

Bard College  
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# OBSERVER

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The  
BARD

# OBSERVER

VOLUME 100 ★ NUMBER 12

BARD COLLEGE ★ ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON ★ NY 12504

NOVEMBER 18 ★ 1992

"Instead of accepting the division of mankind, it is our duty to act in the manner best designed to establish man's oneness."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

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## "Politics in America"

### A post-election conference at Bard College

Since the election many people have been wondering: Will there be isolationism for America after Bill Clinton is sworn in as President? Will there be a change in Congressional diplomacy now that there are more Democratic members? Answers to these questions were offered in Olin Auditorium last Friday where a small but interested crowd

gathered to listen to "POLITICS IN AMERICA" — A Post-Election Conference.

Ronald Steel, a Professor of International Relations at the University of Southern California, said that he was not happy with the topic description because he was not convinced "we've ever been isolationist." It is unfeasible for any president to decide to lead his country in or out of all foreign affairs. Although domestic issues took precedence during Clinton's campaign, he too

will inevitably have to deal with foreign policy concerns. "The American people" are, in any case, "looking to be very selective of what events the United States participates in globally." It is Steel's opinion that our country "is deeply dependent upon the world in a way we haven't been recently," and therefore, the nation under Clinton's administration will be moving toward less of an interventionist policy.

Michael R. Beshloss, an international relations historian and co-author of *At the Highest Levels: The Inside Story of the End of the Cold War* (coming out in January), said that Clinton will have to make a lot of "very hard choices in a very short time." Clinton made few commitments concerning foreign policy during his campaign, but this does not mean he was not expecting problems. According to Beshloss, the conflicts in Europe and Asia are not ending, but are rather unfolding; therefore, complete isolationism at this time would not be the favorable action for the United States to take. A new type of isola-

tionism, however, could develop if the "president was willing to educate [the public] on involvement and sacrifice." Beshloss foresees a selective isolationism where major U.S. intervention would depend on an international crisis.

Charles Kupchan, an Assistant Professor of Politics at Princeton University and member of the Policy Planning Staff of the U.S. State Department, believes that although isolationism at times seems favorable it will not go into effect any time soon. He said that the theory that our interests as a country would be protected by pulling back is not true; while some think "over ambitious international objectives...[create] a whole realm of problems at home," he feels that "the administration must address these problems as domestic." According to Kupchan, our country has historically followed the policy of isolationism, and such a policy is politically appealing because of our geographic location, but "American prosperity is tied in with that of global prosperity; therefore, the

continued on page 5



## Should we talk about the government?

## Busy Student Forum passes one resolution

The Student Forum meeting held last Wednesday evening featured litter and storage space, an election



News  
Editor

and an impeachment committee. Moving through six agenda items in just under two hours, the planned discussion

concerning "the efficacy of student government" was tabled until the next Forum meeting scheduled for December.

A proposal concerning storage space in dormitories was introduced by the Student Life Committee; the proposal would redefine storage areas during the academic semesters so that the resulting space could be used for other purposes. Currently, the storage rooms in most dorms are overflowing with debris left behind from as far back as twenty years ago, and the College is going to be cleaning out these rooms and holding an auction for the unclaimed items this coming February. Student Life Chair Erin Law stated that the SLC "wanted to get input from the students about how this space should be used [so] we don't end up wasting it like in the past."

The proposal centered around the idea that during the semester four areas on campus would be designated for storage. With the assis-

tance of Buildings and Grounds, students would put items in these allocated spaces which might not be in their own dormitories. The resulting empty rooms could then be used for studio space, practice areas, study lounges or club space, depending on what the residents of the dorm choose. Between semesters, this space would again revert back to regular storage space. This resolution was met with approval by the Forum, but it was decided that more specific information would be needed about what space will be available before anything could be officially resolved.

Another concern of this proposal was the security of storage space in light of the high numbers of thefts recently. Law stated that "we need to take responsibility [for] ourselves that our own things are safe." The resolution called for students to work in conjunctions with the Peer Counselors and with Security to devise accurate lists of what items are placed in storage and to whom they belong. Coupled with the use of uniform labels, that will be made available by the College, the safety of everyone's belongings could be ensured.

An anti-litter resolution was sponsored by Greg Giaccio which stipulated that clubs be held accountable for the messes left behind by their parties and by the signs posted around campus. Clubs that failed to clean up twenty-four hours after the event would be fined

by the Planning Committee out of their next semester's budget allocation. "Those willing to go through the process of registering a party should be devoting that same energy towards cleaning up," commented Giaccio. "It's not so hard to put up signs; why should it be so hard to take them down?"

Opposition to this resolution arose from the fact that Buildings and Grounds is already supposed to charge clubs who leave behind an excessive mess. "Only the Entertainment Committee has been charged so far," said Treasurer Matt J. Lee. "Either B&G is taking it on themselves, or clubs are doing their job."

The issue of signs around campus raised the most controversy. "It's a simple thing," argued Planning Committee member Jesse James. "Everyone can take down the out-dated signs when you're putting up your own. It seems idiotic to have to take down all the signs that you put up yourself." The distinction between who is responsible for cleaning up what was also questioned as Ephraim Glenn Colter asked, "Do you *Observer* people pick up all your papers?"

The resolution was ultimately defeated by a significant margin. As SLC member Jason Patch com-

mented, "We can do this voluntarily; we don't need this because the Student Life Committee can get with clubs on a voluntary basis." Ideas such as clubs dating their own signs or using fewer but larger posters were introduced to help cut down the litter, and many expressed the need for more bulletin boards on campus.

Giaccio sponsored another proposal which established an *ad-hoc* committee to draw up impeachment proceedings for the Student Constitutions. "This is not meant to get anyone," stated Giaccio. "It's just to make the Constitution complete because the issue of impeachment was left out as an oversight." This resolution clearly passed after Lee commented that impeachment procedures are needed because, "If you think there is nothing the six of us on the Central Committee can do, then you are mistaken."

In other Forum news, an *ad-hoc* library committee garnered five volunteers to work with Head Librarian Jeffrey Katz and a committee of four faculty members concerning such issues as the new library addition and book selections. The SLC has also been looking into getting change machines on cam-

pus and has constructed the ride board located in the Post Office.

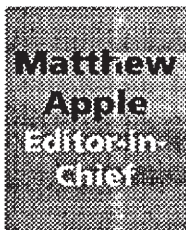
One seat in the Arts Division still remains vacant in the Educational Policies Committee after Meghan Stern was nominated for the remaining Language and Literature seat. The EPC has been working on facilitating the up-coming class registration and providing more support services for learning disabled students. Campus-wide elections in the near future include the offices of Student Life Chair, Secretary and Treasurer, in addition to a seat on the SLC and an alternate for the Student Judiciary Board.

Addressing the continued occurrence of clubs organizing events conflicting with Forum meetings, Secretary Sally Mehrtens pointed out Clause 2A in Section 3 of the Student Constitution which states that clubs could lose their "remaining monetary allocation" if they plan "an event or activity opposite a regularly scheduled meeting of the Forum." "This is just a warning because it's been happening too much," threatened Mehrtens. "We will become a bit stricter."

The next Forum will be held in two weeks on Wednesday, December 2nd at 7pm. ¶

## Car vandalised

Students walking to the Bard bookstore Saturday morning were greeted with a strange sight. A



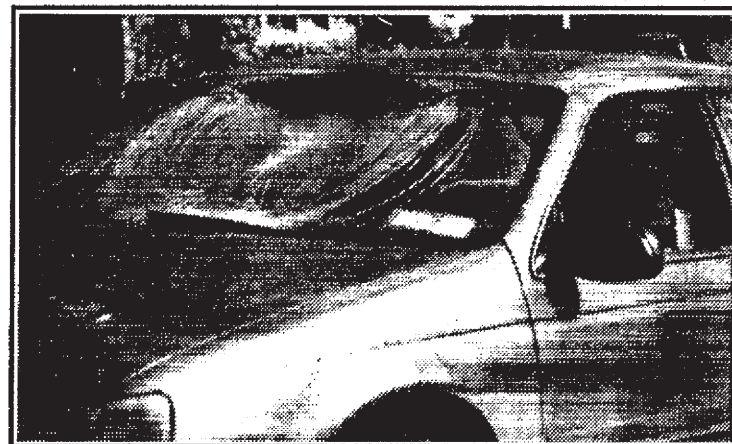
Matthew  
Apple  
Editor-in-  
Chief

blue Ford Taurus in a handicapped parking spot behind Stone Row was discovered Saturday morning with its

windshield smashed in. The remains of its front side windows littered the car's upholstery.

According to Director of Security Bob Boyce, the car had been left illegally parked that afternoon as its owner, a resident of Stone Row, moved items between the car and the dormitory. The student had asked a friend to move the car afterwards, but Boyce said from his personal observation the car was still there, undamaged, as of Saturday at 1:00 a.m.

Boyce noted that there were



footprints on the car's hood, roof and trunk, and inferred that the damage to the windshield was caused by repeated kicking and someone actually sitting on the windshield to create an indentation. The front windows were cleared out, but nothing was stolen from the car. There were apparently no witnesses, and there are no suspects, as Boyce said, "There's no way of knowing

who did it.

"[The vandalism] was an act of pure maliciousness," Boyce continued, "It doesn't make any sense."

Boyce added that the car's owner plans to drive the car to New York to replace the windshield. The owner of the car could not be contacted before the *Observer* went to print. ¶

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## No Rights For Blacks?

Alton H. Maddox, Jr. speaks at Bard

On Saturday, November 14th Alton H. Maddox, Jr. gave a talk entitled "After Four Hundred Years

**Alton H. Maddox, Jr.**  
Features  
Editor

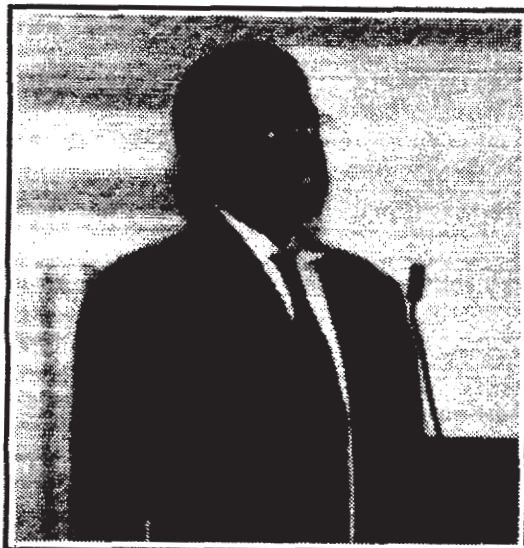
*in America Do Blacks Have any Rights that Whites Are Bound to Respect?*" Maddox was the chief counsel in several controversial court cases including those of Howard Beach, Tawana Brawley, Bensonhurst, Rev. Al Sharpton and the Central Park Jogger. He was also the founder of Evans College for Justice. His lecture was held in Olin Auditorium and was sponsored by the Bard Black Student Organization.

"White people will never advance without the black man and woman," yet "whites will never love us." This was just one of the many emotional statements Maddox made as he tried to illustrate that blacks must fight for the basic human rights that they deserve. He explained that many blacks do not feel they are part of the American family.

First of all, blacks were slaves, and therefore, were not given consideration when the constitution was written. "Anybody who is not white cannot be a member of Uncle Sam's family." Perhaps if Uncle Sam had been depicted without race, blacks would have felt more welcome, but this is just not the way things were and blacks cannot be expected to "cooperate with evil."

Second, "no woman in America

can receive the proper protection necessary." According to Maddox, in four hundred years no white man has ever been put behind bars for raping a black woman. He cited a true story about a black woman named Cecilia who was bought as a slave and then forced to fulfill her master's sexual fantasies. When Cecilia decided she wanted a family of her own and refused her master, the master replied "Nigger bitch! You belong to me and will do what I say!" In desperation,



she killed the man. Several lawyers tried to represent her with a plea of self-defense, but were denied by the judge who said that she had no rights. Cecilia was found guilty and hanged. The atrocity of this event and many like it often goes unchallenged; this is why Maddox believes that the days of white men "putting their hands on anybody they want must come to an end!"

