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Corrections
Computer Center Budget Turned Down

by Edward Eigerman

Several major upgrades to the Henderson Computer Resources Center will have to be postponed due to budget cuts, according to Michael Lewis, Director of Computer Education.

The actual cuts to the budget were minor, explains Lewis. Yet, the Dean of the College’s Office did not approve several proposals which would have allowed the computer facilities on campus to become more up to date.

Among the projects proposed were the replacement of the six-year-old Apple II computers with more state of the art Macintosh computers. This includes the newer and more advanced Macintosh II series that would allow students and faculty to run programs such as Mathematica.

Mathematica is a recent program which allows graphing and visualization of complex mathematical formulas. It is currently available only to a limited number of faculty members and those in the Levy Economics Institute.

There are also plans to purchase an IBM mainframe computer. This would allow many of the computers on campus, and even computers in students’ rooms, to be networked together facilitating communications and number intensive calculations.

Furthermore, it would allow Bard community members to use the international academic computer network Bittnet. Bittnet can send electronic mail to academic institutions and research facilities almost anywhere in the world. In addition, it is an excellent source of news, and an open forum for discussion of any topic. Current facilities allow faculty members access to the network through an agreement with Marist College in Poughkeepsie.

Lewis also expressed interest in purchasing at least one Next computer, a Unix workstation design by Steven Jobs, the designer of the Macintosh. The Next is particularly well known for its abilities in heavy numerical computations and electronic music.

There will be no cuts in existing facilities, said Lewis. However, he is now looking to out-source projects, such as work from foundations or directly from the college’s trustees in order to move ahead with the facilities plans.

A smaller grant could be on the horizon to upgrade the Apple II computers which may become a maintenance problem in the future as parts become less available.

The machines have been “real troopers,” but they are six years old, said Lewis.

The future of Bard’s facilities will become clearer later in the year when funds from outside sources are nailed down.

Getting used to new space: Housing Problems Continue

by Elizabeth Champ

The housing problems of the first week continue with unexpected students and an optimistic administration. The number of unplaced students has dropped to twelve, most of them being readmits.

Ten spaces opened up and were filled in Cruger Village when the Foreign Language Exchange Tutors (FLETs) were moved off campus after having lived in the basement of Fagan House in Cruger Village. Other unplaced students were placed in freshman doubles as they opened up due to roommate problems, dropouts, and students who moved off campus. Approximately three students have withdrawn from Bard so far this semester.

The remaining unplaced students were shown a house off campus which Bard is willing to rent for the semester. All students who opt to live there will be provided with transportation and a meal plan which has yet to be worked out. The house is located in Milan, ten miles off campus.

Associate Dean of Students and Director of Housing Shelley Morgan told the Observer, “We will not do it unless we can guarantee transportation. Some of the students have cars, but the others need to...Continued on page 8
Renovations in Robbins hampered by student carelessness

by Jim Trajnor

Beginning this past summer Bard's Buildings and Grounds department has undertaken a major renovation project in the Robbins dormitory. The project, which was budgeted for $250,000, will involve a variety of new fixtures throughout the building including carpeting and acoustic tiles in the hallways and the social room, fire doors, new ceiling lights in the halls, and two closed telephone booths on the first floor.

According to Chuck Simmons, Bard's Director of Buildings and Grounds, most of the work is about 80% complete and should be finished by the end of October. The current delays are occurring because B&G is being flooded with up to 80% work orders a day from students who need urgent repairs to their rooms. Once these problems are resolved they will be able to continue more manoever in Robbins.

The idea for the renovations came from the Dean of Students office in response to complaints by students. The most significant problem which needed to be corrected was the noise in the building, which hosts a large number of parties during the year. Shelly Morgan, the Director of Housing, said that she was very excited about the new improvements and "thinks that they look great."

Both Simmons and Morgan are concerned about the students' problems with how the new fixtures are being cared for by the students. There was significant damage done to the carpets and wooden on the lobby during a party there at the beginning of this year; most of the damage was in the form of cigarette burns which resulted from people carelessly putting out butts on the floor.

Simmons said that both the incidence of damage was "unjustified" and "very aggravating to myself and all the workers involved in the project."

