

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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THE BARD OBSERVER



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The Forum: Student government at work

by Angela Alexander

Funds for allocation and proper procedure for conducting the Forum were the centers of discussions at Tuesday night's Forum meeting. It began, as usual, with the Committee reports. Planning Committee Chair David Miller reported that the proposed Student Convocations budget will be out on Friday, September 7.

After about 30 minutes of discussion over whether or not to suspend Robert's Rules of Order, an informal discussion of the Student Association funds ensued. Included were issues such as the Student Association debt (estimated between \$16,000 and \$19,000), money supposedly due to Convocations from campus vending machine profits, \$15,000 that the Dean of Students told the Board of Trustees they were holding for student activities, and ways that clubs might reduce some of their expenses.

When discussion of student funds closed, Katherine Moog was elected to the Student Life Committee. The two available Planning Committee seats were won by Christine Gobbl and Olivier te Boekhorst. The remainder of the agenda was waived until the following week and the meeting closed at 10:10 pm.

The Forum meeting to ratify the Student Convocations Budget will take place at 8:00 PM, Monday September 10 in Kline.

Professor Reid Resigns

by Jason Van Driesche

Professor Richard Reid has resigned from Bard for personal health reasons. He submitted a letter of resignation to President Botstein on Friday, August 31, and that resignation was accepted soon thereafter. He will not teach any classes this semester and is uncertain as to what he will do beyond that point.

Due to his poor health, Reid was unavailable for comment, but according to people who know him well, Reid resigned of his own accord. "Clearly this is his choice," said Jennifer Klein '90, a creative writing

major who took several classes with Reid. "He put his ability to teach well above everything. Since his performance wasn't adequate [because of his health], he probably thought he had to leave."

Reid first came to Bard in 1986. He was brought in by Professor Bill Mullen as a Foreign Language Exchange Tutor in classics, but soon distinguished himself as a teacher and was offered a one-year appointment as a visiting assistant professor of modern literature.

However, as his position was not

tenure track, this one-year appointment had to be renewed every year. In his appointment last year, Reid taught classes in both the Languages and Literature Division and the Arts Division, so when his contract came up for renewal at the end of the year, both his status and his future with the college were uncertain.

When the community learned that the administration was having trouble finding a way to renew Reid's contract, several of his students organized a letter-writing campaign on his behalf. There was then an

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Face to face with Chevy Chase

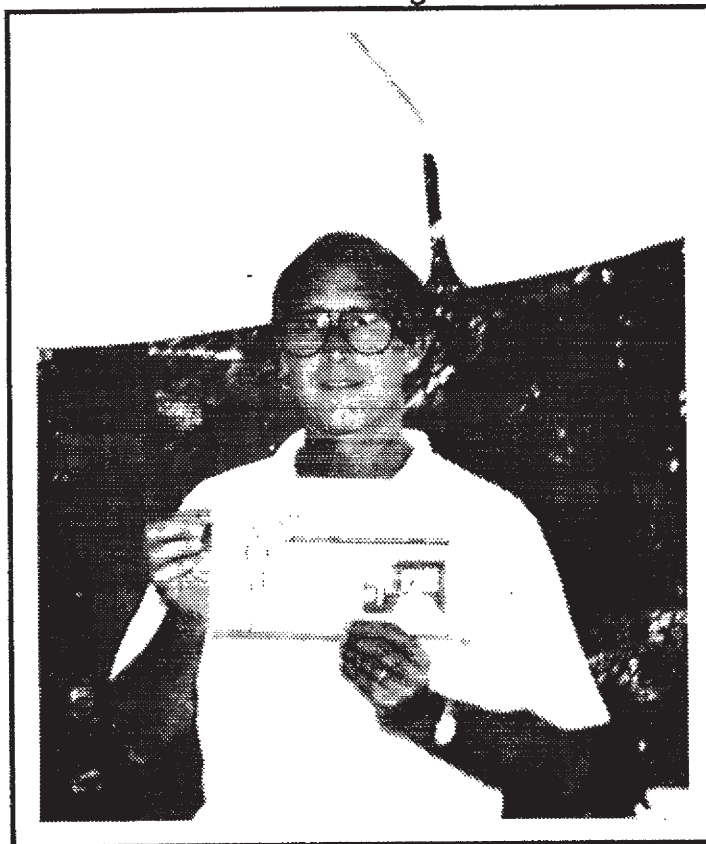
by Emily Horowitz

Chevy Chase looks fondly back at his five years at Bard. Since graduating from Bard in '68 he has become well-known for his work on *Saturday Night Live*. More recently, he is known for his film roles, which include the starring part in *Vacation*, *Fletch*, *Funny Farm*, *Caddyshack*, and *Foul Play*, among others.

Last spring, Chase delivered the commencement speech at Bard. His speech was met with much laughter and applause. In his speech, Chase joked about being harassed by Bard, and Leon Botstein, for donations. In fact, "I was just kidding around," said Chase. "It was just to be amusing. The letters [from Botstein regarding donations] were made up. Botstein never came to me for money." Chase did point out that every liberal arts school "in the world" has to ask its alumni for money. "Alumni should give money—it is their responsibility to give something."

A typical activity among today's Bard students is complaining about their school. This is not a new phenomenon. Chase said that even in his day, "Bard students freely put their school down. They really do a job on it. But wait ten or fifteen years, and you'll see that they love it."

Chase feels that the best aspect of Bard is the education. Students may not realize this while they are there, but after they gain some "perspective", they will see that they received a "great education," according to Chase.



Chevy Chase, '68 holds a copy of the best newspaper in Annandale.

Chase considers Bard an academically serious institution. Although his career has been in drama, he was a Languages & Literature major at Bard. Before Bard, Chase attended Haverford for a year. "Haverford was a more competitive school than Bard, and more conservative. They had an Honor Code, but

it was a weird Honor Code—the kind where you reported yourself," said Chase. Chase liked Bard much more than Haverford because of Bard's non-competitive nature.

During his first few years at Bard, Chase did not do well because he was not motivated. He was

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Bookstore gets a face lift

by Jonathan Kushner

The bookstore, as most returning students have undoubtedly noticed, looks completely different this semester. The change, though, has been much more than cosmetic. It is now managed by Barnes & Noble, which is responsible for the newly renovated look.

Used books will now be avail-

able for many courses at a 25% discount. According to Scott Chandler, branch manager, the bookstore will also buy back books from students, in two different ways. One is 'buyback' in which the student will receive 50% of the price he or she paid for a new book. The one condition to buyback, says Chandler, is that the store must have a demand for that certain book the following

semester. Books bought used, or ones that won't be in demand, can be sold back to the store for 'wholesale' price which ranges anywhere from 0-25% of the cover price.

Some turmoil has risen when students have found an empty shelf instead of their required book. "It is Barnes & Noble policy to count

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New parking rules: security is serious

by Kristan Hutchison

The yellow warning slips were replaced with real tickets and \$25.00 fines beginning Monday. Rob Boyce, the new Security Director, allowed a week's grace period before cracking down on the oft used parking spots that pose threats to campus safety.

"We don't like to write tickets. We don't start out in the morning saying 'I have six more tickets in my book to write today,'" said Ellen Thompson, "We just want to see that everybody abides by the rules."

The rules are similar to past years, but this time Security is serious. The first offense is \$25.00, second is \$35.00, and \$50.00 for the third. After that the driver is put on probation for 30 days and any further offenses will lead to the car being towed at the expense of the driver.

If the car owner truly feels that the ticket is unfair, he or she may appeal it by submitting the appropriate form (available in the Security office) within 48 hours. Director Boyce will review the appeal. Security has no vested interest in ticketing because all the money goes to the college and not their department. "It just takes the officer time," said Thompson.

Parking along the side of roads, such as Manor Circle, Blithewood Ed., and Ravine Rd. block access of emergency vehicles. Last year car #23, one of the smaller security vehicles, was unable to answer a medical emergency call in the Ravines because cars were parked on both sides of the road. When the guard went on foot to answer the call, someone stole the car keys. Now parking is allowed only on the west side of Ravine Rd.

At Manor, the circle must be kept clear as a fire lane and for other emergency vehicles. Manor residence can park in the lot to the right (when facing the meadow) of Manor, which is found by driving down the small dirt road which branches off the main drive. However, do not block Professor Rodewald's driveway.

Blithewood Rd. is completely out of bounds for parking. The ancient trees that line the road have been slowly dying because of the damage to their roots by parked cars and the exhaust. Hopefully by diverting traffic to the legal lots behind Honey House and the theater parking lot the trees can be revived.

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Kline renovations almost completed

by Jason Van Driesche

Kline Commons has been undergoing renovations for the past three months, and according to Director of Food Services Ralph Rogers, the construction should be completely finished by mid-September.

The Wood Food Service Company, which was brought in to replace DAKA over spring break last semester, has made a number of drastic changes to Kline's facilities. Besides the redesign and relocation of the serving area, Wood has acquired new, better equipment, relocated the dishroom, and hired new personnel.

Most students seem to be enthusiastic about the changes. Sophomore Rick Nacy commented that "when everything is completed, it will be amazing. It's much easier than last year."

The new serving area (shown in the diagram above) was designed to make the most efficient use of the limited space available. The only major part of the serving area not yet completed is the breakfast nook, which should be done within two weeks.

