

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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Bard
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& Sports Weekly

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**Q: How MANY BARD OBSERVER READERS
does it TAKE TO SCREW IN A lightbulb?**

A: Both — ANONYMOUS OBSERVER FLUNKIE

Committee created to revise Student Judiciary Board guidelines

by Kristan Hutchison

A board of six students was established Tuesday to assist the Student Judiciary Board (SJB) in updating their guidelines in response to the recent controversy over voting and confidentiality. The short meeting of the Student Forum on March 19, 1991 was called specifically to create such a resolution.

The SJB was officially suspended a day prior to the forum meeting in a memo sent to Amy Rogers, Student Chair of the SJB, by Dean of Students Shelley

Morgan. Morgan was relaying a decision made by President Leon Botstein and Dean Stuart Levine, according to Lisa Sanger, Secretary to the Student Association.

According to the memo from Morgan, the privileges of the SJB to hear cases have been suspended until April 26 "pending the resolution of two major issues. These issues relate to a confidentiality statement and the unanimous vote question in cases of suspension and expulsion." Until the April 26 deadline Morgan will decide all cases that would regularly come before the SJB, since they normally

act only with power invested in their board by the Dean of Students.

The resolution passed at the Tuesday Forum established a board of six students which will meet once a week with the SJB to review and revise its established guidelines. They will offer their recommendations by April 26 as well, at which point the recommendations must be accepted by the Student Forum and Levine, Papadimitriou, and Botstein for the SJB to regain its decision-making status.

As passed, the resolution in-

cluded three friendly amendments. The first, presented by Jeff Bolden, added the line "In passing this resolution the Forum in no way supports the actions of the Administration in suspending the powers of the SJB. The SJB is and remains a committee of the student association."

The other amendments confirmed that the SJB guidelines are a part of the Student Association Constitution and that the new committee is temporary.

Elected to the committee were Jeff Bolden, Olivier te Boekhorst, Melissa Cahoon, Rafe Greco, Dave Rolf, and Lisa Sanger.

In the same meeting the following announcements and actions were made:

- The referendum to raise activities fees \$30 a year was supported 596 for to 91 against, said Sanger. The Board of Trustees are expected to make the final decision on March 27. Students may write Papadimitriou before then.

- A tuition raise for next year which will outpace inflation was announced at the most recent faculty meeting, according to Gavin Milczarek, EPC Chair.

- The outer doors of dorms will be locked in the future, Botstein decided, but details of when, how, and who will have access are being left for discussion in the Student Life Committee, according to te Boekhorst.

- Jeff Bolden was selected as a Math and Science Division representative to the Educational Planning Committee (EPC).

- The Central Committee has begun to monitor the uses of the Dean of Students activity fund to see that is spent on appropriate events, said David Miller.

The next regularly scheduled Student Forum meeting will be on the first Tuesday after Spring Break, April 2, and agendas will be posted before that date.

Vandals strike in Kline lot

by Tom Hickerson

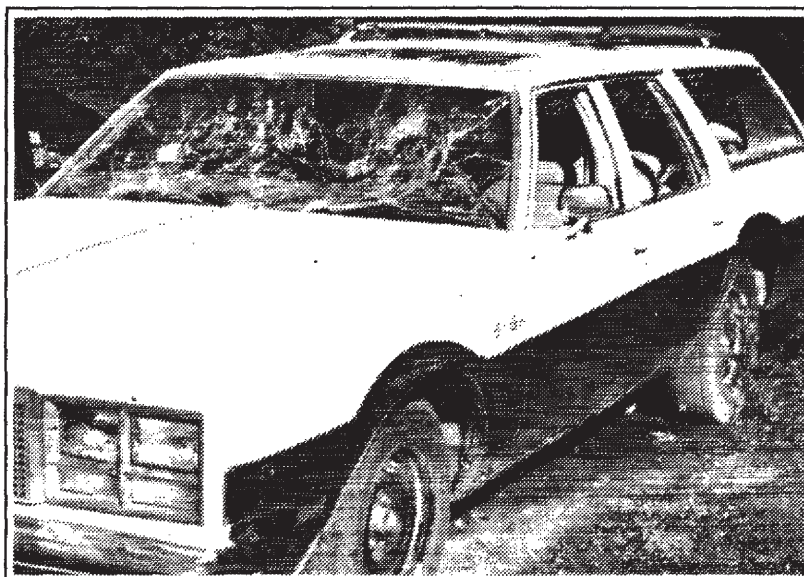
Between the hours of 3:00 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, March 16, two cars were seriously vandalized in the Kline Commons parking lot. One car was stolen from the lot and found by local authorities in the Red Hook area, while the stereo was taken from the other car. Both Security and the local authorities are looking into the case.

The car that was stolen and recovered was a beige 1984 Nissan Sentra wagon, owned by sophomore Cathy Collins. Collins had left the vehicle

in the lot for a member of the Student Mechanics Open Garage to repair, and the SMOG member could not find the vehicle. He reported it to Security at 10:30 a.m.

The second vehicle that was vandalized was a 1979 Volvo which had its left rear window smashed, its interior ripped apart and its stereo stolen. The vandalism was reported at 4:45 p.m.

An officer from the Rhinebeck police department arrived on



Car vandalism is nothing new at Bard. This photo was taken last spring.

campus at 1:00 p.m. to talk with Collins. According to Collins, the department had already found a car matching her description in the Red Hook area. Later that evening, the officer called Collins and verified that it was her car that was found.

"The car had all the glass broken out of it," said Collins. According to the description given to her from the officer, the car also had its steering console ripped

out and there was a great deal of trash strewn about the inside. Several maps and drawings for an art class that were inside the car were also taken.

"Whoever these people are, they're wise to the fact that once the security vehicles patrol the lot, they don't come back [for a long time] since they have to patrol the entire campus," said Security Director Bob Boyce. Boyce

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What do Bard, Harvard & Kenya have in common?

by Yasmin Forlenza and
Charlie Williams

"Excuse me, is this the Political and Security Committee?"

"No, Special Political."

"Oh, but isn't the Political and Security Committee next to the Commission on Human Rights, in the Grand Ballroom?"

"No, it's next to Social, Human and Cultural, in the Conference Room."

...

"Excuse me, is this Special Political?"

"Yes."

"Great, where are you from?"

"UPenn."

"No, no, what country are you representing?"

"Israel, how about you, where are you from?"

"Kenya."

"No, I mean which school?"

"Bard."

"So, tell me, what is your position on resolution #3? Do you think that the developing nations are in accordance with the verification measures on chemical weapons? Better yet, would you be willing to recognize us as a nation?"

"Wait..."

These are two of the many conversations a delegate might overhear at the Harvard Model United Nations held annually in Boston. After driving for what seemed years, elegantly crammed into one van with thirty pieces of luggage, Bard's twenty delegates arrived at the Sheraton in style. We had been sent to represent Kenya. The lobby scene was reminiscent of one thousand hungry ants scavenging for one bread crumb. Over one hundred colleges, with as many as sixty delegates each, crowded the reception area while waiting for their room assignments.

The delegates got to their rooms in time to change into their cos-



The Bard delegation to the Harvard MUN represented Kenya.

tumes and their new personalities before attending the opening ceremonies. The men from Harvard, Yale, and The University of Chicago, just to name a few, resembled Wall Street traders, complete with red suspenders. The women were equally impressive, looking like they just stepped out of a Sak's Fifth Avenue display case.

The Secretary General of the Harvard Model United Nations opened the 37th annual Harvard M.U.N. and the race for diplomacy began. "What I was able to realize is that everybody played their part so perfectly... the conversations carried among the delegates inside and outside the conference rooms were serious," commented Razi Abdur-Rahman, Bard's delegate for the Commission on Crime Prevention and Control. "They obviously looked like they knew what they were doing," said Bonnie Gilman, a faculty advisor to the group.

The delegates had perfected their speech-making and resolution-writing skills in advance in order to be prepared for the event. Bard's M.U.N. club directors wanted to make sure that we were

all ready for Harvard, as most of the delegates were new and many did not have experience participating in major conferences. The preparation paid off with a good over-all performance for Bard and

an Honorable Mention awarded to Jitesh Ludwa.

The M.U.N. club was able to participate at the Harvard M.U.N. thanks to the generosity of the Political Studies department. Also

Career Day a success

by Jonathan Englert

On March 9, the Career Development Office sponsored Bard's second annual Career Day in Olin. Over 20 alumni and 40 to 45 students participated in the program. The alumni represented fields ranging from teaching to international affairs.

