

Bard College  
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# OBSERVER

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Page 1	House Cleaning Bard signs contract with Servicemaster Greg Giaccio
Page 2	Kinyatti Joins Faculty Kenyan former prisoner of conscience will teach at Bard Michael Poirier
Page 3	Ahmed Abdalla Argues for Democracy Michael Poirier A Thousand Words for Every Picture Jeane C. Breton
Page 4	Lack of Argument Sparks Conference Anne Miller Classifieds and Personals
Page 5	Queer+ Not to My Knowledge EphenGlennColter
Page 6	Spandex's Return (Part the Twenty-third) ZZYZX The Beer Column
Page 7	Letters From Lunatic
Page 8	A Celebration of the 65th Birthday of Meyer Kupferman Svetlana Gorokhovich, pianist Anne Miller Ready to Fly Should Be Granted Anne Miller
Page 9	Blazers Shut Down Vassar Alford, Snyder Lead Charge With Over Twenty Points Apiece Matt Apple Entropy Vows Chaos Will Triumph Matt Apple Morgan Cleveland Award Wins NAIA Award
Page 10	Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down Too Many Revolutions in Political Science Fred Baker Outlook From the Editor's Sanctum
Page 11	EPC to Students Melissa Cahoon, Chair Headline News Joan Unger, Program Director, BRAVE
Page 12	Calendar

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Never disagree with anyone  
who buys ink by the  
barrel.  
--Mediocrates

## House cleaning

### *Bard signs contract with Servicemaster*

by Greg Giaccio  
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, November 27, Bard College signed a contract to put Servicemaster in charge of Bard's custodial services. As of December 14, all of Bard's custodians will work for Servicemaster.

"They want everyone to come with them," said John Muir, head of the Service Employees International Union Local 200-D, explaining that all of Bard's current custodial staff will transfer to Servicemaster and will still have jobs.

"All the same benefits are in place, we just have to make sure they match up," said Muir, further explaining that the most difficult benefit to transfer will be the pension plan.

"The pension plan [that Bard employees have]...is only offered to non-profit educational institutions," according to John Muir. "That's the biggest problem we've got." However, Muir added that Servicemaster was willing "to honor the agreement as closely as possible."

Another problem with the benefit package is that the college was able to offer things that Servicemaster cannot. For instance, employees of Bard College receive a substantial discount on tuition if they send their children here. As of a union meeting on December 7, John Muir was not sure that all of the benefits received through the college would transfer, although he said he would try to see that they did.

At the meeting, most employees were concerned that this transfer would put their job or benefit security in jeopardy. The transition from Bard College to Servicemaster could be made more difficult by the fact that it is being conducted in the middle of



Servicemaster will be bringing in new equipment to replace this bucket.

a payroll cycle and at a time when employees are using their vacation time for the holidays. Workers' concerns are compounded by the fact that the Director of Human Resources at Bard, John Secco, resigned two days after the subcontractor was signed on and won't

be able to answer employees' questions. However, Muir seemed to think that the employees would be able to keep at least 95% of their benefit package, if not more.

Another result of the subcontract is that the union that Build-

*continued on page 2*

INSIDE  
Horoscopes...  
...page 4  
X-mas greetings...  
...page 10



# Kinyatti joins faculty

*Kenyan former prisoner of conscience will teach at Bard*

by Michael Poirier  
News Editor

Next semester Bard's Political Studies department will welcome Maina wa Kinyatti, a former prisoner of conscience from Kenya, to teach two courses as a visiting professor. Professor Kinyatti served as a teacher in his own country until he was arrested for his political beliefs and spent the next eight years in prison. Having been released from jail in 1988, he will be teaching courses on modern South Africa and on the history of the Mau Mau movement in Kenya.

Asked why he decided to teach a semester at Bard College, Kinyatti replied: "When I visited I found that I liked the place, with its scenery and atmosphere. I was also told that the students here are very serious about their studies—I like that too."

Kinyatti was a Professor of History at Kenyatta University from January 1975 until his arrest in October of 1982. Previously he had served as an Assistant Professor of History in the Black Studies Department of the City College of New York, and received his degrees in education and history from the University of Maine and Michigan State University. He has

written three books and has also published numerous articles centering around the theme of the human rights struggle in Africa

history." It is a very serious crime in Kenya to pursue academic research without official permission, which is one of the many methods,

of his books, research files and his typewriter in their search for "seditious" materials. He was told to report to branch police headquar-

case, Kinyatti felt that he was "privileged" compared to other prisoners, yet he was still tortured and sentenced to solitary confinement. He saw men in other cells go insane from their imprisonment, but said, "since I could not betray my conscience, I had to be jailed. I was jailed for my political beliefs; for my thoughts; for trying to write the history of the Mau Mau movement."

Kinyatti was released on October 17, 1988, after which he was constantly followed and threatened by the police. He was nearly arrested again on March 10, 1989 after being unable to secure another teaching job in his own country. He walked for two days to Tanzania, escaping his country illegally and received a visa to come to the United States. Immediately after his defection, his wife was fired from her university job and remains in Kenya under strict government supervision.

Since his release, Kinyatti has devoted his work to revealing the injustices and human rights abuses in Kenya. There are more than 1,000 political prisoners kept secretly in different prisons across the country. The government still has the authority to abduct people without charging them with a crime, and torture is extremely common with beatings, intimidation, starvation, and humiliation forced upon every prisoner.

Kinyatti is determined to "expose what is going on in Kenya," and views his term at Bard College as another way to spread his message. As he commented, "when this country is so conservative, I look forward to sharing my experiences at a more liberal intellectual environment...I hope to learn as much from my students as I can teach them."



and particularly Kenya.

Professor Kinyatti was arrested by the Kenyan authorities for conducting unauthorized research on the Mau Mau movement, which he described as "a glorious chapter of our nation's

including censorship and secret police on campus, that the government uses to suppress activism within the intellectual community. In June of 1982, the police ransacked Kinyatti's home while he was out and confiscated many

ters where he was arrested, stripped of his clothing, and interrogated for the next three days without food, water or contact with his wife. He refused to sign the fabricated statements forced upon him and was brought to trial in October.

The hearing was what Kinyatti described as a "kangaroo court" in which the main piece of evidence against him was a forged document. Sentenced to jail for the next six years, he had to survive under miserable prison conditions where food and clothing were dreadfully inadequate, the rooms were without beds and full of lice, and prisoners were usually denied medical care. Because of the publicity surrounding his

## House cleaning continued

*continued from page 1*  
ings and Grounds employees belong to will have to negotiate two contracts when their current one is up for renewal in the summer of 1994.

Interestingly enough, Servicemaster was not the lowest bidder for the subcontract. They did receive approval from the Student Life Committee in a report from Student Life Committee

Chair, Oliver Te Boekhorst in a recent *Observer*. Te Boekhorst thought they were superior to International Service Systems in their "quality of services, employee rights, benefits and access to custodians." It is customary procedure for Servicemaster executives to do at least one day of work with their lower-level employees, such as serving food or cleaning locker rooms. John Muir

said that Servicemaster will "drive a hard bargain, but they'll be straight with us."

Servicemaster will save money by bringing in their own cleaning supplies and equipment and changing procedure to make them more efficient. Muir said that they could probably save \$30,000 just by changing the payroll structure.

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## Do your civic duty

At the Student Forum on December 11, elections will be held for four seats—two Planning Committee seats and two Student Life Committee seats and the Entertainment Committee. Anyone interested in running for these positions should attend the December 11 Forum in Kline Commons at 7pm.

There will be a campus-wide election held on December 12 and 13 for the Student Life Committee Chair and Treasurer for the Student Association. Anyone interested in running for either of these positions must submit a typed 1-2 page statement of purpose to Erin Law, Secretary of the Student Association, by Wednesday, December 11 (through campus mail or in person). Late submissions will not be accepted.

If you have any questions, please drop a note to Erin Law in campus mail, or call 758-0043.



## Ahmed Abdalla argues for democracy

by Michael Poirier  
News Editor

Tuesday afternoon, December 3, Ahmed Abdalla, an Egyptian political scientist, lectured at Bard on whether or not democracy could work in the Middle East. Sponsored by the International Academy Program in International Education, Abdalla's lecture

**"Those who help us are our friends, whether they be a devil or a bastard."**

contrasted the nature of new democracies arising in the Middle East with those arising in Eastern Europe.

Abdalla described many similarities between the two regions and their political histories. Both have endured authoritarian governments throughout virtually all of their existences and the people were not truly represented by their numerous communist regimes. "The party of the few became the party of the people," explained Abdalla, as the un-representative representation of the communist leaders did little to serve the needs of their people. The economies of both regions suffered from socialist practices since the economy

was controlled completely by the government; "one-man economics," according to Abdalla, left the general populace impoverished and unsatisfied.

On the other hand, Abdalla

pointed out many differences between the Arab nations and the newly recreated European countries. The Eastern European

nationalists had been trying to fight Soviet control for decades and at last succeeded when Mother Russia succumbed to her own internal problems. However, the Middle East, after throwing off the influence of French and British imperialists, found that their best political ally in the international scene was the Soviet Union. As Abdalla commented: "Those who help us are our friends, whether they be a devil or a bastard. An angel is no good if it tries to kill us."

