

Bard College
Student Newspaper Archive
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OBSERVER

Vol. 99 No. 5 September 25, 1991

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Bard
College's
News, Arts,
& Sports Weekly

Volume 99, Number 5

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

September 25, 1991

BARD

From the Office of the President
LEON BOTSTEIN

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President Botstein would like
this printed in the next issue
of the Observer in a prominent,
unambiguous manner.

Off the road again



by Michael Poirier

Security was unable to drive an injured student to the hospital last week because one car was being repaired and the other could not leave campus.

Bard's Emergency Medical Services, formed by student volunteers, responded to the accident Saturday, September 14. An E.M.S. volunteer drove the patient to the Rhinebeck Hospital for x-rays when Security could not.

"Not all of us E.M.S. people have cars," said Keightie Scherrod, who was the first E.M.S. volunteer to respond to the call. "What if something horrible happened, where would we be?" This time the patient was taken in a fellow E.M.S. volunteer's automobile.

E.M.S. and Security usually operate cooperatively. Most of E.M.S.'s first aid equipment is kept in Security's blue station wagon,

which was the vehicle on patrol last Saturday. When asked why EMS was denied to use the vehicle, Director of Security Robert Boyce explained that "it wasn't for any legal reason."

Security has only two vehicles, a four-wheel drive 1987 Blazer and the 1981 Chevrolet station wagon. The Blazer is currently having its motor repaired so the wagon was the only patrol vehicle available.

Boyce says he "prefer[s] that it not leave campus. The wagon is rather old with very high mileage. My personal concern for the security personnel and anyone else in the vehicle is that it is not suitable for highway travel. It should only be taken in the direst of emergencies and under the most extreme caution."

Both vehicles passed New York State motor vehicle inspection regulations, though the wagon burns oil and has over 150,000

miles on it. According to one security officer, who has driven the station wagon, the accelerator sometimes sticks and the brakes are bad.

Mechanics in Buildings and Grounds, who see a lot of the security vehicles, blamed the shape the vehicles are in on the extensive use they receive as well as on the condition of the roads.

Boyce claimed that the wagon is in the process of being replaced through the administration. However, Jim Brudvig, Assistant to the Executive Vice-president, said that was unlikely. "I'm almost certain that is not the case... There just isn't any money for it right now."

The situation on Saturday involved a lack of transportation, not an absence of security personnel according to Boyce. Barring illness, there are five security guards on duty between the hours of 6 P.M. and 2 A.M. Friday and

Saturday nights.

The Blazer should be repaired soon, but in the case of a life-threatening emergency, the Red Hook Rescue Service responds to Bard College which both Security and EMS agree to be a "very capable ambulance service."

INSIDE

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Pepsi, Nackenoff and thou

by Greg Giaccio

The student forum called for a reconsideration of Professor Carol Nackenoff's tenure with a nearly unanimous vote at a forum on Tuesday, September 24. The forum also dealt with the serving of Pepsi on-campus while the local bottler is on strike and the vacancies in the EPC.

A resolution to elect students to all search committees was sent back to the Student Life Committee for revisions and a resolution about room draw was tabled.

The resolution concerning Nackenoff said that "President Leon Botstein disregarded the recommendations of both students and faculty in his denial of Professor Nackenoff's tenure." It recommended that her case for tenure be reconsidered with the help of outside evaluators whose decisions would be "binding and adhered to."

Lisa Sanger said she presented the bill because "we have to show community resolve." All of the students who spoke were in favor of the resolution. A table with paper, envelopes, and stamps was also set up during the meeting so that students could write letters to the Board of Trustees.

"It is important that we focus on this incidence," said Andrea Stein, "We have to show Leon [Botstein] and the school that the students care about what's going on... If it's going to be a judgement call, it's going to be ours."

"If we lose this battle, our evaluations, our input mean nothing," said Josh Kauffman, "If we lose Carol [Nackenoff] we're at the risk of losing a lot of other professors."

In the end, the resolution calling for the reconsideration of the tenure of Professor Nackenoff was passed by a vote of 82 in favor, 2 against, and 1 abstention.

The next topic was a resolution submitted by the Student Life Committee to call upon Woods Food service and the bookstore to stop selling Pepsi bottled at the Newburgh plant on the account of the fact that Local 840 I.B.T. is

on strike at the plant and has called for a boycott.

Farasat Bokhari spoke against the resolution citing that the strike had been declared illegal and that Local 840 was no longer allowed to represent those workers due to a court order. Bokhari also said that "the people who called on this strike were members of the Gambino family," a family with organized crime connections.

In support of the resolution, David Rolf said that there were 100,000 union families in the area who were being affected by this strike. It was also pointed out that Bard students are unable to choose whether or not to support the boycott since only Pepsi is available at the Bookstore and in Kline. Another supporter of the resolution said that Barnes and Nobles and Woods Food service are bound to serve only a single brand of soft drink, unless they can show their national offices that there is significant student support for serving several brands.