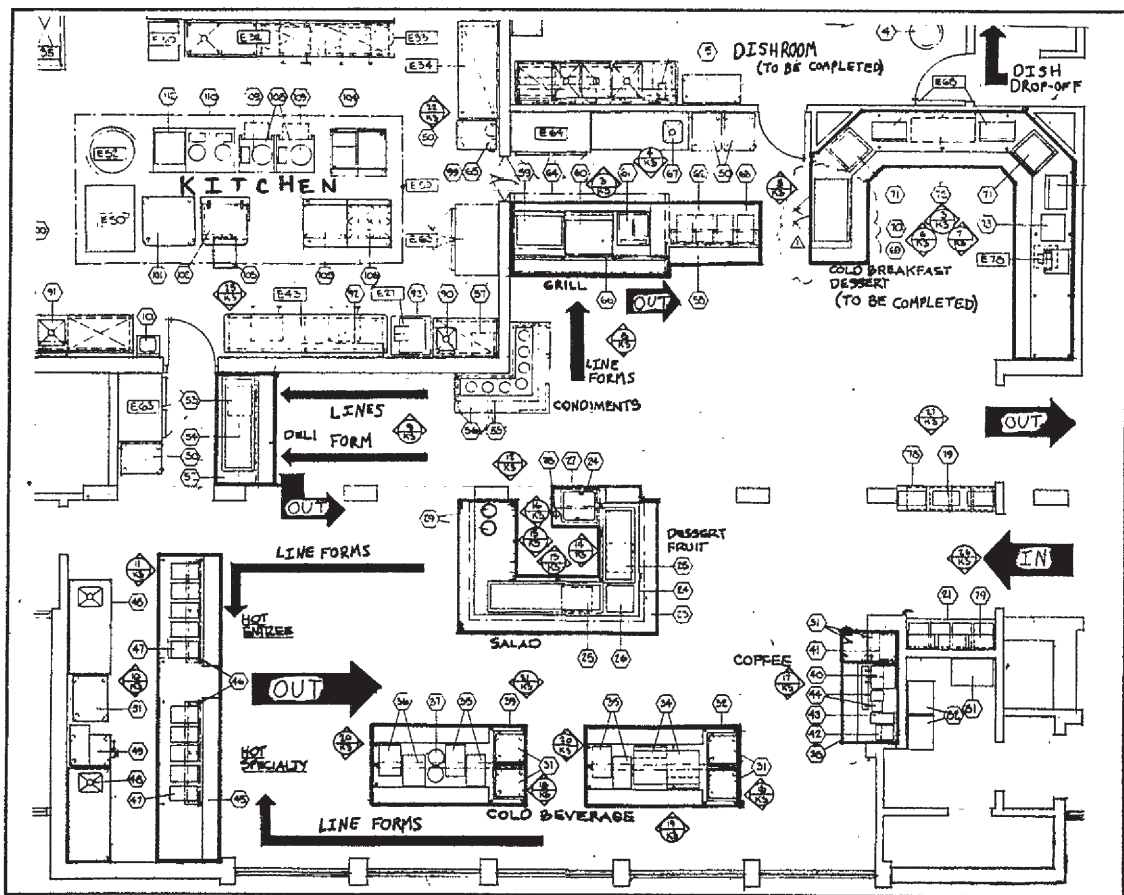
Apart from the breakfast nook, the remaining changes planned are cosmetic. Woods will put sculpted neon signs up over the main entree area, the coffee counter, the deli, the grill, and other areas. The sneeze guard over the salad bar (which is required by law) is not finished either.

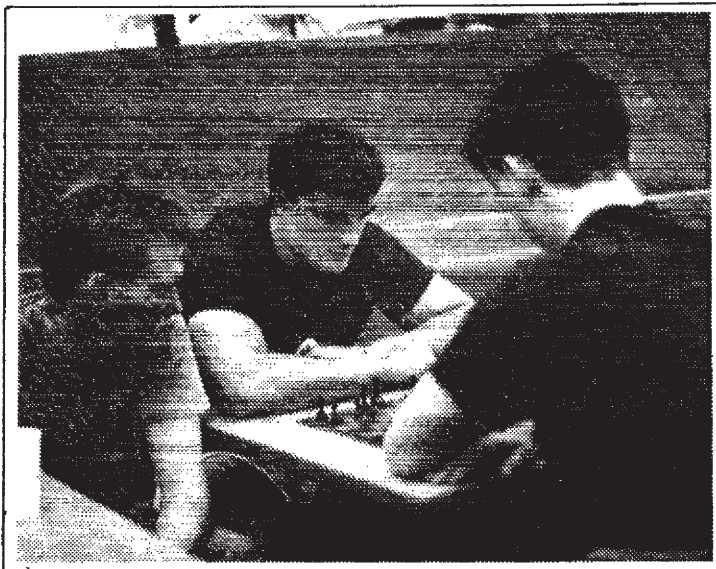
The college has bought a good deal of new equipment for the dining commons. Kline now has four ovens, while last year it had only one. As a result, Kline now makes all its baked goods on the premises, rather than reheating frozen goods as DAKA did. It now has several kettles as well, which are very good for making sauces and soups.

Wood also bought new silverware, plates, glasses, and bowls at the beginning of the semester, but many have been taken out of the commons by people who eat there. "We're having the people who check the cards keep a sharper eye out for dishes," said Rogers.

Wood hopes to have the new dishroom (which is located in the area of the old serving room) up and running within a week or two. It has been equipped with a new dish machine and sinks for washing pots.

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The Chess Club is one of the more casual and active clubs on campus; above three members participate in a tournament.

The Go Club

by Tatiana Prowell

The Go Club, a new club on campus this year, is an informal group centered around the strategic board game called "GO." Go is a little bit like chess in that the object is to capture the other player's pieces, but every piece is equally important and moves the same way. The game is generally more free-flowing and less confusing, as the difference between the game pieces is entirely determined by their placement on the board.

Go is the 3,000 year-old national game of Japan, and those who are intrigued by the game's resulting uniqueness should contact Andrew Nicholson at #311 by phone or at Bleucher: Room 203. Meetings will be held at 8 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Bleucher Common Room.

Music Department

by Emily Beddoe

The music department offers a wide variety of activities and opportunities for players and singers, both classical and more modern. Any interested jazz musicians should contact Leo Smith about the jazz ensembles who "jam" on Wednesday nights. All singers of different voice parts are welcome to participate in the Bard Community Chorus under the direction of Luis Garcia-Renart. The chorus meets at 7:00 on Thursday nights and can gain the student a credit if so desired. Various chamber music groups are also presently being organized by Garcia-Renart for possible credit as well.

In addition, monthly music forums featuring guest lecturers, performers and members of the music department faculty will take place regularly. For additional information about these and other musical groups and events or private instrumental and vocal lessons, contact the Music Department, Annandale House. Any student or students interested in

starting their own musical group should get in touch with anyone in the music department.

Youth Socialists Alliance

by Tom Hickerson

The Youth Socialists Alliance, or YSA, is an international organization dedicated to improving the lives and health of people around the world. A chapter of the YSA has



Two members of the Outing Club enjoy a rest as they hike through the scenic Catskill Mountains.

been operating at Bard on and off over the past few years. This year, the YSA will be lead by Marina Sitirin and Zafra Whitcomb.

The Pathfinder, a bookstore and publishing house that works with the YSA will be returning this year to distribute information about world struggle and the people involved, including Malcom X, Fidel Castro and Nelson Mandela.

At this time, the YSA is deciding where to place their efforts, since, according to Whitcomb, "there are so many issues the only problem is that we don't have enough time [to address them all]". Among the issues that the YSA faces are educational reforms, environmental problems, abuse of labor and politics, the establishment of a national health care

by Jennifer Reck

Whether you are an aspiring poet, a future physicist or something in between, Bard has a club for you. During the first few weeks of classes, students with any sort of special interest should be watching for announcements from the various organizations for more information on becoming part of a group. Sometime in September a list of the various persons who can be contacted for specific clubs will be distributed. An open house activities night is also being planned for sometime this fall.

If by chance a group has a special interest which is not represented in a club at Bard already, they are en-

couraged to organize their own club. Students wishing to obtain official recognition from the Planning Committee should look for announcements of application procedures and deadlines. The Planning Committee, whose chairperson for the 1990-91 is David Miller, is also able to provide partial funding to some clubs.

Any group planning a campus social event must register it with Beth Frumkin, Assistant Dean of Students / Coordinator of Student Alcohol and Other Drug Education, whose office is located in the Student Center across from Security. All events must be registered three days in advance, or if the event is planned

program and the distribution of information concerning world affairs. Besides the frequent visits from the Pathfinder offices, the YSA also plans to begin a biweekly newsletter including articles from such socialist publications as the *Guardian* and the *Nation*, which all publish "information you will not hear in the media—the whole story," said Whitcomb. The YSA will also plan to join in strikes with workers in the local area.

Anyone interested in joining the YSA should contact either Sitirin or Whitcomb through campus mail. One of the aims of the YSA, the spreading of information, is summed up exactly in a quote by Fidel Castro: "The truth cannot only be the truth. The truth must also be told."

The Model U.N.

by Lavinia Yocum

The Model U.N. at Bard is a group that deals with the contemporary political problems and interactions of the countries of our world.

At Bard, there is a core group of five organizational leaders who will schedule the upcoming events and meetings.

The primary goals and aims of the Model U.N. encompasses a full agenda for the school year 1990-91. The organizational leaders of Model U.N. are planning to have U.N. speakers who are politically active lecture at Bard. There is a trip to Harvard scheduled next semester around February. A tentative plan is in motion to invite the local high schools in the Dutchess County area to the Bard campus.

A trip to the University of Pennsylvania is also being planned.

Future meetings will be announced.

Amnesty International

by Lavinia Yocum

Amnesty International has planned various events for the 1990-91 academic year at Bard College.

Let's go clubbing!

for a weekend, by Wednesday. The registration information includes a list of guidelines for responsible social event planning and hosting and a sheet for requests for special setups.

A listing of many of the existing organizations can be found in the student handbook. All clubs and organizations are open to all those who are interested other than the Entertainment and Film Committee which are boards elected by the student body in Forum.

Offering something for almost everyone, the great variety of clubs and organizations active at the college reflect the incredibly diverse student body.

Amnesty International has membership worldwide and was founded by a British lawyer in 1961.

