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# OBSERVER

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Page 1	Bard's Position on Minority Issues Botstein Speaks Out Emily Horowitz Proposed Bard Peace Corps Program Rejected Jason Van Driesche
Page 2	EMS—It's More Than Just a Ride to the Hospital EMS May Restart Next Fall Jason Van Driesche White Student Unions Emerge at Several Campuses Dacia Dorries Search for New Director of Security Jason Van Driesche
Page 3	New Professorships to Expand Our Horizons
Page 4	Five Fellowships Granted to Bard Juniors Kristan Hutchison
Page 5	Tis the Season for Allergies Meadow Goldman A Fresh Look Like Sand Through the Hourglass... David Biele
Page 6	Senior Film Show: Form and Color, or Content? Francisco Hirata A Queen in Our Time Seth Hollander
Page 7	Soviet Composers Visiting Bard Campus Emily Horowitz Classifieds
Page 10	Outlook From the Editor's Sanctum Weighing the Gains Letters to the Editor Election Difficulties Addressed Late-Night Callers Should Consider Their Action
Page 11	Letters to the Editor Alienating Minorities Response to Jason Van Driesche Plumb Awful Angered by Audio Co-Op's Actions
Page 12	Calendars

**FEATURES**  
Twenty new professors  
to teach next semester

**NEWS**  
White student unions  
form on several campuses

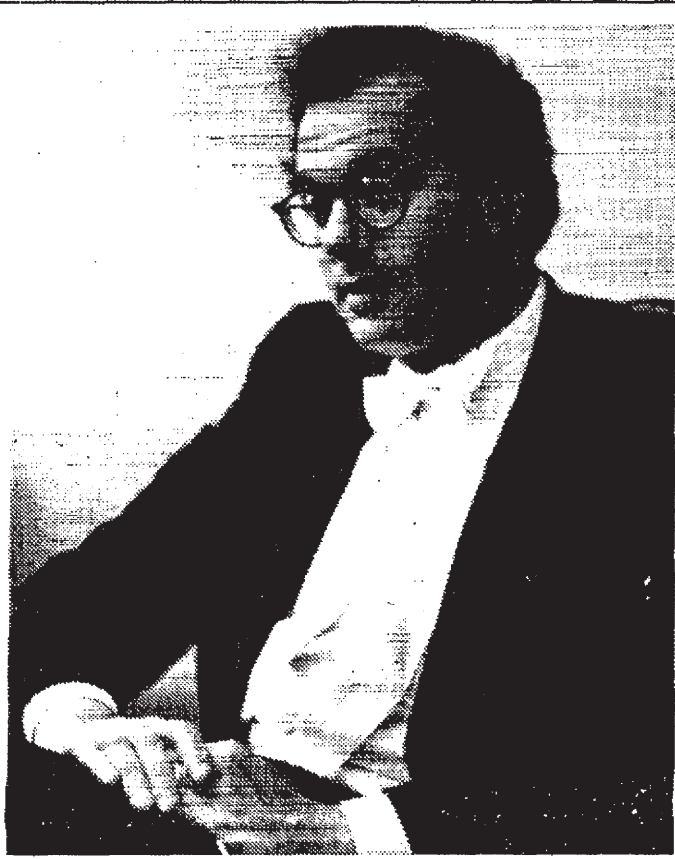
**ARTS**  
Senior film show

Volume 97, Number 14

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

May 11, 1990

# Bard's position on minority issues



## Botstein speaks out

by Emily Horowitz

The newly formed Students For Educational Equality (S.E.E.) was established in the last few weeks in order to promote a "multi-cultural education" at Bard College. On Monday, May 7, they issued a formal set of demands to the administration that outlined what they feel should be done to foster and eventually achieve this goal.

The group met with the administration to discuss their plans and the college's position on Thursday, May 10.

President Leon Botstein is familiar with the issues that Students for Educational Equality have raised. In addition to being an author of *Race Relations on American College Campuses*, he is the author of a chapter in a forthcoming book entitled *The Racial Crisis in American Higher Education*. In the chapter, Botstein addresses one of the primary issues

of S.E.E.: the problem of the Eurocentric curriculum. He writes: "The curriculum debate — the desire and call for cross-cultural comparisons and the extensive integration of non-European materials — mirrors a process of de-Europeanization in terms of world politics, culture and the character of the United States."

In the article, Botstein points out that the curriculum is an area that can change attitudes. He believes that through the curriculum "racism can be combated directly and profoundly."

As a more direct response to the specific concerns raised by S.E.E., Botstein recently issued a memo entitled *Diversity and Multi-cultural Education at Bard* explaining the college's history and current status in regard to "multi-cultural education."

The memo first addresses the question: "What Steps Have Been Taken?" Main points include: an

increase of 7 percent in minority enrollment this year; maintenance of the HEOP program at the college's own expense, despite the fact that "state and federal support for the program has dwindled;" the hiring of a full-time African-American member of the admissions staff; and organization with the alumni/ae office and HEOP of a group of Bard alumni/ae "who are members of minority groups to assist the College in its recruitment efforts."

The second issue addressed in regard to what steps have been taken is that of the faculty and curriculum. Main points include: the permanent institution of a Minority Studies program; a tenure-track African-American member of the History department; creation of an Asian Studies Program; creation of an exchange with People's University of Beijing in the People's Republic of China to provide teaching in the Chinese language; a permanent position for the "teaching of Oriental art;"

*continued on page 9*

# Proposed Bard Peace Corps Program rejected

by Jason Van Driesche

Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou recently vetoed a proposal to establish a Peace Corps Bridge Program at Bard. Had it been implemented, the program would have given students the opportunity to participate in a structured service program that could have prepared them for participation in the Peace Corps.

Papadimitriou cited liability concerns as his primary reason for rejecting the proposal. He said that the Peace Corps does not provide any form of insurance, so the college has to look into other means of avoiding liability.

Concern about liability is fairly common among colleges and universities sponsoring overseas programs. One example is the crash of the Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which a number of Syracuse University students returning from a study-abroad program were killed. However, according to a public relations representative of Syracuse "no one has blamed the university in any way."

Papadimitriou said that the college only wished to study the matter further, and emphasized that the program "hasn't been shelved permanently." He said that the issue of coverage needed

further study in conjunction with other colleges that have had similar proposals in the recent past.

Bard first proposed the program to the Peace Corps last fall. The college received approval in March, and according to Assistant Dean of the College Elaine Sproat, the Peace Corps was "delighted to have our participation."

The proposal was then submitted to Executive Vice-President Dimitri Papadimitriou for approval. If it had been approved,

the program would have been implemented next semester.

The program was designed as "a way of preparing [students] for Peace Corps service... any kind of international or social service," said Sproat, who prepared the program's proposal. Sproat added that while participation in the program does not

guarantee a place in the Peace Corps, it makes admission into the program more likely. "The personal qualities that the Peace

Corps is looking for will be shown by completing the program."

According to the proposal, the program would have consisted of "a sequence of experiences that would encourage students to study the history and culture of developing nations and to acquire the skills necessary for Peace Corps service." More specifically, the program would have had three parts: academic preparation, participation in local service projects, and an overseas service experience.

The academic segment of the preparation would have consisted primarily of classes already of-

*continued on page 4*



Our beloved mascot

# THE OBSERVER

Bard College's News & Arts Weekly





## EMS — IT'S MORE THAN JUST A RIDE TO THE HOSPITAL

### EMS may restart next fall

by Jason Van Driesche

Bard's Emergency Medical Services program, which was suspended when former Director of Security Art Otey resigned, is currently being reorganized for reinstatement this fall. According to Assistant Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, members of the administration and students involved in the program are "beginning to get guidelines in place" for the program's operation next fall.

The EMS program was suspended when Otey left, since he was the program's head (see April 6 *Observer*). Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou gave two reasons for his decision to suspend the program: that there was no administrator capable of and willing to run the program, and that the EMS volunteers were vulnerable to lawsuits.

According to Andy Molloy, one of the principal organizers and advocates of the program, both of these concerns are currently being addressed.

Molloy recently went with several members of the Bard administration on a fact-finding mission to Vassar College, which has an extremely successful student-run EMS program. Vassar's program is under the supervision of the Health Service, not the Security Department, and it has a good deal of autonomy.

Both Molloy and Morgan, who was also a participant in the trip to Vassar, agree that any future Bard program should be modeled on Vassar's system. Molloy and Morgan have been discussing the possibility of a liaison with the Health Center with Marsha Rial Davis, the nurse practitioner at the center.

