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OBSERVER

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The BARD OBSERVER

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"The only way to succeed is to make people hate you."

—Josef von Sternberg

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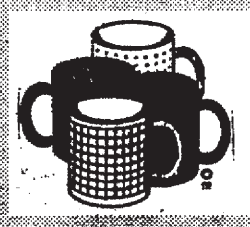

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Nationalism or genocide?

Discussing the origins of the Yugoslavian civil war

Sean O'Neill Staff Writer

Bosnia, a land in the center of Europe, was the center of discussion in Olin on Monday night. About forty American and European students, professors and guests participated in a forum to discover why and how the former Yugoslavia fell into civil war. The forum rapidly shifted focus to establish the repercussions from this event for the rest of the world and an appropriate response to it for the United States. One Hungarian student said afterwards that the forum was "extremely intense, and useful, but frustrating." Passionate remarks and continual interjections about discrepancies characterized the forum. Professor Karen Greenberg, after noting the concern over Bosnia she heard expressed on her recent trip to Eastern Europe, introduced students who reported on the history leading up to the current violence in "a brief review of the tensions."

About forty million people inhabit the former Yugoslavia. According to the students' research, there are two predominant nationalities, Serb and Croat, and two predominant religions, Christianity and Islam. Different regions use different scripts, or forms of language.

The Yugoslav Federal Republic was once the most liberal and prosperous communist nation in Europe. Economic growth has always developed unevenly among regions, however, partly due to the Communist Party's allocation of resources along nationalistic and ethnic lines. The Federal Republic was given financial support by both the Soviet Bloc and the Western-aligned nations, but interest in Central Europe collapsed with the end of the Cold War. According to student Anya Fink, the present economic conditions in the warring regions are disastrous.

Soon after the Yugoslav Communist President Marshal Tito died, censorship was lifted. Expressions of diverseness among ethnic groups appeared and mass media organizations began to publish accounts of World War II atrocities that had been committed by various ethnic groups against one another. Student Laurie Curry, who has traveled to Serbia and Eastern Europe, described how this further contributed to the fragmentation. Different regions then voted for different political and economic systems, and several regions declared their independence.

When Germany recognized the independence of Slovenia, concerns arose among ethnic minorities within that region about their own civil rights. The largely uneducated and rural people among minority groups in this area became fearful about a return of a Second World War facist-style government which would deny their rights to conduct schools in their own language and to worship their own religions. Media reports, controlled by virulent politicians, enhanced existing tensions by portraying subsequent conflicts with exaggerated biases.

Fighting broke out in the region of Kosovo more than two years ago in a crisis which involved a majority of Albanians uneasy with the split of Yugoslavia into several parts.

"It is not one war, but several" being fought, agreed the participants of the discussion. The

continued on next page

Saving the trees

Student protestors halt deforestation at Blithewood

Michael Poirier
News Editor

At 4pm Monday afternoon, over thirty Bard students gathered on a wooden slope at the southern corner of Blithewood lawn. They were there in protest of the Levy Institute's planned clear-cutting of the area. Jason van Driesche stated that the students were going to do "whatever it takes to get the College to change its mind."

By 4:30, Vice-President Dimitri Papadimitriou had called the job off.

"This is incredible," commented Tracy Feldman, the principal organizer of the protest. "It's just great to see people come out. It has renewed my faith in humanity."

The Levy Institute had planned to cut down the trees in order to improve the view of the Hudson River from the mansion. Through Buildings and Grounds, a contractor was found who could clear the area. According to one timber worker, "If they [Levy] want to see, they're paying the bill."

The students had become aware of the cutting last Friday evening. At 10am Saturday morning, van Driesche and others were at the site and asked the workers to postpone continuing the job until the students had a chance to speak with the administration. They were given until 4pm the following Monday.

During the day, van Driesche spoke with Director of the Physical Plant Dick Griffiths about the clear-cutting. Assuming that he would be unable to halt the cutting, van Driesche asked Griffith if the workers could leave the trees where they fell in order to prevent erosion. Griffiths responded that the workers instead would have to reduce the trees to wood chips to keep decomposing trees from interfering with reclearing the area twenty years from now.

Feldman and van Driesche made an announcement during lunch to urge students to come out and protest the cutting. The handful of students gradually swelled to nearly forty as they discussed with the workers why the job was being done and how it could be stopped.

"Cutting down all these trees and threatening the environment just to open a view is ridiculous," commented one student. "We don't want to stop the workers, we want to stop the job," affirmed van Driesche. The students organized a schedule of watching over the area to see if the work would be continued, and stand in the way of the machines if necessary. "No stealing spark-plugs," stated Feldman, as the protesters sought to conduct their efforts against the administration and not the workers.

No sooner had a schedule of observers been started, when the lumber workers returned to relay that Papadimitriou had said, "the job is over." To a round of suspicious applause, the protesters completed their schedule while deciding to speak with the Vice-President himself. The workers promised to blow the already-created chips down the slope in order to act as a mulch to hold the soil in place and reduce erosion.

Fifteen minutes later, a dozen students stood in Papadimitriou's Ludlow office. "As far as I am concerned, we shall not continue the job until I can discuss it with the faculty of the ecology department," stated Papadimitriou. "If they provide a reason for the job not to continue, it will be abandoned."

Papadimitriou reaffirmed that no action will be taken until he hears from Professors William Maple and Jane Wolfson. "It is unreasonable to cut down forests to expand a view," said van Driesche, to which Papadimitriou responded, "If the professionals should echo that sentiment, then it will stop." However, the Vice President expressly said that the students would not be told if or when the work would be continued.

By press time Maple and Wolfson could not be reached for comment, but the protesters were confident that the professors would urge Papadimitriou to end the cutting. "This is the best I could hope for," van Driesche commented. "I didn't expect them to cancel the job, and this turn of events makes me really, really happy."

Protester Max Brown described the incident as an example of the "Wile E. Coyote" phenomena of administrative endeavors at Bard College. "A job like this resembles the job that the administration did for the library and attracting more minority students to Bard," Brown said. "Something always screws up their plans in the end."

Bosnian nationalism continued

continued from front page

group included students from the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and the Serbian capital of Belgrade.

The war specifically referred to in American news media reports is the one of Serbian militiamen annexing territory that is owned by a predominantly Muslim population.

What now?

After debating the events which led up to the current fighting, the participants questioned the need for external intervention.

"I've been trying to remain indifferent to all this insanity," said Arsen Katunac, a student from Belgrade. "But if the Americans start bombing only Serbia, I'll be really upset. I'll go over there to fight myself!

"If you intervene, my kids are going to be fighting," he continued, referring to the future.

The topic of rape subsequently arose.

"I can't believe it's taken this long [ninety minutes] for the topic of rape to come up," said one student. Some of the other participants angrily dismissed the reports of widespread rape of Bosnian women by Serbian military, believing the use of "strategic rape" to be mostly propaganda. Others disagreed.

Talk of genocide led to comparisons of this central European nightmare with the second World War. A visitor, Jan Wiener, opposed to military intervention by the U.S., reminded those assembled that the German Nazis, "who were very adept in the military sciences," had deployed an enormous number of troops in the same territory and had been unable to occupy it.

"Intervention in Bosnia would be like Vietnam and Afghanistan cubed and squared," he said. "The U.S. has no *raison d'entre*."

Student Leos Rousek, also a Czech national but holding an opposite perspective, drew parallels with World War II as well. He reminded participants of the tragic results of non-intervention by the West in the 1930s. In a "personal plea" for action, Rousek said that the conflict cannot be treated in isolation because it is distracting the Eastern European nations from economic integration and because "the West has a responsibility to enforce the spread of democratic citizen-regimes."

Zoltan Bruckner compared the genocide to the Holocaust, but Rafal Dziemidok suggested that "we should be very cautious with our comparisons to the Second World War. Serbia is no Germany. It doesn't have the same mentality. It's not the same giant."

Professor Sanjib Baruah hoped that students would not accept the "elitist attitude of many Americans that we have patriotism, they have nationalism, and Africans have tribalism." He argued that they should not look for the cause of the conflicts in "long connections with time immemorial." People should instead recognize the links between the eruption of this crisis and the collapse of the international consensus that until recently had opposed the partitioning of national boundaries by ethnic groups.

Professor James Chace asserted that the recent change in international consensus is the result of the collapse of the Western alliance and the simultaneous collapse of any hopes for a united, integrated Europe.

"The rat in the European woodwork is authoritarianism," he said.

Greenberg reminded those present that whatever the outcome of events, America's image of itself has always been dependent upon Europe, and the future there will have importance here.

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Coming attractions!

DeKline to move into coffee shop next semester

It was announced late last week that DeKline, Bard's favorite (and only) student-run cafe intends to merge with the Woods Food Service and the coffee shop as of next semester. We grilled the responsible parties for information, and here's what we found out...