The denial of rights was not limited to the days of slavery and is not confined to women alone. Maddox himself was suspended

from practicing law not because he had done anything wrong, but because he decided that he had an "obligation to fight injustice," and therefore, could not cooperate with the Grievance Committee's request to be shown the Tawana Brawley files. Maddox refused on grounds of client confidentiality and was "suspended [without a trial] for standing up for a fifteen year old girl." In 1990 the New York Court of Appeals judge refused to review Maddox's case. This same judge was recently arrested by the F.B.I. for sexual harassment and extortion, but has not had his licence suspended.

To some, Maddox may seem to be making a racial issue out of too many things, but as Maddox strongly stated, having a racist view is often the only way for blacks to win in civil rights cases. "There is no reason why we should be embraced in racial conflict," said Maddox but, "you cannot expect Black people to experience injustice after injustice without fighting back...There are no black racists! We do

not have the power to enforce racism." Yet, "there will be a better day...people who are powerless are going to have to acquire power so we can have a just and free society."

Maddox responded to one student's question about what can be done in the present "that change has to come from outside the rules" and that there is no such thing as working within the system. These were not the words of a spiteful man, but rather the words of a man willing to put his life and career on the line in the name of justice and equality.

## Dead Goat Notes



The opinions in this column do not necessarily represent those of the Observer staff or editorial board in any way. They were just found "on the ground."

So, you want to piss people off? Why not? There is lots of value in shock value and it's time you learned to make that annoying personality of yours work for you. That's how Madonna got to the top. That's what gives David Letterman the highest ratings in his time slot, aside from the fact that his show is run opposite re-runs of *Supertrain*. The really successful people in the world know that there is no such thing as bad publicity.

People at Bard have recently tried to cash in on the piss-off trade. Most notably the enigmatic Mr. Armadillo X and the more enigmatic Coming Out Guy. Are they the same, are they different, are they male, are they female, are they you, are they me are they your best friend? We don't know. However, mysteriousness only works so far. Dr. Leonard Jeffries and Alton Maddox ex-esq. succeeded in riling people up and they even used their real names and faces. However, their methods are all the same. They're my methods. I taught them everything they know. And if you read along you can piss people off like the pros do.

About now, you're probably saying to yourself, "Yeah, I'm a nobody now. But I could be a somebody if I could just get people angry at me. Now, how do I go about that?"

Yes, folks, there is a lot of work that goes into being insensitive and offensive. You don't just become offensive overnight, unless you forget to shower and brush your teeth in the morning. You must ask yourself who you want to offend? For how long do you want them to be offended? What will their offense bring you besides riches, fame and burned effigies of yourself?

First of all, start small. Start on a small college campus where people are pretty apathetic and you really have to be offensive for them to get off their butts and persecute you about it.

Then there is the problem of who you should offend. Ethnic groups are easy fodder for offense. They're very sensitive about things like being down trodden and oppressed for centuries and after all that time still not being able to get a fair shake in the modern world. What a bunch of whiners! What do you care? If you're white, and male, you own everything! America's legal system was designed by guys like you and for guys like you. So go ahead and be insensitive. It worked for David Duke, state assembly man in Louisiana. It worked for Pat Buchanan, ex-speech writer for Richard Nixon. Why not make it work for you? Aside from the fact that some disgruntled minority could throw acid in your face.

If you find this unappealing or you are a minority yourself, you could offend political groups. Even Rev. Jesse Jackson used to aggravate the pro-choicers of America by telling them they were involved in genocide simply because most abortion clinics in America are in poor neighborhoods in urban areas. The pro-choice groups used to be very active reactionaries. One letter in a public forum calling them baby-killing pagans used to be enough to elevate you from nobody to "evil oppressor of women." Sadly, pro-choicers are hardly active anymore. They have finally realized that abortion is legal and no amount of marching, rallying and coat hanger displaying will make abortion any more legal.

Some people think that feminists are a fun hornets' nest to kick over. Actually, it's a lot more like kicking over a tortoise's nest.

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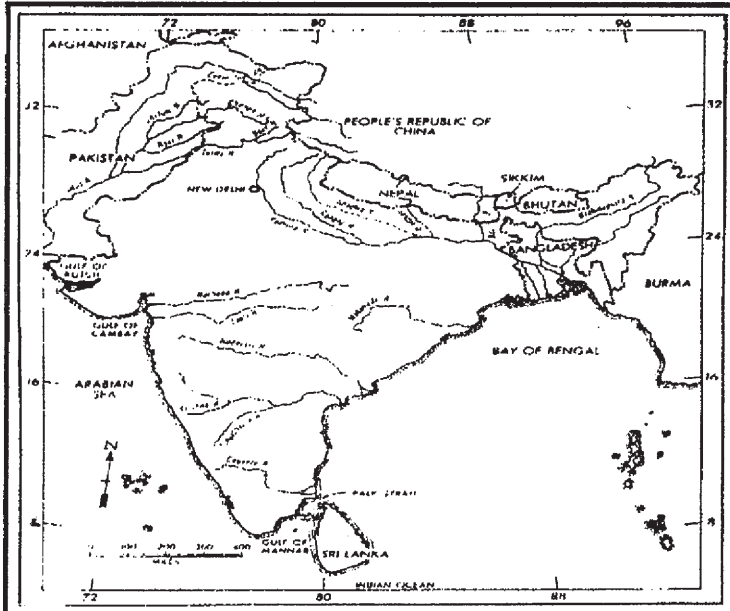
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## Person of the Week



Source: Adapted from Rayo R. Platt (ed.), *India: A Compendium*, New York, 1962, p. 7.  
Figure 8. Rivers of India

## Smitu Kothari

Global warming and ozone depletion grab most of the headlines, but the less dramatic and more immediate problem for the world environment is the international economy. A clear link exists between economic pressures and the cannibalizing of the biosphere. The fact that so many so-called Third World nations have large debts owed to institutions in developed nations gives multinational corporations, such as Union Carbide and United Fruit, and international organizations, such as the World Bank and USAid, leverage to force the creation of counterproductive development projects in these nations. Many are calling for environmentalists, labor groups and human rights groups to consolidate in order to coordinate their actions and their programs across national frontiers.

Smitu Kothari is one of the leaders of this movement to make international organizations accountable for their destructive actions upon the world's ecosystems. A Humphrey Fellow at Cornell with a doctorate in film, Kothari spoke at Bard last Wednesday, thanks to the efforts of the International Relations Club and Air, Water, Earth. He addressed the current opposition to the construction of thirty large dams on a river in India. If completed, these projects will displace about one million people in a nation with no alternative land on which to rehabilitate the dispossessed. Kothari has recently testified before the U.S. Congress, the Canadian Parliament and the World Bank about the destructive results these dams would bring. He reminds them that no nation is isolated in the modern world—smokestacks in Britain bring acid rain upon Germany's forests, and that deforestation in Nepal brings floods to India's farmlands. He has also helped to organize an advertisement in the New York Times signed by 850 environmental groups world-wide, protesting this dam project with an unprecedented coalition. Kothari's efforts have helped turn large dams from being a symbol of progress and development to one of loathing for sympathetic environmentalists across the globe.

"Nature is not a passive entity to be dominated or expropriated," he told the Bard audience. "It is dynamic, a life-supporter." He advocated using a supra-national power to protect the environmental "commons" instead of continued reliance on market forces to create "ecologically-safe" technologies.

Kothari's concern is that the global economic reorganization disguises what is really a pattern of recolonization. Here, his logic is presented: Who is paying for these large dams? Western interests. Who will get the electricity? The local industries run by Western interests. Who will get the goods and services these industries pro-

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## Highlights Of local and national news

In Clermont a retired Bard College literature professor, Elizabeth D. Stambler, passed away this Sunday. Mrs. Stambler was 69 when she died. She will be remembered dearly for her accomplishments as a teacher, wife, mother, and grandmother. The memorial service will take place at the Bard Chapel on Saturday, November 21st at 2pm.

In Fishkill, hunting has been banned at the Meltingah Reservoir because access to the property can only be gained by crossing lands belonging to a New York State park. The hunting season runs November 16th through December 8th, but any hunters caught on the Park's property will be heavily fined.

In Sacramento, CA a law was passed to give gay and unmarried heterosexual couples more legal rights; 40 couples have registered so far. In Cambridge, Mass. 11 couples registered under a law that will give them rights equal to those of married couples. Only 18 other cities have ever passed such laws.

In Detroit, the entire city is patiently waiting to see if justice will be served in a murder trial regarding the brutal beating of black man, Malice Green,

on November 5th. Four police officers (including a black sergeant) are facing charges, and the victim's father has filed a \$61 million lawsuit against the city. Some people fear city wide violence if the outcome of the case does not seem just, but so far there have been no large demonstrations of supporters for either side of the case.

Nationwide, the United States may once again become "the promised land" and "the land of opportunity" as refugees from all over the world (especially East Asia, the former Soviet Union, and Africa) seek to immigrate to our country. These refugees have been driven from their own lands because of famine, poverty, and war. They hope to find a better life elsewhere and assume their chances are better with the United States than with any other nation especially since President Elect Bill Clinton has vowed to reduce immigration backlog and create a better atmosphere for potential immigrants. Under Clinton's proposed policies: Haitian refugees will not be forced out of our country without first having fair hearings, cruel and uncalled for treatment of illegal immigrants trying to cross the Mexican border will be reduced, immigrants testing HIV positive will not be excluded from those able to enter the country, and a more sympathetic to those fleeing China because of the 1 child policy there. These plans are not definite, but are being seriously reviewed.

## Upcoming Local Events:

**The Power of Jewish Art** Workshop on Jewish Creativity, Identity, and Renewal. Sun. Nov. 22nd 2-5pm. Woodstock Jewish Congregation Bldg. Route 212, Saugerties.

**Dominons Seapods Great Music and Dancing.** Fri. Nov. 20th 11pm. Rhinecliff Hotel. 2 miles west of Rhinebeck 876-8688.

**The Hour Dancing Jam.** Sat. Nov. 21st 11pm. Rhinecliff Hotel. 2 miles west of Rhinebeck 876-8688.

**Santa's Magical Arrival** Santa's First Appearance of the Season. Sat. Nov. 21st 1&3pm. Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston.

**Cholesterol & Glucose Screening** 12 hr. Fast Required. Fri. Nov. 27th 8:30-10:30am. Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston.

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## BARD STATISTICS

1 - There are 22 listings under "Love" and only 1 under "Hate" on the computer card catalog in the Bard Library.

2 - On the same system, there are 5,450 listings for the U.S. and only 2,979 for Africa, Asia, South, and India combined.

3 - 25% of all teenage pregnancies in 1988 resulted in abortion. (According to a U.S. Public Health Service survey, cited in *The Poughkeepsie Journal*, Nov. 17th issue.)

4 - Teaching at Bard this semester there are: 42 Arts, 30 L&L, 35 Social Studies, and only 13 Natural Sciences and Mathematics professors.

5 - The *Bard Observer* has been in print almost 30 years. Prior to this, the school paper was called the *Messenger*, *Lyre Tree*, and the *Bardian*.



## Post-election conference continues...

*continued from front page*  
U.S. should work for a more equal partnership [with other nations] and try peace-keeping instead of peace-making."

James Chace, the Henry R. Luce Professor in Freedom of Inquiry and Expression at Bard, said that "foreign policy is a paranoia." He believes that Clinton should be able to concentrate on domestic problems. "First and foremost, the deficit must be reduced now and not later." If serious steps are not taken to put the economy in order, said Chace, there will be no money with which to have a foreign policy. "The United States is not a superpower; there are no superpowers! Superpowers can pay for their own wars. [Desert Storm was for the most part funded by other nations.] Chace believes that there should and will be severe reductions of European troops. He also believes that we should start concerning ourselves with other things, such as a possible build-up of military power in Asia and a move towards overall weapons reduction. "Those that think the Cold War is over are wrong because the Cold War was not a war at all, but rather a long peace."