Some of the alumni, such as Julie Carter '90, had only recently graduated, and consequently were better able to describe the daunting transition from academia to their current work. Other participants, like Howard Good, '73, and Peter McQuaid, '82, already established in their chosen careers, were able to relate how they had pursued their careers and what choices they had made in the years after their

graduation from Bard.

Harriet Schwartz, Director of Career Development, said of the event, "the students who attended seemed to get a lot out of it. Some came away with a sense of what options there are after college, while others got specific leads on internships and other opportunities." She felt that the alumni enjoyed it as well, even though some were disappointed that more students did not come.

Schwartz noted that this year's

Bard musical scholar wins grant

by Christie Searing

Michael Van Der Linn, a Bard junior, was the recipient of one of 136 \$2200 Younger Scholar awards sponsored by the National Endowment for the Humanities

invaluable was the aid of Michael Lewis and Bonnie Gilman, our faculty advisors who are well acquainted with United Nations simulations due to their own participation while in college. The Club is mainly funded through the Student Convocation Fund, and this year's budget strain resulted in a cut to many programs, including M.U.N. Luckily, with the help of many dedicated supporters, the Model United Nations Club was able to raise funds in order to attend this very important national conference.

Meanwhile, after two weeks back at Bard, the delegates continue to eat together and converse using the official rules of procedure to stay prepared for future conferences. Of course, the rules of procedure listed in the Harvard M.U.N. guide sound strange when applied to, for example, someone's waffles as opposed to someone's politics. ☞

attendance was down from last year's Career Day, when about 60 students attended. Nevertheless, she felt that it was worth it, because the students who did attend seemed to benefit from it.

"The best part about Career Day, though," said one student who participated, "was getting a chance to talk to a lot of Bard alumni, and see how their experience at Bard worked for them when they went out into the real world." ☞

to pursue research in the summer. Van Der Linn will be working on a project entitled "On Stravinsky: The CBS Recordings" with help from adviser Fred Hammend.

There were altogether 823 applicants from across the country for this "very prestigious award," as Elaine Sproat put it. She encouraged juniors to apply last semester, and was delighted that someone from Bard won. "It represents a fine effort on his part," Sproat said. Given the number of students that usually apply, the odds against winning were five to one.

Van Der Linn, who describes himself as a "cultural history major," said the application process was simple in nature, but intense in execution. "I had to

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Bard biology student receives national acclaim

by Tatiana Prowell

Nathan James, a junior biology major at Bard, has recently received an invitation to speak at the Excellence in Undergraduate Research: Experience, Knowledge, and Achievement (EUREKA) Conference on March 21 at the California Institute of Technology. This honor followed several semesters of planning, research, and experimentation in the field of cellular biology.

James spent the Winter Break of his sophomore year at Bard conducting independent research for a Goldwater Fellowship proposal under the direction of Professor William Maple. Following this period, during which he read current science literature, James decided what was the most feasible and interesting project he could do at Bard.

James wanted to isolate active binding protein from a specific strain of yeast. After a semester-long wait for the materials to arrive, he began his project in the fall semester of 1990.

A few weeks before the end of the semester, Professor Maple came to James with information about the EUREKA Conference and told him that he would be eligible to submit his current research for consideration. James then created a one-page outline of his procedure and goals for the project and continued his experimentation while waiting for a response from the committee.

During the spring semester, James was informed that he had been selected for the honor and was invited to speak at the 3-day conference in late March. His presentation will be a 2-hour explanation with visual aids of his procedure and results up to this point and an outline of where the project is headed.

This project, which has been largely contained in a year-long tutorial with Professor John Moore, has made a lot of advancement but is still in progress. "Moore has been a great advisor," said James. "He has helped me out as a supervisor with the technical difficulties and given me ideas to work from."

When asked about the uniqueness of the project, James explained, "I think what made the project stand out is the fact that similar projects are going on in labs around the country. It is a central modern cellular biology question."

He is uncertain of where the project will go from here. First, he must isolate the protein from the yeast, and how long that will take is uncertain. "I would like to say that I will have done it in a month, but that's what I've thought all along. Let's just say that if I did it in a month, I'd be really happy."

What contribution could this make to the field of biology? "What I'm trying to do with this is find out the function of proteins," James says. "There is no focused



Biology major Nathan James working on the project that won him national attention.

end... no direct application to human afflictions, but we do need to find out as much as we can about interactions in the cell."

For the present, Bard's facilities have not posed any limitations to the progress of his project. "Sometimes things take a little longer, but I've found everything I've needed at Bard," James explains. In fact, the Bard biology department, and the offices of Elaine Sproat, Stuart Levine, and Leon Botstein have covered the expenses of James's application

fee, plane fare, and accommodations for the conference.

James will continue his work through the semester and until he discovers something. He feels that the isolation of this protein is "definitely a possibility," and depending upon his progress, he may extend this work to his senior project.

"From going to Cal Tech," James says, "I hope to get an idea of the quality of undergraduate research outside of Bard." He also hopes to talk to authorities in the field.

Who pays for cheap electricity?

by Jennifer Horenstein

NEWS ANALYSIS

Between 1971 and 1985, Phase I of the James Bay project in northern Ontario and Quebec was completed. In that time, five rivers were dammed or diverted to generate electricity via hydropower.

But this development has had a downside as well. Many environmental groups deplore the environmental damage the project has caused. They cite mercury pollution of waters, wildlife, and native peoples, release of large amounts of carbon dioxide and methane gas, both greenhouse gases, and the disruption of the traditional lifestyle of the Cree people as some of the primary negative effects of the project.

James Bay II began in 1987, and will continue in 1991. It is expected that 15 major rivers will be

dammed or diverted in the process, and that the impact of this phase will affect an area larger than that of New York State and New England combined.

James Bay, located in eastern Canada, makes up the southern tip of the Hudson Bay. It is a shallow salt water bay, and the largest northern river drainage system. Fresh water from almost every major river in middle America flows into James Bay where it mixes with the Bay's salt water, creating a vast and diverse ecosystem.

Large scale hydropower plants like James Bay tap into the kinetic energy of falling water to produce electricity. High dams are built across large bodies of water to create reservoirs. The stored water is allowed to flow at controlled rates, spinning turbines and producing electricity as it falls

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What will become of Yugoslavia?

by Greg Giaccio

Last week there was a riot in Belgrade, the capital of Yugoslavia, in which two people were killed and 73 were wounded. This riot was a result of unrest which has been building up ever since 1980 when the heavy-handed communist ruler, Marshal Tito, died, allowing reforms to take place.

The Soviet Studies Club sponsored a talk by Yugoslavian dissident Mihajlo Mihajlov on this topic. Mihajlov is of Russian descent but has lived most of his life in Yugoslavia. He is a first and foremost a scholar of neo-idealist philosophy, on which he has



written many books. Perhaps his most famous is *Moscow Summer*, 1964, which was published in 1965.

This book, which described

Nietzsche's philosophy as it applied to the Soviet Union, won him a place in prison for seven years. He was released in 1977 and came to America to teach at Yale, the University of Virginia and other colleges. He is now a commentator for Radio Free Europe and the vice president of the human rights organization, Democracy International.

"Yugoslavia is a Soviet Union in miniature," Mihajlov explained. The Serbian majority can be compared to the Russian ethnic group, the Croats are akin to

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WHAT IS THIS?!? Kline encourages playing with food

by David "ZZYZX" Steinberg

During the past week Wood Food Service staged Citrus Promotion Week (also known as Citrus Awareness Week). The idea for this event came from the Florida citrus industry. They contacted Wood, and - seeing as March is National Nutrition Month - our favorite food people agreed to hold it.

Every day of Citrus Awareness week had a different and exciting event. Things kicked off with a bang on Monday with a hand orange juice squeezing contest. The prize (a free pizza from the coffee shop) went to Rafe Greco, who managed to squeeze over 1000 milliliters of the liquid in just a minute and a half. In fairness to the other contestants, it must be added that cries of "fix" and "steroids" rang throughout the Main Dining Hall as Rafe walked away with his prize.

