

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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THE BARD OBSERVER

VOLUME XCVI, ISSUE THREE
September 15, 1989

BARD COLLEGE
ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY 12504

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in Annandale."

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 Apple 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 mathematic formulas. It is currently available only to a limited number of faculty members and to 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 net-

worked together facilitating communications and number intensive calculations.

Furthermore, it would allow Bard community members to use the international academic computer network Bitnet. Bitnet 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

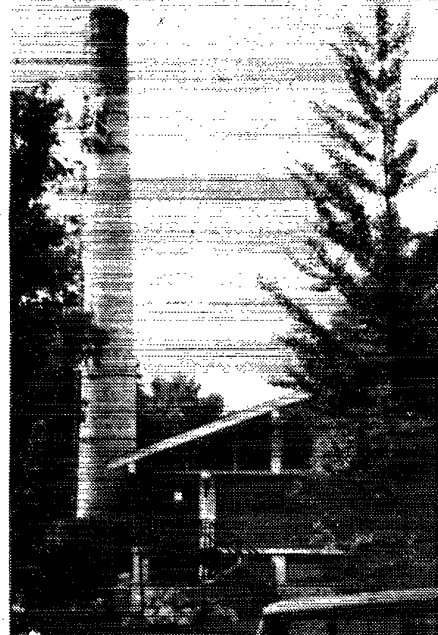
with Marist College in Poughkeepsie.

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 outside sources, such as grants 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, stated Lewis.

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



Hofman Library was the backdrop for a film written and directed by Bard alumni. See page 5 for story.

Elections well-attended but positions still empty

by Cormac Flynn

The first Student Forum meeting of the semester took place on Thursday, September 7. A healthy crowd of 78 filled the Commons for a meeting with an agenda made up entirely of elections. The entire Central Committee was in attendance and SJB Chair Shannon Bass, whose recent resignation took effect at the end of the evening, chaired an orderly and cordial meeting.

The first elections held were for the Educational Policies Committee. A dearth of moderated students in attendance caused several positions to be filled by default. Nancy Popper and J.J. Austrian were elected Arts representatives, and Angela Alexander won the Languages and Literature seat without opposition. David Steinberg filled one position for the Natural Science and Mathematics division, but there being no other qualified students, the other NS&M position went unfilled. The Social Studies seat provided the only race for the EPC, demonstrating that division's heavy representation among those attending. In one of the few close contests of the evening, Pamela Goldstein squeaked by fellow senior Maria Maida by two votes.

Michele Berger and Torrence Lewis were easily elect-

ed to the Planning Committee, following the long tradition of former club officers who move onto the committee. Work for Berger and Lewis began almost immediately with a budget drafting meeting Friday.

The race for Chairpersonship of the new Student Life Committee proved a very lopsided contest, Marcus Olin-Fahle swamping Lars Hundere. Hundere promised that while "not very successful academically," he had "been around student life a lot." Olin-Fahle ran on a platform of suspicion regarding the Committee's purposes and usefulness. In a rambling, rable-raising and marginally coherent address, Olin-Fahle said, "I just think this is a smoke screen to cover up a lot of nasty new rules, and...okay...well...its like and then we won't be effective to complain because we were there, on the committee, I mean."

Dave Rolf echoed Olin-Fahle's remarks and, declaring himself the "candidate of the old Bard," was easily elected to the committee.

The race for chairperson of the newly strengthened Student Judiciary Board proved to be an upset: Former chair Courtney Lee won in a landslide over favorite Rolf. Rolf, a

