

Bard College
Student Newspaper Archive
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OBSERVER

Vol. 95 No. 5 April 20, 1989

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The Bard Observer

VOLUME XVC, ISSUE FIVE
April 20, 1989

Bard College
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

News is whatever
sells newspapers.
The Observer is free.

Social Studies Division Proposes Drastic Changes

by Chris Olesen

The increase in student enrollment is beginning to weigh heavily on the backs of the faculty in the Division of Social Studies.

Statistics from the Dean's office have shown a 256% increase in student involvement in the social studies division, from 121 students to 321 students, while only attaining four new faculty members in the past four semesters.

The burden has become so excessive that some members of the faculty have decided against the full time commitment or have opted for work elsewhere. The social studies division has submitted a proposal encouraging reforms in the senior project, moderation, and course structure to alleviate the increase in teaching responsibility.

Presently the senior project is a two semester, eight credit endeavor. The faculty in the social studies division feel that such an undertaking is befit for only a limited number of people; those who show academic promise and/or demonstrate the appropriate amount of ambition.

Since it is a pre-requisite for graduation, even those who are unable to put together a project because the academic burden is too overwhelming or because they lack the ambition must comply.

This not only puts pressure on the student, but also puts pressure on the professor who serves as his/her adviser. The more unprepared a student is for the senior project, the more his/her adviser will have to "invest" his or her time and energy to aid the student in getting it done on time. If the adviser ends up carrying the bulk of the load, it is not at all unreasonable to assume that the student has gotten little out of the project.

The social studies division believes that the dilemma can be solved through instituting a new structure to the senior project. It suggests putting in its place a one semester, four credit senior project. This will not only relieve most of the students, whose response to the words "senior project" have been met with an overwhelming feeling of dread, it will also reduce the obligations that have proved tiresome for the professors who have had to carry their students through the process.

The project will have to be done in the Fall semester prior to graduation. It can be graded with a letter grade or a pass/fail. If the student does not pass, he or she can repeat the process the following semester and try to move his or her grade up to continued on page 11



Looking Back on the March

by Amara Willey

Bard brought almost 400 people to the march in Washington, D.C., on April 9. Despite the numbers, there was a general consensus that things ran very smoothly.

The only problem with the buses occurred before leaving Dutchess County. One needed gas and most gas stations in the area were closed at 3 o'clock in the morning.

At the march itself, Bard got off to a rather confusing start. In the process of moving onto the street, many students, including those carrying the Bard banner, were separated from the group. As the banner quickly disappeared into the crowd in front of the Bard contingent, some students joked that it had won the march.

Several students criticized pro-choice people for bringing

their young children to demonstrate, saying that such "brainwashing" was worthy of the pro-life camp. Professor continued on page 8

B&G Files Charges Against Botstein

by Jim Trainor

On March 24, Chris Townsend, Business Representative of the Service Employees International Union (S.E.I.U.) Local 200-D, filed unfair labor practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board (N.L.R.B.) against Bard College on behalf of the Buildings and Grounds employees who are represented by that union.

The charges accuse Bard of refusing to bargain with the union, discriminating against employees, and failing to provide

the union with information it is entitled to.

According to union personnel the charges against the college are based on the perception of an anti-union policy on the part of Bard which they say is indicated by discrimination against people who are active in the union and by an apparent failure to notify the employees of opportunities for promotion and transfer within B&G.

Several individuals have also stated that if the current continued on page 11

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Campus News

Students Celebrate Passover

by Kristan Hutchison

Students, faculty, and community members gathered to celebrate the first night of Passover together the evening of April 19th in Kline. The celebration, including the traditional seder meal, telling of the Passover story and discussion, was organized by Laura Muller, President of the Jewish Students Organization.

Passover, or Pesah in Hebrew, is an eight-day remembrance of the Exodus story, in which Moses led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. By the end of the ritualized seder meal, "everyone is supposed to feel he has personally come out of Egypt," said Assistant Chaplain Nancy Flam, who led the meal.

The Passover observances center around the telling of the

story "The Hagadah" to the children, taking the mandate from Exodus 13:8 "And you shall explain to your son on that day..." "The whole thing is to teach the children," Flam explained.

Part of the teaching is facilitated through symbolic foods, the most important of which is matzo. Matzo is unleavened bread eaten as a reminder that the Israelis had to flee quickly at midnight and did not have time to let their bread rise. During Passover no leavening is to be eaten or possessed in a kosher house.

Modern Jews use Passover as a time not only to look back at their historical escape from bondage, but to consider the people still enslaved around the world and work for their freedom.

Congratulations to the newly appointed Peer Counselors for 1989-1990:

Coleen Blackwell
Tambra Burns
Ana Checo
David Holden
Garrett Kimberly
Matt Kregor
Mark Nichols

Alternates:

Carla Stough
Noah Samton
L.J. Goldstein
Jubilith Moore
Angeline Lee
Christina Hajagos
Nadir Teherany
Manual Lopez
Lisa Bornstein
Jennifer Goebel
Seren Morey
Jim Trainor

Housing Crisis Ends

by Cormac Flynn

A compromise has been reached in the housing controversy between the administration and student negotiators. The final agreement contains the element which the administration considered most vital in its policy--the one year commitment--while withdrawing the piece most offensive to students, the cap.

The new accord also sets the final date for declaring off-campus residency as June 22, significantly later than called for in the original document, but still much earlier than the current rules. The new deadlines for academic leaves remain November and April 15.

Many students took note of the Deans' use of the phrase "off-campus requests" in their memo. Students felt this implies subtly that off campus housing is a privilege granted by the college rather than a right of the student, a view which many students vigorously reject.

Some students pointed out that the administration had agreed that the new Student Life Committee would define a number of exceptions to the



Academy Fellow To Speak

On Tuesday, April 25 at 8 p.m. in the Committee Room of Kline Commons, Miklos Haraszti will speak on "The Crisis of Communism in Eastern Europe: The Outlook for the Future." Haraszti has been in residence at Bard College for the 1988-89 academic year as the first Fellow of the International Academy for Scholarships and the Arts.

The International Academy, a consortium of small liberal arts colleges including Bryn Mawr, Dartmouth, Davidson, Haverford, Lincoln, St. Augustine and Vassar, was formed by Bard in 1988 to enable selected colleges to take positive action in the field of human rights. A distinguished forty member Advisory Board, many of whom work professionally in

international human rights organizations, nominate candidates for Fellowships.

Nominees are writers, scholars, artists, and intellectuals whose governments have denied them the exercise of basic human rights: freedom of inquiry, freedom of opinion, and freedom of expression. The Academy currently has a list of fifteen nominees from whom the colleges will choose their Fellows.

During Haraszti's residence at Bard, he has taught one course each semester which has explored East Central Europe through various political, literary and historical writings. However, the Fellowship year is primarily a time for Fellows to pursue their own work in a non-partisan supportive environment, and Haraszti has been hard at work on his own writing projects: an autobiography, essays and commentaries, several of which have been published in the New York Times, the Washington Post, and other newspapers and journals.

He has also continued his work as co-editor of Beszelo, a journal of the Hungarian democratic opposition movement.

Bard College's Academy Fellow for the 1989-90 academic year is also a writer, Norman Manea, who lived in Rumania prior to last year. He is a concentration camp survivor who has published a series of autobiographical novels as well as stories and essays.

For more information: call Janet Kettler at 758-7435.

year-long commitment, a point which was left out of the memo, much to their suspicion.

The new deadlines for academic leaves continued to come under fire as impractical. Many students fear that requests would be denied on the basis of incomplete details at the early submission date.

Most disturbing to many students, however, was a reference to the more careful planning that the policies will necessitate on the part of students. "I've worked in all the Ludlow offices before," said one student, "and I still don't know if they just can't speak diplomatically or just don't care enough about us to try."


Administration members and student leaders agreed that they were far from solving all of the housing policy problems. The basic economic problem that prompted the administration to propose the cap remains and

possible approaches to it, including a cap, will be considered by the Student Life Committee.


According to administration sources, when running at full-capacity (96%), Bard housing just barely breaks even. When there are empty beds, as there are in the spring semesters, the college actually loses money on heating, maintenance and other such expenses.

The college wants to invest more money in upgrading the dorms and improving the quality of residential life, but the limited funds it can spare from the educational program and the operating budget for these things gets eaten up by the Spring semester housing losses.

The college would like to relieve the Fall semester over-crowding by constructing new dorms. However, if those dorm spaces are then empty in the Spring, the new buildings will continued on page 9



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Security Alert

by Art Otey
Director of Security

The following events are currently under investigation or have been reported to Security:

The continuing plague of auto-vandalism and petty theft has not slowed. In recent weeks vehicles in the main parking area, the Kline Commons lot, and Cruger Village have been vandalized.

The extent of these vandalisms must result in some noise. We would like to appeal to all members of the Bard Community to please report ANYTHING that they hear or feel is suspicious. It would help greatly if anyone observing anything could make note of such things as vehicle description, license numbers, and description of the individuals

involved. All information will be checked out.

Recently, we have experienced the theft of several bicycles. We would like to make people aware of this and urge you to take precautions to prevent this from happening.

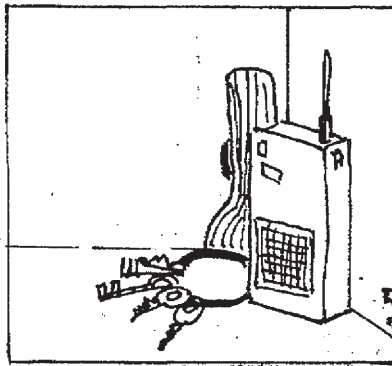
The investigation into the Post Office burglary is continuing. Some potential suspects have been questioned and more are likely to be.

The Postal authorities are currently offering a reward of up to \$500 for any information leading to the arrest and conviction of the responsible parties. All information will be kept strictly confidential.

For further information, contact the Bard Security Office at 758-7460, or Postal Inspector

H.J. Picariello at 452-8939.

As the weather warms and everyone gets to the great outdoors we would like to encourage everyone to be aware of their surroundings and to assess any personal safety concerns. For further information on what you can do for your own personal safety and security you may contact the Director of Security. Short programs are available to small groups or dorm meetings. Have a happy and safe Spring.



Chuck Crimmins

by Lianna Williamson

This week the Bard community welcomes Charles Crimmins, formerly of Vassar, as the new Controller at Bard and Simon's Rock.

Crimmins graduated from the University of Minnesota, and attended the Business Management Institute at Stanford University.

Crimmins is a Certified Public Accountant, and was with the firm of Arthur Anderson & Co. However, Crimmins said he prefers working in an academic atmosphere.