It has membership in 81 countries, and its basic philosophy revolves around three central themes:

1) The members of Amnesty International are against execution and torture of those who are expressing



Oliver de Bucharest celebrates his victory at the Model UN meet at Harvard last year.

their basic rights as human beings.

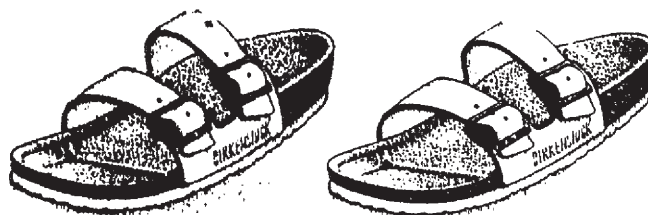
2) They advocate the protection of human rights and attempt to uphold the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by "eradicating the abuses of human rights."

3) They are concerned with the release of prisoners of conscience who are being morally mistreated by other human beings due to their personal beliefs on topics such as color, sex, language, religion, and sexual preference.

In an interview with Rebecca Smith, a coordinator of Bard's Amnesty International group, she discussed this year's goals and aims of the group. Students will address the problems that revolve around the three central themes by writing letters or sending telegrams. Over a

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Brain Sex at Bard?

by Tatiana Prowell

Curiosity was perhaps the only thing in common among those who attended the mysterious L & T experiment known as "Brain Sex."

Attracted by vague flyers, three rows of people filed into Olin Auditorium with no clue of what to expect. The experiment began with a series of questions which ranged from:

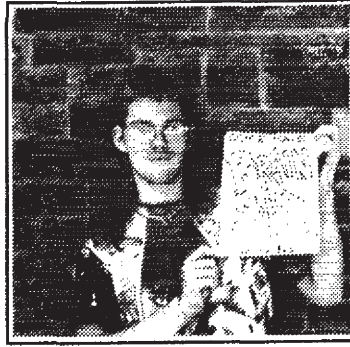
"Do you believe in God in the Christian sense of the word?" and "Have you ever attempted suicide?" to "Have you ever performed oral sex?" and "Have you ever masturbated?" Many other questions relating to sexual preferences and habits, as well as personal characteristics, were also posed. Responses were indicated by standing up for "yes" or remaining seated for "no." Despite some shock at the personal nature of the questions, everyone present participated in what seemed to be an honest fashion.

The second half of the experiment involved how comfortable individuals feel within the personal space of a stranger. The exercises

involved forced intimate interactions with the strangers sitting on either side. Included in the interactions were: kissing, close eye contact, saying, "you are beautiful", and holding hips while conversing.

Responses to the activities varied widely due to such characteristics as personal nature and upbringing, with some individuals leaving pleased and excited about a possible future session and others feeling violated and offended. "I thought it was a little unethical and unfair in that, in a certain sense, we were made to participate because the option of leaving was made very uncomfortable and intimidating," stated freshman, Andrew Nicholson. One female who attended the session called it "a little strange, but really neat," and is hoping for a follow-up meeting.

Shawn Taylor, the freshman who organized Brain Sex says that he got the idea from a girl who wanted to know if it is true that 99% of all males really masturbate. The principle of forcing people to delve into their subconscious minds to better understand themselves is one known as "Operation: Mind Fuck," an idea found in Robert Anton Wilson and



What does this sign mean?

Robert Shea's book, *Illuminatus*. Taylor feels that often people do not consider their personal beliefs, and the experience was meant to provoke thought on that subject. "The point isn't to put one over on anyone else. It's to show people what they really think about themselves and their lifestyles," states Taylor. "I really was curious to see how and if people would respond."

Taylor was pleased with the results of the meeting, admitting that the turnout and response were "a lot greater" than he had expected. He is uncertain as to whether another session of Brain Sex will be held, but suggests watching for flyers at the dorms and at Kline Commons, if interested.

Clubs at Bard

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hundred thousand people state their opinions to government officials, prison officers, and ambassadors through letter-writing and other forms of communication.

This year at Bard, weekly meetings will be planned. Speakers will address different issues, including the death penalty, problems with the INS (Immigration and Naturalization Service) and the histories of prisoners of conscience, who will relate their experiences to the Bard community. If there are people interested in addressing any issues or human rights situations that they disagree with that concern the three central areas, be sure to refer to the Bard Observer for future meetings.

Trowel

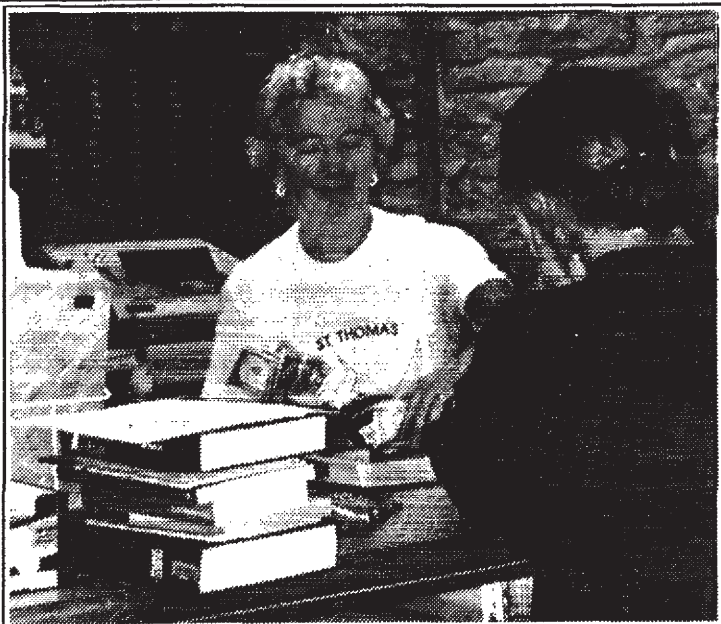
by Tatiana Prowell

Trowel, run by Gregory Donovan and Eric Coates, is a literary magazine on the Bard Campus which is published once per semester. The magazine accepts work from Bard students and professors, as well as other writers in the New York area. Information about when and where to submit is available in their news-

letters which are delivered to student mail boxes. Co-Editor Gregory Donovan describes the magazine as "unlike any other literary magazine on campus in that we accept a diverse sample of works from all types of poets and writers." *Trowel* is interested in having a small staff of Bard students and will be considering submissions; if interested, contact Donovan at P.O. Box 618.

Some of the other clubs not included above are as follows:

Coalition for Choice
Bard Bisexual, Lesbian And Gay Alliance
Chess Club
Club Art
Hodos
International Club
Jewish Students Organization
Latin American Students Organization
Outing Club
People for Good Things
Psychology Club
Society of Physics Students
Sociology Club
Soviet Studies Club
Women's Center



Books are bought and sold at the Bard Bookstore

Bookstore

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the stores stock a week before classes begin to make sure everything is in place" says Chandler, "but this year the full staff wasn't in until the last week itself." Nevertheless, he says that the store can usually acquire a book within 7-10 days, depending on how obscure it is.

Students attempting to cash checks during the first week

of class were told that the store had no cash for that service. According to one store representative, it is up to the Bard Controller to provide the store with this money and at the time none was released. Normally, students can cash checks up to \$40 at the bookstore.

Additional changes in the bookstore include more registers for "speedier service", and the sale of soft drinks and snack food. Chandler says that the store welcomes input from students about the items that will be stocked.

Parking regulations

continued from page 2

The lot and lane beside the Post Office must be kept clear too. Mail may be delivered in rain, sleet, or snow, but it was not delivered several times last year because the truck could not get near the Post Office to drop it off.

The large lot near Buildings and Grounds is reserved for faculty and staff. Faculty complain that students often park there anyway, Thompson says she has never seen that lot completely filled. Last year Security allowed students to park in the last six rows of the faculty lot and they may open several rows to students if there is the need this year also.

Interested in discovering your roots through drumming?

A percussion ensemble is being formed to meet at a scheduled time each week on a continuous basis.

Contact:

Blake Schulman
Bard College
Annandale, NY 12504
Please reply soon. Commitment mandatory.

Designated Parking Areas

Dormitory Lots at Feitler, Gahagan, and Sands

For residents of the dormitory

Ravine Parking Lot behind Honey House

For Alumni Dorms and Tewksbury

West Side of Ravine Road

For Ravine Houses

Theater Parking Lot

For Blum Gallery and Theater

Main Parking Lots

For Main Campus

South Hall Parking Lot East of South Hall

For Olin and Main Campus

Proctor Art Center Parking Lot

For Bard Hall, Chapel, and Proctor

Stevenson Gym Parking Lot

For Bard Hall, Chapel, and Proctor

Do not block Kline loading dock

Library Parking Lot

Do not park behind Library lower level

Cruger Village Parking lot

No parking on Cruger Road at any time

Robbins Parking Lot

Do not park on the Robbins Circle

Ward Manor Parking Lot

Do not park on the Manor Circle

Unbraiding the Sexual Politics of Black Hair

I have been silent about a subject that helps to shape identity and consciousness, particularly with regard to the Black community.

The topic of this essay is black hair, black hair that is different and how my Anglo American peers react to that difference. It is about Black women and their hair and the sexual and racial politics that develop in the predominately white cultural space that makes up the environment of Bard...it is about my hair.

Recently, I decided to have my hair braided. When I was an incoming student I had my hair braided frequently. The reason I wear my hair in braids regularly (though not as often as I like because of the recent tripling in expense) are several fold. First, there exists in me a specific and unnameable longing for what my hair "really feels" like which is independent of relaxers and hot combs that are damaging and costly processes. Secondly, because my time is very short braids are an easily manageable, viable and healthy alternative. More importantly, having braids allows me to maintain a positive and healthy mental relationship with my hair. As the cultural critic Bell Hooks pointed out in her lecture

at Vassar last year on "Black Female Representation", African Americans are probably the only people in the world that view their unique hair as their "enemy" which points to an example of a mass colonized mental landscape.

