

Bard College  
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# OBSERVER

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# THE BARD OBSERVER

Bard  
College's  
News, Arts,  
& Sports Weekly

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Annandale-on-Hudson

IT IS BETTER TO APPEAR IN HELL  
THAN IN THE NEWSPAPERS.  
—FRANCIS BEEDING

Volume 98, Number 28

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

May 3, 1991

## For seniors, the hardest job is finding one

by Jonathan Englert

Bard seniors are graduating into the worst job market in years, a market which, according to a recent article in the *New York Times*, has shrunk by as much as "30 percent from last year." The article, which describes graduating students as facing "a disheartening struggle of resumes, rejection, and uncertainty," disturbed many on campus. Harriet Schwartz, Director of Career Development, said, "this article received a lot of notice" from both seniors and underclassmen.

"From my perspective," Schwartz said, "what the article says is accurate...The job market is incredibly tough, it is going to be difficult for this year's graduating class to get a job or to get an entry level position in one's chosen field." According to Schwartz, she received "substantially fewer job announcements" than last year. In addition to the poor job

*continued on page 2*



Assistant Dean of the College Elaine Sproat

## Dean Sproat falls prey to budget cuts

by Jason Van Driesche

Assistant Dean of the College Elaine Sproat will not be rehired for the coming fiscal year. Because of what Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou termed

"budgetary considerations," Sproat's full-time position as coordinator of many academic support programs has been eliminated, to be replaced by a part-time position.

Dean of the College Stuart

Levine expects to fill the part-time position with a part-time faculty member, an arrangement that existed prior to Sproat's hiring a little more than two years ago.

"This was not an easy decision for me," said Levine. "This is not something I choose to do because of a sense of dissatisfaction... [But] I believe we should not... [make] any significant reductions in other areas of the college, namely faculty and the support we give faculty for their work."

"I know what the priorities of the institution are," Levine added. Those priorities, which are essentially set by President Botstein, place financial aid and faculty compensation above administrative and student services. Since the President does not want to lose momentum in those priority areas even in times of fiscal difficulty, Levine said, cuts must come from elsewhere. Levine hopes, however, that the level of services currently provided by Sproat can be maintained with a part-time Dean.

Sproat does not feel that will be possible. "My concern," she said, "is that Bard students deserve and demand more than a half time Dean can provide. Both the range and the quantity of support provided [will] suffer."

Students who work closely with  
*continued on page 7*

## Rash of Theft Continues

by Christie Searing

This past fun-filled Earth Day Weekend was not pleasant for the few students who found their cars broken into Sunday morning and valuables missing from their rooms. For Security and the students, this is nothing but frustrating.

According to Bob Boyce, Director of Security, there has been an increase in car break-ins since last week. "It subsided for a while, but now it's back," he said. In the cases he mentioned, things like stereos and radar detectors were stolen.

Last Saturday night, April 20,

the patrolman saw a strange looking car in Robbins parking lot, which sped off as soon as the patrolman approached. "It appears that we thwarted something," said Boyce.

At the same time, one of the Ravines was a target of a stealing spree. One student, who had \$60 in cash and over \$450 in jewelry taken from her room, speculated if it had anything to do with the band that played in the Old Gym Saturday night. The band, Firehose, is well-known and drew a large, non-Bard crowd.

"It looked like it was done very quickly because I also had my

friend's word processor [in the room], a telephone, and a stereo [that they could have taken]," she said. Another student in the same dorm had his leather jacket stolen.

Even now, she feels like she does not want to lock her door. Boyce said that in the process of running fire drills last week, he noticed many people's doors "pushed open" when he knocked. He stressed, however, that he was "not making an inference" when noting the stolen materials and unlocked doors.

Security is still re-evaluating their patrols in the light of the recent cases, Boyce said.

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## Job hunt

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market, she sees two distinct obstacles which might also hinder a senior's job search.

Most Bard students—unlike students at other institutions—are unable to engage in an extensive job search during their senior year, because of the demanding project. "Consequently," Schwartz said, "many won't begin their job search until after their senior project or after graduation," and will be entering the job hunt later than seniors graduating from other schools.

In addition, Bard seldom attracts corporate recruiters, and the ones that have come to campus have been greeted with little or no interest. Last year, for example, an insurance company planned to hold a recruiting session on campus, but cancelled it after no students signed up. Only one student attended a session held by the State Police.

Kamran Anwar, a Bard senior, echoed Schwartz's description of the current job market, and the plight of Bard seniors in particular. Regarding the stiff competition he has faced, he said, "it is a personal dejection for me." Anwar, who applied to a slew of companies, has sought employment at insurance firms, as well as commercial and investment banks. Thus far he has faced a constant stream of rejections. Anwar recounted one particularly frustrating moment when "J.P. Morgan said that they were firing people, so there was no question of hiring people."

Anwar has been told by many companies that he is highly qualified. He has maintained a high G.P.A. both in his major and cumulatively, in addition to a leading role in extracurriculars. However, due to hiring cutbacks—and in many cases, hiring freezes—the companies aren't in a position to employ. Anwar pointed out that Chase Manhattan, whose auditing program he applied to, normally hires thirty people for this program annually; but this year has reduced the number by half.

Anwar believes, however, that, despite the economic downturn—and the difficulties of combining a job search and academic demands, the education he has received at Bard will benefit him in the long run. "I think," Anwar said, "Bard really gave me a lot of opportunities.

Yes, there are many deficiencies (at Bard), but it gave me the accretions to shape myself, and use my full potential." Anwar added that as a contingency he had also applied to a number of graduate schools.

Another senior, Betty Lo, who began her job search this year, complained that it was difficult to be both a student and engaged in a job hunt, "You have more pressure on you with the project, and it's difficult to go through the job search, write cover letters, and

update your resume."

Even though the job market is tough and many Bard students may be at a disadvantage because

**J.P. Morgan said that they were firing people, so there was no question of hiring people.**  
— Kamran Anwar

of academic demands, Schwartz said that Bard seems to instill its

graduates with a flexibility that will prove a future asset. She sees students at Bard as willing to consider many different kinds of jobs and locations. "This is one place," Schwartz said, "where Bard students are at an advantage, because I see a number of students who feel really confused and stressed because they feel they should be more focused. But this is an asset, especially in the current job-market." She also noted that upon graduation Bard students often delay the job hunt, choosing in-

stead to enter graduate schools or join advocacy groups, such as the Peace Corps and the Rainbow Lobby—two organizations which do recruit on campus.

However, Schwartz stressed that seniors should at least begin the job search while still at Bard by formulating resumes and preparing for job interviews. She also suggested that seniors seek help from any contacts in their field of interest. Schwartz emphasized that she is available to help anyone in their job search.

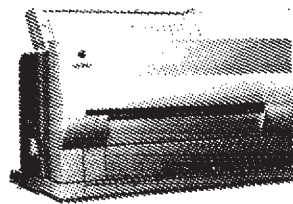
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## Earth Day brings discussion of animal rights

by Greg Giaccio

On Earth Day, Sarah Odom, of the Woodstock Animal Rights Movement (WARM) spoke to a small group of people about vegetarianism. She lectured about the hazards that meat presents, not only to the animals which provide it, but to the people who eat it, as well.

Sarah Odom first argued against the eating of meat on the basis of health. The idea that meat is important because it is one of the four food groups may be shaky. According to Odom there used to be many food groups until the meat and dairy industry petitioned the Department of Agriculture to reduce the number to just four—meat, dairy, grains and fruits and vegetables—with two of the groups being animal products. According to an article circulated by Odom, physicians are now petitioning the Department of Agriculture to rethink the four food groups, de-emphasizing the meat and dairy groups for health reasons.

Odom referred to several graphs that showed the countries with

the highest rates of bowel cancer and heart disease which also coincided with the countries with the highest rates of meat consumption. Osteoporosis, a calcium deficiency disease, is also most common in America and Scandinavia where dairy pro-

### The most shocking animal abuse goes on in factory farms...

—Sarah Odom of WARM

duction is highest. "It takes away your calcium to digest protein," Odom explained. While most people rely on meat as a source of protein, Odom argued that the actual protein requirement for people is "tops, 9%," which can easily be obtained from plant sources.

