Vol. 95    No. 7    May 18, 1989

Front Page
Robbins Intruder Captured
   Brenda Montgomery
Bard Loses Rabbi
   Matthew C. Duda
Dissatisfied Parents Sue For $60 Million
   Cormac Flynn

Page 2
Campus News
   For She's A Jolly Good Fellow
      Valerie Scurto
   Library of the Future
      Valerie Scurto
   C. S. O. To Form
      Valerie Scurto
   Suspended Student Drops Suit
      Brenda Montgomery

Page 3
Vehicles Vandalized
   Brenda Montgomery
Pell Grant Recipients May Be Checked For Drug Use
   Jonah Gensler

Page 4
Editorials
   Dream Team Detrimental
   Lakens Cope Positively With Their Tragedy
      The Lakens
   Political Cartoon

Page 5
Letters To The Editor
   Chilton Sets The Facts Straighter
      Bruce Chilton Chair of Division of Social Studies
   Balls In An Uproar
      The Tewksbury Beer Balls & Friends
   Drake Dredges Up The Dirt
      Robert Drake Visiting Associate Professor of Chemistry
   Racism Is Still A Concern
      Peter Crossan
   [“...Some very good points.”]
      The Editor

Research Aid Continued on Next Page
Dissatisfied parents sue for $60 million

by Cormac Flynn

A $60 million wrongful death suit has been filed against Bard College by the parents of Neill Wells, a freshman student who died in his Ravin dorm room of a sudden heart attack almost two years ago.

Although the suit had been filed last September, the first public account of it appeared only last Wednesday in the Kingston Daily Freeman. The front page Freeman article, which quoted the Wells' and their lawyer extensively, seemed to take the college administration by surprise.

The college declined to comment to both the Observer and the Freeman about the case. However, sources said that the administration had been in negotiations with the Wells for months now and had believed the matter close to resolution.

Neill Wells was found dead on September 14, 1987 by his roommate. An autopsy showed that he had an undiagnosed case of colitis, which was aggravated by stress and flu, causing a cardiac arrest. Neill's roommate and some of his friends were aware that he was feeling sick, but didn't realize the magnitude of his condition. The Wells' maintain that Neill received treatment he would have lived.

The Wells' attorney Thomas Haroney, a partner in the Tarrytown firm of Walsh, Haroney, and Porcini, told the Freeman that Neill's peer counselor (P.C.), Cathy (Cat) Anderson, had "admitted" to being aware of his sickness. This contradicts earlier reports including, the Observer has been told, Anderson's deposition. The Wells' are charging that Anderson was inadequately trained and insufficiently mature for her position.

Anderson is studying abroad this year, but her many friends on the college campus rallied to her defense today. "They're hurt and they're angry. I understand that, but that doesn't give them a right to drag Cat's name through the mud and print it on page one of the newspaper," said one student, "I don't think they have much of a case. Cat is an excellent peer counselor," added.

Robbins Intruder Captured

by Brenda Montgomery

On Friday, May 12, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police Department arrested and arraigned Jake Curston, Jr., a local man, in connection with the Robbins incident on May 5.

On the morning of Friday, May 5, an intruder entered three rooms at Robbins and frightened a female student who was in the hallway.

Curston lives in College Park, a development east of Bard, across 9G. He was identified in a photo lineup on May 10. Curston has been charged with four counts of burglary and criminal trespass. Curston was recently released from prison where he was serving time for a similar charge.

He was held by police following the arraignment. A $2000 cash bond has been set.

Between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m., the perpetrator entered three rooms, belonging to female students. The first student screamed and scared him off, the second asked him what he was doing there and told him to leave. The third sat up and before she realized it wasn't a dream, he had fled.

Bard Loses Rabbi

by Matthew C. Duda

Bard College will find itself without a Jewish chaplain as of May 28. Nancy Flam has decided to leave Bard to accept a position as rabbi of a congregation in Port Washington, L.I.

Her sudden departure is at the center of a controversy surrounding the unil-recently amicable relationship between Vassar and Bard College.

In a letter dated February 1, 1988 from Bruce Chilton, Chaplain at Bard College, and Janet Cooper Nelson, Director of the Office for Religious Activities and Chaplaincy at Vassar College to Leon Bofstein, Dimitri Papadimitriou, Stuart Levine, and Steven Nelson at Bard College and Frances Ferguson, Natalie Marshall, and the Chaplaincy Advisory Committee at Vassar College, Rev. Chilton outlined a proposal for a joint Jewish Chaplaincy at Bard and Vassar to begin this fall.

"It has been evident for some time that the pastoral needs of Jewish students at our two institutions have not been adequately met...Bard has received the presence of an intern in Jewish Chaplaincy, Nancy Flam, during the academic year 1988-89... She did her undergraduate work at..."
Campus News

For she's a jolly good fellow
by Valerie Scuito

Sophomore Michele Berger has been accepted to be a Fellow in The Washington Center's Minority Leaders Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. this summer.

The ten-week program designed especially for minority college students has two features—one theoretical and one experiential.

The theoretical component consists of a one-week intensive seminar and nine weekly mini-seminars focusing on leadership theory and skill development. Fellows will hear lectures from national experts and participate in small group discussion sessions and skill-building workshops.

Fellows will also take part in two Washington Center speakers series and participate in a weekly course which will require them to design and implement a project in which they will take a leadership role. Berger plans to take a course on public policy or issues of the third world.

Beginning the second week, Fellows will participate in a nine-week internship, the experiential component, related to their areas of interest. Fellows will serve as entry-level professionals throughout Washington for thirty-five hours a week. Positions will be available in the private sector, the federal and city governments, and in nonprofit organizations.

Each Fellow will assess his or her own progress three times over the course of the internship. Also, an on-site agency sponsor and a Washington Center program associate will evaluate the Fellows.

Berger was nominated by President Leon Botstein, who, like other presidents from colleges and universities across the country, was asked to nominate one outstanding student from their campus. Then, a Blue-Ribbon panel considered each nominee and evaluated his or her potential for leadership and achievement.

Berger was selected out of approximately 3,000 applicants and notified in March as being one of the top five alternates. Additional funding was provided for the program in late April, Berger was accepted as one of the 45 Fellows.

Criteria for the program included that the student be a U.S. citizen, in one of the following minority groups: Afro-American, Asian-American, Hispanic, Native-American, and Pacific Islander, and enrolled in an accredited institution of higher education. The student must also be in good academic standing and have demonstrated an active role in campus or community affairs.

The Washington Center is the largest independent, nonprofit organization that enables students to earn college credit for internships and academic seminars.

Library of the future
by Valerie Scuito

The completion of the new addition to the Hoffman-Kellogg Library may be expected in the early 1990's.

Presently the college has selected three architectural firms and is awaiting their design proposals. A final selection of a firm is to be made in June.