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Getting used to new space: Housing Problems Continue

by Elizabeth Champ

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

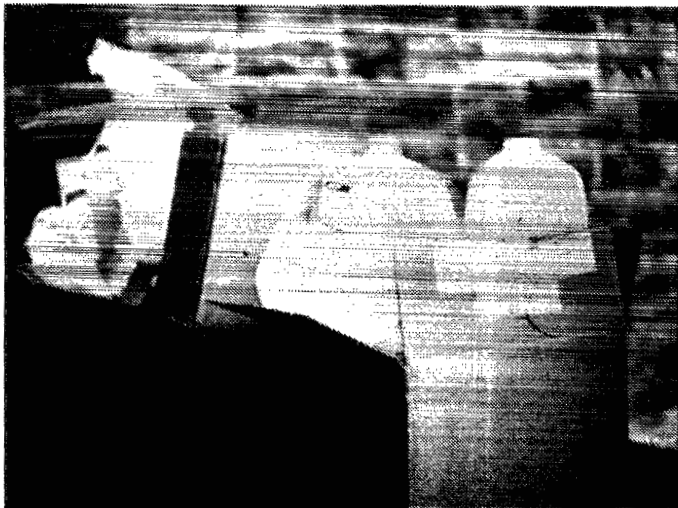
Ten spaces opened up and were filled in Cruger Village when the Foreign Language Exchange Tutors (FLETs) were moved off campus after having lived in the basement of Fagan House in Cruger Village. Other unhoused students were placed in freshman doubles as they opened up due to roommate problems, dropouts, and students who moved off campus. Approx-

mately three students have withdrawn from Bard so far this semester.

The remaining unhoused 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

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Styrofoam to be the next victim of project RESCUE

by Francisco Uceda

During the 1988 Language and Thinking Workshop, a small group of students founded an environmental group named RESCUE (Recycling Effort Collects Used Entities). Their goal was to clean up the environment, and to save landfills by collecting cans and paper. The effort was not as successful as was expected. This year the project will be undertaken again and greater success is expected. For example, the group hopes to remove styrofoam from the coffee shop and cafeteria in Kline Commons.

At the end of the 1988-89 school year, the group had fewer than five members who tried to manage the situation. They could not cover the whole college area because "it took them too much time and people did not really pay attention to the receptacles placed in the front of the dorms," asserted Christina Hajagos, president of RESCUE.

Last year's student body response to recycling was rather vague and apathetic. Mike Wacks said, "People were too lazy to go to the front of the dorm to drop a can or bottle; instead, they should have set up specific trash cans for bottles, cans and papers in each floor." In fact, that is one of the main objectives of RESCUE for the current year, said Sharon McGowan, Treasurer-Secretary of RESCUE.

In most cities recycling has become mandatory. In New York City the curbside recycling effort had a 10% participation rate, making it the city producing the highest amount of sludge. Bard's community participation does not even equal that of New York City in what is being

called a "national effort." "If we could encourage people to participate in a common effort, we could become an example for other college communities," said Hajagos.

Last year, RESCUE supplied receptacles in most dorms. By the end of the year they had lost so many participants that they could only cover a few dorms. This year they expect to cover all dorms and expect "to get the student body's cooperation making recycling easier, faster, and more productive," said McGowan.

Every Friday, RESCUE will collect paper, cardboard, and recyclable cans and bottles. Unfortunately, waxed paper, shiny catalogue-type paper, and window envelopes cannot be recycled. Everyone should be responsible for placing cans and other recyclables in the expected labelled receptacles.

The money collected from recycling has been and will be spent on trash cans and biodegradable plastic bags for transporting the material. The fate of left over money is "undecided, but most likely it will go to some organization dedicated to the environment," asserted Hajagos.

In May 1989, RESCUE attempted to remove styrofoam, which is not biodegradable, from Kline Commons. "It was too late and most people were fleeing from campus," said Hajagos. This year RESCUE is seriously encouraging the removal of styrofoam.

People interested in participating in this "common effort" should contact Christina Hajagos through campus mail. Dedicated people who are willing to give up some of their time in cleaning up the environment through recycling are needed to make this year's effort a success. □

Renovations in Robbins hampered by student carelessness

by Jim Trainor

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 \$20,000, 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 flood-

ed 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 commit more manpower to Robbins.