However, Odom's main argument against meat consumption was the cruelty involved in "factory farming." The life of an animal raised in a factory farm is not a pretty one. Cows are artificially inseminated to ensure their pro-

duction of milk and calves until they are slaughtered. The calves are raised in small pens that don't provide enough room for the animals to lie down. They are fed an "iron deficient gruel" which keeps their flesh white since most consumers believe white veal tastes better than pink.

Pigs are raised in steel and cement pens which hurt their feet since they have evolved for life in soft dirt. Odom cited a statistic that nearly 100% of all pigs either break their feet or get lesions on their hooves. The fact that pigs are

artificially fattened to twice their normal body weight doesn't help them. The crowded conditions lead to cannibalism which is pretty abnormal behavior for pigs.

Cannibalism is also bizarre behavior in chickens but it does happen in the crowded conditions under which they are raised. To prevent this, the chickens are de-beaked as babies. Like most factory farm animals, they are raised in the dark to bring out their calmer night-time instincts.

"The most shocking animal abuse goes on in factory farms,"

said Odom. Factory farming has even drawn criticism from the Secretary of Agriculture. Most of Odom's information came from the book *Diet for a New America*, by John Robbins. This book was described as the "bible for environmental activists." One should keep in mind that not all farms are like the ones described in the book and by Odom. There is a line of products available in most health food stores called "Free Range" which are made from animals that have been raised in a humane manner.

## Earth Day music nothing to sneeze at



Dan Sonenberg performed original compositions in front of Kline on Earth Day.  
by David Steinberg

Earth Day was shaping up to be a huge disappointment. It was cold and overcast. Everyone was staying inside. Ben and Jerry's decided to leave early.

When the bands started, it seemed as though they were just a formality. Before too long, however, they managed to reaffirm the feelings of joy that Earth Day symbolizes for a handful of people.

The music started with Dan Sonenberg. An early problem arose when he discovered that there was no mike stand, but he used a broomstick to create an "all-natural mike stand." Sonenberg played 10 songs, including such favorites as "Instigation Blues," "New House Policy," and "Medicare."

Despite the fact that his hands were cold (he had to reject one crowd choice because he didn't feel capable of playing it that day), his guitar playing was in top form. Even the sky gods enjoyed his

playing, for by the time he left the stage, the rain had stopped. It was definitely a fine showing from this up and coming singer.

After Dan finished, Aram Sinnreich and Lilah Friedland came on. Lilah read a story called "Big Hands" while Aram accompanied on guitar. The story centered around Lin-Po, a man whose hands were as big as his head, and Angelina, a woman who loved a part of her body which, if I mentioned it in this alleged family paper, would cause Jesse Helms to come after me with an axe and then to firebomb the *Observer* offices. Hence I shall refer to it as her

"privates."

This performance got some mixed reviews. Some people found it wildly funny, while others thought it was pretty much a waste of time. This reporter will make no judgement and, like IBM, will let you make the call. After the story, Aram went on to play three of his own songs: "Wouldya, Couldya, Didya," "She Sleeps Alive," and "I Don't Know."

When Plum() Awful took the stage, they discovered that the guitar pick-up was gone. Ever versatile, they used the much acclaimed Greg Giaccio Mike Stand

continued on page 4

## NEW HORIZONS

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1990 - 1991

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Blanca Uribe, piano

### Blanca Uribe

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—*The New York Times*

**Richard Wilson**  
Concerto for Piano and Orchestra  
(World Premiere)  
Richard Wilson and Blanca Uribe, pianos  
Symphony No. 2

**Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart**

Concerto No. 10 in E-flat for Two Pianos, K. 365  
Richard Wilson and Blanca Uribe, pianos

**Robert Schumann**  
Overture/Scherzo/Finale, Op. 52



Richard Wilson, composer/piano

**Richard Wilson**  
"A genuinely symphonic tone of voice."  
—*The Guardian* (London and Manchester)

Friday, May 3, F.W. Olin Auditorium, Bard College  
Saturday, May 4, Skinner Hall, Vassar College  
Performances at 8 p.m. — Pre-concert talks at 7 p.m. Tickets: \$10.  
Call 758-6822 (Bard College) for information about both concerts.  
Sunday, May 5, 8:30 p.m. — Alice Tully Hall, Lincoln Center  
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# WHAT IS THIS?!? BONG-O-RAMA

## The physics of the bong

by the Panacea Organization

A bong is a device used to smoke certain substances. The bong is used to maximize the amount of smoke that can be inhaled while minimizing the amount of excess pollutants (i.e. wrapping papers) inhaled.

1) User (not shown) holds bong in left hand with index finger covering the "carburetor" opening (b), and places flame of lighter (not shown) immediately adjacent to the bowl (c) which has been filled with "substance."

2) User places his (or her) mouth over the bong chamber opening (a) and inhales deeply. The vacuum produced by the expansion of the user's diaphragm (not shown) draws outside air, and the flame of the lighter, into the "substance" in the bowl (c), whereupon smoke is created.

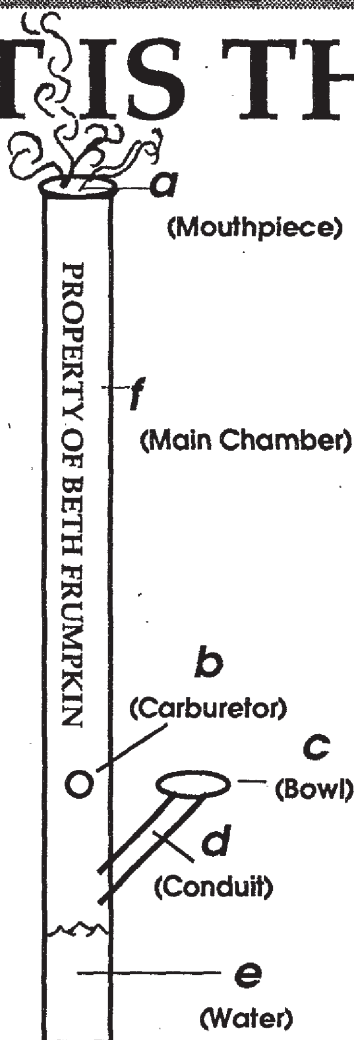
4) The vacuum further draws smoke down the pipe (d) where it rises in bubbles (not shown) through the water (e) and into the bong chamber (f).

5) When the bong chamber (f) has completely filled with smoke, the user continues to inhale but removes her (or his) finger (not shown) from the carburetor opening (b).

6) Because air always follows the path of least resistance, the vacuum (not shown) now draws air into the bong chamber (f) through the carburetor opening (b), while the water (e) seals of the pipe (d) from the bowl (c) from the aforementioned chamber (f).

7) The air drawn into the bong chamber (f) through the carburetor opening (b) pushes the smoke (not shown) through the mouth of the bong chamber (a) where it is inhaled into the lungs (not shown) of the user.

9) The user continues to inhale



(not shown) until, ideally, all of the smoke is cleared out of the bong chamber (f).

10) The size of the hit thus obtained is a function of the volume of the bong chamber (f), the placement of the carburetor opening (b), the density with which the "substance" is packed into the bowl (c), the oxygen content of the outside air (not shown), the level of the water (e), the lung capacity of the user, his or her ability to remain conscious, and the proximity of Beth Frumpkin (not shown).

Increasingly better approximations of the mathematical equation modelling bong hits is one of the most vigorously researched areas of modern physics, with literally gobs of government funds being approved every day. Truly,

Some of our readers may recall a photo of a "bong" printed in last week's issue of the *Observer*. We promised at that point to further enlighten the community on the science and the art of the "bong." Well here it is. Diagram and all. We have searched out the world's most acclaimed experts on the subject, and here present you with the true story and all the gory details. **THIS SHOULD NOT, IN ANYWAY, BE TAKEN AS OFFICIAL OBSERVER SANCTION OF SUCH ACTIVITIES. WE DO NOT CONDONE DRUG USE. NOT US. WE JUST WRITE ABOUT IT.**

## Celebrating Earth Day the Bard Way

by Greg Giaccio

On Christmas one celebrates by giving and receiving gifts. On Halloween one celebrates by collecting candy door-to-door from complete strangers. On Valentine's day one celebrates by giving mushy notes to one's romantic interest.