First of all, this was by no means a hostile takeover. Ralph Rogers, head of the Bard and Simon's Rock food services, approached Tami Sloan and Shawn Taylor, the managers of deKline, late last week with a proposal. Rogers wanted them to consider moving deKline into what is now the coffee shop, thereby making it possible to implement many nighttime food-oriented services on campus. The decision was somewhat rushed, as Rogers had a proposal deadline to meet, but deKline agreed.

"Our biggest problem," said Taylor, "was not having enough time to call a staff meeting to see what everybody else thought; we had to decide pretty much on the spot."

This decision will mean big changes for both deKline and the coffee shop. The coffee shop will have a new schedule next semester, closing down at 5 p.m. The space will then undergo a thorough cleaning, and things will be rearranged (tablecloths added, ice cream freezer brought out, lighting changed, etc.) and reopen at 8 p.m. as deKline. DeKline will still be student-controlled, except that in addition to the two student managers, there will be a Woods representative working with them. DeKline will remain a non-smoking space, even though there may still be smoking in the coffee shop in the daytime. The same people will work at deKline, and the same products will be sold, except it will now be run in conjunction with Woods, and there will be the addition of "real food" to the menu. If all goes as planned, the space will be equipped with a television and stereo, and the famed Addams Family pinball machine will be moved into deKline's new home.

"The complaint we get most about deKline is, 'when are you guys gonna start having real food?' and this is really the only way that can become possible," said Sloan, who explained that health code regulations prevent deKline in its current incarnation from serving anything that isn't pre-packaged. In the move to the new space, deKline employees will be re-trained in safety and health codes, as well as in how to use the coffee shop equipment. Among the suggested benefits of the move were: the availibility of fresh fruit and possibly fresh juice, as well as grill and deli items available late into the night; pizza delivery on campus from deKline; sports nights for major sporting events; video movie nights; more room and a better budget for performances.

When we asked about the money deKline makes, we were told that Ralph Rogers has agreed to set aside a percentage of deKline profits to be donated to student organizations, and to bring off-campus performers into deKline, which, in addition to general improvements, is where all the profits have gone in the past. When asked about prices, deKline assured us that products and prices would remain the same except for the new items they would be adding. DeKline employees will also make more per hour than they do now, and there will be more workers hired to staff the larger space. All of this will start around the first week of the fall '93 semester.

When questioned about the possibility that things might not work out for one reason or another, deKline explained that the administration has agreed to reserve the space which deKline now uses for one year. Within that year, Rogers has agreed to allow deKline the option of backing out of the deal and going back to the current arrangement in the basement of the Old Gym. In the meantime, that space will be used as storage for deKline's property, as well as for a student-controlled exhibit space and a rehearsal space for groups performing in the new deKline. The managers of deKline will be responsible for the use of this space.

Is deKline "selling out" to Woods? DeKline's managers respond with a resolute no. Even though they will be "cautious" in setting up policies, the deKline managers expressed the belief that Rogers and Woods have the students' wishes at heart, and that campus life in general will be improved by these changes. Taylor summed up deKline's hopes for the new arrangement, saying wistfully, "Just to be able to get a hamburger and an order of french fries in the middle of the night without driving all the way to Kingston..."

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Rus Funk on white heterosexism

Sean O'Neill Staff Writer

"We live in a society that sanctions rape."

So said social activist Rus Funk to a dozen Bard students in the Kline Committee room last Thursday at a BRAVE-sponsored talk concerning issues of sexual violence. Funk is currently a graduate student as well as a coordinator of the Men's Anti-Rape Resource Center of Washington, D.C. In his talk, he linked the privileging of heterosexual white men in American society with the prevalence of sexual assault.

"Pallocentric masculinity" is the term he used to describe the "white male ideal" of what manhood is. Funk said that the first and most celebrated proof of manhood in our society is "domination of a woman through sex."

"In many of our first sexual experiences," he said, "white men use manipulation to fulfill their images of masculinity." White men are taken in by the "lies consciously created" by our culture "in the locker-room, the bar, [and] the Senate Judiciary Committee."

"We don't have to threaten to rape to use the risk of it to manipulate others," he continued. "Men are obliged to take responsibility and that means to recognize our ability to be responsive ...If we are unhappy with our male representation—people like Rush Limbaugh and Pat Buchanan—we have to distinguish ourselves from them...We must make a world where our male children won't be seen as threats to women."

Funk cited popular culture's adulation of "white, heterosexist men such as Clint Eastwood and Jean Claude Van Damme" as proof of our society's bias against those who do not match the description. Movies such as *Gone With the Wind* and television programs such as *General Hospital* have popular romance plots in which the couple meets through rape, and the female character passively accepts it.

"Rape is too common for each of us not to have some piece in the puzzle," he said. He encouraged people to overcome passivity when others around them portray the domination of women, people of color, homosexuals and bisexuals as amusing.

"These men are not bad or evil people," Funk said of sexual aggressors. "They get their notions from society." Like a substance addiction, he said, men have to be confronted with their action in an "honest, direct and confrontational way."

"For those of you who are white, get over the guilt," he said, connecting racism and homophobia to intransigence on the issue of sexual assault.

In what he called "our sex-phobic culture," we have "not been clear enough about images of sex. Sex is confused with violence and domination. To escape this mentality, Funk recommended asking people who display images that make women objects of male sexual gratification why they do so.

Funk wondered why the Bard administration was not represented at "as critical a discussion as this one." He encouraged students to take responsibility themselves for making their community safe because, by not doing so, assault survivors and potential victims are silenced.

Racism debate

Newspaper dialog leads to panel discussion

Michael Poirier
News Editor

Last Tuesday evening, the Bard Black Students Organization and Students Educating Against Racism conducted a panel discussion concerning the dialogue on race and ethnicity that has been conducted in the *Bard Observer*. The panelists included the various authors of the *Observer* articles, with the exception of Andrew Choung, who was unable to attend.

Ephen Glenn Colter opened the discussion with, "'Am I racist?', my answer to that question is 'am I not black?'...I don't succumb to the white myth of color blindness. There is a highly sophisticated system of racism in this country...People are afraid to talk about racism...As a man, I have to be aware of my position in a 'rapist' society."

Tracey LaGrassa, who wrote as the "arbitrary white person," affirmed that she was "writing only to white people and was representing no one but myself." She continued, "Racism exists because we are living in America. If you are white, you are racist...if you are white, you benefit from the system of oppression...I wasn't trying to pacify my guilt, I was only trying to define 'racism.' I don't feel guilty, I feel different...If you tell someone that their race does not matter, you are insulting them."

Sophia Martin agreed that race is important and that racism exists. She countered that, "Everyone is prejudiced, but not everyone is racist. You can't use the same adjectives that apply to the Ku Klux Klan for every white person. We need new adjectives to qualify racism."

"People don't care enough to change society," argued Dareta Solomon. "Society uses racism to control black people, and you can't see that if you're from the upper class...How can a person of color look at a Caucasian without seeing the society structure? You people won't get together to end oppression, and that will be the downfall of your society. You're gonna pay for it too because you're not standing up for what is right."

"When your perspective is devalued, you are negated," stated James Chang after he characterized the newspaper articles as "truncated, simplistic arguments." "All white people benefit from racism. Oppression helps capitalism to prosper," Chang concluded. "Racism comes from individuals and the institution."

The audience then entered the discussion and the following quotes are only a handful of the statements and issues raised:

"If I do what I can against racism, how am I racist?"

"There is nothing wrong with racism. It just means loving your own race and not necessarily being against another race."

"The fact that white people feel the need to justify their words is proof that something's out there."

"Changing what you call something doesn't really change anything. When you redefine identity through name reduces people to empty words. White people aren't allowed to say the same things that black people can."

Solomon responded to that statement with, "Identification is empowerment. It is our recourse to survive in this society...White people don't need to embrace whiteness. We [black people] have to recognize how we're pitted against each other." La Grassa added that "I can do what I can...When you do everything you can and acknowledge your own racism, then eventually race won't matter anymore."

"Each one of us has slightly different ideas," one audience member said. "Calling someone a 'racist' can be just as offensive as 'nigger' or 'kyke.' We need to define our terms. If you start with a label that is all people will listen to—it's all in the way you say it."

A different audience member countered, "The whole nature of history means that as, white people, we are implicated. The question is how to conduct oneself to undermine the distribution of power."

"White people don't talk to each other," said one participant. "It's all individuals trying to figure out what to do."

Solomon summed up the discussion with this statement, "Society always needs scape-goats...If you don't go out to change the system then you are part of it."

Bard students investigate a sound installation on the Commons Lawn Monday afternoon. "Music Swinging from the Trees" was part of a series of events in Music Program Zero's Spring Festival of Creative Thoughts and Expressions. Today there is a celebration of Catherine Schieve at Brook House; Thursday, a sensory deprivation tank will be installed with trance-inducing music. Don't miss a celebration of Wadada Leo Smith on Friday, followed by Paul Winkler's senior project concert, and on Saturday by the launching of Eric's aquatic installation at Cruger Island. Be there!