"I didn't like the attitude of the profession," Crimmins said. "At Anderson & Co. I could have sat in the corner and been a 'bean counter' for years; working at colleges is more interesting, and gives me a wider range of responsibilities," Crimmins said.

Crimmins' primary responsibilities at Bard include general accounting, budgeting, and financial controls. He is now investigating Bard's financial situation to see what changes are necessary, Crimmins said.

Sister Cities Walkathon

by Jonah Gensler

The Mid-Hudson/Larreynaga Sister Cities Project will be holding a fund-raising Friendship Walk to purchase a vehicle for delivering needed supplies to its sister city in Nicaragua. The 10K (6.2 miles) walk will be held Saturday, May 6, and will proceed from Ward Manor at Bard to the village of Rhinebeck. There will be speakers, music and entertainment along the way. A stopover lunch will be held on the lawn at Rokeby mansion. The walk will end with a Central American dinner for everyone at the Church of the Messiah in Rhinebeck.

The goal of the walk is to collect enough money so that the project can purchase a vehicle for the people of Larreynaga, Nicaragua. The Mid-Hudson region became a sister city with Larreynaga this past summer, as many communities have been doing with other Nicaraguan cities throughout the United States.

Larreynaga is a small town of 1,800 people which, like most Nicaraguan communities, is struggling to survive with the U.S.-imposed trade embargo and the effects of last fall's devastating hurricane. The Project plans to deliver the vehicle to Larreynaga this summer for the town to use as an

ambulance. The town is without a doctor and emergency medical help is over 20 miles away.

Fred Nagel, organizer of the Friendship Walk, adds that "The Mid-Hudson/Larreynaga Sister Cities Project is about people and education, not politics and guns. We plan to load the vehicle with all the school supplies, medicine, clothing and construction tools that we can collect. We are looking for material aid donations from members of the community: everything from baseball bats to medicine to pencils and paper."

The vehicle and supplies will take a trip south with the Pastors for Peace convoy that will be travelling to Nicaragua this July. Pastors from all over the U.S. will be delivering needed supplies to various Nicaraguan communities as part of this peace convoy.

According to Nagel, "The Sister Cities Project Wants to join the convoy as a way to further peace in our hemisphere through understanding and mutual respect. Over two dozen local organizations and churches are sponsoring this Walk."

The Sister Cities Project is looking for volunteers. Anyone interested in walking in the Friendship Walk can contact Jonah Gensler through campus mail or at extension 314.

FOR THIS OR A
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USE YOUR EYES AND EARS!

REPORT—

<p>A tense situation that's about to blow up.</p> <p>Any unusual noise—screams, breaking glass, pounding, a shot.</p> <p>Any emergency, such as an accident, a fire, a critically ill or injured person.</p> <p>Anyone being forced into a car or van.</p> <p>Recently broken windows or doors.</p> <p>Someone running from a car or building while carrying property.</p> <p>Any form of vandalism.</p>	<p>Someone looking into windows or parked cars.</p> <p>Vehicles driving slowly and aimlessly back and forth.</p> <p>Door-to-door solicitors without properly issued licenses.</p> <p>Someone hanging around the dorm, hallway, or other campus building with no clear purpose.</p> <p>REMEMBER: If it worries you, the police need to know. They would rather be called and not needed than needed and not called.</p>
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Academic Weekend Gives A Slice of Bard Life

by Robin Cook

Bard held its Academic Weekend April 7-9. Forty-eight people, mostly friends of the college, but also parents and alumni/ae, gathered together to experience what Dean Levine called "a slice of Bard life."

Levine downplayed the social aspects of the event, insisting that the purpose of the program was academic in nature. During

the weekend, the participants attended sample classes taught by Bard faculty.

The highlight of the weekend was a screening of "Bull Durham" by Bard alumnus and producer Thom Mount.

The participants enjoyed meals and anecdotes together, receiving a brief glimpse at the academic aspect of the college.

Schizophrenia

by Claudia Smith

On April 11, Dr. Elliot Gardner gave a lecture on "Schizophrenia: Recent Developments in Pharmacotherapy and Implications for the Neuropathology of Thought."

Dr. Gardner is Associate Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience and Director of the Program in Brain and Behavior at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City.

Gardner explained that schizophrenia was first believed to be caused by sewage. Asylums were built in the country, away from the pollution of the city. Most patients did not recover, but lived out their lives in a humane environment.

In the early 1950's, the drug

Chlorpromazine, the first psychotherapeutic drug, was discovered. At first it was used to calm patients before they received anesthesia. It was later used to manage aggressive mental patients. After two years of using this drug, doctors realized that it helped rid schizophrenic patients of their delusions. Many anti-schizophrenic drugs were developed from Chlorpromazine.

Gardner also discussed the most recently developed and effective anti-schizophrenic drug, Clozapine. Clozapine is banned in the United States because it is a known toxin. However, Gardner felt that Clozapine could be instrumental in helping schizophrenics if it were carefully regulated and distributed by qualified psychiatrists.

Forced Sterilization In Nazi Germany

by Mark Nichols

On Thursday, April 6, the Women Studies Program invited Professor John Fout to speak on forced sterilization in Nazi Germany.

Fout recently uncovered new archival material in West Berlin which links sexual politics of the late nineteenth century to sexual politics in Nazi Germany. This perspective, according to Fout, ties the entire Nazi problem of race, class and gender together.

The core of the Nazi ideal originated in the male dominated, anti-feminist, church-led movement of the 1890's. This was a small but influential group of conservative men who were reacting against the feminist movements of the late nineteenth century.

In Nazi Germany men and women whose behavior was outside of the prescribed conservative family ideal were often victims of sterilization. There were over 400,000 cases of male and female forced sterilizations.

The individual records show that people who did not conform to certain assumptions regarding gender boundaries and gender behavior were taken before genetic courts and persecuted.

Women were usually sterilized for schizophrenia, retardation or abnormal sexual behavior. The majority of the women who were sterilized were single and of the working class. Abortion was illegal for all women except those who were Jewish.

Men were often sterilized for alcoholism or retardation, yet the impact of sterilization on them was not as disastrous as it was on the women. Men were less often the target of the state and tended to conform to the Nazi ideal more than women.

Fout is now in his third year of research on Nazi Germany. He was the first person to read the records of forced sterilization cases and has since offered extraordinary insights into the origins of Nazi sexual politics.

Campus Racism

by Valerie Scurto

On Tuesday, April 11, Professor Troy Duster spoke to the Bard community on Contemporary Campus Racism in Socio-Historical Perspective.

Duster is from the University of California (at Berkeley) Department of Sociology. He is the current Director for the Institute for the Study of Social Change at Berkeley and the former Chair of the Department of Sociology.

Campus racism has been a cover story for Newsweek and Time Magazines over the last couple of years, he stated. There have been numerous incidents, even though "giving a count to something is hardly a way to understand the difficulty about its frequency of occurrence," said Duster.

He explained the pattern in which campus racism often takes place. First, there is an incident—it's dramatic. It can be a racial slur on a college radio station or a beating on campus. Then, mobilization occurs. The administration is confronted with a series of demands.

Duster says there is something on the other side. "What we get are students from ethnic and racial groups who talk about the problem on the college campus. Some people couldn't quite comprehend—it's what I call an impoverished vocabulary of racism," said Duster.

Thirty years ago, there was no need to talk about racism. It was part of the college landscape, an assumed feature, commented Duster. At Northwestern, in 1955, there were seven black students on a campus of 7000, where Duster attended.

There are two approaches to racism. The first saying racism is a matter of personal feeling or personal prejudice. Second, that

racism is a sense of group position.

A fundamental question then arose. Who belongs on a college campus?

Duster argued that what the American university experienced over the past century was a shift in criteria back and forth between individual and group.

In the early 1900's, the number of enrolled Jewish students became sufficient enough to cause concern among the white students and alumni. In 1922, 25 percent of the student body at Harvard was Jewish.

Princeton experienced a five percent increase from 1907-1921. Although this is a small increase, the alumni of the college wanted to cut back on the number of Jewish students. Since the school was worried about funding and the alumni provided it, the numbers were decreased.

In 1917/1918, an intelligence test was used to screen immigrants at Ellis Island, New York. Duster said this was parallel with admissions in universities. For example, Columbia University used this test for exclusion of Jewish students. Jewish students performed well in high school and college, but did poorly on the test.

Columbia's percentage of Jewish students decreased from 40 to 20 percent after four years of using the test.

In the 1960's, American colleges opened their admissions policies. In the ten year period from 1965-1975, a dramatic increase in the number of chinos, blacks, and latinos occurred which challenged the curriculum, said Duster.

The new open door policy brought about a shifting prism of group criteria based upon the threat of group position. Duster said, "One sees Asians as a group when they're doing very well, like one saw Jews as a group in 1920."

Duster said throwing out the criteria and a re-thinking of the issue of group criteria for admission has to begin. Students—white, black, Asian, Latino—are burdened by the implication of those test scores and low GPA scores.

Parts of the racism issue are over-representation of some groups and entitlement. Duster said that criteria and admission which are open to more diverse racial groups should prevail.

RECYCLED READING

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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

33 Benner Road
Red Hook, NY
12571



(914) 758-3335

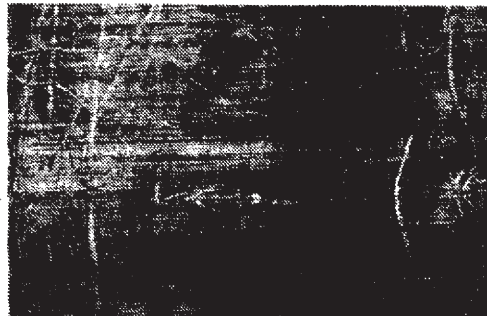
Sawkill: A Threatened Environment?

by Brenda Montgomery

The Conservation Advisory Commission of the town of Red Hook is preparing a proposal that will designate the Sawkill and its tributaries a Critical Environmental Area (CEA).

The objective of this proposal is to protect the Sawkill, as a drinking source, as a habitat for wildlife, as a recreational area, and as a cultural and historical area of Red Hook.

A CEA requires that all actions that may have an impact on that area are subject to environmental review by state and local agencies.



affecting the aquatic life.

Clearings of land near the stream would increase the area exposed to sunlight, encouraging the growth of algae, as the temperature of the water increased. The algae would create unpleasant odors, deplete the oxygen in the stream and, because of this oxygen deprivation, create an environment that would not sustain native fish and aquatic life.

Bard College currently has a State Pollution Discharge Elimination System permit to

Sawkill: a nice place
for a swim now but
what about the future?

The proposal covers an approximate 22-mile stretch of land, through which the Sawkill meanders until it empties into the Tivoli South Bay.