Religion also plays a very serious role in the governments of the Middle East as the Islamic faith serves as a motivational and mobilizational tool for those in power. This differs greatly from

in power recognized the need to preserve their power by taking democratic chances to relieve political tension. Leaders in the Middle East were more flexible than the European authoritarians

and this paved the way for democratic reforms. Abdalla also stated that "democratization does not mean that the old forces are no longer in power. They are still

Obstacles to democracy that Abdalla outlined were the Arab/Israeli tension, very nearly similar to ethnic strife in Eastern Europe, and the need to solve social problems such as poverty before reforms can be completely achieved. He warned that trying to change the political scene without "keeping the people in bread

**"People will come to hate democracy if it proves to be American."**

and butter" was "a recipe for failure" that would only pave the way for new communist regimes.

Another important fear in the Middle East about democracy that Abdalla discussed was the belief that "democratization means Americanization. People will come to hate democracy if it proves to be American." He explained that democracy is a universal recognition of basic freedoms and was not the cultural capital of one country such as our own. New democracies are not destined to become "America's back-yard," since they have their own unique cultures and political influences.



the comparatively secular liberalism found in most European states.

Abdalla introduced his idea that "in the struggle for democratization, the Middle East comes first." In Europe, individualistic efforts over the last three decades could not overthrow the Soviet regimes. In contrast, many Arab states, beginning with Egypt and Tunisia in 1976, have moved to a multi-party system. These early reforms stemmed from fact that the people

there, but now have to legitimize their authority with the people."

"New generations are needed to secure new democracies," Abdalla states reflecting upon the necessity for slow and gradual changes if democracy is to succeed. "[In the Middle East] we are more realistic than the Europeans, we struggle for gradual changes and solidify those reforms. We know that things will remain difficult and sour for a long time...you can't expect

## A thousand words for every picture

by Jeana C. Breton  
staff writer

Famed photographer Emmet Gowin gave a lecture last Monday in the Olin art history room. Nearly 75 people attended. Mr. Gowin appeared to be a charming and emotional man who had a story to tell with every picture shown in the slide presentation, and who nearly cried while reminiscing about things of particular concern to him. His explanation was merely, "When you go to say something you don't know what will connect with you a certain way."

Mr. Gowin had a lot of interesting things to say. First, he ad-

ressed the issue of how he got interested in photography (which he remembered recently during interviews for the Metropolitan Museum of Art). He said that when he was young, he was sitting watching a movie and decided that he wanted to express how it made him feel because he was touched deeply by the fact that a series of images had the power to move someone in that manner. Then later on in life a friend showed him a family album in which a man and woman were sitting together smiling while the man's hand was placed boldly on the woman's chest. Mr. Gowin said that the friend admitted to being ashamed of the picture, but that he thought it was a treasure

and emphasized the essential importance of learning from the body: "There was absolute wisdom passing through this man's hand."

The whole point seemed to be that photography is not only an art medium, but a means of expressing emotion and wisdom. The photographer himself said that "photographs capture feeling—an indication that feeling was in possession of the individual." There was, however, a time when Mr. Gowin said that he would have been surprised if anyone had told him that it was permissible to go out and arrange things for his pictures. Fredrick Sanger, well-known for his warped sense of reality, changed

his mind, and to illustrate how much he had been inspired by Mr. Sanger's work, Mr. Gowin played a tape of an interview in which Mr. Sanger remarked, "You can't make photos the way way art is made; you're at the mercy of what you find, however, inventing and finding are the same thing."

After playing the tape and

having shown several works by other photographers and artists, Mr. Gowin finally got to his own work. This consisted mostly of obscure photographs of people he had known throughout his life, each picture possessing, as promised, its own emotion and mood. One of these photos pic-

continued on page 4

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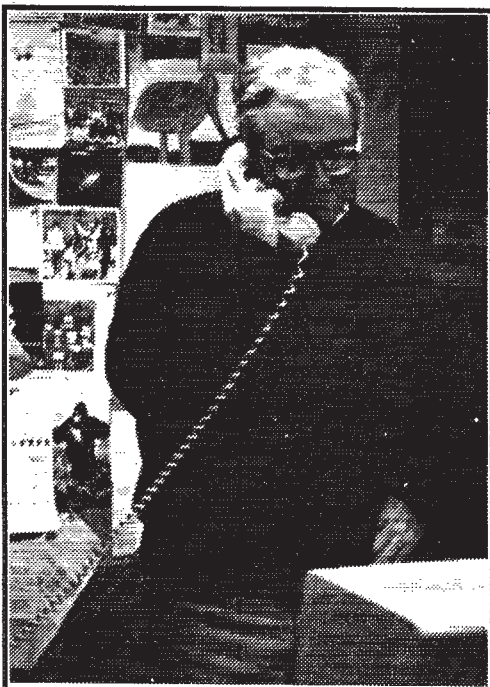
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# Lack of argument sparks conference

by Anne Miller  
staff writer

During the Winter Intersession, a conference will be held January 23 and 24 called "The End of Argument: A Crisis for American Education and Democracy." The subject of the conference is an interesting one, addressing the issue of whether American schools and colleges today have failed to teach their students to "argue well"; that is, are students being formed into citizens who are unable thoughtfully to disagree about social issues that may affect their own lives? Does the classroom disenfranchise students, addressing them in a language that may be alien to them, in its formality of vocabulary and abstraction of language, resulting in a lack of confidence? If so, this lack of confidence may lead to inhibiting students from participating in class, resulting in students not learning to argue effectively. This inability can lead to drastic future problems, to schools



Paul Connely, organizer of the conference

and colleges repressing student's arguing due to their own fear of disagreement and to ignorance in their powerful hierarchy.

Because of this, many people today have a sense of reality that

is socially oriented—do we feign objectivity because some are scared to argue and are quite uncomfortable with speaking their minds publicly?

The goal of this conference is to consider: "A lack of candor and honesty in our public discourse, even in schools and colleges where free speech and thought are presented", "the silencing of dissent by what Ibsen called the 'compact majority'—and by equally compact minorities", and "the public illusion of tolerance and the latent resentments of intolerance." Its goal is

to discuss also how classrooms can improve in order to open themselves to thoughtful discussions so that students do not end up ready to preserve the present state of artificial and pre-established

interests and motives.

"Education should be something students should be passionate

**Education should be something students should be passionate about..what we are trying to do is bring back the human voice.**

**--Kiera Van Gelder**

a speech and discuss their views on this issue; this will be a stimulating part of the conference because it will offer the different angle from student's perspectives. Both of them feel that even here at Bard, they are unable to express their views fully and to argue effectively due to the differences in the level of language which filter people into separate fields; both feel dissatisfied about what is being asked of them.

Among the speakers will be Elizabeth Fox-Genovese, Director of Women's Studies, and Eleanore Raul, Professor of History at Emory College, author of *Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South* and *Feminism Without Illusions: a Critique of Individualism*. Another well known speaker who will be attending is Robert J. Fogelin, who teaches philosophy at Dartmouth College, who is author of *Understanding Arguments: an Introduction to Informal Logic*.

**Recycle, and like it**

## Classifieds and Personals

It's just been too cold and snowy for the Dog House—but I'm available to cater openings, special events, etc., with a menu to fit every budget. Students and staff call Meri at (518) 537-4886. (A former owner of 3 star restaurant, the Cannibal Cafe.)

The Dog House will return just as soon as it warms up a little—25 degrees and up.

The Food/Clothing Drive is sponsoring a family this Christmas through a shelter in Red Hook and donations of clothing are greatly needed. There are three boys with clothing sizes of 3, 4 and 7. If you would like to donate clothing or toys please contact Teri at ext. 406 or Stephanie Dopson through campus mail by December 16th.

Leaving next semester? If you have a quiet single and you are leaving next semester, please contact box 423 to arrange a swap of some sort. Thanks.

Red Hook room for rent. \$237

per month. Starts January. Call Jonah. 758-1370. 2 bedroom, no smoking.

Cap for small bed pickup truck for sale. \$30. immediately. See David Braun, 757-5716 or box 737.

SKY—There are snowmen waiting to be made.—Laura

To Connie and Roger: good luck on your GRE—From Jessie.

To David Steinberg: Hope you had a successful senior project—Jessie.

To Gladys Watson: Sorry for not keeping in touch.—Jessie

K8E, stop condemning the food things and supplies. By the way, I found out what Cling-ons cling to, Star Trek movie royalties from fanatic Trekkies.—First Engineer Snotty.

Only Nixon could go to China, but you couldn't make him drink.—Vulcan proverb

In loving memory of David "ZZYZX" Steinberg. If I knew the way, I would give him a home.

From F.D. of P.S. and the ERADICATOR: Daienu, enough already.