The vote on the resolution calling upon Woods Food Service and the Bard Bookstore to sever all business ties to the Pepsi-Cola Bottling Co. of Newburgh passed by a large majority.

The forum also elected a new Language and Literature representative for the Educational Policies Committee. The nominees were Keightie Sherrod and Mary Carrol. Mary Carrol won by a vote of 41 to 22. "It concerns me what's going on," said Carrol, "I see an amazing trend of sexism which I really don't like."

The final agenda item was a resolution which would give the Student Life Committee power to have an elected official on every search committee for new administrative positions. Dean Shelley Morgan spoke against the resolution on the grounds that it is easier for her to find a student she knows is interested in the area to be on the search committee than to have a student elected who may not share that interest. After much debate the resolution was sent back to the committee for revisions.

\$hort and \$weet Budget

by Greg Giaccio

The budget forum took place in Kline Commons last Saturday, September 20 between 7:00 and 8:00 p.m. No, this is not an April Fool's joke. The budget forum, traditionally the longest and most controversial forum of the semester, took only 45 minutes to complete.

This does not mean that the forum was without controversy. The Bard Black Student Organization (BBSO) was not listed on the budget because their request was lost in the mail on the way to the Planning Committee. They posted fliers around campus asking for student support "in the nullification of the existing proposed budget."

The flier continues, "We have not drawn up any amendment to this budget because we feel that it is not our responsibility to divide these funds, nor suggest where the cuts should be made. This is the job of the planning committee."

Fiona Lawrence suggested an amendment on behalf of, but not necessarily supported by, the BBSO. Her amendment called for the suspension of half of the debt owed by the student convocation (\$10,000) until next semester. The amendment proposed to give \$2,000 of that to the BBSO and to set up the other \$3,000 as a review fund for clubs who were not satisfied with their allocations.

"This comes from my dislike of

the idea of paying off the whole debt this semester," said Lawrence.

The amendment clearly failed when put to a vote. However, during the debate of the amendment, Christine Gobbo, Planning Committee chair, said that she had heard plans of another type of amendment.

"I thought there would be an

We looked like a bunch of idiots... If we want more money in the future... I think it's important that we get this debt off the board.

—Matt J. Lee, Student Government Treasurer

amendment taking \$1,500 from the debt and \$1,000 from the emergency fund... [to give to the BBSO] which sounded reasonable," said Gobbo.

The BBSO responded, "As opposed to dipping into the debt fund or dipping into the emergency fund, we suggested that the budget be nullified."

However, David Rolf seemed to think that the alternative amendment, i.e. the one taking

\$1,500 from the debt and \$1,000 from the emergency fund, sounded more reasonable. He officially presented it to the forum.

"We can all go away in twenty minutes with the money our clubs need to operate now," said Rolf. This argument swept the forum, and his amendment passed.

BBSO received \$2,500 from the amendment. Their request was originally for \$6,200. However, their last two allocations were between \$2,500 and \$2,700.

The amendment reduced the emergency fund to \$3,000 instead of \$4,000. The emergency fund is money set aside from the budget in case clubs go over budget or make an extra request for it later on in the semester. It also reduced the payment on the student debt to \$8,500.

Matt J. Lee, current treasurer of the central committee, explained the debt situation, "Two years ago the then treasurer of the planning committee did not pay any of the money owed to B&G." This debt amounted to \$20,000. A plan to pay the debt off at \$5,000 a semester at 1.5% was drawn up. However, last fall's payment was not made due to another treasurer's oversight.

"We looked like a bunch of idiots," said Lee bluntly, "If we want more money in the future... I think it's important that we get this debt off the board." That is why the committee decided to pay a larger part of the debt off this semester.

"To be effective, legal education must be a shared enterprise."



Molly Geraghty
Associate Dean
A.B., Radcliffe College
LL.B., Harvard Law School 1967
Dean Geraghty has served as assistant dean and director of admissions at Harvard Law School, as professor and assistant dean at Northeastern University School of Law and as associate director of Massachusetts Continuing Legal Education. Dean Geraghty practiced law the Boston law firm of Goodwin, Proctor & Hoar. Her background also includes public television, for which she produced "The Advocates."

Meet with Dean Geraghty
to learn more about our Law School, where faculty and students work together toward a common goal.

Law Day, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 7 - 9 PM
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We invite applications from all persons regardless of race, gender, sexual preference, or handicap.



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Questions for the President? Just want to chat with Leon?
Come to the Open House at Botstein's on
Wednesday September 25 from 4 - 6 PM.

¡Bienvenidos Enrique!

by Walter Swett

A welcome new face on the campus this year is that of 24 year old Enrique Gomez. Gomez is from the village of Larreynaga Leon, Nicaragua.