The Advisory Commission hopes to have the final draft completed by Spring. Earlier drafts have been reviewed by Chris Lindner, Bill Maple, Erik Kiviat, and Alison Silkworth of the Environmental Management Council.

Ann Gabler, Production Development Associate in Ludlow, is founder of the Cokertown/Spring Lake Environmental Association, an action committee of local residents. She sees the Sawkill as an area that needs to be studied.

"I'm very concerned. The rapid pace of development in Red Hook and the lack of town laws prohibiting building sites on the banks of the Sawkill lend a special urgency to this project. Everyone who watches the Sawkill meandering through Red Hook needs to be made aware of its critical environmental importance to us all."

A CEA will place limits on development along the banks of the stream, development that could cause erosion, destroying the natural beauty of the stream and sedimentation--the build up of sediments in the water. Sedimentation would lead to cloudy water and to silting of the bottom of the stream, adversely

dump treated sewage into the Sawkill. A CEA will closely monitor any new dumping considered in the future, and instigate regulations concerning the location of residential sewage tanks.

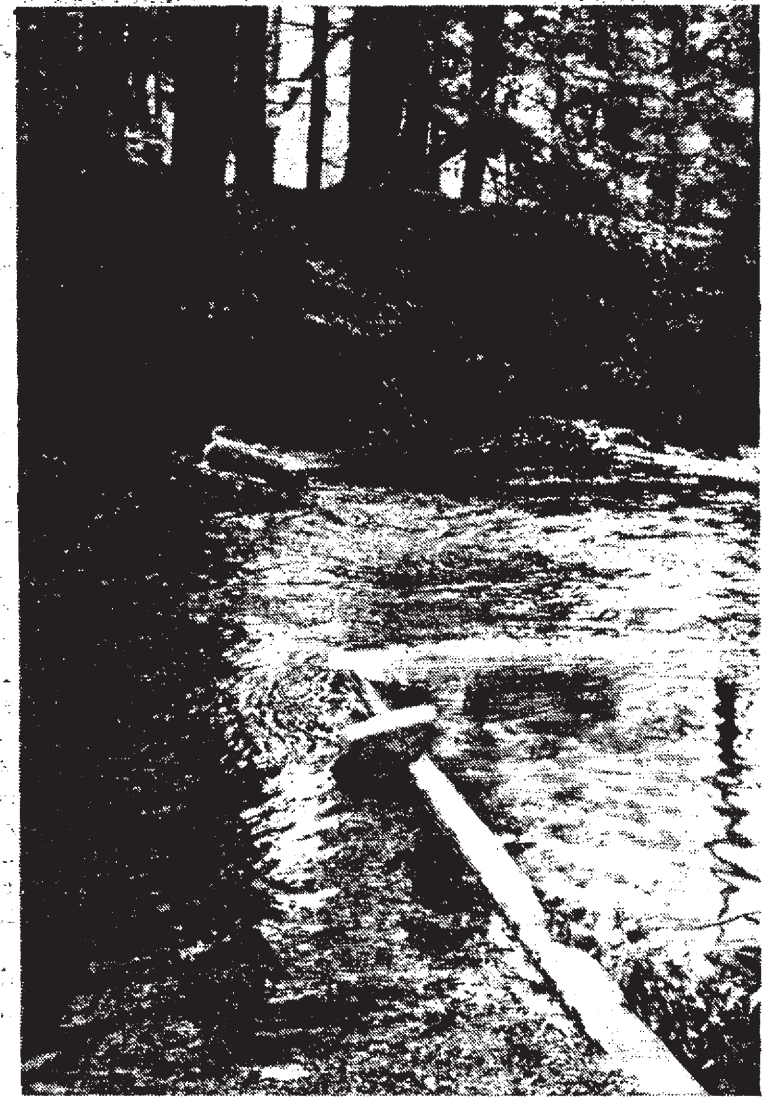
The Tivoli South Bay is an ecologically unique preserve, protected by the state. Any pollution or sedimentation of the Sawkill as mentioned above, could adversely affect this protected area.

Flint points have been found at Blithewood, Montgomery Place and elsewhere on each side of the river.

One Bard student is considering focusing her project along the Sawkill. The project would be an archaeological survey of the area. Past research of the surrounding lands suggests that the Sawkill will reveal some interesting sites.

The convergence of all these various concerns demonstrates the need to consider this proposed CEA seriously. A town meeting will be announced in the Spring, when the final proposal is ready.

The Sawkill is a unique resource for Bard students. It not only provides our drinking water, but also it is a beautiful stream, with many peaceful areas that students enjoy. With spring will come the opportunity to swim once again at the falls. Let's hope we can preserve this pleasure for future students.



Bard dumps treated sewage into the Sawkill.

Should Math & Science be Required?

by Lisa DeTora and Valerie Scurto

A variety of science and math professors, and the Assistant Dean of the College were asked what they thought about math and science requirements at Bard.

Naturally, the answers were not all of one kind. Some professors feel very strongly about the question; others do not think about it too often. This is what they said:

Elaine Sproat, the Assistant Dean of the College, said that Science and Math was like any other division, and having requirements for math was not unreasonable.

She also supports the new requirement that at least one of the two classes required be either a lab science or a "real" math class. Sproat added that the requirements at Bard were less, in her opinion, than the requirements at other schools.

Peter Skiff, Professor of Physics, and the tutor of the so-called "Skiff courses" in the natural sciences, does not like the idea of requirements at all.

He feels that the department

should accommodate students of all levels of interest and ability in the sciences and adds that he thinks it unfair that two of his courses will not fill the math and science requirement.

Professor John Ferguson of the Biology department places math and science courses "in the same category as high school gym requirements and mothers making children take piano lessons," in that very rarely is a student introduced to a new field in which he/she is talented. Most of the time the experience is neutral, and a few people truly hate it.

Ferguson said that students should not need requirements to broaden their experiences.

Bill Maple, Professor of Biology, said that the requirements were "a good idea."

Ethan Bloch, Math Professor, is in favor of requirements in all the divisions. He said that one of the major problems in the department is a need for classes in which the students have little to no background in math, but are still interested.

continued on page 10

Editorials

Bard Philosophy: Take It Or Leave It

The proposed changes in the structure of Bard academic life will not serve the college's interest. They will not only dissolve or water down what is unique about Bard's program, but also they would create a system of "GPA fixation" that is contradictory to the standards by which students are admitted and moderated at this time.

Students are admitted to Bard when they exhibit potential, not necessarily a "track record" of overall academic success.

They come to Bard because of the small size of its classes and the emphasis on interaction between professors and students during class discussions and advising meetings. The process of moderation and criteria sheets provide needed and wanted feedback for students.

It is presently the outlook of the college that every student should be capable of completing a senior project by the time he or she leaves Bard. If students are unable to fulfill graduation requirements when they are seniors, the faculty in their division have failed.

Faculty control moderation. If students are not mature enough academically to enter the upper college, faculty should defer or fail them. Admittance to the upper college based solely upon students' GPA contradicts Bard's initial admittance philosophy of potential. Further, GPA-based moderation standards would not provide helpful constructive criticism to students who don't meet requirements but who have potential and lack the guidance to use it.

One alumnus of the Division of Social Sciences told The Observer that he had not had very good grades and was deferred at the time of moderation. Still, he received an A- on his senior project. "For the first time in sixteen years of schooling, my grade was based entirely on my research and my ideas. I did more work on my project than I'd ever done before and the idiotic thing about it was that it was fun."

Another ramification of lowering standards, providing fewer challenges and less constructive criticism, would be a lowering in the ability and inquisitiveness of Bard students. Is a GPA-conscious freshman or sophomore more likely to select interesting, yet difficult, 200 and 300 level courses or stick to bland freshman intro courses to get good grades? Professors have already complained that some GPA-tied EEC students choose less-challenging courses to ensure success.

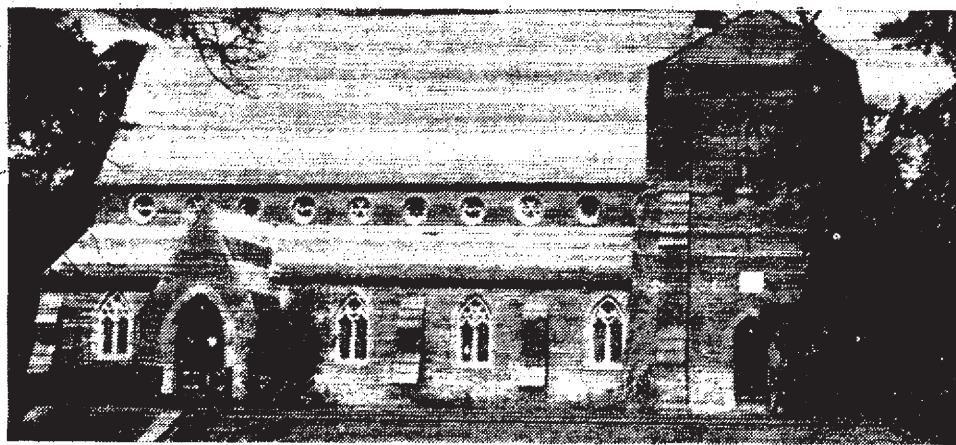
At Bard every student is taken seriously. Each is challenged--and expected--to do his or her best work.

Every student knew what would be expected by the time of graduation. Every professor who works here should understand Bard's philosophy and requirements. Those who don't want to do the work--students or faculty--should leave.

A faculty member who does the "lion's share" of a project and "carries" a student is not doing that student, or Bard's reputation, any favors. If students think they can get away with not doing work, they won't do work. When a student completes an unacceptable senior project, he or she should fail.

There is no question that the swelled number of students has put a strain on professors. Lowering the quality of the education at Bard is not the answer to this problem. Bard has only its academic excellence and its faculty to entice students here. "No one is here because of the gym," one senior said. No one's here because of the food or housing either.

The answer seems to lie either in obtaining more professors or less students, not in making fewer courses. As each year brings a yet larger freshman class, the time has come for Bard to decide whether to establish an educational policy of superior education for few or mediocrity for everyone.



No Money For The Organ

by Jeremy Soule and Julie Williams

Many of you may be unaware that the Bard Chapel houses one of the finest pipe organs in the Hudson Valley. It is rare for an instrument this large to be in such a tiny space. It has over 3,000 pipes that are located beside and beneath the sanctuary.

The organ was built in 1934 at a cost of \$14,070 and was expanded in 1955. It has been estimated, however, that to replace the organ would cost in excess of \$400,000.

Here lies the crux of our dilemma: the organ is in need of extensive renovation. Lack of cleaning and maintenance has resulted in the deterioration of the electropneumatic mechanisms (the system by which the organ operates). The college's neglect has left this wonderful instrument in a state of disrepair that no longer permits concert usage.