Some of the questions following the presentations were: What are the country's interests? Chace replied that one of the nation's primary concerns is to ensure that Europe is not dominated by one power and that there is a balance of power in Asia. Steel replied that another interest is that the

spread of nuclear weapons be confined. Will there be a power split between the northern and southern parts of the world? Chace answered this question as well by saying a money split already exists; "there are the Yen, Dollar, and Marc(i) blocks." What about environmental issues? Moderator Sidney Blumenthal answered this question by saying that Clinton has already appointed Al Gore to deal with those issues and that his role will be a very active one inspired by a "very radical, different, view."

The second half of the conference was concerned with "Breaking the Congressional Deadlock." Throughout the presidential campaign, Bush blamed his administration's lack of significant activity upon a Democratic Congress that rejected his proposals and which he had to continually veto more than any other president.

Jane Mayer of *The Wall Street Journal* agreed with her fellow panelists that much of the friction between the White House and Capitol Hill would lessen with the arrival of both a Democratic President and Congress. "But gridlock won't mysteriously disappear over-night," she cautioned while attributing much of the current paralysis of government to the conflict of special interest groups. "It is only a matter of time until money finds its way to the politicians," she predicted, and questioned whether or not Clinton's administration was

"going to set a new tone" in relation to catering to the special interests.

Assistant Professor of Political Studies and History at Bard College, Jonathan Kahn, discussed budgetary gridlock as politicians point to the abstruse enigma of the budget in every campaign. Kahn described the budget as the symbol of how we think of government, in terms of its efficiency, and as a political tool of policy control. "The budget is not really about economy and efficiency because waste and fraud keep resurfacing," he commented. "It facilitates growth by opening channels but does not monitor how that money is used."

The "privileged" language of the budget makes it difficult for the public to understand and allows only "experts" to introduce new ideas. The Republican device of "central clearance" is a major source of deadlock by appointed committees that review legislation and decide how to regulate it. Congress can be "cut out of the loop" when a law can be dismissed as not cost-efficient, summarily deregulated and made effectively useless (which has

happened to many environmental laws beneath the Committee on Competitiveness). "This practice involves excluding groups from substantive discussion of politics," he continued. "If laws are passed and not implemented, deadlock will remain."

Benjamin Barber is the Director of the Walt Whitman Center for the Culture and Politics of Democracy at Rutgers University and he focused on a "new form of gridlock in the election process." Barber believes that the American people are in deadlock with their own politicians, which explains the enthusiasm for "independent" candidates such as Ross Perot. "A new form of populism that is unraveling the two-party system," was how he described this phenomenon, which could lead to a "promising but exceedingly dangerous new world."

"This could become the annihilation of democracy through redemocratization," he stated, implicating that this populism contains elements of "demagoguery and a great deal of irresponsibility and finger-pointing." By finding political scape-goats the American people can deny their

own civic responsibilities and foster an uneducated mob mentality that could overrun American politics. The only way to prevent this downward trend is with increased education; in Barber's words, "it is crucial to create a thoughtful citizenry capable of responsibility and accountability."

Barber concluded: "If Clinton is to escape the new gridlock of the public at war with the government, he needs to pay attention to civic literacy through education for the next generation to have prudence and responsibility."

As Kahn commented, "Whether or not it is a good thing to break deadlock is a whole other panel."

Moderator and Bard History Professor Mark Lytle said that "gridlock has saved us from our worst impulses if we look at some of the examples of history." Mayer responded that "gridlock can also save us from our best intentions...it is a virtue only to those who need nothing from government." ♪

## Goat marches on

*continued from page 3*

Their responses tend to be long-winded and boring explanations of feminist theory quoting famous feminists like Molly Yard or Molly Pitcher or something. Even worse, they'll quote an unknown feminist making you look dumb as well as ignorant.

Sexual preference groups, such as SM ACES or homosexual rights groups that seek equality for people doing something that's no one else's business anyway are also easily offended. Whether you attack them on the basis of religious taboos or with pseudo-scientific explanations of why they could go blind, they usually respond quickly and with great verve. Best of all, they have the coolest slogans and demonstrations. There really is a group that marches in drag chanting "Go left! Go Gay! Go pick up the gun!" And if you act now, they could be doing it outside your very window for your own personal fun and amusement. The only problem is that when they say "We're here, we're queer and we'll never be silent again!" they mean it. Pick up a pair of earplugs so you can sleep soundly before calling Queer Nation a bunch of queers.

"But Greg," I hear you cry, "What about religious groups?" Sorry, there are no moral majority fundamentalist religious groups on campus. You'll have to take a bus to St. Patrick's cathedral with ACT-UP before you can earn the ire of organized religions. But here at Bard you can criticize anyone from Jesus Christ to Martin Luther to the Holy See and no one will know who you're talking about, let alone be offended. Watch, I'll show you:

CREATIONISM IS A LIE! EVOLUTION IS THE TRUTH! THE BIBLE IS A FAIRY TALE!

Wait a week and there still won't be any reaction.

If you follow this advice, you'll soon be off to fame, fortune and bomb threats, just like Governor William Casey of my home state of Pennsylvania. Hey, how do you think he got to be governor?

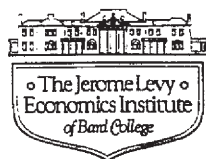
By the way, if you were offended by this column, good. I'm not just columnist for the *Observer* (a club specializing in pissing off the oversensitive), I'm also a client.

## Person of the week continued

*continued from page 4*

duce? The Western markets and the Indian middlemen. Is this dam project truly aiding the local natives? No. Is the ecological devastation and societal dislocation a fair bargain to the people who will be dispossessed by the dam? Ultimately, Kothari would answer, no. His substitute solution is a series of miniature programs: one small dam, perhaps, accompanied by advances to make the most use of local water supplies for the needs of the local people. In India, the villagers' lives are intimately connected to their local ecosystem. Environmental conditions affect culture. At issue is the disruption of an entire way of living.

And so, the *Observer* selects Smitu Kothari as our Person of the Week. He believes in growth and progress, but insists that local lifestyle and consumption practices considered, and he rejects current programs of multinational development as misguided. The existing programs are simply unacceptable and in helping to sustain our planet, he helps to sustain us all. ♪



The Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

**FALL 1992**

LEVY INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES

Thursday, November 19, 1992  
4:00 p.m. Lecture

*Ishaq Nadiri*, Professor of Economics, New York University, will be giving a lecture on "The Effects of Public Infrastructure and R & D Capital on the Cost Structure and Performance of U.S. Manufacturing Industries."

Part of a free lecture series - everyone is welcome.



## Shameless Filler!

Most people at Bard first meet me during their Freshman L&T period, as I work here over the summer. They either get to know me as the friendly person who helps them out at the new and confusing computer center, or the friendly person begging for scraps outside of Kline after lunch. Either way, I become a trusted and respected figure in their fresh eyes, because myself and the two or three others lucky enough to work at the Center over the summer are, in effect, computer gods to these people. They have no reason to believe that anyone in their right mind should want to know as much about computers as the folks who work at Henderson do (unless, of course, they're hot-shot math majors with immeasurable amounts of pride who would much rather die than reveal the need to ask for assistance). So they come to see me as an important and integral cog in the squeaky wheel that is the Computer Center. I even garnered enough respect (or was it ironic pity?) for a few of the Freshlings to start calling me "Mr. Computer Man." Ade got a nicer nickname than I did—but I digress.

In actuality, there is very little that is enviable about working for the computer center at this level. Nothing which would give anyone in the know any reason to think that I was as necessary as someone like, oh, John Council or Bonnie Whatsername. Once the rest of the workstudy people returned from their comfy summer jobs and the shift set-up was re-activated, they found out that everyone who works at the Computer Center is as able-bodied and knowledgeable as I am. A scary thought, that, but of course I'm referring to their computer savvy. And eventually, as the semester grinds on, the happy Freshfolk begin to learn to fend for themselves around a computer. Which is just as well for me, since by this time, any trace of the cute high-spiritedness I displayed so readily over the summer is lost over nerves and bitterness directed towards my studies. Fair trade, I think.

And yet, there are still people who don't know how to run a computer. Hey, that's fine. That's what I'm there for; it's my job. But after two and a half months people still do things which can make the easiest minimum wage job into a living cycle of hell. So, from moi to vous, here are a few tips which will make the lives of the Computer Center workers a little less hellish.

Firstly, keep in mind that the workers hate to get up. So for pity's sake, please don't make us walk over to you. You should know by now that we need your ID no matter what you do at the center. From now on I will personally make it my duty to embarrass you when I ask for your ID. Don't know how, but trust me, I'll find a way.

Secondly, pleeez don't turn off the Macintosh computers before shutting them down. Seriously, there's a giant WARNING note above the switch for each one of them and people still blatantly ignore it. Incredible. This is akin to getting a papercut under a fingernail. It's not all that bad, but somehow it just hurts like merry hell.

Third, computers just don't like it when you force candy bars into their disk drives. Please abstain.

Finally, and this is just on a personal note, don't get too upset when you lose your twelve page paper because of a faulty disk sector or something and I don't show any sympathy. I'm not an unfeeling person. I'm actually rollicking in laughter inside, and the only way to hide it is to look like I don't give a damn.

## Shameless Filler!

by Matt Gilman

### Men's V-Ball

Informal practices start after Thanksgiving break.

Every day at 4:30 in the Gym.

## Athletes earn recognition

### Five Blazers awarded All-conference distinctions

Welcome again to the wild and wacky world of Bard sports and related events. Please forgive me



if I seem a little frazzled this week, it's just that I am still recovering from a bout with the frostbitten toe syndrome. Kris, you were right, I should have been wearing a sock. Anyway, on to the sporting news of the week.

### All-Conference

Five of Bard's distinguished crop of athletes were selected by the Independent Athletic Conference's coaches to receive All-Conference recognition in their respective sports. In cross country, Evan Rallis and John Hannon were chosen to represent Bard among the conferences top runners. Chris Turbett and Ian Brandt were chosen from the men's soccer team as a result of their outstanding play throughout the season. Also, Cara Graninger earned honors on the court for the Women's Tennis team as she was also singled out for All-Conference recognition. Bard athletes will also garner more honors later as the All-District, and All-Conference players are named for the other fall sports.

Congratulations! Hard work does pay off.

### Fencing

This past Saturday, the Bard fencing team ventured to their first meet, hosted by Vassar. Among the highlights for Bard during the meet was Bard's win against the United States Military Academy, 7-2, in the Epee class. Both Shawn Taylor and Peter Boriskin defeated all three of their opponents in the win. The women's team led by Angie Jancius with eight victories, also proved a tough test for the four other teams represented at the meet, Haverford, NYU, Brown, and MIT.

### Basketball

During the week, the Bard Blazer basketball team hosted Dutchess Community College for a scrimmage. Bard lost by a mere three points, 55-52, despite getting 18 points from transfer Doug Young, and another 14 from sophomore, center, William Purdom. The Blazers' first regular season game will be Nov. 20th at Albany Pharmacy, with their first home game coming on the 24th against Vassar. Come out and support your team.

### Intramurals

In intramural floor hockey, the

captain of the Mother Puckers (3-0), Javier Salinas, wanted to make it clear that, "We're gonna win!" Salinas seemed disappointed at the amount of press, or lack thereof, that his team has received, commenting, "Write something about us!" All I've got to say to Javier and his team is, don't lose or there will be hell to pay in these pages. The Mother Puckers did however defeat the Weed Wackers, 6-0, and the IBH Crew, 3-0. The IBH Crew was apparently over confident, coming off a win over Sons of John Glenn. The Sons of Glenn also tied the Weed Wackers 1-1 earlier in the week.