Head Librarian David Tipple says the project is estimated at $1 million. President Leon Botstein is in the process of finding a donor for the project. However, if no donor is found, the college will fund the project through its budget.

The three firms which the school is considering are Venturi, Rauch & Scott Brown, DeStefano/Goetsche, and Tom Bailey Associates. Each of the firms have previous experience with libraries and college campuses.

The conceptual proposals due at the end of May will be considered with regard to how well the needs outlined in the building program are met.

Needs in consideration focus on the library's role on campus. "How the library supports the academic program, the tutorial work and individual research are things we want to continue at Bard," said Tipple.

In 1993, the Hoffman Library was built and in 1972, the Kellogg addition was completed. This addition was built with the intent that when another addition was needed, it would connect on to the present one. However, due to the problems with lighting and the heating-cooling system, this idea was eliminated.

The question has been raised as to why a new library facility cannot be built apart from the present one. The main problem is the funding of such a project which would be too costly for the college. Another factor is the addition built in the 1970's. "That would have been the point to build a new free standing library, however, at the time, there were circumstances in the way," stated Tipple.

After the selection of the architects, there will be a 50 week period covering time for design development, preparation of the 'bid set' of drawings, bidding, and selection of the contractor.

C.S.O. to form
by Matthew C. Duda

A great number of changes have occurred in and around the Chaplain's Office this year at Bard, such as the gain of a new Jewish Chaplain and the resurgence of the Jewish Students Organization. Now, plans are being made for a Christian Students Organization (C.S.O.) this fall.

"Although I have been supportive of the idea from the start, I consider myself more of a resource to the C.S.O. than playing an active role in the organization. It is exciting and proper to see students getting involved in their faith, to witness with others and form a organization. It seems that we'll really see some dynamic support for the group next semester," Rev. Bruce Chilton, Chaplain of the College, commented.

Expected activities for the fall include informal gathering and discussions of the meaning and faith of being a Christian.

If you would like more information on input into the C.S.O., please drop a note to the Office of the Chaplain.

Suspended student drops suit
by Brenda Montgomery

A second semester junior was suspended for two years following an incident at Manor on April 13. The student was alleged to have threatened the life of two other students. Since the student involved has not been tried yet, his name is being kept confidential.

The student was allegedly acting in "an irrational manner," according to Art Otey, Director of Security. The State medical team was called in and the student was arrested. The two students threatened signed charges against the junior and he was suspended from school and removed from campus.

The junior, a transfer student, went before a judge and was released on his own recognizance. Before he had left the courtroom, he made another threat in the presence of the judge, which prompted the judge to place him in confinement. He was released to his parents.

The student recently dropped his grievance suit against the college, which protested his suspension. According to Otey and the Assistant Dean of Students, Shelley Morgan, the student plans to leave Bard permanently.
Vehicles vandalized
by Brenda Nontongery

There has been a rash of auto vandalism on campus. During the fall semester, the vandalism was accomplished with rocks, but this semester’s incidents have been of a different sort. The assailants have been arrested and are awaiting trial.

Recent acts of vandalism were done with a window punch, a tool used by firefighters to rescue people trapped in cars. The window punch is a metal device that shatters the window completely, allowing firemen to fold back the window. At Bard, it was used to damage cars.

Thursday, May 27, students reported four white males vandalizing a car in Hanor parking lot. When the students heard glass breaking, they called Security with the license plate number of the vandal’s car. What followed were two car chases and an arrest.

Security pursued the vehicle to Rt9, south to Annandale near Adolphs, where the suspects did a "Bootlegger 180," Art Otey, Director of Security explained that this occurs when both the gas and brakes are hit at the same time, causing the car to turn 180 degrees. "Our car couldn’t do that—it would turn over," said Otey. The suspects escaped to Rt9.

Forty-five minutes later, State Police resumed the chase on Whalesback Road, following the car to Rhinebeck, where they apprehended the suspects. The individual was intoxicated and underage. He named three other boys that had been with him earlier that night.

The investigation is still ongoing. Otey said, "the questioning takes longer because they are juveniles."

The campus has been host to other acts of vandalism and theft recently. There has been an increase in bicycle thefts on campus, but Otey is confident that Security is close to solving the case, "thanks to student help."

Students that witnessed the suspects have provided Security with the same license number twice now. "We can’t move too fast now," Otey said. "We’ll have a better case if we don’t rush," said Otey.

Pell Grant recipients may be checked for drug use

(CPS)---Federal investigators soon may be conducting "spot checks" of students who have Pell Grants to make sure they are not using illegal drugs.

The U.S. Dept. of Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos announced the new effort, in which investigators would make spot checks at various campuses to make sure the students are not taking, making or selling illegal drugs.

He also said he would rely on anonymous tips to determine whom to investigate.

"That’s some scary stuff," observed Scott Affleck, executive director of the Philadelphia-based American Coalition of Private Universities, a coalition of private campus student leaders.

Education Dept. officials immediately began backing off Cavazos’ statement, refusing to elaborate on what a "spot check" might involve—a urinalysis? a broad questioning of an accused student’s friends? or how the department might field anonymous tips.

"We are still working out the details of enforcement; including spot audits and spot checks," said department spokesman Jim Bradshaw, cautioning that nothing is final. "We are discussing the options."

Starting for their fall 1989 term, students already will be required to sign anti-drug pledges to get federal college aid.

Under the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988, all federal grant recipients—from weapons builders to students—will be required to prove they don’t take illegal drugs. Before getting their Pell Grants, students will have to sign a form swearing they "will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance."

Cavazos’ new spot checks, the secretary said at the Conference on Drug Free Schools and Communities held in Baltimore, are to help the department enforce the Drug-Free Work Act.

---Continued on page 6...---

Friendship Walk: A Success
by Jonah Gensler

Months of planning paid off last Saturday as nearly 100 walkers left Ward Manor at Bard College and started the ten kilometer walk to Rhinebeck as part of the Mid-Hudson/Larreyagna Sister City Project’s "Friendship Walk."

The Walkathon, intending to raise enough money to send an ambulance to the Mid-Hudson Valley’s Nicaraguan sister city Larreyagna, was deemed a great success by its organizers. "We’re quite on our way to reaching the range we need to send an ambulance down to Larreyagna this summer," said Fred Nagel, organizer for the project, "and we had a great time in the process."

The Friendship Walk had been scheduled for the previous Saturday but was postponed a week due to threats of thundershowers.

The Mid-Hudson/Larreyagna Sister City Project was started last June when two area residents travelled to Nicaragua to look for a sister city. Since then, project members have presented their slides and information to groups in Hanor, in elementary schools and elsewhere. Publicity for the walkathon included stories in the leading local newspapers, radio stations and even an appearance on UTIA-TV.