Molloy characterized the meet-

ing with Vassar as "fantastic." He added, "students run it [EMS programs] everywhere else—why should it be different here?"

The vice president's concern about liability for malpractice has also been addressed. According to Molloy, EMT's can get full malpractice insurance for \$30.

Molloy hopes that the college will be able to offer an intensive six-week course leading to EMT certification next fall. A similar course has been offered for a number of years at Vassar, where the course offers students academic credit and has a waiting list of over 70.

The only major problem Molloy can foresee is from where the funds for the program will be taken. The program will need about \$5000 next semester to pay for an EMT instructor and to buy equipment. Molloy said that "it

*continued on page 4*

### Search for new Director of Security progresses

by Jason Van Driesche

The search for a new Director of Security to replace Art Otey, who left over spring break, is well underway. According to Associate Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, who is the head of the search committee, a new Director could be in place as early as the end of May.

The committee had received approximately 36 applications as of April 27, 16 of which met the criteria established by the committee. These criteria included prior experience in a college setting, the ability to maintain a strong presence on campus, and the capacity to develop a friendly rapport with students. Though the position was offered to the public at large (as all jobs are), the committee has received one application from a current member of the Bard security force.

Morgan noted that many of the applicants came from law enforcement or military backgrounds, but stressed that lack of college experience "wouldn't rule anyone out."

The first two interviews of candidates are scheduled for May 1 and May 8. If one of these two candidates proves to be outstanding, said Morgan, a new Director could be in place within a month. If they turn out to be less than highly qualified, Morgan expects to interview about two or three more candidates before the end of

the semester.

According to Morgan, the interview is one of the most important parts of the evaluation process. While she said that the applicants "look strong overall," she emphasized that many factors and qualifications, such as a candidate's suitability to Bard's particular philosophy of the role of the Security Department, can only be measured in conversation.

The applicants will meet with a number of people when they come for their interviews in order to provide the members of the community with whom they would interact a chance to evaluate them. These will include the staff of the Dean of Students' office, of HEOP, and of the Counseling and Health Services, as well as the PC's, Dean of Students Steve Nelson, Dean of the College Stuart Levine, the current Directors of Security, and last but not least, the members of the search committee. Each individual or group will be given evaluation forms to fill out, which will be used to rate the candidates.

Morgan emphasized that she hoped to have the new Director in place by the end of May, but said that if the first few candidates did not prove satisfactory, the search could take much longer. However, Morgan indicated that the position would almost certainly be filled by late July.

## White student unions emerge at several campuses

by Dacia Dorries

(CPS)—Promoting themselves as anti-racism and anti-affirmative action groups, "white student unions" have formed on several Midwest and southern campuses in recent weeks.

Campus critics, however, maintain the groups are related to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), the 135-year-old group that has been tied to murders of and violence against Catholics, Jews, and most frequently, black people who, the

KKK charges, threaten to "mongrelize" white Protestant "races."

In March, a White Student Union (WSU) won official student group recognition at the University of Florida. Efforts to organize White Student Unions also were launched at the universities of Nebraska-Lincoln and Southwestern Louisiana. In February, a recruiting drive began at Bradley University in Illinois.

A White Student Union, moreover, has existed since 1988 at

Temple University in Philadelphia.

Whether the rise of the scattered groups, which all use simi-

### Organizers say the unions are 'open to all; Critics say they're an offshoot of the KKK

lar language and organizing tactics, is a coincidence is open to question.

During the height of the controversy over the WSU at Florida,

a member of the campus' Committee in Support of the People of Latin America said he saw WSU organizer Mark Wright speaking

to Klan members. Wright admitted he did speak to two men Feb. 1, but said he didn't know they were members of the KKK.

At Temple, organizer Michael

Spletzer told the *Owl*, the student paper, that "Blacks can achieve, but they should be taught to achieve, not think there's going to be a free ride that they can just get by on." WSU opponents noted the sentiment is word-for-word parroting of KKK rhetoric.

At Southwestern Louisiana (USL), White Student Union President Doug Hernandez was a worker in the successful 1988 campaign of David Duke, a Klan leader and founder of the National Association for the Advancement of White People who won a seat in Louisiana's state legislature.

Hernandez also notes he got advice and help in trying to pull together USL's WSU chapter from Temple's Spletzer.

Spletzer, Hernandez *ekly* a racist. "He believes *ty* being discriminated aga *m* it's not fair."

"I want to make it clear that the White Student Union is open to all

*continued on page 9*

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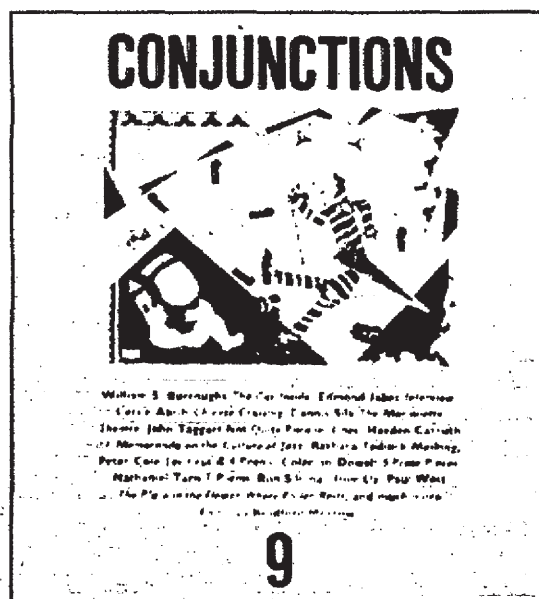
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## New professorships to expand our horizons



Brad Morrow is editor of this literary magazine.  
by Tom Hickerson

Next semester, twenty new professors will be joining the Bard community from a variety of backgrounds and professions. Besides creating many new courses just in time for registration, these new faces will add to and expand many new programs here at Bard.

"From French to studio art, the candidates that have come to campus [showed a] quality that was absolutely outstanding," said Dean Levine. A large number of search committees were organized in the fall to accept applications for each position. Most of the positions were filled by April. "The people who were involved need to be applauded for their efforts," said Levine.

The twenty professors fall into three categories. Professors in named chairs, with a limited term, make up the first category. Professors hired as Bard Center Fellows comprise the second category, while tenure track appointments are the third category.

The Henry R. Luce Chair in the Freedom of Inquiry and Expression was given by the Luce Foundation in the form of a five-year grant. The professor assuming that chair is James Chace from Colum-

bia University. Chace, a former journalist who covered much of the Cold War in Europe, will be teaching three courses; a class on the public opinion of foreign policy, a seminar covering the Cold War and a class covering alliance politics from Versailles to Cold War Eu-

rope. Chace also hopes to organize conferences that will enrich the meaning of the Luce chair, which, said Levine, is "to see whether we can significantly affect a generation of college students so they go out of college and become better citizenry of democracy." Chace is already organizing a convention centering on the journalist Walter Lippman, which will show his work and have several different panels of academics and journalists alike discussing his work.

"I'm looking forward to teaching undergraduates," said Chace. "I hope to get [them] involved in projects on the Cold War."

Among the Bard Center Fellows to be hired for next semester is art history professor Patrick Werckner from Vienna, Austria. He originally taught here at Bard last semester, and is returning for the fall. Among his classes, he plans to teach a class entitled Total Work of Art which will explore how working with many different types of mediums can contribute to a single piece of art.

Werckner will be coming to Bard about the same time the translation of his book will be available, *Austrian Expressionism: The Forma-*

*tive Years*. He plans to do research. "While I will be teaching, I will also be learning about avant garde art in the U.S.," said Werckner.

Accepting a position as a Bard Center Fellow is novelist Brad Morrow, who is also the editor for the literary magazine, *Conjunctions*. The magazine will move with him, its contract with Macmillan publishers being terminated, and Bard will begin publishing the magazine on-campus.

"Bard has been very involved in the whole vision [of the magazine]," said Morrow. "They convinced me to continue it." *Conjunctions* publishes material by new writers, which include some Bard alumni and professors.

In addition to overseeing the magazine, Morrow will teach a class in the contemporary novel. He hopes to bring up novelists to read at Bard as well, starting with award-winning writer Walter Abish.

Many of the new professors have been hired as tenure track assignments. One of these professors will be added to the Classics department at Bard — Mr. James Romm. Besides teaching intermediate Greek and Latin next semester, Romm will also teach a course of Freshman Seminar and a class covering the ancient novel in translation. Romm hopes to teach a course in travel literature from the Renaissance during the spring semester.