Up until recently, however, there were no special celebration activities attached to Earth Day. That is, until a ten foot bong made its appearance outside of Kline Commons.

Yes, Christmas has Santa Claus and Easter has its bunny, but Earth Day has the best mythical character of them all: the Bong Fairy. The Bong Fairy, who shall

remain anonymous to thwart the Earth Day grinchers over at the D.E.A., made the ten foot bong from a section of plastic piping. The bong was so tall that some people had to stand on top of a chair placed on the wall outside Kline in order to smoke it.

The bong was labeled "Property of Beth Frumpkin [sic]," although this is highly doubtful. Experts in the *Observer* office believe this label to be a joke and are vigorously searching out people with a sense of humor to confirm or deny this rumor.

The bong was shared communally in the spirit of Earth Day. In all, eleven people smoked it. One person selflessly applied his lighter to the bowl, depriving

himself of a hit so that others might benefit.

The purpose of a bong is to increase the amount of smoke inhaled, although one wonders about the practicality of having a ten foot bong. The brave people who tried to smoke the bong had to huff and puff like accordions in order to create enough of a vacuum to "shotgun" the smoke. However, one successful smoker did say, "I got a pretty good hit off of that thing."

The bong was then swept up over the shoulder of the Bong Fairy and taken to other places, where good little boys and girls who practice environmentally safe habits could pollute themselves.

## Earth Day music

continued from page 3

to amplify the flute and guitar. They played their three most popular songs: "The Desert Song," "SPANDEX," and the Guns 'N' Roses classic "Paradise City."

Because some might see this reporter as being less than impartial in reviewing the quality of this band, he got views from prospective student Pam Nashel. She said, "[It was] nothing like I've ever seen before. I liked the angel,

SPANDEX the Goldfish. I wasn't sure if I wanted to go to Bard but Plum() Awful made my decision." [The prospective student was, in truth, partially intimidated by Dave and said this only to keep him happy. However, she did like me, the mikesand—ed] With a glowing review like that, one can only hope that A&M records will quickly sign them to a multi-million dollar contract.

Chris Elliot closed out the day's musical extravaganza. Unlike the other musicians, he had serious competition: a 10 foot bong (see above). Despite this, he kept the crowd entertained, and for his final number — the sing-a-long

"Throw Away the Hatred" — the bong was actually closed down so everyone could participate.

At this point dinner started and everybody went into Kline. As one student probably would have said if I could have found him in time for this article, "It wasn't as bad as I thought it was going to be." And while one doubts if any of this would help out the environment in any way, a day of good music is nothing to sneeze at.

## Classifieds

Summer Job: Temporary part-time editorial assistant for *Journal of the History of Sexuality*. 23 hours per week, possible 10 hours additional work available. General clerical work, proofreading, typing. WP 5.0 experience required. \$4.25/hr. Call 542 for interview.

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FOR SALE: Black leather biker jacket. Almost new. Must sell. \$175 NEGOTIABLE. Call Julia 758-1494 or Box 329.

I need a ride to Northwestern Mass. (Williamstown) some upcoming Saturday. Julia 758-1494 or Box 329.

## Personals

I accept all responsibility as the writer of the letter "Dear Eph" which appeared in the April 5, 1991 issue of this publication. This deserves to be acknowledged as a public apology to everyone who was hurt, angered, or disappointed in any way by deception. Despite my honest intentions, I showed poor judgement resulting in a display of bad journalism.

—Ephen Glenn Colter  
Box 187

## Elections

Positions are open in the Educational Policies Committee, Student Judiciary Board, and Planning Committee. A new Student Government Secretary and Board of Trustees Representative will also be elected.

Those students interested in running for a student government position must formulate a written statement of purpose, due in Lisa Sanger's hands by Monday, May 6. This statement is public and will be posted. If you have questions, Lisa Sanger can be reached at ext. 339.

## Forum

There will be a forum meeting on Thursday, May 10 to discuss room draw and then to vote. As always, attend.



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## A Heinous Act

*The author's name has been withheld by request since the topic "recently hit home," according to the author. -Ed.*

There is a lot of talk on this page, both veiled and unveiled, about sexuality. Sexuality extends beyond act, to circumstance. There is an aspect of both sexuality and relationships that serves not only as food for the wildfire Bard Grapevine, but also as an instrument of pain:

Infidelity to one's partner of choice.

Maintaining only one partner at a time is a matter of choice for most. Some relationships are based on the agreement that others may enter the scene at one time or another, especially at this "forward thinking" institution. But in many it is believed, whether stated or implied, that the relationship is meant to be a monogamous one. Perhaps the relaxed sexual atmosphere here encourages, or at least makes easy, the possibility of "unfaithfulness." Or maybe for some it is a selfish way of having their cake and eating it too. There exist, also, those who have every intention of maintaining a singular relationship, but are lead off the one-partner-at-a-time path by previous relationships, unexpected opportunities of intense passion, substances, or even, basic stupidity. The question stands then, is any one of these types of people, for whatever reason, to be forgiven for their indiscretions? This decision would seem to

be within the realm of the wronged partner. Some may seem fit to forgive and forget, some to end the relationship immediately, some to continue but without the that sacred trust which is so very difficult to come by. But whatever the final outcome, there is, almost without fail, someone who comes out of the whole occurrence hurt, confused, or to some degree brutally jaded. All around, the situation is not one which should be taken as one of those aspects of Bard which is to be accepted "because that's the way Bard is, take it or leave it." Cheating is not just one of those food-for-gossip items that adds to the well-circulated personal dossiers that each one of us holds while we are here. It becomes history for some rather quickly. But often, long after many of us have forgotten all the sordid details but names or faces, the mark is left on those to whom the blow has been especially fierce.

To suggest that unfaithfulness be eradicated is barely a possibility: there are always going to be those for whom saying "no" until the relationship-at-hand is ended is impossible. But if these words can serve a reminder to those who have partaken of this type of "forbidden fruit" to think twice and to prevent a repeat performance, and especially to those who have been tempted to step over this threshold, then I have served some of my intentions. Because no matter what the circumstances, someone gets hurt, and the pain is merciless and intense.

## THE BEER COLUMN

	Miller	Killians	Fosters
Phantom	1.5	3.5	2.5
Finneghan	1	3.5	2

America. The world's most overweight nation. Why? Because all true Americans love sitting around, watching football in front of their new 20" remote Sony TV's with a suitcase of brewskis and papa's special from the pizzeria joint around the corner.

The problem has been noticed. The solution has been found (sort of). More and more companies are catering to the 'health-conscious' by producing a less-filling version of their standard fare.

The two newest light beers are Miller's Genuine Draft Light and Fosters Light. Let's face it - if you're expecting the same taste in a light that you get in the regular,

you'll be disappointed. And we were. But we got over it.

The Miller resembled its heavier (here a relative term) predecessor in taste, until you've swallowed, and then a really unpleasant after taste hangs around in your mouth, not wanting to go away. On the other hand, the Fosters is exactly the reverse. Its taste does not so much resemble its brother, yet like the original Fosters, the Light has almost no aftertaste. Of the two, Fosters is the tastier (and Better) choice. It is also the more expensive choice, costing \$2.00 more than the Miller, weighing in at a heavy \$6 a 6.

If you don't give a damn, Bevway just began selling Killian's Red (yes, it is red...well, reddish, anyway). Killian's is a darker, heavier beer with a great, unique taste and a good aftertaste. A high class beer - do us a favor and drink it with a steak.

### BEVERAGE WAY

supermarket of beer and soda

RT. 9, 2 MILES NORTH OF RED HOOK TRAFFIC LIGHT

758-0541

Bud Light cans

\$12.99 case

Genesee cans

\$9.99 case

Piels

twist off caps

\$2.49 6-pack



Corona

\$4.99 6-pack

Moosehead

\$3.99 6-pack

Pepsi cans

\$2.49 6-pack

A page of unedited observations from guest writers

## SPANDEX'S RETURN

(Part the Eighteenth)

-by ZZYX (David Steinberg)

I wanted to scream at my friend's father, "Look here: the aliens are threatening to destroy the planet, you're the only one who knows how to make the fuel to take them home, and you don't even care!" However, I was restrained from doing this by the post-hypnotic suggestion that the aliens left. I realized I would have to cut a deal or something.