Madame the Gypsy Queen's Weekly Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) Although this summer will hold much excitement and exhaustion, you'll have tons-o-fun.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20) Congratulations! You will be the proud new owner of a shiny new day.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) This summer will hold an inimitable joy for you.

Cancer (June 22-July 21) You can look forward to this summer: Madame's crystal ball shows people laughing and dancing.

Leo (July 22-Aug 22) Although you'll work very hard this summer, you'll find satisfaction on a warm sunny day.

Virgo (Aug 23-Sept. 22) You are going to get laid a lot this summer (WHAT!?)

Libra (Sept 23-Oct 23) During this summer you will feel the need to keep balance.

Scorpio (Oct 24-Nov 21) This summer will definitely be a hot one.

Sagittarius (Nov 22-Dec 21) Life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. Are we ever truly happy? You will be this summer.

Capricorn (Dec 22-Jan 19) You ought to consider breaking it off with your sugar-honey. It's better to stay level-headed.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18) For the summer, an independent lifestyle would be best for you.

Pisces (Feb 19-Mar 20) If you haven't seen a sibling of yours recently, you will see him/her this summer. And if you have no siblings, you may get some this summer.

Dead Goat Notes

This column may cause nausea, dizziness, drowsiness. Do not read before operating heavy machinery.

If there's one thing I hate about Bard, it's the rumor mill. There aren't very many and the quality is pretty un-creative. Why can't we do something about that? Anyway, President Leon Botstein made a guest appearance in my dorm the other night, and he sort of acted as a rumor control for us.

Rumor #1- Leonard Jefferies has got a job teaching here.

No, I'm afraid not. Although it would be an interesting way for the administration to sort of thumb their nose at the multi-cultural curriculum by hiring jokers like this, Bard will not hire Dr. J. However, we are hiring Billy Ray Cyrus to fill the vacant position in modern music. Yeeeeeeee-hah. Also, the Drama/Dance department is firing Jean Churchill unless she starts teaching students to country line dancing. The administration is convinced that this is *the* dance craze that is sweeping the nation and does not want Bard to miss out.

Greg Giaccio
Featured Columnist

Rumor #2- Charles P. Stevenson inherited his fortune and is blowing it all on Bard to piss off his parents.

Again, this is wrong. Chuck Stevenson actually made his money the old fashioned way: Gambling. Not in Vegas, however, but in commodities markets. He is blowing this fortune on Bard because Professor Skiff, disguised as Stevenson's dentist, hooked up a subliminal message emitting mind control device in one of his fillings. This summer, Professor Skiff plans to put one in Ross Perot's cowboy boots so we can build the H. Ross Perot Petting Zoo and Mini-Golf Course in the field behind Tewksbury.

Rumor #3- The President has no free time and no leisure activities. He is just a music droid.

Absolutely true. He said so himself, only in different words, and it might have been someone else talking. He said something about loving what he does for a living, but I was eating a doughnut in the middle of it, so I missed exactly what he said. But I do know this: he finished up by saying that MTV was "just dumb."

Rumor #4- Many professors on this campus date their students.

This is sort of true. There is the special case of a certain professor whose name I won't say because he might have me in a class some day, but he frequently dates his students because he suspects they have younger sisters. It is also true that a certain professor in the Literature division grades the love notes sent to her by her student beaux.

Rumor #5- The new library design came to Robert Venturi while he was on acid.

Absolutely, positively, irrefutably wrong. It was a combination of acid and PCP.

Rumor #6- Freemasons are responsible for the French Revolution of 1789.

Although this conspiracy theory has never been disproved, my research shows that it would be safer to say that the institution of Freemasonry in pre-revolutionary France was an indicator of certain trends that did bring about the revolution. For instance, it shows the need of a democratic public space for an exchange of bourgeois idea, which accounts for the involvement of the philosophes.

Rumor #7- The picture on the invitation to the Mènage was a person's armpit, another's butt and an elbow.

Wrong, it was actually a picture of raw poultry magnified 10,000 times.

Rumor #8- The last episode of *Beverly Hills 90210* this season will turn out to be a dream, and next season the cast will wake up to discover that they are really freshman, so that Fox can continue having 25 year old actors playing 18 year old students spending 20 years in high school for the adulation of 13 year old fans.

Actually, in the final episode of *90210*, also known as the "graduation episode," the entire cast will be blown away in a drive-by shooting from rival kids from a South-Central L. A. high school, angry that Dylan beat their polo team in a recent competition. Famous rapper Ice-T will guest star.

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Koch's $7.29/case
British American Soda $5.49/case (cans)

To the community

I want to dedicate this farewell piece to Dr. Ron Hering, a co-founder of the New Warrior network, who, last Saturday, was murdered in Milwaukee. He had been involved in a custody battle with his ex-wife for their four year old daughter, and had been falsely accused of sexually abusing the girl. Saturday afternoon, while he sat with his daughter on the front porch of his ex-wife's home, his ex-wife's father came outside, and, in front of Rachel (Ron's daughter), shot Ron to death, then killed himself. There's some indication that the Grandfather may have been molesting Rachel. Recent studies have shown that as many as one third of child abuse charges against men are questionable, and that 14% are DELIBERATELY FALSIFIED.

Ron was a teacher, mentor, and friend to me, and I loved him dearly. He spent his life giving of himself to people- helping men and women learn to love themselves. He developed much of the psychological theory that the New Warrior and Woman Within trainings are based on. And he was a real guy, too- last March, in a hotel in Allentown, PA, I and about eight or nine other men held him while he cried and wailed out his pain from being kept from seeing his daughter. (You may not be aware of this- but in most states, police are obliged to step in when there is any accusation of sexual abuse- BEFORE any proof is found- which is a good law, but can have bad consequences).

I wanted this piece to be nothing but a farewell, but now that Ron is dead, I need to confront the Bard community with some facts. Last week Bard invited Rus Ervin Funk, a man from a men's anti-rape center in D.C., here to speak. About twelve of us went to the lecture- and we listened to him tell us about how it is a "rite of passage" for all straight white men to: 1. rape a woman, 2. impregnate a woman, 3. dominate children 4. attack homosexuals, 5. be racist- and he made many other equally ridiculous statements. Having never been encouraged to do any of these things, I asked him for proof- and he told me that *Gone with the Wind* was a famous American movie which contained a rape. I then asked him about the consequences for innocent men if his ideas were to be universally accepted— what would happen if a woman lied about sexual abuse charges, rape charges, sexual harassment charges, etc. He said that he would be willing to let men be falsely accused if it would make women more comfortable. With the exception of myself, no one in the room, not even Joan Unger (from BRAVE and the Dean of Students office), took issue with this or anything else this man said.

Ron Hering is dead. Rachel is without her daddy, as are Ron's five sons- and many of us are without a wonderful teacher and leader. I've met guys like Rus Ervin before- men who seem to hate themselves so much they'll do anything to get strokes from women. But I have two reactions to you people who sat in that room letting him use you as sounding boards for his lies. As a man, I know the anguish Ron was suffering from being unable to see his daughter without court supervision, and I can imagine what it felt like for him to be put through some oppurtunistic lawyer's wringer in court. And as a survivor of years of childhood sexual abuse, I worry about the consequences of your silence for those children who truly are being made to suffer through this horror - for by accepting such blatant falsehoods, you are strengthening the argument of that part of society that wants to believe this stuff never happens- that it's all a bunch of kids "crying wolf". I was told I was lying when I tried to go for help when I was abused. I believe that some of you in that room have good intentions- but your naivete is going to hurt innocent men like Ron Hering, as Joe McCarthy did, and it could eventually destroy the credibility of the women and children who truly are being raped and abused- God help you then.

Well, the year is finally over, and I want to say a few farewells.

To the women of this school: The work that I've done this year seems to have wounded many of you, and that was never something I wanted to do. I'm told that I don't see beyond my own perspective, and now that the year is over, I don't mind telling you that that's been intentional. At this school, there are few men who speak from any place resembling a male perspective. They speak your truths; they speak what they think you want to hear them say. I have found my own voice, and though it offends and hurts sometimes, it gets people feeling- and at this school, that's good enough.

There are SOME women at this school whose egos needed deflating- and I have no regrets about having been the one who did that for them. But I also know that there have been times in which things "I've said, done, and written have hurt those of you who are here only to learn, grow, and have fun. Though I don't apologize for my truth, and though I'm not saying that I'm going to stop what I've been doing, I'm truly sorry for the pain it has caused.