In addition, there exists a particular form of bonding that takes place when hair is "done" among Black folk. This bonding is exemplified in several ways: a Black woman taking care of a Black man's hair, or through parenting of children but a special bond exists between African American woman. It is the way we pass the time in each other's company, the way we celebrate our sameness and simply the way we care for each other. The long hours provide us with talk and laughter. Since I am usually the recipient of such care and nurturing, I am fully able to enjoy the completely gratifying temporal, and quasi erotic feeling of being cared for in that particular way.

Unfortunately, my mother who grew up in a strict middle class background with light skinned Black parents and relatives placed little importance on braiding; she even

degraded me for initially wanting to get my hair braided, thinking it was a lower class form of expression or God forbid an African thang. It took a long while of exploring on my own first, to be able to break away from the standard mode of beauty in the dominant culture.

What disturbs me through all this though is the reaction that I get from people while wearing my braids at Bard. I never noticed it before, but several other African American women (and some men) I have known through the years have commented on the phenomenon that braided hair or dreaded hair indicates that "African-Americans" are somehow more "natural" and thus approachable to many Anglo Americans. Many Anglo American people touch my hair without my consent and make comments that I find offensive. This is especially true with Anglo American males. I have noticed that they are the most frequent transgressors of my personal space. For example, at the last Robbins' party I was told repeatedly that have braids somehow makes me "sexier". Another word that was bantered about in my presence in accordance with

my hair was the term "exotic". Even though I tell Anglo American men that I am no more exotic than apple pie, and to use that term is to relate me to "Other" they don't seem to understand. Being treated as "Other" my status becomes one that is lesser, inferior and invisible. These comments though they differ in intensity remind me of the sexual and racial politics of this campus, and how my sexual self is confronted with a message behind those comments that goes like this: "Black woman with those exotic, sexy braids please get up in a tree, act 'Black', shake your ass and let me find out if all the myths are true." These suggestions I get from Anglo American men indicate to me that they identify with the racialized image of the African American woman as a sexual savage. These insights raise other questions about interracial relationships which is beyond the scope of this essay but should begin to be addressed by the Bard community.

Another interesting response that I got about my hair came from an Anglo American woman who said, "I didn't know that your braids were so soft." She repeated this three

times while she touched my hair unasked. What is the proper response to this? Do I glare at her or come back with a witty retort? Do I go into the history about the politics of black hair? What really bothers me is that people feel that because my hair is different they have the right to touch it. People who don't even know me! I've talked with several other people of color and they have reported the same offensive behavior. If you want to pet something, go home and pet your animal not me. I find that the behaviour of people touching my hair without my permission does not confer equality, but a level of objectification.

For African Americans and other people of color, to affirm who we are, the Bard community must make those choices easier for us and engage in constructive and not debilitating behavior.

The next time you wish to bestow a level of blandishment onto me, please, for my humanity and yours say it from afar and not with your hands.

In Search of Our Mother's Gardens,
Michele Tracy Berger

Word

by Ephen Glenn Colter

Offer no resistance and they will never know the thresh-hold of your pain. Hope for the best, but believe the worse. Because Love is blind. Because Justice is blind. The blind leading the blind. Color blind. It is odd that there is no pink and blue, that the black and white blocks my conscious and my sub-conscious ability to define gender in social terms. But they only dream in color, and that too is uncoordinated, considering they fingerprint within the lines. If you don't know who they are, it's perfectly natural, because they only think they know who you are.

We are enablers, you and I. We are all people of color. We are green around the gills and wet behind the ears; we are blue in the face and light on our feet; we are red as lobsters and black as beautiful. Our relationships do not end anymore, because there is no black or white. They end in transition, out of context, left of center, south of the border. They end where they left off. They are cliff-hangers and loose threads — for mountain climbers and needles in

haystacks. There is only the beginning of the end, or the end of the beginning, nothing definite, only demonstrative. But relationships still suffer, from finite possibility and mortal wounds. Love hides in circumstance and indifference. Love hides in plain sight. Insights for sore eyes. This is Love's disappearing act. This has forever been love's disappearing act, because Beauty is only skin deep (and you are under my skin) — because Beauty is in the eye of the beholder (and you are the figure within my ground). The flesh is weak — the hand is quicker than the eye — and the only tangible reality is the body — is sex and sexuality. and where there is a will, there is a way, in. Out of touch.

We are the Have's and Have-Not's, most of us Has-Been's of this To-Be-Or-Not-To-Be world, old hand's at getting a grip. We dis the Do's, Don't's and I-Don't-Knows in favor of firm maybe's. Some of us have all ten fingers and all ten toes, a grandfathers eyes, a great aunt's art, a mother's love, a father's debts. Some of us have all five senses, all nine lives. Some of us have four eyes, some of us have a third leg (used only when we don't have a leg to stand still on). Some of us have a chip on our shoulder or a skip in our step. Many of us have a hole in our

head, a broken heart, a strong constitution, a weak line (in a chain of events). Not to mention the forked tongues, two faces, soft spots and glass jaws.

Love is not a pretty sight, Love is a sight for sore eyes. Love is not a thing of beauty. Love is the beast of burden. Love is not for the innocent or naive. Love is for the young at heart. Love is just a four-letter word we find and use like a four-leaf clover. Salt over our shoulder or insult to injury. Love is knock on wood.

You and I.

We are open books behind closed doors.

We are read between the lines of defense.

Grace these pages. Ask me no questions and I will tell you no lies. Tell me your secrets and I will not add my name to them. Offer no resistance, and it will hurt me more than it will ever hurt you. Because I will have to break the silence.

...So we sit. There's something in the back of our minds. We have nothing to talk about, but a lot to drink — and a lot to look forward to. We have a past, but we don't have the time, we have a history, but we don't have much patience. We keep an eye on the clock. A big toe in the water, a finger on the trigger. And something familiar on the tip of our tongue.

Bands Overlooked

by Michael Stimac

In what is hopefully a mere oversight, as opposed to a purposeful neglecting of the actual variety of music on this campus, several bands were left out of last week's listing. I am saying several because I am only mentioning two and I am admitting to probably forgetting a good number of others.

Orgiastic Bubble Plastic is the combination of three highly diverse musical talents. Chris Hume, its guitarist, has a style which does quite a bit more than parrot its strong flavorings of Jimi Hendrix and Pink Floyd's David Gilmour. His strong melodic ability powers the group to swirling, often quite cerebral peaks.

Its bass player, Mike Kupeitz, is quite refreshingly non-funky.

He's not always slapping, popping and pretending to be Flea of the Red Hot Chili Peppers. Instead, he directs the rhythm section with meaty chops and fascinating uses of effects such as the Morley wah-wah which I heard him using at Orgiastic's most recent concert. He is also not afraid to lay down his own melodies when Hume plays rhythm.

Last and most percussive is the drummer of Orgiastic Bubble Plastic, Mike Wacks. Mike is an energetic and enthusiastic drummer whose spirit provides a superb, primal drive to the musical energies of the group. Watching Mike attack his set in concert is truly an experience. His musicianship, as with all of the others, is excellent.

Moreover, his abandonment on the drums is refreshing in the face of many drummers who would appear to be more concerned with looking cool and "in control" than with making music.

The second band about which I would like to make aware the Bard campus is Plum(b) Awful. Plum(b) Awful is comprised of guitarists Nathaniel "Iguana" Fackler and Michael "Second Eggplant" Stimac, and vocalist / harmonica player / ocarinist / bullhorn David "ZZYX" Steinberg. This band played two on-campus concerts last semester, introducing Bard to such favorites as its "Desert Song". Results were, to be perfectly honest, mixed. The group has neither bassist nor drummer and this gives the band a sound quite different from most any band

continued on page 8

Blum accepts NEA grant

by Kristan Hutchison

The Edith Blum Art Institute received two grants from the National Endowment for the Arts this year for exhibits. They accepted the grants, which meant signing the new obscenity condition which says, "Grant recipients, in order to receive funds, must agree that they will not use those grant funds to promote, disseminate or produce materials that are 'obscene' under the well-settled legal definition employed by the Supreme Court in *Miller v. California*."

About two dozen other organizations have refused their N.E.A. grant, formally objected to the new wording, or threatened to sue. Some have simply crossed out the offending section, signed, and sent in the notice, a response the N.E.A. would not accept. Performance artist Richard Elovich has promised to split his grant with the four artists whose grants were already refused.

Blum has regularly received

N.E.A. grants over the years. The grants do not amount to much money, usually only \$10,000 to \$35,000 a year. Each exhibit at the Blum costs at least \$25,000 to put on and they have an average of 4 a year. The rest of that money comes from private foundations and businesses, which is where N.E.A. grants become important. "For the most part support that [the N.E.A.] have given has been moral boosting," says Linda Weintraub, Director of the Blum Art Institute. "It sanctions that [art] project...fundraisers are more likely to be generous."

Blum is only allowed to submit four grant applications a year. Weintraub says that she will not submit any applications which might be refused on grounds of obscenity. She has always tried to submit applications the N.E.A. will support, such as new contemporary artists.

Though the Blum has had no trouble receiving grants, Weintraub is attempting to make it self-supporting. All Blum exhibits go on

tour after they end at Bard, bringing in \$6,000 to \$12,000 per tour. Blum also markets exhibition catalogues.

The new N.E.A. restrictions should not effect the selection of exhibits for the Blum gallery. "We want to do what hasn't done before, because we want to bring something new to the college and community," says Weintraub, who develops exhibits along with a board and members of the art department.

"We're in a fairly conservative community in the Hudson Valley and our job is to present works that interest that community. We try to be adventurous, but in general we're not," says Ann Gabler of the college grants office.

Even so, past Blum exhibits have brought negative response from visitors. Some people objected to an exhibit of ancient Greek statues of Heracles several years ago on grounds that it was



obscene. "There really were people who were upset by the fact that the gallery was full of nude men," said Weintraub.