"It's very exciting to be teaching at a small college. There's more readiness to intensify and focus at a small interdisciplinary literature process like a language and literature program," Romm will be here to meet students during registration.

Coming to Bard as a studio art tenure track professor will be Amy Chang. She was raised in Taiwan and earned her MFA at Hunter College, where she was also offered a job. She chose Bard instead, saying, "I knew what I was turning down."

Chang will be teaching several painting and foundations courses but she will also teach an introductory art history course covering the last hundred years of art. She is very enthusiastic about this class. "I'm already studying the material and it will be an interesting course," she said.

Also arriving next year will be Lindsey Watton, who will be teaching Russian language and literature courses full-time. The department is especially excited about Watton's arrival because his presence will prompt the creation of an official Russian Studies major. "Watton will be a great resource," said professor Gennady Shkliarevsky. "He will be a major part of the program and increase the array of courses. His effect [on Bard] is unpredictable, but it is sure to be weighty."

Watton, besides teaching Russian language, will teach a Russian literature course dealing with the development of Russian as a literary language in the 19th century. When Watton arrives here during registration, he plans to talk to students taking Russian courses currently, "to get ideas of what the student have done, to see what they have and haven't been taught," he said.

Watton plans to start a Russian Table and organize Russian films and speakers here at Bard. He hopes to set up a Russian exchange program. On the Russian Studies major, Watton says, "We're not aware of all the regulations involved. It's going to take time [to find] something to back it [the program] up with."

Watton, who graduated from Wellesly, looks forward to "returning to the small college environment. The students show a strong interest in learning. There's no need to justify the pursuit of knowledge in a small college and it was impressed upon me that Bard was indeed a place where that was a given."

The following is a list of the new professors hired for next year.

Henry R. Luce Chair:  
James Chace, journalist — interdisciplinary courses.

Charles P. Stevenson Jr. Chair:

John Ashbury, poet — writing courses.

Bard Center Fellows:

Peter Sloterdijk, philosopher — philosophy.

William Weaver — opera study.

Patrick Werckner — art history.

Brad Morrow, novelist — literature.

Tenure Track Professors:

Languages and Literature:

James Romm — classics.

Christopher Callanan — classics.

Anne Baruit — French.

Lindsey Watton — Russian.

Social Studies:

Gary Hagburg — philosophy.

Julie Feinsilver — political studies.

Arts:

Amy Chang — studio art.

Arthur Gibbons — sculpture.

Larry Fink — arts.

Elizabeth Smith — drama/dance.

Milton Avery Graduate School:

Nicholas Maw — music composition.

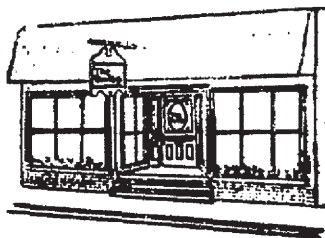
Ann Turyn — photography.

There are also positions waiting to be filled in art history, film, Music Program Zero, and chemistry.

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# Five fellowships granted to Bard juniors

## And the winners are...

These five projects were chosen to receive \$1500 fellowships from The Bard Center. The students will be working under a supervisor who will turn in mid-summer and final evaluations, to be placed in the students' permanent file. The student will present written reports upon completion of the project.

**Tim Davis**, photography major, will work as an assistant to folklorist Todd Degarmo, doing field documentation of folk life traditions in the southern Adirondacks. At the end of summer, he will mount a show of his work at the Crandall Library in Glens Falls in association with the Department of Folk Life Programs. His photographs will be used in public programming at the Library and may also become part of a traveling exhibit.

**Phuoc Huynh**, physics major, will work with Dr. Carol McLeod, Director of the Cancer Biology Program at the University of California, San Diego. His summer project will involve analyzing the nucleotide sequence of a gene expressed in leukemia cells. Huynh believes his summer internships will help him choose whether to pursue graduate studies in physics or in biomedical research.

**Gavin Milczarek**, a biology major, will do an internship with Dr. Henry C. Pitot, Director of the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. This association with one of the world's leading cancer research laboratories will allow Milczarek to investigate intercellular communication in normal, precancerous, and cancerous cells in the liver of the rat.

**Amy Rogers** will work with the Hon. Joan Lefkowitz, a Federal Magistrate serving the U.S. District Court in Chicago, Illinois. As a summer intern, she will have the opportunity to help draft court decisions, to do legal research, to perform administrative reviews, and to observe trials in court. Rogers believes her experience will help her choose whether to apply to law schools or to pursue graduate studies in experimental psychology.

**Sean Sullivan**, a psychology major, will work as a research assistant to Dr. Steven W. Gangestad, a psychologist doing research at the University of New Mexico on the genetic basis of self-monitoring. The position will increase Sullivan's knowledge of experimental protocol, data base arrangement, and statistical data manipulation techniques.

by Kristan Hutchison

Five juniors, Tim Davis, Phuoc Huynh, Gavin Milczarek, Amy Rogers, and Sean Sullivan, have received fellowship awards for non-paid work or study this summer. The \$1500 fellowships are awarded by the Bard Center with the goal of exposing students to career related work that may influence their senior project and further life plans.

"It's a very coveted award and we got 13 applications this year, all of which were very excellent," said Elaine Sproat, who did the initial review of the proposals. A selection committee made the final decision on the basis of feasibility, relation to the applicants' academic background, potential for personal development, and the design and writing of the proposal. "We had a very difficult job choosing just five," said Sproat.

The selected projects range from Biological research at established university laboratories to photographic work with a folklorist in the Adirondacks. "We didn't consciously try to get one [project] from each division, but there did seem to be a range," notes Sproat.

The fellowship opens up opportunities that wouldn't be available otherwise. Milczarek will be investigating intercellular communication in rat cells at the McArdle Laboratory for Cancer Research. This research institute accepts only 10 to 20 people a year from around the world, mostly



Photograph by Tim Davis, who has a summer fellowship to photograph folk life in the southern Adirondacks

for graduate work. "I don't even think they have a summer program. It just so happens that since I'm bringing my own funding and they probably have some extra space, they decided to train me and allow me to do research," says Milczarek.

The large laboratories have facilities and equipment that cannot be found in Bard's smaller facilities. Milczarek will learn to transfect cells and may attempt a simplified version for his senior project. "I'm hoping to pick up some techniques that will be useful and contacts to call when I

need help," says Milczarek.

Noting the precedent for academic projects involving scientific research or study at a foreign institute, Davis was unsure his photography project would be selected. "I pleaded in my proposal [that the board] consider it a serious project," Davis. He will work with Todd Degarmo doing field documentation of traditional folk artists of the southern Adirondacks, such as furniture makers and dousers.

Davis does not take traditional

documentary photographs. "I hope to stay true to something, their spirit at least. It won't be straight journalistic photography. I wouldn't do it if it was," explains Davis.

His photographs will be archived in the Crandall Library in Glens Falls. The project coordinates with the upcoming 200th anniversary of the Adirondack State Park in 1991 and may become part of an exhibit.

Past projects have led students to senior projects and aided their acceptance into graduate school.

**EMS** continued from page 2 would not be fair" to request this large sum of money from the convocation fund, as it would take too much away from other clubs.

Molloy hopes to establish the EMS program as a student club funded by the administration.

The problem of funding notwithstanding, Molloy is very enthusiastic about the program's future. Now that the problems of administration and liability are taken care of, said Molloy, "I can't foresee any more problems."

## Peace Corps

continued from page 1

fored at Bard that cover the "social, economic, and political history of developing nations," such as *Women in Africa*, *Chasing Progress*, and *The Societies of South Asia*. Participants in the program would have had to take at least four courses such as these in order to "ease the transition that volunteers undergo when accepting a Peace Corps assignment." In addition, participants would have been required to participate in a one-semester workshop that would combine service with academics.

Students participating in the program would have been required to complete at least two years of service in the Bard area as well, in the form of either a weekly commitment for the full year or full-time volunteer service during the January intersession. Most of the projects would have been organized through the Campus Outreach

Group, but students would have been free to initiate and design a program of their own.