Intramural volleyball continued last week, with the International Attack again destroying anyone in their way to the title. This time it was the Dirty Dogs who got cleaned up on and waxed, 15-7, 15-3. Next in line for a stomping by the Attack is Souffle Potentate and Her Minions of Despair, whose record is already 0-2. In those competing for the "best of the rest" title, Something in the Air, captained by Dana MacDonald defeated Souffle 15-3, 15-7.

Oh, by the way, Men's volleyball practice will be starting on Monday, November 30th, at 4:30 pm, in the gym. If you have any questions about volleyball, contact Carla Davis, at ext. 529.

## Sports Schedule

**Men's Fencing**  
Saturday, November 21st  
vs. City College of NY

**Women's Fencing**  
Saturday, November 21st  
vs. City College of NY  
w/ Vassar College

**Men's Basketball**  
Friday, November 20th  
at Albany Pharmacy  
Tuesday, November 24th  
vs. Vassar College  
Wednesday, December 2nd  
vs. Yeshiva University

## G R E A T AMERICAN Smokeout

On the fourth Thursday of November, Americans get lots of turkey. On the third Thursday of November, they get to go cold turkey. Join the Great American Smokeout—millions of Americans across the country will take a break and try not to smoke for 24 hours. How about you? Or, if you don't smoke, adopt a smoker for the day and promise to help that friend get through the day without lighting up!

Hide all ashtrays, matches, etc. Lay in a supply of sugarless gum, carrot sticks, etc. Drink lots of liquids, but avoid coffee and alcohol. Tell everyone you're quitting for the day. When the urge to smoke hits, take a deep breath, hold it for 10 seconds, & release it slowly. Exercise to relieve the tension.





### Student Association Elections

**Come to the Student Forum,  
December 2nd at 7pm**

**2 Planning Committee seats  
1 Student Life Committee seat  
1 alternate SJB seat**

The following elections will be held by the Student Forum at large on Thursday and Friday, December 10th and 11th:

**Secretary  
Treasurer  
Student Life Chair**

Statements of purpose for these three positions are due to Sally Mehrtens **no later than 5pm** on Thursday, December 3rd. If you have any questions, call Sally at 752-7529 or write to Box 1009.

## Sean O'Neill's guide to identifying intellectual terrorists

intellectual terrorism—n. to dominate or subdue through intimidation by undermining the target's confidence in their own powers of reasoning.

**Espousing extremism**—For example, the British Empire has subjugated the natives of Ireland, dispossessing them of their land and culture and substituting a royal hierarchy and an alien history. In the 1890s, a nationalist movement arose under a politician named Parnell and various native literary talents aspired to create a history for the Irish peoples. W.B. Yeats won the Nobel Prize for his poetry based on this tradition, and this body of literature and history was used to justify an armed rebellion against the oppressors. Today, a few hundred people claim this background as justification for acts of terrorism. The IRA has killed three thousand people in the past two decades. The British domination, they claim, is extremism, and the only proper response is comparable extremism. The result is a split society, fragmented into two camps. One is either Catholic or Protestant and no compromise government can be tolerated by either party. When someone looks at a person, they do not see individual traits and thoughts, they only see hatred. Each side frames all intellectual thought in a bi-polar framework, severely limiting any opportunities for independent thinking about alternatives. Each side practices intellectual terrorism, using

emotionally charged references based on controvertible facts to peg any theory outside this dualistic view as disloyal, unpatriotic, sacrilegious, and possibly a moral offense to a portrayed God. No one is to question who gave these IT's the right to take God and convert Him into a bullet to be shot into the hearts of men and why there are many saviors on Jesus' cross.

**Smearing Tactics**—For example, after World War II the globe was divided up essentially into two armed camps and all questions of international relations were forced into a constricting, bi-polar view of the world. One was either a communist or a democrat and no compromise government could be tolerated by either party. When the governments of the U.S. and the U.S.S.R. investigated people, they did not see individual traits and thoughts, they saw only hatred. Senator Joseph McCarthy and Premier Josef Stalin used emotionally charged references based on controvertible evidence to peg any individual who acted outside this dualistic perception of the world as being disloyal, unpatriotic and inherently Evil. Hollywood and major media organizations were denounced as propagators of subversive propaganda, and thousands of individuals were black-listed, often on the basis of religious beliefs which happened to be common to peoples of the enemy nations. It progressed to silly, trivial rewritings of history, so that now

the Russians had invented baseball before the Americans and American choreographers had invented the basis of Russian ballet. The world was forced to believe that American Jews had invented the horrific Bomb and that Russian Jews had stolen the horrific Bomb. These latter statements played upon commonly held suspicions about a non-conformist social group which often was portrayed as holding key positions in society. As of last month, Polish politicians were explaining that the harsh economic measures were the result of the Jewish elite controlling the establishment, when in fact, those of Jewish affiliation represented less than three percent of controlling positions from top to bottom. Scapegoating is a common technique of the intellectual terrorist.

**Draped in their Flag**—For example, be it a Panamanian strongman in nationalist colors, or a Slavic president in nationalist colors, or a Middle Eastern terrorist in nationalist colors, the garb is used like a wand to wave away dissent. Intellectual terrorists corrupt legitimate ethnic or national pride by clothing their tremendous egos in traditional garb, so that by criticizing their convoluted logic, a challenger is portrayed as attacking an entire social group.

**Divide and Conquer**—For example, here is a hypothetical situation: an intellectual terrorist chooses to speak before an assembled crowd of people in the United States. The manipulator knows that the audience has more diverse backgrounds than would be the case in a crowd in most

*continued on page 10*

### Beverage way

SUPERMARKET of BEER and SODA  
Rt. 9 2 miles NORTH of Red Hook Traffic Light

758-0541

- Coors (cans)  
\$10.99/case
- Hamm's  
\$4.19/6pk
- Meisterbrau  
\$8.99/case



- New Amsterdam  
\$4.99/6pk
- Schwinks  
\$2.99/6pk
- British American soda  
\$0.79/2L



## To the Bard Community

1. We, the undersigned, are strong supporters of the need to transform this country into a truly multicultural society—a world free from racism, anti-Semitism, sexism, homophobia and other forms of discrimination, a world in which every minority can take pride in its heritage while fully participating in society at large. The recent talk at Bard by Leonard Jeffries has demonstrated the need for free and open discussion about multiculturalism in general and the relations between the various segments of the Bard community in particular.

2. While we support Prof. Jeffries' avowed aim of promoting multiculturalism, and acknowledge the importance of his goal of promoting a greater awareness of African-American history and culture, we can support neither his manipulative use of historical half-truths nor the anti-Semitism which has been implicit in some of his public statements. Neither intellectual distortion nor bigotry has a place in true multiculturalism, which openly embraces all minorities in our society, whether religious, ethnic, national, sexual or other.

3. A just and pluralistic society must actively redress the wrongs done to oppressed minorities, and inasmuch as Prof. Jeffries has that as his goal we support him. But redressing past inequalities cannot be resolved by attempting to promote a previously oppressed group as superior to all others. Prof. Jeffries' positioning of his own culture above all others is an understandable reaction to the long oppression of African-Americans, but is ultimately an approach that solves no problems.

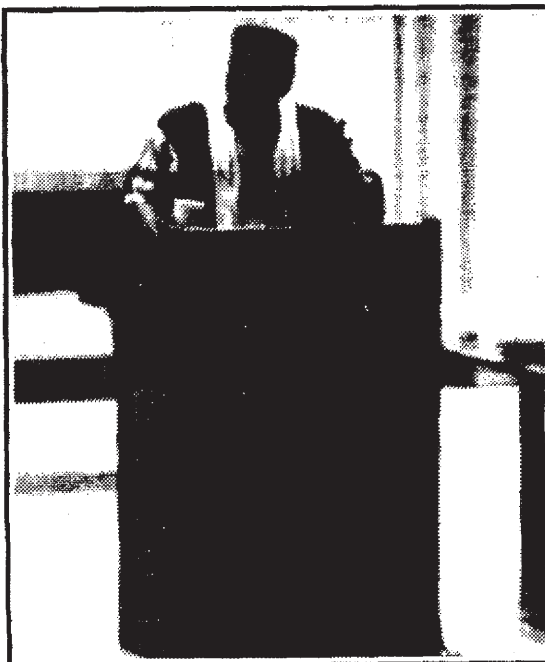
4. At the present moment in history it is certainly people of color who are particularly oppressed in American society, and this oppression deserves special attention. But other minorities in our society have also been, and still are, the objects of discrimination. Ultimately the oppression of any one segment of American society will terminate only when the oppression of all minorities ends. Pitting one group against another, and denying the minority status

or suffering of any group, will never help eliminate discrimination for anyone in the long run. In particular, just as expressions of racism should never be allowed to go unchallenged, neither should anti-Semitism, even if the latter is invoked in the name of a progressive cause.

5. Overcoming the painful oppression of minorities in this country will be a complex and difficult process, fraught with tensions between people of color and whites, between Jews and gentiles, between heterosexuals and lesbians and gays. There are legitimate disagreements between various segments of our society that cannot be glossed over. To resolve these tensions we need meaningful dialog rather than mutual recrimination and divisiveness. Racism will only be overcome by building coalitions.

6. We appreciate the efforts of everyone on campus who has worked to combat every form of discrimination and to promote a truly multicultural society. Much remains to be done.

Ethan Bloch  
John Ferguson  
Matthew Deady  
Jonathan Kahn  
Peter Dolan  
Nancy Leonard  
Jonathan Kligler  
Dan Freedman  
Mark Halsey



## What are the goals of multiculturalism?

by Tracy Feldman

In light of the current visit by Leonard Jeffries to Bard, many questions were raised in my head in reference to the multicultural movement here at Bard and anywhere else, for that matter. There are many things I do not understand about multiculturalism and its goals, and I have tried to clarify my thoughts in the paragraphs below:

I feel as though despite the rich cultural variety found within the human species, there are certain things most—if not all of us—share. It is my assertion that we are all searching for purpose, for a place in this crazy world where we are needed; searching for other people to whom we are indispensable. Often our searches are fruitless, and feelings of inferiority, of insecurity breed and fester within us.

These feelings of insecurity can come from persecution, or they can lead to persecution. People who feel insecure, inferior, whether due to persecution or not—when given the chance to feel superior to another individual or group of people—often take that chance. Rather than acknowledge everyone's importance in this world; everyone's contributions to the lives of others, it frequently becomes more desirable to take the other route, and make others seem inferior or feel inferior.

This "reverse persecution" is very common, as insecurity and feelings of inferiority are common.

Many individuals and groups of people have been persecuted periodically or continually by other individuals or groups. Jeffries knows this, probably from first-hand experiences. Many if not most people know this and have been targets of persecution of some sort or another during their lives. It is all too easy to look for a simple solution—a simplified way of looking at the world—"us" and "them." Language is used to create and strengthen these oversimplifications, by using the rhetoric of classification (words like: "Black," "White," "Faggot," "Jew," "Arab," etc.). The excessive use of these words only serves to further simplify, further divide this already much too divided world.

The more people actually talk, listen and actually try to understand one another, the more people are going to find that these oversimplifications; these stereotypes and often hateful terms are meaningless—they cannot be seen as truths or even partial truths—life is much too complex for that. A White American is not the same as another White American; an African is not the same as another African; what some will do, others will not; what some believe, others do not.

It would seem that for a multiculturalist, or any human being, it would be more productive to use the power of language and understanding to break down the classifications we use for the persecution of one another, instead of strengthening the oversimplifications of "us" and "them." We really need to try to understand one another, as members of different, rich cultural backgrounds; as sharers of different versions of the human experience; as seekers of purpose, all in our own varied ways.

## Thought-provoking

Professor Leonard Jeffries' presentation on inclusion in the Bard curriculum brought on anger, support, and much confusion on campus. His supposed anti-semitism and homophobia stirred up a number of Jewish and other students who felt he spewed rhetoric that centered on the superiority of Afrocentrism and put down other groups.

In his speech were great numbers of references to African contributions to society. He pointed out how Europeans stole or imitated the ideas of various ancient African civilizations. He blamed the media for taking his ideas and comments out of context. He displayed articles and scholarly text that helped prove his point.