Gomez has been here since August 3 in the home of the Dupree family. He is staying for one year and hopes to get on-campus housing next semester.

At home, Gomez has three semesters left in his dentistry studies until he is certified to practice.

At Bard, Gomez is taking a computer science course and auditing Latin American literature, English as a second language, and a computer assistance course.

Gomez is here as part of a program sponsored by the Mid-Hudson Larreynaga Sister City Project. In addition to exchanges, the project organizes material and technical aid projects, community education and awareness, political action, such as efforts to improve US/ Nicaragua relations,



and English language programs in Nicaraguan.

Part of the high cost of Bard was deferred by money raised by stu-

dents through coffee houses and the auction during the Spring Fling. Dean Karen Greenberg actively supported Gomez's plans.

Also, a letter writing campaign to all members of the Bard faculty produced a significant number of donations.

Second semester senior Jonah Gensler is one of the Bard students who has gone to Nicaragua to work and study. While there, Gensler organized community projects and taught English to people of all ages. The opportunity is available for any interested Bard student to spend as much time as they wish working and learning in Nicaragua.

Gomez describes Nicaragua as a nation in transition. He says that while newly elected President, Violetta Chamorro, has some popular support as a politician, the most important thing to the people of Nicaragua is that at last there is peace.

"Peace is the first step towards reconstruction after eight years of war," Gomez said. He added that "it is difficult to imagine what it would be like if Ortega were still President; certainly the masses

have lost many of the social and economic privileges they won during the Sandinista period."

As Gensler prepares to leave Bard, there is some concern over who will become Bard's voice in the Program. All members of the Bard community who are interested in the Program or just interested in learning more about Nicaragua and Central America are invited to come to meetings the first Tuesday of every month in Rhinebeck. Contact either Gomez or Gensler through campus mail for more information.

Gomez said that although some students he talked to had no idea where Nicaragua was, he was surprised at how many did know about it and seemed interested in hearing more.

"It's a beautiful gesture that students have become so interested in Nicaragua. I hope that this is the beginning of a beautiful project of mutual cooperation between our two societies."

Classifieds & Personals

In Memory: Clinton Mullins, 1968-1990. From all those who love and remember you.

1991 Red Schwinn Crossfit. Shimano SIS, Dia-comp brakes, 18 speeds. Toe-clips and water bottle included. Owned 2 months. Like new. Asking \$240. 876-0333

Keightie - 4Q - Z.

For sale: 19" color TV, works pretty good. Asking \$50 - or equivalent amount of livestock. See Greg Giaccio, or mail to Box 919

I'm a Senior 2 - graduating in December, and then moving to Washington, D.C. Is anyone out there interested in sharing housing/etc., or know someone who is? Contact Box 706

I'm looking for a good tennis player to hit with this Fall. If available please call Isaac, 757-3820.

Robin: Holy shit Batman!!! The personals have started and the Joker is loose.

M.K.-Why won't the apples print? ♥

Did you lose a watch? I found one on the last day of the spring semester on trail between Cruger & the Gym. Contact Box 64

If you win, you get this shiny fiddle made of magnesium. But if you lose, the Devil gets your soul.

I need to learn as much Spanish as possible by Winter Break. We can discuss payment. Please call Laura at 757-3432, or campus mail box 851

Wanted: A partner for wanderings in the woods. You know who you are - it's why you came to Bard. Reply to Box 30.

Batman: Yes, I know Robin...I think we should have a talk with the Commissioner at "God-Damn" City.

Bam-bam: are you, too, tired of being a toilet? Did you know life could be reduced to plumbing fixtures?—Hasty

Tousled brunette looking for a snugglebunny to share long walks and fireside romance. Send any responses through the Observer personals, please.

Are you from New Haven? Going home for the second weekend of Reading Week? Please give me a ride. Will help with gas. Call 758-4315 ask for Katrina

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"The 3:14 Acoustic Afternoon"

by Anne Miller

Although 3:14 "not too early, not too late" sounds like an odd time to put on a show, rest assured that it did not get underway until 3:30. This informal, personal, and small show which was hosted by Phil Miller, took place at the Rhinecliff Hotel on Sunday, September 15th. The "3:14" was an afternoon of acoustic music featuring local and regional musi-

cians, which was then followed by an open stage.

Phil Miller opened, playing two songs. His voice was melodic and he had good rhythm, but his lyrics were a bit sappy and cliché. Still, for a man who once had one of his fingers caught in the door of a Mazeratti, he played the guitar fairly well.

The main act, Don Hanie and Sheryl Samuels, came on next. Sheryl Samuels, who looks very

much like Meredith Baxter Birney, formerly of "Family Ties," played the bongos and tambourine and had a clear, majestic voice. Don Hanie played the guitar and harmonica and with his rhythmical voice, helped to create a terrific duo. Each song was lyrically different from the previous one, but tended to use the same chords and beat. Some of their songs were serious, for example, the song about an arranged marriage, while

some were humorous, "Idiots Behind the Wheel." All in all, they presented a nice sampling of duets.