Crush, Kill And Destroy Beverly Hills 90210

### photo continued

*continued from page 3*  
tured a child wearing what appeared to be a very large diaper. Mr. Gowin said that "you can't put things together in the way a child's mind does" and that the incomprehensibility of this picture is what makes it so special; his own father remarked after seeing the picture "Is this child all right?" Capturing such a response is what Mr. Gowin and other photographers often aim for and are pleased to receive. A book of Emmet Gowin's best photographs is on reserve at the library.

## HOROSCOPES EN CROUTE

All the spiritual guidance you'll need over the break  
Foretold by Alphabits

**Aries:** Leave something in your room and it's bound to get stolen.

**Taurus:** It might be a bad idea to enter the new year.

**Gemini:** You're in a number three day. You're going to...uh, whoops, that's numerology. Sorry.

**Cancer:** A tall dark stranger will mug you.

**Leo:** You will form an extremely successful latin swing band over break, win fame and fortune, but have to abandon it when you return to Bard.

**Virgo:** Get out while you still can.

**Libra:** Metal detectors figure highly in your future.

**Scorpio:** Consider a career in the Horoscopol Arts.

**Sagittarius:** Do the words "professional therapist" mean anything to you?

**Capricorn:** The proximity of Christmas and your birthday means that, once again, you will not receive all the presents you deserve.

**Aquarius:** You dropped something.

**Pisces:** Sucks to be you.



## Queer+ Not to My Knowledge

by Ephen Glenn Colter

I will not forget that there are people living with HIV disease. I will not forget that no one dies from AIDS. People are diagnosed from AIDS related symptoms, and die from AIDS complications - but no one dies from AIDS. One dies from a thousand paper cuts.

If you are Black or Latino, poor, a woman or a child, these cuts are monetary: money. And if you are more white-minded these cuts are from redtape. Forgettable faces are in the growing majority of those struggling with the pandemic. Many of them are POCs (people of color) without the privilege of a technicolor dream coat like that of Magic Johnson, without the multi-media marketability of one Ryan White, without the fame and fortune of Rock Hudson-types. This article is in response to the small success of the events characterizing AIDS Awareness week here at Bard. This article is not so sophisticated as to talk about AIDS - no I'm limited to just the current facts of HIV. If it's not getting through your head now it will get into your bloodstream later. Like Chinese water torture, one way or another it will get through your physical or mental defenses unless you turn off the leaky faucet that drip - drip - drips blood.

Forgive me, but it's hard not to preach when discussing HIV just because so many people have died. PLWAs (people living with AIDS) need the same things that people living in fear of AIDS need: support. There is more than enough work to be done: networking and mentoring, caretaking and caregiving.

People like Curious George Bush, Jesse-at-the-moral-Helm(s), Uncle Clarence Thomas, and David Dukkke are my enemies because they are not my allies. They are passive alibies for us all to distance ourselves and our resources: Silence = Death. for Bush the Personal is Polemical, for Helms Art is Decency for Dukkke

Racism is Non-perishable, and Justice Clarence is *not* for all. Not one of these "men" is helping to fight the many battle fronts that are AIDS-related symptoms, and not one of them is behind the scenes. They are behind the times, confronting common knowledge with "Not to my knowledge."

Not I, not any of us, and certainly none of "them" has any reason to feel safe about sex or comfortable with the present pretense and nonsense of HIV. If you care to wait until it is your problem, personally, if you care to stand up for your political rights when you are confined to a wheel chair, so be it. But remember, if not you then someone you love is affected, or a friend-of-a-friend-of-a-friend: third person positive. Wake up and smell the roses! A rose by any other name is still a rose. Even if on a grave. This is not Imaginary America, this is the Real World, the difference being that people in the Real World are diseased by the HIV virus, while Imaginary America is more uneasy with computer viruses. soon it will cut both ways. Soon we will have to be more concerned with losing *lives* than forgetting to "save" on our computer and losing data.

We have to do our homework here / now before someone we love needs us to be there / now - without forgetting that there are a number of people we don't care to know who could use our support - he it waking up at 4:45am to wash dishes at a volunteer food distribution center, or a joining buddy-system program just to listen to someone invisible and voiceless, or just handing out condoms and bleach kits. We are in need of more healthcare workers, more cultural workers, more creative artists, more advocates, more activists, and fewer bandaids.

When we leave Bard is not the time that we can "decide" to take HIV seriously, along with finding a job to pay back those loans.. No, NOT! This campus is not immune. Women and women, women and men, men and men are loving each other and are moving on to love others. These are brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, and/or children of all ages, shapes, and sizes. Bi or bias we all draw up the ethical contract involved with "THE" most intimate form of communication known to human being: sex. AIDS in the nineties needs consciousness raising but more importantly, sensitivity training -like yesterday! A cure, or even a true understanding of the little bugger is sometime in coming, but people will be living longer with the disease. PLWAs are becoming a fact of life.

Rather they are emotions or "notions" sex requires an etiquette for the coquette and the voucher of the debaucher. For the most part Bard is surpassing the Marlboro Man/Virginia Slims Girl mentality, but these are sometimes only parts of speech.

We are in the realm of the 90s, and better sooner than (too) later we have to talk about sex and HIV in the same bated breath, think about drugs and HIV in the same unsatisfied craving (the roses some people are stopping to smell are "poppies"): Condoms and Clean Needles -and Dental Dams,

The mantra whispered in the city is "Sex, Ex, Meth, Coke, and Crack" and here on campus the familiar mantra is "sexism, racism, classism, and homophobia." You are not a "bad" person because you need a "hit" to get you through the weekend rather than a "cup" of coffee to get you through the morning. You are not a "slut" or "promiscuous" because you are (and you are) having sex. Think of yourself as "sexually generous," because some people just like to give, or think of yourself as "mentally unrepresive," because all of us are looking for a new drug.

The PC thing to deny the sexual activity happening on this campus is ridiculous and misleading, obscuring the fact that safe sex is not yet universal. The spread of HIV disease would end tomorrow if the entire world ceased sex and vice...HA! you say, and so do I. There should be nothing judgmental about having sex or with whom you are having sex, regardless of their health status.

Safe sex is safe/sane/sober/consensual sex regardless of either's health status. Just because you don't discuss it doesn't mean that your partner is not a PLWA. The proper precautions should always be maintained as non-negotiable and uncompromising. Mental and physical health is at constant risk. You can't trust anyone - especially yourself. And God knows an AIDS test is not reliable. There is such a thing as the "window phase." That's when the test says "negative" but your antibodies just haven't gotten enough voices together like that characters in that Dr. Seuss story (about the elephant trying to save those little people) to scream "POSITIVE."

You're right, AIDS is not a gay disease. We all know that. We have learned something. But many, many gay men and lesbians are affected with/by the disease. Realize that the responsibility they carried (not the disease) alone for so much of the last ten years demanded some kind of response. Realize that all kinds of activist confront the same response. So, do not mistake the anger and passion of activism or advocacy as negative nor its frustration with failure. Realize once and for all that we are all bashed, battered, and brain-washed by this dis-ease: the disease of there being no end in sight until we open our eyes and witness to all levels of devastation in our society and in our world. It has taken 10 years to explain how the virus is spread, and now we all face the Big Picture of how resources can be dispersed in the same non-discriminatory way.

But, this is not the big city, this is little Bard, right? We have little to worry about (?). We have no sexism, racism, homophobia, or AIDS angst here. So if this isn't the city, why are so many people carrying around so many "tokens?" i.e. informed knowledge of the infamous issues but no personal interest in fact-ready to catch the next rain of thought. HIV disease isn't going anywhere but UP! (Uptown) It had a birthday, which means it just got to blow out more candles!!

Those of us tarred-'n-feathered in the Real World (those not in missionary positions of power) watch Imaginary America on the main drag - the card-carrying liberals jingling their "tokens" and flaunting collected PC-buttons as so many good deeds to get them through the decade - wondering if justice is "blind" or just "psychosomatic." The money and mayhem of mandatory testing could go to prevention, education, research, and be a resource to PLWAs to "live" rather than just "survive."

We have to keep our "isms" open. There are more "isms" to be found, appreciated and appropriated, a lot more skeletons to be found in the closet due to AIDS, a lot more skulduggery to be done due to the fear of HIV. Grave robbers and ghost-writers alike already contend for the position of creating misleading ghost stories and graven images by multi-mediating technoculture for Imaginary America. Well, PLWAs are not dead yet! Do not continue to cut them down in their prime or cut them off from resources.

The dilemma I see for the nineties concerning AIDS is simple: individual evil v. personal disgrace. Or more precisely, who will continue to play God and who will continue to play the Devil's advocate? we are far to sophisticated to play the Devil. We give evil the run-around by playing who's who or so-and-so under such-and-such circumstance, better known as the credulous phrase "Not to my knowledge." If no one knows, who's to blame? Who can point a finger and who can give the finger? I've already failed a dear friend, and I am learning to keep my hands in my pockets, digging for resources, recourse, and recoil.