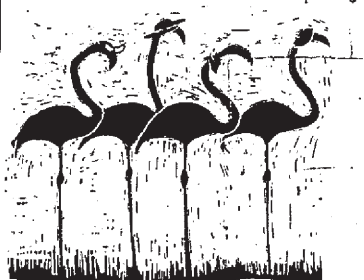
Finally, participants would have been required to take part in an overseas service program. Besides giving students the obvious benefits that come with participation in a service program, overseas service would "allow the Peace Corps (and the participant) to evaluate his or her ability to handle the commitment of two years in Peace Corps service."

Programs similar to the one proposed at Bard are already in place at several institutions across the country. One of the most successful is that at Norwich University, a military school in Vermont.

According to Elizabeth Place, director of the program at Norwich, their Peace Corps preparatory program was established as a civilian alternative to ROTC service. Norwich's program has

sent two students into the Peace Corps so far. It is similar in structure and content to the one that was proposed at Bard. However, Place emphasized that the program is built around service and social awareness, and does not require students to join the Peace Corps. "[The program] exposes students to a lot of social issues," she said.

Place added that the program "has the full support of the Board of Fellows and the Board of Trustees," and that the university "has not had any problems whatsoever with the program or with the connection to the Peace Corps."



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# 'Tis the season for allergies

by Meadow Goldman

Allergies are the body's response to foreign substances that are usually harmless in themselves. These cause reactions in some people to which most people would normally not react. Pollen, dust, animal fur and certain foods are common allergens, but a wide variety of substances can cause an immune response—which is the underlying cause of allergies.

Basically, the immune response is a defensive reaction of the body to invasion by harmful organisms or foreign particles. The immune response produces the symptoms one feels, such as watery eyes, increased mucous production, swelling, sneezing etc.. These symptoms result from the body's mechanism for combating any invasion—real (such as in the case of infection by pathogens) or perceived (as in the case of allergies). Exactly why we can get an immune response to harmless antigens remains a biological mystery.

Of the types of allergies, food allergies, eczema, allergic asthma, drug allergies, and especially this time of year, hay fever and poison ivy are the most common. Symptoms of any allergy can include sneezing, coughing, swelling of lips or mouth, nausea, vomiting or diarrhea. At times, the symptoms do not match up with the culpable allergen—for example, someone who gets asthma attacks from eating strawberries. This can make allergies hard to diagnose. So, if you suspect an allergy, pay close attention to what reoccur-



Poison ivy can spread all over your body once it gets into your blood stream. Don't scratch!

ring substances seem to precede your symptoms. Allergy tests are available, but are only significant for those who are having a hard time relating their symptoms to their cause. Allergy tests are hard to interpret and must be done by an allergist.

Poison Ivy is not the same type of allergen as say, hay fever, but its discomforts are produced by a similar allergic reaction. Especially prevalent in the spring, poison ivy leaves produce an oil which is a common antigen. It is the oil from the plant which causes the reaction—some people are allergic to it, some are not. This oil can be transported on clothes, pets, etc. and you can get a reaction if indirectly exposed. The rash itself is not contagious. The rash may appear at different times on the body after a single exposure, but it will not "spread." You can continue normal activities, such as swimming, once the rash has

appeared.

There isn't any "cure" for allergies; the best one can do is avoid the allergen as much as possible and try to relieve the symptoms. An array of medications are available to relieve the discomforts of allergies, both over the counter and prescription. In cases, such as hay fever, where the antigens are hard to avoid, certain measures can be taken in order to help relieve discomfort. One of these is desensitization, a process that involves giving a person small doses (injected as an "allergy shot") of the substance to which they are allergic. This should only be done for people who do not respond to drug therapies and whose allergies greatly interfere with their life. Allergy shots must be obtained by prescription from an allergist, but can be administered at the Health Services, free of charge. If you have concerns or questions about allergies, some area allergists are:

Dr. Sharma or Dr. Jane Taylor, Montgomery St., Rhinebeck, phone number—876-2500

Dr. Beltrani, 29 Fox St., Poughkeepsie, phone number—454-0088



Like sand through the hourglass...

by David Biele

It started when we got back from Spring Break. The hour was late, the night was dark, and Josh was upset.

"Do you realize we only have seven weeks left in the semester?" he asked from where he lay on the floor as he stared blankly up at the ceiling. I looked over the book I had been reading. "So?"

"Seven weeks," he repeated ominously. "That's all the time we have left before we leave for Summer Vacation."

I was nonplused. "Right." Desiring some sort of response, Josh sat up abruptly and demanded "I low am I supposed to find someone to have a relationship with in seven weeks?"

"Mail Order Brides?" I suggested and went back to my book.

Totally annoyed at my lack of understanding, Josh stomped out of my room. I wanted to say something soothing, but what could I say? I myself have never been one to worry about Time, a topic that seems to be on everybody's minds in the waning days of the semester. With a full load of classes and other activities, I just don't have the time to worry about Time, and hence have little sympathy for people who do.

However, like so many Bardians these days, I am not completely immune to morbid musings on the ephemeral quality of Time, and one night I succumbed to its lure. It happened about three weeks after the occurrence with Josh. I was sitting down in the common room and about a half dozen other Obreshkovites reading up on Michelangelo for my Art History class when in bounded Susie.

Taking command of the situation, she stood in the center of the room and demanded to know if any of us were aware of the fact that there were only four weeks left in the Spring Semester. "Four Weeks!" she declared, "And our Freshman year will be over!"

I her bombshell left the room in a stunned silence. All was quiet as this fact slowly took hold of us all. Then Anna began to cry.

"Four weeks!" she sobbed. "And the love of my life returns to Paris for the summer!"

Then Zack took it up. "Four weeks!" he moaned. "And I will have to get a summer job and actually work!"

Finally, Nancy summed up all our feelings. "Four weeks!" she wailed. "And we'll have to go back into the Real World!"

I don't know why this particular announcement affected me as strongly as it affected my friends, but I, too, became frantic. I hadn't realized how fast the year had sped by. Wasn't L & T only just last week? And wasn't the Manor Semi-Formal the day before yesterday? Where had the Time gone?

I was about to say something when Susie bounded out of the room, disappearing immediately like a supernatural herald of doom. Only a strand of yellow hair and a lingering cry of "I must run and warn the others!" told me that she had been there at all.

I ran to Josh for support, burst through his door and stood there panting. I le was lying in his bed with the covers over his head. "Josh!" I cried. "Josh, do you know we only have four weeks left in the semester?" There was no reply. "Josh! Do you realize what this means?" There was a short silence and then this one word emanated from under the Star Wars sheets:

"Death."

"What?"

"Death!" spoketh Joshua. Then he explained. "That's just further evidence that Death reigneth triumphant over us all."

I le had reacted worse than even I had. "Snap out of it, Josh!"

"I'm all right." I le flung the covers off his head, smiled at me, and said cheerfully, "I think I'll kill myself now and get it over with."

"Josh, you can't do this! You still have a good fifty years left to live!"

"Fifty years more, fifty years less. What does it matter. The iron' claw of Death wraps its steely hand around us all eventually." He began looking for a handy semi-automatic rifle.

At this point Susie came bounding into Josh's room. "I just realized something!" she told us happily.

"I think you've realized enough for one night." I informed her as Josh loaded the rifle he had found under his bed.

"But listen to this, this is much more important!" Josh lowered the rifle, and we looked at her expectantly. "Do you know," she asked suggestively, "what big hands and big feet mean?" She paused for a moment. "Big gloves and big slippers!" And then, with a squeal of delight, she turned and was gone, her golden curls flashing behind her.

Josh and I stood there silently for a moment. Then without a word, Josh put the rifle away. He turned to me and said quite slowly and distinctly, "I don't think I will kill myself today."

"Why not?"

"It would destroy any chance of watching her die first."

That, I thought, was the first intelligent thing I had heard in a long, long Time.

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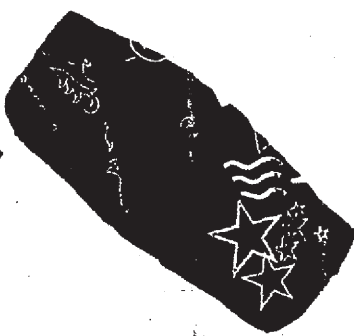
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# DIVERSIONS

## Senior film show: form and color, or content?

by Francisco Hirata

This year's Senior Film Show will take place in the Film Theater in Preston, on the following dates:

Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 pm and 9 pm (Program 1).

Friday, May 18 at 6:30 pm and 9 pm (Program 2).

Saturday, May 19 at 1 pm and 6 pm (Program 1).

Sunday, May 20 at 3 pm and 8:30 pm (Program 2).