I know that many of you don't trust me, but I'll tell you, anyway, that in my own life, and in the lives of so many men I've worked with- it's only when we become comfortable not as androgynous beings, but as MEN, that we find the ability to truly love you women and treat you as our equals. Women are still terribly abused by some men in this society. Yet, I ask you to trust me on this—it is because these men are so WEAK that they want to dominate women—and it will only be when they become STRONGER that they will stop. We certainly need laws to protect you from these men—but if we never begin producing men who are powerful enough to not do these things, all the laws in the world aren't going to help you much. Men need to experience the parts of their souls that are sheerly male— and we need to do some of that alone—but that

continued on page 8

A page of unedited observations by guest writers

Shameless Filler!

There comes a time when a child puts away childish things, and picks up a bottle opener instead. I turned twenty-one last week, and as a result I now feel a kind of oblique pressure on me to enjoy more beer. I've always enjoyed beer when it could be procured for me, either by friends, family, or in exchange for goods and services. But there is some kind of responsibility I feel now that I'm legal; something far more subtle than peer-pressure. I've got the idea that I sould start looking around for what will ineviatbly become "my brand." I hear smokers go through a similar dilemma when they first take up the habit. And I'm feeling this with a strange mixture of wonder and duty. Writing it down like this now, it sounds silly. But it's a-happening.

So join me, won't you, as I take a little excursion into the world of brewed barley beverages. First, let's examine the kind of beers I'd enjoy. I know it's not popular, but I like thicker, darker beers. It's yet another in the large set of things which, while normal to me, are somewhat on the outskirts of acceptability, and earn me some pretty suspicious side glances. Yes, I actually like the taste of beer that's been brewed for character of taste, rather than ease of drinking, quenching of thirst, or blasting of mind. That pretty much eliminates most American beers. But, c'mon, who are we kidding? So few people that I know drink those beers anyway.

I mean, take Budweiser, f'rinstance. Have you seen anyone actually go into a store and head IMMEDIATELY over to Bud, with every intention of buying it over any other brand? So, why can it call itself "the king of beers" when it's so completely lacking in any fine beer qualities? I think Americans drink Bud because they think they're supposed to. The ads keep harping about tradition and such things. Who'd want to break tradition? And, hell, we don't completely understand any of our other traditions, like firecrackers on the fourth, so why should this be any different?

And what's the deal with Michelob lately? They've been losing their share of acceptable drinking times slowly but surely. See, a long time ago, we were told that Weekends Were Made for Michelob. Time passed, and then we found out that The Night Belonged to Michelob. While the actual hour-to-hour ration increased in Michelob's favor, like some Semitic ritual, it was now taboo to consume one before sundown. And just recently, we've been informed that we should drink Michelob because Some Days are Better Than Others. *Some* days?! Why only some? Who decides which ones? What super-conglomerate did Michelob irritate that caused their acceptable drinking times to be revoked? Coors has that area down cold. It's the Right Beer Now, we are told, and that Now can refer to...anytime. Eight am? Need a pick-me-up before the trip to the office? Hey, it's the right beer now!

I'm not even gonna discuss Busch.

However, there are two American beers which make the grade for my tastes. Saranac and Samuel Adams are heavy on quality and light on super-conscious, heavy-handed patriotism. And the stuff's realtively inexpensive. But in comparison, American beer basically doesn't match up to the imported brews. True, there are some putrid overseas brands, but their beer is normally brewed longer and with more care. That's one other reason I enjoy darker beers: The actual process of brewing maked a beer darker, so I associate a darker beer with more care in the brewing process. Of course, some dark beer could just be the stuff that was brewed too long by mistake, but I'll never know.

In which the bud is nipped

And it's just as well, given the new American trend towards clear beverages. Do you realize that Miller is actually going to release a *clear* beer in a few months? It's almost as if they're ashamed of their beer. I suppose, what with Crystal Pepsi, marketers are seeing a trend towards trust in a clear liquid. As far as I know, the only beverages that are supposed to be clear, naturally, are water and birch beer soda. Beer, by its very brewing process, is supposed to become amber or dark brown. Really. Not clear. But Miller thinks people will want to drink a "natural" beer; one that looks like water. I mean real water, not New York City Water. Ya know, it'z thiz kind of thinking that zpawned zomething like Zema.

So, until American beers wise up a little about quality (and start putting cool rebuses under the caps like Ballantine), I'll continue to drink the nectar of our overseas friends. Don't believe the hype! Continue to question the American beer authorities' propaganda! Fight for your right to ask why!

by Matt Gilman

How not to conduct foreign policy

by Gabor Bognar

When pundits before the '92 presidential elections warned that the then President-Wannabe Clinton had no foreign policy experience let alone expertise, they were dismissed with a simple slight of hand: "Partisan bickering."

Now, that it is up to President Clinton to represent the national interests of the United States at the highest diplomatic levels, attention has started to focus on what seems to be a series of early failures.

Clinton has demonstrated tremendous salesmanship during the campaign and in his first three months as president. Somehow he's been able to sell "contributions" (taxes) and "investment" (spending) to the American people.

International diplomacy, unlike American domestic politics, is not a TV game. It is a game of credible threats and counterthreats, where not the opinion polls but perceived national interests dominate. In foreign affairs one does the not convince one's adversary by changing one's opinion day by day, by holding public strategy conferences, or by creating precedents open to misunderstanding that may lead to future conflicts.

It is unfortunate that the new president of the United States does not seem to grasp the fundamental difference betweem domestic politics and international diplomacy.

On the issue of the former Yugoslavia alone, Clinton has made a series of mistakes that will cost many lives—needless to say, not American lives.

Just two weeks ago, Secretary of Defense Les Aspin indicated that the United States was ready to intervene militarily in the Bosnian crisis, with or without help from its European "allies."

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic swiftly signed on to the Vance-Owen peace plan in Athens to indicate his willingness to compromise. But the leader of the Bosnian Serbs, Radovan Karadvic claimed that the self-appointed Bosnian Serb "Parliament" had to ratify such an agreement before it could take effect. Karadzic was supported by Milosevic on this point. The assembly was called together for next week, buying some for time for the Bosnian Serbs. In the meanwhile, the relentless attacks on several Bosnian cities—already on the verge of falling—continued.

Here, President Clinton made his first mistake: Instead of demanding an immediate guarantee from the Bosnian Serbs that they would fulfill the terms of the peace plan they had just signed, he implicitly acknowledged the legitimacy of a puppet assembly by agreeing to wait for their decision.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher soon left for Europe for a final round of consultations. This move signaled to the Bosnian Serbs and their Yugoslav backers that Clinton's talk of an imminent American military intervention was not to be taken seriously, that the US was after all not willing to committ itself militarily without help from Europe.

America's Western European "allies" who had been afraid that the US would announce a unilateral American intervention any day, were just as relieved. Since the end of the Cold War, the EC had become more insistent upon Europe's policy independent from America, indicating that a unified Western Europe, and not the US, would now be the leading power of the continent. In case of a unilateral American intervention the countries of Western Europe would have had no choice but to join the US as a subordinate ally to prevent America from becoming the "savior" in the eyes of Eastern Europeans.

The Bosnian Serbs took advantage of America's hesitancy: After a single day of discussions in Pale, the Bosnian Serb "Parliament" rejected the peace plan, but ordered a referendum of Bosnian Serbs on the issue. The Bosnian Serbs succeeded in buying themselves one more week in the face of seemingly relentless American pressure, because they correctly perceived America's indecisiveness. President Clinton had no choice but to wait for the results of the referendum.

Sensing that the US was not willing to open hostilities against the Bosnian Serbs on its own, the Western Europeans expressed serious doubts to Secretary Christopher regarding the feasibility of intervention.

Soon after the Bosnian Serb "Parliament's" decision to hold a referendum on the peace treaty, the question was put to Clinton, when he would ask Congress' support for an American intervention. Almost teny days had passed since President Clinton suggested that he would give the Bosnian Serbs one more chance for peace, and the press wanted to know if the president was going to keep his word.

Clinton could only respond that the US would not intervene in the Bosnian crisis on its own. Secretary Aspin's false announcement tat America's policy makers mad made up their minds was finally revealed. The threat of a unilateral American intervention in Bosnia-Herzegovina did not succeed in ending the civil war, because both the Bosnian Serbs and the Western Europeans perceived that the US wasn't strongly committed to its announced

continued on page 11

Secretary

As a member of the Student Life Committee, I have been disappointed and frustrated with the lack of organization in the student government this semester. Since I perceive the secretary to be responsible for much of the basic day-to-day business of student government, I believe that it is also the responsibility of the secretary to maintain student government functioning in an organized fashion. The secretary should make sure that the Central Committee meets regularly and that each committee has something tangible to present to the student body at the student forums. When the Central Committee does not meet regularly and the structure of our student government begins to fall into disarray, the student government loses credibility, and members of the student body become disinterested in becoming involved. I would like to reverse this trend.

If I am elected secretary of the Student Association, I will have a very positive impact on the operation of our student government. I can assure you that never again will the constitution have to be waived or an emergency forum declared because signs were not put up about the forum far enough in advance. I am a very organized, efficient person, and I hope to put these qualities to good use in the position of secretary.

