti-Communism: History and Consequences" at Harvard University, over-simplifies and uses it out of context. The article is, basically, an exercise in anti-Communist smearing.

Kovel is not upset by Buckley's attack. "It is a sad comment on American society that an unscrupulous reactionary like Buckley is given such an enormous platform on which to speak (he has a television show, magazine and syndicated column). He is a good example of an unprincipled individual who has used his wealth and propagandist talent in the service of deceit and intimidation. In fact, it is an honor to be attacked by Buckley."

This is Joel Kovel's second year at Bard, and he likes it here. He feels that it is a supportive place in which to work and he appreciates the intimate quality of relationships that Bard offers. "The students are serious and the environment is good."

He is a frequent contributor to the Monthly Review magazine. He is also the author of six books: White Racism, The Complete Guide to Therapy, The Age of Despair, Against the State of Nuclear Terror, and most recently, The Radical Spirit and In Nicaragua.

This semester he is teaching "Medicine and Society" and "The Ideology of Mass Culture."

Career Development
continued from page 1
familiar with the campus.

Wilson was born in Hungary, but left for the United States just prior to World War II. Afterwards, she studied at the City University of New York, and did graduate work in archaeology at New York University. Her studies included a dig in Samothrace, an island in the Aegean near Greece. Since then, she has had jobs in a variety of fields, including editorial work, audio-visual production, and was airline safety.

Wilson says that she has no definite plans for the Career Development Office, but would like to see computers involved in information storage and access, and more student involvement, especially in volunteer work. For now, she is trying to assimilate all the information necessary to do the job well.

Registration Changes
continued from page 1
fewer students than it has now—about 500—and even then, the gym was crowded and hot, one professor even passed out.

Kline Commons was constructed in the early 1970s, and registration was moved to the gymnasium. But once again, crowding was a problem, as was noise, and professors could not converse with students prior to allowing them into a class. "It was not conducive to quiet course discussion," Wilson stated.

Then, the Social Studies division developed the idea of a pre-registration festival to be held in May. Students were invited to discuss courses, and refreshments were served.

Then, registration day was changed, so that students register not at the beginning of each semester, but during the previous semester. The current registration system has been in effect about eight years.

Wilson does not deny that registration is long and difficult, and is distressed at the idea of students camping out in front of offices and jamming the doorways of buildings to register for classes. However, she cannot see any clear solution to the problem. "It seems to be part of the campus ethos that this is how registration is," she concluded.
Finally, regulations regarding the Commons were, the Dean conceded, the province of the Student Forum. The next day, the Dean issued a new memo containing the following:

"I hope that the members of the Student Forum will accept my apology for not consulting directly with them before issuing the smoking/ non-smoking policy..."

The memo also included an appeal for a debate on the subject of smoking itself. Later, the student body voted by referendum to adopt smoking regulations, designating two parapods and one end of the Main Dining Room as no smoking sections.

"For a time this issue quieted down, although everyone knew that it would really resurface. The proportion of smoking to non-smoking space in the Commons was drawn to reflect the smoking/ non-smoking split at the time (about 80/20).

The trend in the society away from smoking was sure to shift this ratio, furthermore, it was clear that the Dean was less than satisfied with the lack of rules regarding academic facilities.

It was over this matter that the next crisis erupted. In the fall of 1987, Dean Levine announced that the new Olun Building would be non-smoking, non-drinking, and most of all, non-smoking. The memo also included a proclamation that the building be locked after the end of the last class.

Once again, students felt their rights impinged upon. After having looked forward to what President Botstein had called "your building," they felt the administration was somehow trying to use the building to control them, and, even worse, that the physical structure was more important to the administration than the educational environment.

Not only was this behavior being regulated, but they were being locked out. Students felt most of all, however, that the Dean had gone back on his agreement of 1985. The Dean, on the other hand, felt that the student leadership was distorting the agreement, which he said gave him authority over "academic affairs." (Alumni present in 1985 eventually verified the student version.)

In an effort to show their anger with the Dean, without showing disrespect for the faculty or the new facility, the students staged a civil disobedience action: "The Eat, Drink, and Smoke-In, Where Neatness Counts."

Well over a hundred students and a scattering of faculty members filled the building's Atrium with smoker, food, drink or just themselves in a very successful and peaceful protest. When the demonstration ended, there was no debris or garbage of any sort left behind (not even a cigarette butt). Indeed the entire action was only marred weeks later when President Botstein referred to it as "foolish, childish and futile."