The main goal of the presentation was to show how other cultures have been robbed of their merits and places in history. In the

long run, much of what was said sparked fear in many people's minds. A curriculum of inclusion threatens the Eurocentric point of view and their dominance in the world. This may have angered many. Though white racism is going on every minute of every day in all that people do, the thought of giving up so dominant a position to Black, Asian, Latino, and Native Americans makes many whites shudder. Why should a person of ethnic background be made to feel insignificant in terms of history and society?

One does not have to agree with all that Professor Jeffries lectured about. Why not focus on the ideas instead of the individual? It should be emphasized that he challenged the Bard community not to accept what is presented academically and in texts on

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## Jeffries is not racist

The purpose of this letter is address the presentation made by Leonard Jeffries on Tuesday November 10th. If members of the audience, specifically the boy who yelled "shut up," to a woman expressing her opinion about the Ku Klux Klan, had been listening more closely, they would have understood the concepts that Dr. Jeffries was explaining. Some important facts should be stated before this letter proceeds any further. Dr. Jeffries is not anti-white, anti-semitic, or homophobic. He does not want black supremacy, just as he does not want white supremacy. He is an intelligent and well-spoken man who wants to guide people to a more open and clear sense of reality. He is giving people the tools to expand their own minds. Dr. Jeffries is showing people the in-

tense and brutal racism built and bred into each and every nook and cranny of this civilization. The reason he is being threatened is because he is a black man with a strong mind. The reason he feels he has to wear a bullet proof vest is because he has a voice and a purpose. He speaks only the truth. People have to learn to look deep inside themselves and find the racism hidden within. It may be as minute as an atom lodged in the corner of the subconscious, or it may be as large as a cancerous tumor running rampant throughout the body. People see only what they want to see. It's time to open eyes wide and examine the truth about racism and white-supremacy.

Genevieve Kropp



## International Relations News

by Joshua Ledwell

On November 8, a Japanese freighter left France with a cargo of 1.3 tons of radioactive plutonium for Japan. The Japanese government says that it plans to use the material in a prototype "breeder" nuclear reactor. The cargo, classified as "near weapons grade," is the largest shipment of plutonium ever attempted. It is the first planned part of a original program to bring nearly 100 tons of the element to Japan over 20 years. However, on Nov. 13 Japanese officials, in response to international pressure, hinted that they might scale back their plans.

The move has drawn fire from environmental groups, who fear that an accident could scatter the virulently radioactive plutonium into the ocean. On Nov. 9, the freighter's armed escort ship reportedly collided with a vessel from the Greenpeace environmental group. Greenpeace has pledged to follow the plutonium all the way to Japan.

Concern over a possible accident has also caused many foreign governments along the route to Japan to refuse the freighter passage through their territorial waters. Governments in Asia, wary of Japan's militant history, see the plutonium as a potential threat because it can be processed into "weapons-grade" material. Nations have expressed further concern that the plutonium might be vulnerable to terrorists. If Japan does not reduce its goal for plutonium possession, it will eventually possess more radioactive material than that contained in the entire American military arsenal. Experts say that this much plutonium could never be used in nuclear power plants, especially since the breeder reactors that will use the plutonium are supposed to create more fuel for themselves even as they produce electricity.

The United States has supported the shipment of plutonium. It retained some say over what use the material would be put to, as the plutonium was originally American nuclear waste that was reprocessed in France. U.S. spy satellites will keep the freighter under surveillance, and watch for accidents or hijacking.

The United States is balanced on the edge of a trade war with the European Community after a breakdown in negotiations with EC member France. The U.S. recently announced that EC white wines would be subject to a 200% tariff beginning on December 5. The import tax will affect white wines from all European Community members, but France will be the hardest hit by the new tax since the vast majority of EC white wine is made in France. The tariff was levied specifically to affect France because the French government had resisted U.S. pressure to lower its subsidies for native farmers. The tariff would triple the cost of imported European white wine for buyers in the United States. However, the extra cost would not be felt by consumers until long after the new tax is imposed, because retailers have been stockpiling European wines in anticipation of the looming trade war.

Farmers are politically influential in France, and President Mitterand has been hesitant to lower the large government subsidies they garner. The United States argues that these subsidies give French products unfair advantages on world markets. Chancellor Helmut Kohl of Germany is probably the only European leader that could convince Mitterand to compromise on his farm policies, but he had refused to try, probably to avoid antagonizing the French public towards Germany as well as towards the United States. Each side's refusal to compromise on this issue has jeopardized the success of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade in lowering tax barriers among the world's strongest economies. Both the EC and the United States agree that a trade war now will hurt their recovery of their economies from recession.

A demonstration in Germany last week to protest violence against immigrants was disrupted by radicals who threw eggs, tomatoes, and paint bombs at German President Richard von Weizsacker and Chancellor Helmut Kohl. More than 300,000 people turned out to protest neo-Nazi attacks on foreigners seeking political asylum in Germany. However, the meeting was broken up by leftist radicals from the opposite end of the political spectrum as the neo-Nazis.

The large crowd missed the first half of the keynote speech by President von Weizsacker because the public address system failed. While police held up large plastic riot shields to protect him from thrown objects, the president spoke into a dead microphone. After the loudspeakers came back on, the 300-400 radicals present did their best to drown the speaker out with whistles and shouting. Politicians later tried to express their disgust with neo-Nazis and their support for foreign refugees in television interviews. But they were muffled by leftists using high pitched whistles that caused feedback in pickup microphones.

## What is SMOG, anyway?

We have our ransom orders from the planning committee to write this letter to dear old Observer explaining who and what SMOG (Student Mechanics Open Garage) is and does (their hostage is our budget). I had had a grand letter forming in my head, full of subtle wordplay, esoteric allusions and intricate humor. Until I discovered our budget allotment was only two fifths of what we needed.

SMOG is a student run club dedicated to providing members of the Bard community with the space, equipment, and expertise necessary for the maintenance, repair and restoration of all manner of machinery; and to aiding community members in learning the rudiments and intricacies of power mechanics. Community members are allowed to use SMOG facilities to fix their own machines. It is also possible to pay SMOG people to fix your machines, (our labor rates are one third to one fifth of professional rates), or to have SMOG people teach you how to DIY. If the planning committee hasn't given us enough money to buy what's necessary to fix what you got, we can tell you the best place to go.

In addition, SMOG owns a 1974 Chevy van that, (if we can ever buy the tools necessary to fix the poor beast), could be

used to do on-site repairs (jump-start, flat tire, other immobilizing calamities) and would be available for use by other clubs if they provide the gas.

The SMOG facility is a cinder block building located on Woods Road, past Woods Studio, next to the new athletic field that Joel built on top of our beloved and environmentally sound junkyard. The facility is open to the public during the proctor hours listed below, in addition to these hours it is possible to make an appointment with an individual proctor for a more convenient time.

Ben Landers—Monday 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Chris Martz—Tuesday 4:00 to 6:00 pm  
Vicky Ryer—Wednesday 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
Zeke Cullen—Friday 2:00 to 6:00 pm

P.S. Proctor hours change every semester, we are anticipating at least 2 more proctors next semester. Also, I think Jon Durham still has keys, so go see St. Booty and talk to the blue-eyed saxophone player.

Happy Motoring,  
Zeke Cullen,  
Motorhead At Large.

## There ain't any room for any of us women on this here campus

by Naureen Khan (Shaila)

My mother's blood flows through my body as I live and till I die this woman's stamp on my body and soul will make me fight and speak out against all injustice and violence directed against women in this world.

I will give no explanation. I will write in shreds, because you with your inflection of violence once shredded my soul and body and now you, no longer, have control. I am not the tamed woman you have wanted me to be, instead I have empowered myself in shredded statements and you don't understand!

At the SPS party last weekend, in from of my eyes a woman was hurled across the floor, with tremendous violence, by a drunk man who was serving alcohol to the students. I speak out not for the particular woman, for I have no right to assume her voice, but I speak because till the woman's blood is drained out of my system- I will fight women's exposure to physical violence.

This violent act that I witnessed, conjured up hardly any reaction from the people around the location. But till the woman's stamp is on my forehead I will 'scream,' 'rant,' 'act hysterical' until we reach an end.

Where the End is no one fucking knows. 'For each their own end' is what you'll

preach in this society. An end usually determined by an individual's skin color, genitals, gender, looks and countless categories of existence. So you feel a woman's end - is legitimately the receiving end of violence: a woman's ending is her subjugation into roles defined by modern/traditional societies and cultures. But Till the woman's blood flows through my body I will fight the end you have in mind for me.

The woman whose blood boils inside of me taught me of [about?] goodness in this world, yet when I went out to the world I was raped, beaten, harassed and mocked. Yet the woman still made me aware of the good: she passed on a woman's strength which no one can break. She kept reinforcing in her letters, 'don't hurt anyone'; she could say this even though she knew. From this woman whose blood runs through my body and soul, I draw impregnable strength and till I die I will speak out against violence directed against other women.

I feign no sisterhood with 'whiteness' and 'blackness'; I feign no common cause against a specific group of people but I scream out for justice. I scream out against the injustice that prevails in this community because too many people are too self-centered to take on some personal responsibility to confront the Injustice.



## Classifieds &amp; personals

NOTICE: All classifieds and personals submitted to the *Observer* must be signed legibly. We will withhold your name if you request us to, but it will not be printed if we don't have this signature.

## #1 Fundraiser Nationwide

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Lost: Large umbrella; cream shade with cats and dogs on it; wooden handle. If found, please contact Box 65. Reward.

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Can you tell us all or most of the words to the old Scooby Doo theme song? If you can, please respond to Box 899 via campus mail. The person who has the most complete lyrics will be awarded a Star Trek episode on video tape.

Let someone know you care; wish a friend a happy birthday via the personals!

Hey Rabbit, "I've come to wish you an unhappy birthday, because you're evil and you lie and if you should die, I may feel slightly sad but I won't cry..." just kidding! you're wicked nice (and wicked older than me). lerv, Tigger.

HONEYKINS, you're everything to me. Hope it will be this way for many years to come. Love, SWEETYP. p.s. St. George will rise again.

Even on the range he had 2 sets of dishes, We Come In Peace—Shoot to Kill—The 142 fastest gun in the west fighting Super Melt in Your Mouth over one female zombie who wouldn't behave, what a strong boy what pretty girl, (boys eat girls cook) And mails comes to those who wait...

John—I have a crush on you. You fiddle my strings and speed up my pulse but be easy and free—K

For Melt in Your Mouth  
On the first day of X-mas my true love gave to me...a vibrator with a battery  
On the second day of X-mas my true love gave to me...  
2 rubber rings + a vibrator w/ a battery

Greg: RE: your Halloween column  
That's just silly! I preferred Nick-El. It made my eyes bleed. PPTHHTHTTT! Kiss Kiss

Despite the recent shifting of the political winds, Terry Dewsnap remains the Rapmaster.

Arf—My present to you for today is a nice saying: "Women with big breasts have back problems..." Love, Your Secret Friend.

Hey M.—sexy, brunette, open to ideas sounds like me, too. Tell me more. Tell me more. —Mint

Avoid the winter chills! SWM seeks a special, sexy female who is, like me, a slender non-smoker with a goofy sense of humor. Quiet times with soothing jazz await. Let's melt into each other by candlelight. MYSTERIOSO.

## Sean O'Neill's guide cont.

continued from page 5

other nations of the world, even if not truly diverse according to some utopian standard. In order to impose a view on this throng of listeners, the speaker will have to fracture their unity, their cohesiveness as a people. First, the speaker will single out one group in the audience, Roman Catholics, perhaps, and laud them for their supposed acceptance of the proposed view by their spiritual leader. Then the speaker will denigrate those groups in the audience who are not Catholics for not having like-minded leaders. Thus, a wedge has been thrust in the social fabric. Next, the speaker will reverse the position and mock the

Catholics in the audience for having leaders who have acted intolerantly towards another section of the audience, perhaps singling out women. This alternating back and forth, taking one slice of the audience at the time, holding them up to shame, and then dismissing them, creates an atmosphere of paranoia. Respect collapses in the audience and defensive people lash out at each other. Finally, the speaker enters once the thoughtless insults have been hurled back and forth, and then speaks of inclusion of the constricted logic being the only construct worth supporting. One individual mugs hundreds in broad daylight. Be wary.