I don't need a moment of silence to perpetuate SILENCE=DEATH. I need to speak to that pain. On Sunday I did not take a moment of silence to grieve, mourn, or feel sorry for myself. There's not a moment's rest until HIV/AIDS is cured. I got a moment's peace -screaming my outrage/terror, voicing a visceral response to irresponsibility. I have to get it out and get on with my life, and the lives of others still needing to be saved or salvaged from the aches and pains, cuts and bruises, of HIV.

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**Recycle, it's fun**



# SPANDEX'S RETURN

## (Part the Twenty-Third)

by ZZYZX

I ran up to the speaker's platform. I had but two weapons to use. Both came at the recommendation of THE GOOD BOOK. They received the Green Star Award for efficiency against the anti-ZZYZX's. Unfortunately, I had left the Hole-Puncher of Doom in my other vest pocket. This left me with only one other plan.

There are certain words that act like loyalty tests. For example, if a demon says "God" he will suffer pain worse than the famed 17 tortures of Ariblast's Tomb. There is but one Word of Power in the SPANDEXian religion, and I had to hope the anti-ZZYZX did not know it.

"Hey anti-ZZYZX," I shouted, "say Quok."

"Quok?"

"Quok."

"Quok."

I finished the ritual; "Thank you," I said. Suddenly he realized his mistake. For the Word of Power, when used under the

proper ritual, will bring a smile to the face and a spring to the step to all allied with SPANDEX. Those neutral will feel anything from apathy to annoyance to the Holy Ritual. But those actively opposed to SPANDEX cannot take part in it. It creates an internal contradiction. Most anti-SPANDEXers are educated enough to avoid this trap, but isolated in this universe the anti-ZZYZX did not have the skills to sidestep it. The contradiction, after I said the magic words Reducto Ad Absurdum, caused him to wink out of existence.

Suddenly the scene shifted. I was sitting outside of my room. A note fell from the sky. Reading it, I learned that I was not in an alternative universe after all. SPANDEX sabotaged the ZZYZXmobile intentionally, knowing that the anti-SPANDEX would jump at this opportunity to draw me into his "reality." Both SPANDEX and the anti-SPANDEX had signed a pact agreeing to abide by the results of the final conflict. The anti-SPANDEX was given the right to choose the time of the battle—hence my

abduction at what seemed to be a weak moment. I was distracted by the problem at hand—the debate between evolution and creationism—and the anti-SPANDEX thought that I would be too disoriented to remember the Word of Power.

In exchange for ceding the right to choose the time of the battle, SPANDEX received the right to grant me an ally: FRESCA. Our meeting was not accidental. SPANDEX personally reincarnated a loyal follower from the 16th century. She personally volunteered to go through another life [with a very stupid name] in order to help fight the good fight.

The note continued, "If the good is to triumph, who must lose? SPANDEX lives in more than the hearts and minds of his followers. TOTOA P.S. Look up."

I looked up, and saw an aquarium the size of New Jersey descend upon the area. Inside I saw SPANDEX swimming around. The Second Coming was happening. In one of the most impressive miracles ever in the history of holy literature, He remained

the size of a goldfish, yet could be seen from anywhere around his watery throne. Moreover, the Sacred Aquarium, although actually centered on the point of power in Annandale, could actually be seen from anywhere in the world. No matter where one was, it appeared as though Spandex was right there with you...and who is to say that He wasn't.

Under his beneficial rule, the world experienced true peace and joy like it never had before. It was truly World Without Unhappiness. I have come up with the most elegant and beautiful way of expressing the euphoria that was this time, but unfortunately the Alternative Page is not big enough to contain it. Just let it be said that if you truly seek out SPANDEX, if you call out for him in the spirit of joy needed to get his attention, then He will answer, and no description of this utopia will be needed; you will understand internally. GRIF-HO!

-THE END-

# The Beer Column

Finn: We're not quite sure whether or not this is the last issue this semester, but we don't know what we would do if it was, so we'll just plow along through another fun-filled, mega-stupendous, kids-of-all-ages page of the best observations made by drunk people anywhere, namely, US. Yup. We're drunk. Or at least I am. Phantom's still in England but he's probably drunk, or was drunk. Anyway, if you remember (and if you do, please tell me, 'cause I don't), I left England last week, both because the beer was mediocre and because Phantom was being a pain. And it was England. But I'm back in America again, and about to be crowned Point of Light #842 for my in depth work on Alcohol consumption. So, of course, I'm in Boston, studying a great American Brewery—Sam Adams.

In this season (winter) S.A. produces a winter beer, called, amazingly enough, Winter Lager. Personally, I think that the Winter Lager is my least favorite of the six different varieties that S.A. makes. This does not make it bad, but it is a bit tiresome. The flavor is really the sticker to me. It's too smokey in taste and too lingering in after-taste to be a prime contender for Finnegan's favorite brew. This was a real disappointment too, because the color is about the most appetizing that I've seen and the smell is very good. But the extreme complexity and depth of flavor in this beer are even too much for me. All who consider themselves any good with beer should try some, but with a back-up (like a sink) in

case you don't like it. That wasn't really nice to say, but I'm just not in the mood for niceties. Hit it, Phantom.

Ph: If you've read our other issues, you know something about the English pub/brewing system, specifically, that certain brewers make beer for certain pubs. Youngs is a London based brewer that produces rather intriguingly flavored Lagers and Ales. I tried the Lagers that they sell and was not impressed, in fact, I hated them, so I moved on to the Ale, a big improvement. Compared to Bass or Whitbread, the Youngs Ale is slightly lighter and not quite as bitter. It's got the same sort of unique taste as the beers Youngs makes, but it's less dominant making the Ale drinkable. I wish that I could say more about the flavor, but in all honesty, the only adjective that comes to mind is "indescribable," and I suppose that doesn't help very much.

Anyway, I called Finnegan yesterday to tell him about the Ale, and I told him, "you should try some because, as a beer connoisseur, an ale as different as this should be in your repertoire." He told me that he would, except for the fact that it's 12 bucks a six-pack, and he could get two sixes of his favorite beer for that price. I was unable to find fault with his logic. I thought about bringing him home a bottle, but my luggage is heavy enough already, and Finnegan should get out more anyway. So, if you're ever in London, try a pint of Youngs Ale, however, while in the U.S. there are better bargains to be found... almost anywhere.

As a final note, I just recently got a letter from the nice people at Bev-Way (I have my mail forwarded, you have a problem with that?). They told me that my favorite beer, John Courage, is going on sale this week. If you haven't tried Courage yet, you have no excuse not to now. I've said before that it's an awesome beer, and I'll repeat it whenever necessary...BUY SOME! They also mentioned that Puntigamer is on sale,

and my opinion of this beer is also quite clear. Maybe you have a friend who always asks for a beer when he stops over, and you really want to use his left testicle to open it, just to show him how happy you are to share. If this is the case, then buy a six of Puntigamer and give him that when he asks. He'll probably never ask you for a beer again.

	Sam Adams Winter Lager	Youngs Ale
Finnegan	1.5	
Phantom		2 (0.5 because of price)

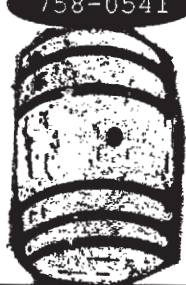
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## Letters from Lunatic

Today, the worldwide admiration of, and influence of Bellamy's last two books some fifty to one hundred years ago is little known. This factual information has been preserved by Sylvia Bowman's *EDWARD BELLAMY ABROAD*, published 1962. From this large book we here begin to quote just a few facts: IN RUSSIA: In 1889 Tolstoi recommended that *LOOKING BACKWARD* be translated, and so it was. The popularity of this book in Russia culminated in seven translations for the various needs of the Russian populace. Also, many books and commentaries were written and read by all classes, influencing greatly the urges there towards revolution.

IN BRITAIN: *LOOKING BACKWARD* was reviewed by a Peter Marshall under the heading: "A British Sensation." From its introduction at Oxford by Frances E. Willard, and to the worldwide Theosophical Society by H.P. Blavatsky, it became truly famous in all intellectual circles. Its influence was felt in the proliferation of the nationalist Society clubs and its branches all over England. Marshall quotes Oscar Wilde: Progress is the realization of Utopia." - and that 'the English Socialist movement owes more to Henry George, Gronlund and Bellamy than to Marx.'

AUSTRALIA: Bellamy's ideas are limited

but they fell upon fertile ground in the Sydney Bulletin in 1890, which made *LOOKING BACKWARD* known to its readers. Also Bellamy's ideas 'made a major contribution' to the birth of the Labour Party. Later on, there is some evidence that *EQUALITY* became known to the limited few still seeking a more rational social order.

THE BASIC PRINCIPLES FOR BOTH PERSON AND SOCIAL SALVATION AND SURVIVAL ARE: AS WE THINK IN OUR HEARS (UNCONSCIOUS) WE ARE. AND: AS WE SINCERELY SEEK WE SHALL SURELY FIND. HUS WERE AP AS WE HAVE SOWN AND AS WE DO SOW...