After long and strong negotiations, a compromise was once again reached, leading to significant liberalization of the Olun rules (some were later phased back in). The smoking law, however, stood as proclaimed. Thus the clämor died down but not before student fury led to a council-wide referendum calling for the Dean's removal.

The overwhelmingly adopted referendum eventually wound up before the Board of Trustees, provoking an embarrassing tantrum from Dr. Botstein. Despite a certain amount of expressed sympathy for the student grievances, the Board upheld its policy of not interfering in the President's running of the college. (The Dean is appointed by Dr. Botstein."

In each of these so-called "smoking controversies" the central issue became an issue of the Dean's authority. That is why Dean Levine's recent request for consultation is so significant. In the last several years the Bard Student Association has stood up for the right of the students to formulate the rules that they live by. That fight, it would appear, has been won. Now comes the real task. This time there will be no lightning bolts from Dudlow, this time there is no excuse.

The time has come for the Bard Community and especially the student body to tie up the question of smoking. According to the Admissions' Office, only 22% of this year's freshman class smokes. Simply looking around should be enough to convince anyone that the ratio has shifted, and that student attitudes toward smoking have changed.

Now we can have the debate we should have had at the start, the debate the Dean has always said he desired, the debate the student leadership has always insisted on. Such a debate will no doubt be passionate, but it ought not to be derisive.

We have won the right to govern ourselves, let's show that we can."

---

BLAGA not Women's Center

continued from page five

In the work and achievements of the gay and women's rights movements,

The women's movement has often, sadly, had to fight off accusations that its participants are man-haters or lesbians in order to maintain its respectability and to frighten away straight (heterosexual) women who had unfounded fears of being seduced by lesbians. Some of the strongest supporters of the women's movement have often been lesbians, but all too often they have had to remain silent about their identity because of the homophobia that plagues the women's movement from without and within.

BLAGA has a similar problem with people who are afraid of attending meetings because they will be assumed to be gay. Not all of BLAGA's members are gay, some are bisexual, celibate or heterosexual.

As an activist, I cannot passively sit by and allow such accusations as this to continue. There is an invisible barrier that suggests exists on campus to continue unchallenged. The Women's Center and BLAGA are both invaluable groups on campus. The Women's Center serves the interests of both straight and lesbian women. BLAGA serves the interests of gay men and women. Both clubs are primarily educational organizations. The members of neither group are about to try to convert or seduce anybody. We come together to share, learn, and grow.

Sincerely,
Joan T. Kielke

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Med School

continued from page six

The expenses at the University of Massachusetts at Wooster, which is in the same state as Harvard, were $5280 for the same year, which was a third of Harvard's.

Students should also be aware of alternatives. "You have to understand that an MD degree is not the only human oriented degree you can get," Ferguson explained. For example, a doctor of Osteopathy is a degree that is very similar to the MD degree and basically has the same kind of training that medical students get.

"You could also get a DDS, doctor of dental surgery, or a degree in Podiatry if you are interested in feet. I have yet to have a Bard student interested in feet, but you never know, there might be one. Optometry is a profession that advertizes very heavily for students," Ferguson explained.

Ferguson seemed to think that the medical school situation is easing up a bit. "The number of applicants being received by all sort of these institutions is dropping due to malpractice insurance, and the threat of AIDS."

In fact, AIDS could be the best thing that has happened to the medical profession in a long time. "Students are becoming doctors because they want to cure the sick, not just for the monetary gain," Ferguson said.

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PUZZLE SOLUTION

BALLOON EMPORIUM
33 Benner Road
Red Hook, NY 12571
(914) 758-3335
Arts & Subversive Photos
by Fernando Luera

Enter the Observer ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT section title contest.
The individual who turns in the best, most original artwork, incorporating some variation of the title ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT SECTION will win two tickets to see the concert of his or her choice at THE CHANCE in Poughkeepsie AND will have a "work of art" become the new BI-WEEKLY TITLE of this section! (This is supposed to be a brat, so don't be stupid. Most of you guys, are artists anyway.)
DEADLINE is in two weeks, MARCH 1.
SIZE: No bigger than 4 x 6 inches.
Send entries to me, Chris Bonnell, Box 575, or hand deliver.