These films from all nine graduating seniors will be divided into those two programs, on the basis of length and style; the important thing is that every film will be shown four times. The programs will be announced before these show dates. Please remember that there is no smoking, eating, and/or drinking during the films.

The show has been organized this way in order to avoid the

usual chaos that is a tradition during this event. Not only are we straying from old traditions in the presentation, but in the films themselves as well. We can pretty much say that most (if not all) of the films being presented are narrative films. Apparently the old experimental tradition seems to be dying out in the film department. This is kind of sad but it only reflects the new trend towards narrative films in world cinema in general.

Following is a brief description of the films. Unfortunately, with Josh Ralske gone, this listing won't be as amusing as it could have been had he decided to stay, instead of graduating. (Rats!)

*Tires*. (21 min. in black/white) Michael Adelman's film about "two guys, a tire and a girl. It's more about form and color than about content." Lorin Reece, Bill Bronson and Meika Rouda star.

The story is about two brothers (Lorin and Bill) who are entrusted the care of a tire by their father. The father gives them some money, tells them to do whatever and admonishes them not to lose the tire. Once alone, the brothers go hang out with Meika. Together with her, they next proceed to do other fun things...carrying the tire all the time. Sounds like a lot of fun, doesn't it? But don't ask what the tire is supposed to symbolize, because Michael won't tell you.

*Prisms*. (60 min. in black/white and color) August Armstrong describes her film as "a self-portrait for women. It is a narrative in documentary style about a woman who returns home after 15 years to visit her mother." The length may seem a little intimidating at first (John Pruitt is quoted as saying "this is the longest senior project ever made at Bard") but don't worry. In spite of the length,

it shouldn't feel that long; the premise sounds interesting enough, and with her experience, you can be sure that August will make an excellent film. No problem, right August?

*About Lisa* (16 min. in black/white and color) Syd (Patrick) Barrett. No "War of the Roses" (or, rather, "Snore of the Dozes") here. Syd's film concerns a wife-beater...although, actually, it is more about the wife than the husband wife-beater. But wait! There is a third character involved who is not a wife-beater. Sounds confusing? Actually this is my own fault because I haven't seen the film. In any case, it stars Jen Taylor (as the wife), Matt Sutton (as...?) and William Wayland (as the husband). A source close to the filmmaker told me that this film is "more about form and color than about content." If this is true, we may be witnessing a new trend

in filmmaking: the Bard school of "more about form and color than about content." Watch out NYU, USC, AFI and UCLA!!

Jacqueline Bose's film about two young women and their relationship remains untitled. (20-25 min. in color.) Jackie wants to show that feminist theorists are wrong in this film about a young woman (Francesca Spinotti) who decides to stay home and create her own reality while her friend (Jennifer Hillis) creates her own world in the outside. They both are wrong and that's what we will see in the finished film. How that will be accomplished will be interesting to see, and we wish Jackie the best of luck in doing that. Master avant-garde filmmaker Dirk DeJong (who will be graduating next fall) provided the lyrical photography for this film. Definitely worth watching.

continued on page 9

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## A queen in our time

by Seth Hollander

Maria McKee Maria McKee. Geffen 1989 c. 44 1/2 minutes on CD (one CD-only cut — a really good one).

One of the great rock phenomena of the 80s was the reemergence of American country rock in the wake of the Eagles generation bands breaking up. The demise of the increasingly sterile and puerile 70s era country rock bands was concurrent with the fad of "cow punk": punk bands covering Hank Williams, Sr., Gene Autrey, Patsy Cline, anything twangy. And writing new twang tunes, too.

As I love both the Buffalo Springfield and the Sex Pistols, the Flying Burrito Brothers and Black Flag, the Eagles and the Clash (talk about your paradoxical tastes!), "cowpunk" has been one of my special pleasures. It has also introduced me to the sorority of female singers. My dad loves Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday, but I loved Johnny Rotten, so I didn't give his singers the time of day. But a combination of aging and the thrushes in the new country rock movement has opened my mind. But Annette Zilinskas of the wonderful, hyperspeed Blood on the Saddle, Julie Christenson of the hammily emotional Divine Horsemen, even the amazing k.d. Lang and the really lovable Mich-

elle Shocked, pale for me beside HER.

Maria McKee looking so gorgeous and real in gingham on the cover of *Lone Justice*. Maria McKee belting "Ways to be Wicked" with a deep, unquenchable lust for singing shining in her voice. Maria McKee singing Scotch-Irish Southern Gospel lines without time or need to breathe, shooting up angelic scales as she evokes Steinbeck's Okies on "Soap, Soup, and Salutation" Maria McKee exploring her dirt poor southern roots in her tender nods to her family, a theme continued on *Shelter*, the second Lone Justice album. Maria McKee and Little Steven turning *Shelter* into a statement very much akin to Steinbeck's; "Shelter," "Beacon," "Reflected (On My Side)." Maria McKee begging "Dreams come true/ say they do/ say they do / And I'll stand up and take it..." Maria McKee singing hard with her pal and occasional LA club stage sharer, Dwight Yoakum on his hymns to traditional country and the people at its Appalachian roots and really meaning it with all her soul.

Soul — as big an influence on her as country. And that's what gives her the power that even k.d. Lang lacks. This is a woman who has the knowledge, spirit, and ability to stand alongside Aretha Franklin in my book. And just as *Shelter* was a step closer to Fran-

klin, away from country, Maria McKee takes a step past Aretha to Bessie and Billie and in a roundabout way — through the employment of Richard Thompson and his American country-soaked Irish friends, and of West Coast country rock alumni — sidesteps back towards country.

So here's a collection of haunting, low-key, country blues and soulful country blues-rockers. The production is lovely, Maria sings better than ever (well, as great as always), guitarists Thompson, Mark Ribot, Shane Fontayne (of Lone Justice), and James Ralston play hot and thoroughly, studio vets Jim Keltner (pseudo-Eagle) and Jerry Marrotta keep kick in the drumbeats, and Irish folk-rockers Steve Wickham and Phil Pickett add lovely echoes of Appalachian/Irish folk.

Maria's songs are not up to those on the two Lone Justice LPs, but as they deal more with the individual fears of a woman like her, and less with messages of universal import, they may appeal to others much more than they do to me. Even with my subjective distance, I find her a powerful, affecting lyricist and a pleasing songwriter. If you don't want to listen to hard rock all the time, but don't want that AM feel, I can't recommend this album enough. The CD bonus cut "Drinkin' in my Sunday Best" is a joyous rockin' twangy powerhouse in the Lone Justice mode and well worth the extra bucks.



# Soviet composers visiting Bard campus



Elena Firsova and Dimitri Smirnov with famous composer Pierre Boulez by Emily Horowitz

On Friday, May 11, at 8pm in Olin Auditorium, Bard will have a very special opportunity to hear the work of two Soviet composers, Elena Firsova and Dimitri

Smirnov, which will be performed as part of the "Recovery of Memory" conference by the Da Capo Chamber Players. Firsova and Smirnov are well-known throughout the world for their compositions, and have had their work

published in England and West Germany in addition to the Soviet Union.

This is not the first time that they have traveled to the United States. Both attended the Tanglewood Music Festival in the summer of 1988, where they had their compositions performed. Firsova and Smirnov have been at Bard for two weeks, and they find it "very beautiful." In addition, they find the people "very friendly and nice."

Many of Smirnov's compositions are inspired by the "poetry, pictures, and philosophic ideas of William Blake." Smirnov admits that it is odd that a Russian composer should choose Blake for his inspiration. However, he explained that Blake is, surprisingly, well-known and popular in the Soviet Union. There are several very good translations of Blake's texts into Russian, but one of Smirnov's motives for learning English was to read Blake in the original language.

Smirnov has written two op-

eras based on work's of William Blake. "Tiziel" was inspired by an early poem of Blake's and was first performed in Frieberg, West Germany, in January 1989. "The Lamentations of Thel" was based on the book of Thel, the second poem of Blake. "The Lamentations of Thel" was performed in London during the Summer of 1989. Smirnov has written other vocal, chamber and symphony compositions based on other poems of Blake as well. "The Seven Angels of William Blake," a piano solo, is not based on poetry but on Blake's ideas. Smirnov explained that "it is often difficult to portray philosophic ideas and pictures through music."