"Hey," I said, "for reasons I can't go into due to a post-hypnotic suggestion, it's highly important that I have access to your fuel formula. I am willing to make some kind of exchange. What's your price?"

"I thought you would know," he replied, "for is it not written in your own so-called 'holy book' that information may only be exchanged for information?"

I looked upon him with new respect. Not only could he quote THE GOOD BOOK, but he had memorized one of the more obscure passages in it. However, he did not have the all-important working knowledge of it that I did. "So," I said, "are you willing to do what THE GOOD BOOK commands?"

He nodded. I knew he wanted specific information from me. After all, he knew that I possessed secrets that could tear apart the whole SPANDEXian religion. He went to the bookshelf to grab his copy of THE GOOD BOOK. I opened it up to the

relevant section: the Book of Pi 22:7. I read the verse. "Due to its sacred nature, information may only be exchanged for information. Only in cases involving the Import/Export act of 1873 or rocket fuel shall be exempt; in such cases the information shall be given away for nothing. Any person found in violation of this shall be stoned to death with mules."

Stunned, he turned to me, verified that the quote was accurate, and gave me the secret. Instantly the information was forwarded to the aliens. I walked out to the ZZYXmobile. I wanted to test out the voice-activated-hyper-quick-ZZYXgear. As I turned it on, a voice from above said the password: "Here we go!"

I found myself inside a cave. There was an inscription on the wall. It was in the shape of a star with the outer boundary erased. Yes, I was on a quest to find The Missing Link! [O.K., so that's another math joke. Remember, math majors are an oppressed minority here. (How would Lit majors like it if every third person said, "Lit, yuck!") As most good progressives say nowadays, you can't dictate to an oppressed minority how they choose to empower themselves. We could choose to bomb Olin, or demand a certain percentage of space in publications be devoted to our interests—rather we choose bad math jokes in SPANDEX. You wouldn't understand...]

-TO BE CONTINUED-

## Bard College Student Employees:

Presently Bard College has no responsibility to its employees. The last two times the minimum wage went up, students have had to fight to receive the increase. Bard can fire you for any reason, no reason, or simply because the individual department you work for has gone over its budget. Only a contract can give you rights as a worker, and only through unionizing can you get a fair contract. Union dues are \$4.25 per month (one hours wage) for students working twenty hours or less per week.

If you support the move to unionize, sign the statement below, cut it out, and send it to box 572 through campus mail.

I hereby authorize Teamsters Local 445 to represent me for the purpose of negotiating a collective bargaining agreement to improve my wages, benefits, hours, and working conditions. Please put in Box 572.

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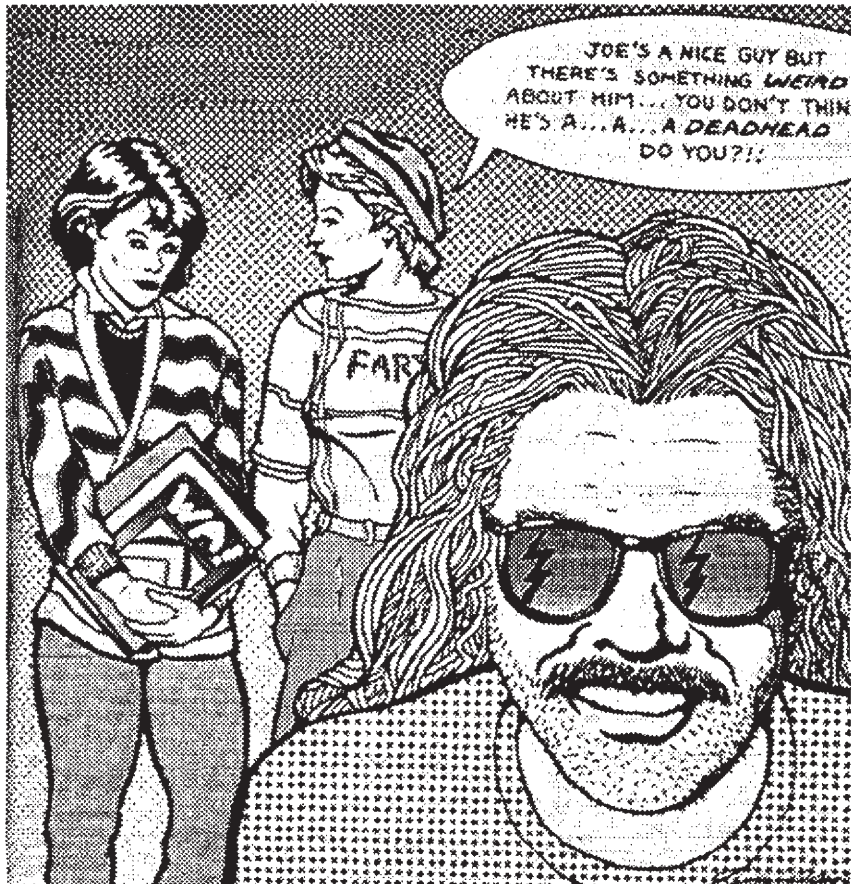
Bard Students for a Union



# Dead books: Built to last?

by Jonathan Miller

This week, we're looking at a few books about everyone's favorite rock group, the good 'ol Grateful Dead. The band's 25th anniversary year came around in 1990, and to celebrate, a number of new volumes about the group came out. The original Space Cowboys, no other band is so completely loved or so passionately loathed by such a broad spectrum of people. Consisting of the guitar wizard Jerry Garcia, the classical composer bassist Phil Lesh, the hard-rock drummer Bill Kreutzmann, the respected ethnomusicologist Mickey Hart on the other set of drums, the newly added ex-Tube Vince Welnick on keyboards, and the incurable cheeseball Bob Weir on guitar, the band came out of the psychedelic scene of the 1960's, released the definitive San Francisco psychedelic album *Anthem of the Sun*, evolved into country-rockers, began exploring elements of jazz and funk, until today, when such luminaries as the Neville Brothers and Branford Marsalis regularly sit in during concerts with their jazzy, psychedelic folk-country-blues music. Alternative musicians can't stand them, critics don't give them any respect (or



reviews), but they're still a force to be reckoned with. Playing stadiums on the order of Springsteen or McCartney, the Dead play thirty-five dates a year, and haven't played to an empty seat

since 1986. Authors William Ruhlmann and Jamie Jensen have both taken stabs at explaining what this living oxymoron is all about.

First up is William Ruhlmann's *History of the Grateful Dead*. Ruhlmann, a writer for *Relix* magazine, has produced a tie-dyed coffee table book all about Jerry and the boys. To its credit, the volume is filled with large pictures that have rarely been seen before. It comes with a nice poster of the band in concert, and carries full discographies from the band, starting off with the Scorpio single "Don't Ease Me In" from 1966 running up to the Arista album *Built to Last* in 1989. Beginning with the obligatory chapter about Deadheads and Dead shows, the book runs through the events of the Sixties, Seventies and Eighties with sidetrips for special subjects dealing with the band and its history.

The problem with Ruhlmann's book is, he can't seem to decide whether he wants to write a serious investigation of the band or write an obsequious fan-boy book. It says up front "This book is neither authorized nor endorsed by the Grateful Dead" and it shows. Although there are inter-

esting nuggets, there's a distinct lack of inside information, little that couldn't have been extracted from newspaper and magazine files. When one considers that hardly anyone but a serious fan would buy this hardback, \$20.00 book, Ruhlmann's lengthy first chapter describing what a Dead show is like seems a little superfluous. In addition, many of the photograph labels are a wee bit insulting to the intelligence. Captions like "This blissful looking crowd is waiting to get into the show..." make it seem as if Ruhlmann has been reading *Tiger Beat*.

There are some interesting bits to *History*, however. A discussion relating Robert Hunter's lyrics to the Beats and French Existentialists produces some insight into their work (it ain't all hippie-dippiness).