Art as Social Conscious, an exhibit last year which overtly addressed social issues, offended viewers. Even though Weintraub had tried to present art from both perspectives on any issue, "people tended to be offended if the particular portrayal of an issue was not the same as their own."

"I can hardly conceive of an exhibit which would not offend someone at some time, and if it didn't it would be

so bland it could be criticized on those grounds," said Weintraub.

For Weintraub the issue is not censorship, but the role of government in funding the arts. "The N.E.A. isn't banning activities in museums, they are simply saying that they are not funding that. So the word censorship is being used inappropriately," she said. The question she presents is: should the government give money to people trained in the arts even though the average taxpayer doesn't approve of their work or should the money go only to what the average citizen approves of?

Food as Art

by Lisa Mareiniss

Art What Thou Eat is the exhibit in Edith C. Blum Art Institute which will be open to the Bard community from September 2-November 18, 1990. There are sixteen sections in all, with many distinct artists' works on display. Some of the sections were: Rituals for Victuals, Wonder Bread, Technology of Fruit, Eating Out, Dying to Eat, Fish Out Of Water and Fowl Play.

The art ranges from pop to impressionism to surrealism. Some of the artists include: Roy Lichtenstein, Levi Wells Prentice, Richard Artschwager, Edmond D. Hawthorne, Lily Martin Spencer, and Andy Warhol.

The different interpretations of everyday food were interesting to note. The Fish Out Of Water section alone brings questions to mind about how society has changed. In

comparing Acid Rain Brook Trout by Christy Rupp to Steelhead Salmon by Samuel Marsden Brookes, it is easy to observe how the environmental changes over a span of one hundred years has affected the art world significantly. The materials used in creating Acid Rain Brook Trout were cardboard and spraypaint while Steelhead Salmon was painted in traditional oils in 1890. The artists' diverse styles are quite evident and refreshing. A pretty picture is no longer the case; today many artists wish to make a social statement as well.

The *Art What Thou Eat* exhibit is an interesting mix of all types of art. Using mediums that ranged from charcoals to oils and spraypaints, the artists interpret food in different ways. For some artists food is scarce, for others it is abundant, for some it is rotting. For everyone it is essential.

Movies at Preston

Sunday, September 9th
--No shows

Monday, September 10
7 pm *The Big Sleep* by Howard Hawks

Tuesday, September 11
9pm *The Big Sleep* by Howard Hawks

Wednesday, September 12
7pm *Umberto D.* by Vittorio de Sica and Cesare Zavattini (1952)

Thursday, September 13
7 pm *Le Million* by Rene Clair (1931)

Friday, September 14
--No show

Saturday, September 15
--No show

Sunday September 16
--No show

Poem for the Week

By Eric Coates

Variations

- Morning heaves over the jags,
and the sky
is suffused by tints of an almost-scarlet,
as if washed from shards of a discarded cabernet
in streets where careless passers-by
had lingered.
let them drop,
and staggered on.
- The morning lurches,
waves across the sky
hands glinting like the cheeks of harlots
washed like sawdust from the closing cabarets
on brutal streets where carefree passers-by
malinger,
or stop,
but lastly straggle on.
- Morning hauls itself on the hills,
filling the sky
with the hint of a desperate scarlet,
as if washed from the palm of a disregarded memory,
in careless streets where passers-by
had watched him
drop
his cross then stagger on.

*The Bard Observer is now
printing weekly poems.
Submissions can be turned
in at the library
front desk.*

Return to the theater

by Gregory Donovan

A common complaint on the campus is that there is nothing to do. Bard seems to be out in the middle of nowhere. And, for the most part these complaints are warranted. But surprisingly enough the area around Bard is more active in the Arts (and entertainment) than one would think. Things are happening here, even though some of us might not be aware of them.

Take for example the decent amount of theater shows that are going on. With a little bit of planning on your part you could make reservations to go see a couple of plays. Going to a live performance might be a nice change in pace from the normal outing to the Hudson Valley Hoyt movie cinema, or the old Texas

dinner. True, going to see a play is more expensive than these other fabulous activities. Tickets usually cost about \$20.00, while movies run \$6.00. Then again a play might be a bit more provocative. Obviously I can not force you to go see a play. If you really want to see Die Hard 2 for the fourth time you will, but just listen to what the Theaters near Bard are presenting. Something might catch your eye:

At the Bearsville theater on September 8th at 8p.m. KOLMAR AND MELAMID is playing. These artists are from a Soviet Union exchange program. The Riverarts international festival which controls the Bearsville theater is an organization interested in presenting artists from different cultures to share work and their history with Bearville's audiences, in

belief that this ongoing dialogue of experiences will reduce the cultural barriers between countries. Right now the Soviet Theater Festival is being featured. Kolmar and Melamid are part of this festival. They will be presenting slides and stand-up comedy commenting on Soviet and American politics, the history of art, and their own lives. In addition they will try to express what contemporary Soviet life is like.

THE GROUP, also showing at the Bearsville theater on September 9th at 3p.m., is another Soviet festival performance. The GROUP is a play about three Soviet emigre women, from Los Angeles, on holiday meeting three Soviet women on an official delegation. There are conflicts when cultures and values collide, in this play "about the Russian soul under

perestroika, and the influence of the material west."

At the Bardavon Opera House on Friday Oct. 5th at 8p.m. ROMEO AND JULIET is playing. You know the play, but the neat thing about this theater is that if you go a half an hour before the performance, and there are seats available, you can get in with a student ID for five dollars. Not bad when the normal ticket price is nineteen dollars.

At the UPAC (Ulster Performing Arts Center) which opens on Oct. 5th features plays and performances. You can see anything from Neil Simon's Rumors (showing Nov. 19th) to the Salzberg String Quartet (performing Nov. 11th). The only thing about UPAC is that you should call ahead of time to make a confirmation because some of the shows are very popular and might get sold out.

These three theaters are a good representation of the kind of plays

and performances that are happening in the area. You might consider making plans to go see one of the above shows. If you are a Russian Major the Bearsville theater, located in Woodstock, with its Soviet Festival performances, should be right up your alley. Call 678-2100 for information.

Likewise, if you are in a Shakespeare class you might consider going to the Bardavon Opera House, located in Poughkeepsie, to see ROMEO AND JULIET. Call 473-2072 for information. And finally, if you are interested in classical music, or you are a music major, you might consider seeing the Salzberg Quartet at the UPAC, located in Kingston. Call 339-6088 for information. Whatever your preference, the play as an art form is worth experiencing, and is a nice break from the normal scene.

by Ann Dougherty



I came, I saw, I threw a gutterball

This is the first of a biweekly series of articles covering the off-campus athletic-slash-recreational activities that are available for students and faculty.

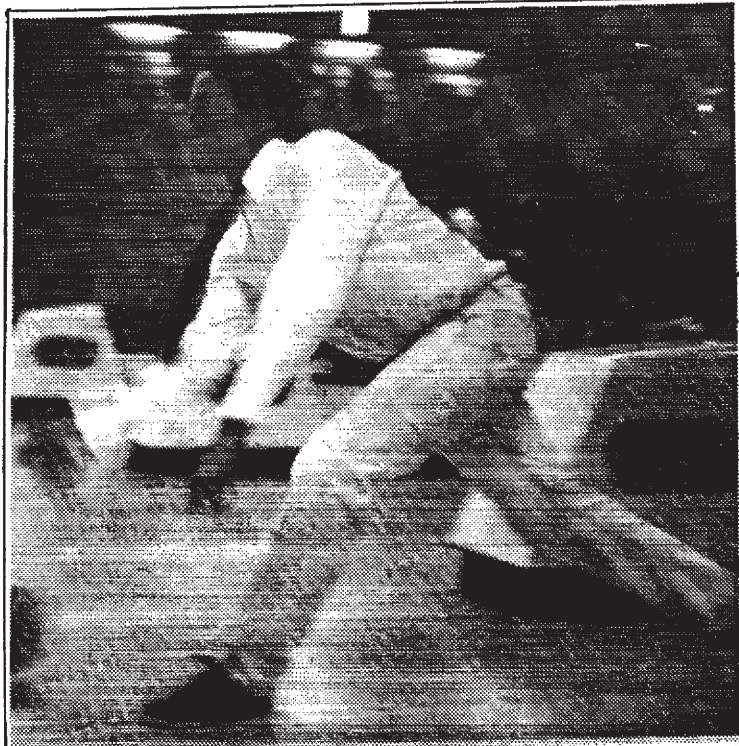
by Jody Apap

How many times has a Bard student passed 9-G Lanes with a packed parking lot and pretentiously thought "Boy, the red necks are bored tonight."

Well, after a careful study of the sociological conditions and interactions occurring at the local ten pin lanes, I have come to understand that there is more to bowling than townies, their ozone-destroying mall-babes and Genesee.

The results of the study were startling. Wearing tri-colored shoes while heaving a bright orange ball can lead to a good time— even for those who consider getting organic and staring at the wall recreational and inhaling deeply exercise.

As I entered the bowling alley I was immediately overwhelmed by the slick brightly polished lanes, the psychedelic bowling balls, and the polyester outfits sported by a group of the senior citizens on lane 17.



Senior Sports Editor Jody Apap relaxing at 9-G Lanes

I approached the desk to choose my shoes for the evening. I was styling in palered, dirty white, and some screwed up shade of green 10 1/2's. Only 75 cents for a night, how much for a week?

My friends and I then sauntered past the bar and pinball machines to lane 12. I couldn't help thinking, "Could this be that fateful night I throw the highly revered 300 game?"

I laced my shoes up, and was looking for purplest ball I could find when I noticed that this alley didn't quite have any solid normal colors, the carpet was kind of green and orange,

the walls were kind of brown with a hint of green, the black balls were kind of grayish green, the blue balls were kind of brownish green, and my shoes...well, my shoes.