Shelly Morgan emphasized that it was important for people to enjoy the building and the work that went into it. She added that a new policy would be in effect for parties and that only the residents of Robbins will decide who will hold parties there and when they will occur.

Security Watch

by Brenda Monnemeyer

Bicycle thefts
There has been an increase in bicycle thefts on campus, prompting Security to start an investigation in cooperation with the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office. The Ravin House has been the target area for the bike disappearances.

Oney is confident that Security will be successful in solving the problem of the stolen bicycles. Last year four people were apprehended after an investigation into similar incidents. Five of the bikes were returned to their owners. "Don't wait two or three days before you tell us about your stolen bikes. The quicker you tell us, the better we can respond," explained Oney.

Sands
There have been complaints of items missing from Sands storage this semester. The investigation started after the Dean of Students Office, but now has been officially handled by the students. There was significant damage done to the carpet in the halls and lobby during a party there at the beginning of this year; most of the damage was in the form of cigarette burns which resulted from people carelessly putting out butts on the floor.

Simmons said that both the incidence of damage was "unjustified" and "very aggravating to myself and all the workers involved in the project."

Shelly Morgan emphasized that it was important for people to enjoy the building and the work that went into it. She added that a new policy would be in effect for parties and that only the residents of Robbins will decide who will hold parties there and when they will occur.

Parked tickets
Parked tickets is another problem on campus, as it continues to be a violation, though students are starting to respect the new rules. Cars are ticketed first, then towed if owners do not move the car and settle the ticket. Oney has had three cars towed on campus since the semester began. I hate to tow cars — I don't like to do something to make people follow the rules."

If you don't know the new parking and traffic rules on campus, step by Security for a copy of the list. You should have several copies of rules when you registered your car. Take a look at it, you may be surprised.
Bard College Receives $235,000 in Scholarship Grants

by Jason Van Driesche

Bard continues to be one of the most expensive colleges in the country, but four recent grants to the college totaling $235,000 will help to ease the strain on student budgets.

A $5,000 grant from the James J. McCann Charitable Trust to aid disadvantaged students from Dutchess County will be given directly to qualified students, as will a $5,000 donation toward minority scholarships from the Aetna Life and Casualty Foundation.

The two larger grants are both endowments, and only the interest drawn on them will be used for scholarships. The larger of the two, a $200,000 endowment from the Starr Foundation, will be used to provide scholarships for foreign students. The second, a grant of $25,000, will be used to aid students from the Northeast.

While these grants are significant, they comprise only a small part of the $4.5 million Bard must raise from outside sources each year in order to meet its scholarship budget. Most of this money currently comes from trusts and friends of the College, but according to President Butstein, "Financial aid from foundations and trusts is becoming ever more crucial in the face of the cost of private college education."

Both academic strength and financial need will be considered in awarding these scholarships. Within the limits set by the donor groups, the college will have complete control over selection of scholarship recipients.

BLAGA plans a change of pace

by Lianna Williamson

The Bard Lesbian and Gay Alliance (BLAGA) has undergone a change of leadership and a change in perspective this semester.

"We are changing to meet the changing needs of the college," said Tucker Baldwin, co-head of BLAGA.

BLAGA plans to continue to work with the Women's Center and the AIDS Task Force Committee in promoting awareness of issues that affect the homosexual community. Specific events will be planned by BLAGA members, although more entertainment (such as last year's performance of gay musical satire Romanovsky and Phillips'), films, and lectures are anticipated.

BLAGA is not an exclusively gay organization. "We don't put labels on people who attend our meetings, and we are not a recruitment agency," Baldwin said.

"We would like to see more people addressing interests or concerns they have about homosexuality at BLAGA meetings," Baldwin said. "When people don't face the issues of homosexuality directly, they often don't know how to react when confronted with it. So they react with fear or mistrust. And I think that homophobia can come from that," Baldwin said.

BLAGA meetings are held Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m., on the third floor of Aspinwall.

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Explore Historic Hudson Valley Mansions

by Lyn Clinton

Once again, the historic Hudson Valley will sponsor their “Country Seats Tour.” This year the tour will begin Thursday, September 21, and close Sunday, September 24.