Brian Reid, the project’s press coordinator commented that, "Besides involving the actual participants, our campaign exposed thousands of people to the work we are doing as a result of all the great media attention we’ve been getting."

The walk, which included lunch at historic Rokeby farm and a Central American dinner at Church of the Messiah, began and ended with music from the Hudson Valley Folk Guild.

The mood was a festive one as the walkers, who included area residents and Bard staff and students, covered over 10 Kilometers of roadway. "I felt good walking so far. This cause will help some kids in Nicaragua," proclaimed one of the younger participants.

Larreyagna, and Nicaragua in general, needs people’s support. Recovering from a heavy hurricane last fall, and a Contra-war that is only recently dissolving, things like polio-vaccinations and school books are hard to come by in Nicaragua.

Tim Siffra, a Bard student who walked on Saturday, hoped that people working to lift the U.S. trade embargo might help speed up the process of improving Nicaraguan life.

Those sponsors who wish to give in their pledges are asked to contact me, Jonah Gensler, Box 683. You can also contact me about material aid donations and future sister city activities.
Editorials

Dream Team detrimental

With the recent production of films such as "Dream Team" and "Crazy People," the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) urges the entertainment industry to "get the facts" on mental illnesses, be sensitive and be careful when portraying people with mental illnesses.

The illnesses are complex, often involving brain dysfunctions sometimes expressed through abnormal behavior. Historically, society's interpretation of these behavioral symptoms has been harsh and stereotypical. Victims are labeled as "victims," "biological," "nuts" or "crazy.

According to Preston Garrison, NMHA executive director, "Research clearly demonstrates the biomedical and biochemical factors involved in mental illnesses. The entertainment industry has a responsibility to treat these disorders as illnesses, not simply to focus on symptomatic behaviors when a person with a mental illness is portrayed in comedy or drama.

Since one in four American families is affected by mental illnesses, presenting people with a mental illness as a unique, strange or different is not only dangerous but ludicrous as well. No one is immune from or escapes the impact of a mental illness, whether a phobia, mild depression, or a serious long-term disorder such as schizophrenia or manic depression. No one suffers alone from the wake of pain are family, friends and co-workers, indeed, the nation itself.

"Normalizing the portrayal of people with mental illnesses in the media is a key objective of the National Mental Health Association," said Garrison. "Producers, writers, and film and television executives must recognize the need to consult with consumers of mental health services—the patients themselves—and with organizations representing their interests to ensure that an accurate message is delivered along with an awareness of the substantial suffering—emotional, financial, and social—imposed by a mental illness.

The enemy of normalization is stigma, a modern-day remnant of the chains and handcuffs which once physically restrained patients in state mental institutions in the 1940s and 50s. Stigmatizing attitudes and language serve the same function today—to restrict, isolate, and de-humanize people with mental illnesses.

During May, celebrated nationally as Mental Health Month, NMHA and its 600 affiliates focuses the nation's attention upon more than 40 million children and adolescents in this country who have a mental or emotional disturbance. Of these, 70 to 80 percent are not receiving appropriate mental health care. In addition, in any six-month period 18 million adults have a diagnosable mental or emotional disorder.

Public attitudes and perceptions of children and adults with mental illnesses are largely shaped by the entertainment media. Negative consequences surface as inadequate funding for community-based mental health services and for mental health research.

NMHA hopes the industry will heed this critical lesson in accountability—get the facts, be sensitive and be careful.

Lakens cope positively with their tragedy

Dear Bard Family,

As this school year draws to a close, we are experiencing emotions of unparalleled intensity which we want to share with you.

First, we feel the agonizing pain and emptiness which accompanies the final acknowledgement that our son, Shawn, will not now or ever again be returning home for summer vacation.

Secondly, we feel tremendously comforted by the warm and understanding support that so many of you have bestowed upon us throughout this long year. Hearing from you has been a major catalyst in the long and difficult healing process.

Thirdly, we feel hopeful that this tragedy will have been a sobering reminder to all of us of the serious responsibilities that entail.

Also we feel thankful. We thank all of you who so generously ushered us through the process of completing the business details to which we needed to attend. We thank all of you who formed a blanket of support to carry us through several difficult times on campus. We thank those of you who have continued to stay in touch regularly, helping us feel, even now, more connected to our son.

We thank you who have so generously sent us copies of photographs, letters, music, poetry, art, etc. of and by Shawn.

These items are priceless additions to our scraps of memory which becomes so cherished when a beloved child is gone. We would naturally welcome any additional momentos any of Shawn that you could share with us. Please send them to:

The Lakens
Box 32
Glyndon, Maryland
21070
(301) 524-4714

Because Bard played such an important role first in Shawn's life and now in ours, we feel a deep commitment to the Bard Community. In concert with the administration, we have established the Shawn Laken Memorial Fund, which will be used in a way which would have been very meaningful to Shawn.

We invite all of you to contribute as generously as you can in Shawn's memory. Funds can be sent to: Shawn Laken Memorial Fund, c/o Susan Gillespie, Development Office, Bard College.

Although we are sorry to have gotten involved at Bard for the reason we have, we are honored to be in such company. Bard is unique and wonderful. Hopefully we can help to increase its strength through our involvement.

Hope to be in touch next year. Have a wonderful summer.

Very fondly,
The Lakens

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Editorial policy is determined by the editor in consultation with the editorial board. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the editorial board, not necessarily of the Observer staff.

Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and must be signed legibly. All articles, cartoons, and photos that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the front desk of the library. The editor reserves the right to edit for style and space.

Display Ad Rate: $2 per column inch.

Classifieds under 25 words: $.25; 26-50 words: $.50.
Drake dredges up the dirt

To the Editor:

I am writing to commend the Observer for its efforts in pursuing and reporting such controversial issues as the Social Studies Division proposals and the chapel organ.

While you will, no doubt, be chagrined from all sides, you have been willing to verify several truths: that the faculty of Bard has an active interest in the evolution of the college's educational process, that the administration acts in a heavy-handed way to stifle such creativity, and that a fiscal shell game is being played with Bard resources.

It is clear from my one year stay at Bard, and from my experiences at other liberal arts colleges, that the administration here is unusually haughty, and disrespectful of the students, staff and faculty of the college.

The ink was hardly dry on the April 20th Observer when a letter appeared from the President, citing trustee support, denouncing the Social Studies Division plan. His contempt for faculty ideas, established faculty appointment processes and faculty majority votes, if they do not square with his own, are legendary.

He told a recent visitor to the campus that the faculty lacked his broad vision of the future. If this vision is reflected in his own recent proposal, it reflects a lack of understanding of societal needs in science and math education.

His call for the development of new ways to teach science courses, and for a new math requirement, is a bit odd considering that he has never approached the NSHM division about them. Nor has he become personally involved in the interviews of two new mathematicians.

In fact, he rejected the appointment of a math candidate

Continued on page 16...