We had to find this out the hard way. On April 7, 1989, Earl Miller, a renowned organist, was scheduled to give a recital, using the instrument. Julie Williams sent Miller a list of everything on the organ that didn't work, so that he could arrange a program around the problems. Unfortunately, Miller wrote back saying there wasn't enough of the organ left for him to work with.

He told us, "I fear a concert would do more damage, not to mention embarrassment to the college, than good." Strange, considering that Bard claims this instrument to be one of the finest chapel organs in the country.

The purpose of the concert was to raise the community's awareness of the organ and its need for a complete renovation, which would cost approximately \$60,000.

The Rev. Bruce Chilton showed us some old documents and letters, and it seems as though a

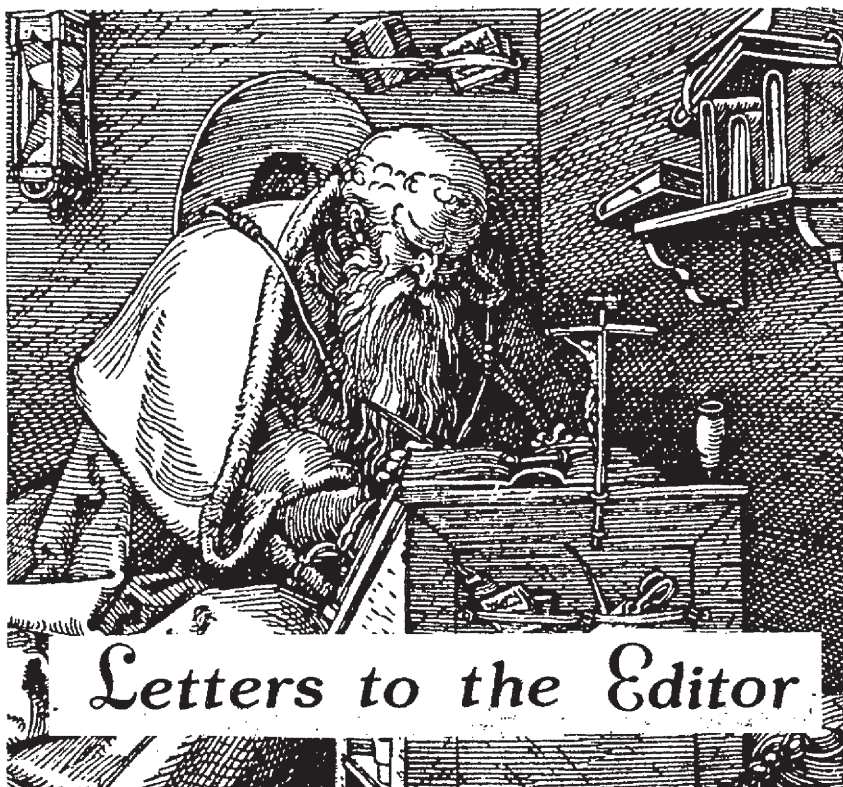
renovation has been needed for the past decade. Among these documents was a letter to Leon Botstein, dated February 1981, from Lodon Springstead, who was the chapel organist in the early 1980's. In the letter, Springstead requested a thorough cleaning and partial re-leathering of the swell division where the leather had decayed, resulting in "silent notes." Botstein wrote back saying, "I am asking Vice President Papadimitriou to look into the repair and maintenance of the organ."

As far as we know, though the organ has been tuned occasionally, it has not been releathered or properly maintained, resulting in its current state.

In an interview with Bruce Chilton we learned that the college received an endowment of \$60,000 from Trinity Church in New York City called the Trinity Church Bard Chapel Fund. The exact purpose of this fund is unknown, so it's an open question whether it could be applied to the restoration of the organ. The Chaplain met with Papadimitriou to inquire about the "missing" endowment, but received no definite reply.

We write this article in the hopes of motivating the college to begin renovation of this great instrument, which a growing number of students use and enjoy. Unfortunately, the longer the delay, the greater the decay, and the higher the cost of repairs.

We will close with another quote from Earl Miller's letter: "They (the college) have permitted a fine piece of art to go unattended, and through their neglect, have all but ruined it. It needs a complete and proper rebuild. Until that is done, they are deceiving themselves and the public by stating that they have one of the finest chapel organs in the country. What they have is a glaring example of neglect."



Letters to the Editor

Encouraging Words

To the Editor,

Recently, I heard that members of the Bard Community have complained about the lack of women as professors in the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division. More specifically, it has been said that perhaps women who are potential majors might be intimidated by the men of the division and by the lack of female representation in the Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series. I, as a major in this division, would like to address these issues.

The division does in fact have a professor who is a woman, Simeen Sattar. This year she is on leave to do research at Brandeis University. She is not, however, a "token woman." As a member of the Mathematics hiring committee for the past three years, I know of all the attempts to hire a woman. We

have actively sought out female candidates this year. However, there weren't many interested in Bard for a multitude of reasons, including more lucrative positions because of lack of women in the field and the isolation of Bard (Married people do not come to Bard because their spouses cannot find jobs, and single people don't come to Bard because it is hard to find a spouse). Biology had the same problem last year.

We students do not resent the fact that we have no female professors. I believe that more important than the sex of the professor is his quality as an instructor and the quality of his working relationships with students. Because we are the smallest division and we spend more time with our professors (in labs and tutorials) than the majority of other students, we know each other on a personal level. Therefore, they have a chance to encourage our interests, while we have a chance to see them as having a little less authority. Basically, they treat us as equals. How could anyone feel intimidated by this?

In fact, I would venture to say that the men, realizing this shortcoming in the division, almost go out of their way to encourage the women. All of the moderated Mathematics majors are female despite an all-male department. A majority of both Chemistry and Biology majors are women. I believe the fact that there are no women Physics majors reflects a lack of Physics majors in general, as most people who are interested in Physics out of high school go into

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Opinion: Student Questions Suggested Economic Agenda

by Jonah Gensler

On March 18, Bard played host to the Jerome Levy Economics Institute's inaugural conference titled "Profits and Instability." The remarks ranged from the mundane to the provocative in this final section of what had been a three-day Inaugural Celebration. This section, titled "An Economic Agenda For The New President," began with a presentation by Philip Caldwell, former CEO of Ford Motors and presently the Senior Managing Director of the Investment Group of Shearson Lehman Hutton, Inc.

Caldwell portrayed Ford as a company that was burdened by government regulations in the seventies and left to recover from an immense decline in profit. The regulations Caldwell complains about were those regarding emissions of carbon monoxide and nitrous oxide, fuel economy, noise and safety. The fact that Ford had to spend twenty billion dollars in private capital does not automatically make government regulations irrational as Caldwell implied. These safeguards were important and should have been done under Ford's own initiative.

Caldwell stated his concern for "people--our most important resource," yet includes the firing of over 20 percent of Ford's employees and the closing of seven plants in the U.S. as part of their sound strategy for recovery. While this may have been good for Ford, it is questionable whether this was good for the U.S. on the whole. Caldwell's portrayal of the Ford Motor Company as a martyr/hero is a great distortion. Caldwell is

a member on the Board of Advisors of the Levy Institute.

Caldwell's presentation was followed by a short talk by Murray L. Weidenbaum, Director of the Center of the Study of American Business and author of Rendezvous with Reality. After hearing Mr. Weidenbaum's call to "build on accomplishments of Reagan" and to "not lose sight of his peaceful labor relations and strong defense," one might wonder if a he didn't need a little "rendezvous with reality" himself. Weidenbaum called for military budget cuts, but guess where? Not overpriced and overproduced missiles, but veteran's benefits. Besides the fact that this would not significantly reduce the military budget, it should be the last place to make a cut in the budget.

Weidenbaum felt he was quite funny when he suggested a "diet COLA (cost of living allowance) for the old." If reductions in senior citizen benefits are in order, they should be proportional to wealth and not across the boards as he suggested. Even more troublesome was Weidenbaum's claim that current spending on education is sufficient.

The other panelists were: Richard Cavanaugh from the Kennedy School of Harvard, George Hatsopoulos from the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston and Martha Seger from the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System. All panelists agreed that there are serious problems awaiting the U.S. economy but that a policy is within our reach to help avoid or rectify these problems.

Finding and activating such policy is what The Jerome Levy Economics Institute claims to be all about. The cover of its brochure states its aim: "To pursue knowledge of economics that will enable nations to enlarge personal freedom, promote justice, and maintain stable economies with full employment and rising standards of living." It is my hope that Philip Caldwell does not have a strong voice at the Institute and that hosting the likes of Murray Weidenbaum is part of the Institute's attempt to engage in illuminating debate, and not an indication of the economic agenda they will be supporting.

Dean Explains

To the Editor:

It was clear from the March 23rd edition of the Bard Observer that my presence at the March 15th Forum was missed. The reasons given for my absence however, were not accurate. I was in New York that evening addressing the Bard Alumnae Board professionally; a commitment I had made in early February. I apologize for my absence and thought it important to provide this clarification.

Sincerely,
Shelly Morgan

March

continued from page 1

Michele Robinson disagreed. "I think its incredibly important for young children to be introduced to political processes," she said.

Heidi Mattson was disappointed with the lack of political leadership at the rallies. "I think the speakers should have done more to get people mobilized."

Patricia Gordon, who marched with Bard, has been active since the Civil Rights movement. She felt that the march was as dramatic in numbers of people and feelings as the Vietnam marches were. "The right-to-lifers have gotten a tremendous amount of press. It was getting demoralizing. The march inspired the people that were there."

Although the Supreme Court is supposed to be politically immune, the march may directly affect decisions to support clinics and pay for abortions. Mario Bick, one of the few professors to march with Bard students, felt that "the march probably won't affect the Supreme Court's decision so much, but it should influence some state representatives."

"I would think the march would influence the Supreme Court. I know it's not supposed to, but I don't see how it won't," said Nora Cohen, a children's book editor who went on a N.O.W. chartered bus from New York City.

"Politically you never now how things will turn out. In retrospect, the Vietnam marches were very helpful in stopping the war," Gordon said.

"Things get done slowly, but it's important to register our thoughts and feelings. Imagine what it would be like if we didn't march," said Marion Wexler, a Gray Panther from Silver Springs, MD.

Holly Yarbrough, a facilitator and member of the National Organization of Women, explained that N.O.W. saw the march as serving the function of a pep rally and as a good way to get press coverage and money.

The Bard buses have all been paid for now. Some sources of money were the two benefits (raising \$1800 in total), contributions from professors and some administrators, and donations from SMOG and the Entertainment Committee.