The open stage consisted of non-professional guitarists and singers. About four of them played two songs each. Some were more creative than others, but all were a bit tiresome.

The show closed with Phil Miller performing two final songs. The audience was reminded of the in-

formality of this musical event when the telephone constantly rang in the background. Although this concert did not consist of a particular kind of music, one could call this afternoon a bit Simon and Garfunkelish. If you enjoy acoustic music, the "3:14" is for you. This series will be held the third Sunday of each month, so come and see the "3:14" at the Rhinecliff Hotel. For more information call 691-8464 or 876-8688.



Haunting the garden

At sunset on Sunday a kilt clad figure strolled through Blithewood's formal garden piping Scottish aires. Though many tales have been told of ghosts in the mansion, this performer was flesh and blood. Matt Schickele has played bagpipes for two years and often practices in the Blithewood garden.

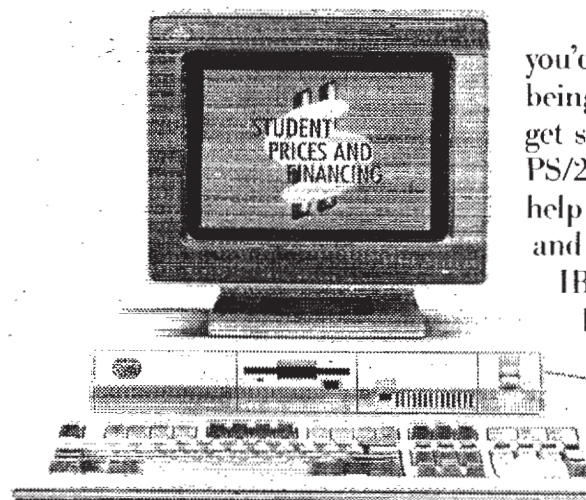
Saferides needs drivers. You'll be asked to cover a 2 hour shift on Thursday, Friday, or Saturday. We'll reimburse you 22¢ per mile and give you \$3.00 spending money for snacks, coffee, etc. deKline will also give drivers a 10% discount during their shift. Contact Mari Balow or Stephanie Burke via Campus Mail.

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A few thoughts on a...joke?

At the beginning of the semester the Bard Response to Rape and Associated Violence Education, or B.R.A.V.E., put up posters [far right]. Shortly thereafter two posters [left and middle] mocking the B.R.A.V.E. poster were found on the bookstore door. Bookstore employees removed the fake posters.

Accompanying the posters are some responses from Bard students.

Open Meeting for everyone interested in
B.R.A.V.E.
Bodily Raping All Virgins Everynight
Tuesday, Sept 10 - Olin 202
7pm
for everyone interested in training to be molesters, and other necessary services.

My first reaction was "just what we need, another asshole," but the more I thought about it the more upset I became. How did seeing those signs affect people to whom the issue hits close to home? People who may be survivors, or are close to someone who is? I also began to wonder if the person who did it might not have some personal issue with the subject of sexual violence. I would like to speak to whomever it was, to try to understand their reasoning, however warped it may be.
—Sarah B. Davis

I am disgusted! B.R.A.V.E. provides an important service, one that has been necessitated by an unacceptably high rate of sexual violence on this campus. To associate women who are raped with the term "sleazy slut" only serves to fuel the hatred of women which is at the heart of these types of crimes.
—Fiona Lawrence

I can't really say that I was offended. Many comments that I have made could be considered equally offensive by various people. What I am is confused. Whenever I attack something, e.g. last semester's occupation of Ludlow, it is because it seems to be a useless or silly response to a problem. In contrast, B.R.A.V.E. seems likely to provide intelligent and thoughtful counsel. There are far better targets for satire than B.R.A.V.E.
—David Steinberg

It hurts me and, more so, it frightens me to know that there are students on this campus who are so insensitive as to find humor in the issue of sexual violence. It is not that I lack a general sense of humor, as those of you who know me are sure to agree. But this issue is not of laughter and only out of ignorance is it possible for a person to play such a cruel joke.
—Jenny Bosgang

Shock. Anger. Frustration. Disbelief. Denial. Ultimately—sadness. The purpose of B.R.A.V.E. is to help provide an open atmosphere in which the Bard community is able to establish constructive dialogue regarding rape and sexual violence. These signs confuse me, and cause me to question the maturity and respective attitudes of my peers. Rape has been considered a "joke" and worthy of ridicule long enough. Is this the impression that our community wishes to perpetuate through a tolerance for this brand of "humor"?—Erin Law

The altered B.R.A.V.E. poster was an affront, but the S.C.A.R.E.D. poster was disabling. That's exactly what, I suppose, it was intended to be. Though I am not a member of the B.R.A.V.E. group which deals with rape and associated violence in a public way, this second poster, aimed at intimidating them, was also directed at me. Reading, I became smaller, less competent, less able. (I shrunk my body in.) I was scared. And being scared made me (as brave as I have been! As competent as I am!) a target. I stood and read that my sexuality is both so powerful and so alien that it can jeopardize me physically, that because of my sexuality, sensuality, my physical body, it is beyond the control of others to refrain from hurting me.