Entertainment

Her Alibi, My Review

by Jenny Bach

When I was asked to write this column for the Observer my first problem was trying to figure out what movies to review. It was suggested that I review "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown" now playing at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck. Then I thought "wait a second," a million people have told me that it's a great film. I'm sure that most everyone else has heard that too. So who needs me to write in the Observer that it's a good movie. As a matter of fact, if a movie is playing at Upstate, you pretty much know it's going to be good.

I love good movies, but sometimes the best movies are really bad movies; ones that go beyond being mediocrre, and become really enjoyable. These movies usually get panned in the newspapers, with no consideration for the fact that they might be enjoyable because of their faults. This is the case with "Her Alibi," starring Tom Selleck and Paulina Porizkova.

The movie seems promising. Tom Selleck has starred in the disastrous "Runaway," as well as "Lassiter," two films so bad they are actually fun. Of course, from Paulina (of Sports Illustrated Swimsuit Issue fame) I expected nothing short of embarrassment. Unfortunately, this was not the case. This movie was just too damn good. Of course it was not nearly good enough to be enjoyable, but it was plenty good to bore the hell out of me.

Tom Selleck plays a struggling mystery writer who has been suffering from writer's block (perhaps because of the ridiculous fake beard he wears for the first half hour of the movie) ever since his breakup with his wife. In his search for an idea, he spends his days in court, looking for an interesting case. This leads to one of the highlights of the movie. Paulina enters the courtroom, looking sexy (in slow motion), and Selleck is immediately in love. Of course, Paulina is being tried for murder. Her case is also complicated by the fact that she is a Rumanian citizen and speaks no English, or so she pretends.

Selleck, overwhelmed by her incredible beauty, sneaks into her jail cell and tells her he will be her Alibi. Oh, and believe it or not, she really does speak English just fine.
The rest of the movie consists of nutty high-jinks which, amazingly enough, leaves the two of them falling in love.

The end of this movie was the slapstick comedy bits. It's awfully hard for a bad comedy to be funny, because that is its initial goal. I hope from now on Selleck sticks to bad action adventure films, and Paulina...I don't know, maybe she has a really good movie in her, but she has yet to prove it.

Oh, and by the way, you don't even get to see Paulina's luscious melons or Tom Selleck's tight little ass (rated PG). So until next time, save me a seat in the back where I can be alone.

by Chris Bonnell

We are in the process of reorganizing the ARTS section of the Observer with reviews, columns, articles on the art departments here at Bard, art professors or any articles or thoughts about any kind of art.

I would like to cover the interests of all the art departments and students (again, for no other reason, but I need help! I have already received positive response from interested studios.

So if you're interested in being a part of the up and coming ARTS section, contact me. I'll read anything!
Entertainment Committee
Restructured

by Daphne Gottlieb

At the final Forum meeting of last semester, the Entertainment Committee was restructured into what it perhaps should have been all along: a three person body. Kim Harris, Dave Tirica, and Dan Thornton feel that the advantages are obvious.

While Kim's tastes run to hip-hop and dance-oriented music, Dan's include blues, rock and roll, and folk, while Dave prefers funk, go-go, and Alternative music. This they hope, will more adequately reflect the desires of the community.

Other advantages include a diversity of the sometimes tedious labor, and more connections than they would have individually. Even though they cannot always meet as often as they might like, Kim feels that this is indirectly an advantage—it forces them to proceed more cautiously than they might otherwise.

All three feel that the biggest obstacle they face is the price of bands in relation to their budget. "The amount of money they're asking for--even the small bands--ranges from one thousand to three thousand dollars," said Kim.

When asked what they look for when hiring a band, Dave said they first consider what has been successful in the past, such as dance bands. He adds that the performance quality of bands is also an important consideration.

Kim said it was only natural for bands to have fun and dance when they bring bands, while hopefully exposing the campus to something that has not been seen here before. Dan added that the campus tastes have changed radically in the past few years.

Everyone's not wearing black anymore—there's a lot of people with more diverse tastes now...." Dan said that Band has been lucky in the past to have had some excellent shows, citing Tackhead, Spring Fling, Sun Ra, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers as examples. All three hope to continue the tradition with new, fresh things.

The first show by the committee took place February 18, when Senator Flux played Kline Commons. Based in Washington DC, the band includes an ex-Governmental Issue member, plays "power-pop/new psychedelia." They have an album out on DC's "Discord" label, as well as another album released only in Europe.

In early March, the Entertainment Committee hopes to bring rap to the campus with Dela Soul, Lethal, and DJ Chris Cool.