The last \$1000 owed was borrowed from special funds, but those who organized the march expect to pay it back.

Lianna Williamson, a Bard bus head, explained this march was

the first political action for many people. She told of one student on her bus that said, "It seems corny but I feel like we're making history."

"It was exciting to see the response at Bard after the march. People were really talking about it. It will help us to mobilize further," said Liz Fellicella, one of Bard's march organizers. "Going to Washington is fun, but stuff on the local level is important, too," she added.

Jonathan Hearn, an alumnus who marched with the Bard contingent, said that the march would help galvanize people to call and write letters to congressmen and to sign petitions.

The organizers were Hester Baer, Nina D'Natali, Liz Fellicella, Torrence Lewis, and David Miller.



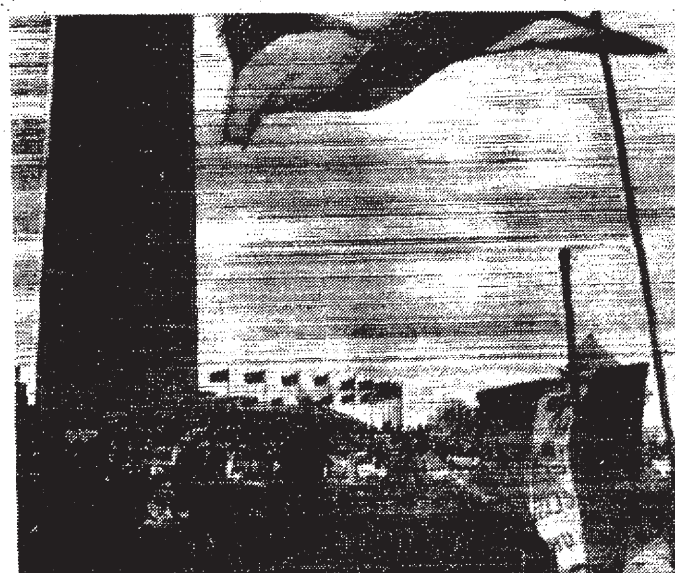
Norma McCorvey, known as Jane Roe in the 1973 lawsuit said, "Our law's in jeopardy."



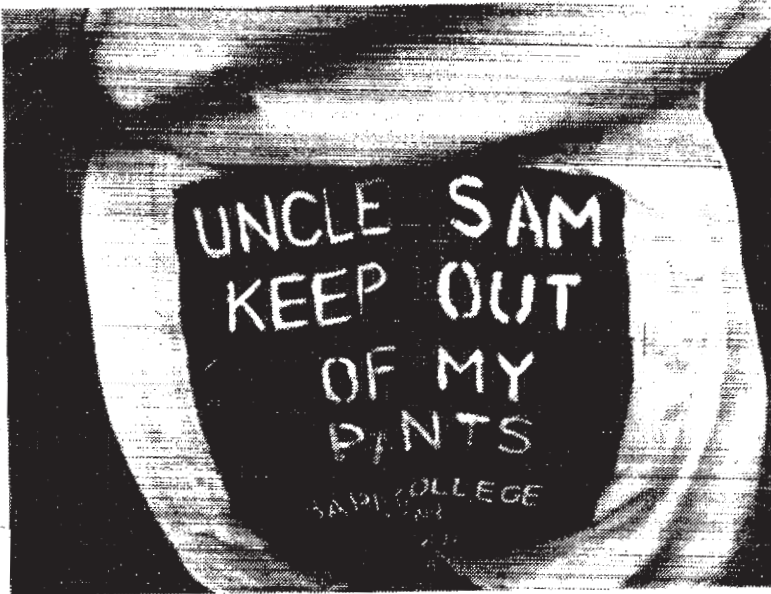
Katherine T. Smith, 91, said, "The most important thing in life is planning to create. It should not be taken lightly."



4400 crosses represent abortions performed daily.



March organizers estimated that 600,000 people came to support safe and legal abortion.



Nearly 400 Bard students and faculty went to Washington to support the 1973 Supreme Court decision.

Housing

continued from page 2

only increase the annual Spring losses.

Many student officials say that the controversy may turn out to have a long-term benefit.

The new Student Life Committee (SLC), a joint committee of the college, will make recommendations about all college quality-of-life issues that are not academic in character, especially those concerning residential policy.

The committee will be made up of the Dean of Students, the Assistant Dean of Students, three faculty members appointed by the President, two peer counselors and four members, including the chair, elected by the student body at the Forum.

The controversy has rekindled enthusiasm for the planned student center. Many students cited the lack of an adequate student center as a major shortcoming of residential life during the controversy. Indeed, according to Tenant's Union chair and chief student negotiator David Bogart, "When the day comes that Bard raises its

housing standards and builds the kind of student center this campus deserves, I doubt such a housing policy will even be necessary."

The day that Bogart speaks of may come sooner than many students think, according to Shelly Morgan, Assistant Dean for Residential Life. This summer the college is planning to undertake several major improvement projects.

The most significant of these will be in Robbins Hall, where residents can expect to see the hallways carpeted and hallway ceilings covered with sound absorbing tiles. The dormitory's bathrooms will also be upgraded and new bathrooms and lounge spaces created from rooms now considered too small. Other improvements, such as adding new public phones and painting, will also be made.

Several other dorms, including Sands House, South Hall and the Ravine Houses are scheduled for more modest improvements.

Morgan hopes that these actions will help to establish the administration's good intentions in the area of residential life.

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Women In Literature & Art

by Claudia Smith

On Thursday, April 6, 1989, Dr. Edith Kern spoke on "Women in Literature and Art: Portrayed and Portraying."

Kern teaches at the New School for Social Research in New York City. Founding editor of *Dada Surrealism*, she has also served as President of the Modern Language Association.

Kern's lecture focused on women in art and literature in Western Europe from prehistoric times to the present. "I must admit that this is an immense subject, and I cannot do it justice in the time allotted here," said Kern.

She stated that the Middle Ages recorded the names of a few outstanding women writers, "mostly nuns or highly placed ladies."

"Should we conclude that there are also women painters whose names have been lost? That nuns were engaged as well as monks in the copying of manuscripts? Or may we assume that the image of woman prior to the nineteenth century was created by men?" asked Kern.

Kern then presented her audience with slides portraying women. The first slide was of a prehistoric, terra cotta statue from Cyprus. The piece served as a literally life-giving vessel," Kern stated. Impersonal in detail, the statue simply reveals the essence of woman, said Kern.

Kern showed paintings dating from the Middle Ages, including a thirteenth-century painting of the Madonna. "In this painting, one detects the influence of the goddess Isis. There is an absence of intimacy; the painting is idol-like."

She then presented a variety of other paintings of women from

the Middle Ages, many religious in nature. Most of the paintings were depictions of Mary, who was, Kern said, the most dominant woman figure of that period. The paintings that did individualize her emphasized her beauty.

Kern exhibited images of women painted by women. One painting revealed Esther as the strong, focal image of the picture. Many women painters of the nineteenth century, such as Mary Cassatt, combined "both tenderness and emotion," she stated.

Male painters also began to present women with different images; Degas often portrayed women as unhappy wives.

As Kern began to speak about contemporary art, the impressions of women became more varied: a woman's self portrait lacking in any sentimentality, Tom Wesselman's hungry seductive mouth enveloped in smoke, and Picasso's reclining nude. Kern indicated the immensity of that nude and likened it to a prehistoric piece she had presented earlier, the sculpture of a frightening, enormous woman and her tiny son.

Kern concluded the slides with "The Black Iris," a painting by Georgia O'Keeffe. "This painting evokes feminine sensuality and returns to the Earth Mother imagery," Kern said.

Kern's presentation was an excellent overview of women's presence in art and literature, raising questions about women's role in pre-nineteenth century art. However, her study of women's presence in visual art was more extensive than her discussion of their portrayal in literature.

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Beyond Bard

by Kristan Hutchison

The opportunities to volunteer in the Bard area are great and growing. Lilla Wilson, Director of the Career Development Office, is working to make it even easier for students to volunteer.

Some students are afraid that they do not have the time to volunteer and that their academic performance would suffer if they did. "A couple of hours a week is not going to affect the academic or social life of any student. That's a real cop out on their part," says Wilson.

Even a small bit of volunteered time can be a large help. Most places that look for volunteers, such as hospitals or soup kitchens, prefer that the volunteers work several hours at a time. Visiting elderly or disadvantaged children, however, requires only an hour. The agencies are always happy to fit the work to the schedule of the volunteer.

Many students cannot volunteer because they have no transportation. However, anyone over age 18 with a New York State driver's license can get a chauffeur's license from the Department of Motor Vehicles in Kingston. This will enable them to use Bard vehicles to drive themselves to and from a volunteer job. For students who cannot drive or who are licensed out of state, carpooling is a solution.

There are no good excuses for not helping out in some way. Below is a list of places needing volunteers, but there are numerous others. The Career Development Office has further information and can help connect interested students with service agencies. Both Bruce Chilton and Nancy Flam can also arrange community works for interested students.

--Students have been visiting Jewish patients at the elderly home for one hour one Friday a month. Transportation is provided.

--Chilton is working with the soup kitchens in Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

--Northern Dutchess Hospital needs people to help with patients and clerical work. A carpool is available.

--Literacy volunteers are needed in Poughkeepsie and Kingston. A training session may be set up at Bard.

--Anderson School, Rhinebeck

Country School, and the Astor Home all need people to work with emotionally disturbed children.

--Big Sister and Big Brother programs in Kingston need people willing to spend time developing a relationship with a youngster.

--Hotlines for battered women and abused children need people to answer the phones.

Encouragement

engineering. It is not for lack of trying on the part of Burt Brody and Matthew Deady. Both have more than encouraged and helped me just as much as Ethan Bloch, Hilton Weiss, and the rest of the division have.

The end on which we need to focus is that more women get involved in these fields so that our children will not be involved in this controversy. I knew when I chose to study Mathematics and Chemistry that they are male-dominated fields. That does not bother me. If it did, I would not be studying sciences anywhere, with male or female professors. The sex of a teacher is not going to change reality at the present time. I am studying science because I like it and I have been encouraged to do it. However, to me, and to many other women in this division, it does not matter if this encouragement is from a man or a woman--just as long as it is there!

Sincerely,

Laura Muller

Education

Physics Professor Matthew Deady feels it is important to have these requirements at a liberal arts college. "What makes it different at Bard is an attempt to make science one of the liberal arts and to encourage that it does make a difference in one's life," said Deady.

"People are committed to the idea to equip you with critical, rational and creative ideas. We, the faculty, cannot know what you're going to do, but we can give you what you're going to use," Deady added.