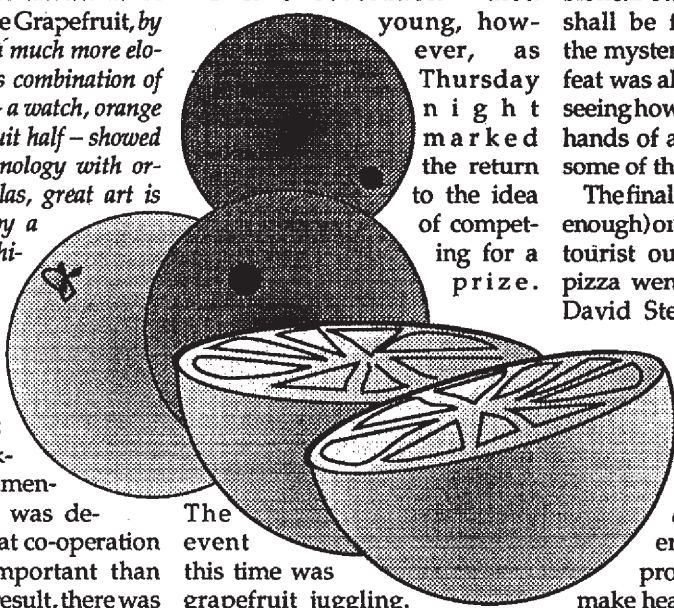
Tuesday night brought a more intellectual challenge: grapefruit sculpture. Entries ranged from a bird flying from those mysterious metal supports to a go-go dancer complete with removable outfit.

The Florida Citrus T-shirt went to Fred Baker for his work, *Quaker Peacock*. [The piece known as A Clockwork Orange Grapefruit, by Greg Giaccio, was a much more eloquent sculpture. Its combination of contrasting media - a watch, orange peels and a grapefruit half - showed the conflict of technology with organic sculpture. Alas, great art is never recognized by a true innovator's Philistine peers. -ed.]

Wednesday's event was the only one to take place outside of Kline Commons: an aerobics workout with a complimentary juice bar. It was designed to show that co-operation is much more important than competition. As a result, there was not just one winner that night - everyone who participated won a free Coca-Cola cup. These cups were highly praised for two reasons: they facilitate the process of stealing juice from Kline and the straws double as really annoying whistles. The mass distribution of these valuable items truly showed

Wood's commitment to Marxist principles.

The revolution died young, however, as Thursday night marked the return to the idea of competing for a prize.



The event this time was grapefruit juggling. Mysteriously missing from the scene were the Zen/Discordian Jugglers, and rumors of kidnapping were rife. As the contest was starting, a last minute entry, a contestant whose name no one remembers, joined the event. Confusion and chaos initially lorded over the event as no one

was sure who juggled the longest. Upon a re-run of the event, the biblical statement that "the last shall be first" was upheld as the mystery contestant won. His feat was all the more impressive, seeing how his victory came at the hands of attempted sabotage by some of the other contestants.

The final event took place (oddly enough) on Friday. It was a Florida tourist outfit contest. The free pizza went to the only entrant, David Steinberg. When asked what he thought of winning, he launched into a speech about goldfish, people mocking him [courtesy of the editor's father - ed.], repressive government and a senior project that no one can make heads or tails of.

Citrus Awareness Week did not happen without its share of controversy. A sign on the Grapevine drew a connection between the grapefruit sculptures of Tuesday night and the lack of grapefruit on Wednesday morning. Other people questioned the idea of putting what seemed to be a ba-

nana in the middle of perfectly innocent cupcakes. It is unsure whether this was related directly to Citrus Awareness Week as bananas (if they were the actual culprit) are not citrus fruit. Another controversial rumor of a certain clique flooding the events with its own members to increase its chances of winning was not unheard of. This clique, consisting of David Steinberg, Greg Giaccio and Mike Stimac (not their real names) refused to comment.

In addition, this event may have an added benefit. Pictures were taken of each event and sent to Florida. If they decide that we were one of the better schools, Wood will win some money to be put aside for a special meal.

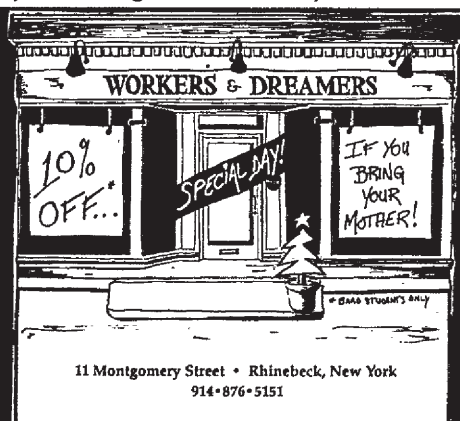
With that taken into consideration, it is definitely hoped that Citrus Awareness Week is not a one-time event. If you have any ideas (i.e. Eggplant Awareness Week, Tofu Awareness Week, etc.) write them on the Grapevine. Our food service is our friend and loves to take these suggestions and turn them into reality.

Recycle Recycle Recycle Recycle

How do you rebel against television's rebellion?

by Greg Giaccio

So there I was sitting in a room full of lit majors waiting for the



David Foster Wallace is no typical writer...

Bradford Morrow's American Fiction Series reading to begin so I could hear David Foster Wallace talk to us. From the sound of it, I thought I was going to see some fossil in a tweed jacket with suede elbow patches read us some sappy story full of symbols, allusions and other things I've forgotten since high school and then generate a discussion of how this related to his Oedipus complex. I mean, this is what a fiction reading is supposed to be, right? If they were interesting then there would be no reason for Cliffs notes, right? Wrong.

I saw this guy walk in, typical Bard student I thought. Leather biker jacket, bandana around his

head, drinking a diet Coke and dressed all in black. Then he sat down in the position of honor which had been reserved for that David Foster Wallace guy. However, he had a good reason for doing so. He was that David Foster Wallace guy.

That David Foster Wallace guy is actually quite an interesting guy. He has written three books, *Broom of the System*, a novel, *The Girl With the Curious Hair*, an anthology of short stories, and most recently, *Signifying Rappers*, a book about rap stars. He won the John Train Humor Prize in 1988 and the Whiting Writers Award. He's been published in magazines from *The Paris Review* to *Playboy*.

But more important than all of that, he was interesting. He read from an article commissioned by *Harper's* magazine called "E. Unibus Plurim" about the use of television in modern fiction and why it doesn't work.

Wallace includes himself among the "imagists," his name for mod-

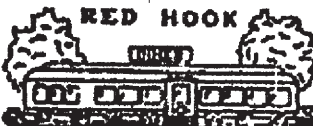
ern writers who use television in their stories. He calls this new movement in fiction a "response to T.V. culture." Wallace pointed

Before the advent of television, it was the fiction writers job to make everything familiar. Now they are forced to make the familiar strange again.

Well, I could certainly relate to that. After all, *Observer* staff meetings are carefully scheduled so as not to conflict with "Star Trek" or "The Simpsons." But Wallace went on to say more about the effects of the boob tube. The television makes everything familiar. This puts writers in a peculiar spot. Before the advent of television, it was the fiction writer's job to make everything familiar; now they are forced to make the familiar strange again.

One of the purposes of writers, Wallace contends, is to criticize the existing institutions. However, television is the one institution that has made itself unassailable. Television and contemporary authors both sprang from the same source of post-modernism. For imagists to attack television is, in a way, to attack their own roots.

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Teaching the analytical mold, the fakery accepted

by Anthony VanWagner

Somewhere close to you, and probably right now, an uttered word is being lost on the Bard campus. A poem is being read by students at a round table discussion, and they're words which show beauty and ignite imagination. Still the students seem to be missing something, the words to them are as far off as the moment requires. For them, the distance is on purpose, they need to search out the symbolism of the piece, to find various reasons and correlations behind the structure of a phrase or passage. They really need to pick apart the thing, piece by piece, and in the end, the "something" in it has been completely snared, or for someone like me, utterly wrecked. Hearts are pretty fragile things, I think. They stand a little better if they're not cracked and left to bleed.

This is where the classroom should come

into play. At Bard we are given an opportunity to have a voice in discussion. Yet many times I hear voices falling off into something quite different as they are drawn into thoughts and arguments which are not their own. This is the fakery I see, and am occasionally a part of. I'm not very proud when I'm dancing to someone else's music, many times feeding the teacher the answer he or she is looking for. Fulfilling expectations, it is the safest route I can think of, much easier than breaking away and really trying to create something. This blame I am going to the teacher's thought. For the most part, they are responsible for guiding the class in discussion and many are a little bit too sure of themselves, leaving no room for new opinions on a given subject. Many but not all. This method of teaching is not always wrong, only when it distances a student from what he wants to say or forces the class to repeat the answers

which are already in the teachers head does turn rotten. And the majority of them do just that. The purpose should be to guide and help someone come out of a shell, not lead into which was already preconceived. A student once told me about her freshman seminar class. She said that she could almost hear the music the class was dancing to, and true to form, they were dancing like a bunch of trained bears.