I entered the lane and was lining up to begin my heroic attempt at perfection, "Third arrow on the right to the fifth arrow, twist the wrist, kick the leg, slide to the line, oh screw it!" I took a couple of hop steps and released. Well, the ball released and I watched it as if in slow motion, spinning on the slicked floor, the ball went straight as an arrow. Ch-chunk, whirr-whirr.

Okay, so much for 300 this game, but if I pull off the spare I can still roll a 280.

Two hours and a couple Gennys later we were well into our third game when I realized that I was on my way to 300. As my turn neared in the second frame my hand became sweaty as tension wreaked havoc on my body. Finally I approached, released, and well, you can read about it in Sports Illustrated.

Next week, golf. Until then I'm off to find my checkered shorts.

Freshman Goalie Chris Waddell stopping a shot during Bard's scrimmage against Simon's Rock on Thursday.



This Week in Sports

Friday 9/7

Saturday 9/8

2:00 p.m. Men's Varsity Soccer at Dominican College

Sunday 9/10

3:30 p.m. Women's Varsity Tennis at Marist College

Monday 9/11

6:00 p.m. Intramural Team Registration and Roster Card pick up for:
Flag Football
Ultimate Frisbee
3 on 3 Outdoor Volleyball
Bowling

Tuesday 9/12

7:00 p.m. Women's Varsity Volleyball at King's College
7:00 p.m. Men's Varsity Soccer at Steven's Tech

Wednesday 9/13

4:00 p.m. Women's Varsity Soccer vs Albany Pharmacy HOME
8:30 Open Volleyball at Stevenson Gymnasium

Thursday 9/14

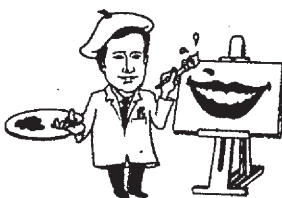
Registration
for Fall
Intramurals
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Grad school night to be held in student Center

by Emily Horowitz

Bard's first Graduate and Professional School Night will be held in the Student Center on Wednesday, September 12, from 7pm-9pm. Representatives from 25-30 schools will be present.

This is, according to Harriet Schwartz, director of Career Development, "the first time Bard has had something like this. This is a good opportunity for students to meet with graduate and professional school recruiters on campus."

In past years, Schwartz noted, Bard students had to go to Vassar or SUNY/New Paltz to meet representatives from graduate schools. This year, Schwartz met with the organizers of the Vassar and SUNY/New Paltz programs in order to plan the Bard night. The three schools coordinated their programs so they

would all meet during a two-day period. This way, since the representatives could visit three schools in one area, a greater number of schools were willing to attend.

There will be a wide range of programs represented. In addition to graduate programs in the humanities, arts, science and health programs will be represented. A number of law schools will be there as well. All seniors are encouraged to attend, and it will also be a useful experience for underclassmen unsure about their post-collegiate plans.

Among the schools to be represented are:

Pratt Institute
Bard MFA
Baruch College
Cal Inst. of the Arts
Adelphi University
Sarah Lawrence

N.E. College of Optometry
CUNY
Vermont Law School
Brooklyn Law School
University of Bridgeport Law School

Farleigh Dickinson
NYU-Gallatin Division
New York College of Podiatric Medicine

Pace University Law School
Bard MSES
Carsdozo Law School
Fordham University
Boston University Law School
Simmons College
Emerson College
Touro Law School
University of Dayton Law School
NYU Education, Health, Nursing and Arts
St. John's Law School
Northeastern University School of Business Administration

Reid resigns

continued from page 1

"outpouring of student support" for him, said Professor Nancy Leonard, a member of the faculty who is close to Reid.

Reid was then given a two-year appointment as a Hewlett Mellon Fellow upon recommendation from the faculties of the L&L Division and the Arts Division. The appointment was to be for two years, beginning this semester. According to Dean of the College Stuart Levine, "student letters *did* play a role" in Reid's rehiring last year.

This semester, Reid was scheduled to teach an English I class on *The Ring and the Book* by Robert Browning and two sections of Freshman Seminar. When Levine learned that Reid would not be teaching this semester, he arranged for others to cover his classes. Professor Clark Rodewald will cover the English I class and Professor Chuck Stein will take one of the Freshman Seminar classes. In addition, a PhD candidate from Columbia University named Catherine Carabelleira has been hired for one semester to take the second Freshman Seminar class.

Reid will be sorely missed by faculty, students, and administrators alike.

"Many of us have a high degree of respect for his competence and his kindness," said Leonard. Levine agreed, characterizing him as "a young man of great scholarly depth. I liked him from the moment I met him."

Comments from students were equally supportive. Reid received consistently high marks from students on end-of-semester evaluation forms, and almost everyone who has taken a class with him describes him as a kind, insightful, and brilliant teacher. "He is the reason I became a Lit major," said junior Keightie Sherrerd.

Kline

continued from page 2

The entrance to the new dishroom is hidden by a wall, to remove it from the main corridor.

Since Wood came in last spring, said Rogers, it has eliminated more than two-thirds of the original staff, mainly because "we were not happy with their performance." All the new cooks are recent graduates of

the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park.

Landon June, one of the new chefs, was hired about three weeks ago. He graduated from the CIA in 1987, and has worked at a Cajun restaurant for the past three years. He was a cook in the armed services for six years before that, so he "has experience with quantity cooking."

June said that working conditions were still difficult with the construction in progress, but that things were "getting better by the day."

Dead goats love to dine in Kline



Bands

continued from page 5

of which I can think.

Fackler's style ranges from bluegrass to classical with much strange ground covered in between. He is not Eddie VanHalen; he is not Slash; he is an iguana.

Stimac's reverbed, rhythmic style provides the hypnotic underpinnings for the band's flowing, throbbing melodies.

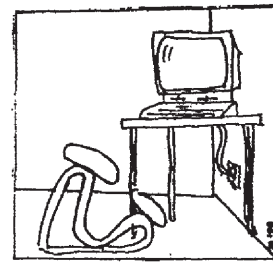
Steinberg's rantings are the twisted child of calculus, the Grateful Dead, and a tortured childhood. Seeing him rolling around on the floor, screeching in completely disjointed sentences is a religious experience.

Neither of these bands is to be missed.

Classifieds & Personals

Metropolitan Opera Tickets for sale: 4 tickets for Der Rosenkavalier by Richard Strauss, with James Levine, Lott, von Otter, Bonney, Olsen, Hornik, Haugland - Saturday Evening, September 29, 7:00 PM. These are subscription Balcony Bo seats, side view but excellent. \$20.00 each, sold by pairs only. Call 758-8497 after 6:00 PM or bq.118 campus mail.

This is Mr. Abbot. Reach me at 178 Bowen Street, Apt. 2/ Providence, RI 02906



Personals

Nerd Herd: Who says that I keep no promises? See, I send you the fruits of my labors and write you a personal that will leave all Bard in wonder - who is the Nerd Herd. Ha, they can only guess. I think of

you all during late night layouts of death o yes. Hope the party is all it's wrapped up to be! Pat, Joe, Sarah, Eric: hugs, kisses, and Nerd Herd slaps to all.

--the Sheriff's Daughter

To all of those nice folks at Security: Thank you for helping me, for driving me, for providing me with assistance in obtaining medical supplies, and for just being nice. My life is richer and more mobile for knowing you.

--The Observer News Cripple

zb, have another slice of Arcuturan Mega-Donkey at Milliways...but you'd better meet the meat first! -fp

Beware of demons bearing tabloids

- with much respect,
TOTOA

Sure, even Hitler had easier deadlines, but his results weren't any good.

-A. B. Zuss

P.S. Add Michael Lewis and Elaine Sproat to the Pantheon.

This sounds suspiciously like Albanian communism.

**STOP THE PRESSES!
I WANT TO GET OFF!**

AOK.

Chase

continued from page 1

"immature" while at Bard, and, because Bard did not force him to work, he didn't. He did learn what he considers to be the most valuable lesson of undergraduate education at Bard - "how to organize my life."

The setting of Bard, Chase noted, is part of what makes it special. "On the Hudson, it is so beautiful and peaceful. I think it really affects the students." Chase grew up in Woodstock, and loves the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley area. "Bard really encourages students to grow and learn, and to find a sense of self, and I think the setting has a lot to do with it," said Chase.

Chase has great respect and affection for Bard. "It promotes a kind of thinking about being part of the world." Bard, Chase believes, is a kind of "microcosm" of the world. "Perhaps is more a microcosm of the Village than Park Avenue..." The uniqueness of Bard, for Chase, was that "it taught me values. It allowed me to have faults, and to test the

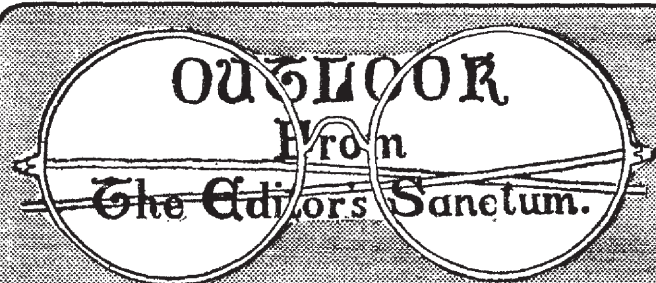
water. It prepared me for life. Bard gave me a chance."

An important issue is Chase's personal life is the environment. A "RECYCLE" sticker graces the bumper of his convertible BMW. "My family has had compost heaps since the 50s." He sees the environment as one of the most important issues of the coming decade.

Chase feels that students bring their values to Bard. "Bard is a progressive school, but only because students make it that way." For example, Chase came to Bard as a "liberal Democrat" and remains one today. "My father is practically a socialist," he noted.

When asked if he thought current Bard students seemed different than those of his day, Chase replied, unequivocally, "No." He believes that "all students are the same, at Bard or any other college. The late teens and early 20s is a confusing time for everyone."