The houses that will be shown publicly each day are Blithewood, Montgomery Place, Wilderstein, Roebley, Olana, Clarendon, Mills Mansion, and the Vanderbilt Mansion. Edgewater will be shown the 21st and 22nd; Heermance-Bukely, 22nd and 23rd; Hotcroft and Forthorpe, 23rd and 24th; and Stone Jug, the 21st and 22nd. The houses will be shown between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m.

The driving tour between houses will be augmented with a personally guided walking tour of the first floor. A feature highlight this year will be landscaping of the gardens and landscape architecture.

Montgomery Place, which is very close to Bard, is a house that should be one of the top on the tour. With its gardens and scenic view of the Hudson River, it is truly a lovely site. The wooded yards that surround the house also add to its grace. The house was built between 1884 and 1885. It was occupied by Janet Livingston, the daughter of Judge Robert Livingston. Montgomery Place has been under construction, but that does not interfere with the tour. Peaches are also sold at the Montgomery Place site, and they prove to be quite tasty.

Another house that is a definite must is the Vanderbilt Mansion, which was constructed during 1896-1898 and occupied by Frederick and Louise Vanderbilt. The house is in a beautiful wooded green with several gardens including the historic Italian gardens, which have been restored by volunteers. The house is three stories and has a basement area with many pieces of beautiful furniture.

It is estimated that there will be a large turnout, as there was last year. Tickets are limited to the sale of 400 per day, and are $25 each by advance reservation only. For reservations, call 758-5461.

Photo by Eve Chanin

Disabled Rowers conquer Hudson

by Kristan Hutchison

At age 50, Fred Meda broke 8 National swimming records as a member of the 1988 U.S. swim team in Seoul. Every day he swims 2100 yards, rows 6 miles, and does 10 miles on the track in his wheelchair.

Fred is also a member of the National Team for Disabled Rowers. He is among the five members of Freedom Row ’89, a 150-mile rowing expedition down the Hudson River. It is a marathon most able bodied rowers would not attempt.

The team was created in February of last year due to pressure from the over 600 members of 23 local handicapped rowing groups across the nation. Regattas were held and those with the fastest times were chosen for the team after some input from the coaches. The members are: Kevin Ely, Fred Meda, Jim Reising, Tom Swank, and Pat Stanley.

Stanley, the only female member, was prevented from embarking on the Freedom Row September 14 because her Multiple Sclerosis flared up. She and Meda are the only ones with M.S. Ely, Reising, and Swank have spinal cord injuries. All five must use wheelchairs on land.

"Once they hit the water, there’s no difference. The curbs, the potholes, they’re all gone," says Richard Tobin, Bard alumni and director of Freedom Row ’89.

As director, Tobin sees Freedom Row ’89 as a demonstration to both handicapped and able bodied people of what can be done. They will row from Albany to New York City in 8 days. "It’s a way to get the word out to the world that disabled rowing is here," he says.

The National Team of Disabled Rowers sent these members to the Australian National Rowing Championship last summer. Competing against able bodied rowers, they won two silvers and a bronze.

The equipment still puts them at a disadvantage. They now use monohull boats with outboard motors for stability, since they cannot use their lower bodies to stabilize the extremely slender and unsteady racing hulls. Their pontoons double the weight of the normal 28 lb shells to around 62 lbs empty.

Handicapped rowers have the added disadvantage that they must depend solely on their arms and upper body. An able bodied rower does half the work with his legs, pushing back and forth on a sliding seat. Boats equipped for the handicapped use a fixed seat and seat back.

The most difficult obstacle is the transition from land to water and back again. The National Team for Disabled Rowers is accompanied on Freedom Row ’89 by coaches and a support team. Even with the help, disembarking at places like the 14-inch-high Kingston dock is problematic.

Team member Tom Swank has created a system enabling him to launch himself. Using a system of ropes and pulleys, he is able to pull the boat to the water.
Shakin' bones in Rhinecliff

by Robin Cook

I arrived as a sheriff's car crawled past the adjacent parking lot. I stopped as I was preparing to get out. "You all right?" he asked.

I assured him I was, and unpeeled a ripe banana. Fortified by my snack, I entered the Rhinecliff Hotel.