This message is not true, but I believe it a little bit every time it's told over again. I think that may be because the blame comes from daily, small (and large) things, but from few places one's sure one can put one's finger on. (To be able to put one's hand down on this poster and say, "God damn it, here it is," is a gift the author didn't mean to give. It's one that's ours to take, though.)

It's harder to put a finger on this small thing. I finally am awarded work-study. A professor tells me that I looked so good that day that he's sure the Director of Financial Aid just sat down and wrote it out right away. I don't know what to do with this. It's a compliment. He wanted to tell me that I looked happy and beautiful that day. But he also (and did he mean to?) told me that being attractive is a thing that controls other people. He held me responsible implicitly.

My response is this: "Weeds always grow back again and are difficult to exterminate. So too the struggle against an inferior person in a high position demands firm resolution. One has certain relations with him, hence there is danger that one may give up the struggle as hopeless. But this must not be. One must go on resolutely and not allow oneself to be deflected from one's course. Only in this way does one remain free of blame." We feel from outside and from inside. (I-Ching)

—Mary Best

Open Meeting for everyone interested in
S.C.A.R.E.D.
Students Carefully Allowing Rape Every Day
Tuesday, Sept. 10 - Olin 202
7:69 pm
For everyone interested in training to be a Sleazy Slut, and other necessary services.

Open Meeting for everyone interested in
B.R.A.V.E.
Bard Response to Rape and Associated Violence Education
Monday, Sept. 9 - Olin 202
7pm
for everyone interested in training to be counselors and other necessary services.

The objective of the educational aspect of B.R.A.V.E. is to increase the awareness of sexual harassment and violence and, ultimately, to create a community where these acts won't be tolerated. These signs display a mentality that I find frustrating and difficult to deal with. Rape is violent and violating, it shouldn't be treated as a joke.
—Mary Carol De Zutter

BEER COLUMN

by Finnegan & Phantom

Last week, the beers of England, this week, what else- the beers of Germany. Well, not exactly. How about just St. Pauli Girl (and St. Pauli Girl Dark). Doubtless you've seen or heard of Pauli, but probably, for one reason or another, you haven't tried it (maybe it was the cost-P) But since it's on sale this week, we thought we'd give you the inside story.

Regular Pauli is actually fairly light, but with a slightly more bitter taste than you'd expect from the color. If you have ever tried Kronenbourg, this is similar in flavor, but sharper. It does have a very imported taste, and is overall very drinkable.

The Dark is a real treat. Sure it has more

calories and it looks like Iced Coffee, but Beers don't get much darker. (tha's good- trus me- F) What makes this really exceptional is that despite being positively dark, it is not heavy. The Dark resembles the regular in every aspect, but it is thicker, darker, and doesn't have the aftertaste.

So what else can we say- both are good, both are on sale; we'd recommend the dark, but it is a close call- hell, buy a case of each!

Also do not forget- a Beer Column party will be held on the Fourth of October with the Return of the Betsy Hammer! Only the Primest Beer will be served, so come.

And if you ever have any comments write the Observer c/o the Beer Column.

St. Pauli Girl

Regular
Dark

F: 2
F: 3.5

P: 2.5
P: 3

Beverage way supermarket of beer and soda

At. 9 2MILES NORTH OF RED HOOK TRAFFIC LIGHT

- ST. PAULI GIRL
24 12oz. bottles
\$13.99 case
- MOLSON GOLDEN
24 12 oz. bottles
\$10.99 case
- MEISTERBRAU
12 pack \$4.29



- BLACK LABEL
12 oz. bottles
\$7.99 case
- BARTLES & JAYMES
wine coolers 4 pack
\$2.99
- BUSCH
12 oz. cans \$9.99 case

No show burns Blazers

by Matt Apple

Both Blazer soccer teams continued to struggle as Dominican blanked the men's team 6-0 and the women's team 7-0. The men's team record slipped to 1 and 4 overall in part because, according to Coach Tomson, "A number of starters didn't show up," and he was forced to field reserve players who didn't have as much playing experience. The women's team also participated in the Wells Invitational Tournament over the weekend. Although the team lost to Wilkes and Southern Vermont, lowering its record to 1 and 5 overall, Stephanie Hopkins and Anna Tamura were named to the All-Tournament team from Bard.