A tentative date is set for April 12 when John Fahey, who Dan describes as playing "electric folk---strange and wonderful,"

For Spring Fling, the Toasters, a New York-based ska band, will grace the stage after a full day of music by Bard bands.

Other possibilities the committee is currently investigating include bands in the Black Rock Coalition, Spongehead, Sun Ra, and They Might Be Giants.

Finally, the committee stresses the fact that they are entirely open to suggestions, and that as of yet, none of their money has been specifically allocated. Says Dan, "We appreciate it when people speak up—not one of us can know everything, and some of our best leads so far have come from the community.

Peter Stambler Reads
from Chespak Papers

by Laurie Vroom

On February 9th the Language and Literature Department hosted a poetry reading by Peter Stambler, author of a recently completed manuscript entitled *The Chespak Papers.*

*The Chespak Papers* is composed in the form of letters written by an Amnesty International member requesting that a Russian government official, Mr. Chespak, grant the release of a Jehovah's Witness who has been arrested for practicing his religion.

The Amnesty organization is based upon its members writing such letters with the hope that if enough of an outcry is made it will lead to the eventual release of such political prisoners.

*The Chespak Papers* begins with very eloquent pleas to Mr. Chespak, pleas based upon what the speaker believes are the Jehovah's Witness's inalienable rights to freedom of speech and religion.

As the letters progress, their primary focus changes subtly from a call for the release of the prisoner into an exploration of what exactly freedom is. The request turns into a desperate personal search to understand what freedom has meant in the speaker's life and in the lives of those around him.

The effect these letters have, presented one after the other, is extremely powerful. Not only were they written and read with a great amount of passion, lyricism, and poetic intensity, but Stambler also managed to combine these qualities with a compassionate sense of humor and irony.

For those of us who have been part of the Bard community for awhile, the name Stambler is bound to ring a fond bell, as well it should. Peter Stambler, who has been living in Hong Kong, made his trip to New York to visit his family in Germantown.

He is the son of Professor Elizabeth Stambler who retired last spring after 29 years in the literature department here at Bard. With this in mind, I asked Peter Stambler if he would let us know through the grapevine when and where his manuscript would be released: he consented to do so.
Schiffmacher on Art Symposium

by Robert Santos & Dirk de Jong

German Artist Robert Schiffmacher's work is included in the "Art After Newton: The Post-Modernist Grill," exhibit currently up in Proctor. Here in America for a short time to promote his art, he visited Bard on Wednesday the 15th to see the Artist's Symposium at Gilin. Dirk de Jong, former German Immersion enthusiast, met with the artist afterwards. Schiffmacher felt that certain of the artists speaking had some "lustige idee" (kunny ideas) and gave Dirk some of the notes he had written. What follows is Dirk's translation of this seminal post-modernist's reflections:

"From where I am sitting it seems to me, and don't get me wrong, I AM, sympathetic guilty as the next guy and definitely NOT the pot calling the kettle something nasty, but it seems to me that maybe:

It is a shame.

If there is a price artists sometimes pay for their love of personal indulgences, a large part of it is explaining themselves to people after the event. A LARGE part of it.

It is THEY THEMSELVES Will Tell You, a sort of mystical experience, these creations. What can work spoken outside of the trance, do for the spirit of these "made objects". They undermine, desecrate, and conspire against the beauty that is a primarily VISUAL display resulting from a basically INEFFABLE experience. IN MY opinion on page 16.

Events

ART

Feb. 25—Culture Fest '89 at the Poughkeepsie YUCA celebrating Black History Month. 1-3 pm. Free. Information. 454-4779.

Through Mar. 12—Exhibition: (sub)Version of Photography in the 80s at Blum Art Institute at Blum College. Free. Information.


COMEDY

Feb. 25—Sam Kinison at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center at 8 pm. Information. 454-3889. Tickets. 454-5900.

Mar. 4—Improv act of Viorica Martucci & Harvey Borgen at Kleinert Arts Festival. Woodstock. at 8 pm. Reservations. 679-2079.

MUSIC

Tuesdays & Wednesdays—New Music Dance Night at Hotel Highcliff (8 pm). Tickets. 798-7922.

Feb. 25—Take You Back To Ireland at the St. Christopher's School Hall, Red Hook at 8 pm. Tickets. 454-1222.

Feb. 26—Hudson Valley Philharmonic Symphony Concert at UPAC at 8 pm.