Abe Gelbart, Math Professor and Coordinator of the Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series, said that for the past two thousand years, all universities have thought that math and science education were vital, and that there was no reason to part from that judgement.

Gelbart also stated that math and science knowledge was essential to a full life in the modern society. It is possible to live without it, but one would be "deprived of a major section of current life."

Richard Goldstone, Math Professor, said that students did not know enough about math and science, particularly about the history of math and science to consider themselves educated in the truly liberal sense. He thinks that it is impossible to be liberally educated without some knowledge of calculus, and adds that there are many individuals who can do calculus, and still can't balance their checkbooks.

Professor of Math Gary

Martin feels that the science and math requirements are not working very well.

"Students capable of fulfilling their requirements in more rigorous courses instead take the natural sciences," said Martin. On the other hand, some students need a lower level. He believes the groups need to be separated, so the students are taking the appropriate courses.

Furthermore, Martin feels the admission requirements should be strengthened and math testing, different from the present method, should take place after admission. Students not ready for a course should take a preparatory class, and then, an offered course.

"Students, upon graduation will have learned something and not just filled a requirement," said Martin.

Burt Brody, Professor of Physics, sees the science and math requirements as a way of nourishing people's lives. The purpose of non-major science courses is to guide the experience and excitement, says Brody.

"As a result of this, people will gain more control over what they experience in the world," he stated.

Brody also sees the requirements as accepting a philosophy. "When you contract to go to a certain school, to some extent you are accepting the philosophy of that school--that is why you come here. You should not be expected to understand all the details in the philosophy, but the requirements are part of the working out of that philosophy," said Brody.

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Changes

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standing.

A student who has shown excellent progress in his or her semester project might be encouraged to follow up on it further into the next semester and receive four more credits.

Those who have attained a 3.0 grade point average in their department may undertake a two semester, eight credit project if they wish to do so. If they fail to achieve the minimum grade point average, they may appeal to a board who will determine whether or not the candidate stands within the horizon of promise, in which case permission would be granted.

In all cases those who undertake the two semester, eight credit senior project are to be graded on the letter scale; there will be no pass/fail option. If at the end of the first semester the candidate has disappointed his or her senior project board members, his or her project would be reduced to a four credit project which would have to be completed the following semester.

Those who do complete their eight credit projects may be recommended for a degree with honors, based on the combination of their grade point average and the grade they received for the

project itself.

The next area in which the proposal seeks reform is in the moderation process. It suggests that in order for students to moderate they must have at least a grade point average of 2.3 or better in the courses taken in that particular division by the end of their second semester sophomore year. If they fail to achieve this, they will have to try again in the first semester of their junior year.

If the requirements still have not been fulfilled by this time, students may appeal for a moderation at the end of their junior year. Accordingly, the division would then institute a three member board to hear the appeal.

As a pre-requisite for such hearings, the student would have to submit a concise summary of his or her potential senior project. If the board is satisfied with the student's presentation, it has the authority to allow him into the particular division as a moderated student.

The final reform that the proposal seeks is in the structure of courses. Bard offers two kinds of courses. The seminar treats from around 10-15 students to intensive study that stresses the active engagement of all individuals enrolled. Classes consist of about 15-30 students and revolve

less around student involvement, and more around a particular agenda set by the professor. For both of these kinds of courses, professors are required to write out criteria sheets for every student in the course.

Full time professors are required to provide three courses per semester. In conjunction with sophomore moderations, junior tutorials, major conferences, formal and informal advising, committees, registration and course preparation, and senior projects, the teaching burden becomes wearing.

The institution of a third kind of course is proposed; the lecture, in which there can be from 30-45 students enrolled. Each lecture, usually a 100-200 level course, would count as two of the three required courses that the full time professor must fulfill each semester.

Each division may offer one to two of these optional lecture courses per semester. On the day of registration, those who wish to be in the lecture course need not obtain the signature of the professor.

The lecture will strictly follow a syllabus in which the material is considered by the professor to be essential for a formal understanding of a particular field. In a third meeting each week the professor could lead a

class discussion.

Because there is a limited amount of student involvement in the lecture, it would not be required of the professor to write out criteria sheets. Grades would be based solely on tests and/or papers.

Under this new proposal, there is also a clause which leaves to the discretion of the professor whether to write criteria sheets for classes (15-30 students).

S.E.I.U.

continued from page 1

problems are not resolved before the next contract negotiations which begin in two years, a strike will be a real possibility at that time.

President Botstein, named as the employer representative in the charges, said that the college had no official response to the charges at this time. He said that such events "come with the territory of a new contract," and that actions of this sort are not surprising at the beginning of a relationship between a union and an employer when the two organizations are still learning how to deal with each other.

He did suggest that some of the problems may be the result of misunderstandings caused by personnel changes within the administration, such as the departures of Peter Gibson as Controller and William Beckman as Director of Operations.

Botstein also said that the issues which divided the college and the union were more about the structure and process of the relationship than the policies of either party.

Steve Keister, who is part of the administration's negotiating team, noted that he understood that the college had received fewer grievances from employees than are usually seen by employers at this stage of a union/management relationship.

When asked about the future of Bard's relationship with the S.E.I.U., Botstein said that he was still very optimistic about the prospects for a friendly, working relationship with the union and he hoped that an understanding could be reached regarding the current issues.

On the part of the union, Townsend expressed a desire to see the situation de-escalate and to talk with the college about a solution.

The charges are currently under review by the N.L.R.B. which will decide whether or not there are sufficient grounds for a hearing on the matter.

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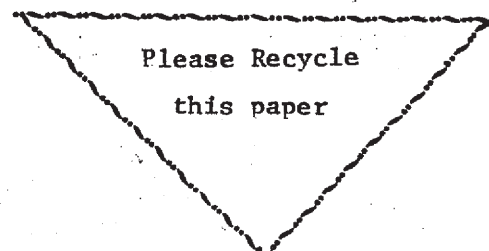
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MM. The platanos didn't stunt my growth. You have proof of that. Maybe you should have had some while you were growing up. LDP

Steve S. Good luck on your play. Hopefully you'll never have to be in 'Purgatory' again. Everyone

Jonathan M. Watch what you say. Words are more powerful than you think. Someone might take you up on your offer. The Woman Upstairs

You're right--it involves the mind as well as the heart. So when are we going to put your endurance to the test? I'm ready when you are. Me

Dearest Harold- You are the object of our desire. Love ya, Babe! -Mergatroid & the twins

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A Particularly Graphic Page

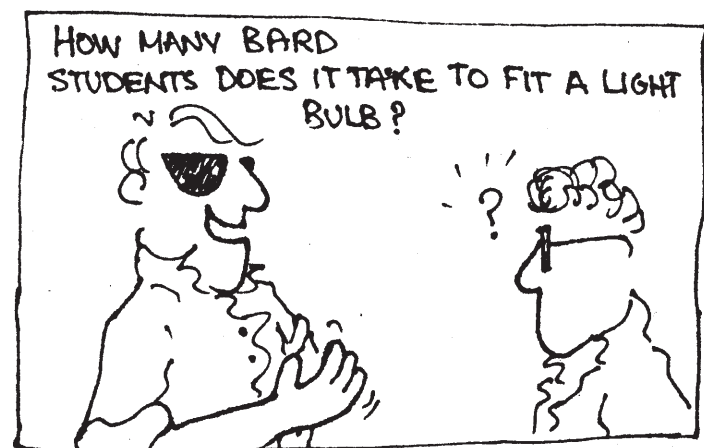
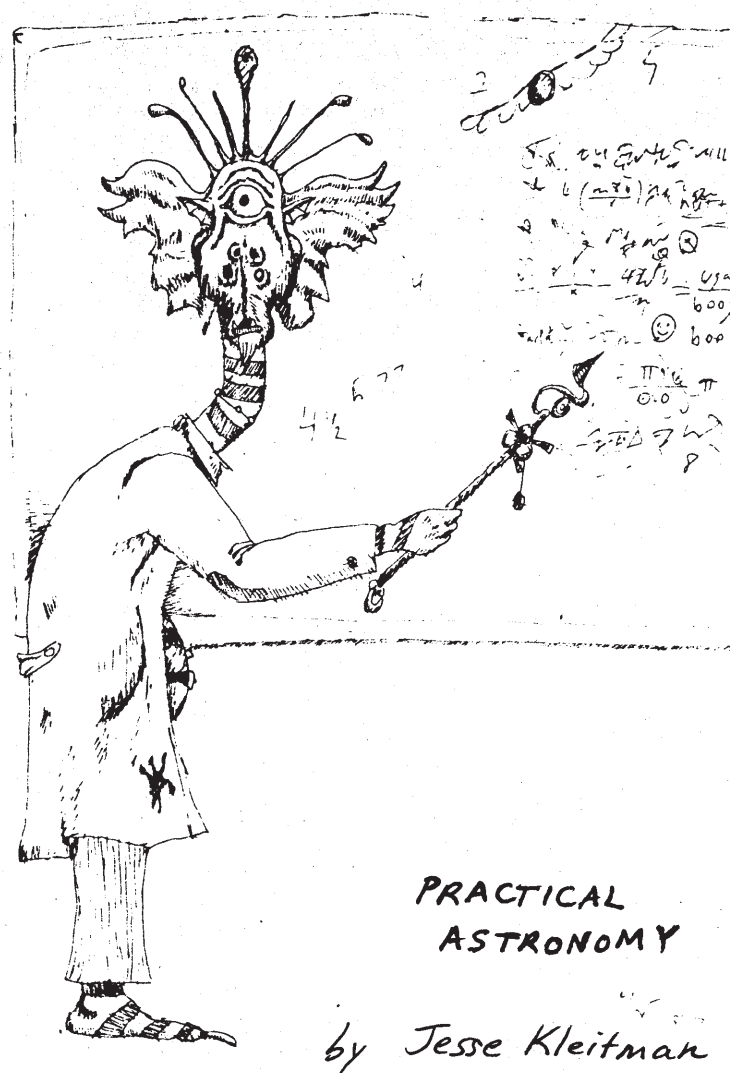
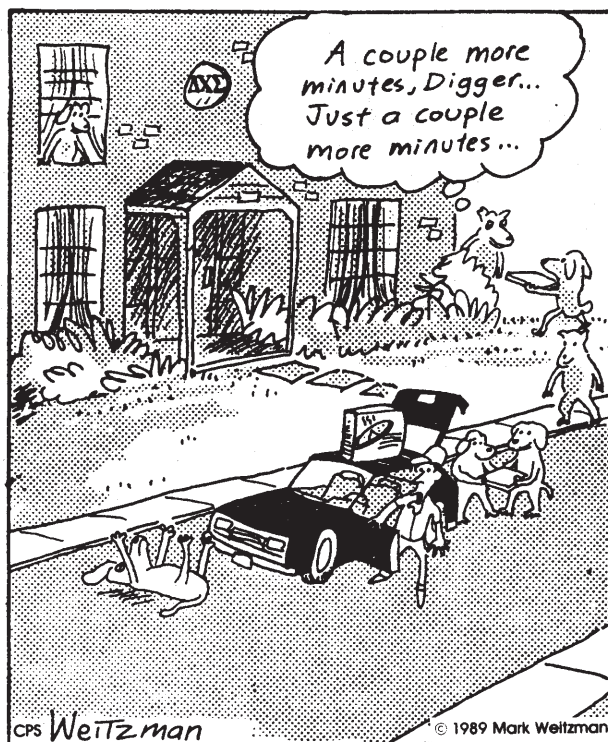
The illustrated BOOK OF LISTS (p. 149)
by David Wallechinsky, Irving Wallace, and Amy Wallace
(with illustrations by some chick with a pen.)