Edward Bellamy sought Truth, found it, and dared tell it forth in his books; *LOOKING BACKWARD* and with the only peaceful, sane and practical method included, told us how we could rise above this corrupt and collapsing Economic System of man-made chaos and consequent insecurity for all concerned, both rich and poor. Because most of the rich find money a very uncertain and ulcer-causing figment of illusion; and many so-called poor in worldly goods are relatively secure in emotional and mental 'findings' in which they have achieved spiritual certainty.

Like the Christ teachings, Bellamy has been

damned with faint praise, thrown aside for more 'practical' things of this world, and labeled as Utopian. And, indeed, Bellamy follows in the very footsteps of our Master Teacher in the principles he espouses, and builds upon.

Jesus called all men 'brothers and friends,' and Bellamy shows us the one and only practical way to achieve this state of 'Life Abundant.' Namely with the basic economic system left to us by Jesus, thru St. Peter, in ACTS II and IV, a system of absolute equality in sharing all material goods to be given according to the needs of ALL: for all men are created equal in the sight of God, and all citizens of this and any country deserve equal caring for by an Economic/Social System that does the exact opposite of the present.

What cold hypocrisy is revealed in "our" present 'trickle-down' theory! That is to say with a straight face that after the Ruling Class has skimmed of all the cream and the gravy for itself and its flunkies, we - the great majority of us, who in fact do all the hard and dirty work of production, can now strive for a "fair" share of a small part of the great wealth we have helped produce. (And the warehouses stay stocked with many foods, rotting, as we - the People do not have our share of the money-system with which to buy enough for our basic needs)...How

Un-Christian can our Rulers get?? While at the very same time, most of them profess to be Christians!!

But, really, We - the People have only ourselves to blame: We allow ourselves to be brain-washed by Big Lies, and fake promises; when nothing but Bellamy's complete *change-over* from Private Capitalism to Public Capitalism can possibly give us the System of Economic Democracy we all truly deserve. This present Cult of Competition with which we are brain-washed, and which is falling apart before our very eyes (mountainous paper-money debts; banks and S&L's failing, with farmers and all personal loans not ALLOWED TO PILE UP) - and the crime of unemployment a certainty for millions all the time - ALL THIS CAN EASILY AND PEACEFULLY BE GRADUALLY CHANGED INTO A SYSTEM OF FULL EMPLOYMENT: ALL COOPERATING IN PRODUCING PLENTY FOR ALL: ABSOLUTELY ALL CITIZENS: FIRST IN THIS GREAT USA: THEN SHARED WITH ALL THE WORLD!

THE DETAILS OF THIS CHANGE-OVER, CONTAINED IN BELLAMY'S TRANSITION CHAPTER, from his book *EQUALITY*, now available from:

Philip S. Hensel/612 Colorado Avenue/Baltimore, MD 21210/\$2.00 postpaid.

### But wait, there's more...

AWAKE: WE HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT OUR ILLUSIONS: ILLUSIONS OF GRANDEUR: "MIGHT MAKES RIGHT" and putting "NATIONAL HONOR AND WAR" OVER PEACE THRU SHARING.

"AWAKE THOU THAT SLEEPEST" the avatars' cry: "Awake children of a Destiny High."

"THE LORD THY GOD IS ONE GOD." "WORSHIP YOUR CREATOR WITH ALL YOUR MIND AND SOUL: AND YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF."

KNOW: The Cosmic Law of Ever-Evolving Creation: For every effect there is a cause: And: As we sow we surely reap.

KNOW: That in this Law there is no flaw. all Truth is founded upon it: All sowing in Love is reaping in Joy.

FLAW: But Might is Right we have sown in this sad world: Thus reaping our whirlwinds of destruction and death.

CHANGE: We children of One God must learn to be brothers: True friends: sharing all things with others.

VANITY ALL: In the vain imaginings of our hers we insanely mass murder one another; we have free will! we build empires upon the blood of brothers-sisters-babies! for petty plunder, transient power, profits, "honor."

In hypnotic trance, manic madness, sick illusions we flaunt hypocrisy and arrogant pride; brain-washed of thought for those who died; with hands of clay we play games called delusions.

LAW: Now must we reap what we have

sown: God's justice now comes; the ages have flown.

CHANGE: But if we learn sane Love to sow we shall reap Peace, and grow to know each other, brother, as we truly are: Sparks of Light here from afar: Lost innocence, became as animals, in lusts and selfish strife that drag down Life to ignorance and fleshly pain, and death; mere dusts of former co-creators with Love and Light.

ACTION: Against fear and pride should be our fight: Practice caring/sharing: Right makes Might! Freedom from Fear brings Practical Cooperation: Freedom from self means victory of true democracy, means Plenty for ALL through Full Production: means fair Distribution the Jesus Christ Way: In ACTS TWO < FOUR and FIVE it's plain as day!

PHYSICAL SCIENCE IS FOUNDED UPON THE LAW OF CAUSE AND EFFECT: METAPHYSICAL TRUTH FOUNDED UP THE LAW: WE REAP AS WE HAVE SOWN.

IT IS OF COURSE ONE LITTLE LIFETIME? GOD'S TIME IS A CONTINUUM OF TIMELESSNESS. TO BE RATIONAL WE MUST NEEDS CONCLUDE THAT WE HAVE BEEN SOWING BOTH GOOD AND BAD OVER MANY LIFETIMES; FOR ONLY THUS CAN WE HAVE A SANE AND RATIONAL EXPLANATION FOR THE SEEMING INJUSTICES WE ALL OBSERVE IN THIS SAD/GLAD SEEMING CHAOS OF LIFE.

ONLY REINCARNATION MAKES SENSE OF ALL SEEMING INJUSTICES: FOR THEY HAVE TO BE DESERVED

BASED UPON OUR PRIOR LIVES' SOWING: FOR GOOD OR EVIL. IF THERE BE AN ALL-KNOWING CREATOR AS EVIDENT IN THE CAUSE AND EFFECT FOUNDATION OF SCIENCE, THEN WE MUST ACKNOWLEDGE AN ABSOLUTE LAW CONCERNING OUR SOUL/MIND EVOLUTION.

Philosophically, the fact of reincarnation is an absolute necessity, as Emmet Fox has so well pointed out in his essay: "Reincarnation." Backing up Fox we have the tradition of reincarnation from Eastern religions (not transmigration) - but a soul/mind entity, "created in the beginning" probably millions of years ago, as ethereal beings, children of God-Spirit. And now finding ourselves "fallen" into a low plane of temporary (hopefully) biological consciousness. (Edgar Cayce).

Here, we must strongly recommend all free-thinkers still daring to seek Truth to the work of Edgar Dayce; Yogananda; Helen B. Blavatsky; Alice Bailey; Walter Russell; Ania Tellard; and Emmet Fox in the so-called occult realm of experience.

NOW: For empirical evidence we have the many years of research around the world found in Dr. Ian Stevenson's "TWENTY SUGGESTED CASES OF REINCARNATION"... Other searchers for Truth can find more: Sri Aurobindo for instance; and the "AQUARIAN GOSPEL OF JESUS CHRIST." And please do not forget that John the Baptist was the reincarnation of Elijah, plainly stated. In fact, in Jesus' time, reincarnation was such an ac-

cepted fact that it did not have to be taught, nor even referred to.

But the main concept here is that all seeming INJUSTICE BY GOD is rationally explained: We reap exactly as we have sown in previous lives over thousands of years, and through the GRACE OF GOD we are allowed to try again and again to "redeem" ourselves by following in the footsteps of Avatars. For, the basis of all religions is: Selflessness in Service to Others in Spiritual Love (Compassion) - for "our neighbors" - meaning all and any of our brothers and sisters the world over. For we pray "OUR Father...", making ourselves in Truth all children of ONE GOD.

On the practical side of life, in order to bring Order and Abundance and Peace out of seeming chaos, we have great American genius Edward Bellamy, basing his Social Salvation upon the Christ's Sharing Economy as given to Peter and carried onward through the Early Church through the Anabaptists (in essence) and the Hutterites, even down to the present day: the Bruderhof and similar true sects that advocate Jesus' Absolute Pacifism and Economies-Of-Sharing-According-To-Need, in Selflessness, AS PER ACTS II, IV, and V.

E. Bellamy's key chapter, "TRANSITION" from his book "EQUALITY", now available \$2 ppd. from: HARMONY Books, c/o P.S. Hensel, 612 Colorado Avenue, Baltimore, MD, 21210.



## A Celebration of the 65th Birthday of Meyer Kupferman Svetlana Gorokhovich, pianist

by Anne Miller  
Staff Writer

In celebration of composer Meyer Kupferman's 65th birthday, Bard hosted a concert featuring his works, performed by the celebrated pianist Svetlana Gorokhovich, this past Friday, November 22 at 8 p.m. in the F.W. Olin Auditorium.

Svetlana Gorokhovich has performed in solo recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the Soviet Union, Italy, and in the United States, including appearances in the sixth Judah Cahn Festival Arts Series, the Concert of Russian Stars at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and at Merkin Concert hall and CAMI Hall. She has won numerous awards, including First Prize in the 1982 Russian National Music Competition, and the Best Accompanist Prize in the 1986 competition.