Malia Du Mont

Statements for SJB Chair

Statement #1

At the beginning of this semester I had the honor of your support for my candidacy towards a Student Judiciary Board position. Currently the need exists for a new SJB chairperson, as the current chair is graduating this spring. It has come to my knowledge that all of the current SJB positions, except my own, will also soon open for election. To my knowledge, none of the SJB "veterans" are interested in running for the chair's position.

Fortunately, the SJB has not had to convene in the past semester, with the result that I am still relatively unfamiliar with the actual workings of the SJB. I feel obliged to confess my own lack of actual involvement with the implied duties of the SJB, although I have always assumed those responsibilities when called upon. My previous experience with student government has included the position of Student Council President at an International School in India. Wishing to continue similar involvements, I also ran for the SJB twice before being elected.

I remain committed to the SJB as a serious administrative enterprise of the student community; and I also hope that other students feel compelled to step forward to accept the duties of open SJB positions. My interest in the SJB endeavor remains one committed to community justice: one that is unaffected by bias, yet aware of extenuating circumstances.

Hopefully, the community shall remain unblemished by situations that require the SJB's involvement. But recognizing the potential need and importance of the Student Judiciary Board, I submit my name for the position of SJB chairperson.

Thank you for your time and deliberation,

Kapil Gupta

Statement #2

I have been here for less than a year. But my close interaction with the students and administrators have made me familiar. I am affiliated with many clubs and activities. Though currently I am not holding any leadership position, I have been selected a Peer Counselor for the next academic year. I believe I would be an excellent choice for the SJB Chair position because I am responsible, hardworking, dedicated, committed and caring. My close acquaintance with students would help me a lot to perform this job magnanimously and skillfully. My highschool student government affiliation has taught me how to work with a whole variety of students of diverse backgrounds with a great deal of interest and care. With this position, I would be able to demonstrate both my dedication in rendering needed service to the students, as well as my refreshing capacity to take bold initiative for fulfilling their needs.

I always try to eliminate all sorts of discrimination and injustice that surround me. I believe this position would give me a better opportunity to do this. I will leave no stone unturned to help create a very non-discriminating and peaceful environment at Bard.

Thank you,

Mostafizur Rahman Shah Mohammed

Educational Policies Comm.

My name is Renee Cramer, and I'm running for the position of the Education Policies Committee Chair for the 1993-94 school year. I will be a senior, political studies major, and I was EPC Chair this year.

To be honest, I was very frustrated this fall by the very ambiguity of the job. It seemed too simple, too a-political, not, somehow, "enough." I found out that I wasn't really doing my job. Yes, the EPC had meetings once a month, completed the faculty evaluation process, and hung signs at registration. But at the beginning of the second semester, I woke up, and we not only did the previously listed things better and more efficiently, we found other things to get involved in.

Of course, I am referring to the Presidential Commission's Report on the Curriculum.

I'm uncomfortable with "bragging", but I do want to say that I and the eight members of the committee worked very hard to bring the Commission's report to the student body, and student's opinion to the faculty's decisions. I want to continue to be involved, through the EPC, in the ongoing process of curricular reform.

This brings me to the one "educational policy" that is being ignored at Bard. That is, Bard has not been responsive enough to student requests that Bard employ more faculty of color and widen the curriculum in appreciation of cultural diversity and respect of various histories. If I am re-elected, a top priority of the EPC next year will be to meet with the many student groups on campus who have been pressuring the administration to act responsibly, to see how they think the EPC can help.

Since the EPC dose have two seats on the Committee on Vacancies, access to the Faculty Senate, and regular meetings with Dean Levine, it is conceivable that our added commitment could help. It certainly wouldn't hurt, and I am committed to trying.

As always, the EPC will be open to all suggestions for improving academic life at Bard— from something as simple to talking to the library staff about getting quicker access to books in Hoffman (although that won't be a problem next year) to helping student clubs design their own two-credit courses (and anything else you can think of).

When I began chairing the Educationa Policies Committee, the entire group, my self included, was brand new. At times i felt like we were floating. It really is th type of job you need experience for. I hav that experience, and I would like to continu to fulfill EPC responsibilities and furthe student interests next year.

Renee Cramer

Planning Comm.

I would like to announce my intention to fill the vacated office of Planning committee Chairperson. As a member of the planning committee for the past two years, I feel that I have gained the knowledge and experience necessary to function as the chair of the planning committee. Besides my aforementioned experience on the planning committee, I may honestly state that many of the people on this campus know of my steadfast efforts in helping to put together the second budget which was passed in the budget forum earlier this semester. In short, a vote for me is a vote for experience and fair-play in dealings with the planning committee.

Thanks for your Time,
Jeff Rhyne

FORUMFORUMFORUMFORUM

There will be a forum this Thursday, May 20th, at 7:00pm in Kline

Items on the agenda include:
1) Committee reports
2) Elections for the following seats: EPC-8, SJB-5, Student Life-2
3) Resolutions on the BEMS Council and landscaping/construction around Bard
4) Election of a new Film Committee

FORUMFORUMFORUMFORUM

Classifieds and Personals

BICYCLE RECOVERED BY SECURITY. Black Yohata mountain bike recovered by Security from alleged thief early Tuesday morning in Cruger Village. Contact Security office to claim the bicycle and see that justice is served.

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SUBLETS WANTED: If you would like to sublet your apartment or house for the summer to graduate students and faculty, please write down pertinent information and send it through campus mail to the MFA office or call us at X481.

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INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR THE SUMMER! Students that would like to participate in the optional summer enrollment for insurance coverage should fill out the necessay forms and submit them to the STUDENT ACCOUNTS OFFICE, no later than ***May 26, 1993.*** *For further information,* call the Health Service at X-433.

Are you interested in babysitting children of Bard alumni/ae during Commencement Weekend, May 28-30? If so, please contact Teri in the Alumni/ae Office, x406.

SUMMER STORAGE! I am looking for someone to share storage space in Kingston. Only $25 each for the entire summer! PLEASE call Kelly at 752-7538.

Gosh boys n' girls - This is your absolute last chance to hear *totally Nude Radio - after tonight* it'll be bootlegs and hearsay. Tonight 12-2am 540am Wednesday. Hosted by Kat and a gaggle of her minions - We may have a mystery date give away - We'll definately talk about sex - and I promise to pique your interest - ask about poison oak...X374 Don't forget, we're naked under all this music. And momma always told me I had the body for radio.

If all the young laddies were *eatin' at Kline*
You know that I'd serve 'em when they got in line.
If all the young laddies were students at Bard
I'd be their teacher and make the class hard.

And the WINNERS of the Nom-de-plume erotic writing contest are:
First place ($50):
"Jill + Kelly" by Scratch
Second place ($20):
"No romantic intentions" by Stesso Sesso

"that last one messed me up, things look bad, things look *tragic...I keep looking in the mirror*, afraid that I won't be there."

With a distinct lack of lentils, she could not complete Diagram 5.6, "The Cardiovascular Shoe-Lace." Her heart skipped an eyelet...

We're done for the semester. No more late nights on Tuesdays. Hahahahahahahahahahah!

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Warriors continued

continued from page 5

doesn't mean that we want to abandon you or that we think you're unworthy of being among us. It just means that men and women are different—and men need to have time to experience their masculine vitality in their own communities. I suggest to you that the reason "masculine energy,' as I've called it, seems like an unreal concept is because there is so little of it in our culture that most of you have not yet experienced it. I sympathize with your mistrust—and I ask you to trust me. It may be tough for many of you to take this in—but I love each one of you and I look forward to seeing you next fall.

To the men of this school—I know that I've asked a lot of you guys this year. For a man to look at his vulnerable parts is a horror in the safest conditions—to do so in a community that is afraid of manhood is perhaps a bit crazy, and maybe that's what I am.

Men are passionate creatures—our passion is at the center of who we are. I know that in my life, however, from the time I was a boy, I had to spend all the energy I had to build and maintain the defences that got me safely through childhood. With all my energy going into protecting myself, there was never a chance to get to know who it was I was protecting, and by the time I was seventeen or so, I was more of a walking set of walls than a human being. I've spent a long time working on myself and with men, and I know that when a man penetrates his walls, he finds vulnerability, but he also finds an inexhaustible source of passion and vitality.

I want to point out to you guys that by your silence, you have let me speak for you all this year. If I were so naive, I'd be flattered by that, but I know that many of you have reservations about what I do and say. I want to see you begin to articulate your own beliefs. Write what you feel—if I'm full of shit, start saying so. If you agree with some things I say, but have problems with others, say so. I'll still love you if you disagree with me, and believe me, you won't kill me with your anger—you and I are both too powerful for that. My mission is about strengthening men, and that's all its about. Strong men don't just blindly follow some big mouth like me, they come from their own hearts, and they don't apologize. I want to see more of that next year. I love every one of you ugly fuckers, and I look forward to seeing you again next fall.