AMNESTY  
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BARD

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presents

former South African  
prisoner-of-conscience  
**Nomgcobo Sangweni**  
speaking on Amnesty and her  
experiences in South Africa

Thursday, November 19th at  
7pm in Olin Art History Room



## The Bard Jazz Ensemble

### An evening of jazz at Olin with Leo Smith and friends

The Olin Auditorium was once again filled with the sounds of jazz this past Wednesday, November 11th,

**Matthew Apple**  
Editor-in-Chief

as Professor Leo Smith's Jazz Ensembles class performed. Three full-fledged ensembles performed, including two which have played elsewhere at Bard, as well as a duet and a solo performance.

The opening number was

played by the newer students in Leon Smith's ensembles class. Standing in a semi-circle so no one musician had priority over another, a group of eleven—sometimes thirteen—students followed the lead of the trumpet-wielding Smith. With two trumpets, an alto sax, drums, conga drums, tom-toms, piano and four electric guitars, this group had almost too much sound. At times during Matt Lee's sax solo in a later song, the guitars overpowered the group through the weight of sheer numbers. But overall the ensemble sounded fantastic, and

the percussion

section was especially impressive, carrying the melody at one point and adding a flavor of rhythm sometimes missing in large ensembles.

The most animated ensemble was the Honey Stung Sextet, one of the more experienced groups, and, according to lead guitarist Parker Ramsey, the name derives from the fact that "...we have six members...uh, hence the name Sextet." Though bassist Ian Brandt completely lost drummer Tony Figoli during a solo, much to the amusement of the audience, the band picked up the tempo immediately, never losing sync with each other. The Honey Stungers also played a song by jazz great Miles Davis, called "All Blues." "It's a blues," Ramsey helpfully added. The wailing soprano sax, the wildly erratic trumpet, the singing strings of the firebreathing-dragon-covered violin, the sweet picking of the guitar—all in perfect time to the rhythm of the ever present

Tony Figoli.

"At the beginning, it was just six guys playing," Ramsey said afterward. "Everyone wanted ten minute solos and no one wanted to listen to anyone else...But now, we're starting to groove."

The mysterious group once known as Zeitgeist, Loco Boom and a host of other names, took center stage for two songs near the end of the concert. There was a brief moment of levity as the saxophonist wrestled with his sweatpants pocket and fi-

nally yanked out an enormous pair of sunglasses, assuming the proper jazz pose on stage. The five member band quickly enthralled the audience with their driving rhythms, active drums and tightly-knit melodies, producing what could only be called a mature sound. Obviously the crowd's choice, the group soared through two songs before giving way once again to the Leo Smith's original group for a final number.

Overall, Smith was impressed with his students' performance. As part of his class, Smith's students must perform once a semester in an ensembles concert, and, as usual, the groups provided an evening of great music and entertainment.



### Self defense workshop for women\*

**Saturday, Nov. 21st, 10am-noon**  
**Stevenson Gymnasium**

Please pre-register. To sign up call ext. 454 (before 11/20/92). Participants should wear comfortable clothing (slacks suggested) and sneakers.

Sponsored by BRAVE and  
the Bard Women's Center.

\*A workshop for both men and women will be held in the spring.

### Dance Concert IV

**Fri., Sat., Mon., and Tues.**  
**Nov. 20th & 21st and Nov.**  
**23rd & 24th**

**at 8pm in the Dance Theatre**



## Dracula

Finally, something to sink our teeth into...

Yes, it's finally out, the much publicized and long awaited Francis Ford Coppola version of

Movie  
Reviewer

Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. With special effects techniques that range from campy to spectacular and a list of stars as long as your arm, this one will probably stick around for a while. If you plan on seeing it in the Bard area, a word of warning to enhance your viewing pleasure—I saw this film at the Red Hook Lyceum, and I felt like I was watching a television; I don't know what kind of sound system the Lyceum has, but the sound of the film didn't have the depth and quality which enhances the mood of any movie and is almost necessary for appreciating such an assault on sensory perception as this particular film. *Dracula* is playing in Kingston and Poughkeepsie, and I think the journey would be worthwhile if you were able to find a place with either Dolby or Surround sound. Go for the biggest screen and the loudest, most comprehensive volume available.

But technicalities aside, on with the review...

The star of the film for most people seems to be, not surprisingly, Anthony Hopkins, who plays Van Helsing, the doctor/mystic who gets called in to fight the vampire. He steals many of the scenes and definitely has some of the best lines in the film. Gary Oldman gives an excellent performance as *Dracula*, which turns out to be a much more versatile role than expected—at times an aging warrior, yearning to return to the past, at times a young, innocent and distraught lover—Oldman rises to the task marvelously in every case. Keanu Reeves holds his own as Jonathan Harker, but shows us nothing spectacular (it seemed like at any moment he might drop into his "Bill and Ted" persona), and Wynona Ryder is well-cast as his fiancée Mina, who is ultimately tempted into the arms of the vampire (although in most scenes she is outshined by other, more dynamic characters). Sadie Frost plays a stunning Lucy, Mina's blatantly sexual best friend, the first victim of the Count's desires. The "Bob Roberts Comedy Trio Award" goes to the three suitors to Lucy's hand, played by Cary Elwes (Wesley in



This is a wood engraving of the real Dracula, Vlad the Impaler, who liked amputees.

*The Princess Bride*), Richard E. Grant (*Withnail & I*, *How to Get Ahead in Advertising*), and a big Texan whose name escapes me. Tom Waits has an excellent bit-part as Dracula's insane, insect-eating devotee. Coppola does a fantastic job of drawing the characters together, comparing the taboos of that period and our own with hints of homosexuality, promiscuity, and

drug abuse as we see each of the characters highlighted in turn, and then watch them interact. There's even potential AIDS relevancy, as Coppola seems to want to imply that vampirism is partly sexual in nature.

If you've ever read Bram Stoker's novel, the plot will hold few surprises. Coppola does a good job of highlighting some of the more interesting aspects of the characters, and the recurrence of the standard vampire-symbols is used well—sometimes to innovate, other times to call to mind the rubber-

suited clumsiness of '50s horror movie camp. At times Coppola dotes too heavily on the gothic romance/melodrama themes, but don't get the wrong idea—if you go to this film expecting a celebration of all that is dark, gloomy and gothic, you will be disappointed; the film just isn't serious enough to be taken as an anthem for Anne Rice fans. Coppola instead celebrates

the marvels of cinema, showcasing what can be done on the big screen.

This film is, above all, a giant toy store of cinematography and effects, scenery and mood. Because of this, Coppola's *Dracula* is in many ways a strange experience, encapsulating such a great variety of styles that you may not know quite what to think of it at first. The tone is at times campy, humorous, erotic and melodramatic; the special effects are at times fantastic and at times reminiscent of grade B creature movies. All of this is worked into an incredibly intricate whole, a rollercoaster ride through every cinematic technique or category ever invented, and a sensory experience which, at its best, can leave one feeling joyously overloaded. At worst, you might leave the theatre unsure of exactly what it was you were supposed to be going through. The answer Coppola would seem to offer is, Everything, as rapidly as possible. My advice, if you have the time and cash, is to go see it twice. The first time just absorb what you can of the effects, the sets, the costumes and the humor. The second time, once the novelty wears off a bit, see what you think of it as a movie.

## TEACH US

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## Electric art at Bard

An evening of experimental electronic art comes to Bard on Thursday, November 19th at the Blum Gallery. The performance begins at 8:00 pm and features works by students in the Master of Fine Arts Program in Electronic Art at Rensselaer Polytechnical Institute. This program is one of the few in the world that teaches students how to work with new electronic tools in order to create new modes of expression and new modes of presentation. Pieces in

the performance include two new animation by Troy artist and poet, Joe Giroux, a new collaborative video piece John a j jannone and local artist Michael Oatman; an improvisatory performance using interactive computer music and graphics systems by Jonathan Kozzi; an homage to composer John Cage by Eric Zittel, and new pieces by Jennifer Bozick (USA), Mark Schichenmayer (USA), Svyetlana Bukvic (Bosnia), Roberto Bocci (Italy), Joanna

Whitney (USA). The evening also includes a video tape by Arlen Speights whose current installation in downtown Troy dealing with Native American issues is attracting considerable attention.

The work shown at this event represents some of the newest and freshest talent in the world of the electronic arts, and showcases some of the emerging directions this work is taking for the twenty first century. New technologies are dominating the arts, and computer image processing, computer music, and computerized video editing play a significant role in all the work shown here. Experiments in virtual stage realities take the more familiar "game boy" personal virtual worlds into new areas of experimentation.

For more information please contact Richard Teitelbaum in the Music Department.

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@ 9pm - *Light Sleeper* w/William Dafoe & Susan Sarandon

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"... A SUPERB ENTERTAINMENT AND A RICH, COMPLEX, VERY MOVING PORTRAIT OF A MARRIAGE." - George Brown, Village Voice  
Fri, 7:30 Sat, 4:00 & 7:30; Sun, 1:00 & 7:30; Mon-Wed, 7:30

*A Night in Havana: UZZY CALLESPIE in Cuba*  
Sun, 4:30 only  
IN PERSON: FILMMAKER JOHN HOLLAND



## In memory of David Crocker

Crocker's funeral took place on Sunday, November 15th, in Binghamton, NY. The drama/dance department intends to hold a memorial service, the date of which has not yet been determined. Individuals interested in planning or attending the service should contact Sara Smith at the theatre extension or box 1165.

rarely see with new groups due to the fact that there's usually only one vocalist. Everyone in This is it sings, and although the tone is rough at several points, the raspy quality of the voices gives energy and power to the lyrics. "I Got It

**There's a spotless  
'65 Mustang  
somewhere out there  
with your name on it**

[illegible]



## We don't need hate

by Matthew Apple

"Have a dream that one day on the red hills of Georgia the sons of former plantation slaves and the sons of former slave-owners will be able to sit down together at the table of brotherhood."

These are the words of a man who was killed because he believed all people should love one another as if they were brothers and sisters. In his recent lecture at Bard, Dr. Leonard Jeffries invoked the name of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as he compared himself to the martyr. "The tradition in America is to assault those who stand up and speak out," Jeffries said, saying that he was wearing a bullet-proof vest to protect himself from King's fate. However, Jeffries is nothing like the man to whom he compares himself. While Dr. King sought to unite Americans through the bonds of brotherhood and love, Jeffries seeks to divide us with fear and hatred.

The organization which supported Jeffries' visit, Students Educating Against Racism (SEAR), might want to consider changing its name to Students Educating About Racism. Jeffries' infamous "Albany speech," parts of which were covered in the Sept. 2, 1991 issue of *New York* magazine, was blatantly anti-white, anti-Semitic and anti-homosexual. He proposed wild theories to prove the superiority of blacks based on perverted social and scientific evidence, interpreting history to fit his needs. He believes that AIDS was manufactured in Germany as part of a "white conspiracy" to kill all Africans—"This is not my analysis—this is scientific medical reports." He believes whites are not human because they have less melanin in their skin—"Melanin is possibly responsible for brain development... You have to have melanin to be human. Whites are deficient of it because of the circumstances of the ice..." He believes that Europeans are all warlike and greedy while Africans are humanistic, communal and gentle because of their warmer environment. He believes that homosexuality is wrong because it came from "the value system of the caves that came from Europe... based on the male principle, men loving men as fighting men. That's the Valhalla. That's the Nazi. That's the Greek. That's the Catholic church." According to one of his former students, Jeffries once told a class, "If I had my way, I'd wipe [whites] off the face of the earth." And a colleague said that "by Jeffries' standards, [the Albany Speech] was pretty tame stuff."