Meyer Kupferman studied music in New York at the High School of Music at Queens College, but is entirely self-taught as a composer. Also an accomplished clarinetist, he has performed widely as a jazz musician as well as in many performances of classical music. He

has been a resident of the Hudson Valley for a number of years, and his works have been performed frequently in the region, including two symphonies played by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. Since 1951 he has taught composition and chamber music at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York.

The evening's program kicked off with Mozart's *Fantasia in C Minor*, Op. 57, Beethoven's *"Apassionata,"* and Rachmaninoff's *Variations on a Theme by Corelli*, Op. 42. The second half of the concert featured three of Kupferman's works: *Red Sonata* (world premiere), *Snow* (world premiere), and *Sonata Occulta*.

The first three pieces performed all contained a common feature; each of them had a rising and a falling, a cycle that began as delicate and light and moved to forceful and erupting. Mozart's *Fantasia in C Minor* slowly crept out of its fragile beginning, exploding into electric trills and scales. A sequence was created, going from a quiet, serene state, to

one filled with bursting emotion.

Beethoven's *Sonata in F minor*, Op. 57, *"Apassionata,"* began on an opposite point from Mozart's *Fantasia in C Minor*, though following a similar pattern. It began as a vibrant, spontaneous, and tense surprise, eventually coming to a stagnant area. The gorgeous, powerful sound then proceeded to combine with a frail and soft harmony, finally falling into that quiet stage with unexpected and shocking bursts of energy. The second part of this selection remained slow, repetitive, drawn out, and quite monotonous. The forceful beat once again rose, becoming tense, quickly moving and forgetting itself.

Rachmaninoff's *Variations on a Theme by Corelli*, Op. 42, did not seem as original sounding as the previous two, although it definitely did sparkle with life. It moved from dark and oppressive to loud and intense back to slow and relaxed, surrounded by little spastic spurts. The eruptions could be heard as each one was more defined from the previous one; more developed and strengthened.

All three of these selections made a marked distinction between loud and soft, bold and delicate. They also played on creating cycles among these differences, which unfortunately became a boring trend by the third selection, even though all three were quite beautiful.

As the aforementioned selections followed a particular pattern, so did Kupferman's selections; they all used broken and fragmented tunes melded with repeated, intense sections. *Red Sonata* was broken and fragmented, using drops of notes and placing them just so. A repeated rhythm emerged, with another mixed along with it; one continuously interrupting the other. A flavorful, intense melody arose, backed by pieced together variation. As with the previous selections, they created a slight cycle of calmness to the point of explosion.

*Snow*, which implies softness, just about delivered that expected wound; it was light and delicate. But it was unfortunately interrupted by sour, clashing and fragmented notes which did not seem

to blend, creating a disruptive tone.

*Sonata Occulta* was quite similar to that of *Red Sonata*, which was quite disappointing. Another disappointing factor about this piece was its lack of any real coherence, its monotony, and its seemingly never-ending rambling. Its deceptive ending, then restarting was an additional irritating factor.

But with these minor exceptions, the two different sets of selections as a whole were well chosen because they did fit two certain patterns, even though these models did grow and dull rather quickly. *Snow*, a world premiere, was one of the most original sounding selections, and Meyer Kupferman should be commended.

As for the pianist, Svetlana Gorokhovich, she played flawlessly and gave an impeccable performance. Even throughout the demanding, energy-filled job of going back and forth from quiet and serene to loud and explosive, she maintained her poise and composure. A job well done.

## Ready to Fly should be grounded

by Anne Miller  
Staff Writer

To say it nicely, *Ready to Fly* by the Verlaines is truly pitiful. I must honestly say that there are very few kind things that I can say about it, even though I did give it a fair listen. As dumb as the title of the album sounds, it really tells it all.

First of all, it is difficult to say what music category the Verlaines fall into; it sounds like a strange cross between mainstream pop

and alternative music, leaning towards mainstream. I suppose that question does not necessarily matter, although it would help to clarify the group's identity.

Most, if not all, of the songs on the album are quite repetitious and lacking. Many of them basically repeated the same theme—a man griping about a lost love or failed relationship. For an entire album to have the same sort of subject matter, demonstrated the weakness of the group along with its lack of creativity. A perfect example is "Gloom Junky," a

sappy song which grumbles about a difficult relationship. Some of the lyrics include, "Why don't you love me." Oh please! How cliché and unoriginal. "Overdrawn" is yet another commonplace song with lyrics such as "My charity is given out and you're overdrawn on this account." What talent...not! By the time the listener reaches "Such as I" and hears the same garbage as in the previous songs, he or she may be tempted to throw the album out the window.

It sometimes sounds as if some of the songs, such as "Hole in the

Ground" just may be better—at least their introductions sound fairly decent. But more often than not, the rest of the song was a letdown and never fulfilled its potential.

The music is not at all progressive—it sounds like the same thing over and over again; it is quite dull and not at all entertaining. Songs such as "See You Tomorrow" are meandering, meaningless, and basically pointless. The Verlaines simply sound as if they are just trying to crank out tunes and do not put any thought into the lyrics to make them even

slightly intelligent. The lyrics are so empty and silly; shall we get out the violins and feel teary-eyed for these meaningless songs? I surely hope not.

As for the actual music, it was just as dull and repetitious as the lyrics themselves—nothing worth flipping over. The singer himself was anything but extraordinary, to say the least.

Not only are the song titles, such as "War in my head," cliché, so are the songs themselves. To recap: the lyrics are terribly written; the singer and the band itself are lacking talent, unless they are saving it for some special occasion later on, which I sincerely doubt. The one thing not lacking is clichés, clichés, clichés.

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# Blazers shut down Vassar

*Alford, Snyder lead charge with over twenty points apiece*

by Matt Apple  
Sports Editor

The men's varsity basketball team scored fifty-four points in the second half of last Tuesday's game to pull away with the victory by four points. Leading the scoring for the Blazers was Dave Snyder with twenty-five points, eighteen of them coming in the big second half. Sean Alford added twenty-four points, twelve a half, helped by ten foul shot opportunities. All five Bard starters ended up scoring double-digits as Bard defeated Vassar for the first time in well over a decade, 94 to 90.

Trouble for Bard surfaced once again, however, when the time came to travel to Yeshiva University. Forced to leave Sean Alford at Bard to work on a term paper, the Blazers fought to stay close during the first half. Despite



Sean Alford shoots off-balance against Maritime; he missed, but he did take out the opposing player when he fell down. All right Sean!

Dave Snyder's twenty-eight Macabees by two to four points the entire game. Behind 71-67 with

a minute left in the game, Bard had a chance to tie, but a turnover enabled Yeshiva to win it at the foul line.

Sean returned to the lineup against New York Maritime in Bard's home opener last Saturday. In front of a dismally small home crowd (perhaps fifty people, tops), Maritime took advantage of a sluggish Blazer first half to take the lead 47-36. At the start of the second half, the Blazers spent six minutes with an impressive 14-1 run to tie at fifty-six with ten minutes left in the game. Maritime answered with its own 14-1 run to regain a huge lead. Still, trailing 70-57 with less than five minutes left, another Blazer rally brought them to within five. With under a minute remaining, Maritime made its foul shots to come away with a 78-68 victory, dropping the Blazers to 0-2 in the IAC, 2-4 overall.

## Morgan Cleveland wins NAIA award



After missing all of last year's volleyball season and suffering a knee injury this year, Morgan Cleveland has been named a 1991 NAIA Volleyball All-America Scholar Athlete. Morgan, a senior sociology major with a 3.52 gpa, was co-captain of this year's 15-11 women's volleyball team and was instrumental in leading the team to its most successful season in Bard history, including becoming tri-champions of the CACC and champions of the IAC.

Despite winning many awards this year, Morgan said it was sort of strange to be the first female Bard student ever to receive the Scholar Athlete award. "I don't feel like this was my best year...certainly as a team this was our best year." Morgan gave credit to her teammates and her coach, Kris Hall, for her accomplishments. "Forevery kill [I had], there always was someone who set it up. Volleyball's such a team sport...you can have individual accomplishments, but you can't have a team of individuals."

After recovering from arthroscopic surgery on a fractured ankle last year, Morgan was named the CACC's Most Valuable Player and the IAC's player of the year in Bard's first year as an IAC team. She was also named to the NAIA All-District and CACC All-Conference teams for the fourth year in a row, the CACC All-Tournament for the second time, the NAIA All-Region team, and placed second in voting for the District MVP by two points.

As for Morgan's future endeavors? "I don't know," she laughed. "Probably take a break before going to graduate school."

# Entropy vows chaos will triumph

by Matt Apple  
Sports Editor

Stevenson Gymnasium was a battleground last Wednesday night, as the remaining four volleyball teams fought for the two final spots next Thursday (of course, this being Bard intramurals, there were only four teams to begin with, but I digress). Sounds of "We're number four! We're number four!" and bodies hitting the wooden floor echoed throughout the vast arena during the bloody matches. One exhausted volleyball player paid tribute to the brutal determination players exhibited when he gurgled, "These guys are animals," before collapsing in a pool of red; trainers estimated he'd be out at least three weeks.