*The History of the Grateful Dead's real strength is in its photographs. They are*

legion, virtually all of them are unpublished, and they make Ruhlmann's work a great one for some quality spacing-time.

Jamie Jensen's book *Built to Last* is similar to Ruhlmann's in that it provides a wealth of new photos, as well as giving a history of the band, but here the concentration is on information. The photographs are much smaller, pushed out to the side to make more room for the text. Jensen goes through the band's history twice, first covering their recording career, reviewing each album, and the events that led to them, and then again, dealing with their touring career and the Grateful Dead family. This is not written so much as a trendy fan-publication, but a more serious history of a band in transit.

Jensen relies more on quotes than Ruhlmann does, and the prose is not quite so condescending. Long complex sentences

snake around each other, excerpts from interviews with each member of the band (along with sundry others) pepper and salt the book, explaining in a personal way what couldn't be described in a journalistic manner. While the book is far from a serious investigation in the manner that *Nobody Gets Out of Here Alive* was for The Doors, Jensen avoids the sycophantic nature of most rock-books. The base of his book is facts, and some of them are absolute jaw-droppers. In 1968, they had become so famous from psychedelic concert posters distributed throughout the country that they were listed in *Who's Who in America*—years before they cracked the top fifty. In 1969, Garcia and the rest played a double-bill with proto-punk legends the Velvet Underground.

There seems to have been a re-evaluation of the Grateful Dead's oeuvre in the past few years. As they've begun selling records, the conventional wisdom on them has gone from their being a bunch of middle-aged cokeheads selling insincere nostalgia, to their being an all-American chunk of music. *Spin* magazine listed Jerry Garcia

as one of the Top Guitar Gods in their anniversary

**The basis of this book is facts, and some of them are absolute jawbreakers.**

sary of Rock n' Roll issues, and even the *Village Voice*, bastion of trendoid criticism, gave a worshipping review of a Dead show. A cover album entitled *Deadicated* has just been released, with such noteworthy musicians as Dwight Yoakam, K.D. Lang, the Indigo Girls, and Jane's Addiction paying them tribute. This year, their album *Without a Net* made it into the lower ranks of the top forty, despite the fact that it was live, a double album, and that it received virtually no reviews or airplay. Twenty-five years down the road, the phrase "Built to Last" seems less cheeky posing than carefully considered description.

(*Built to Last* by Jamie Jensen is published by Plume, ©1990. *A History of the Grateful Dead* by William Ruhlmann is published by Gallery Books, ©1990. It was available in the bookstore, so maybe if you ask, they'll order more.)

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Senior art openings continue ...

## Phillips' portraits examine psychology

by Tatiana Prowell

"I wanted to focus on the psychology of individuals," explains senior art major Larissa Phillips. Her senior project, which was hung in Proctor last week, is a series of portraits.

Although she was interested primarily in portraits when she first came to Bard, Phillips abandoned the medium a few years ago only to return to it again late last fall.

The central influence on Phillips' work was her junior year, which was spent studying abroad in Florence, Italy. Although she felt little opportunity to explore her own style while immersed in studio classes at Bard and in Italy, she found that when she returned her work had been altered significantly by her travel experience.

"Being surrounded by all Renaissance art and even the air of the country really affected my work," Phillips said.

The decision to pick up portraits again was somewhat difficult for Phillips, since the majority of Bard art professors work in abstract. "Luckily, my advisor,

Professor Cheng, who is not an abstract artist, was very supportive and perceptive."

The paintings show the changes in Phillips' style. "I have experienced rapid changes with my portraits," she explained, "which you can see since the pieces are in chronological order. I really moved from

on it for the remainder of the semester. "I felt it was unfortunate to have a deadline when I was at such a turning point in my painting, but in retrospect, it's good to see the steps I was making," she reflected.

Following graduation, Phillips plans to return to Italy in order to



Portrait from Larissa Phillips' senior project.

a linear style to a much more 'painterly' and expressive style."

Although Phillips' project was unfinished when the show went up, she plans to continue working

study the language and to travel. Although she plans to continue painting, she also intends to support herself with writing, her second love, while living in Europe.

## Sproat to leave

continued from page 1

Sproat agree. "While I appreciate Bard's fiscal difficulties," said Writing Tutor Andy Molloy, "I believe very strongly that cuts or cutbacks could be made in other areas that wouldn't have such a severe impact on the student body."

Sproat has put in about 60 hours every week for the last two and a half years. Since her arrival in January 1989, she has greatly expanded the functions of the Assistant Dean. She has given much closer attention to academic advising in general, and assigning of freshman advisors in particular, than her part-time predecessor could. Sophomores have also received more attention than in the past, with open meetings regarding moderation and individual attention for students who are unsure of their major or who have failed moderation.

Sproat has focused particularly on those students who fall at the two ends of the academic spectrum: those who are at risk, and those who excel academically. She has worked extensively with

learning-disabled students and students who have problems with their writing, both in terms of individual support and through coordination of the Peer Tutors and the Writing Tutors programs.

On the other end of the spectrum, Sproat administers all outside scholarships (Rhodes, Marshall, Fulbright, and so on) and assists eligible students who want to apply for these awards. She also administers the Junior Fellowship program.

Levine indicated that the elimination of Sproat's position is not necessarily permanent, and that if the college's fiscal situation improves, the position may eventually be refilled and the full level of services reinstated.

But that will be too late for Dean Sproat, who, if the cut goes as planned, will no longer be part of the Bard community. And Molloy feels that the loss of Dean Sproat will mean more than just the loss of services she provides. "Her commitment as an administrator is unparalleled," he said. "She is approachable, amicable, and highly dedicated. I think she embodies all those qualities that Bard envisions as the perfect administrator."

**Heard something  
interesting?  
Give us a call!  
758-0772**




Photo courtesy of ISO

On Saturday, April 27, the International Students Organization put on an evening of poetry, song, and dance from around the world, giving the Bard community a chance to enjoy the diverse cultures and traditions of the many countries from which the ISO draws its members. Here Manish Desai takes center stage during the traditional stick dance from Gujarat.


## Calling All Remotely Motivated, Semi-Interested Potential Arts Writers!

The Arts and Entertainment pages need your help! As the new editor of these pages, I want to make sure that I cover everything of importance in the arts that is relevant to Bard life. Since I cannot be everywhere, I would appreciate input from professors and students about upcoming events that should be covered. If you have an interest in these events and can write a more informed article than a general Arts writer, please contact Tatiana Prowell through Campus Mail or at the Observer office: 758-0772. You are welcome to submit articles and reproducible art, or call to ask about events to cover. You can write regularly or occasionally.


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## Blazers down in flames

by Matt Apple

The Blazers started off the second-to-last week of their season with wins over Simon's Rock and Mount Saint Mary College. Bard squashed Simon's Rock 8 to 1, taking three matches without yielding a single game. Matt Phillips triumphed over Pam Merritt 6/0, 6/0; Henri Ringel captured both sets 6/0, 6/0 from Fusan Lin; and Phillips and Ringel combined to whitewash Merritt and Josh Smith 6/0, 6/0. The Blazers scored one more perfect match against Mt. St. Mary's in their 7-2 victory, as Chris Lennen turned away Jamin 6/0, 6/0. In another exciting match, the Noah Samton-Isaac Halpern team recovered from a tiebreaker-loss in their first set 6/7 (3-7) to take the next two sets 6/0, 6/0 for the win. That gave the Blazers an 8-2 record going into the NAIA District 31 Tournament versus the College of Saint Rose, a tough competitor, who Bard barely beat before during the season 5-4.

The singles competition started off well for the Blazers, as Lou Ilic and Chris Lennen advanced to the second round with byes, and Matt Phillips and Henri Ringel advanced by winning their first round matches with scores of 6/0, 6/0 and 6/1, 6/0, respectively. Only Ilic managed to continue to the semifinals, with his 4/6, 6/3,

6/3 victory over Todd Duvall, eventually losing a heart-breaker to Chris LaFlamme 6/3, 2/6, 6/0. LaFlamme wound up winning the singles tournament over fellow team player Olson 6/3, 6/1.