Racism is still a concern

To the Editor:

I refer to the artist's renderings/mugshot of an alleged CRIMINAL, which was recently plastered on most of the walls of the dormitories here at Bard.

At first glance, I saw a black man with glasses in an FBI-like mugshot format. Ever susceptible to what paranoid, racist fears I still have left within me, I say to myself, "Oh my God, there must be some kind of serial rapist or murderer lurking about the campus! How awful! And of course, he's BLACK," and I expect to read an account of how this man had attempted to rape or murder some poor white girl.

On the contrary, according to the dispatch, this felon had done nothing more than "trespass," something which occurs surely fifty times every week at Bard. As to the "criminal" nature of this trespassing incident, I am still unclear. Unless, of course, I am unaware of some college rule restricting the access of Blacks and other people of color to the campus.

To the best of my knowledge there are no signs informing one as one enters the campus, that a special pass is required, or that one is automatically criminally trespassing should a single step on the property be taken. I thought Bard was still an "open" campus.

If this horribly threatening Black male had indeed done something wrong on the morning of May 5, please let us know, lest we fall back yet another step into the Dark Ages and assume, as a rule, that the Black man is guilty of the most heinous crimes unless proven innocent. Who's next? Puerto Ricans? Jews?

Is the Bard College Security Department so insensitive to the feelings of Blacks and other people of color on this campus (and elsewhere) that such reckless steps are taken to find a suspect? Shame on whoever is responsible for the posters! This person has neither a right to be seen Pursatoy nor be a medium of sensitivity toward the feelings of others and the so-called "liberal" tradition of the college.

Outraged,
Peter Crossan

To Mr. Crossan,

You have some very good points. Not enough information was released initially. However, the Observer would like to refer you to Brenda Montgomery's article on the Robbins incident (page one) for further details.

--The Editor
Robbins Intruder

...continued from page 1

A composite drawing of the individual was released on Friday, May 5, to inform the community of any danger. Art Otey, Director of Security, released the drawing to encourage response from the community, and did not release all details to "avoid panic." His efforts were successful as other female students came forward with similar incidents that night.

Otey says that the investigation has ruled out any connection of this incident with the Rhinebeck rapist. "The Rhinebeck rapist was very violent; this guy was passive, non-aggressive."

The Sheriff's Department has two suspects that fit the description well. Bard Security and the Sheriff's Department arranged for a photo line-up to see if one of the students involved could pick out a suspect. On May 10, one of the students identified the intruder from one of the photographs.

Curston was picked from among the photo line-up, in which both suspects had been placed. He's known for voyeurism, though his record in this area was based on incidents in Red Hook.

Bard Security encourages students to make efforts to insure their personal safety at all times. Any person having a similar incident should not hesitate to call the Security Office.

Any person with information pertaining to this incident, please call the Dutchess County Sheriff's Dept. at 452-0400 or Bard College Security at 759-7460.

***

The arrival of State Police on campus led to the confiscation of some marijuana plants. State Police were on campus Sunday, May 7, to check any connection between the Robbins intruder and the Rhinebeck rapist.

When the officer passed Sands, he observed what he thought were marijuana plants on the roof. The officer entered Sands and talked to students about the Robbins incident, then entered a room to get access to the plants.

A Bard student was released without charges, since the plants were "outside of the students control," said Otey. A search warrant was threatened, but since it was Sunday, the officer was unable to get one.

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Art Otey: The Man and His Revolution

by Brenda Montgomery

Since Art Otey came to town, Bard Security has been undergoing many changes. "My goal was to make it something people could rely on," said Otey, Director of Security.

The office has been recently renovated and now includes new medical supplies that are quite impressive. Compared to the contents of the medical kit a student would have found in the Security Office in 1986, 1989's supplies make Security seem like the Infirmary.

The office is now equipped to treat several types of emergencies, including airway insertions (should the patient be unconscious and their air pathway is blocked), burns, bee stings, and even delivering babies. The medical program has become self-sufficient thanks to the new lock-out fees paid by students.

Money from lock-outs and half of the money from parking violations has been used to supply the office with needed emergency equipment.

Otey plans to increase the Security staff next semester. "There will be more officers on duty on a regular basis," he said.

Campus security will become a part of L&I with Otey teaching a class to the incoming freshmen on "how to live away from home." The dangers of Bard and the world will be the theme. Otey hopes to impress both the students and their parents with what their responsibilities are in ensuring their safety and the safety of the people around them.

The school is looking into installing an extensive security system which would work as a pass key to dorms. Ellwood and Tewksbury both used to have such systems but they've failed in the past. "The downfall of these systems is that they prevent friends from visiting students," said Otey.

The system Otey is interested in would be a universal key—enabling all students that live on campus access to all dorms, practice rooms and labs (eliminating the need to get keys from Security), and would serve as a meal card and library card. "The food service is ecstatic about the idea," said Otey.

"The system is reasonable and responsible but expensive," said Otey. Students would have access to each other, but non-campus individuals would not be able to enter dorms after normal visiting hours.

Otey stressed that help from students has been crucial in several of the cases. Otey is investigating. In at least two cases, students have called in license numbers that have led to the questioning of suspects.

"When I came here I wanted to change Security and make people feel that they could trust in it," said Otey. He seems to have succeeded.
PERSONALS

SU:RAM: What? You haven't unscrambled last issue's classified yet?!

D.B.S., Do you know that badgers kill other animals just for fun? Think about it,--check mate darlin'

Me friend. You get the Tony the Tiger and I'll get the strawberry Haggen Dazs.

I was happy in the haze of a drunken hour but heaven knows I'm miserable now.--Morrissey

To the Freshman Seminar Dept. Somehow I envisioned going to college as a way of becoming a well-rounded, educated individual. Instead, here at Bard, I am faced with having to take a male-oriented, white-centered class, such as Freshman Seminar, against my will, from an unhappy student.

Me friend. What lies inside must many times remain hidden. Silence is at times strength; at others a piercing pain.

To the Observer staff: You are great! Thanks for all your hard work and commitment. Thanks to you too, Comma, even if you never did come to a meeting. And I did pay for this classified, so there. --Amara

SUPER DEAD GOAT SPEEDS TO THE RESCUE WHILE GUARDIAN ANGEL MICHAEL BAGS SOME RAYS WHEN DAWN MESMERIZED BY THE RHYTHMIC SWAYING OF HER DECORATIVE FUZZY DICE, LOSES CONTROL OF HER CAR AND THREATENS TO CRUSH THE ENTIRE MALE POPULATION OF PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND, AGAINST A BRICK WALL...
Grieved parents sue Bard

...continued from page 1

Carl Berry, himself a P.C. Similar sentiments were expressed by many others, but for a few the anger ran even higher. "I just can’t imagine trying to make money from my son’s death by taking it out on the people who were his friends."