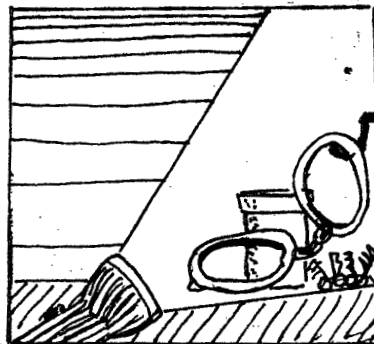
The idea for the renovations came from the Dean of Students office in response to complaints by students. The most significant problem which needed to be corrected was the noise in the building, which hosts a large number of parties during the year. Shelly Morgan, the Director of Housing, said that she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

Both Simmons and Morgan are concerned about recent problems with how the new fixtures are being cared for

by the students. There was significant damage done to the carpet in the main lobby during a party there at the begging 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 that 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 respect the building and the work that went into it. She added that a new policy would be in effect for parties at Robbins; only the residents of Robbins will decide who will hold parties there and when they will occur. □



Security Watch

by Brenda Montgomery

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 Ravine Houses have been the target area for the bike disappearances.

Otey 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 Otey.

Sands

There have been complaints of items missing from Sands storage this semester. The investigation started at the Dean of Students Office, but now has been officially hand-

ed to Security. Otey's thoughts were that it was "an honest mistake on two or three people's part" and not a case of stolen goods. "It will be hard to pin down a time frame for the incident," said Otey. Belongings in storage have been shuffled about by B & G several times.

Saferides

Students recently approached Otey about setting up a Campus Watch program at Bard, and a Safe Ride Program. There were a mixture of people, including upperclassmen, interested in participating. Otey has agreed with the Dean of Students to coordinate the Safe Rides Program out of the Security Office, using B & G vehicles and the Security communications system.

Blithewood

Students have been setting off the alarm system at Blithewood, trying to get in the house after hours. Otey warned that, "If students keep trying to get in we'll have to make all grounds off limits at Blithewood."

Medical care

Security has been answering daily medical needs of students after hours. Most of the problems have been routine injuries, easily solved by Security. The First Response Unit has been active also, answering an emergency call at Blithewood, when a local contractor fell from the roof to the concrete below. Security immediately called an ambulance, and sent Andy Malloy and Audrey Lasher to the

scene. They immobilized the victim with collars and helped prepare him for transport once the ambulance arrived. The worker had several broken bones and injuries.

Otey warned that, "If students keep trying to get in we'll have to make all grounds off limits at Blithewood."

Parking tickets

The biggest problem on campus has been parking violations, 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. Otey has had three cars towed on campus since the semester began. "I hate to tow cars — I guess that goes back to when my car got towed in college — I hated that feeling. But, you've got to do something to make people follow the rules."

If you don't know the new parking and traffic rules on campus, stop by Security for a copy of the list. You should have received a list of rules when you registered your car. Take a look at it, you may be surprised. □

First ticket = \$20
Second ticket = \$30
Third ticket = \$40
Fourth ticket = \$50
Fifth ticket = \$100 + loss of parking privileges
Handicapped = \$150

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 totalling \$235,999 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 Founda-

tion. 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 trustees and friends of the College, but according to President Botstein, "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. □



William Lensing

Professor Emeritus of Philosophy William Lensing died Tuesday morning, Sept. 12, after a long battle with cancer. Professor Lensing taught at Bard from 1949 to 1981.

Lensing received his B.A. and M.A. from the University of Louisville, and also attended graduate school at Columbia University.

While at Bard, he established the Mayme and Mildred Lensing Prize in Philosophy, to be given each year to a junior or senior who has achieved excellence in the field of philosophy.

"He knew so much. He was so nice," one student exclaimed upon hearing of his death. Toward the end of his life, although he lived quietly in the Manor gate house, he still touched the lives of Bard students. □

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 satirists Romanovsky and Philips), 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. □



Indians set up camp outside of Red Hook

by Brenda Montgomery

Red Hook was filled with the chants and cries of Indian voices last weekend at the Third Annual Iroquois Harvest Festival. Tribes from all over the United States and Canada were represented by the people involved in the festival.