The doubles draw proved more effective for the Blazers, as the team of Ilic-Lennen fought their way to the final match with a 6/2, 6/4 victory. In the final match, the St. Rose duo of Olson and LaFlamme, who had previously downed the Ringel-Phillips combo 6/2, 6/4, proved too much for the Blazers, winning by the final score of 6/0, 6/0. Coach Joel Thompson was disappointed that the Blazers didn't pick up a few points when they could have, but said he particularly impressed with Noah Sampton, saying, "Noah played a great game. He exceeded all expectations, especially going up against their toughest players."

As for Bard's performance as a team, Thompson just said, "We were simply outplayed. St. Rose just had a better team this time."

The winners, Olson and LaFlamme, will travel to Kansas City to compete in the national finals from May 20 to 27. The Blazers have two games, Wed. May 1 against Western Connecticut State University and a rescheduled game versus Albertus Magnus College on Friday the 3rd. Both games are at home.

## NAIA District 31 Tennis Tournament

### Doubles Draw

First round	
Poulin-Sweet d. Halpern-Samton	6/4, 7/5
Ringel-Phillips d. Duvall-Mahoney	6/3, 6/1
Semifinals	
Ilic-Lennen d. Poulin-Sweet	6/2, 6/4
Olson-LaFlamme d. Ringel-Phillips	6/2, 6/4
Final	
Olson-LaFlamme d. Ilic-Lennen	6/0, 6/0

### Singles Draw

First round			
Duvall d. Halpern	7/5, 6/2	Phillips d. Sweet	6/0, 6/0
Poulin d. Samton	6/2, 6/4	Ringel d. Mahoney	6/1, 6/0
Second round			
Ilic d. Duvall	4/6, 6/3, 6/2	LaFlamme d. Phillips	6/2, 6/4
Poulin d. Lennen	6/1, 6/2	Olson d. Ringel	6/1, 6/0
Semifinals			
LaFlamme d. Ilic	6/3, 2/6, 6/0	Olson d. Poulin	6/0, 6/2
Final			
Olson d. LaFlamme 6/3, 6/1			

## A Little Bit of American Culture...

by Matt Apple

Called our national pastime, baseball has never lost its popularity in American society. Millions of people attend games every year in huge ballparks, spending millions of dollars on peanuts, hotdogs, beer, and souvenirs. On April 28, a group of twenty-six brave people travelled from Stevenson Gymnasium to spend some of their money at Shea Stadium in Queens, New York City, on a trip that took them over three months - and without the Bard bus breaking down either.

The day at the game was the culmination of the "Work Your Way to Shea" project implemented by Kris Hall, Intramural Director, which started at the end of January. The project was created, according to Kris Hall, to "get people to do something" by awarding a certain number of points for each and any physical activity performed. For example, playing basketball for one hour would earn you 10 points, weightlifting for two hours would net you 32.

A rough map of the area from Bard to New York was placed on a bulletin board outside the Intramural office, with different towns representing the number of points attained. As each participant gained points, they moved a paper sneaker with their name on it downward towards Shea Stadium until they reached 500 points.

When the day of the game came, a match-up between the New York Mets and the Pittsburgh Pirates, the group was interested to discover that two of their number had never gone to a baseball game and didn't know how the game was played - for good reasons.

Susan Davies, who hails from Tottleworth ("30 miles north of Manchester"), England, vaguely

knew the rules of baseball. She did note that the game was very long and somewhat slow-paced, involving more skill than "real physical action." Comparing the crowd at Shea to soccer fans in England, Susan said, "They were what we [in England] think are typical Americans, like those we see on TV. You know, with their baseball caps, beer in one hand and hot dog in the other." She was disappointed there wasn't any chanting or build-up by the quiet crowd, and said she was really only "half-watching" the game most of the time.

"It's more like a family outing here," Susan said, "In England, at football games, it's predominantly teenage and adult males, and they're constantly singing."

Marie-Helene Chateigner, of Orleans, France, also thought the crowd was very quiet and had "good behavior" compared to soccer fans in Europe. "You're always going out [into the stadium for food], coming back; you spend half of the game doing something else [than watching it]." Marie-Helene said the game was only interesting because "watching it was the only way to understand the rules." Having seen few baseball games on television - only cable channels carry games in France - she had only a few notions about the rules, saying, "All I know is that you hit a ball with a bat and sometimes you run and sometimes you don't." Why, then, did she go to see the game? "It's a part of American culture. I first read about it in a novel by Paul Aster called *Moon Palace*, where he mentioned the name 'Mets' a few times. I started wondering, 'What is 'Mets'?"

She found out, and enjoyed the game, mostly because of the crowd. Surprised to see how many fans were at the game (a little over

34,000), Marie-Helene was pleased to see how much the fans were into the game and how much they supported the team. When the seventh-inning stretch came, and the crowd stood in anticipation of the playing of "Take Me Out To The Ballgame," she said she felt she had to stand up, as if she were "saluting the team."

Marie-Helene wasn't cheering for or favoring either team. "I don't know enough about baseball to like one team better than another," she said. "But I liked coming to watch the game, to feel like a part of the crowd. I enjoyed it, even though it was a bit long."

One notable event during the game that underscored the tense competition between the rival teams occurred when a fan, wearing a Pirates' cap, jumped onto the playing field. Running through left field, his cap flew off his head and landed in front of Pirates' left fielder Barry Bonds. Before the Mets' ballgirl could retrieve the cap, Bonds had reached down, removing his own cap, and placed the stray cap on his head. The crowd roared its approval as Bonds tipped the cap to them, proving that although Bonds was on an opposing team, the home fans didn't see him as an enemy. He was the same as them and us: a part of the game and a part of American culture.

For the benefit of the two or three fans who didn't know the words:

"Take me out to the ball game,  
Take me out to the crowd.  
Buy me some peanuts and  
crackerjack,  
I don't care if I ever get back.  
So it's root, root, root for the home  
team,  
If they don't win it's a shame.  
For it's one, two, three strikes  
you're out at the old ball game."

## Tennis Results

### vs. Mt. St. Mary 7-2

Ilic d. Temple	6/2, 6/3
Lennen d. Jamin	6/0, 6/0
Ringel d. C. O'Brien	6/0, 6/2
Samton d. Lamere	6/4, 6/1
M. O'Brien d. Choning	6/4, 6/4
Samton-Halpern d. Temple-Jamin	6/7 (3/7), 6/0, 6/0
Phillips-Ringel d. Coglionisla-C. O'Brien	6/0, 6/1
Lamere-M. O'Brien d. Choning-Chase	6/4, 6/4

### vs. Simon's Rock 8-1

Lyn d. Ilic	6/2, 2/6, 6/3
Lennen d. Saerwhofer	6/2, 6/3
Phillips d. Merritt	6/0, 6/0
Ringel d. Lin	6/0, 6/0
Samton d. Abrams	6/1, 6/0
Halpern d. Valle	7/5, 6/2
Ilic-Lennen d. Lyn-Saerwhofer	6/3, 6/3
Phillips-Ringel d. Merritt-Smith	6/0, 6/0
Samton-Halpern d. Lin-Abrams	10/2 (Pro set)

Bard victories in bold



## Softball games a hit

by Matt Apple

Exciting softball action continued at the wonderful Bard Dome, completing the third week of play. With only a week and a half left before the playoffs, several teams still remain undefeated. Among those teams with perfect records are the Cunning Linguists, Soixante-Neuf Annee Erotique, Ground Zero, Take It Out It Hurts, I Did It With James Brown, Gonna Get Our Butts Kicked, and My Little Pony. These teams have people who have actually played softball before and they will probably continue on to the dramatic quarter finals come May 13. As for the others...I know, my team is 0 and 3.

Some teams still haven't won a game yet, including my own, but there's no need to worry. As everyone knows, winning isn't everything (especially here at Bard, since we don't do much of it anyways) and in intramurals it's more important to have fun. No matter which teams play, it's always great to watch the games. I mean, think about it. What could possibly be more enjoyable than watching a hapless bunch of film majors who don't know where they're throwing the ball? or a team where every person is named Andy (or Andrea. No need to be sexist)?