Jeffries does raise good points: "white" civilization has copied older civilizations. Every civilization since the beginning of recorded history has adopted the practices of conquered societies. The Greeks copied the Egyptians, the Romans copied the Greeks, most of Western society copied the Romans. While he is correct in saying that the Egyptian civilization came before the Grecian, he completely ignores the existence of Sumeria in what is now Iraq, the ancient Pakistani civilization along the Indus River, and the ancient Chinese civilization along the Yangtze and Yellow Rivers. He is also correct in saying that American society needs to be more aware that multicultural education is important, that society should teach its children to understand and respect cultures other than their own. Jeffries has a worthy goal, but the route he seeks to enable awareness of society's problems is hostile, hateful and destructive.

Perhaps the only reason SEAR invited Jeffries to lecture was that he is a controversial figure, knowing full well that controversy always stimulates discussion. Jeffries' views do not embrace discussion; his ideas are divisive and will not promote racial equality and harmony. Jeffries distorts reality and reassembles one-sided arguments as the Truth. He is full of enmity and malice for those who do not blindly fall in line with his twisted logic. Hate is not the answer to society's polarity; hate drives people apart, instills fear and distrust, and incites violence. After the Rodney King verdict last year, racial riots throughout the United States caused nothing but death and destruction. They didn't solve any problems, and neither will Jeffries. Hate is the problem, not the solution.

If SEAR honestly wishes to promote its agenda of multicultural awareness, its leaders should consider asking Myra Armstead to speak. Bard's resident historian most likely would charge SEAR much less to speak and would be more informative, more encouraging and more truthful than Dr. Jeffries. Multiculturalism is a worthy goal that can only be reached by coordinating the efforts of every ethnic group to ensure the community functions as a whole. True multicultural awareness will come from understanding and respect, not hatred.

## Updated anonymity policy

The *Observer* policy on anonymous submissions has been changed due to recent abuses of our previous policies. Someone may have his or her name withheld from a submission, if the submission relates a personally traumatic experience such as sexual assault or if the author might have legal reasons to desire his or her identity to remain unknown.

The *Observer* will no longer tolerate anonymous attacks on individuals, such as Mr. Armadillo X's criticisms of individual students. We realize that at Bard certain opinions are not approved of by a majority of students, and anyone

who expresses these opinions can be subject to public embarrassment. In fact, several former members of the *Observer* staff, after writing poorly-received articles, were the subject of prank and obscene phone calls and public harassment. We realize that for many students, there is no place to turn to other than the *Observer* to make their opinions known to the Bard community, and that many who have "unacceptable" opinions are afraid of receiving harsh condemnation from fellow Bard students. However, we do not consider this a sufficient reason to write anonymously.

The weight of a letter, how seri-

ously an idea is considered, is based upon having the name of the author. Signing your name lets readers know that you endorse the contents of the letter, that you are willing to take abuse and stand up for your opinions. The anonymous writer does not accept responsibility for what was written. If a writer believes to have sufficient reason for having his or her name withheld, if not for personal or legal reasons, he or she must, in person, convince the Editorial Board of the *Observer* that the reason is a sound one. Otherwise, the *Observer* will no longer print anonymous or pseudonymous letters.

## Multiculture at Bard

Dear Editor,

Now that Dr. Leonard Jeffries has come and gone, how do we at Bard proceed regarding the establishment of a more explicitly multicultural curriculum?

First and foremost, one must separate multiculturalism and Afrocentricity as two distinct, indeed opposite, concepts. It is a shame and an irony that Dr. Jeffries equates multiculturalism with a skewed, piecemeal, xenophobic version of history drawing on the very techniques of "scientifically"—supported romantic racialism developed by nineteenth century European thinkers, mainly German, to justify and/or explain their apparently growing domination of the world. One of his trusted sources, Martin Bernal's *Black Athena*, points this out clearly, but Dr. Jeffries, in typical fashion, neglected to accept this work in its own terms. Reacting to his presentation last week, I wanted to ask—but was prevented by the aborted discussion period—how he would and we should respond if a discovery of human fossils pre-dating those in East Africa were located in the Amazon or, perish the thought, Iceland at some future point? Should we then

develop a new Amazon-centric or Iceland-centric historical synthesis? Clearly, we need not and ought not be "centrically"—oriented with regard to human experience in order to be considered advocates of curricular multiculturalism.

The discussion of multicultural education at Bard should not, however, focus on Leonard Jeffries. The concerns of the Students Educating Against Racism (SEAR) are real regarding the omissions in the Bard curriculum. What SEAR and its supporters legitimately highlight is the presumptuousness inherent in the liberal arts project, however laudable the ideals of this project. Before SEAR participants, a great majority of them American minority, desire is a the curricular space in which to consider their own racial/ethnic experience in a formal, serious manner before or simultaneously with a consideration of the large, universal issues dealt with in the established configuration of instruction and scholarship at Bard. Put

another way, they question the extent to which much of what passes for human experience is really "majority" experience. However this question may be answered, the point is that the question is a legitimate one deserving far more pragmatic, empirical consideration than it has received.

Within this context, I call upon the Bard community of students and faculty to (re)consider the positive and significant possibilities of the Multicultural and Ethnic Studies concentration, languishing since its approval some two years ago. This program, with its focus on oppressed racial and ethnic groups in a broad and international context, is precisely the arena in which to undertake the type of study SEAR desires. It would not require any faculty member to teach material that is unattractive or uninteresting to her/him, but would rather outline a coherent path of study from courses already offered or to be developed by the present and future Bard faculty.

continued on page 15

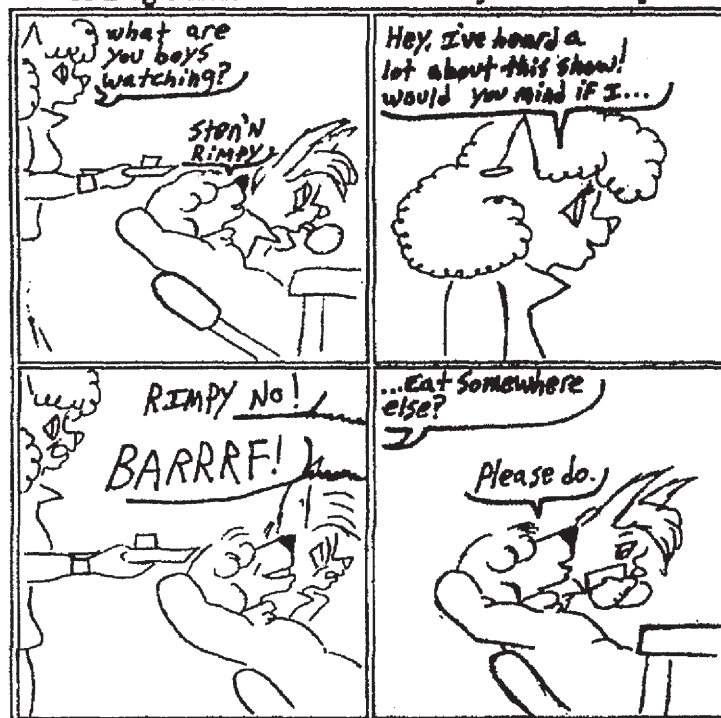
## Thoughts cont.

continued from page 8  
face value. He demands each person think critically and make a point to go outside of the realm of Eurocentrism. This message, particularly for minority students was "to master what Bard gives you and go beyond it."

Nathalie Bouillon

A Dog's life.

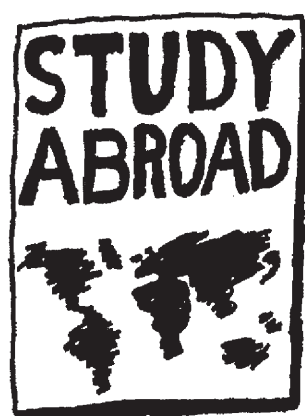
By David Draper.





## Letters

15



continued from page 14

As the director of the former Minority Studies Seminar and developer of the Multicultural and Ethnic Studies concentration, I welcome any constructive input towards the implementation of the program from my colleagues. Let us work together to fill this real curricular need.

Sincerely,  
Myra B. Young Armstead  
Associate Professor, History

Quote,  
unquote

Dear Editor,

I am writing to protest the misrepresentation existing in your paper. Specifically I am writing about the article dealing with theft at Bard which appears on page two of the Observer on November 11, 1992. The part of the article I take offence to is the portion dealing with the theft of a pair of glasses and the student who returned them. I am the student who you say found them "on the ground." It just so happens that I did find them on the ground, NOT, as your paper seems to infer, read the "signs in Tewksbury asking for the return of his glasses" and decided to return them.

I don't know if the glasses were stolen or not. All I know was that I found a pair on the ground, put up a sign reporting that I had found them and where they could be picked up. Since when it has become a crime to pick up lost items and try to return them to their rightful owner I do not know [sic]. I lost my wallet a couple of weeks ago and somebody turned it in, and I am thankful. I do not recall reading anything inferring that he/she had committed any criminal act. As it so happens when the B&G worker found out I had found them, he came and picked them up and thanked me. He told me, "You made my day,

thanks."

I find it disturbing that a good deed can be represented as a crime. I find it even more disturbing that you can twist facts without contacting me to find out what happened. My name is not secret. The B&G worker picked them up at my room, I did not drop them off anonymously some where without leaving a trace of who I was.

The next time I find a lost article I will still pick it up and attempt to find who owns it. The next time I don't expect to be implicated in criminal behavior. I realize that you are trying to raise awareness of theft on campus, but don't accuse innocent people of crimes with threats of "prosecut[ing] them" without finding out the facts. You have an obligation to represent the truth, not of presenting your truth.

Ian Forbes

*Physical Plant Director Dick Griffiths informed me of the thefts and also of the return of the glasses. What I wrote merely stated what he had told me: "found on the ground" and "prosecute them" were direct quotes not intended to implicate anyone of a crime. It is standard Observer policy never to mention specific student names in news articles, and in the case of the article to which you refer, a name was completely unnecessary. The most important fact was that the worker had his glasses back.—ed.*

Defining  
definitions

To Miss Herzog,

Bravo! Congratulations to you on your insight in the final lines of your letter. You're quite right. I do have my own agenda in writing these letters—just as everyone does. Now all you need to do is figure out what that

agenda is. Hint: Ask yourself carefully, more carefully than you did, where I am coming out from.

But enough of this praising for an insight which was fairly obvious. You brought up a few points which deserve to be addressed and clarified.

First, you point out that no one is going to admit that sexual harassment is acceptable. Even people who engage in sexual harassment will not say so. These people don't realize that their behavior is unacceptable or they try to redefine sexual harassment to make it acceptable. Whoa!!! You've forgotten something. How did you make the determination that they are in fact engaging in sexual harassment? No one is talking about excusing people who say one thing and act hypocritically. My point is that this determination of sexual harassment is a point of power. *Who gets to make this determination and decide upon the criterion to be used needs to be carefully guarded.* As you say, a person may try to redefine such behavior to turn blame and guilt to the victim, but a person could also redefine harassment to create blame and guilt and a harasser. "Redefining" can come from both sides. My point is that there has been an agenda in which the power of condemnation has been usurped by certain interests in a most unfair and unreasonable manner. To be blunt, there are feminist factions which has sought to control the definition of sexual harassment, imposing their own individual conceptions over fair and reasonable conditions.

Second, you make the objection that there is nothing to be gained in obtaining the power to label anything and everything one wants as sexual harassment. I believe you are simply blinding yourself here. Indeed, *what can be gained by control over the definition of criminal behavior.* If I had the power to decide that not wearing a bra was an act disturbing the peace... gee what could I gain—like, decide who's a criminal based upon my own whims? If I did not detect the sincerity in the rest of your letter, I would have concluded that you were being quite obnoxious, taunting me with the possibility of what feminists could in fact gain over men.