Feb. 26—Hudson Valley Philharmonic Symphony Concert at Bard College Opera House at 7 pm. Tickets. 454-1222.

Mar. 7—The Music in the Mountains Festival Chamber Players perform works by Samuel Barber and Amy Beach, among others. College Hall Recital Hall at 8 pm. SUNY New Paltz. Reservations. 237-3880.

THEATRE

Feb. 25—Do Lord, Remember Me as part of Black History Month at Bard College Opera House at 8 pm. Tickets. 473-2072.

Mar. 4—Sugar Babies at UPAC at 8 pm. Tickets. 390-6089.

Mar. 9—12, 16—Hair at the Arena Theater, SUNY New Paltz. 8 pm. Sundays, 2 pm matinee only. Tickets. 237-3880.


Photos

continued from page 13 effusive laudatory statement at every turn waiting to dispel such a stance. Those works which are accompanied by descriptive and/or explanatory labels (whether written by the artists or not) come across as adamently, and rather defensively, asserting themselves as ART.

In the exhibit succeeds in convincing the viewer that photography takes itself too seriously. Perhaps this is a result of heavy-handed public relations/promoters, but there is something decidedly off-putting about claims of "reanimating the inanimate." One blur states "The play of potential limbs and dysfunctions suggests that we look...between things instead of at things..." Another piece's label reads in part: "[It] conflates sexuality, spirituality, and articulation into one and the same form."

THURS., MAR. 2

CHERYL "PEPSII" RILEY

FRI., MAR. 3

GIL SCOTT-HERON

SAT., MAR. 4

METALMANIA

THURS., MAR. 16

MEATLOAF

SAT., MAR. 18

SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY & THE JUKE'S

FRI., MAR. 24

RODNEY CROWELL

SAT., MAR. 25

JOHNNY WINTERS & THE OUTLAWS

THURS., MAR. 30

METALMANIA

WED., MAR. 22

THE RAMONES WITH RICHY SCOTTS OF THE PLAZMATS

SAT., FEB. 25

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZI OF THE PAUL SIMON'S GRACELAND TOUR WITH SAMITE

MON., FEB. 27

PAUL STANNEY OF KISS WITH WARRANT

FRI., MAR. 3

GIL SCOTT-HERON

SAT., MAR. 4

METALMANIA

THURS., MAR. 16

MEATLOAF

SAT., MAR. 18

SOUTHSIDE JOHNNY & THE JUKE'S

FRI., MAR. 24

RODNEY CROWELL

SAT., MAR. 25

JOHNNY WINTERS & THE OUTLAWS

THURS., MAR. 30

METALMANIA

WED., MAR. 22

THE RAMONES WITH RICHY SCOTTS OF THE PLAZMATS

SAT., FEB. 25

LADYSMITH BLACK MAMBAZI OF THE PAUL SIMON'S GRACELAND TOUR WITH SAMITE

MON., FEB. 27

PAUL STANNEY OF KISS WITH WARRANT

Tickets available at Ticketron and/or at the Chance Box Office, open 10am-6pm, Monday-Saturday, Mastercard/VISA accepted. Doors open at 8:00 pm. Reservations required.
Thursday
The 23rd
FILM LECTURE: Film Fusion and Confusion given by Benjamin Hayeem at 7:30 pm in Preston.
Narcotics Anonymous meeting at 7 pm in Aspinwall 302.
LECTURE: Prof. Luigi Ballerini of NYU will speak on "Reno's Vineyard: American Perceptions of Italy" at 8 pm in Kline Commons. (Irma Brandeis Lecture)
LECTURE: Prof. Victoria Smith from the Univ. of Pa. will speak on "Corporate Culture or Corporate Control" at 8 pm in the Olin Art History Room.

Friday
The 24th
Organizational meeting for group to explore the subject of utopias in Olin 301 at 2 pm.
FILM: The Erroll Boy, directed by Jerry Lewis. (A dissimilar paper hanger hired to say on employees at the Para-Mutual movie studio. Havoc ensues.) 7 & 9:30 in the Student Center.
BAND: Rare Air will be playing in the Old Gym at 9 pm. Free admission.

Saturday
The 25th
Elvis Presley Fan Club meeting in the Committee Room of Kline at 5 pm.

Sunday
The 26th
Discussion of mass in the Chapel at 7 pm.
FILM: Housekeeping, directed by Bill Forsythe. (An eccentric woman must take care of her two tenaged nieces.) 7 & 9:30 in the Student Center.