While Anderson’s friends defended her, peer counselors, bracing themselves both with the administration and the student leadership criticized the suit and the Freeman article. "The case fails in so many places. It is not tenable," said Sam Sullivan. "The Freeman article was really biased and misinformed about both the training and the role of peer counselors. I was really angry when I read that," added Peter Criswell, a senior peer counselor and a friend of Anderson’s.

Student officers, citing the delicate legal situation, uncharacteristically followed the administration’s lead and declined to comment on the matter. However, student opinion would seem to run universally in the college’s favor.

One student, summarizing the general feeling said, "I feel very sorry for them, but seriously, when you go to college it means you are grown-up and that involves responsibility. In an apartment building, there’s no one to look after you. It may sound harsh, but this is not a nursery school. It was a terrible accident, but no one is to blame."

Numerous attempts to reach Mr. Kiley for this article found him unavailable. In the Freeman, however, he seemed to suggest an out-of-court settlement, implying strongly that a trial would be disastrous for the college “because the facts of the law are against them.”

That assumption was widely questioned on the Bard campus. "The guy was nineteen. He refused or resisted his friends’ attempts to get him medical attention until it was too late. How is that Bard’s fault?" asked one incredulous senior who remembered the incident.

Wells had in fact finally made an appointment with the student health service. He died before going that same day.

“I remember hearing that he’d gone home for a week for his grandmother’s funeral; that’s what caused the stress I think. Anyway, he was already sick when he was at home and they didn’t do anything.”

The contradictions between Haroney’s assertions in the Freeman and the recollections of students present at the event, which are sometimes vague and conflicting, combined with the silence of the administration makes it difficult to set precisely what the sequence of events was.

The facts of the case will be sorted out in the court. The assignment of blame may prove a much more difficult issue. At one time, American colleges were held to be in loco parentis or “in lieu of parents”. With the lowering of the age of majority to eighteen, however, the roles of colleges and students began to change. Students, now considered adults under the law, were therefore to be considered adults on campus, with all of the attendant rights and responsibilities. Recently the courts have begun to move in the opposite direction, holding institutions increasingly responsible for the acts of their students.

If the Wells case goes to trial, the date may be set within the next three months. The outcome may depend on the court’s interpretation of the proper relationship between student and an educational institution. Even a judgment awarding an amount far smaller than the $20,000,000 demanded could force the permanent closing of the college. The college remains confident that if a trial takes place it will prevail, but even a legal victory in such a case could have a heavy cost in negative publicity, and some have speculated that this is the true reason for the Freeman article.

“They know that we’re poor. They know that the most important thing we have is our reputation.” This [the Freeman article] was a warning shot,” one administrator said.

Places to visit in Kingston

by Robin Cook

Although getting information on sites across the river seemed to be nearly impossible, I found some worth checking out.

Meanwhile someone pointed out that I forgot to give the directions to Olana last issue. Here ‘tis. Go up 9G past Clermont, for about 15 miles. It’s on your right. There’s a sign which says “Olana State Historic Site”.

Another correction: Clermont’s hours are 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. not 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Now for the goings-on across the river...

THE SENATE HOUSE is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. During January, February, and March, it is open on weekends, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Directions are as follows: Go across the Kingston-Rhinecliff bridge, then onto Rte 29 east, and enter a traffic circle. Exit onto Washington Ave, then take a left at the first light. You will now be on Plaza Lane, and will come to a light by Sears, Keep driving, and Plaza Rd. will join with Schalk Rd. Turn right at a stop sign at Schalk Rd. The Senate House will be located at about 25-50 feet. Near the Senate House is the VOLUNTEER FIREMAN’S HALL AND MUSEUM. If the directions Continued on page 2...
International I.D. offers special benefits

New York, NY—More than 1.3 million students in 62 countries this year will obtain lower airfares, visit museums and theaters at a discount and tap into a toll-free, 24-hour travel assistance hotline by carrying the International Student I.D. Card, made available since 1951 by the International Student Travel Confederation, a worldwide federation of student travel organizations based in Zurich, Switzerland.

"The International Student I.D. Card helps high school and college students enjoy international travel at a discount and also provides a comprehensive package of benefits that reduces anxiety about traveling abroad," says Anne Bellow of The Council on International Educational Exchange, the U.S. sponsor of the card. "It's the only internationally recognized proof of student status."

Americans tend to be surprised that student reduced rates and special status in foreign countries and are entitled to reduced rates for travel, lodgings and cultural events, Bellow says.

Major benefits include domestic and international travel discounts by air, rail, bus and ferry; discounts on accommodations and shopping; reduced or free admission to museums, theaters, cinemas and other places of interest. There is also a basic accident/sickness insurance package included.

While the discounts are of special appeal to the student traveler, the card's new Travel Assistance Service is particularly popular with parents.

"It's reassuring for parents to know that in case of a medical, legal or financial emergency—from locating an English-speaking doctor to help in replacing a lost passport—a student traveling abroad can dial a toll-free number and get help," says Bellow. "The hotline also helps student travelers with practical advice such as necessary health precautions for travel to remote areas and even information about car rentals, exchange rates and the dates of national holidays.

Students who are at least 12 years old and enrolled in a program of study leading to a diploma or a degree at an accredited secondary or post-secondary educational institution are eligible for the card. Maximum age restrictions may apply for some of the discounts. Information about how to obtain the card, which costs $10, is available by contacting the Council on International Educational Exchange, Dept. 16, 205 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10017. (212) 661-1414.

Nancy Flam leaves Bard

...continued from page 1

Dartmouth, where she was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in Religion, and has received higher degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary and the University of Judaism. Her work has exceeded every expectation for the first year of a Chaplaincy and leads us to propose to her and to ourselves a new opportunity. We envision a full-time rabbinical position to be shared by our two institutions.

Why, then, is Nancy Flam leaving Bard, despite an offer which she had called "very supportive?"

"Basically, Vassar never got back to me. Although I received a tremendous amount of support from President Botstein and others at Bard, and Janet Nelson at Vassar, when the decision reached the President of Vassar, she didn’t take the ball and run with it even when it was in her court. I had received other offers that were rock-solid, and felt it was unwise to wait any longer."

Chilton commented that he will renew the search for a suitable candidate for the Jewish Chaplaincy at Bard, although he could not guarantee that the position would be filled in even a part-time capacity this fall.

"I am thankful for the time that I had at Bard. I feel that the school really needs a rabbi to solely handle campus ministry for the Jewish community. The Jewish community at Bard is small but growing, bright, somewhat assimilated, and can be a part of, and affect, the community as a whole," Flam said.

Flam will complete her rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College on May 28th, when she will be ordained in the Reform tradition at Temple Emanuel in New York City.
Bard cleared of unfair labor practices charges

The National Labor Relations Board has cleared Bard College of all charges of unfair labor practices in a decision issued on May 3.