Although Spooze had lost to

Dirty Dogs, 15-2, 15-2, they stayed on to watch Fly Slamma Jamma crush the team with the longest name and to laugh hysterically at Entropy Girl's antics (not Entropy Girl herself, but the team). Perplexed (and annoyed) team members of Entropy Girl and the Genetically Challenged approached Spooze after the game, demanding to know what they thought was so funny. The answer Entropy Girl got sent them reeling and gasping for breath.

Apparently, because Fly Slamma Jamma had played with non-roster women, and they needed at least two women on the court at all times, they had automatically forfeited before the game even started. Entropy Girl, without ever winning a match during the season, won the right to play Dirty Dogs in the final.

Since this is the last issue of the

Observer this semester, and I will not be able to cover the final game, I instead opted to "pull a Dewey" and "predict" the outcome. Entropy Girl's members had varying opinions about their inevitable violent confrontation this Thursday, most of them due to Entropy Girl's extremely irregular group dynamics.

K8e, ever the polite senior who drove us home Wednesday morning at 4, said, "I hope we have a good game, and I dedicate all my serves to Fiona," while J.C. declared, "I dedicate my serves to myself, thank you very much," and had no further comment. Athel Fugar reverently added, "St. Thomas Aquinas said, 'Man does not live by bread alone; sometimes he has to eat a ball.'" Raging Bull took his shoe off, and pounded it on the floor, yelling, "We will bury you!" as ZZYZX

calmly replied, "Say quok." As for Entropy Girl herself, she merely said, "We'll see."

Thus my completely unbiased prediction for next Thursday's ultimate test of volleyball sovereignty: Entropy Girl and the Genetically Challenged will cause as much chaos as is humanly possible while dodging volleyballs, and the Dirty Dogs will avoid slanderous outcries of "He's too tall - that's cheating!" and attempt to dominate the net, which shouldn't be too tough. Remember, true believers, this match will be fun to watch, and best of all, like all the other games, admission's free. So, come on down and watch the next contestants in the life-or-death struggle for the sacred black t-shirts and a picture in the Stevenson Gymnasium "walko' fame". It's gonna be a doozy! 🐼

**Men's Varsity Volleyball  
Practice starts Wed., December  
11 at 4:30 for all interested**



## Thumbs up, thumbs down

Thumbs up to Servicemaster for hiring all of the custodians who work for Bard. They should be more efficient and save us money in the long run.

Thumbs down to Bard College for not keeping the employees informed about their job and benefit status. These people are understandably concerned with the future of their jobs, and the current management at Bard has done nothing to reassure them.

Thumbs up to Oliver Te Boekhorst and the rest of the Student Life Committee who did a lot of work and research on the subcontracting controversy.

Thumbs down to the new course catalog. There was a better selection in pre-Glasnost Russian restaurants.

Thumbs up to the fact that this is last *Observer* of the semester. No more sleepless Tuesday nights for at least five weeks.

Thumbs down to the Bard Athletic Department's \$5 dinner special. The Fencing Team only received \$5 per person to buy dinner in New York City. Luckily they didn't have to mug people with their swords.

## Too many revolutions in Political Science

by Fred Baker

Now, I do not want to be the one accused of bringing up the Nackenoff issue again, but in light of both personal experience and the course catalogue, I feel that the issue of firing and rehiring ought to be examined in a different context. I am a political science major. I am a Senior. Those are my qualifications for what I am about to say next - Bard has no Political Science/Studies department. Some of you may have been fooled into thinking that this is actually not the case. "Look at the course listing," they will say, "There are nine classes." Yes, there are, but it is not the classes that I am addressing. Only one of the four professors has been at Bard more than a paltry three semesters. And we all know who she is, and what has happened to her. But that is not even the whole story. Another of the Political Science professors is new for this year, and a third is, with Carol Nackenoff, also leaving at the end of this term, leaving Bard with only one Professor that students have any real knowledge of. "But wait!" cry some, "There are professors in other departments that teach cross-over classes." And yes, that is also true, but to reach to other departments to find stability is akin to admitting that Political Science is no more than a flavor of anthropology, economics, or psychology. And if this sounds reasonable to you, apply the principle to your own discipline. What happens when photography majors are forced to look to the film department to find stability and balance?

I am a Senior; it says so on my canary card. I have taken the bulk of my classes in the green pages, yet none of my moderation professors will be present for my Senior Project. My advisor has left, and the professor that I might have chosen for my primary project advisor is also leaving.

I have had 12 professors within the green pages; five are gone, one is going. Of those that are still here, only one is a Political Science professor. The rest are anthropology, economic, history, and philosophy professors. A pretty sad case. High turnover rates are not indicative of good things, and my point rests with the fact that this can and probably will happen to other departments, other divisions, other years. I will refrain from saying that this policy is one of bad judgment, but I will say that this cannot help but damage relations with potential professors and future alumni.

I am a Senior; this should not bother me; I am leaving. It does bother me, and when I go out, I will carry with me, and will express to others, the regret that my school lost so many good professors, and that my experiences are lost to future students.



by Greg Giaccio

It is easy to forget what Christmas really means in modern times. When its essence is so often distilled into a few lights and cardboard reindeer, we often lose track of the ideals that made Christmas an important holiday for so many. We forget that Christmas is a time to celebrate charity and kindness.

Luckily, Bard helps us to remember. Recently they sent each and every one of our parents a Christmas card to aid their memory of the true spirit of Christmas.

"Please remember Bard in this holiday season," read the cards. How thoughtful! A simple, yet elegant, plea to be charitable. And it is even non-denominational, so as not to offend the members of our community who are not celebrating the birth of their Lord. In fact, it is surprisingly egalitarian, no one person receiving any special recognition over another, almost as if it were pre-processed by a machine instead of hand-packed with loving care, as I'm sure it was. And what better way to celebrate the birth of a man who despised earthly things than to offer someone the opportunity to rid themselves of these material objects.

Indeed, we owe our thanks to Bard for selflessly taking it upon itself to act as our outlet for charity and to rid ourselves of that root of all evil, money. I'm so touched that I have asked my parents not to send a donation to Bard. After all, why should I curse an institution which cares so much for me by giving them money? Is it not far better that I give them love, by far the sweetest gift one can give one's college? I likewise encourage all of you to give love, not money, to this college if you feel as much love for it as it feels for you.

## The Bard Observer

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The Bard Observer is published every Friday while class is in session. Editorial policy is determined by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Editorial Board. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the editorial board and not necessarily of the 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.

Classified: Free for Bardians, \$5 for all others. Personals are free.  
Display classifieds: \$5.00 for local, \$10.00 for national.  
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SEALED OFF FROM THE WORLD  
IN ITS OWN SELF-CONTAINED  
ENVIRONMENT, A GROUP  
OF DARING RESEARCHERS  
GOES ABOUT ITS WORK:

WELL! THE RECOVERY'S  
COMING ALONG NICELY,  
WOULDN'T YOU SAY?





## EPC to students

Dear Editor:

As the semester comes to a close, the EPC would like to be sure all the *Observer* readers are aware of two important initiatives in the works which would have an impact on academic life here at Bard.

The one of particular importance to the student body is the work of the Presidential Commission on the Curriculum. This Commission, consisting of 15 professors appointed by President Botstein, has been charged with the task of attempting to redesign the curriculum in such a way as to make Bard the best it can be. The proposal the Commission is presently considering involves the elimination of the broad divisional requirements, currently consisting of two classes in each of the four divisions, and the two-semester freshman seminar requirement. Essentially, this amounts to an elimination of a requirement entailing eight courses, as the two course requirement applies only in the three divisions in which the student is not majoring.

The Commission is proposing to replace these eight courses with a "core curriculum." Each semester, with the exception of first-semester senior year, every student would be required to select a "core" course. There would be several courses offered each semester from which to choose, and they would be of an interdisciplinary nature. The Commission is particularly interested in having each one taught by two professors in conjunction with one another, each approaching the subject from a different academic discipline.

Additionally, the Commission is considering having campus-wide presentations of the work done in the seminars, to take place during a week similar to Reading week, but which would probably occur later in the semester.

Because of the vastness of the senior project, there would be no core requirement in the first semester of the senior year. Thus, seniors would have more time to devote to their projects at that time. Furthermore, work on the senior project would be expected to be begun in the second semester of the junior year. However, seniors might be required to finish their projects by spring break the fol-

lowing semester. This new deadline would be instituted in order to give seniors the opportunity to become involved with other courses, and to end their time at Bard with a broader educational experience.

In designing this proposal, the Commission is attempting to counteract the fact that many students do not feel they have gotten all they might have out of freshman seminar. As new students, adjusting to college life and classes, many might not have been as comfortable in a discussion session or have been prepared for the vast amounts of reading requirements. Later on, however, many regret they did not apply themselves in seminar, as they find that the materials studied would have been useful to them in later classes. Thus, the Commission hopes that this new system will alleviate these problems, while also increasing the interdisciplinary nature of a Bard education.