Fulfilling what is expected, I say this again because of the work I turn into my professors, and this also goes for the rest of the students. Scribbling in our notebooks, the object has turned into how much a person can pick apart his topic. "A Mr. VanWagner, an A. Good job." And the training comes with its own due rewards. Instead of expressing an honest feeling for a poem book or writer, essays many times turn into exercises. Colorful language must be cut off from the work, for what purpose

does it really serve? We wouldn't have any of that, nor should we understand it. Here a teacher's preconceptions work at their highest level, and this is the best place for them to be thrown aside.

As for ripping apart texts, finding symbolism, for its own sake, and criticising everything in sight, I can only tell you that the best teachers I have had during my schooling always tried to avoid this. Instead they took a little of both, introducing the characters as if they were real and then learning from them by treating the work as more than just a front structure. The words I learned from were all the rich. They have not been ruined.

Some may say even as they read this that at Bard you can do both. But in truth the balance is far too uneven. Yes, there is an analytical edge to the classes here, and I for one don't plan on submitting myself to its doing more than I already have.

Conference strengthens gay/lesbian/bisexual cause

by Lavinia Yocum

I was one of the few heterosexuals who attended the North East Lesbian and Gay Student Alliance at The College of William and Mary in Williamsburg, Virginia during March 1-4.

The conference was entitled "Opening Our Minds: Our Own and Others" and provided workshops for gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and straights.

The workshops were structured to go beyond the academic sphere by integrating a variety of orientations into an atmosphere that could lessen the sexual tensions between and among the sexes.

The workshops incorporated a new perspective to issues such as homophobia; the Fraternity/Sorority Experience and Sexual Minorities; Gay Foster Parenting; Gay and Lesbian People Of Color in the Battle For Gay and Lesbian Rights; Proust to Present: a Survey of 20th Century Novels; Puttin' On the Hits: An Anthology of Recent Gay and Lesbian Music; AIDS: Emotional Support During the Final Phase; Creative Workshops In Thinking; Rubberwear: Safer Sex In The Age of AIDS; Women's Issues; Female Impersonators As Activists; and Gays In Lesbians in Electoral Politics: The Helms Vs. Gantt Senate Race In North Carolina.

The faculty of the Workshop included a wide range of professors from the eastern seaboard, activists, a coordinator for The Central Virginia AIDS Services and Education, a minister from the Virginia Conference of The United Methodist Church, an executive Director of the Richmond AIDS Ministry, and an attorney with a large Washington law firm.

As a heterosexual, I was labelled as "straight." During my stay in Williamsburg, I also realised that I felt threatened by the attitudes that wanted to unstring what is conventionally accepted by society. In many ways, my naivety was played upon by the

structure of the conferences, for these workshops were officially designed to make gays/bisexuals/ homosexuals more comfortable with their minority rights and sexual orientation. I was also shocked at how many pink triangles I saw and that some men were wearing T-Shirts saying, "Don't you know I'm a lesbian." The commercial market of the gay/lesbian/bisexual identity surprised me, for it seemed too distanced from reality. Why should people buy tapes and books with titles such as *How to be a Gay Man*, or *The Lesbian In You*?

From a straight perspective, the highlight of the conference as I intermingled with gays, lesbians and bisexuals was realising that it was natural to feel threatened when one is a minority and in the process of trying to get equal rights with accepted societal norms. A heterosexual does feel as intimidated in gay/lesbian/bisexual surroundings as a gay/lesbian/bisexual feels in the heterosexual domains of society, one Bard student said. The hard thing for "straights" to understand is that sexuality has no relation to who gays/lesbians/bisexuals are as people. "We are people with human emotions who simply have different goals and aims for our prospective lives," another Bard student said. During the workshops, I felt homophobic because I knew that this person was of a different orientation, of a different nature, or perhaps, that person had an opposite view of the world that I might consider threatening to my moral standards. Unfortunately, I felt that through my interaction with gays/lesbians/bisexuals, I realised that there were reasons that I should and should not be homophobic. These Bard students were questioning their sexuality, and their inner selves. I did not have to go to the conference to determine my sexual identity. I went the conference to familiarize myself with AIDS topics, creative, and homophobic workshops as I think all heterosexuals should do.

I did realise one fundamental issue and

that was simply that people shouldn't discriminate against each other due to race, sexual orientation, tensions between male and females, or simply anything that differentiates from someone else's fixed conception of what is morally incorrect and correct. However, I also realised that this is bound to occur due to the diversity of human beings.

To be a creative person means to implement one's imagination in a unique way that

will strengthen an objective that asks for personal analysis. That essentially means that all heterosexuals be aware of Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual issues and should be able to interact with them despite their sexual orientation in workplaces, college campuses, or in any societal institution or system.

Either people of different genders, nationalities, sexual orientation all accept each other, or we all fall into the Nietzschean abyss of descent, into disunity, chaos, war due to the incomprehensible gaps of humanity's diversity.

SPANDEX'S RETURN (Part the Fifteenth)

by ZZYXZ

I figured that I had about 30 seconds to curse my enemy before the plane crashed into me. I just wanted to think of the worst possible thing to shoot at Lem in defiance of her treachery. I looked up at the plane and wondered if I should curse him too. All of a sudden he waved to me and pulled out of his descent. While I was trying to figure out his motive a flurry of flyers fell from the plane. I grabbed one and read it: "ZZYXZ- A baker's half dozen is 7; 6 1/2 is a half baker's dozen. TOTOA." Wow, not only was my life saved, but my quandry from last part was answered. Life is just a bundle of smurfs! [speaking of smurfs I had a dream last night about them. I was taken to the very heart of Smurf Mountain. While Gargamel tried to drop an atomic bomb 86 times greater than the Hiroshima bomb upon the current Smurf population. Papa Smurf, in his role as Santa Claus was up to the challenge. An entire Strategic Defense system was set up in a way that would not only destroy the incoming missile, but would serve as a deterrent to Gargamelian aggression-but it did cause the creation of an anti-war movement among the Smurfs led by Smurfette and Brainy. Joke, reasoning that anti-war Smurfs are unpatriotic Smurfs, eliminated

this threat to the Smurfdustrial military complex by giving them a wrapped surprise box that exploded when it was opened, killing 23 other Smurfs (Clumsy and Farmer were among them) but they were probably Commusmurf or some such thing. This dream was based (very loosely) upon the Smurf Mountain ride at King Dominion (an amusement park outside of Richmond). I highly recommend going there, but one had better hope that you are very smart. Last time I was there, everyone was wearing T-shirts telling me that I wouldn't be able to follow the reasoning of the shirt. I didn't get it...)

As I began my walk back to my room, I noticed a sort of commotion around the world famous Rhinecliff-Kingston bridge. Being a good citizen, I went to see what it was. What it was was the annual senior class march into the Hudson. This procession was neatly divided into two groups, those who were stressed out over their projects, and those whose projects were going just fine, but were stressed out about having to find a job. While this might be fun to watch (usually most of Red Hook manages to attend), I had no desire to join it. Unfortunately, that was exactly what happened. I was swept along with the crowd towards the watery maw of the Hudson.

-TO BE CONTINUED-

A page of unedited observations from guest writers

name is Mike Baker. I have your hat. Box 23! if you want it back, ya wimp. •Amy and Josh - THANK YOU! •K, Is Bukowski invited? •Davis/Whitfield -



Real People are talking about this play

by Kristan
Hutchison

Many audience members will recognize the words, the feelings, even the experiences recounted in the new play *Real People Talking...* which opens Thursday in Woodstock. The play presents the common and terribly real experiences of adult survivors of childhood sexual abuse, often in their own words.

"It's all based on true experiences. The only things that are changed are to respect peoples privacy. Names have been changed," said Jessica Allen Hall, one of the actors in the three-woman show. "It is all Carla's experience and people she

Exerpt from Real People Talking...

"In the days before remembrance excuses were made for behavior that seemed guided by some inner navigator. The dreams, the stories, the games, the pain, all explained by me, the mother, the friends: I was a "dramatic" child. Prone to inflation of the facts. In fact, if the facts be known, the fact of the matter, that is the only fact in this my life time, is that the father did the raping, in fact, for 8 years and I was, factually speaking, silent..."

...Stand back, ye of little faith and watch or be burned as I explode into this lifetime. I will not stand by to fade out or die."

knows."

Carla Brenn Green, the writer, director, actor, and all around creator of *Real People Talking...*, graduated from Bard last spring. Her primary directing experience was *The Vito Papers* last year, where she met and worked with many of the Bard students now working on *Real People Talking...*

Real People Talking... is movement theater, which combines text, movement, and dance. "It's

the movement that creates the dialogue, rather than the words," said Anwar Khuri, lighting designer for the show.