Shooby Bones was in the midst of a soundcheck. It was 10:20, and I didn't see anyone I knew. The band's drummer Chris Carman, percussionist Joe Stone, bassist Steve Chen '87, vocalist Joanne Lediger, guitarist/vocalist Rob Loecken, and guitarist/vocalist Dan McBride '88, played a song, then returned to adjusting the sound, warding off annoying calls from inebriated patrons.

The audience didn't have to wait long. As their ad indicated, Shooby Bones' music is danceable without being sterile and mindless. The audience bounced and swayed to the music during McBride's guitar solo, the band's instrumental interludes were long but never tedious. While the Grateful Dead is credited as an influence, they aren't at all laid-back as the Dead are.

They call their music "dance music that ain't pop." McBride cites bluegrass and reggae as influences on the group's sound. During the show, Stone could be found blowing up and down as he played. He and Garman seated themselves for a mid-set percussion duet as the audience stood to watch them.

In Stokey and Garman, Shooby Bones possesses a formidable rhythm section. The two formed Shooby Bones nearly a year ago after attending college and playing together in West Virginia. "We're like a drumming team," Stone says. They possess an earthiness and ease with a melody which is reminiscent of the Dead, but they play with a funkier approach.

The Dream Syndicate giving it to you straight

by Seth Holland

Since 1982, The Dream Syndicate has played "Rolling Stones" to REM's "Beatles" act. The raw popularity is lacking in both cases, but, within the "American Underground Rock Scene," the analogy holds. Like REM, the Dream Syndicate owes much to the Velvet - but where REM sweetens the formula, the Syndicate grinds and grats. Unlike REM, the Syndicate has called quits.

For six years and four albums, the band blazed a trail of Hell-for-leather, gutbucket blues cum atonal Velvets jams, all soiled in cheap whiskey and devastating neurosis. Steve Wynn's lyrics rang with the visions shared by such professional gutter residents as Tom Waits, Charles Bukowski, John Doe, Jeffrey Lee Pierce, and, of course, Lou Reed.

One at Ray's (Restless, CD or cassette), a posthumous release of eleven songs recorded in an L.A. Club last fall, is notable for being a completely digital release. The studio-perfect sound lacks most of the concert ambience, but delivers super-crisp mixing and production.

The post '85 line up is recorded doing mostly pre-'85 songs, making these distinctly different interpretations, not "verboten" renditions. Paul Cauther's guitar work is still hot as offbeat and hairy as predecessor Karl Peredee's, but his playing is a feral succession of solos that are never boring or self-indulgent, though occasionally meta-esque. Mark Walton's excellent bass playing combines with Dennis Duck's drums to make a strong rhythm section.

The set is really hot. Swede's solo take during the opening minutes of "Merriville" draws a touch. The ensemble start/stop tactic that crops up late in the set clusters up and detracts from the arrangement. Otherwise, only die-hard R.E.M. fans have cause to complain. Underground hero Peter Case makes noises on the closer, a "John Coltrane Street Blues" that makes the '84 live take seem restrained.

Think about buying this album. The Stones are old men, Lou Reed broke his ankle, REM is famous, and the Dream Syndicate need the money.
A Fresh Look

by David Biele

As this is the first edition of this column to ever appear in the Observer (or, I must admit, in any edition), I feel that I, namely the author, must give some sort of introduction so that you, namely the reader, will have a better idea of exactly what you are reading, namely this column. So here goes.

"Reader, this is Column; Column, this is Reader. How do you do? How do you do? You two really have a lot in common..." There, that wasn’t so bad, was it? But I feel that that is not enough, and I, namely the author, must better acquaint you, namely the reader, with what you are reading, namely this column.

That is where we run into trouble because, as of yet, I, namely the author, do not have a clear idea of exactly what I am writing, namely this column. (For the sake of brevity, all future identification of the author, reader, and column shall be omitted. The author thinks that now you should be able to differentiate. After all, you are all educated college students who [probably] know that Yeats is not something that makes bread dough rise.) This is the first column and I should probably give you some sort of general idea of What It Is About.

In its simplest terms, this column is meant to give my personal perspectives on Life At Bard and In General. I am a new student here, in my first year at college, and I thought I might be able to give some interesting views on what I see. Hence the title.