Firsova's music is also inspired by a great poet, Osip Mandelstam, a Russian who was killed by Stalin in 1938. He was forgotten in Russia for a long time because, Firsova explains, "our government forbade his poetry." Some of his work has been available since 1973, but it is only this year that all his works are going to be published. All of Firsova's vocal music is inspired by his poetry, but most of her instrumental pieces are not. She, like Smirnov, finds it difficult to express ideas through music.

Smirnov and Firsova's work is not often performed outside of the Soviet Union, and the concert should prove to be a special and unique occasion. All are welcome and encouraged to attend.

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### Personals

Daniel & George: Doesn't anyone want to stay & play? I'll bake brownies & y'all can bring the chocolate milk - or the bong! Not as appealing as rent, work & bills, huh? I might miss y'all the most! Love, love, love, Carrie. P.S. I want my tee shirts!

Hey Annie - It's our turn!!

To all of my senior friends: How lonely it will be without you! I value the friendships we share & can't imagine thursdays as being the same anymore! I'm so envious, so sad, & so proud! Congratulations! Carrie.

S.B., L.B., C.H., E.R., M.L., K.S.: Who's gonna throw the disco parties? Who's gonna want to party anymore, anywhere (except Jody)? Who's gonna leave me their car?!?...Now I'm stressing! C.E.

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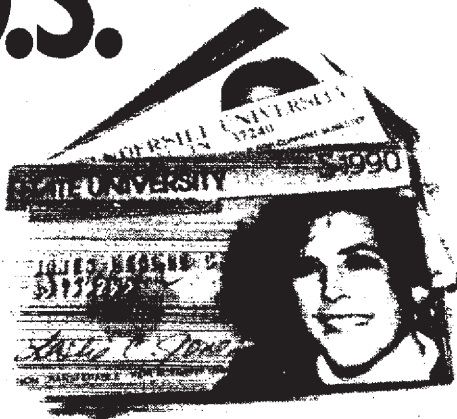
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## White Student Unions

*continued from page 2*

races, creeds, religions and both sexes," Hernandez added.

All the new WSUs cast themselves as opponents of affirmative action programs, which seek to compel institutions to recruit and employ minorities, and even minority scholarship programs. Such programs are wrong, they say, not because minorities benefit, but because they don't make similar awards to white people.

"We're going to fight minority set-asides and affirmative action, which are blatant racist programs," Hernandez said, adding that the United Negro College Fund is discriminatory against whites.

Few observers think students in general believe the rhetoric.

"I can't imagine a group like that being hospitable towards any minority student wanting to join," said James Williams of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, headquartered in Baltimore. "From what we've seen of these groups, they are anti-black."

"When you have ties to the KKK, how can you say you aren't racist?" asked Calvin Butler, a student at Bradley, where in February fliers promoting the American White Supremacist Party were posted on campus. "There groups just choose anti-affirmative action for a platform, but they are really racist."

Gary Barriere, chairman of USL's African-American Culture Committee, is more open-minded. "I see no problem with the organization it's to promote white culture. My problem is that I think there may be ulterior motives for the organization." He added, "I'm afraid the organization will be just an extension of David Duke's philosophy program."

In fact, Hernandez and USL's

College Republicans have invited Duke to speak on campus.

School administrators generally have tried to make their opposition to the White Student Unions clear. At Florida, President John Lombardi said UF's free speech policy forced him to let the group onto campus, but promised the WSU would have no influence on the administration.

WSU organizers blasted Lombardi's comments as unfair, charging he would never tell a black student group he would refuse to listen to it.

At Bradley, officials put freshman Matt Hale on disciplinary probation after he posted fliers promoting the American White Supremacist Party.

"That's nothing but a slap on the wrist," complained Butler.

Since then, Hale has persisted in trying to form an off-campus group. About 30 protesters interrupted Hale at an April 1 meeting of about 10 members.

Hale read from a prepared script that "blacks are an unproductive race that is destroying America. They will be stopped..."

Fliers requesting "white Caucasians only" to meet at a University of Nebraska at Lincoln residence hall in March provoked a demonstration of about 400 students against racism, and a scuttling of the proposed meeting.

USL's 16-member White Student Union still hasn't become an official student group because it hasn't found a faculty sponsor. "I don't think we're going to find anybody. Everybody's too afraid," Hernandez said.

USL Dean of Student Life Mary McPhaul, moreover, convinced Hernandez to cancel a planned March 28 membership drive.

"Right now, [university] committees are making decisions about our constitution, and we did not want any controversy," explained Hernandez.

## Film shows

*continued from page 6*

*It's Driving Me Crazy!* (26 min. in color). No, it's not "Driving Miss Daisy;" it is Francisco Hirata's senior project. It also was a common expression among seniors these past weeks. I won't bother trying to explain what the film is about because I don't know how to explain it. It has John Lepp and Bill Van in the starring roles...and some cats too. It takes place in places we all know around campus (and out of it too). This film could be considered a black comedy, but not for the weak of stomach or for the hard-core cat lover. (The filmmaker wishes to apologize

publicly to Frederick Ostenberg for omitting his name in credits and wishes to acknowledge Frederick's generous contribution with a most important prop: a baseball bat.)

The short film *The Slate Genie is Out of Work* (5 min. in color) starring Bill Van and Matt Kregor will be shown right before *It's Driving Me Crazy!*, as some sort of appetizer before the main cat...I mean, course.

*Harry Sleeps, Sam Eats Polska Kielbasa* is the title of Sorin Iarovicci's film. (13 min. in black/white) This genius shot this film in a weekend! Amazing feat for a film senior at Bard. The film is about "a guy who eats polska kielbasa," and stars Jeff Somoya as Harry. If

you like to sleep a lot, or eat a lot of kielbasa, then this film is for you. If not, the attraction may be found in the cast which involves many well-known and respected (also some not-so-respected) people. I won't reveal much about this aspect of the film to keep it a surprise. People who want to watch this film should be warned that the actor who played the role of Sam will not tolerate people bringing kielbasa to the theater. Also, the filmmaker does not make himself responsible for the injuries that may occur by people's rolling on the floor with uncontrollable laughter. One thing is for sure, even though Harry will be sleeping on the screen, the audience won't be sleeping in the theater.

## Minority issues

*continued from page 1*

investigation of the possibilities of student exchange programs with colleges in Liberia and the Philippines; and joining of the "National Minority Faculty Identification Program to enable the college to recruit faculty who are members of minority groups."

The memo also states the exact figures for minority representation of faculty, which was a matter of confusion at the S.E.E. meeting. "At the present time, the College has under faculty contract the following individuals in the faculty who represent diverse cultural heritages in the categories devised by the Middle States Association, the higher education accrediting association of the College: five Asians (including Asian-Americans), two African-Americans and four Hispanics. These 11 individuals under faculty contract are drawn from a pool of 120 faculty. They represent nine percent."

The memo also addresses the question of "What Should Be Done?," which was the primary

focus of the S.E.E. meeting. In this section, the point is stressed that Bard does not exist in a vacuum. Bard's attempts to achieve a "multi-cultural education" must be looked at in comparison with other colleges of "similar enrollment size, a comparable location, and comparable financial resources." In this perspective, "Bard has far exceeded its means in many respects."

However, this is not a dismissal or denial of the problem. It is background to help explain the problems that occur in fulfillment of the goal. Botstein emphasized that change must and will be slow, and "goals should be set for the next five and ten years." The final remark in the section is the point that "the college is committed to accelerating the pace it has already demonstrated."

Botstein concludes the memo on an optimistic note. The final section, "How Might We Proceed?," discusses the steps that the College is prepared to take immediately to help to reach an agreement. The college would also like to "explore short and long term opportunities to enhance the

diverse and multi-cultural character of the campus." It does not want this issue to become an antagonistic situation that is "hampered by a lack of either candor or clarity" as has been the case at other institutions facing this problem.

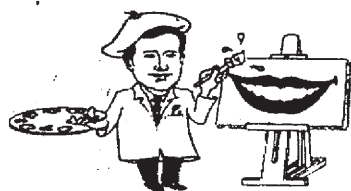
Although the College "resists any legitimization of the identification of faculty members primarily not by their quality as teachers or scholars but rather by their age, gender, race, or religion," this idea is not meant to imply that the College is opposed to affirmative action. In fact, the College has "promulgated a new affirmative action statement."

Botstein and S.E.E. share the conviction that the curriculum is where the most drastic and important changes must be made, and where the most profound and lasting influences on the students and eventually society will be made.