The women's volleyball team saw their perfect record slide to 5 and 4 (3-0 in conference) after the Vassar Round Robin Invitational

on Saturday. Having just beaten St. Joseph's to counter their first loss of the season to Russell Sage, the Blazers lost again to Russell Sage and Vassar in best-out-of-three matches. They won over the College of New Rochelle before finishing the tournament by losing a close match to Mt. St. Mary's 15-9, 1-15, 13-15. At the end of last week, Holly Sindelar had 27 assists and 15 digs, and Dana McDonald had 28 kills, while Morgan Cleveland accumulated 24 kills despite being injured at Vassar.

The Blazer men's and women's cross-country team sprinted into action at the King's Invitational this past Saturday. Brad Richman placed the best among the male Bard runners, 27th with a time of 29:42, as Mabs Potter finished strong for the women's team in 10th place with a time of 22:30.

Football!

Anyone interested in joining an intramural football team, please contact Jim Trainor or Kris Hall.

Tennis Results

Bard vs. Albertus Magnus

Laurie Curry d. Novalette Cambridge	6/4, 6/2
Traci Sweet d. Allison Bernstein	2/6, 6/2, 6/3
Julie Sheehan d. Connie Chiang	6/1, 6/3
Miho Ose d. Rebekah Klein	6/0, 6/0
Tina Guicciardini d. Amy Carpineto	6/4, 6/3
Becky Finch d. Christa Shute	6/1, 6/3

Curry-Klein d. Sheehan-Finch	6/1, 6/4
Min-Schoeller d. Thurdin-Lampron	6/3, 6/4
Chiang-Tu d. Fujita-Stelma (pro set)	10-2

Final score: Albertus Magnus wins 5-4

*Victorious Bard in bold

Intramural Tennis

Joshua Ledwell d. Matt Apple	6/1, 6/1
Matt Taibbi d. Chris Wermuth	6/1, 6/0
Damnath de Tissera d. Matt Apple	6/1, 6/2
Ga'Bor Bogna'r d. Chris Wermuth	6/0, 6/0

12 reasons why you'll love Macintosh

1. It's easy to use.

Bring home an Apple® Macintosh® computer today, and use it to complete assignments by tonight—even if you've never used a computer before.

2. You don't have to speak computerese.

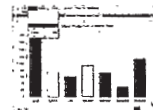
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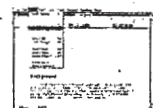
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74%

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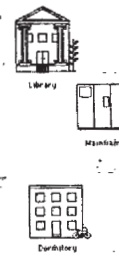
*Based on a survey conducted by Computer Intelligence in February 1991.

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For further information contact
Bonnie Gilman, ext. 496
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The Bard Observer

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Editorial policy is determined by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Editorial Board. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the editorial board and not necessarily of the Observer staff.

Letters to the Editor must not exceed 300 words and must be signed legibly. All articles, cartoons, and photographs that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the front desk of the library by noon Friday a week before the publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit 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.

Display ads: contact the Ad Manager.

Bard College
Annandale, NY 12504
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Editorial was unfair

Dear Editor,

Amidst the high-minded and self-righteous criticism contained in the editorial in the September 4th issue, the writers seem to have overlooked some very basic facts. It seems not to have occurred to the editorial writers that the country is in the middle of one of the most prolonged and difficult recessions in post-World War II history. The fact that state and federal support for higher education and scholarship aid has been slashed seems to have eluded the editorial board of the *Observer*. The fact that unemployment has risen dramatically and that many families find themselves less able to pay for college than before seems not to have been a factor in the editorial board's judgment of how the administration of this college has "ignored" the opinions and needs of students.

In making this year's budget, the College has poured hundreds of thousands of new dollars into scholarship aid for returning students and new students. Furthermore, in response to student petitions and consultations, the college has expanded the range of faculty offerings in each division, from the foreign languages to film—not to mention initiatives such as the new exchange program with the Soviet Union. Many new faculty and courses have been added. I bring this matter to your attention because the student body has the right to know what the budgetary priorities of the college are. They are, first and foremost, scholarship aid and direct support of the academic program, particularly the number and composition of faculty. In order to maintain these priorities, the college has had to make cuts. The cuts that have been taken have been overwhelmingly from the administrative staff. Each of the offices has had to take some reduction. The administration and the trustees believe that these are the proper priorities, particularly for a college with limited resources. We raise just over \$6 million a year, and an equivalent sum goes directly into scholarship aid. We have maintained a program designed to improve dramatically the composition and range of faculty. We believe that this policy responds directly to the opinions and needs of students. Difficult choices have to be made in a context in which resources are limited.



ited. We all wish that the situation were different and that everything desirable would be possible.

As a matter of candor, you also should inform your readers that a cursory glance at past issues of the *Observer* will reveal the extent to which students at large "trashed" the work of Beth Frumkin with consistency. (How conveniently and easily martyrdom comes!) However, despite the negative student views, if the resources were available, we would be only too happy to have retained both positions in the Dean of Students' office.