So what should be expected to unfold in this column over the next several months? To be honest (I thought of lying but decided against it), I really am not quite sure. While writing this column I have in the back of my mind Calvin Trillin, a satirical humorist who writes a column in that leftist playground The Nation. When describing the purpose of his column in a collection entitled Uncivil Liberties, Trillin says that it is basically a 1000 word forum every three weeks for him to write whatever is on his mind. That is how I intend this column to be. And knowing my mind as I do (we’re very close, known each other for years, in fact), the prospects of what could come up here could be pretty scary.

However, also knowing my mind as I do, I cannot help but worry that sometimes nothing could come up. I mean, how many insightful, interesting, and hopefully funny observations can one person make? Can I stand the pressures of a monthly column? I’m really not sure. But I decided to give it the old college try (pun intended) and go for it. Hopefully, however, with this introduction I have sparked your interest enough to make you want to read this column again the next time it appears, the first week of October. Don’t worry, the words will be different.

The cost of classifications for members of the Bard community is 25 cents each. Send classifieds to The Bard Observer, campus mail.

PERSONALS
Hey H, got a raffle ticket?
I can’t believe I just paid 25 cents for this...


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Is the World blind?

In the Third World 35 million people are blind. Their number is increasing daily and at an alarming rate. In many cases, the blindness results from malnutrition, especially the lack of Vitamin A found naturally in vegetables. In Indonesia alone, malnutrition causes blindness in 60,000 children every year.

At the same time, two British Labour Party representatives at the European Parliament estimate that every second during the past year the European Community destroyed 83,000 tons of 'surplus' food products, worth at least 100 million dollars on the world market. This policy is costing the taxpayers enormous sums, for it is they who pay for the subsidies which politicians require to protect national agricultural markets. According to recent figures the EEC and US together spend more than 70,000,000,000 dollars on such agricultural subsidies. They spend only about half of this, however, on development aid.

In an interview with the magazine Knack, the Belgian politician and former Minister of Development, Willy Claes, revealed that 15 percent of the world's population—the industrialized nations—now works on 60 percent of the world's food production.

Anyone with half a heart would agree that this appalling inequality is unacceptable. Tragically, however, we have strongly conflicting ideas about the best solutions. A case in point is the ongoing debate about whether the food presently being destroyed in the West should be used to alleviate food shortages elsewhere. Direct food aid, many say, discourages food production in recipient countries, resulting in a permanent and unwanted dependence on the West. From this perspective, only in acute famine conditions should food aid be given. It should stop as soon as possible and be replaced by gradual restructuring of the world's agricultural system.

The objection to this way of thinking is that it ignores the dire distress of the poverty-stricken millions whose lives are not threatened by immediate starvation but by slow, insidious malnutrition. Their number is even greater than the victims of periodic famines and they cannot wait, either, for the urgently needed structural measures to take effect.

Perhaps a solution to this controversy can be found in the ideal put forward by the Indian academic Dr. M. S. Swaminathan. This brilliant scholar, who has received 25 honorary doctorates for his work in plant genetics, is considered the father of the 'Green Revolution' which has sparked the explosion of food production in India. He points out that the present debates ignore the fact that in largescale, the Third World the soil is completely exhausted and cannot support any further demands upon it.

According to his view, world food distribution has entered a new phase. Initially, there was not enough food in the world to feed everyone; subsequently there was enough food, but not everyone had the money to buy it; and now, due to deforestation, erosion, chemical fertilizers, siltting up of waterways and depletion of the soil, nature is literally under threat of destruction—and with it the food resources of all.

To reconcile all the different elements of the food problem, Dr. Swaminathan recommends that from now on, and for several years to come, the food surpluses of America and Europe be distributed among the poorest countries of the world. This will give nature, where necessary, a long enough rest to restore its balance. In other areas, where agriculture can continue, Dr. Swaminathan advocates that policies can be directed to support the small farmer who, with the aid of the latest small-scale technology, could produce bigger yields without upsetting nature's harmony. This would also bring an end to the catastrophic migrations of poor farmers to the cities which have nothing to offer them but greater degradation.