The festival is a time for the craftsmen to display their arts and sell them to the general

public, explaining their significance for any interested. At midday, the dancers gathered in the dancing circle and displayed several native dances for the crowd. After displaying several varieties, the audience was encouraged to join in a Round Dance and become part of the festival.

Dancers were in full regalia, which included buckskin outfits, beadery and huge feathered "bustles." The most

elaborately dressed dancer was the head dancer, a fifth generation descendent of Sitting Bull. He wore a "bustle" on his back, composed of the full body of an eagle, with the feathers spread out like a peacock's feathers. He danced with vigour and was notably the best dancer there.

The Iroquois promised that when more festivals are planned they will announce it to the Bard community. □

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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, Rokeby, Olana, Claremont, Mills Mansion, and the Vanderbilt Mansion. Edgewater will be shown the 21st and 22nd; Heermance Bukely, 22nd and 23rd; Holcroft and Forthhouse, 23rd and 24th; and Stone Jug, the 21st and 23rd. 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 1804 and 1805. 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 Fredrick 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

Above, Olana overlooks the Hudson Valley.
Below, Rivers Edge Mansion is hidden by lush gardens that protect the privacy of the owners.
Both estates will be open to the public.

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 to 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 Elya, Fred Meda, Jim Reisig, 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. Elya, Reisig, 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 three members to the Australian National Rowing Championship last summer. Competing against able bodied rowers, they won two silvers and a bronze.

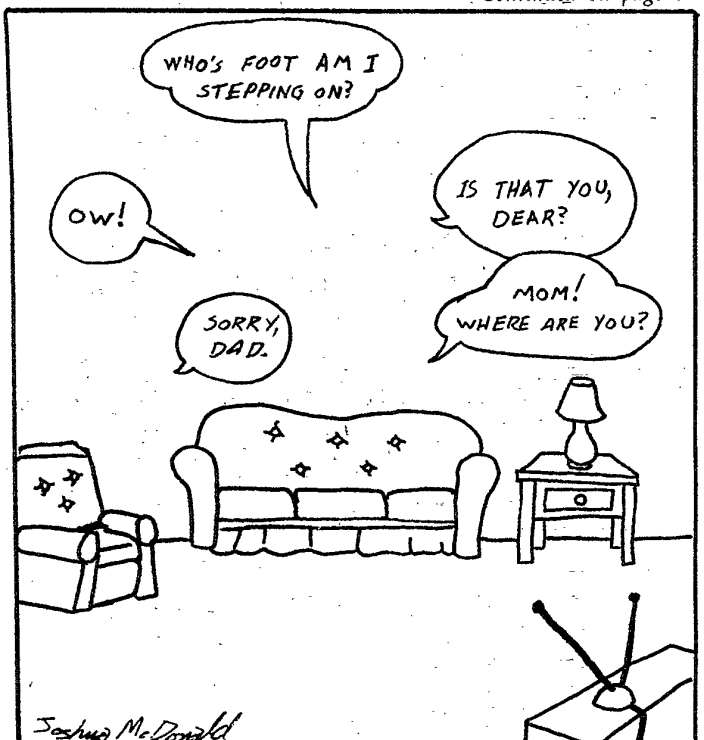
The equipment still puts them at a disadvantage. They now use monohull boats with outboard pontoons for stability, since they cannot use their lower bodies to stabilize the extremely slender and unsteady racing hulls. The pontoons double the weight of the normal 28 lb shells to around 62 lbs empty.

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

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The Invisible Man and Family at Home

Hoffman Library Periodical Room Sets Scene for Film About Racism

by Jason Van Driesche

On Saturday, September 9, three Bard alumni, Steve Barnwell '83, Chris Adams '84, and Barbara Ward '84, came back to Bard to shoot a scene for a movie. Barnwell, (a photography major) is directing the movie, and Adams (a creative writing major) and Ward (a literature major) wrote the screenplay.