Sincerely yours,
Leon Botstein
President

Bard's first family

Dear Editor,

Although I know the intent was affectionate, I wish someone would doublecheck anything that is printed about my family. (I am referring to the article by Greg Giaccio that appeared in the September 18th issue of the *Observer*.)

My wife, Barbara Haskell, and my children divide their time between our homes at Bard and in New York City. My older daughter is a sophomore in college. At a time when we would like to encourage young people to be able to balance the careers and personal lives of husband and wife, accuracy on this score is crucial. With difficulty, we have managed for many years to base our family lives at Bard and to maintain a second residence in New York sufficient for Barbara to maintain a distinguished full-time career as curator at the Whitney Museum.

Sincerely,
Leon Botstein
President

Botstein is out of touch

Dear Editor,

One slip could be forgiven. Even two or three – the job of college president is one of the hardest, most thankless chores around. But when two or three slips become a long series of colossally blind errors, it is difficult to turn the other cheek.

President Botstein seems to have lost touch with what Bard students want, what they need, and who they are.

As far as I can tell, it all started with the hiring of Beth Frumkin. Not that she was a nasty woman. On the contrary, she was one of the more decent people on campus. But the mere fact that the college saw fit to create a position such as hers – Assistant Dean of Students, Coordinator of Drug and Alcohol Education – shows a lack of trust in the maturity of Bard students.

It is true that many Bardians have problems dealing with alcohol and other drugs, and Beth was able to help some of them. In this sense, the decision to create her position was a good one.

But her counseling and support functions were coupled with police powers unlike anything in Bard's recent history. All parties, no matter how small, had to be registered 48 hours in advance. Spontaneity was smothered by paperwork. The informality of the community began to disappear, and the administrative distrust which was at the root of the problem soon began to manifest itself in other decisions.

Next came the firing of Assistant Dean of the College, Elaine Sproat. The nominal reason for her dismissal was financial belt-tightening, but the fact that she was not offered the part-time position that was created to replace her full-time position makes this one a little hard to swallow. And even if lack of funds was the reason for her dismissal, the overwhelming student support for Elaine and her work – more than for any administrator in memory – should have made it exceedingly clear that this was not the place to make a cut.

The final straw came, as they often do at Bard, over the summer, when no one was here to protest. Leon Botstein denied Carol Nackenoff tenure against the recommendations of both the faculty evaluation committee and a highly respected outside evaluator. Of the four criteria for tenure – excellence in teaching, in the field, in the college, and with colleagues – Leon found the quality of Nackenoff's scholarly work in her field to be lacking. This after outside evaluator Ira Katznelson, a member of the graduate faculty of the New School for Social Re-

search and a respected scholar, called Nackenoff's book "one of the best contributions I know to unpacking and understanding American political culture." He added that "I have been very impressed," and stressed that "I am not given to hyperbole."

The most ironic aspect of the whole affair is that at a school which prides itself above all on the teaching ability of its professors, one of the better teachers is denied tenure because the president and one member of the faculty have doubts about her scholarship. I came to Bard in large part because I felt it offered personal attention from quality teachers who were committed to helping students learn. It saddens me to find that the man who is always first to sell that image seems to be intent on its destruction.

Which brings me back to my original point and central concern: that President Botstein has lost touch with the students. Hestrikes me as a fervent advocate of democracy who has lost his faith in the masses. Though he vaunts his support for open-mindedness and liberality, he has closed his mind to the concerns and wishes of his "masses."

This loss of faith can be at least partially explained by the fact (to milk this analogy for all it's worth) that the "masses" rose up and took Botstein's castle late last semester. Since then, I believe the president has been reacting to student demands and concerns emotionally rather than rationally. When it comes to making tough calls on issues about which students are concerned, there seems to be an undercurrent of "Well, fuck 'em all" in the decisions he makes and the attitude he takes.

Of course, I may be sucking all this out of my thumb. And I'm the first to acknowledge all the good Botstein has done for the campus: from L&T to Olin to EEC scholarships, many of the things we see as integral parts of the Bard experience are a direct result of Leon's vision and his fundraising skills. But I think most people will agree that our president is out of touch with the currents and flows of the students, the part of the community that, more than any other, defines what Bard College is. It is not healthy for two such important components of the community to be constantly at odds with each other. And when it comes right down to it, we have a basic advantage: there are more of us.

So tune in, Leon. Maybe if you stay on campus more, or try eating in Kline (in the main dining room) once in a while, or live in a dorm for a while like Stuart did, you would have a better idea of what I'm talking about.

In the meantime, you could try listening to WXBC for a few hours every week. Who knows what you'll learn.