To Bard students, Chase encourages, "Life is short. Don't take it too seriously." His philosophy on life is simple. "Have fun!"



Improved, but imperfect

It is no longer necessary to undergo the Twelve Labors of Hercules in order to buy textbooks at Bard. The two- or three-hour tradition has given way to a new, 20- or 30-minute one. This is thanks to the new owners of the bookstore, Barnes & Noble.

Gone is the chalkboard outside (all a student needs to know now is the professor's name and the course number; the books are in there waiting). The long line stretching to the computer center entrance has been shortened to five people at the cash register. Rather than waiting for a bookstore employee to find books for them, students walk in, find their own books, and pay for them. Any wait there might be is made pleasant by the renovated interior's new decor and [what feels like] air-conditioning.

Students can still charge on Bard ID's, write checks, or pay with good old-fashioned cash, but now they can "Master the Possibilities" as well. Barnes & Noble accepts major credit cards. In addition, Barnes & Noble has minimized the impact of textbook purchases on students' pocketbooks. Included in several of the stacks are used textbooks in both hard and soft covers. Another cost-reducing aspect is the increased difficulty the bookstore now poses to would-be shoplifters. Students must leave their bags at the door (while this was nominally the rule last year, it was rarely enforced), and the store has increased the number of workers on duty during peak hours. With fewer losses to cover, the store should be able to keep prices down.

In addition, realizing the extra demands that students must make upon the campus bookstore at this time of year, Barnes & Noble has instituted extended hours during the peak textbook-purchasing weeks at the beginning of the semester. They were even open on Saturday.

However, there are still a few flaws in the system. Students enrolled in a class may find the shelves empty of the most interesting titles. Other students, who are not enrolled in the classes for which the books were ordered, pick them up for recreational reading. But is this a flaw in the organization of the bookstore, or in the character of its patrons? The bookstore currently does not require proof of class enrollment to buy books and should not need to. We should think before we snatch a neat-sounding anthropology text from a shelf obviously designated for a specific class. Just delay the purchase of any textbooks for recreational reading a week or so, so that those who must have the first ten chapters read by Monday have a chance to buy the book. Or better still, consult the bookstore's new section devoted solely to recreational reading!

Another problem with the new store concerns the addition of a rack of posters to its inventory, that do not seem entirely appropriate for sale at this college. While we heartily advocate their right to sell, and students' right to buy, posters depicting scantily clad women and men extolling the virtues of extra-curricular activities, we feel that the decision to make them available at the Bard College bookstore was in poor taste. The posters advertise an "Animal House" stereotype of college life that does not apply here. Barnes & Noble should have researched the atmosphere and concerns of Bard College more thoroughly before offering posters that belittle or degrade human beings. To sell posters that treat men and women as sex objects on a campus with a student body that takes pride in its social conscience, in its atypical college mentality, and in its sizable feminist population (composed of both men and women) is an insult to the college's students. Why alienate patrons in this fashion?

It is patently obvious that the bookstore's new owners took great care in evaluating and streamlining the system through which students purchase textbooks, but it is equally obvious that Barnes & Noble gave less thought to the personality of the school which they would be serving when determining their inventory. Their management skills are laudable, but they must remember that they are here to serve a unique community.

Observations

A call for restraint

by Jason Van Driesche

From Gilgamesh to the Book of Job, the college has added many books to the Freshman Seminar syllabus that were not written by Herotodus or any of his fellow Grecians (whose works made up the bulk of the old curriculum). The perspective of the course broadened over the summer, keeping some of the Greek works but adding writings from the ancient Hebrew, Mesopotamian, and Egyptian cultures as well.

These changes are welcome, but they were hardly unexpected. According to Professor Bill Mullen, who heads the fall program, the debate over implementation and content of a multicultural education has been raging across the nation for several years. Most colleges are in the process of designing some kind of a multicultural requirement. At Berkeley, where there have been no required courses since the early seventies, students must now take one of approximately thirty courses designated as part of the American Cultures program. Each course must cover some aspect of at least three of the five major American cultures: African-American, Asian-American, Latino-American, Native American, and Caucasian-American.

The new curriculum for Freshman Seminar was adopted after a long process of debate among Bard faculty members who are involved in Freshman Seminar. The group debated whether to include Chinese, Near Eastern, and Indian works along with a smaller selection of Greek works. They also considered going to what Mullen calls a "Peoples and Books" format, in which one book or body of utterance with respect to which a people defined itself would be chosen from the Greek, Israeli, Roman, African, and Mesopotamian cultures.

However, the faculty involved voted to limit themselves to the Mediterranean basin cultures now represented on the shelves of the bookstore. Many felt they were not qualified to teach works from cultures so different from their own. Even if they had been qualified, said Mullen, they recognized the "danger of spreading yourself too thin" in a survey course such as Freshman Seminar.

This danger is present in all aspects of a multicultural education. There are thousands of cultures in the world, each of which is deserving of study. To cover them all in a one semester course would be impossible. To do justice to even a small representative sample of the world's major cultures would require far more than four months.

As college students we must make choices about what we are going to study. No one can be a student of everything. While we have the right to choose any culture to study, neither our teachers nor our fellow students have the right to ask us to be students of all cultures and all disciplines.

While it is a good idea to require that all students learn something about cultures other than their own, it would be a mistake to require them to learn only a smattering about many cultures. Appreciation and understanding of another culture comes only through in-depth study. While the college should offer courses in many cultures so as to allow students to choose their field of study, it is far better to be able to converse freely, whether it be in the tongue of one other people or in the culture of a limited area, than to be able only to pay lip service to many cultures.

The changes in the Freshman Seminar curriculum have improved and strengthened the program considerably. However, they are enough. Any further expansion of the curriculum would only weaken Freshman Seminar, at the expense of all the cultures covered.

Improve the timing, too

A gently sloping ramp was blacktopped onto the incline leading to Olin on registration day. After years of complaints about the inadequate handicapped facilities it was about time some action was taken.

But their timing was still off. While the contractors ripped and roared and blocked the entrance, 950 students plus faculty and administration tried to get in and out of Olin for registration, and B & G and the personnel of the computer center tried to transfer equipment and furniture to the center's new home in Sottery. While machines marked off the entire road as their territory, arriving students tried to find parking places.

Ironically, while the contractor built a ramp to help the handicapped the machines and trucks blocked the pick up of an injured woman needing to be taken to the doctor. She had to hobble and dodge to meet the car.

I'm glad to see handicapped access put in and I hope better access will be provided across campus. The college is finally doing the right thing, they just have to improve the timing.

The Bard Observer

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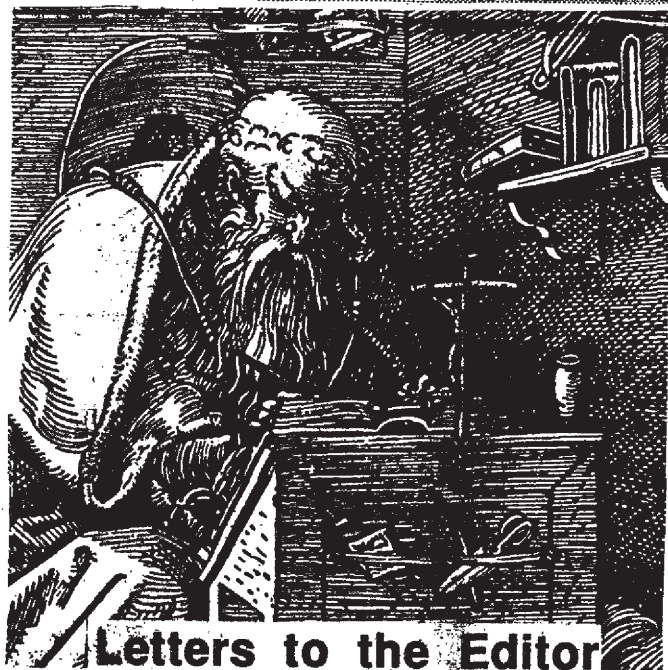
Public Relations Director
Jeung-Hee Khang

The Bard Observer is published every Thursday 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 editorial board and not necessarily of the Observer staff. Letters to the Editor must 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 Friday a week before the publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit for style and space.

Classifieds: \$.25 for Bardians, \$ 5 for all others. Personals are free. Display ads: Contact the advertising manager.

Bard College
Annandale, NY 12504
(914) 758-0772



What have you done with her paintings?

To the editor:

At the end of last semester, my friend Andrea Breth placed a number of paintings in storage in the basement of Tewksbury. Those paintings were done by her late grandmother, the Adele Breth, a local artist of some prominence, whose work appeared in a special exhibition in the lobby of Olin auditorium in the fall of 1988. She asked our friend Kim Moore and I to keep an eye on them this semester while she is studying abroad in France.

I returned to Bard early to work on the newspaper, and when I arrived at my temporary housing in Tewksbury, I found what looked suspiciously like one of Adele's self-portraits adorning one of the walls. Since then, Kim and I have found another of these in Rovere. One of the paintings was marred before we could recover it.

I am writing this letter to request a bit of information from the Bard community. Anyone who knows the score on this situation is earnestly requested to contact me, because I don't know who is responsible, or how what I am about to relate has taken place.

Were these removed and used with Andrea's permission? She is beyond our reach to ask, but I rather doubt that they were. Are there more such paintings around campus that Kim and I haven't seen yet? How the hell did this happen? These are cherished personal possessions that someone else has co-opted for mere decoration!

If this was done with Andrea's permission, then I apologize. If it has, please let me know, as it may be a while before I can contact her. But if it wasn't, then there is something rotten in the state of Bard College when such special paintings can be simply removed from what should be a reasonably secure area and used at whim. We would appreciate any information that anyone has on this incident. If you know anything about what happened here, please call me at 758-4514, or leave a message in the Observer office at 758-0772. Please, if you do know something about this, let us know!