The movie, which is called

Sock, examines the forms racism has taken in the 1980's. According to Ward, the movie's main purpose is to find ways to address racism directly in uncomfortable situations, and to explore the "racial trauma that comes from being a WASP." It is a video rather than a film production, and is tentatively scheduled for broadcast on The Learning Channel in 1991.

The scene at Bard, which was

shot in the periodical room of the Kellogg Library, shows the interaction between a professor and some of his graduate students. Adolfo Mekas, a film professor at Bard, gave the producers permission to shoot in the library.

Jaqueline Plavier, the movie's lead actress, is also a Bard alumnus, as is Peter Smith, a sound technician who works for WBAT in New York City.

Shakin' bones in Rhinecliff

by Robin Cook

I arrived as a sheriff's car crawled past the adjacent parking lot. He 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.

Shooky 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 Gartman, percussionist Joe Stote, bassist Steve Chun '87, vocalist Juane Lediger, guitarist/vocalist Rob Logsdon, 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 indicates, Shooky Bones' music is danceable without being sterile and mindless. The audience bounced and swayed to the music during McBride's guitar solos; 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, Stote could be found bobbing up and down as he played. He and Gartman seated themselves for a mid-set percussion duet as the audience stood to watch them.

In Stote and Gartman, Shooky Bones possesses a formidable rhythm section. The two formed Shooky Bones nearly a year ago after attending college and playing together in West Virginia. "We're like a drumming team," Stote 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 Hollander

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 Syndicate owes much to the Velvets — but where REM sweetens the formula, the Syndicate grinds and grates. Unlike REM, the Syndicate has called quits.

For six years and four albums, the band blazed a trail of Hell-for-leather, gut-bucket blues cum atonal Velvets jams, all soaked in cheap whiskey and devastating neurosis. Steve Wynn's lyrics rang with the vision shared by such professional gutter residents as Tom Waits, Charles Bukowski, John

Doe, Jeffrey Lee Pierce, and, of course, Lou Reed.

Live at Raji's (Restless, CD or cassette), a post humorous 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 "xerox" renditions. Paul Cutler's guitar work is still not as offbeat and hairy as predecessor Karl Precoda's, but he plays a furious succession of solos that are never boring or self indulgent, though occasionally metalesque. Mark Walton's excel-

lent bass playing combines with Dennis Duck's drums to make a strong rhythm section.

The set is really hot. Steve's solo take during the opening minutes of "Merritville" drags a touch. The ensemble start/stop tactic that crops up late in the set clutters up and detracts from the arrangement. Otherwise, only die-hard silence fans have cause to complain. Underground hero Peter Case makes noises on the closer, a "John Coltrane Stereo 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.

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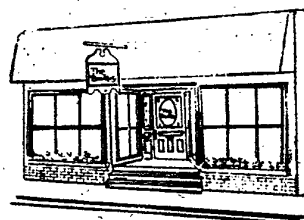
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A Fresh Look

by David Biele

As this is the first edition of this column to ever appear in the Observer (or, I must admit, in *any* paper), 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 column, er, I mean 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'm 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 is 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 quite 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.

Classifieds

The cost of classifieds 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?

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With the new automated cards, lines in Kline Commons dining room may not be as long.

Meals by machine

by Mark Nichols

Bard College hopes to make a major improvement in the dining service this year by installing a Validine system. This is a system by which students would run their cards through a machine before each meal and not have to carry meal tickets. When installed, it will enable the college to broaden the board plan and allow the dining service contractor to do more planning in terms of food; students would also benefit from it directly in cleanliness and efficiency. The College and Daka would like to have it in place by the beginning of next year, if not by the end of January. However, the question of who will buy it has not yet been resolved. The system costs \$20,000 and is a major investment for both the college and the dining service. Negotiations are currently under way and a decision is expected to be reached soon.



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 kilos (about 180 lbs) of 'surplus' vegetables and fruit.