Charges had been brought against the College by Service Employees' International Union, Local 200D.

Following what it called a "carefully investigated and considered" inquiry, the Board refused to issue a complaint, citing a lack of evidence of violations of Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act.

The decision indicates that:
(1) No evidence exists to support the College's allegation that Bard acted in a discriminatory manner in violation of the National Labor Relations Act;
(2) The College has acted entirely within its rights, consistent with its collective bargaining agreement;
(3) No evidence exists to substantiate Local 200D's claim that Bard acted in a discriminatory manner against any member of the bargaining unit;
(4) No basis exists to support Local 200D's claim that Bard refused to supply information in violation of the National Labor Relations Act; and
(5) No evidence exists to support the union's argument that the College has sought to undermine the status of the collective bargaining representative.

Dr. Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, Executive Vice President of Bard College, said, "Bard remains committed to working faithfully with its bargaining unit employees and with representatives of Local 200-D to carry out all provisions included in the current contract."

More sites to see

...continued from page 9

...to the Senate House confuse you as much as they did me, then you can, while on Plaza Rd., take a right at the traffic light onto Fair St., and the museum is two blocks down on the right. It's within walking distance of the Senate House.

Anyway, the hours for the Fireman's museum are Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., from April to October. During June and August, it is also open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Neither the Senate House nor the Fireman's museum charges admission.

Another alternative is to visit Rondout, a section of Kingston by the Hudson River. To get there, get on Rte. 28 east, enter the traffic circle, and get onto Major Chandler Dr. Drive through the first intersection that you come to, and turn left onto Broadway. Keep going, and you will reach Rondout as Broadway reaches the river.

THE HUDSON RIVER MARITIME CENTER is by the river. It is open May 7 to December 5, six days a week (Tuesday it is closed). Weekdays it is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends it is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The admission fee is $2.

THE TROLLEY MUSEUM is across from the Maritime Center. July and August it will be open 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. (other information wasn't available at press time.) The fee is $1.

If the directions confuse you, there are signs in Kingston which point to these places. They may even be more accurate than me. In fact, I am sure they are. So don't worry about getting lost.
We appreciate that Scott made an apology in case he was wrong about the Beer Balls, but in light of his hostile, knee-jerk accusations it came a little too late. We have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

We have the same sympathy for B&B's janitorial staff that Scott does, and we know how frustrating it is to be going to a college where students lack any respect for the property and livelihood of others.

Going to a school that their parents have to shell out $20,000 a year for, you'd think they'd think twice about where they put their limitless cigarettes out, who's walls they're writing on, who's dones they're destroying, and how much garbage they leave in front of Kline.

Once again, the Beer Balls would like to say that we and the Tewksbury residents had nothing to do with the vandalism of Hegeman in April, and that we are sorry to hear when anything at Bard is destroyed. The next time Scott wants to play campus detective, he should check his facts and know who he is accusing first.

Truthfully,
The Tewksbury Beer Balls & Friends

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UPROAR

...continued from page 5 to the effect of "Beer Balls, good other teams, bad," and hang it up to antagonize the other teams.

Outside the windows of Hegeman seemed a highly visible place to hang it, being easily seen from Kline Commons. All the sign said was "Tewks Beer Balls. Yuh Hutha. Get Out!" It was obscene and hardly vulgar in any way.

In putting up the sign that night, which was the evening of the 16th, not the 15th, we "partners in crime" were hardly in Hegeman for more than twenty minutes, all spent frantically in the stairwell, trying to find a way to hang our sign out of a third floor window. We were out of Hegeman and off campus by 11:50 p.m.

The only people who had seen us were the juniors and seniors who were working in the labs before and after we left. The one person we talked to, a Chem student or something, thought the idea harmless enough and said it was okay with him as long as we closed the windows when we were done.

As far as we know, it did not take anybody six hours to clean up our "mess," considering that our sign was gone by 9 a.m. the next morning, less than six hours.

At no point did we enter any of the labs in the science wing. It was a harmless sign, made of an old bedsheet hung with string and masking tape out of a window, and that was the end of it.

Softball has the greatest participation of any of Bard's intramural sports, and the hanging of a few signs should not be unexpected.

Scott is trying to pass the blame onto an unknowing, innocent party. Besides the two or three of us who made the sign, none of the other members of the Beer Balls had any knowledge of the banner we were going to put up.
Moon ringed with aura of comedy
by Robin Cook

The air which surrounded the Sunday, May 7, performance of "Ring Round the Moon" was one of gaiety and lightheartedness. The title, the setting (beautifully designed by Robert Joel Schwartz), the hilarious interchanges between the characters—all were evocative of a French social comedy.

But "Ring Round the Moon" was a triumph not merely of style but also substance, with moments of drama and social commentary on rich/poor relations—not to mention excellent acting on the part of the performers involved.

The plot concerns a set of identical twin brothers of different personalities: the cold, malevolent Hugo and his fairhearted brother, Frederic, both played adeptly by Peter Criswell. Hugo has a plan to bungle his brother's engagement to the rich, naughty Diana Messerschmard (Candace Coney) whose affections lie not with Frederic but with Hugo.

The Return of the King
by Monique Dyan

He looked like Elvis, he sweat like Elvis, he probably smelled like Elvis, and he certainly tried to sing like Elvis, but I wasn't impressed.

Last Friday night, the Kline commons was haunted by the aberration of Lee Elvis, a spectre conjured up by the Elvis Presley Fan Club. Swirling his polyester-covered hips and curling his upper lip in a vaguely convincing fashion, Elvis presented a blood-curdling collection of mousy oldies.

Poor guy. Face it, Elvis had the misfortune to die in the seventies, a period known in history as The Decade of Tacky. Unfortunately, the upshot of this is that every Elvis impersonator wears clothes that are more effective than syrup of ipecac for inducing vomiting. There have to be more dignified ways to make a living, like washing car windshields at red lights, for instance.

Breathing Lessons in Middle America
With great pleasure I welcome the arrival of Anne Tyler's new novel, Breathing Lessons, her latest since The Accident Tourists, one of the most intimate, claustrophobic, and yet happily familiar books available today by a current writer.

The premise evokes all the mingled emotions that the book itself does. Maggie and Ira Moran, married for twenty-eight years, set out in the car to attend the funeral of Maggie's oldest friend's husband. The three-hundred twenty-seven page novel begins at nine o'clock on Saturday morning and ends at about ten o'clock at night of the same day. So what besides thirteen hours fill these pages? The painful resentment, the psychic intuitiveness, the touching love, and the closeness and distance between the two participants in this remarkable marriage.