But this is something that only applies to the more radical elements. I mean something else when I speak of the general tendency of the movement to be free with the label of sexual harassment, not specifically of the gain. There is a frightening psychological inertia that is involved which hurls people past the boundaries of reason and normality. There is sexual harassment. That is true and groups rose to combat it. But now groups have transformed. Now their premise is that there must be sexual harassment, that sexual harassment is in anything and everything. I think this

is due to the immense inertia of the previous emotional outlet and euphoria of power. You say that no one is suggesting a prison term for catcalls. True, no one will admit it like no one will admit that sexual harassment is acceptable. But they may attempt a redefinition to subtly bring in such innocent behavior under criminal culpability. Sure, they won't say we should imprison guys who write nasty things on the bathroom walls, but they will say that such behavior is obviously a sign of a deeper malignant quality which will, must, result in sexual harassment. Yes, such character flaws must be rooted out: set up feminist watchcats in school districts, infiltrate the student body with spies, identify those individuals who do not conform with feminist ideals, and send them off... I'm frightening myself! Let's not get lost. There is a difference between sexual harassment and simple bad behavior. And I'm sorry to say that your definition—"any action, verbal or physical, direct or implied, that discriminates, humiliates, or debases an individual based on his or her sexuality"—is woefully inadequate in recognizing this distinction. It is an example of "redefinition" which has gone beyond reasonable terms to become an instrument of self-interest. I'll admit that under your definition I have sexually harassed many of my friends. I've sexually harassed myself! Here, I am sexually harassing you now with this statement: "Because you are female, you have obvious sympathies to a most ridiculous movement and your

inability to overcome this predisposition must reflect a serious personal failing." Check your definition. It fits. Are you going to sue me?

As for your last objection, here you seem to turn to the familiar feminist rhetoric. You say that there is a problem of institutional based sexism. What does this mean? Please unpack "institutional based sexism." This over-general, self-serving presupposition leaves a bad taste in my mouth. But of course, you can't explain, you can't unpack it. Like you said, we must not "focus too closely on these specific... situations." Yes, right, forget what really, actually concretely happened and bring in the dust storm of feminist rhetoric and propaganda, bring in the "there must have been harassments since he's a man and she's a woman," etc. If I may reveal a bit of my fearful quivering, this is a most terrible feminist weapon. To be able to transcend real experience and subject people's minds to fantastic creations of one's own... I, I have a fervent desire to stay on the ground with real events and real facts. I guess, that's my real purpose in this letter. I want to keep people back on the ground and save them from getting lost in the storm. If feminist want to gaze dazed into their imaginary realm, they are welcome to. But please, do not interfere with people down here who are trying to make real changes by dealing with real criminals and real cases of sexism.

Coming out, a real and particular sexual harasser by definition

## The Bard Observer

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The Bard Observer is published every Wednesday while class is in session. Editorial policy is determined by the Editorial Board under the direction of the Editor-in-Chief. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the Editorial Board and not necessarily of the Observer staff.

Letters to the Editor and Personals or Classifieds must not exceed 500 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 Observer office in the basement of Tewksbury or through Campus Mail by 5 p.m. Friday one 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.  
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# CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

NOVEMBER 18 TO 25 ★ 1992

## What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

### ★ WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 18 ★

★ **Smoke Signals.** Tomorrow is the **Great American Smokeout**—so, get ready for 24 smokeless hours. The American Cancer Society & Bard College offers educational info, survival kits, & a Quitter's raffle: smokers turn in a pack of cigarettes for a chance to win a dinner for two. Also, find a friend to "Adopt a Smoker"—support staying off cigarettes. Get your info & kits **today at the tables in Kline**, or contact Kris Hall, x530.

★ **Bringing the Revolution Home.** Go to the organizational meeting of **Bard Revolutionaries Against Capitalist Exploitation—B.R.A.C.E.** Be there at the **President's Room in Kline, Noon-1:30p.**

★ **Hey, wait a minute...** Get your work over to the **Student Art Show.** Anyone/anything can go up at the **Proctor Art Studio**, today & tomorrow.

★ **Russian Studies Open House.** The Faculty of the Russian Studies Program will discuss details of: Jan-May Russian Intensive, Summer & Fall semester programs of study in St. Petersburg; Russian Studies Curriculum; and, the Russian Club. Also, formal registration for the January intensive program will take place. Be there **in the Committee Room in Kline, 4-5:30p.** For more info, call Prof Lindsay Watton, x391.

★ **Man spricht Deutsch.** Come & speak German at the, well-what-else... **German Table in the President's Room in Kline, 5:30p.** Bring food/trays.

★ **Tadeusz Kowalik** The Bard Russian Studies Club & Departments of History & Economics brings us Prof. Tadeusz Kowalik, a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Prof. Kowalik will speak on **Pains and Strains of the Transition from Planned Economy to Free Market in East Europe.** Be there **in Olin 203, 7p.**

★ **It's everybody's right.** Talk about the appearance tomorrow of Nomgcobo Sangweni—a former South African prisoner of conscience—with **Bard's Amnesty International.** You can also write letters with them **in the Committee Room at Kline, 6p.** Be informed.

★ **Film-a-Go-Go.** The Film Committee brings to us Otto Preminger's **Anatomy of a Murder.** Jimmy Stewart stars as the defense atty. hired to defend an army officer accused of killing his wife's rapist. See this 1959 film one time only **at 9p, in the Old Gym.** Also, catch the short: Betty Boop's Trial. No smoking at this one, folks!

★ **A Support Group for Women Survivors of...** date/aquaintance & stranger rape and incest will have its first meeting, facilitated by a BRAVE counselor. Be there **in Albee basement office #103, 8p.**

★ **Mary Frank** The Art Department presents a lecture by artist & Avery Professor Mary Frank. She will speak about her work; in the past, the mediums have included plaster, clay, wood, metal, glass, & wax. See/Hear Prof. Frank **at 8p in the Olin Auditorium.**

★ **Go with the flow.** Presenting a hot-new brass ensemble from NYC—see the **Encore Brass Quintet.** Hear the world premieres of Bard grad Dan Sonenberg & Prof. Daron Hagen, & other exciting pieces. Be there **at 8p, in the Bard Chapel.** Sponsored by our Music Dept.—It's free, folks!

★ **Umataro and his Five Women.** The Three Japanese Directors screenings presents this film by the great Japanese director Mizoguchi. Check out this 1946 film **at 7p, in the Preston Film Center.**

### ★ THURSDAY. NOVEMBER 19 ★

Today is the Great American Smokeout

★ **Made in Americas.** Go/see the Guatemalan video **When the Mountains Tremble: Rigoberta Menchu**—Hear Nobel Peace Prize winner Rigoberta's experience as a Quiche Indian woman. You must see this **at 7p, in the Preston Film Center.** Stay for more Latin America...

★ **House-O-Film.** The Film Committee brings to us **The Battle of Chile, Part III**—Patricio Guzman's documentary chronicling the tumultuous last year of the democratic government in Chile before the military coup of 1973. Hear the continuation of last week's movie in Spanish/See it in English **at 10p, in the Preston Film Center.**

★ **Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series.** The Jerome Levy Economics Institute presents **Ishaq Nadiri**, Prof. of Economics at NYU. He will speak on **The Effects of Public Infrastructure and R&D Capital on the Cost Structure and Performance of U.S. Manufacturing Industries.** Hear him **at 4p, at the Jerome Levy Economics Institute.**

★ **La Tavola Italiana.** Anybody with one word/many words of Italian can drop by the **Italian Table.** Bring your food/trays to the **Committee Room in Kline, 5:30p.**

★ **Nomgcobo Sangweni.** Hear this former South African prisoner of conscience speak about South Africa, Amnesty International, and her experience as a prisoner of conscience. Definitely go **to the Olin Art History Room, 7p.** Sponsored by **Bard's Amnesty International & the International Relations Club.**

★ **I don't have a thing to wear...** Just go to the **B.R.A.V.E. Open House** in the **basement of Tewksbury, 7p.** Everyone is welcome.

★ **Life Drawing Sessions**—Paint, draw, or sculpt every Thursday & Tuesday in **Proctor Studio, 7-9p.** Everyone is welcome.

★ **Visage Collage.** See the new-fresh faces/pieces from the **Electronic Arts Performance Series** brought to us by Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. Go tonight, experience multimedia installations combining computer image processing & music, video, & "virtual" stage realities. The evening includes: animation by Troy artist & poet Joe Giroux; collaborative video piece by John a j jannone & Michael Oatman; improvisatory performance w/ Interactive computer music & graphics by Jonathan Kozzi; an homage to John Cage by Eric Zittel; video tape by Arlen Speights; and, new pieces by Jennifer Bozick, Mark Schichenmayer, Svyetlana Bukvic, Rovertto Bocci, Joanna Whitney. See you **at the Blum Art Gallery, 8p.**

### ★ FRIDAY. NOVEMBER 20 ★

★ **C.O.G.** Community service is our responsibility: Columbia County Youth Project, Literacy, Tutoring, Books on Tape. The **Campus Outreach Group** will hold a meeting **in the College Room in Kline, 4p.** The community is bigger than Bard.

★ **S.E.A.R.** Meet with the **Students Educating Against Racism**—formerly, Students for Multi-Cultural Education and Awareness.. They are looking forward to an expansive membership—for the ideas & needs of the Bard Community can be addressed & represented within the context of educating against racism. Join them **in the Committee Room in Kline, 6:30p.** Get Involved!

★ **Sins of the Eyes.** It's opening night of our **Student Art Show**—See the works of your fellow colleagues. Be there for the **opening reception** tonight at **Proctor Art Studio, 11p.** It's BYOB, folks.

★ **Dadality of Dance.** Boasting standing/sitting room crowds only at Bard, **Dance Theatre 4** once again busts through Bard—see Senior Project dance-work by our own **David Costello, Rosie Getz, Megan Khouri, & Melina Mackall.** Definitely go to this performance **at 8p, Friday, Saturday, Monday, & Tuesday, at the Dance Studio.** No reservations necessary, folks!

★ **World-o-Film.** The Film Committee brings to us this 1970's British movie: **The Magic Christian.** This madcap comedy stars **Peter Sellers** as the world's wealthiest man testing the depths of degradation to which people will plunge themselves for money. Don't miss **Ringo Starr's** stellar acting performance. Short: He was Once... a parody of the TV program Davey & Goliath. See them both **at the Old Gym, 7 & 9p.**

★ **Sonic Groove-U-lations.** Bold, blunt, funk/hip-hop with **Styve.** Our Entertainment Committee brings us this no sleeper night **in the Old Gym, right after the movie.**

### ★ SATURDAY. NOVEMBER 21 ★

★ **Get ready.** B.R.A.V.E & the Women's Center are sponsoring a **Self-Defense Workshop for Women.** Learn skills, strategies, & knowledge to empower yourself—Be **at the Stevenson Gym, 10a-Noon.** Remember, pre-register by Friday, Nov. 20th: call x454.

★ **Krash Groove.** Bust out tonight with another **Dancing Delirious Saturday** brought to us by our **SM Aces & BAGLE.** Explore the physical possibilities of dance/equipment **in the Old Gym, 10p.** There's a \$2 donation—don't forget your money folks.

### ★ SUNDAY. NOVEMBER 22 ★

★ **Film-a-Go-Go.** The Film Committee brings us the debut work of the great Indian director Satyajit Ray—**Pather Panchali** (Song of the Little Road). This first part of the Apu Trilogy is a story of a poor family's struggle to survive. See this 1955 movie **in the Old Gym, 7 & 9p.**

### ★ TUESDAY. NOVEMBER 24 ★

★ **Be Bush's Campaign Manager.** Baker leapt there from international politics, foreign policy, & diplomacy. Maybe you can, too, if you check out the **International Relations Club** meeting **in the President's Room in Kline at 6:30p.**

★ **Vertigo.** You know this is a great movie—so don't miss it. See **Kim Novak, James Stewart & Barbara Bel Geddes** in this 1958 **Alfred Hitchcock** movie. Don't waste this movie of masquerades & spectatorship on TV—see it today **at 7p, in the Preston Film Center.**