Most Popular Uses for the Q-Tip:

- 1) Cleaning ears:
- 2) Mouse torture:
- 3) Annoying projectiles:
- 4) Unsuccessful lock-picking:
- 5) Attractive jewelry:
- 6) Toe hygiene:

The Four Worst Places to be Stuck Without Any Gas:

- 1) The middle of the Pacific Ocean:
- 2) Nepal:
- 3) Harlem:
- 4) Florida:



Arts and Entertainment

Purgatory: A Realization

by Valerie Scurto

Steven Sapp, a senior drama/dance major, will present his show "Purgatory" to the Bard community on April 22 at 9 p.m. and April 23 and 24 at 10 p.m.

"Purgatory" is based on the life of Edmund Perry. Perry is a black student who leaves his home in the Bronx, New York, and attends a predominantly white school. Perry soon feels alienated from the world he has entered and the world he left behind. At the age of 17, Perry is killed.

Last Spring, Literature Professor Elizabeth Frank asked Sapp if he knew what happened to Perry. Since Sapp didn't know, Frank sent him the book of Perry's life, entitled Best Intentions: The Education and Killing of Edmund Perry.

After reading the book, Sapp "saw many connections between his life and my life," especially the way he felt about leaving his inner city home and going to a predominantly white school. He also experienced the feeling of not fitting in to either world.

"By going to school, I have an opportunity that many of them will not have," says Sapp, explaining his feelings of alienation at home.

"Purgatory" is not Sapp's senior project as many believe. Last semester, he performed his project which consisted of comedy and dance. The project was an abstract view and extremely condensed version of "Purgatory."

Sapp came back this semester to do this show. "Perry made the wrong decision and I decided it was a story to tell," said Sapp.

Sapp "felt that as a black person in the department, I had to make a statement as a black performer."

"Many of the feelings in the piece were written down years ago and the book was the final push," said Sapp. "Purgatory" is now his chance.

"I really wanted this to be a statement that there is a voice speaking for the minorities in the drama/dance department," said Sapp.

This show is mostly for the other minority students on campus to speak and display their talents in a way they would otherwise not have, Sapp said.

"The performance of the show is scary because my life has been geared to this; it is a personal stepping stone," stated Sapp.

Sapp also notes that "the type of show I'm doing, confrontational theatre with a political message, is an echo of the shows done in the 1970's."

What happens after the performance at Bard?

"Purgatory," in a condensed version, will be presented on April 30 in Boston. Sapp was asked to represent his division in an alumni showing of projects.

Sapp said "I cannot let 'Purgatory' die here and I will not." He plans to continue in show business and to take the piece with him.

On Friday, April 14, the student art show had its opening

amidst lots of music, lots of beer... and oh, lots of art!



Gilles Peress, Larry Rink and Stephen Shore.

Peress Captures Ireland

by Chris Bonnell

Gilles Peress doesn't want to be defined by the category of photojournalist or artist. "I'm just a man with a camera who interacts with the world," he said.

Peress, most well known for his book, Telex Iran, a collection of photographs taken in Iran during the hostage crisis, is in the process of a photographing a book on Northern Ireland. He graciously consented to show some slides of his work in progress.

Peress has been photographing the turbulent times in Northern Ireland for the last ten years. He said he was striving to show a picture of how life really is there, not just as a place of conflict.

His themes run from "layers of decay," "the children growing up in those twenty years who know nothing else," to the beauty of the natural landscapes. "In a way, they live better than we do.

They have strong social lives. The war doesn't disrupt their lives so much, they're so accustomed to it."

"There's more violence in New York than in Belfast, only it's not described as a political situation," he said.

His photographs are full of violence and confusion, decay, and strangely enough, beauty. It is understandable why Peress doesn't want to be classified as either or, because his pictures are a wonderful mixture of powerful political journalism and graceful artistic angst.

The lecture itself was one of the best I've been to at Bard, mainly because the audience really got involved. There was a lively dialogue which ranged (like his pictures) from politics to artistic concerns. He was wonderfully entertaining and informative with all kinds of anecdotes about the different photographs.



Words of Wisdom from Thom Mount

by Robin Cook

Film producer and Bard Alumnus Thom Mount '71 returned to Bard for a special screening of his hit film "Bull Durham," a tragicomedy about life in the world of minor-league baseball. The film was shown in the Olin Auditorium, and was followed by a question-and-answer session.

As a student at Bard, Mount majored in art. His many campus activities included helping to organize the film department and editing the campus paper. Bard, he said, was "a wonderful place to learn about life."

Mount left college early to attend graduate school in California. There, he explained, "I discovered a lot of people were making movies."

His first exposure to filmmaking came as an assistant to B-movie director Roger Corman. He claimed that the experience was "big fun" and "great training."

At the screening of the movie, Mount recalled his first meeting with "Bull Durham's" screenwriter, Ron Sheldon, in the late 1970s. Mount was an owner of several minor-league baseball teams while Sheldon was a baseball player hoping to break

into films. The two men collaborated to create the movie, and Susan Sarandon and Kevin Costner were cast in the lead roles.

"Bull Durham" was turned down by five major movie studios. Film executives believed that a movie about baseball lacked commercial potential, and Kevin Costner was not yet a major film star. Mount pointed out, however, that it helped create a trend for films about baseball after it became a hit.

One wonders how it felt for Mount to face such rejection. "It's always frustrating," he admits.

However, he also stated that the movie dealt with relationships, not baseball. "The truth of all this is that (the film is) a story about humans...there's a very good audience for it."

How would Mount counsel students hoping to enter the movie industry? One word of advice he offers is to move to Los Angeles. He insists, "It's absolutely possible to break in. What you need is an enormous amount of fortitude, courage in your convictions, and a lot of heart."

Impressions of Bull Durham

by Bud Liet

The stage was set for the biggest Bard event in several days. Thom Mount, Bard Class of '71, would present a film he had produced, Bull Durham. The crowd's eagerness "mounted" as the last few stragglers hustled their way in from the first screening of The Texas Chainsaw Massacre. The looks of horror that still lingered on their faces were understandable, as Leon took the stage. Always the polite host, Leon took the opportunity to brag about the size of Mount's office, thus saving Mount the trouble of trying to impress the money-loving throng.

In his introductory remarks, Mount discussed the financing of the film which cost eight million dollars (approximately double the average cost of a senior project film), one and a half million of which was Kevin Costner's salary, which, according to Mount, is now a whopping five million. The film was turned down by five studios, with the reasoning that baseball was not good "box office." Other reasons cited were screenwriter/director Ron Sheldon's inexperience, Costner's lack of

"star power," and the "peculiar behavior" of the characters. They should have seen the audience that night. Talk about peculiar behavior! Mount should know about baseball and bucks, having turned a losing minor league team (he owns several) into a literal money machine in a mere matter of months.

The film itself, which I had seen before, is much better than The Slugger's Wife. In fact, it's even better than Eight Men Out, Major League, Stealing Home (also produced by Mount), Fear Strikes Out, and The Bad News Bears Go To Japan. It was a realistic, zany, crazy, mixed-up, nutty, wacky, feel-good kind of film. Ron Sheldon's experience as a minor-league ballplayer obviously gave him the perspective to get the details of the game down.

And then it happened. Through no fault of the fine projection staff, the sound went out at the beginning of the third reel. The hideous shrieks, gasps, and moans of the devastated crowd initially led me to believe that some madman had opened fire. When I realized that it was only



Kendal Jones of Fishbone.

Unusual Fishbone

by Sebastian Melmoth

Last week Fishbone brought their traveling ska vaudville act to The Chance in Poughkeepsie. Led by singer/saxophonist/maniac Angelo Moore, Fishbone is six young black men from Los Angeles whose powerful live performances have earned them a notorious reputation as well as a loyal following.

Skanking, screaming, stagediving, and shaking his blonde dreadlock-mohawk furiously, Angelo can turn almost any show into an orgy of Funk.

Unfortunately, for people who may not have seen Fishbone anywhere else, this show was a slight disappointment. A large portion of the crowd had come to see the Neville Bros., who were the co-heading act, and this created a mellower atmosphere than the usual Fishbone mayhem.

the always troublesome Olin sound system, I relaxed and waited out the technical gremlins, enjoying the exaggerated discomfort of other audience members during the interruption of a Costner/Susan Sarandon steamy sexcapade.

The sound came back and the final reel was shown. However, as the credits began, about half of the crowd, lacking the patience to sit through three or four agonizing minutes of boring old credits, headed for the exits.

Leon, always on the ball, quickly dashed onto the stage and turned the house lights on. The sudden brightness momentarily stunned the crowd, which then resumed its exodus. Thom Mount mounted the stage again to "field" questions from those who remained, while Leon walked toward the projection booth, staring up into it and frantically slashing his hand across his throat, signalling either "Cut" or "You're dead."

The alert projection crew quickly lowered the volume of the sound, and Mount made an abortive attempt to speak. Then they quickly brought the volume

When the band opened with "Subliminal Fascism" it seemed like people wanted to slam, but they didn't really know how. Most of the crowd just danced peacefully next to each other, while some Hudson Valley punkers pushed each other around.

Fishbone, who rely heavily on crowd response, sensed the tremendous lack of Funk in the building and quickly grew disinterested. Even tremendous versions of "Lyn' Ass Bitch" and "Cholly" only slightly shook the bootays of Bard/Vassar/Poughkeepsie crowd.

Of course they put on a good show, but the stale atmosphere prevented a good show from becoming the usual Fishbone carnival of musical pleasure.