### Softball Results — Week of April 22

Soixante Neuf Annee Erotique d. Margaret & the Meat...	16-4
Cunning Linguists d. Bard Emissions	15-6
P.F.P.S.L.A. d. Don't Let Them Hit It To Me	Forfeit
Ground Zero d. SP α&Σ	16-6
Grand Funk Enema d. Masuginalke's	13-9
The Pithers d. Last Temptation of Brutus	10-6
I did it with James Brown d. The Brute Marsupials	13-0
My Little Pony d. The Stoolies	12-8
Gonna Get Our Butts Kicked d. The Screaming Kostabis	15-4
Cunning Linguists d. Margaret & the Meatbangers	1-13
(Please God) Don't Let Them Hit It To Me d. Ground Zero	Forfeit
The Brute Marsupials d. Mostly Uncoordinated Nerds	12-13

With team names such as "Gonna Get Our Butts Kicked," who, ironically, haven't lost yet, and "Mostly Uncoordinated Nerds," who have remained true to their name but still almost won a close game, you can't go wrong. You also can't possibly take these games seriously. This isn't the World Series. It isn't even Little League. It's over two hundred students at a liberal arts college trying desperately to avoid accomplishing any work and succeeding with flying colors. So if you have nothing else to do, or even if you do, stop by and watch a couple games of Bad News Bears softball. You won't regret you came.

...and coming next week...you asked for it! An in-depth compilation of semi-accurate meaningless statistical leaders in every category imaginable! (Well, maybe only three or four)



Our own Fred Baker pitching. (P.S. His team lost.)

## Softball Game of the Week

by Matt Apple

### League Standings (as of 4/26)

Team	Wins	Losses	Total Runs
<b>Hudson League</b>			
The Cunning Linguists	3	0	25
Soixante-Neuf Annee Erotique	3	0	52
Bard Emissions	2	1	38
Fiddle Heads	0	2	13
The Andes	0	2	6
Margaret & the Meatbangers	0	3	11
<b>River League</b>			
Ground Zero	3	0	33
Take It Out, It Hurts	2	0	16
Senseless Datum	1	1	40
(Please God) Don't Let Them Hit It...	1	2	13
People's Film Front Liberation Army	1	2	7
SP α&Σ	0	3	9
<b>Catskill League</b>			
I Did It With James Brown	3	0	24
The Pithers	2	1	42
Last Temptation of Brutus	2	1	23
The Brute Marsupials	2	2	13
Grand Funk Enema	1	1	21
Mostly Uncoordinated Nerds	0	3	31
<b>Annandale League</b>			
Gonna Get Our Butts Kicked	3	0	34
My Little Pony	2	0	24
The Stoolies	2	1	40
Capitalist Pigs	0	2	11
The Screaming Kostabi's	0	2	7
Wig Hat On Your Head	0	2	3

In a vicious battle for the lead in the Catskill League, the Pithers and Last Temptation of Brutus clashed last Wednesday. After four and a half innings of tense play, neither team could push across the winning run. Taking a 6-6 tie into the bottom of the fifth, Last Temptation of Brutus was set down in order, 1-2-3, without getting a single runner on base. In the top of the sixth, which was to be the final and deciding inning of the game, the Pithers loaded the bases with two hits and a walk. One out later, big bad Nathan James stepped up to the plate, swinging a mean bat. With one mighty crack of the bat of James, the ball shot into the stratosphere, landing on the dark side of the moon. The grand slam abruptly put an end to the close game, ruining Last Temptation of Brutus's perfect record and placing the Pithers in a tie for second with 2 wins and 1 loss.

Please note that all softball games begin at 4:00 5:00 or 6:00. If you're unsure whether a game will be played, please call Kris Hall at Ext. 530.

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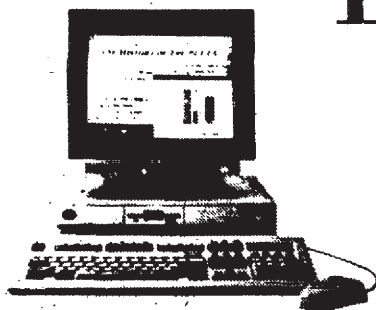
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- Micro Channel architecture
- IBM Mouse
- DOS 4.0
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## International crisis

To Kristan Hutchison, the Editor-in-Chief,

We are members of the International Student Organization (ISO) and upon reading your article in the *Bard Observer* we were extremely offended. You insinuated that the ISO is incapable of hosting a successful cultural evening because we throw good parties. We fail to see a logical connection.

We are curious to know what provoked your approach to the article and why you were unable to write a preview for the cultural evening with journalistic professionalism. We think you have no reasonable grounds to doubt the Organization's capabilities in hosting a cultural event since the last one (which was integrated into the party) was a huge success.

I am disappointed that the Editor-in-Chief of a college newspaper would debase herself to such amateur journalistic standards and allow personal opinion to interfere with the facts. I think you owe the Organization a written apology and a rewriting of the article (a more truthful article if you choose to rewrite it, or just an apology would suffice).

If in the future you find yourself

unable to approach an article professionally, ask a member of your staff to write it for you. After all, objectivity is a virtue that should be practised by everybody, especially journalists-shouldn't it?

Shanaz Padamsee  
Jitesh Ladwa  
Santushi Kuruppu  
Farrukh Khan  
Javed Jahangir  
Moniru Hoque  
Manish Desai  
Bhaves Ladwa  
Rajive Jayawardhane  
Amir Latif  
Fahad Azizuddin  
Yasmin Forlenza  
Jai Sen.

*I attended the dress rehearsal for the ISO performance on their request. The article was accurate as of press time and the information I was given. Because the rehearsal was disorganized, I could not make a judgment of the performance.*

*The sentence in question and headline "But can they perform?" was meant only as a literary device, which was swiftly answered in the affirmative by the sentence following. I cannot apologize for a bias against the ISO, since I have none. It is a group I like and respect highly. - Ed.*

## Enough PC talk

A new creature has been stalking our nation's campuses for over a semester now, and Bard, ever the bastion of liberalism, has picked up on it. This creature is known as p.c. bashing (and we all know that p.c. does not stand for peer counselor) and has occurred everywhere from Bard to Duke to Stanford to the *Times*. McCarthy never died, he just came back as a p.c. brander.

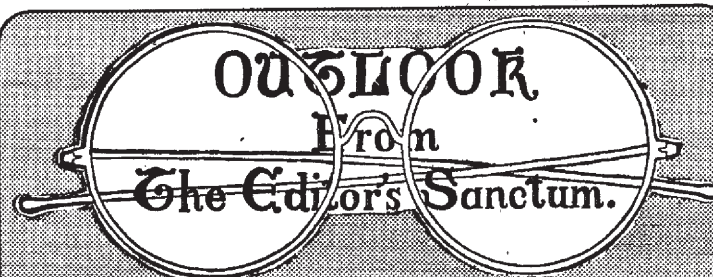
The tactic is to call anybody p.c. who holds a viewpoint to the left. P.C. is obviously meant tongue in cheek and is an insult not a praise. It is used to convey the idea that those who hold views to the left think that they know best and nobody else does. Those who are called p.c. supposedly are so self-serving and self-righteous that they won't even talk to anybody with an opposite viewpoint. Nothing could be further from the truth.

As many people may be aware of, I am a political nomad. My views range from the far right to the extreme left. Thankfully, I have

not been branded P.C. by those who are currently running around.

However, if I was would I be offended? Would you? Is it somehow wrong to think that the homeless deserve a place to live? Is it immoral to believe that nobody should go to bed hungry? Should I be condemned because I feel that I should recycle so that my kids have a world which they can enjoy?

What is it that caused the p.c. hysteria? If we trace back far enough, we actually do hit McCarthy. He knew what he was doing. It's always easier to go on the offensive than to defend your own point of view. Instead of formulating their own views more solidly, p.c. bashers are attacking the views of others. I am certainly aware that my views are not the be all and end all; I constantly change and revise my opinions. However, I also respect other views and am able to deal with them in a rational logical manner. Maybe we at Bard College can



## For the union label, look to Pepsi, not to Bard

by Greg Giaccio

Unions are good in principle. As any Eugene V. Debs fan could tell you, they have played a historic part in stopping big businesses from stepping all over the rights of the workers.