Such a planned and rational approach to the problem is the only alternative, according to Dr. Swaminathan, and fits in with his observation that people are coming to realize more and more that humanity has one common future. Therefore, he says, we should strive to build a new, global society where economy and ecology co-exist in harmony and where equity he would like to see manifested in every field, ranging from the balanced distribution of scientific knowledge to the guarantee of adequate food and equal rights for women.

Only then will the world demonstrate a true interdependence, Dr. Swaminathan contends, and only then will the present tensions and conflicts disappear.

His proposal demonstrates that food aid, as a part of an integrated plan, need to be merely an emergency measure or a substitute for granting the poor their fair and equal place in society. If this synthesizing vision could open the eyes of all who are afraid of change, or of those who now wrangle over how changes should be effected, it would be an indication of great progress. Adoption of Dr. Swaminathan's proposal would mean that we would no longer have to live with the horrible knowledge that in Europe alone 160,000 high-grade food is destroyed in the same two seconds that elsewhere a child dies for lack of it.

If this information moves you, write to your state congressmen in support of these ideas.

The Inescapable Dead Goat

by Stacey Pilson

One can never be far from Bard, no matter how far you travel. This summer I was reminded of Bard, and The Bard Observer, in one of the strangest ways.

My travelling companion (another Bardian) and I were walking through the 15th century castle in Milan, Italy, admiring the beautiful tapestries and odd assortment of medieval armor, when we noticed this bust and its unusual neck decoration.

Immediately, we thought of The Bard Observer and the dead goats which frequently adorned its pages. The dead goat is the Observer's mascot. Goats symbolize abundance, knowledge, and purity, while sacrificed (dead) goats ensure prosperity (see issue of September 29, 1989). This man must have belonged to another group that venerated dead goats.

The Castle was built in 1450 by Duke Sforza. It now houses several museums, many of which are free, and is enormous (must be, to house several museums, right?). The picturesque courtyard was being used for wedding pictures the day we visited.

Corrections

In the last issue of The Bard Observer, there were several mistakes made in the interview with Professor Willi Goetschel by Tom Hickerson. Professor Goetschel studied philosophy and political philosophy at the University of Zurich, and at Harvard. He earned his doctorate in German. He is also doing research on German Jewish relations during his stay here at Bard.

In the orientation guide of August 5, Jamie Monagan should have been identified as the Director of Public Relations. The Director of Publications, is Dan Schwartz, who was omitted. Cindy Saniowsk is now to the Publications staff, and Dan Schwartz is the editorial assistant. For those interested in writing for or learning from this office, contact McBride or campus mail. The office is located in the basement of Ludlow, though it will soon move to Bithwood.
Housing

continued from page 1

Housing solutions were brought up repeatedly in discussions with the unhoused students. Many of the displaced roommates were students who had taken an authorized leave of absence, or had spent a semester abroad, but had stated that they would be returning this semester. A source of contention was the fact that students who were abroad were not allowed to participate in room draws.

Things seem to be working out reasonably well; if they're having a housewarming, how bad can things be?

Dean Levine asked.

The students who were shown the off-campus house on Friday, September 9 had mixed reactions. Students complained about the fact that the house is "ten miles off campus." Even students who are safely housed are showing a certain amount of distress for the whole situation. "Not guaranteeing housing is fine, but once you've accepted money for housing and failed to provide it, you're acting in bad faith," said Edward Eigenman '92 in response to the administration's handling of the situation.

Also moved off campus to a house in Livingston were the FLETS. The house is twelve miles off campus, with a shuttle provided twice daily, according to Dean of the College Stuart Levine. Levine seemed satisfied that the administration had done all they could for the tutors, stating, "Cruger basement wasn't going to be used at all until I recommended it. It would have been great to have them there, but it couldn't work out."

When asked if the FLETS had been promised on-campus housing, Levine replied, "Yes, but my priority is with the students on campus. I felt that the FLETS were understanding, willing to give it a try. Things seem to be working out reasonably well; if they're having a housewarming, how bad can things be?"

Several solutions have been offered which would provide a temporary relief to the housing crunch. "Tripling freshmen, which is done at numerous other colleges and has been done at Bard before, has been suggested again this year, as has letting freshmen and transfers move off campus.

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