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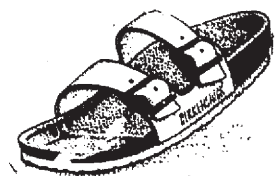
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# OBSERVATIONS



## Weighing the gains

The Peace Corps Bridge Program that was proposed for next fall has been canceled. The program had two goals: to provide Bard students with the opportunity to serve others within a structured program, and to prepare them for possible Peace Corps service after graduation.

According to Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou, the college is worried that if a tragedy occurred during the overseas portion of the program, the students involved (or their parents) would sue the school for damages. Papadimitriou referred to the Syracuse University incident last January, in which a number of students who

were returning from study abroad in Britain were killed when their plane was bombed over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Initially it was rumored that parents of the students attempted to sue the school because the program — and hence the plane tickets — were sponsored by Syracuse University. However, in an interview on May 4, a Syracuse University public relations representative said that "no one has blamed the university in any way," though the parents are suing the airline.

It seems that Papadimitriou has made his decision anticipating that if a disaster were to occur, Bard would be faced with lawsuits. It appears that he is not appropri-

ately weighing the advantages of the program against the risk of liability, considering the fact that he is basing his decision on a precedent that does not yet exist.

Already, Bard sends students abroad. The German Immersion program includes a period of study in Germany, several Spanish students go to Spain each summer with Olympia Gonzalez, and two Soviet Studies Club members visited Lithuania and Russia during January Break. Bard is one of the major sponsors of the International Honors Program, which sends students from Bard and elsewhere around the world every year. In addition, Bard pays for EEC students to travel home during summer break. The risk of the Bridge Program would certainly be no worse than that which these programs entail.

The possibility of being sued is always present. Bard could be sued if someone dies of food poisoning, but the college hasn't shut the canteen down. Bard could even be sued if someone jumps out of a third story window, but B&C hasn't nailed all the windows on campus shut.

These suits are improbable, but the concern is real. If the parents of a former student can sue Bard for \$60 million because Bard did not force their son to seek medical attention, anything is possible.

However, the logical conclusion of this train of thought is that Bard must be closed down entirely in order to avoid all liability whatsoever. An institution of any type will always be faced with the possibility of lawsuits coming from many different angles, so it must consider the risk of a suit along with the benefits that would be received if the chance were taken.

Bard should be more concerned with present problems that could lead to suits, such as the icy sidewalks, particularly the steps in front of Kline, which often remain ice-caked for days. There seems to be a much greater chance of a liability suit in this instance, since it has so many precedents.

It is unfortunate that Americans are so suit-happy. We as a nation seem to think that it is the job of the government (or in our case, the job of the administration) to protect us from any possible dan-

ger. This overprotectiveness makes people unwary. If the signs and ropes are removed, people hurt themselves and then blame somebody else, rather than being careful in the first place.

It is not a school's job to protect its students, who Bard considers to be adults, from every danger; rather, it is its duty simply to educate them. Perhaps more people should recognize that they ought to be more responsible for their own safety. We must not expect authority, of whatever nature, to keep us out of harm's way at all times.

Unquestionably, people have the right to receive compensation if damages they suffer are a result of another's ignorance or carelessness, but this right is often abused. People must take more responsibility for their own well-being.

Ultimately, the blame for this sorry state of affairs cannot be placed on the shoulders of any single individual or group. It is a vicious cycle, and the only way to break out of it is to take the chance that people will respect the confidence placed in them.

## THE BARD OBSERVER

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The Bard Observer is published every Friday while class is in session.

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 Friday a week before the publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit for style and space.

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## Letters:

To the Editor:

The elections for chairpersons and Board of Trustees Reps. that were scheduled for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week have been declared invalid for a number of reasons:

1. Candidates were not allowed to submit descriptions of themselves at the voting table. Voters need to be able to learn about who they are voting for.
2. Seniors were not allowed to vote. At all previous Forum elections, seniors were permitted to vote. In the Constitution, it states that all REGISTERED students are allowed to vote.
3. Although there was a large

## Late-night callers should consider their actions

To the editor:

I am addressing this letter not to the newspaper as such, but to the anonymous "election committee" member or members who phoned me at an entirely inappropriate hour on Monday night:

I question your motives and your forethought in calling me at so late an hour, and telling the individual who answered the phone that it was urgent, simply to verify that I was indeed running for the position of chair of the Planning Committee and to ask me how to spell my name. In doing this, you took from me, quite unthinkingly and quite inconsider-

ately, the only opportunity for a good, complete night's sleep that has been mine in over a month, and for no good reason whatsoever. In addition, you caused me unnecessary grief — I only receive calls so late at night when something truly horrible has happened, like an accident. Imagine my chagrin when I picked up the phone to hear someone, who did not even do me the courtesy of identifying herself, asking me for information so trivial, and, so easily obtainable from other sources (such as the newspaper, or from Emily Horowitz — and, anyway, as you who claim not to

public service announcement in *The Observer* last Friday, many students were not aware of the elections and wanted to run for positions. In addition, many students did not know where and when to vote for the positions.

4. An Elections Committee was never formed, despite repeated advertisements in *The Observer*. This is the first campus-wide election of chairpersons and Board-of-Trustees reps., and a precedent for running such elections has not been set.

Personal statements are an important aspect of the election process, and will make students aware of who is running and why.

Therefore, if you are going to run for a position, please, in addition to your name and telephone number, include a statement of purpose of about 150 words to Emily Horowitz by 5pm, Monday, April 14.

Seniors will be allowed to vote. Perhaps this is not a perfect solution, as they will not be here, but they are registered students, and they have always been allowed to vote before. If students question the validity of this, next year they should add an amendment to the Constitution that forbids graduating seniors to vote, and would have to include all regular voting at Forums for members of Com-

mittees.

The Election Committee is open to all students. Any student who is interested in participating in the campus-wide election process should attend a MANDATORY meeting on Monday, May 14, at 5:00pm in the Committee Rooms of Kline Commons.

The elections will take place on Tuesday, May 15 and Thursday May 17 from 12noon until 2pm in Kline Commons. All students are encouraged to vote. Thank you, and I'm sorry for any inconvenience.

Sincerely, Emily Horowitz,  
Secretary, Central Committee,  
Chair of the Election Committee

know me — else you would certainly know how to spell my name — were able to track me down to my dorm, even my floor, I question your very ignorance of this information! When I had been bracing myself for something much more serious, with far greater implications. And a final indignity occurred when, as you were hanging up, I heard a very loud, shrill outburst of laughter. I wonder what was so funny? Perhaps I sounded somewhat less than coherent, having been awakened so rudely and unsettlingly. Or perhaps I was the butt of some cruel and private joke... for what

you did was very close to a deliberate act of cruelty.

This action smacks of pointless harassment.

In the future I would request that you look at your watch before you call someone, and consider whether that individual would welcome your call at that hour. Consider also what it is you wish of that person before you tell the person who answers the phone that it is urgent. And finally, if it is indeed late, as it was Monday night, please, please consider if there are other ways of getting the information you seek.

Sincerely, Keightie Sherrod



## Letters to the Editor



### Response to Jason Van Driesche

To the Editor:

I'd like to address Jason Van Driesche on his opinion piece, "There can be no justification for Discrimination." Mr. Van Driesche, who or what has given you the authority to advise the Students for Educational Equality not to resort to "any means necessary?" When was the last time that you organized or participated in a political movement on or off this campus? I believe I speak for several political groups at Bard when I say that we don't need your petty, uneducated commentary anymore. It's at the very least annoying, at the most, extremely insulting.

It's obvious that you have no understanding of what affirmative action is. Were you even listening at the S.E.E. meeting when a student responded to your concerns about "reverse discrimina-

tion" by explaining that affirmative action wouldn't be necessary if racism didn't exist? I guess not. I guess you also weren't listening when the panel answered questions about their hiring policies. Nobody advocates the hiring of unqualified faculty simply because they are minority. They do advocate a more active search for minority faculty and the holding of positions specially designated for people of color.

So Mr. Van Driesche, next time you feel the urge to comment on somebody else's politics, at least try to learn something about the issues involved. And stop being petty, the bureaucracy doesn't need your help either.

Annoyed in Annandale,  
Fiona Lawrence-Luckman

### Plumb Awful angered by audio co-op's actions

To the Editor:

There are a lot of assholes at Bard College. A heck of a lot. A whole hell of a heck of a lot of assholes at Bard College. You know, there are assholes and then there are assholes and Bard College seems to have attracted the cream of the asshole crop and put them to work as the audio co-op.