Peace and Love,
Bruce "White Stag" Kuznicki

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It ain't over 'till it's over...

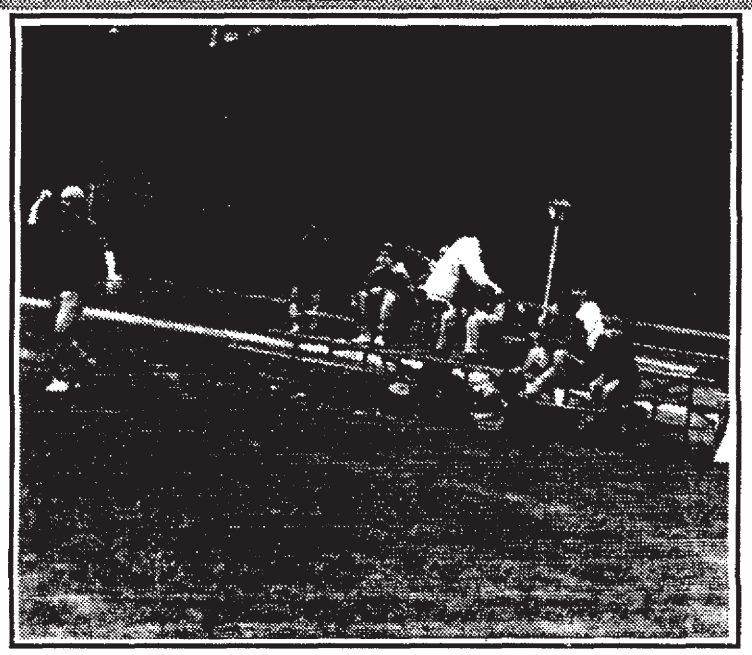
...and it's over

Matthew Silliman
Sports Editor

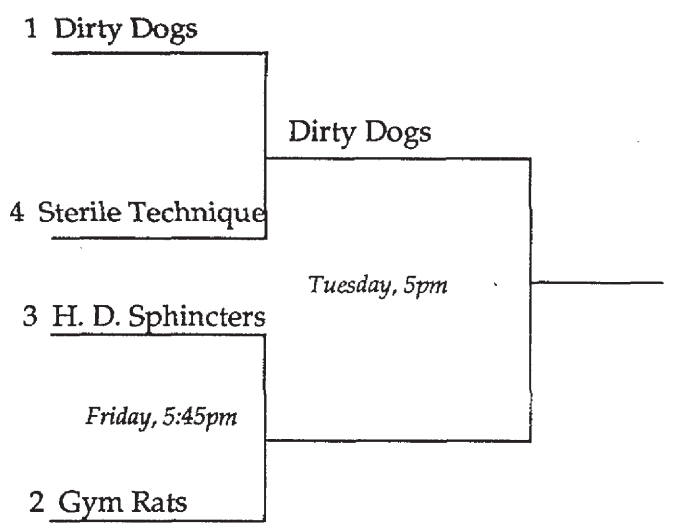
Well, kids, apart from the many tidbits of information you see scattered on this page, there's not much to tell. The tournaments are in full swing, and I won't be around to report the news of the victors. But come on out and cheer on your favorite team, all this week and next at Tewksbury field.

One last bit of important info, however: the Bard lap challenge is over! Fifteen members of the Bard community and local gym members took part from March 17 to May 17, racking up a combined 333.5 miles of water swam! Uh...swum. Maybe swimmed? no....Anyway. The top three finishers all received prizes and certificates to area restaurants and all neat stuff like that. And the big winner was area member Bruce Feuer, who swam no fewer than 105.67 miles all by himself! The rest of the top five included Cara Rodriguez (51.33 miles); top student lapper Rob Cutler (48.25 miles); Malia DuMont (47.93 miles); and Rachel Careau (28.72 miles). Congrats to all who swam their water wings off!

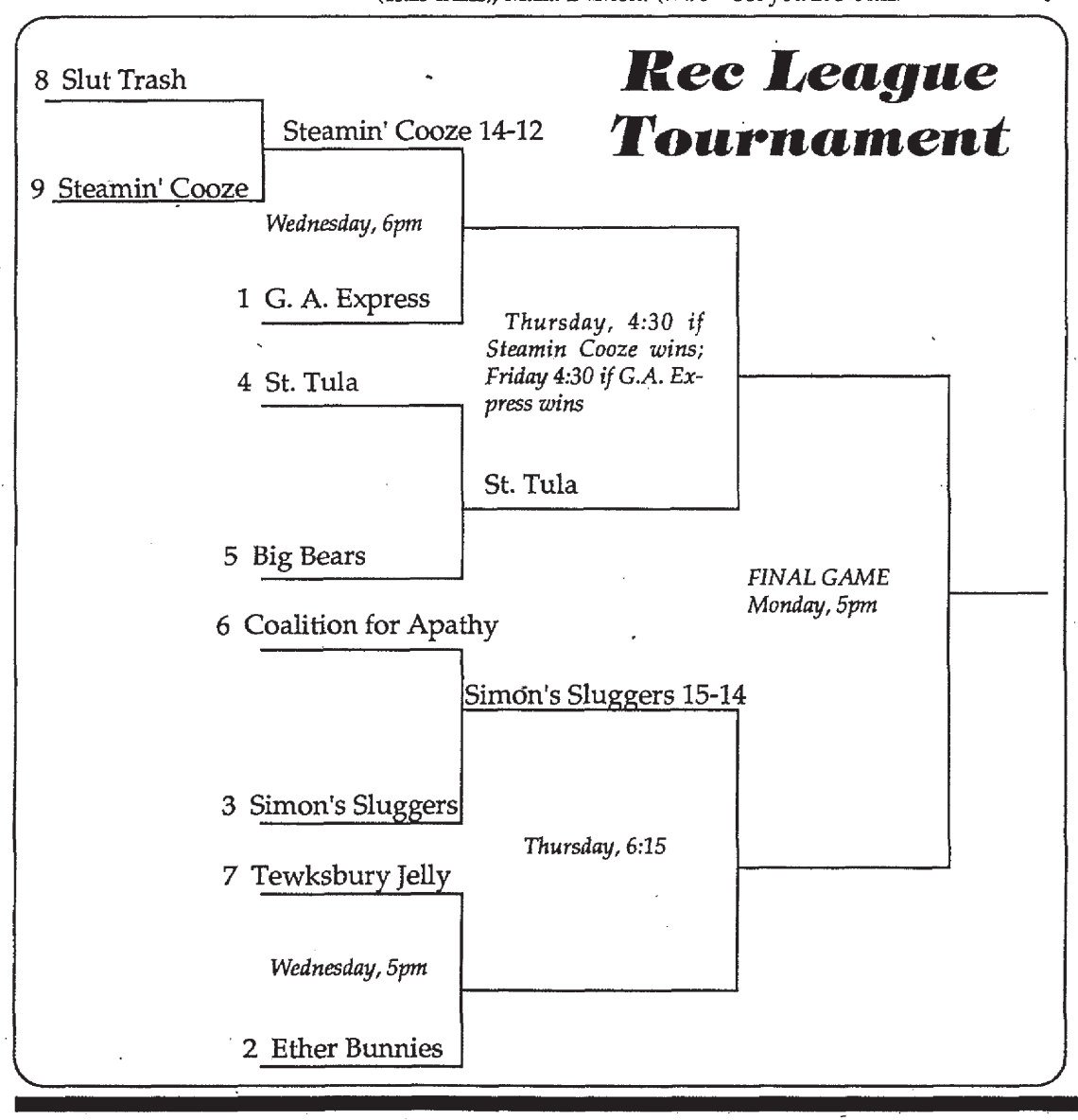
Well, that's all for this year, gang. See you in the fall!



Athletic Division playoffs



Rec League Tournament



Final Standings

Athletic Division	W	L	T
Dirty Dogs	5	0	0
Gym Rats	4	1	0
H. D. Sphincters	3	2	0
Sterile Tech	2	3	0
Black Sox	0	5	0
Ha Ya Dooin	0	5	0

White Division	W	L	T
Ether Bunnies	4	0	0
St. Tula	3	1	0
Tewks Jelly	2	2	0
Yeah, But...	1	3	0
Travesty	0	4	0

Red Division	W	L	T
G.A. Express	4	0	0
Coalition for Apathy	2	2	0
Slut Trash	2	2	0
Them	0	4	0

Black Division	W	L	T
Simon's Sluggers	4	0	0
Big Bears	3	1	0
Steamin' Cooze	2	2	0
Venturi's Damage	0	3	1
Tai Ping Rebellion	0	3	1

Spendthrifts they ain't

by Matthew Apple

At some point during this past week, I got a cute little note in my box from my friends at BAGLE. The note detailed the illustrious history of BAGLE and the contributions it has made to the Bard community and how successful the March on Washington was and how they now owe Bard College a bundle and wouldn't I please write them a check? The note was signed with a big, pre-emptive "THANK YOU."