Monday
The 27th
Jewels, Ltd.- Judy Waterman Sterling and Antique Jewelry in Kline Lounge from 10-4.
The Bard Observer meeting at 6 pm in the Presidents Room of Kline.

Tuesday
The 28th
Gladding's Vintage Clothing and Jewelry in Kline Lounge from 10-4.
Bard Archaelogical Field School media presentation and interest meeting (see article, p. 2) in Olin 307 at 5:30 pm.
Amnesty International meeting at 6:30 in the Committee Room of Kline.
AL ANON/ACOA meeting at 7 pm in Aspinwall 302.
LECTURE: Prof. Gerald Graff of Northwestern Univ. will be speaking on Literary Theory and the Curriculum Conflict in Olin 102 at 8 pm.

Wednesday
The 1st
Marie Antoinette Vintage Clothing and Jewelry in Kline Lounge from 10-4.
Spanish Table at 5:30 pm in the College Room of Kline.
Avery Prof. of Studio Arts Andrew Forge will speak on Degas at Preston.
New Beginnings meeting at 7 pm in Aspinwall 302.

Thursday
The 2nd
Painter Tom Noshkowsk will be speaking about his art at 4:30 in Proctor.
Narcotics Anonymous meeting at 7 pm in Aspinwall 302.
Conventus Classicus (Classics Club) meeting at 7:30 pm in the College Room of Kline.
FILM LECTURE: Nation of Nation Pictures given by Benjamin Hayeem at 7:30 pm in Preston.
Allan Gurganus will be reading from his upcoming novel at 6 pm in Olin 102.

Friday
The 3rd
FILM: Summer, directed by Eric Rohmer (the director of Boyfriends and Girlfriends). 7 & 9:30 pm in Student Center.

Saturday
The 4th
PLAY: The Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov, directed by Chris Markle at 8 pm in the Scene Shop Theater.

Sunday
The 5th
Discussion of mass in the Chapel at 7 pm.
FILM: The Dead Zone, directed by David Cronenberg. (Stephen King's story about a man who awakens from a coma to find himself with a strange and frightening new power.) 7 & 9:30 pm in the Student Center.
PLAY: The Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov, directed by Chris Markle at 8 pm in the Scene Shop Theater.

Monday
The 6th
The Bard Observer meeting at 6 pm in the Presidents Room of Kline.
PLAY: The Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov, directed by Chris Markle at 8 pm in the Scene Shop Theater.

Tuesday
The 7th
Outhouse Enterprises selling domestic screen t-shirts in Kline Lounge from 10-4.
Amnesty International meeting at 6:30 in the Committee Room of Kline.
AL ANON/ACOA meeting at 7 pm in Aspinwall 302.
PLAY: The Three Sisters by Anton Chekhov, directed by Chris Markle at 8 pm in the Scene Shop Theater.

Birth Control
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condom ("You mean I gotta put it in/on!") but the diaphragm does not inhibit the transfer of sexually transmitted diseases.
One Bard student interviewed said, "Well, if I'm on the pill, I probably wouldn't tell the guy so that it would be easier to get him to use a condom." Aha! Here we have the idea of combining contraceptives. If one used, say, a condom and a diaphragm, the odds against becoming pregnant would be higher and one wouldn't be taking the pill.

It's all very difficult. Ideally, there would be a kind of birth control one doesn't have to think about when making love; that is not dangerous to the health, and which prevents the spread of AIDS. Ideally, there would be world peace.

What one chooses, is everyone's individual choice. There are several options, for that we must be thankful. Some people feel uncomfortable on the pill and this new information, this governmental finding that it's safe to say that it might not be safe, is disconcerting when one thinks that it could be me. By the same token, it could be me with AIDS.

Schiffmacher
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EYES! The words trivialize the pieces of art, seem to make them something less. Like a mother telling you her children are good kids.

Artists! You don't know what your art is about! We will tell you what it is about! You are showing it to us and now it is ours, not yours. It was ours all along and you know it's true. You have done an excellent job, you MOTHERS, and your mad beautiful children are more than any single person can understand. Let them speak and they will be ours, and our gratitude will be yours!

Let the art speak, not the artists.
Learn the trade, not the tricks of the trade.
(To the last three lines are almost indiscernible. They seem to say something about "eating the witchdoctor's fruitcake")