The three actors, Allen, Green, and Meredith Charles, each play different as-

pects of the same person. Though there is no traditional plot, the play moves through the process of recovery, from the aftereffects like bulimia, multiple personality disorders, inability to feel clean, to reliving the memories, and the final healing process.

Real People Talking... plays at the Woodstock Town Hall on Tinker Street at 8:00 p.m. March 21 to 24 and March 29 to 31. Admission is \$5.00 at the door.

The BEER COLUMN

by Finnegan and the Phantom

Attention avid drinkers—the resurrection of the beer column has begun! Each week from now till you graduate, the beer column will guide you towards the best, and away from the worst, in malt and barley.

This week's featured beer is Old Vienna. Even if you are a beer connoisseur as we aspire to be, you may not have had the opportunity to sample this beer. OV is a Canadian lager that overall bears little resemblance to other Canadian imports. Old Vienna's light color and mild odor are im-

mediately apparent and its taste is just what you'd expect after seeing and smelling it.... oh well, no surprises there! The surprise is that for a relatively unknown beer, it has a really clean flavor with a remarkably subtle aftertaste. In a way it resembles a good, light cold-filtered draft beer and it goes down quite smoothly.

Now, every column has to have a rating system. Ours is like your GPA. No, it doesn't suck—it starts at 0 and goes to 4. Four six-packs, that is. We recommend beers based on how many sixes we would buy. We give OV two and a half sixes.

Modern English's reunion album

An interview with Aaron Davidson

by Jennifer Horenstein

Editor's note: Jennifer interviewed Aaron Davidson last August for WRCC, the radio station at Rockland Community College in Suffern, NY.

Once upon a time in the kingdom of cheesy English pop, four extremely depressed looking Colchester lads created one of the most celebrated songs of the early eighties.

Other albums followed, but this band found itself amongst the pile of other discarded "one hit wonder bands." To the disappointment of black-clad teenyboppers everywhere, Modern English was no more.

Some four years and a phone call later, the band signed a new record contract and released their latest album, *Pillow Lips*. The industry rumor about their

regrouping was that they were asked to do a remake of their hit single "I Melt With You" in exchange for a recording deal, but keyboardist Aaron Davidson set the record straight.

"...A bit of misinterpretation on that one," Davidson explained in an interview in August 1990. "No, what happened was we'd been like doing other things for a couple of years and then a guy who used to work for our management went to work at TVT [a record label] and he called up and he said 'If you really want to get together again I'll get you a deal with TVT and you can do an album.' 'I Melt With You' was an afterthought."

Getting the band together was a spontaneous decision. "It was just like a call completely out of the blue," Davidson said.

Singer Robbie Grey, bassist Mick Conroy, and Davidson had

been living together after the breakup, but guitar player Gary McDowell had gone off on his own. "He was just a little bit strange, anyway. He wanted to do stuff like ZZ Top, which is not the kind of stuff we wanted to do," Davidson explained.

In the meantime, the remaining members hadn't just been sitting around the house. Robbie Grey worked on a 4AD label project called *This Mortal Coil* with Elizabeth and Robin from the Cocteau Twins. Aaron Davidson played with The March Violets. They appeared in the John Hughes film *Some Kind of Wonderful* and recorded two songs for the soundtrack.

It wasn't Davidson's "cup of tea," though. "They were a bit too heavy for me... Mick stayed in New York after our last tour for a year and played with a local band called The Toasters, and then he came back to England and about year later we got back together again."

Pillow Lips is a very upbeat, positive album that sharply contrasts with Modern English's earlier work. "There's three of us in the band really, who do all the writing, and we were living together and going out to clubs and having a good time and I think that came across in what we were

continued on page 7

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Possession worth owning...and reading

by Jonathan Miller

The problem with most mysteries these days is that they're all essentially the same. Once we outgrow the classic texts of *The Three Investigators* and *The Hardy Boys*, the only mystery novels left follow the same basic Christie-ian or Hammett-ite structure to the end.

Someone is murdered, the hard-boiled (slightly dotty/coldly aloof/apparently unintelligent) detective is on the scene, and solves the case while other characters drop dead all around. The finding of the clues is prominently portrayed so the average reader can solve the murder before the detective, and the murderer is always confronted with a step-by-step litany of clues. And the crime is always murder.

Dashiell Hammett at least had the style to throw in a few vanished jeweled birds as the source of his mysteries; Agatha Christie's *Murder on the Orient Express*, *Murder is Easy*, *Sleeping Murder* etc, etc, set the rule that no mystery novel is permitted to march forward without someone getting shot, stabbed, bludgeoned, poisoned and/or electrocuted. While crimes such as rape, embezzlement, bribery, running-shoe muggings, and wholesale environmental destruction are committed everyday, the only crime that ever occurs on *Columbo* or *Murder, She Wrote* is one person bumping another off.

Fortunately, something new and different has flung itself above the grayish waters of tedium — namely, A.S. Byatt's *Possession*. Last year, *Possession* was the well-

deserving winner of the Booker Prize, the most prestigious literary award in Great Britain, which has previously been awarded to literary luminaries on the level of Salman Rushdie. Byatt is one of the finest of the growing elite of American and British writers, and she has turned in a wonder.

Possession is more than a simple mystery. Subtitled "A Romance," it is a romance, a mystery, a gauzy fairy tale, and an immersion into the joys of language. The detectives are not dotty old ladies or blue-clad members of the local fascist squad of dimwits, they are refined, well-educated literature professors, unraveling the skein, not of a brutal murder, but of a secretive romance that occurred more than a hundred years ago.

Equal parts Victorian novel and contemporary writing, *Possession* is an inherently English novel; the rhythms of her murmuring prose become the speaking of the nation itself. In its precise, mannered form, it weaves a lingering spell of both modern-day Britain and lacy, high-buttoned Victorian England.

The novel's plots and subplots wind round and round each other, one of them the hidden amour of an 19th century married poet and a maiden poetess and the other the slowly blossoming love of a present-day literature professor and a graduate student. *Possession* forms a lacy double helix; one pillar being the academic present-day, the other of misty Victorian romance, held together by rungs of fairy tales, poetry, loveletters, and slowly unfolding mystery. Wrapping it all together is a shared love of language, of explicit sexual

pleasure taken from the sensual sounds and combinations of words.

The novel opens with slowly stagnating grad student Roland

lous academic scoundrels greedily trying to snap up the literary treasures for themselves and their own universities.

Possession begins as a percep-

***Possession* forms an lacy double helix; one pillar being the academic present-day, the other of misty Victorian romance, held together by rungs of fairy tales, poetry, loveletters, and slowly unfolding mystery.**

Mitchell in the reading room of the British Museum. Swamped in the ennui of his research, researching the ten thousandth quibbly detail relating to the (fictional) poet Randolph Henry Ash, Mitchell is astounded to find a loveletter from Ash to a poet named Christabel LaMotte in Ash's copy of Vico.

A love affair? That nobody knew about? That might have affected Ash's poetry in new and unexamined ways? Solid gold for any literature student. Mitchell and his professor Maud Bailey are soon close on the track of the mystery. Doll beds are opened, letters are found, poems are reviewed, line by excruciating line. Clues are found cryptically encoded in Victorian fairy tales; Derbyshire cliffs are searched for further hints.

In flashback, we see the hidden love of Ash and LaMotte slowly unfold, bloom in glory and then wither in shame as Mitchell and Bailey slowly piece together the story of their love. The novel bristles with tension, for there are others also on the trail; unscrupu-

tive college novel, blossoms into a blushing romance, and then explodes into a white-knuckled thriller.

Mitchell and Bailey make queerly logical detectives. Steeped in literature, their deconstructionist theorizing provides the paths directly to the solution of the mystery. Columbo could never have cracked a case like this, because he would never have had the imagination to follow the trail. Sam Spade would have been clueless, for he could never take enough joy in words to see what was staring him right in the face. Sherlock Holmes would have walked away bewildered, because he was never a lit major at Bard College.

The pleasure that Byatt takes in her writing is evident on every page. She fights back against the stolid, minimalistic adjectives — a sin Raymond Carver school of writing, with passages that are dripping with wordplay, description, and colorful phrases. She includes glistening details of her scenery that create virtual reality on the printed page.

Her locations leap out at you, vividly real and joyfully beautiful. Describing a simple walk along the beach she paints a living fauvist picture:

"There is a stretch of sand, and the shelf after shelf of wet stone and ledges of rock-pools, stretching away to the seas. These ledges are brilliantly coloured; pink tone, silvery sand underwater, violent green mossy weed, heavy clumps of rosy-fingered weeds among banks of olive and yellow bladder wrack... a peculiarity of that beach is the proliferation of large rounded stones that lie about like the aftermath of a bombardment, cosmic or gigantic. These stones are not uniform in color or size; they can be shiny black, sulphurous yellow, a kind of old potato blend of greenish waxy, sand, white, or shot with a kind of rosy quartz."