I was naturally curious about this seeming lack of financial planning on BAGLE's part, so I checked with Treasurer Matt J. Lee to find out what was up. Interestingly enough, he informed me that not only BAGLE but just about every major club on campus has spent too much money, going over their allotments, because the club heads assumed they could simply leech money from the ever-dwindling Emergency Fund. This seems sort of ridiculous. How can a club spend money that it doesn't have? Just because national governments can get away with deficit spending doesn't mean that Bard clubs can.

Bard clubs have been simply financially irresponsible. It's a wonder that the Convocation Fund still exists after all this liposuction. Come on, people, it's basic math. Learn how to balance the checkbooks. Bard students can't be expected to constantly bail out clubs who can't figure out how to plan ahead. I suggest the Planning Committee deduct the "emergency funds" from clubs' Fall allocations; otherwise, students may need pretty large buckets to bail out the Convocation Fund next year.

Bard's Computer Age

Dear Editor,

Speaking on behalf of the college and for those responsible for the development and support of academic computing, we generally agree with the student forum resolution which calls on the college to provide the Bard community with access to "Internet" resources. The college is currently constucting the infrastructure through which information resources both on and off of campus will be made available. Broader access to the systems (including Internet) will be possible in the upcoming academic year; we'll have a better sense of the schedule by the end of the summer.

We can see the evidence of the infrastructure work all around us: the construction of the Stevenson wing of the library; the expansion of the Henderson Computer Resources Center; the establishment of an automated card catalogue system; significant growth in both the quantity and quality of computers on campus; the acquisition of a new administrative system; and the connection of Bard as a node in the Internet system.

The two biggest remaining projects will be addressed this summer: installing a large file-server and mail-server computr to support student accounts, and continuing the campus-wide wiring project to interconnect the resources. The benefits extend well beyond access to electronic mail. While e-mail is quite useful, it is not the major reason for the construction of these systems. Information resources are now available well beyond the bounds of a single room, building, campus, state, or even country.

Bard is engaged in several exciting new projects which would be inconceivable without this infrastructure: Jeffrey Katz is working on a plan to mutually share library resources with those of several other institutions; Bruce Chilton has proposed an electronic database of biblical writings, governed by a board of scholars, which would be based at Bard; Robert Kelly is now gearing up an electronic journal for Internet distribution; Paul Connolly has offered to organize an electronic discussion group on issures raised in the Writing and Thinking program; Chris Lindner is attempting to organize the data from the Grouse Bluff excavation to support access from around the world to a Hudson Valley dig site.

In the interim period, students who require access to electronic mail have several other otions. There are commercial enterprises which provide varying levels of e-mail and Internet access for a fee: Compuserve, Prodigy, Delphi, MCI, Performance Systems International, and others. I can provide phone numbers for these services to anyone who is interested. You might also contact the Bard Bulletin Board Club, which spent a good portion of this year setting up e-mail and bulletin board access for students.

In closing, I would like to encourage those of you with ideas as to how these resources could be used creatively in our campus culture to write them up and talk to us about them--this is exciting stuff, and is not limited just to "techies."

Michael Lewis,
Director of Computer Education

The cat's meow

Dear Editor,

I'm a cat owner. Yes, I admit it; the heinous crime of housing a feline rests upon my weary shoulders. Thank God I was stopped before I could continue on my way-ward path. And thank you, Gladys, for setting me on the road to righteousness. The threat of a five thousand dollar fine was a big help, when I so thoughtlessly tried to reclaim my cat after your big January Cat-Roundup (gross net: one cat). I'm certainly glad that you didn't put up warning notices, before or after your mission; it would have ruined the suspense and challenge of finding out just what exactly happened. It was also interesting trying to get my cat back from the Bard employee who wanted to keep her, because his baby daughter drooled happily over this feline. And of course who could forget your kind concession of imposing thirty-five hours of community sevice and five articles to be written for the Bard Observer, instead of the five thousand dollar penance. And all during my second semester as a senior, working on my project. God bless.

Of course, what does give me a twinge of anxiety concerns the two other students whom our esteemed Dean of Housing found harboring animals. (Actually, there may be more criminals sharing my fate; Gladys certainly didn't go overboard to point them out to me.) Their punishment? Why, nothing in the slightest. A gentle, chuckling slap on the wrists, an admonition not to do it again.

Shelley told me that our punishments were inconsistent because my cat was found over the January break, and therefore was assumed to be abandoned. Never mind that I lived and worked on campus over the intercession, or that there was no effort made by the administration to locate her owner.

I don't mind being punished; I'm willing to pay the consequences, though I think that this whole escapade was unnecessary and ridiculous. I even understand that it's tough for the administrators to accept a position of allowing pets for students. I've heard too many horror stories of abandoned or abused pets not to grimace and be disgusted at the behavior of my peers. I do want to point out, though, that there are students out there who truly love and care for their pets; devotion or entitlement to a pet doesn't come with a college degree or an age requirement.

My objection here is that I was disciplined with a vengence for something, that in the whole scheme of things here at Bard, is pretty tame. Geez, I shudder to think what would have happened if I had burned a hole in the carpet. I also find it frightening to discover no real, stringent guidelines for administrators in doling out their judicial punishments; that people like our Dean of Housing can bequeath fines with reckless abandon and according to her own personal likes and dislikes, grudges and vendettas. The lack of sentencing consistency between crimes so simliar that they appear identical is not only unjust, but also unprofessional from someone in a position of power.

Regardless, my reparation was reduced to a measly fifteen hours of community service, most of which entailed standing around power-washing carpets, and the writing of this article. My cat now resides in Rhinecliff until I graduate. Let this be a warning to you, cat-lovers. Bard can be a down-right unfriendly place sometimes. Hopefully I'll see you at graduation.

Martin Jacobi

ISO coverage faulty

To the Editor,

This is in response to the article printed in the previous issue regarding the International Students Organization Cultural Show. The entire article was reported in a condescending manner and undermined the efforts of the prformers (at least those performances which were acknowledged in the article). Firstly, if the 'journalists' intent is to give a critical review of the show, then please do some background research about the events and report them, as any competent newspaper would do. Furthermore, the 'journalist' reported copious (and inaccurate) details about certain events totally disregarding other performances. Let us give you some journalistic and writing tips: If you are going to describe certain events then introduce these details without excluding the other events. For example: "Some excerpts from the show were..." or "To highlight a few events..." This way you do not disregard the efforts and talents of the other performers. Secondly, the article failed to capture the atmosphere created by the show. If the *Observer* staff realizes their incomptentence in the area of journalism, then the least you could have done is to ask an ISO member to write the article. Thirdly, if the 'journalist' is in doubt of any factual information PLEASE ASK! *We are more than happy to help you.*

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the many areas in which the 'journalist' both insulted and offended the performers: Firstly, when describing the Greek dance you write the following; "The dance was slow in which the dancers snapped their fingers and turned simultaneously." These performers are not circus clowns who were taught a new trick. If you cannot capture the essence of the dance and are unable to describe the movements in a respectful manner PLEASE DO NOT bother. You only succeed to offend the performers and prove your incompetence. Secondly, when describing Bhanumathi Patil's piece you say; "...which was a classical interclass piece." What is that supposed to insinuate? Furthermore, you say that she makes a blessing. I would like to educate you on your poor choice of words, one does not make a blessing. Rather one ASKs for a blessing! Also you say her garmet (which by the way should be referred to as either a sari or a costume) "...gave flavor to the piece." For God's sake, she was not conducting a cooking class! Thirdly, when describing Judy Cook's performance you say, "Though this performance was not as authentic as the previous ones,..." Just exactly what are you trying to insinuate? We would like to remind you that the ISO *is not color-coded and that British* culture deserves as much respect as any other. Furthermore, you report wrong information about the dance performed by the South Asians. Again I beg of you not to report false information, it really reflects the pathetic quality of both your journalistic skills and that of the newspaper for which you work.

We could go on forever, but we think the point of this exercise is to highlight the condescending and pathetic reporting that was done on the ISO Culture Show. If the *Observer* still fails to see the pathetic quality of this article then we ask that your newspaper NEVER report anything the ISO does for the community in the future. We would also like the *Observer* to apolgize to the ISO and those performers whose performances were unfortunately described in such a condescending and ignorant manner and for printing this article. We are disgusted that the Observer lowered its standards and produced such unprofessional and amateurish work.

Thank you,
concerned members of the ISO

Any member of a club who wishes to report on that club's activities is always welcome to write an article and send it to the Observer *via campus mail.*—ed.