Similarly, 'surpluses' amounting to millions of tons of other agricultural and animal food products had to be stored at great cost or were dumped 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 yearly about 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 in-

dustrialized nations — now usurp 60 percent of the world's total food production.

Anyone with half a heart would agree that this appalling inequity 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 a gradual re-structuring 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 a 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 ideas 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 debate ignores the fact that in large areas of 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, silting up of waterways and depletion of the soil, nature is literally under threat of destruction — and with it the food resources of us 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 desolation.

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 can 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 income for everyone to equal rights for women. Only then will the world demonstrate its mutual 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 terrible knowledge that in Europe alone 160 kilos of 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 Sforza 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, 1988). 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.



photo by Stacey Pilson



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 Schillaci, who was omitted. Cindy Saniewski is new to the Publications staff, and Dan McBride is the editorial assistant. For those interested in writing for or learning from this office, contact McBride through campus mail. The office is located in the basement of Ludlow, though it will soon move to Blithewood.

THE BARD OBSERVER
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Editorial policy is determined by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the editorial board. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the Editor and not necessarily of the *Observer* staff. Letters to the Editor should not exceed 300 words and must be signed legibly. All articles, cartoons and photographs that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the front desk of the library by noon the Monday before the Friday publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit for style and space.

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Calendar

If you would like information included in the Calendar, please submit it to the circulation desk in the library the Friday before the publication deadline. (If you don't give it to us, it doesn't go in the calendar.)

Sunday September 17

There will be an *Observer* Features staff meeting at 5p.m. on the third floor of Aspinwall. All are welcome.

Monday September 18

A meeting for the *Observer* News staff will take place at 6 p.m. in the College Room. Bring news ideas.

Are you interested in writing for the Arts section of the pa-

per? Come to an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. in the College Room.

Friday September 22

A **Shabbat Service** will be held. In addition, Israeli dancing will take place. All are invited.

False Prophets, a New York City band, will be performing a benefit concert for the Coalition for Choice in Kline. Opening for the band will be **Liquid Wrench**. \$3 at the door entitles you to all refreshments. Proceeds go to help pay for transportation to the November 12 march on Washington, D. C., for Pro-choice and other activities.

Housing

continued from page 1

have access to the campus." Morgan added that Bard is still considering alternate solutions for next year, such as more dorms in the style of Cruger Village, and possibly suite style dorms.

Other possible ways to alleviate the situation include taking steps to measure the number of readmits with greater accuracy, or placing a ceiling on the number of transfers, which were not used this year.

However, feelings of dissatis-

faction were brought up repeatedly in discussions with the unhoused students. Many of the unplaced readmits 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 draw.

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 8 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 distaste 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 Eigerman '92 in response to the adminis-

tration'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. □

Hudson

continued from page 4

the water embark. Such a system may be developed in the next 2 to 5 years that would enable most handicapped rowers to launch themselves.

Rowing is just one of many sports available to the handicapped. The National Wheelchair Association has skiing, table tennis, track and field, hockey, basketball, waterski-

ing, and scuba diving. Water sports are particularly suited for the handicapped, because the water takes a lot of the weight.

Though they are not yet, rowing, tennis, and several other sports can eventually become integrated with both able bodied and handicapped competitors. Several handicapped rowers will be competing on the Charles this year. To qualify their times had to be within the 22

to 34 minute range clocked in last years race. Fred rows the course daily with a time of 26:30.

Without either steroids or a left foot, a handicapped runner clocked in only 2 seconds behind Ben Johnson in the '88 Summer Olympics. Such "runs for his money" are becoming more common as handicapped athletes prove that there are no boundaries. □



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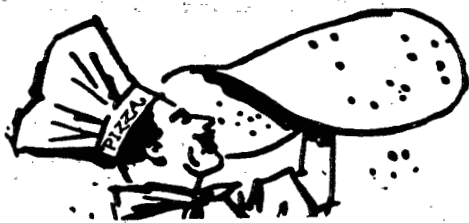
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