Some books are TV movies, to be read hurriedly and uncarefully on a train or a bus, to be finished in three or four hours, then tossed casually aside. *Possession* has such length and sumptuousness that you want to keep it by your bedside and consume it languorously night after night after night — like a soap opera. It has the passion of Danielle Steele, and the intrigue of Dick Francis, yet it has rococo stylings, flowing intelligence, and literary power beyond the reach of any trash-novel hack. *Possession* is a perfect summer-at-the-beach novel, perfect rainy-day-in-the-common-room reading, and the perfect surprise gift for your literary honeybun.

(*Possession* ©1990 by A.S. Byatt is published by Random House for \$19.95, and, as always, can be ordered from the bookstore.) ♣

James Bay

continued from page 3

downward to the river below the dam. Hydropower in James Bay II includes two proposed mega projects storage reservoirs, over 70 dikes, and the diversion of eight rivers.

What does this matter to us here at Bard? New York State has contracts with Hydro-Quebec, the company responsible for the James Bay Project, to purchase electric power. The New York Power Authority (NYPA) asserts that using hydropower will keep us from burning fossil fuels, thus producing fewer pollutants.

However, according to the New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPARG), rotting vegetation caused by flooding from the hydro-electric plants will release greenhouse gases.

The NYPA believes that hydropower is cost-effective, as purchases from Hydro-Quebec have saved New York more than \$600 million on electric bills so far. However, if Governor Cuomo had invested that money in research and development of new energy policies, we would be ahead in the energy game, for energy efficiency is relatively cheap.

At present, the James Bay ecosystem is one of the largest re-

maining intact wilderness areas in North America. Phase II threatens to wipe it out.

In the words of Bard Ecology Professor William Maple, it is unfortunate that we have to disrupt a taiga ecosystem, displace native people, and destroy their way of life for cheaper power here at Bard. Governor Cuomo has the power to veto this purchase.

The Bard Environmental/Recycling Club will be holding a information session on Monday, April 1 at 6 pm in Kline to discuss this issue.

Recycling is PC!
(So you better do it)

Modern English

continued from page 6

writing."

The response to the release of *Pillow Lips* and the group's recent tour was, in Davidson's opinion, "really really brilliant."

Later that evening, at the Palladium in New York City, about 2,000 Modern English fans saw the difference and knew that "it's getting better all the time." ♣

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Personals

O Nate, O Nate,
We're doing great.
At breakfast I can hardly wait
To see you wink and say "Hi Kate"
Before I rush off, rather late
To study for a class I hate
(Somewhat), and as I scratch
my slate
In there I wait for 12:08
For soon I'll see my "new"
friend Nate,
Who soon will wink and say
"Hi Kate."

And Apollo said,
"Come to the edge"
'it's too high'
Come to the edge
'we might fall'
Come to the edge"
And he pushed them
and they flew...

And they peeked through the
hole,
at the Sun and the Moon.

As they were joined for a
moment.
And they birds huddled close
for they knew.
And not on the 15th but on the
16th,
The sun rose and shone down.
And the moon was full as it
glistened
across the river.
And in Autumn the effect was
felt on Earth.
The leaves changed color and
a new season began.

Rah-Rah Becca, way to go!
Leave him lying in the snow.
Seriously, you are better of on
your own and so is he probably.
-A Banana

Jim and Susan- I really don't
know what to say since the
whole world is reading, so if I
start to blab. You're still coming
for dinner this summer, I
presume.
-Love Kristan and Michael

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Bard scholar wins grant

continued from page 2
develop a project and the write up a proposal," Van Der Linn explained. His adviser also had to write a recommendation.

The project focuses on the recordings of Igor Stravinsky, who Van Der Linn describes as "one of the three most important composers of the twentieth century." The project will trace the history and importance of his work with recordings, and will primarily attempt to answer the question, "So what that Stravinsky made these recordings?"

The project reflects Van Der Linn's fascination with the role of music in the twentieth century and how recording creates an audience. Stravinsky himself was very concerned with this issue, and went into the studio to show how he wanted his music performed over a twenty year period. The recordings, therefore, are historical artifacts in themselves. Van Der Linn sums up his study as "the history of an artist and the

preservation of his music and the reaching of his audience."

To get a better understanding of his interest in classical music, and especially twentieth century music culture, Van Der Linn asks people to imagine what would have happened if Mozart had made records. As Van Der Linn sees it, the biggest problem in music history has been trying to know what composers meant in their music.

Van Der Linn said he was "tickled pink" about his scholarship, and is grateful for the help of his adviser. "Now I have to write the damn thing," he added. He hopes, if he is successful, to have his paper published at some future point. Van Der Linn's ultimate goal is to become a professor in music history, and plans to write a book of the impact of the phonograph on musical culture. During the summer, he will be working with CBS/Sony records in New York, which holds Stravinsky's archives.

David Foster Wallace Visits Bard

continued from page 4
Wallace also pointed out that television is so cynical that it "ironizes" itself before the imagists can do so.

Wallace pointed this out by presenting an abbreviated history of advertising. It used to be that ads appealed to the lonely "Joe Briefcase" who was watching T.V. by himself. They would show a glamorous crowd of people enjoying the good life mainly because they all used the same brand of toothpaste or deodorant. Now, ads have shifted towards individuality.

Wallace nailed down the Madison Avenue strategy for nailing us. The advertisers exploit the vulnerability of the individual by showing the product user as a leader of the herd, rather than the a part of the herd. This psychology works because Joe Briefcase

knows that he is a part of the herd just by watching television.

There are many good examples of how television "pitches parody" to sell us. Wallace used the popular hero of Joe Isuzu. Even the most dunderheaded viewer can see that he is lying to the audience. So, television allowed the audience to be in on the joke. The viewer feels triumphant for seeing through this scam. However, by seeing through the con-game, he has been conned. Wallace pointed out that Isuzu sales soared after running the popular ads because people would buy from them to protest advertising. Consumers bought Isuzus to reward the company for being anti-advertising.

Madison Avenue executives have had to alter their strategies in recent years due to technological advancements like remote

controls and VCR's, Wallace pointed out. Advertising had to become catchy, more like what you actually turn on a television to watch. Wallace referred to those television shows/advertisements about hair-loss that "only cocaine addicts watch" because they're on so late. Advertisements seek to win over consumers by saying that they advertise best.

All this makes the imagists' job harder. Television is so conscious of itself that it has no need for outsiders to come in to point out what it is doing. Wallace showed that modern heroes on television are just "bare survivors and self-parodiers" like Al Bundy or Hawkeye Pierce. By "savaging" heroes and authority, television has made itself the sole authority. "Power is 'I can control what you see,'" said Wallace.

Television is the ultimate tyrant because it paints itself as a rebel with slogans like "Sometimes you just gotta break the rules." By satirizing itself, television has eliminated the ability of others to satirize it. Wallace ended the reading with the question "How do you rebel against television's rebellion?"

I don't know, but Saturday Night Live is on so I'm going to watch that instead.

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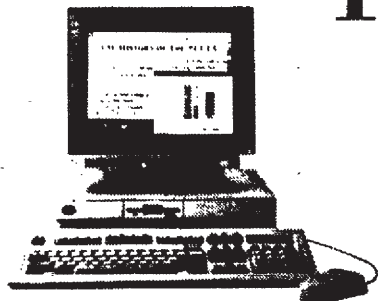


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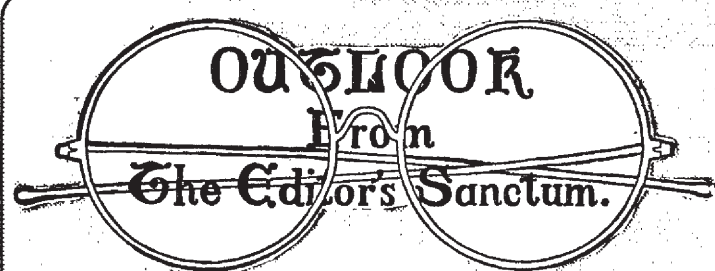
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you from "The Rock" of old, how doth this place of learning seem? And now that years have passed us by, and what was passion is only dream, are



Overcoming the darkness

by Greg Giaccio

The history of early humanity is the story of man's struggle to conquer natural forces, especially the night.

In the Judeo-Christian tradition, God said let there be light, and he saw that it was good. It was the first thing God created. God had created it for humanity. After all, what need does God have for light?