Anne Tyler plunges the reader into thirteen hours of Ira and Maggie's married life. We hear their thoughts, their memories, and reflections about each other. There is nothing like a long car trip to bring to the surface any antipathy or resentment that the spouses might feel toward each other. Their squabbling and recriminations, even their resentment fill the reader with tension, because one already senses the importance of what is at stake, and the precarious balance it has sustained upon for twenty-eight years.

And they fight. They fight about resentments that can never disappear, only be forgotten for a little while.

Sometimes you want to know how they can do it—go through their ritualistic little squabbles and seem to get so little support from one another. Does mere presence a marriage make? And then, when their squabbles have been put aside for a moment, and one sees the comfortability and trust of their relationship, it seems a crime that they ever squabble at all.

The claustrophobia of their marriage is enveloping, the tension of their resentments and minor cruelties, and the seeming hopelessness of their situation when these resentments surface. But then, with grace and magic, Anne Tyler ends their argument, brings them back together and closer than before; we see the genuine love and solid foundations of a marriage that seems truer and better for it is always real. Tyler shows how illusions can destroy and rebuild what makes a marriage like Maggie and Ira's possible, how resentments are never forgotten but only put aside for awhile, and, most importantly that a love twenty-eight years old, and based on a mutual dependence, is strong that it can never be truly threatened, is the most beautiful and mundane thing that life has to offer. Never before have I found Middle America so touching.
Mojo Nixon: Profound Profanity

by Dan Hillman

Take two seriously scratched hollow-bodied guitars, a broom handle, a washboard, and some good ol’ down-home vulgarity and what have you got? Mojo Nixon & Skid Rooper. But in Poughkeepsie, New York? The Bon Jovi t-shirt capital of the Western Hemisphere? Dear me, I wonder what you want? "What do you want?" he asked, "I'm busy."

The duo played for nearly two hours and included old fave rants like "Burn Down the Halls," "Mushroom Mania," "Stuffin' Martha's Nuttin," and "Jesus at McDonald's." They even played an extended version of their international hit "Elvis Is Everywhere" complete with a tacky backdrop of "The King." Lambasting bland, shopping mall heavy metal bands like Cinderella, Poison and Journey, Mojo & Skid saved most of their verbal venom for Bon Jovi. They must have known they were in Poughkeepsie.

Not unlike the U.K.'s Billy Bragg, Mojo & Skid seek to defend the everyday working person from the corporate structure and mass-production of modern society. They hate McDonald's hamburgers, "Your Uncle Weirdo could make a cheeseburger that was better than being beat off. Biting a McDonald's cheeseburger is like thinking about watching someone else eat off in a movie.," Budweiser's Spuds McKenzie, "Sure needs a 12-pack shoved up his ass" and the president of Exxon, "I'm gonna take this jack-hammer and ram this oil-covered dead duck down your throat." They're vulgar, sophomoric, and vile, but they have an important message.

Now try explaining that to your Mom.

Worry, Be Happy is your idea of a hot rockin' dance tune, Mojo's frenzied chords and screamed lyrics would have made you gag. In direct contrast to Mojo, Skid Rooper is a sedate fellow who stands to the side with his washboard, maracas, and cymbal, when Mojo left the stage it was Skid the crowd yelled for.

Vaguely resembling Bruce Springstein on amphetamines, Mojo Nixon entertained the audience with his "plug one, spray with the other" school of nose blowing, led an "Old McDonald Had a Farm" singalong from the audience complete with grunts, hows, and Foghorn Leghorn imitations, and tried to catch a plastic water-cooler bottle that he'd throw against a wall. At one point, Mojo threatened to jump off the stage, put on his condom, and bugger anyone who didn't dance. It wasn't necessary, without the distractions of fancy lights, lasers, and smoke machines, or even a guitar strap, Mojo played a blistering rockabilly that smoked with raw energy. If

Burning Questions and Baraka's Poetry

by E. Renee Plummer and Michele Berger

YSA, BBBO, and SIS were pleased to have brought to Bard's campus the distinguished poet/playwright/author Imanu Amiri Baraka formerly known as LeRoi Jones. We were all amazed at the high turnout in the Gilin Auditorium, especially in light of the fact that there were at least three other events happening simultaneously.

Professor Robert Kelly, who is an old friend of Barakas, did a wonderful job welcoming him to Bard. Barakas lived up to the extraordinary reputation that preceded him. He delivered a number of his poems from various times of his life and on a number of different issues.

In his delivery of many of his poems, he incorporated a musical element which captured and enhanced the rhythm and emotion of his poetry. The words juxtaposed in syncopated rhythms illustrated the nature of music as an integral part of African-American folklore.

One of the more intriguing aspects of his reading was his ability to make correlations between the abstract realities of his work and the students' realities at Bard. His readings and the discussion he had with many students afterwards encouraged people to challenge their way of thinking.

There was an overwhelming eagerness to talk to him afterwards despite the fact that many people felt intimidated or ambivalent about questioning him during the question and answer period. Barak commented later that he does not understand why when young people have these burning questions, most of which he finds extremely interesting, they don't ask them openly.

In addition, he also felt that what young people have to say to him is often more interesting and thought provoking than when he Continued on page 15...

Village Pizza III

17 North Broadway
Red Hook
758-5808

HOURS
MON-THURS 11 AM-11 PM
FRI & SAT 11 AM-12 MID
SUN 3 PM-11 PM
Events in the Hudson Valley

ANTQUITIES FAIR
May 27-28—Rheinebeck Antiques Fair at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rt. 9, Rhinebeck.

ART
Through May 26—Juried Spring Members’ Exhibition of the Dutchess County Art Assoc., Barrett House, 55 Nason St., Poughkeepsie, 471-2550, Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Donation $1.

May 27-June 25—Hans Van de Bovenkamp’s “Dreams, Myths and Deities.” Opening reception on May 27, 3-6 p.m. Kleinert Art Center, 94 Tinker St., Woodstock, 12-5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

May 27-Sept. 4—Holograms by New York State students at The New York State Museum in Albany, 511 State St., 435-0500.

Through May 29—Exhibition by the Dutchess County Senior Citizens Association, Cummen-Hackett Cultural Center, Gallery, 9 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie, 471-1221, Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.


DANCING
May 20—Hudson Valley Country Dance. Various bands and styles of dance. Saint James Church, Rt. 9, Hyde Park, 473-7030, 8 p.m. $5. May 27—Dinner dance fundraiser to benefit the Africana Studies program at Vassar College, The Radisson Hotel, 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, 8:00 p.m. For ticket prices, call 475-7490.

MUSIC


June 3—Leonore Trio, with soprano Lucy Shelton. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 330-1172.

June 10—Juliette Kang, violin, with pianist Audrey Axinn. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 330-1172.

June 17—Gary Schocker, flute, with Dennis Helmrich piano. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 330-1172.

June 24—The Emerson String Quartet, Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 330-1172.

The students who voiced these concerns had not read enough of Baraka’s work to make the accusation.