The EPC, thus far, has met with some distress among students who are not happy with this proposal. They are concerned about the limiting of opportunities to take other courses which they had the chance to take under the existing distributional requirements, about the limiting of course offerings which would result from so many professors teaching core courses, about the elimination of the possibility of "getting requirements out of the way" during the first years of college, and about the "public presentations" involved, among other things. In response to these concerns, the EPC has attempted to devise its own proposal. One thought we had was simply to keep the distributional requirements, but to make freshman seminar "floating." This would give students the chance to experiment with more classes their first year, while also responding to the concern that freshmen may not get as much out of seminar as they might later on. Freshman seminar might be required as a prerequisite for certain courses, however, and there might be a requirement that it be taken before moderation. Thus, essentially, students would be taking it sophomore year. We have also been considering several other ideas which we would like to bring to the attention of the student body for feedback at the forum on December 11.

The second proposal we would like to bring to your attention is the establishment of a Master in Teaching (MAT) program. If the

vote of the full faculty is affirmative, Bard would like to begin the program in the summer of 1993, so it is important to consider what the impact of the program would be on undergraduate education and on existing college facilities, library resources, administrative personnel, and teaching faculty.

Campus facilities will likely not be impacted, as the 50-60 graduate students will be non-residents, and MAT classes are likely to be held in late afternoon or evening when seminar rooms are more readily available. In addition, the already planned conversion of Seymour to academic space will accommodate any increases in academic activity brought about by the MAT. The need for additional undergraduate housing which may be created by that conversion is in the current "master plan."

There will be no need to develop an education library here at Bard, because cooperative agreements with other colleges will provide that resource base. This will permit Bard to invest library development resources connected with the MAT in books and periodicals for the graduate program areas contained in the MAT, rather than in pedagogy. Increases are planned in books and journals necessary for graduate education in biology, mathematics, social studies, English and Spanish.

There will be little administrative change wrought by the MAT program which will impact undergraduate education. Current plans call for the hiring of a Dean of Graduate Studies to coordinate all of the graduate programs of the College and of an Assistant and support staff for him or her. The academic oversight of the MAT will reside with a Graduate

Committee. It is expected that one faculty member from each discipline included in the MAT will serve on the Graduate Committee.

In terms of faculty, each department which is included in the MAT program will need to review its own strengths and weaknesses in order to determine "What is the complement of faculty needed, and in what areas, to offer five graduate courses within a 15 month period and to supervise approximately 10 graduate theses over this same period?" It is envisioned that faculty will be added to those areas of the curriculum deemed in need of expansion so that the MAT can be accomplished not by adjunct faculty but new tenure track additions to existing divisions.

Clearly, the MAT program will have an impact on undergraduate life and education. Even more directly, however, the Bard experience will be altered greatly by a reworking of the curriculum for undergrads such as that being considered by the Presidential commission. If you have any thoughts on any of these matters, please contact a member of the EPC. We need your input in order best to represent your concerns! Also, please try to come to the forum meeting on December 11 in order to hear about the other curricular changes we have been discussing and to make your voice heard.

Sincerely,  
Melissa Cahoon (Chair), Andrea J. Stein, Amy O'Hara, Shanaz Padamsee, Jeff Bolden, Elizabeth Mead, Andrea Breth, Margaret Loftus, Mary Carol DeZutter.

## Headline news

Dear Editor:

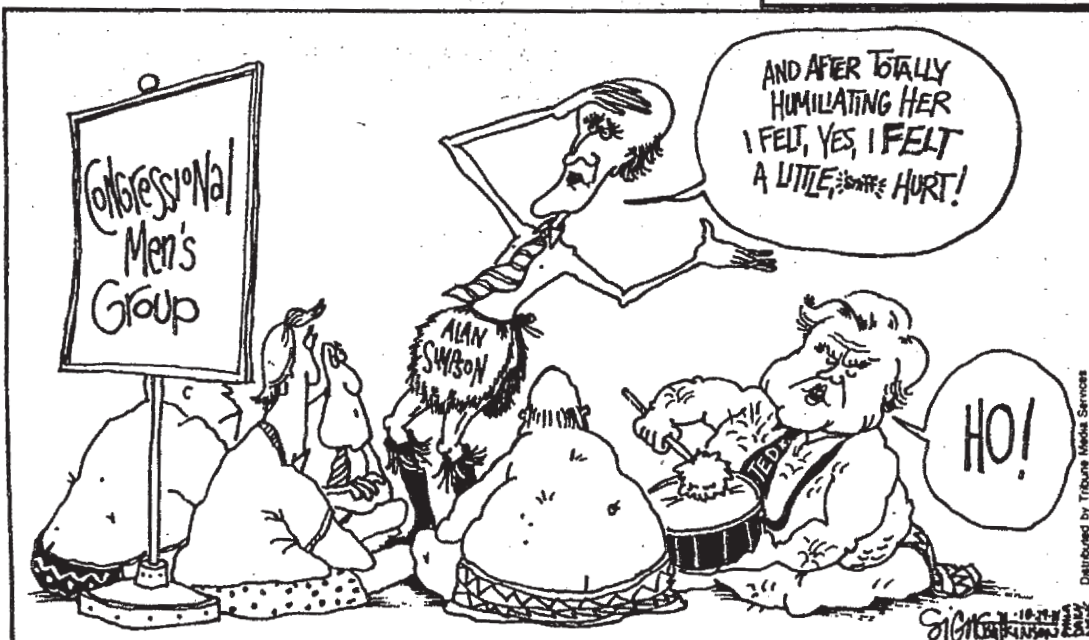
Last week I submitted an advertisement to run as a display ad in the *Observer*. The heading for the ad-copy I submitted stated "BRAVE OFFERS TRAINING PROGRAM" (not "Have you got what it takes to be a BRAVE counselor?").

Since when does the newspaper change advertising copy without the express permission of the advertiser? As a result of this unauthorized change the *Observer* created an image in gross contrast to what the BRAVE program is all about. Involvement with BRAVE is not based on competition as suggested by your headline.

We encourage anyone interested in BRAVE to join us.

Sincerely,  
Joan Unger  
Program Director/BRAVE

**We'll  
Be Back**  
So long,  
until our  
next issue  
Feb. 5, 1992





BARD COLLEGE: DEC. 12 - DEC. 18, 1991

# WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION

## Registration Information:

Registration will take place on Wednesday, December 11. No classes are scheduled for that day. The last day of class is Friday, December 20. Be sure the Registrar has your correct address for mailing final fall grades.

## Model U.N.:

Students interested in the Model United Nations should attend a meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 6:00 PM in Olin 205.

## SUNY New Paltz Play:

Moments...an evening with Bill W. will be presented on Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 PM in the Old Main Theatre of the SUNY New Paltz Campus. For more information, call 331-9331. \$7.00 contribution at the door, sponsored by the Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council of Ulster County.

## Cocaphony Is Here:

The magazine is available in the post office. Deadline for submission to the Spring 1992 issue will be March 2.

## Towbin Poetry Room:

Olin Room 101 will be open on Mondays from 3

to 5 p.m. and on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone who would like to listen to recordings of poetry/readings is welcome.

## French Table:

Anyone interested in speaking French is invited to a French table in the President's Room of Kline Commons on Monday from 5:00 to 6:00 PM.

## New Blum Show:

"THE ODYSSEY and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image," which opened at Blum on October 6 will be running until March 1, 1992.

## 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 in Kline parking lot)  
6:00 pm: Chapel Service

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

## 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)

## Transportation Schedule:

**Friday: Rhinecliff**  
meet at Kline at 8:00 pm for the 9:11 pm train  
**Poughkeepsie**  
meet at Kline at 6:00 pm for the 7:13 pm train

**Saturday: Hudson Valley Mall.** Meet at Kline at 5:45 pm, returns at 10:00 pm

**Sunday: Rhinecliff:** Meet the 5:52, 7:17 and 10:01 pm trains

**Poughkeepsie:** Meet the 7:43 pm train

**Church:** 9:45 am to 12 noon (St. John's)

Train Schedule will change soon, please confirm the times you wish to leave with the Dean of Students office or B & G.

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Dec. 12 to Dec. 18, 1991

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
6:00 pm Model U.N. Meeting	12:00 NOON Calendar Deadline Dean of Students Office		8:30 am Worship Service Chapel (See Above For More Information and other services)	5:00 pm French Table College Room Kline Commons	6:30pm Coalition for Choice meeting President's Room Kline Commons	5:00 pm LASO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons
7:00 pm BBLAGA meeting Olin 203	5:00 pm Observer deadline for outside submission			3:00-5:00 pm Poetry Room Open Olin 101	7:30 pm AA Meeting Aspinwall 302	5:45 pm BBSO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons
7:00 pm International Relations Club Kline Commons	6:30 pm Jewish Students Organization, Shabbat Services Bard Hall			8:30 pm Observer writers' meeting Third floor Aspinwall		
7:00-9:00 pm Poetry Room Open Olin 101						

*The Odyssey and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image. At BLUM through March 1, 1991*