However, the current drive to affiliate Bard's work-study students with a national union will end up hurting working students more than it will help them.

I am probably one of the few students at Bard who has been affiliated with a national union, United Food and Commercial Workers, the third largest union in the nation. Three years ago I was a bag-boy in a supermarket where everyone was forced to join the union. I learned a few things first-hand about unions from that experience.

First of all, unions take money. They took a \$100 deposit from me at a rate of \$5 a week in addition to their weekly dues of \$4.75. That added up to over \$300 in the one year I worked there. I was able to work more hours than most work-study students do, but I still missed that \$9.75 every week.

Minimum wage was \$3.35 in those days, and although I worked at that supermarket for almost a year, I never saw more than \$3.65 an hour. There was a non-union supermarket about a mile away from where I worked that paid \$4.00 an hour to starting employees. I tried to get a job there but they had a six-month waiting list since the pay and benefits were so much better than at our union shop.

The management at the non-union shop had to be more responsive to their employees' needs in order to keep them from joining a union. The management at our store had to do only what the union told them to, which was damn little.

Not long after I quit working at the supermarket, the store was convicted of violating several child labor laws, including overworking students and allowing minors to operate potentially dangerous machinery. It was the government who put a stop to these bad working conditions, not the union.

Work study students can't afford monthly dues of \$4.25 (which is what the union under consideration would charge) when most jobs don't require more than ten hours a week. Working conditions at Bard are not exactly something you'd find in a Dickens novel. Affiliation with a national union does not by any means guarantee better channels of communication with the administration.

The administration is more likely to respond to student complaints than a national union is to take up the cause of a few hundred college students. Leave unions to those who really need them.

end this silly p.c. mania and get on with our lives. All we need is for students to be more respectful of other people's viewpoints. To borrow someone else's phrasing, we need to be able to separate the person from the politics. If those on the left can be more tolerant to those on the right and if the stu-

dents on the right could be more tolerant of those on the left we could rid our campus of this idiotic p.c. controversy once and for all.

Sincerely, Matt J. Lee

You know what we usually say in little spaces like this, so we won't even bother.

## The Bard Observer

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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.

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# 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

## Art History Lecture:

Anna Chave, Associate Professor of Fine Arts at Harvard University, is one of the most interesting and controversial young art historians presently working in the area of modern art. She will be speaking in Olin 102 on Wednesday, May 1 at 7:00 PM. Her topic will be *Pollock's Script/Krasner's Script*, and she will present an analysis of the personal and artistic relationship of Jackson Pollock and Lee Krasner, fellow artists who were also husband and wife.

## Math and Munchies:

Anita Wasilewska of SUNY at Stony Brook will speak on "Mathematical Logic and Computer Science" on Thursday, May 2 at 4:15 PM in Hegeman 102. Refreshments will be served at 4:30 PM. (This talk was originally scheduled for Thursday, April 18).

## Levy Lecture:

At 10:30 AM on Thursday, May 2, Jerrold Schneider will present a lecture entitled *Constraints and Opportunities For Democratic Congressional Leaders: The Message Problems and System Dynamics*. The Lecture will take place in the conference room of Blithewood, and is open to the public free of charge.

## French Day:

A French Day will be held on Saturday, May 4. An interdisciplinary conference will be held between 10:00 AM and noon in Olin 101. Other events include a soccer match behind Kline Commons from noon until 3:00 PM. At 7:00 PM a performance of Eugene Ionesco's *La Cantatrice Chauve* will be held in Olin Auditorium.

## Engineering Lecture:

If you're possibly interested in engineering, come speak

with Julian deMarchi, Bard student currently finishing his first (of two) years in the Columbia University 3-2 Combined Plan, and Burt Brody, Combined Plan liaison. Saturday, May 4, 2:00 PM in Hegeman 106.

## Play Performance:

On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 7, 8, and 9, *No Exit* by Jean Paul Sartre will be performed at the Student Center/Old Gym. The curtain rises at 8:00 PM and beach attire is requested, but not mandatory. Bring sunscreen — things may get a little hot.

## Reading:

Philip Roth will read from his book *Patrimony* at 8:00 PM on Thursday, May 9 in the Olin Auditorium.

## Bard Hiking Expedition:

*Ice Caves and Napanoch Point*. Saturday, May 18. The hike is 7.5 miles long with a 1,800 foot vertical rise, and will take 6 hours. The trip departs promptly at 9:00 AM from the Old Gym in a Bard van. Reservations are necessary. For more information, or to sign up, please contact Professor Ferguson.

## Attention Residence Hall Students:

Please remove all furniture and other personal belongings (including bicycles), out of the hallways, stairwells and lounges. Blocking these areas could impede exiting the building in the case of an emergency. Bicycles found in any of these areas run the risk of having their chains cut and the bikes removed.

## Intergenerational Seminars:

Bard is offering three intergenerational seminars this spring:  
• *Abrahamic Religions: Islam in Relation to Judaism and Christianity*

• *Obedience to Authority: Personal Responsibility and the Development of Morality*

• *Recent Issues in Eastern European Progressions*

Pre-registration is necessary, and there is a \$20 fee. Call 758-7424.

## From the Dean of the College:

I still have not received a number of academic and administrative department budgets for 1991-92 and 1992-93. Please submit these to my office as soon as possible.

## 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.

April 30: *Histoire De Femmes* Olin 107 at 7:00 PM

May 5: *Imagine the Sound* (Movie)

May 7: *Jean de Florette* in Olin 102 at 7:00 PM

May 10: *Planet of the Apes* (Movie)

May 12: *Elephant Man* (Movie)

## Calendar of Events

Saturday 4	Sunday 5	Monday 6	Tuesday 7	Wednesday 8	Thursday 9	Friday 8
<b>All Day:</b> French Day (See Above)  <b>Morning</b> Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, & Rhinebeck  <b>2:00 PM</b> Engineering Lecture Hegeman 106  <b>5:45 to 10:30 PM</b> Trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston	<b>2-5 PM</b> Writing Trauma Center™ Albee Annex 103  <b>6:00 PM</b> Ecumenical Worship Service Chapel  <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous Aspinwall 302  <b>9-11 PM</b> Writing Trauma Center™ Albee Annex 103  <b>Train Pickups:</b> 5:15, 7:14, 10:15 PM Rhinecliff Station  7:43 PM Poughkeepsie Station	<b>6:30 PM</b> Women's Center Meeting Student Center  <b>6:30 PM</b> Environmental Club Committee Room Kline Commons  <b>8:00 PM</b> Observer All Staff Meeting 3rd Floor Aspinwall  <b>9-11 PM</b> Writing Trauma Center™ Albee Annex 103	<b>5:30 PM</b> French Table Committee Room Kline Commons  <b>6:00 PM</b> Anmesty International Olin  <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>No Exit</i> Student Center  <b>8:00 PM</b> Women Studies Lecture Olin 102  <b>9-11 PM</b> Writing Trauma Center™ Albee Annex 103	<b>5:00 PM</b> Spanish Table, Kline Commons  <b>5:30 PM</b> Italian Table College Room, Kline Commons  <b>7:00 PM</b> Al-Anon, Aspinwall 302  <b>7:00 PM</b> Christian Meeting, Bard Chapel Basement  <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>No Exit</i> Student Center  <b>9-11 PM</b> Writing Trauma Center™ Albee Annex 103	<b>4:15 PM</b> Math & Munchies Hegeman 102  <b>6:30 PM</b> BBLAGA Meeting Albee Social Room  <b>7:30 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous Aspinwall 302  <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>No Exit</i> Student Center  <b>8:00 PM</b> Phillip Roth reading Olin Auditorium  <b>9-11 PM</b> Writing Tutors Albee Annex 103	<b>5:00 PM</b> General deadline for submissions to <i>The Bard Observer</i>  <b>Train Runs:</b> 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  6:00 PM for the 7:13 Train Leaves from Kline Goes to the Poughkeepsie Station  12:00 NOON Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering May 18, 1991 Through May 22, 1991 due in the Dean of Student's office.