In Greek mythology, Prometheus stole fire from the gods so that people might overcome the darkness. This daring act of hubris won him a rock and an eagle to eat his liver in Hades, but it also won him the gratitude of mankind forever.

Perhaps the most important thing about people, the thing that first separated us from our animal forbears, was our ability to use fire. Fire allowed us to create our own environments. When fire was mastered, nature was tamed. The night no longer controlled us. We controlled it.

However, there are still some places that are under the heavy, oppressive hand of the night. In some parts of the world the darkness still wins its battle with human cunning. Some of those places are right here at Bard College.

I am talking of the primeval path behind the Stevenson Gym which runs through the Enchanted Forest, and through the night. I speak of all those places where even the timid go by day, but only the bold and the foolhardy by night.

We have no reason to be enslaved by the night. Mankind has made its own light which cuts the twilight blackness away from us like a knife cuts entangling bonds. However, we refuse to have them here.

We need light to guide our paths, to avoid the pitfalls of going the dark way and to avoid those of the race of Homo Sapiens who still have some of the darkness in their souls and seek to hurt the virtuous, the light seekers.

Darkness' shroud is a friend to thieves. Midnight is a blanket for evil. Cut away at this shade which prevents us from seeing. Let us conquer the darkness once more. Who will be our Prometheus and put lights on the unlit and untrod paths? Who will be the one to take us out of the cavern of nature?

Let us have light!

Vandalism

continued from page 1

had recently been combatting the rash of car break-ins by increasing the campus patrols. In the future, he plans to "increase patrols, especially in the parking lots" and is considering establishing a stationary surveillance post. He is also compiling a list of "suspicious vehicles" that have been reported on campus and is trying to "come up with any kind of pattern."

According to Collins, the Rhinebeck police department has also fingerprinted the car and is currently looking for suspects. Several people have already reported seeing Collins's car being driven by possible suspects, and a detective has been assigned to the case.

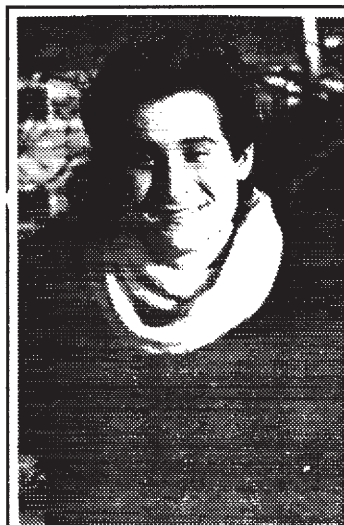
Boyce also added that if any students see or hear anything suspicious, they should contact Security as soon as possible. "It's proven successful in the past," Boyce said. "We weren't as fortunate this time."

If... money were not an issue, what would you do over spring break?



rachel vitous
freshman
anthropology and ecology major
found at field station

"I want to go somewhere but I don't know. I'd kind of like to go to Iraq. I want to know what is going on over there. I don't trust the media... I'd like to go to Canada. It's really corny, but I'd like to go to the Prince Edward Island because I really liked Ann of Green Gables."



jonah gensler
senior one
political science major
found in the coffee shop

"I want to go back to Spain. I lived there. I'd extend spring break through the month of April. They have tremendous fiestas. Everyone dresses up like Moors and Christians. It is really just an excuse for everyone to be friendly and have fun... It's the epitome of what spring break should be."



mary ann cirafice
bard operator
shift from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
found in ludlow

"I'd go to any of the tropical islands and just not worry about any of the things I usually worry about and just pretend I would be there forever, even though I would only be there a week. The Bahamas, Puerto Rico, or somewhere Caribbean."



patrice cuchulain
junior
composition major
found in library

"Key West, 'cause it's beautiful there. I'd look at the sun. I'd meet new people... beautiful girls. I'd talk to children. Yeah, I'd go to Key West."

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 editorial board and not necessarily of the individual members 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 all articles (except those intended for the Another View page) for style and length.

Classifieds: Free for Bardians, \$5 for all others. Personals are free.

Display classifieds: \$5.00 for local, \$10.00 for national.

Other ads: Contact the Ad Manager.

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Annandale, NY 12504
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Dogs remembered

To the Editor:

The dogs you referred to in the last issue belonged to a former Buildings and Grounds worker who brought them to roam while he worked. They are originally from Red Hook, but they seemed to like it here so much that whenever he attempted to bring them home, they found their way back here. I think he gave up.

The old brown fella's real name is "Toby," although most members of the senior class call him "Elliot," and the golden gal's name, formerly "Sheba," is now "Gertrude."

I'd like to take this opportunity to do honor to the memory of "Prince" (a.k.a. "Velcro-Butt"), whose perky face was always welcome, and allowed free reign of Kline Commons; tragically killed a few years ago on Annandale Road. "Mangey-Dog," though he held himself aloof from our lives, is also remembered fondly.

Todd S. Defren

PC is OK

An open letter to Greg Giaccio:

Nothing is more widely trumpeted nor more weakly based than complaints about "PCness." No one is stopping you from voicing your political opinions. The fashionable reactionary-chic views of Ronald Reagan and co. have been riding roughshod over America for the past ten years, to the exclusion of almost all other pleas.

There is nothing outrageous in saying women and homosexuals deserve to live without harassment;

nothing unjust in saying important writers should not be excluded from the literary canon simply because they are women; nothing totalitarian in saying we should not support corporations who perform unconscionable acts. You are free to speak your mind. If you are homophobic, you have the right to say "I Hate Fags" just as you have the right to say "I Hate Niggers". But if you say either of these things in a loud and offensive manner, you will be responsible for your acts.

No one mentioned PCness when people's lives were ruined during McCarthy's witchhunts, no one is mentioning it now that democratic senators are being crucified for not having supported the war. Most of the chief enemies of "Political Correctness" that I see are whiny-faced conservatives who can't stand to see ideas other than their own become widely accepted.

Jonathan Miller
Box 906

"Holy shit, this is FUNNY!"

Dear Features Editor, Greg Giaccio,

I just finished reading your article "Bard College goes to the dogs." It rocks. When I got one-third of the way through it I thought, "Holy shit, this is FUNNY!" and I had to check that I had the right college paper. Halfway through it I decided that I would drop you a note in the campus mail thing. When you mentioned that the Observer has become humorless, I had to drop a note. I laughed aloud at that one. It is totally humorless, that's why

I thought I could pick it up right now (in the midst of trying to finish a very difficult paper for a Haggberg class) and glance through it without really getting off track from my paper. There's never anything worth reading in the damned thing (or rarely, I should say). Anyway, now I'm procrastinating. I just wanted to say the article rocks and I'm psyched to see some humor in our humorless "liberal college paper." (One problem, the idea of nominalism is completely incompatible with the concept of absolutes, a minor point — or am I just missing something?) Besides, I dig the dogs, too. I hope to see more of your humor in the Observer. Keep on writin'. Keep on rockin'!

Mary Mattis

Annandale acquisitions

To the Editor:

I would like to enter two corrections to Tania Panin's article of March 1, 1991 ["Annandale will be ours"].

1. Bard is not planning to purchase "Annandale," which is a hamlet in the Town of Red Hook that contains a number of privately owned properties. The college plans to purchase only six structures: the Annandale Hotel, the Thompson House, the Thompson Barn, Briggs House, Bathrick Cottage, and the Walter House. Because a number of pieces of private property in the hamlet are owned by members of the Bard faculty, it should be made clear that other properties are not involved and will remain in private hands. The sale that is being nego-

tiated is exclusively with Historic Hudson Valley for properties owned by that entity.

2. To my knowledge, none of the buildings involved in the purchase are presently rented by, or for, Bard faculty or Bard Center Fellows.

Susan Van Kleeck
Director of Special Projects

The SJB trials

To the Editor,

I just finished reading the article "Witnesses Question Procedures in Recent SJB Case." I was surprised by the manner in which you handled the article. The fact that the author of the piece entitled me "The Main Witness" is a clear display of his inability to convey the facts of the trial in an objective manner. How would one define a "Main Witness"? My testimony was considered no more or less important than that of any other witness in the trials. It was also implied that I was using the SJB as a means of revenge. I could just as easily say that you, *The Observer*, are using this article as a means of "repaying" the Grievance Committee for not allowing one of your reporters into the hearing. I testified because it was the right thing to do, it was not a "fun" experience it was not done out of vengeance, and as I said in my interview with you, it is not the type of thing one wants to go through in their freshman year in college (or at any point in their life), it is something you look forward to putting behind you.