When asked if Fishbone have been pressured to sell out and try for a hit single, guitarist Kendall Jones had this to say:

"As far as Top 40, I don't know what the fuck that shit is. If you think you're going to hear some shit like Kylie Minogue and Rick Astley from Fishbone, I'm sorry, you're out of luck. We're not that way; we don't write sappy love songs, we don't do shit like that. A Fishbone show is just how life is. There's good, there's bad, there's everything. It encompasses the whole gamut of the human condition. And that's what we do."

up again, and lowered the house lights momentarily, sending Leon into a spasm of silent rage, perhaps best described as a convulsion fit. The situation was swiftly resolved by the astute projection crew, who had, perhaps mistakenly, thought that Mount would appreciate having those who helped him to make the film receive due credit.

The question period was brief, with Mount stressing the value of a liberal arts education and the wonderful time he spent with Adolfo Mekas. One audience member asked Mount the reason behind the title of the film. He replied that the title was ambiguous enough that it would not limit the perception of the film. Also, the title evoked the South (the film is set and was filmed in North Carolina) and has a mythical quality to it. Oddly enough, he made no reference to Cubs/Cardinals first basemen Leon "Bull" Durham.

Mount ended by thanking the audience, telling us we all wanted to go home after two brief questions, and the event was over.

Changing Realism In A Changing China

by Chris Bonnell

On Wednesday, April 5, Xiao Xu-Shan, a Chinese photographer gave a lecture on what nature of realism has been permitted under the changing regimes. She is an accomplished writer and teacher in China and is travelling here in the U.S. and Canada as well as teaching at The New School for Social Research.

Her lecture in Preston, although not well-attended, was interesting. She described three main periods illustrating the progress of photography mostly through photojournalism while showing slides of photography from these periods.

During the first period, from 1949 to 1966, photography in China was used for propaganda and was meant to educate. Photos always showed the "happy life," people smiling, natural landscapes. There were no free-lance photographers; all were designated by the state.

Later, during the Cultural Revolution, it was also propagandistic, showing many pictures of Mao and of the military. After Mao died, the domestic situation changed and there was economic reform. For the first time, photographs showed the more unhappy sides of life. For example, a train crash, a riot, or a soldier leaving his lover for the war.

Soon, China began to copy the Western style of photography. Some of the more artistic work had a resemblance to the popular (though not very good) American photography from the 1970s. A brief discussion ensued regarding the distribution of information around the world, and the fact that often what is popular, not necessarily good, gets wide coverage thus reaching other unsuspecting countries.

Mainly, Chinese photography is dominated by the photojournalistic school, full of symbolic meanings and educational possibilities. It has not been until recently, though, that photography has been used as social commentary on both the happy and disasterous sides of life.

Still, there is controversy over how much fact and how much fiction should be allowed in a photograph. Professor Bill Wilson commented that "forms and expressions changed, yet the reading and purpose (of photographs) remained constant."



Also on Friday, the junior photo show went up in the commons amidst lots of broken glass and tired photo students. Included in the show are "Works In Progress" by Catherine Talese, Seth Rubin, Christine

Bonnell, Mike Joseph, Allison Scott, Stephen Sollins and Eve Chanin (in order of appearance), all of whom will hopefully be doing their senior projects next year in photography.

Hudson Valley Events

ART

April 2-May 8--Watercolors by Patricia Billeci. Cunneen-Hackett Cultural Center, 9 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. 471-1221. Mon-Fri 9-5. Free.

April 2-May 14--Afro-American art from 1880-1987. Vassar College Art Gallery, Vassar College, Poughkeepsie. 437-7404. Wed-Sat 10-5, Sun noon-5. Free.

Through April 23--George Holz's photographs including commercial and personal images. The Center for Photography, 59 Tinker St., Woodstock. 679-9957. Fri-Tues 11-5. Free.

April 28-May 26--Barrett House Exhibitions, 55 Noxon St., Poughkeepsie. 471-2550. Mon-Fri 9-5, Sat 10-3. Donation \$1.

April 29-June 4--Photographs of the American "social landscape," juried by Catherine Evans and Andy Grundberg. The Center for Photography, 59 Tinker St., Woodstock. 679-9957. Fri-Tues 11-5. Free.

DANCE

April 23--Coppelia, ballet's greatest comedy tale. Empire State Ballet. UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston, 3 pm. \$10.

FILM

April 20-24--Pelle the Conqueror, Upstate Films, Rhinebeck. Call 876-2515 for times. (Rest of schedule unavailable at time of publication.)

MUSIC

April 28, 29--Leon conducts The Hudson Valley Philharmonic. Mozart & Shostakovich. Fri. at Bard, Sat. at Vassar. 8 pm. Free with I.D.

April 28--Benefit concert by pianist Vladimir Feltsman performing works by Mozart, Messiaen and Moussorgsky, Bardavon 1869 Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. 473-2072. 8 pm. Expensive.

POETRY

April 28--California poet Clive Matson reads in The Woodstock Guild's Green Room, 34 Tinker St., Woodstock. \$5.

April 29--Writing workshop, "Let the Crazy Child Write," by Clive Matson, Green Room, 10 am-noon. 679-2079. \$5.

THEATER

April 22--Boy Meets Girl, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. 473-2072. 8 pm. Student rate?

April 22--Eliot Fintushel of the Mimeworkshop of Rochester appears with his one-man show Ludd, The Machine Wrecker. Woodstock Guild's Kleinert Arts Center, 34 Tinker Street, Woodstock, 8 pm. 679-2079. \$8/\$6.

April 25, 26--Scott Hamilton in Broadway On Ice at Mid-Hudson Civic Center. 454-5800.

April 29--Charlotte's Web, Bardavon, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. 473-2072. 11 am. \$5.

April 29--Cinderella, UPAC, 601 Broadway, Kingston, 2 pm and 8 pm. 331-1613. \$4.



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THE RASCALS
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THURS., MAY 18
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MARTIN ALLCOCK OF JETHRO TULL

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Calendar

Thursday April 20th

Sign up for the blood drive at Kline.

Narcotics Anonymous, Aspinwall 302, 7 pm.

Leo Smith's advanced jazz group performs, Student Center.

Friday April 21st

SPRING FLING (See details this page)

Sign up for the blood drive at Kline.

Spring Dance Concert, Theater, 7:30 pm.

Saturday April 22nd

SPRING FLING

Yal Slavic course, Olin Auditorium, 2 pm. Sponsored by Soviet Studies Club.

Spring Dance Concert, Theater, 5 and 9 pm.

Sunday April 23rd

SPRING FLING

Weekly discussion concerning mass, Chapel, 7 pm.

Spring Dance Concert, Theater, 7:30 and 10 pm.

Film: Gates of Heaven, dir. by Errol Morris. Documentary about pet cemeteries in California (where else?). Student Center, 7 & 9:30 pm.

Choral concert with music by Faure, Chapel, 8:30 pm.

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR DATES CHANGE

Due to a conflict with Passover, the dates for three of Bard College's Spring International Seminars have been changed. The new dates are: Current Chinese Issues: Begins April 27; The 1789 French Revolution: Begins April 26; The Biology of Cancer: Begins May 3. For further information and registration, please call (914) 758-7424.

Monday April 24th

Blood Drive, Student Center, 9:30-3.

Screening of AIDS tapes, Committee Room, noon-4 pm.

The Bard Observer meeting, Presidents Room, 6 pm.

Russian poetry reading on human experience, Kline, 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Soviet Studies Club.

Spring Dance Concert, Theater, 7:30 and 10 pm.

Bard Center Fellow David Kettler will speak about "The end of trade unionism in the West?"

Tuesday April 25th

ROOM DRAW

Buckner Silver Jewelry, Kline Lounge, 10-4.

Screening of AIDS tapes, Presidents Room, 4-8 pm.

Amnesty International meeting, Olin 203, 6:30 pm.

AL ANON/ACOA meeting, Aspinwall 302, 7 pm.

Women's Center Discussion: The Media. What do magazines and television tell us about ourselves? Are fashion magazines realistic? How do the portrayals of women on television differ from those of men? Upstairs in the Student Center at 7 pm.

Miklos Haraszti will speak about "The crisis of Communism in Eastern Europe: Outlook for the future," Committee Rooms, 8 pm.

Wednesday April 26th

ROOM DRAW

Buckner Silver Jewelry, Kline Lounge, 10-4.

Screening of AIDS tapes, College Room, noon-4 pm.

New Beginnings, Aspinwall 302, 7 pm.

Thursday April 27th

ROOM DRAW

Narcotics Anonymous, Aspinwall 302, 7 pm.

Documentary video "7 to 28 up!" of British sociological study. Olin 202, 7:30. Sponsored by the Soc/Anth Club.

Prof. Serge Hughes will speak about "Dante and a sense of humor," Olin 102, 8 pm. Irma Brandeis Lecture.

Leo Smith's advanced jazz group performs, time and place TBA.

Friday April 28th

Deadline for submissions to The Bard Observer is noon at the front desk of the library

Film: Ballad of Narayama (Japanese w/subtitles in C-scope), dir. by Shohei Imamura. Grand Prize winner at 1983 Cannes Film Festival. About an old woman in an isolate, impoverished village, who must be abandoned on a mountain to meet the gods.

Sunday April 30th

Weekly discussion concerning mass, Chapel, 7 pm.

Film: La Chinoise (French w/subtitles), dir. by Jean-Luc Godard. A student, an actor, a chemical engineer, an artist, and a peasant girl decide to live together according to the precepts of Chairman Mao.

Monday May 1st

The Bard Observer meeting, Presidents Room, 6 pm.

Bard Center Fellow David Kettler will speak about "The public interest in trade unionism."

Blanche Wiesen Cook will speak about "Eleanor Roosevelt: women, power, and politics," Presidents Room, 8 pm.

Tuesday May 2nd

Women's Center Discussion: Does pornography really hurt women? Should it be banned? Upstairs in the Student Center, 7 pm.

GUILTY CHILDREN



Schedule for Spring Fling

Friday, April 21
5-7 pm Special dinner in Kline Commons

9 pm "Guilty Children" comedy/improvisation in the Student Center

11 pm- Films in the Student Center: Brazil, Heavy Metal, and 21st Tournament of Animation

Saturday, April 22
10 am-4 pm Intercollegiate Ultimate Frisbee on Kline Field.

noon-10 pm Bard bands play at Manor House

4 pm Innertube water polo, Stevenson Gym.

5-6:30 pm BBQ dinner at Manor House

10:30 pm Semi-formal with WaDaDa and the Ethiopian Warriors, Manor

* volleyball net will be set up at Manor

Sunday, April 23
1-3 pm "Scrabble-Off" on Kline wall

2-6 pm Softball in Kline Field

4 pm "Capture the Flag." Meet in front of Kline.

9 pm Albee "Coffeehaus" reading. Students share poetry & prose (Bonfire in back of Kline)

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