Baraka, during his reading, spoke briefly on some of the very unpleasant aspects of his protecting during the 1960’s. Not to justify or excuse the particular aggressive sentiments in some of his earlier works, but it is no wonder that some hostility was expressed.

We feel that all of these were concerns that were articulated in a righteous and ignorant manner and were somewhat racist in their approach. The questioning of a culture’s validity and the freedom of speech by these students was appalling. Simply, we feel that many white authors, male or female, that are presently canonized, are not scrutinized in the same rigorous way.

We sincerely apologize for any offense taken by those students who voiced concern. We also hope that in the future, we can all work together in a unified and open way.

Baraka...continued from page 14

simply reads, “I finally, we would like to address the controversy surrounding his speaking here at Bard. There were many concerns voiced directly and indirectly about the misogyny and racism of some of his earlier works. Frankly speaking, we the BBSO and the YSA didn’t appreciate the hostility and condescension with which these concerns were voiced. In addressing, we would like to make a few points that we feel would help to clarify the misunderstandings.

First, concerning the discrepancy over the use of YSA’s money on a speaker who was not a socialist. This charge is unfounded. Baraka was in fact a socialist for a number of years of his life, but is presently a communist.

Secondly, the accusation that many of his earlier works were misogynous we never denied. However, Baraka fully acknowledged this and addressed this matter with the students who spoke to him after the reading. His response was simply that “many of my early works were clumsy and misogynous...I have been attacked on this matter many times in the past fifteen years.”

Baraka went on to say that people must realize that others do grow and change and essentially re-evaluate their beliefs. And furthermore he added, “We must always hear both sides of any grievance.”

The third issue was the accusation that he is presently anti-white is totally unfounded. Some white students felt alienated during his reading. Let us simply say that when someone of another culture speaks of their experiences as part of that culture, it should not be taken to mean that they are anti-other cultures.

Specifically, when African-Americans decided to openly explore their oppression, it was not to bring about a unified and open way.
Calendar

Thursday
May 18
Narcotics Anonymous, Aspinwall 902, 7 p.m.
Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 8 p.m.

Friday
May 19
Film: The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension, dir. by W.D. Richter, Student Center 7 & 9:30 p.m.
Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 8 p.m.

Saturday
May 20
Elvis Presley Fan Club, Committee Room, 5 p.m.
Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 8 p.m.
Distinguished Scientist Lecture: Biochemist Jin H. Kimotoha speaks about "A new approach to control diabetic complications," Olin Auditorium at 8 p.m.

Sunday
May 21
Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 2 p.m. only.
Film: Nostalgia, dir. by Andrei Tarkovsky, Italian & Russian with subtitles. Student Center 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Monday
May 22
Bookbuyer in the bookstore, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Da Capo/Joan Tower/Bard students in concert, Bard Hall, 7:30 p.m.
Student Film Show, Student Center, 9 p.m.

Tuesday
May 23
Bookbuyer in the bookstore, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The Dirt
...continued from page 5
supported by the division last year because the person had once
enrolled. Presumably such a person would know a fair amount about math
education.

It is clear that the administration at Bard is
interested only in the image of Bard; not the reality of Bard for
those of us who are Bard. To this end the Publications Office gets
4,000,000 a year on lavish publications designed on the
West Coast and produced off-campus at great cost.

While desk-top publishing is
typical of other colleges, particularly for catalogs, Bard, famous for its arts, does it the "old fashioned" way,
and uses zero in-house talent in the process. Meanwhile the
Observer has difficulty obtaining $5000 for a Macintosh and laser printer
to raise the level of on-campus publications.

The administration's lack of
respect for the faculty, both collectively and individually, is
blatant. A study of secretarial support at colleges around the
country, which I conducted this winter, indicates that the
faculty-secretary ratio averages 15:1 nationally, while at Bard it is
about 100:1.

The Faculty Handbook promises "adequate secretarial
support," and "first priority" with that secretary, the
administration pays the faculty secretaries $10,000 per 12 months
and then asks her to do work for
Ludlow "in her spare time."

Most colleges have divisional
secretaries at the very least, but
Bard faculty members are
expected to waste time copying,
collating, etc., which reduces quality time for student-faculty
interaction, research, writing
and family. The administration's
recent promise to purchase a new
copier machine for the faculty
has not been acted upon, like so
many other promises.

Are you aware that the faculty
members supposedly have the
right to nominate people for Bard
Center Fellowships? A
Fullbright scholar from New
Zealand so nominated last year
had his request denied by the
administration because he had
written a book discrediting
teaching in New Zealand.

While this person shared,
with ten other adjunct professors, an
office with three desks and one
phone, a Center Fellow picked by the
administration was given a
Blightwood office with
wordprocessor and computer
mail account.

The President has also made
several faculty appointments
with tenure, in direct violation of
established procedures,
without even token consultation
with the faculty, "for the good
of the college."

I suggest that the Observer
should redouble its efforts to
act as a conscience for the
college. Reject the typical
administration double-talk that
too often serves as "truth."

Why, for example, must the
Chapel, the only building on
campus with an endowment, pay
its own way, with the endowment
income disappearing into the
same fiscal deficit into which
endowment funds have already
disappeared? Had the income
been used for preventive organ
maintenance its current state of
disrepair might have been
avoided.

There is a lot to like at Bard.
The students and faculty are
vibrant, creative forces. Though
many students may not know the
science and math faculty
members well, we have found
them to be some of the most
collegial, dedicated and friendly
people I have ever had the
pleasure of working with. Too
bad the administration doesn't
measure up.

Sincerely,

Robert Drake
Visiting Associate Professor of Chemistry

Hudson Valley Events
...continued from page 15
June 30—Dazzler Grover Washington, Jr. at Bardavon at 8
p.m., 473-2072.
July 1—Festival Orchestra, Gundaris Pone, conductor.
McKenna Theatre at SUNY New Paltz, 8 p.m., 257-3880.
July 8—Vladimir Feltsman Solo Recital, McKenna Theatre at
SUNY New Paltz, 8 p.m., 257-3880.
July 14—21, 28—Three concerts of music by J.S. Bach and Joseph
Haydn on period instruments. John Hwu, Artistic Director, Olin
Auditorium, 8 p.m. Pre-concert talks at 7:30 p.m., 759-7425.
July 15—Festival Chamber Players, Peter Alexander, music
director. Sarah Rothenberg, piano, McKenna Theatre at SUNY
New Paltz, 8 p.m., 257-2800.
July 22, 29—Festival Orchestra, Gundaris Pone, conductor.
McKenna Theatre at SUNY New Paltz, 8 p.m., 257-3880.
August 4—Trio sonatas of the 17th & 18th centuries, Arias from
Mozart's "The Magic Flute" with violinist Lucy van Dael, Olin
Auditorium, 8 p.m., 759-7425.