I have many personal complaints about the article's subjectivity, including the fact that it

conveniently ignored the fact that the SJB did uphold the few charges of harassment (like when Mr. Baxter spat on me) in order to encourage the belief that I had set out to "get Bill back" by making false accusations. I do however realize that my personal problems with the piece are of my own concern. The fact that you portrayed the trials as being conducted in an unfair manner should be of everybody's concern. The trials were fair; all testimonies were heard, and decisions were made by the SJB, the Grievance Committee, and by Leon Botstein. (I noticed that you failed to mention Mr. Baxter's appeal to the President of the College.)

As a writer for a newsletter which is distributed nationally, I know the importance of remaining objective and using quotes, presented in context. I do not believe that this article was handled in a professional manner, it reads more like the gossip column of *The New York Post* than the informative newsletter that *The Observer* protests to be.

Perhaps the inobjectivity of the article was due to the fact that it was written on a basis of hearsay, something that is depicted as unreliable in the article in question. To testify against one's peers involves much pain, confusion and frustration...nobody takes it lightly, and nobody involved in either of the hearings had a personal vendetta with Bill, Andrick, Todd, Derek, or Jason that affected their testimony. To write such an article without having viewed the trials does the witnesses a great injustice...and we, the witnesses, were not the ones on trial.

"The Main Witness"

The fate of Yugoslavia

continued from page 3
the Ukrainians, Slovenia is similar to the Baltic republics and the Kosovo province is not that different from the Soviet Armenians. Each republic is nationalist and seeking autonomy.

The tension is so bad that the C.I.A. recently released a report projecting a civil war in Yugoslavia in the next year and a half. "My thesis is just the opposite," said Mihajlov. "[There will] either be a democratic union or civil war."

"Nationalism is the last part of Communism," Mihajlov explained. Communist governments seek to eradicate all associations people have with each

other except for an association with the government. So, when a Communist government starts to relax, all the people have is their nation. Yugoslavia is in potential danger because it has been a multinational country ever since its formation after World War I.

"Republics can survive only if they are pushing or pulling this nationalist movement," Mihajlov stated. Presidents of each republic are elected largely on the basis of nationalist feelings. In fact, a tariff war that started between the different republics last November has caused inflation to soar and made foreign products cheaper than products made in other parts of Yugoslavia.

Mihajlov does not think secession is a feasible alternative for any republic and compared it to attempting to split New York City along ethnic lines. While there are strong pockets of nationalism in some republics, there are also minorities in each of these republics which would cause problems.

One example of this is the Kosovo area of Serbia. This province is made up of mostly Albanians who would like to be autonomous from Serbia. Mihajlov compared the Serbian treatment of the Albanian movement to South African apartheid. The Serbians have taken away all forms of Albanian media, but two million people are hard to keep quiet. For Yugoslavia to survive, Mihajlov said, Kosovo would

have to be made a republic.

Macedonia has considered seceding, but it would also have trouble doing so. Bulgaria does not officially recognize Macedonia and would seek to annex it, according to Mihajlov.

Only Slovenia has any chance of existing autonomously. Only five percent of the population is non-Slovenian, so minority squabbles wouldn't be a problem. It is also developed enough to be economically independent from the other republics. However, according to Mihajlov, the Yugoslavian army is so reactionary that any secession would start a civil war.

The recent riots in Belgrade were a result of the same weakening of the central government that has

generated ethnic rivalries in Yugoslavia. Just before the democratic elections, the communist parties of each republic changed their names and reformed some of their views. In every republic except Bosnia the ex-communists were elected to their old positions. There were accusations of fixing the elections. According to Mihajlov, six hundred fifty voters just appeared in Serbia on the date of the election. Also, other parties had little access to major media. While there is free press in Yugoslavia, the major newspapers and radio and television networks are still controlled by the communist party. The protesters were appeased with promises of more access to the media for other political views.

B A R D C O L L E G E

M A R C H 2 0 T O 2 2 , 1 9 9 1

WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

B r o u g h t t o y o u b y t h e D e a n o f S t u d e n t s

Levy Lecture:

The Political Economy of Art is a lecture which will be given by Dr. William D. Grampp at the Levy Institute on Wednesday, March 20, at 4:00 PM. Dr. Grampp's most recent book is entitled: *Pricing the Priceless: Art, Artists, and Economics*.

Art Lecture:

A lecture by Kiki Smith, an artist who works in varied media with representations of the body, will take place on Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 PM in Olin 102. The public is invited.

Music Symposium:

On Wednesday, March 20, the Music Department will hold a symposium on the composition, business, and performance of contemporary music. Guest panelists include: George Tsongakif, Michael Torke and Paul Moravec. The event will be moderated by Professor Daron Hagen and will take place in Bard Hall at 7:30 PM.

Scottish Country Dancing:

Scottish Country Dancing will take place on Wednesday, March 20, at 7:30 to 9:30 PM in Manor House.

Tea, Cookies and Talk:

The Mathematics and Physics Departments will be holding Tea, Cookies and Talk on Thursday, March 21 (changed from March 14). William Zwicker of Union College will discuss *The Mathematics of Political Power*. The talk take place in Hegeman 102 at 4:45 PM. Refreshments will be served at 4:30 PM.

Washington Center Internships:

Are you interested in earning academic credit while interning in Washington, D.C.? Summer and Fall Semester opportunities are currently available. Internships combine work and coursework; students pay to participate, but earn credit. See Carol Nackenoff in Political Studies (Hobson 14) before Spring Break.

Post Office Access:

The Post Office, at its new location, is now open from 8:30 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday. The mail window is open from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday and from 8:30 AM to 12:00 NOON on Saturday.

Interfaith Vigil:

A multireligious service will attempt to represent the colorful and diverse religious community at Bard and will include readings from various religious texts. All are welcome to attend on Wednesday, March 20, at 8:00 PM in Olin 205. This is not a forum for political argument. For further information, please contact Nimra Bucha at 758-1867 or box 539.

Levy Conference:

The Crisis in Finance: Implications for system performance and structural reform is a conference to be held at the Levy Institute from April 4 to 6. The conference's speakers will include: Richard Aspinwall, John Caskey, Jane D'Arista, Steve Fazzari, Benjamin Friedman, Albert Hart, William Janeway, David Levy, S. Jay Levy, Hyman Minsky, Gary Stern, Richard Sylla and James Tobin. For more information and registration details, contact Susan Howard, Program Coordinator at 758-7448. Pre-registration is necessary for Bard students. Conference

meals are not open to Bard students due to limited seating.

From the Dean of the College:

Art History Lecture Rooms

On behalf of the Art History Department Faculty, may I ask the cooperation of all members of the faculty and campus groups who use either Olin rooms 201 or 301 for classes or special events:

- If shades are raised or lowered, please be sure they are kept *in the tracks*. The shades are getting out of shape; as a result, the light which enters makes it difficult to view slides.
 - Please return the lectern and blackboard to the place you found them.
 - Please turn off the lectern light.
- Thank You.

Dances, Shows and Movies:

Films are shown in the Student Center at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. 7:00 PM is non-smoking. Other events are at the times listed in the Student Center.

No events are scheduled between now and the end of the spring break. During Spring Break Kline Commons will be closed, but the coffeeshop will remain open. The Bard Shuttle will not run during Spring Break, starting Saturday March 23. It will resume pickups on March 31.

Calendar of Events

Wednesday, March 20	Thursday, March 21	Friday, March 22
<p>4:00 PM Levy Lecture (See Above)</p> <p>5:00 PM Spanish Table, Kline Commons</p> <p>5:30 PM Italian Table College Room, Kline Commons</p> <p>7:00 PM Al-Anon, Aspinwall 302</p> <p>7:00 PM Christian Meeting, Bard Chapel Basement</p> <p>7:00 PM Flute Choir, Bard Chapel</p> <p>7:30 PM Art Lecture, Olin 102</p> <p>9-11 PM Writing Tutors, Albee Annex 103</p>	<p>4:45 PM Tea, Cookies & Talk Hegeman 102</p> <p>6:30 PM BBLAGA Meeting Albee Social Room</p> <p>7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Aspinwall 302</p> <p>9-11 PM Writing Tutors Albee Annex 103</p>	<p>5:00 PM General deadline for submissions to <i>The Bard Observer</i></p> <p>5:00 PM <i>Spring Break Begins</i></p> <p>Train Runs: 4:15 PM for the 4:51 Train 6:36 PM for the 7:36 Train 8:00 PM for the 9:11 Train Leaves from Kline Goes to the Rhinecliff Station</p> <p>6:00 PM for the 7:13 Train Leaves from Kline Goes to the Poughkeepsie Station</p> <p>12:00 NOON Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering April 6, 1991 Through April 12, 1991 due in the Dean of Student's office.</p>