Jason Van Driesche '93

BARD COLLEGE: SEPT. 26 - OCT. 2, 1991

WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Open Deans' Meeting:

An open meeting with Bard's Deans will take place on Wednesday, September 25, from 1 to 2 p.m. in the President's Room of Kline Commons. The agenda for this meeting is locked residence halls.

Poetry Reading:

Poet and musician, David Rattray will be reading from his most recent book on Wednesday, Sept. 25 at 8 pm in the Olin Art History room.

Humanities Endowment:

Applications for the National Endowment of Humanities Summer Stipend are available from the Dean of the College. Deadline for submission is October 1, 1991. Each college can nominate three members of its faculty for these stipends. No more than two of these nominees may be in the early stages of their careers. The second category of nominee (Senior) are for those holding the rank of Associate or Full Professor. Please stop by the Dean's office for further information.

Speaker for Peace:

The International Peacemaker, the Reverend Norman Bent, will be at Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, Sunday, Sept. 29th, 1991. He has served as a mediator during the crisis between the government and the East Coast Miskito people. Now pastor of the Moravian Church in Managua, he is serving as an International Peacemaker for the USA Presbyterian Church as well. Norman Bent will lead worship and preach at 9:30 a.m. at the church. He will speak again at 11:00 a.m. at a public forum on the topic of Nicaragua and the need for peace in Central America. Pleasant Plains Church is located on Hollow Road-7 miles north of Hyde Park off Route 9-G. For more information, please call the Church at 889-4019.

BBSO:

BBSO will meet Wednesday at 5:45 p.m. in the Committee Room of Kline Commons.

Faculty Music Concert:

The faculty Music concert will take place at 8 pm on Wednesday, Sept. 25 in Olin Auditorium.

Coalition for Choice:

The Bard College Coalition for Choice meets every Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. in the President's Room in Kline Commons. Anyone who is interested in fighting for Reproductive Freedom, equitable Health Care, and an end to the AIDS Crisis is encouraged to attend. Some of our current projects include voter registration, electoral campaign work, safer-sex outreach programs, a speakers' series, clinic defense, a letter-writing campaign and a political demonstration for later this semester. For more information contact 758-1376.

BBLAGA:

BBLAGA meets on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in Olin 203. All are welcome to attend.

LASO:

LASO will meet on Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m. in the Committee Room of Kline Commons.

Meditation and Discussion:

There will be a Meditation and Discussion on Sunday Evenings in the Chapel at 6:00 pm. Office hours for Ginger Grab, assistant to the Chaplain, will be on Wednesdays 3:45 - 5:45.

Outing Club:

The Outing Club is sponsoring a sunrise hike at Overlook Mountain. Interested parties should meet at the Old Gym at 3 am on Sat., Sept 28. Call Keightie Sherrod at 758-4514 for information.

Services for Christian Students:

Sundays:

8:30 am: Ecumenical Service, Bard Chapel
9:30 am: Van to St. John's Episcopal Church and St. Christopher's Catholic Church, meet at Kline parking lot.
6:00 pm: Chapel Service

Tuesdays:

7:00 pm: Singing and Worship
7:30 pm: Bible Study/Prayer Group (Both in Bard Chapel Basement)

Thursdays:

9:30 pm: Women's Bible Study/Prayer Group (Cruger Village, Stephens 101)

High Density Abstraction:

An exhibition of painting by eight contemporary artists will be on view in Proctor Art Center from Sept. 13 to Oct. 15. There will be a party for the artists, with music and refreshments, Wednesday, September 25, starting at 8:00 pm. All students are invited.

African Doll Sale:

African Dolls will be sold on Wednesday, Oct. 2, and Tuesday, October 8, outside of Kline Commons.

Career Development Office:

For the next few weeks, the office will be run by knowledgeable students during the following hours:
Monday-Wednesday 1:30 to 3:30 and
Thursday 11:30 to 1:30.

Observer Meetings:

There will be a meeting for writers on Monday at 8:30 p.m. in Aspinwall, third floor. Those interested in layout should meet Thursday at 6:30 p.m. in the basement of Tewksbury. The deadline for outside submissions is Friday at 5:00 p.m. Turn material in to the Observer office.

THE WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS.

-CALENDAR OF EVENTS- SEPT 26-OCT 2

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
7:00 pm BBLAGA meeting Olin 203 6:30 pm Observer Layout Meeting Observer Office	12:00 NOON Calendar Deadline Dean of Students' Office 5:00 pm Observer deadline for outside submission		8:30 am Worship Service Chapel (See Above For More Information and other services) Speaker for Peace (See above for more information)	8:30 pm Observer writers' meeting Third floor Aspinwall	6:30pm Coalition for Choice meeting President's Room Kline Commons	5:00 pm LASO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons 5:45 pm BBSO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons African Doll Sale Outside of Kline

THROUGH OCTOBER 15: HIGH DENSITY ABSTRACTION. PROCTOR ART CENTER