Sincerely,
Keightie Sherrod

Brighten up

Dear Editor,

Funny thing, when the sun goes down it gets dark. And Annandale Road gets dark too. So dark that people wearing dark colored clothing blend right into the night and are invisible to drivers until the headlights shine in their frightened eyes and screeching tires mix with crunching bone.

Actually its not funny at all and it almost happened to me last night. I hope the girl I nearly ran over was as upset as I was. Upset enough to begin wearing light colors at night, or carrying a flashlight, or even wearing reflectors.

Remember in kindergarten when you were taught to walk in pairs, holding hands, and facing traffic. You don't have to walk in pairs holding hands, unless you're in the mood, but please, please, walk on the left side of the road facing traffic. Then if the driver doesn't see you at least you see the car and can dive into the bushes.

Thank you,
Kris Hutchison

\$4,104 raised

To All Bard Faculty and Staff,
I am pleased to announce that the first ever faculty/staff annual fund campaign was a success. By working together, members of the Bard community raised \$4,104 for the College. The dedication shown by so many of you makes Bard a special place. For all of you who contributed, thanks for making this a success.

Sincerely,

Pat Prunty
Associate Director of Major Gifts

Memo style rebuked

Dear Shelley Morgan and Dorothy Crane,

The memo informing the Bard Community of Ann Dougherty's death was undignified, tacky and appalling. The first and the last paragraph were fine, I suppose, but to include the middle paragraph was like announcing the burial arrangements of someone and also including the the method of cremating/embalming the body and instructions for digging the grave. A better way of presenting the information in the second paragraph would have been in a separate memo or perhaps more subtly presented in the Bard Observer (as when another Bard community member's son died). Most people, Ann included, know that suicide is not a normal ("premature"? when, in your view, does it become "mature"? way out in this

society.

I hope that in the future a situation like this is dealt with differently and I do hope Ann does not become some sort of cause or example; it would have made her absolutely paranoid.

Sincerely,

A Member of the Bard Community

Bard Music?

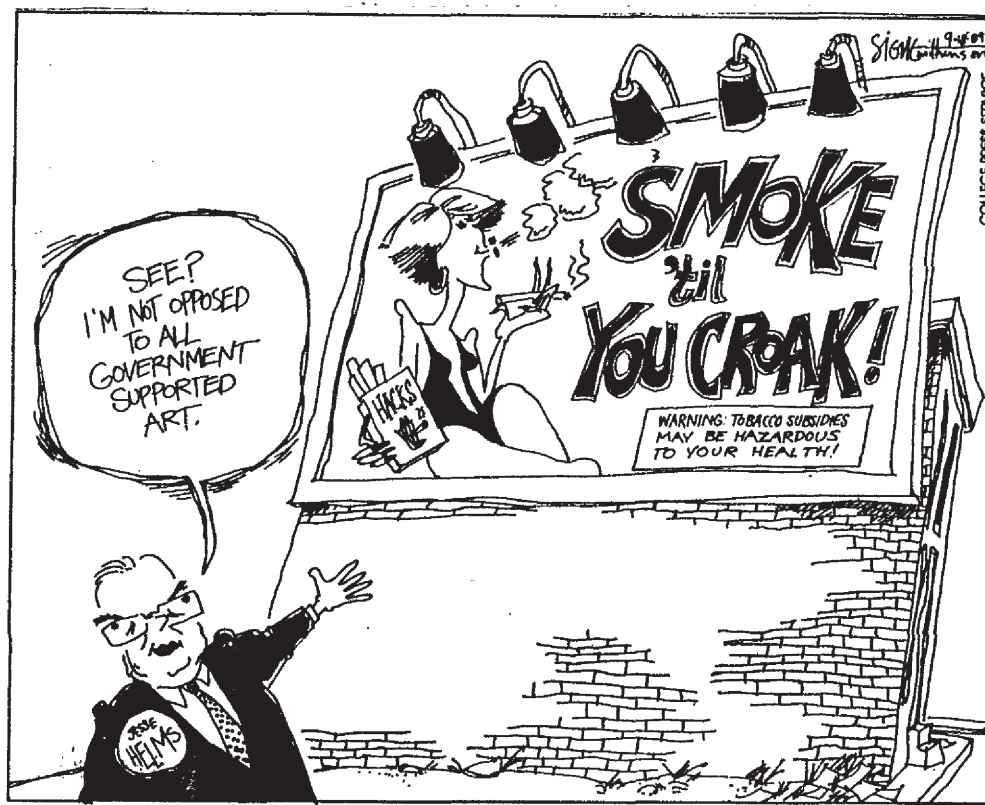
Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to Sol Pittenger's article, "Bard Music," in the last issue of the *Observer*. As someone who has been appalled at the state of Bard's self-indulgent campus bands, I think Sol's commentary on the state of the college's student music was narrow-minded and self-serving. A full page spread and all Sol managed to squeeze into 1,500 words were adulations of 101 Proof, Vic Vegas and His Undertakers, and, of all people, 1973. What about A.D.? What about The Drew and Suzie Band? What about Velcro Dildo? What about Black Dhalia? An incomplete list to say the least! I've never heard of 101 Proof or Vic Vegas, and I doubt I'll be seeing them much in the future. As for his adulation for 1973, I have to say I disagree. 1973 is neither "promising" nor "a much needed redefinition of rock music and rock society." At its best, 1973 is a "college" band that relies more on fashioning new "imagery," read "gimmicks," than actually practicing with instruments in hand. Hey, I'm no Grateful Dead fan (far from it), but at least Onan's Wet Suit could play. I know that the above seems

harsh, and I'm willing to suffer the consequences for voicing my opinions, but, as an aspiring musician, I'm tired of seeing Bard bands getting by on attitude and nothing else. This reminds me of a discussion I had with a painter's son: he was of the opinion that art has value even when devoid of conventional definitions of "talent." What matters are the intentions of the artist and the points he or she is trying to make. I have nothing against this; without pushing out the limits of one's art, the world would consist of nothing but Norman Rockwells and New Kids. However, if you've ever gone to a 1973 show, besides the Barry Manilow busts and "live Jiffy Pop," you'll notice one thing: the audience sitting down. The ability to lay down a groove, articulate, yet charged with the energy of a musician who is able to put his or her all into a hunk of wood or metal, the link unobscured by problems of translation. I'm not just talking funk or crotch-rock; take Rare Air for example. A "fusion" band composed of two bagpiper/key-boardist/flautists, a guitar/bassist, and a drummer, playing an amalgam of folk-jazz-highland fling-new age, and by the end of the night, they had most of Bard College on the dance floor. Bands like Drew and Suzie, Velcro Dildo, and A.D. have it, too. In my opinion, 1973 does not. C'mon Sol, let's give credit where credit is due.

Kill me if you want,
Mark Delsing

P.S.- Where's Tackhead and 24-7 Spyz when you need 'em?



BARD COLLEGE SEPTEMBER 8 TO 14, 1990

WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Sponsored By The Dean of Students

Art History Dept. Lecture:

A lecture entitled *Michelangelo Rediscovered: The Cleaning of Michelangelo's Frescoes in the Sistine Chapel* will be given on Wednesday, September 26 at 6:00 PM in Olin 102. The lecture will be given by Dr. Walter Persegati, the International Coordinator of the Patrons and Friends of the Vatican Museum.

College/Community Chorus:

The Bard College/Community Chorus is always open to everyone in the community. No Auditions of music reading skills are necessary; only the desire to sing. The chorus will begin rehearsing on September 6 at 7:00 PM in Bard Hall. For more information please contact Megan Hastie in Campus Mail Box 23.

Introductory Yoga:

An introductory course in Yoga will be taught on Thursday nights, 6-7:30 PM in Olin Room 205 starting September 13. The course is intended for Students, Faculty, Staff, and their families. The participant approaches Yoga through the basic poses and stretched. Each session ends with deep relaxation. The emphasis will be on concentration, correct breathing, and stress reduction. The main benefits will be improved body awareness and flexibility. The course is taught by Ben Vromen, who has been teaching it at Bard since 1985. He studied Yoga for many years and received teacher training at the Kripalu Yoga Center in Stockbridge MA. The fee is \$20.00 for 8 sessions. Please contact Ben Vromen at Campus Mail Box 118.

Science Lecture:

As part of the distinguished Scientist Lecture Series Biologist Sidney Altman of Yale University will speak on *Understanding Life in the Laboratory*. September 8 at 2:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium.

An Evening of Violin and Piano:

Dan Rains and Faye McCready will perform works by Brahms, Telemann, Wieniawski and others at 7:30 PM in the Chapel.

Forum Meeting:

Budget Ratification will be held on Monday, Sept 10 at 8:00 PM in Kline Commons.

Calendar of Events

Saturday 8	Sunday 9	Monday 10	Tuesday 11	Wednesday 12	Thursday 13	Friday 14
Morning Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, & Rhinebeck 5:45 — 10:30 PM trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston 7:00 PM Scottish Country Dancing Stevenson Gym	5:30 PM Discussion on Black-Jewish Relations Committee Room 6:00 PM Ecumenical Worship Service Chapel 7:00 PM AA Aspinwall 302 7:19, 8:20, & 9:30 PM Van meets trains at Rhinecliff station 7:43 PM Van meets train at Poughkeepsie station	7:00 PM <i>Observer</i> Features staff meeting Aspinwall 3rd floor	Women's Center meeting 6:00 PM <i>Observer</i> News staff meeting Kline 7:00 PM <i>Observer</i> Arts staff meeting Preston 127 8:00 PM <i>Observer</i> Photo staff meeting Albee lounge	7:00 PM Al-Anon Aspinwall 302	7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous	4:51 PM, 7:36 PM, & 9:11 PM Bard vans to Rhinecliff train station 5:00 PM General deadline for submissions to <i>The Bard Observer</i> 7:13 PM Bard van to Poughkeepsie train station 12:00 NOON Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering the 15 to the 21st of September in the Dean of Students office