Why do we say this? Because they suck. They are beastly and immature and just because they don't like certain bands they think they have the right to fuck around with the way they sound like turning the volume way down on

some people and making others sound like individuals with predilections for decorating the walls with used pea soup. Or prevent them even from getting booked, or, if they book them, deliberately fail to promote their gigs. C'mon guys! Doing shit like that is almost as professional as the tone of this letter.

We refer specifically to the Spring Fling Bard Band Marathon that took place on Saturday in the Student Center, but this is not the only example of their assholedom. When the band Plumb Awful got up on stage, just because they were

To the Editor:

In response to Jason Van Driesche's article "There Can Be No Justification for Discrimination," the sociology club would like to make two points. But first we would like to say that we do not represent S.E.E.

Although the language of Van Driesche's article makes the argument against reverse discrimination seem logical and reasonable, it does not address the fundamental issue of institutionalized racism. The following quote from the article implies a definition of racism which is incorrect: "They must not favor one candidate over another simply because the former is a person of color and the latter is white; that is as bad as favoring a white over a person of color...a person must be judged based on his or her qualifications and merits alone." Underlying this statement is a dangerously simplistic and misinformed conception of racism which fails to recognize the complexities of institutionalized racism. Van Driesche describes people being chosen based on their merit and quali-

cations as if these are presently objective measures of value. He does not take into account the far reaching exclusionary process of racism. In high schools and colleges minorities are systematically excluded from the discourse and curriculum, thereby inhibiting them from getting the necessary credentials for job selection. An important question to ask is why are there so few minorities in the job pool to hire? Racism goes beyond who gets picked for a job, it is how one ends up with the credentials to be applying for the job in the first place. The United States' educational system is tailored for the success of white middle-class males. Alienated minority children are systematically failed out of high schools in droves. Racism begins long before the job interview process. This is the issue that multi-cultural education of reverse discrimination entirely circumvents the more subtle forms of discrimination embedded in the educational system.

Van Driesche claims that

"merit" and "qualification" should not be associated with race. We argue that one important, yet overlooked, "qualification" or "merit" of an applicant is his or her color. The white middle-class educational system is alienating to minority students who do not identify with the white middle-class culture. There is no real effective representation of minorities in positions of authority. More minority faculty would allow minority students the opportunity to be represented in the institution. Minority status is a qualification.

It is essential that people be educated about the fallacy of reverse discrimination and understand the importance of minority representation in schools. This kind of education is necessary to end institutionalized racism.

The Sociology Club

(Sarah B. Davis, Jed Kusterer, Karma Kreizenbeck, Liana Rosario, Morgan Cleveland, Drew Glazier, Judith Nelson, Daryl-Lynn Johnson, Eva Poppadopoulos, Josh Kaufman)

### Mountains out of mole hills

To the Editor,

After rereading a most unnecessary and scathing letter I had written in response to last week's Appalachian article, I realized that I had written a very good argument in favor of constructing mountains out of mole hills.

It was just that I had become very upset over the fact that a fellow volunteer expressed to me that they felt they had been misquoted in the article and that I was also a little concerned as to why my name had not been included along with Mara Brod's and Glynis Cotton's names, concerning the

grade school trip.

I take a great pride and an extreme satisfaction in having entertained those children for an afternoon. It is a very scary thing to stand up in front of grade schoolers. (Remember those sixth grade book reports?) Though children (in general) respond well to enthusiastic adults, if they don't like him/her, talk among themselves or even undermine the attempts the individual is trying to make at establishing a rapport with them.

Luckily for the three of us, the children were extremely well-

behaved, obedient and attentive. For me, it was the most exhausting and the most encouraging task of our trip. I am very proud to have even attempted such a challenge.

If this letter has proven to be a mountain, then I suppose I'm guilty of wanting a little acknowledgement.

Sincerely,

Mary McMahon

P.S. I am also very proud of my Irish heritage. My last name is McMahon, not McMan (as it appeared in the article).

### Letters to the Editor

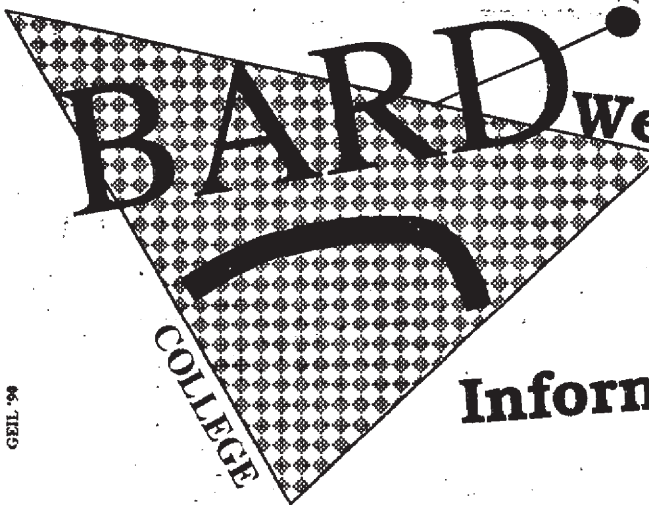
Letters should be one to two double spaced, typed pages. All letters must be signed.

The Observer reserves the right to withhold names of letter writers in certain cases.

The fans and friends of Plumb Awful







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**MAY 12 through MAY 18, 1990**

**Information Newsletter \***

Greenberg for more information.

**China Table:**  
 China Table is back until the end of the semester in Kline Commons President's Room. 12:15 to 1:15 PM. A chance to practice your Chinese or talk in English with Chinese people and others who share your interest in Chinese politics, society and culture.

**Dean of the College:**  
 Information is available in my office concerning a variety of 1991-92 NEH Fellowships.

**Literature Department Lecture:**  
 Poet John Ashbury will be reading from his works in Olin 102 on May 27 at 8:00 PM.

**Soviet Studies Lecture:**  
 Prof. Igor Kon, an academician of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and Andy White, Prof.-at-Large at Cornell University, will give a talk *Culture and Sexuality in the Soviet Union* on May 17 at 8:00 PM in room 102 of the Olin Building.

**Distinguished Social Scientist Lecture:**  
 Barrie Thorne, Prof. of Sociology at the University of Southern California will speak on new discoveries in her ongoing

work on language, gender and society. 8:00 PM in Kline Commons.

**Music Program Zero:**  
 May 17: Performance Space: *Three Solos, Three Duos and a Trio* with Bard Professors Richard Teitelbaum, Leo Smith and Benjamin Boretz. 10:00 PM. Brook House.

**Recovery of Memory Conference:**  
 On May 11, 12 and 13th. An international conference on the changes sweeping through Eastern Europe, sponsored by the Jerome Levy Economics Institute, the Bard Center and the International Academy for Scholarship and the Arts. Preregistration is necessary for all events. Free to all students with I.D. Contact Prof. Karen

**Sunday's Movie:**  
 Sunday, May 13: The film for this Sunday was not available at press time. Please check posters around campus for information.

**Friday's Movie:**  
 Friday, May 18: *Whitnail and I*, by Bruce Robinson.

For both Sunday's and Friday's Movie, showings will be at 7:00 PM (non-smoking) and at 9:00 PM in the Student Center.

**REMINDER: The next issue of the Weekly Community Information**

Calendar of Events						
Saturday 12	Sunday 13	Monday 14	Tuesday 15	Wednesday 16	Thursday 17	Friday 18
<b>Recovery of Memory Conference Begins (see above)</b>	6:00 PM Worship Service Bard Chapel  6:00 PM Features Meeting Aspinwall 3rd Floor  7:00 PM A.A. Meeting Aspinwall, Room 302	7:00 PM News Meeting Olin 3rd Floor Lounge  7:30 P.M. BBLAGA Meeting Aspinwall 302	5:30 PM Learning Difference Support Group Admissions Office  8:00 PM Social Scientist Lecture Kline Commons	7:00 PM ACOA Meeting Aspinwall, Room 302  8:00 PM Program of music by Daron Hagen performed by Bruce Wolosoff, Ann Mathers, and Su Lian Tau Olin Auditorium	7:00 PM N. A. Meeting Aspinwall 302  8:00 PM Soviet Studies Lecture Olin Room 102  10:00 PM Music Program Zero Performance Space Brook House	12:30 PM John Grey Aspinwall 302  7:00 & 9:00 PM <i>Whitnail</i> Student Center
				<b>Registration Day</b> More information to come.		<b>The last Weekly Community Information Newsletter of the semester comes out today</b>