Mistakes were made

Dear Editor:

Though I very much appreciate the work you and your staff have done to help me publish my ideas this year, I need to publicly register a complaint. Though most everything I've published this year has come onto the pages of the *Observer* perfectly, last week, both my letter and my article were majorly screwed up. As I showed you, entire lines were left out; pertinent words were misspelled, which gave sentences entirely new meanings; and in two places, words were added that were nowhere in my manuscripts. I realize that what I gave you was single spaced, but so has everything else I've written this year, and as I said, until now, everything's been perfect.

That kind of carelessness is unacceptable for any article that a person takes the time to write, but from my personal point of view, I have spent an entire year writing about men's work for this community, and I wanted what I wrote last week to be clearer. Not only that, but the stuff I write about is emotionally charged for quite a few people. I realize that I take my own risks when I engage the anger of segments of this community—so I spend hours at my computer until I'm sure there's nothing malicious in my work. It's of the utmost importance that what I write appear as I give it to you- for clarity, and also so that if I get punched in the mouth by some angry man or woman, it'll be for of what I believe, and not for what your typists think I believe.

All that said, I thank you and your staff for your willingness to publish my work this year. It means a lot to me to know that I can take unpopular ideas to your paper and have them printed. I've seen the work you and your people put into doing what you do, and I value and admire you to no end.

Thanks buddy,
Bruce Kuznicki

We humbly apologize for the omissions. We will be more careful in the future.—ed.

This is our last issue of the Spring '93 semester.

Special congrats to Seniors Olivier, David, Emily, Matt, Jason, Betsy, Roger, Caitlin, Farasat, Dean, Cathy and Javed.

See the rest of you in fall '93!

Policies continued

continued from page 6

policy.

The key to a successful foreign policy is decisiveness. Not quickness of action—although speed is always important—but unyielding firmness. If America wants to maintain its position as the undisputed leader of the free world, its policymakers should stop accomodating the wishes of lesser powers, and start behaving as if the US were really the superpower it claims to be.

Arbitrary ethnicities

Dear Zoltan,

In response to your article "Going to war for what?" in the *Observer* of May 14, 1993, we would like to point out a grave error in regard to the "silent ethnic cleansing" of Tamils in Shri Lanka.

Firstly, we would like to ask you if the facts that you assume can be substantiated with evidence. Secondly, if you had done more research on this particular subject, you would find that representation in the parliament of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Shri Lanka, is based on district population percentages. For example, the Sinhalese in Colombo have majority representation in that district while in Jaffna, the Tamils are the majority.

Also, the current separatist war is a CIVIL WAR and not an ETHNIC WAR: It is one between the Tamil Tigers Guerrilla group and the government and the people of Shri Lanka (which include the rest of the Tamil population, the Sinhalese, Muslims, Burghers, and Malays).

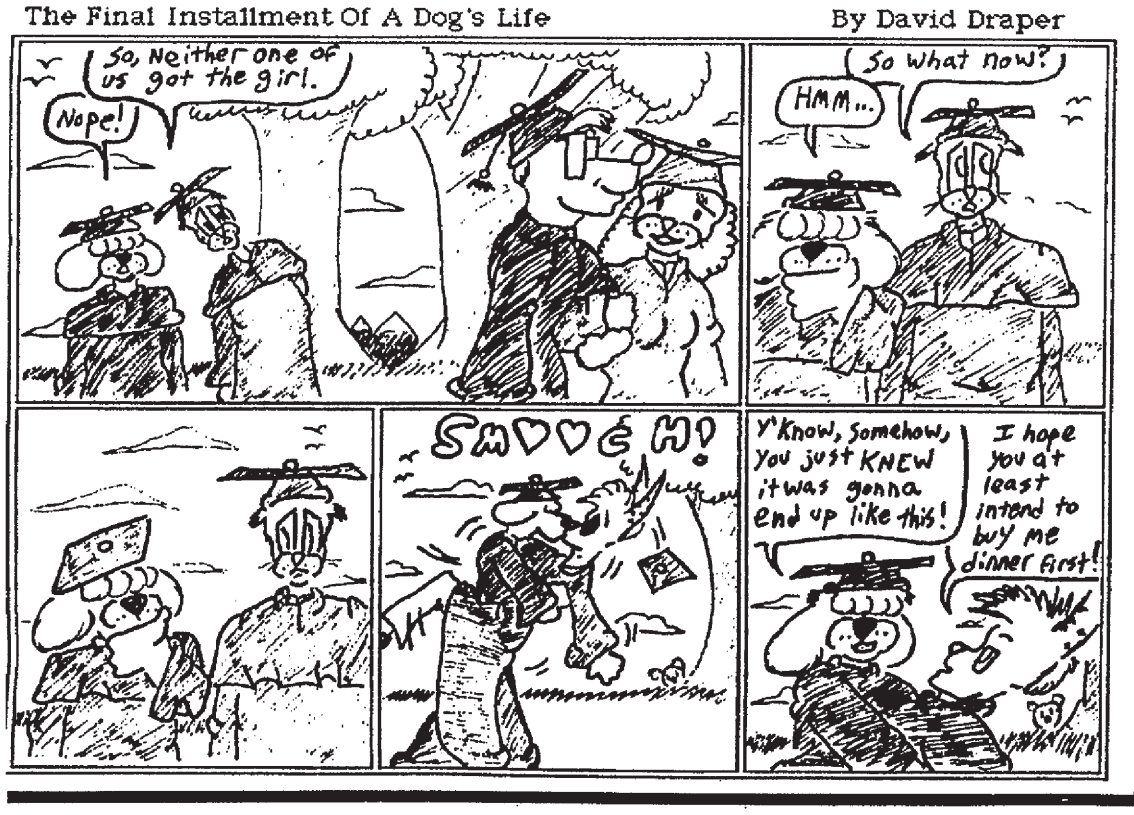
In conclusion, we ask that, in future, you do not offend the people of other nations in the process of picking arbitrary examples to support your arguments.

Anouk Breckenridge,
Rashid Doole,
Damnath De Tissera.
Rajive Jayawardhane,
Santushi Kuruppu and
Satya "Sam" Rodrigo.

Though we at the Observer *are always happy to receive letters from the Bard community, we ask that from now on letter writers refrain from addressing individual writers and instead address all letters to the Editor. Thank you.* —ed.

The Bard Side by Sean O'Neill

The Final Installment Of A Dog's Life By David Draper



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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.
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BARD CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE — MAY 19 TO MAY 26 ★ 1993

What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

★ WEDNESDAY. MAY 19 ★

★ **German Table In Kline's College Room 5:30p.**

★ **Table Francaise:** Berets et baguettes required. **Kline's President Room 5:30-6:30p.**

★ **Lecture on Russia and Homosexuality.** Professor Laura Engelstein of Princeton University will give a lecture entitled "Homosexuality and the Law in Early Soviet Russia.". **Olin 102, 8p.** Sponsored by the Gender Studies Program, the History Department and the Russian/Eurasian Studies Club.

★ **ALANON/ACOA.** An anonymous program for persons who grew up in an alcoholic family. **Third Floor of Aspinwall, 8:30-9:30p.**

★ THURSDAY. MAY 20 ★

★ **Tavola Italiana:** Conversation **4:30-5:30p.;** Italian Table **5:30-6:30 in Kline's Presidents' Room.**

★ **Russian Table In Kline's College Room, 5p-6:30p.**

★ **SMACES Meeting.** Sexual Minorities Aligned for Community Education and Support will meet each week **at 7:30p in the Club Room in the Old Gym.**

★ **Student Forum.** It's election time again! Show up and do your civic duty. **at 8p in Albee Social.**

★ **Dance Theater II.** Watch the Dance students strut their stuff **at the Scene Shop Theater at 8p.** This dance concert will run until May 24.

★ **Alice in Wonderland.** Adapted and directed by Jessica Allen Hall, this play will be **in the Scene Shop Theater at 10p.** The play will run until May 24.

★ **Riot Documentary.** Produced by two Bard Alumni, *112th and Central: Through the Eyes of Children* is about the L.A. Riots from the children's point of view. **In Olin Auditorium 11p.**

★ FRIDAY. MAY 21 ★

★ **Student Book Exchange.** Bring your old books, art supplies and other stuffto sell, buy and swap. It will save you $ and is a good alternative to the evil Bookstore. **Kline Patio, 12-2p.** If it rains, go to the Old Gym instead.

★ **Body Image Group Meeting upstairs in the Student Center, 5:30p.**

★ **Let's Plant!** All are welcome. We have seeds and plants. **Corner of Ravine and Blithewood Roads,3:30p.** Hope to see you there!

★ **Poetry, dance and drumming.** Alan West, Cuban-American poet, will read bi-lingual poetry. Leslie Boyce will perform African Dance to the accompaniment of Anne Marie Mejia and Steve Silverman's Afro-Cuban drumming. **Bard Hall,7:30p.**

★ **Student Center Movies!** See the film *The Graduate* and reflect upon your future situation in this Dustin Hoffman flick. **Old Gym, 7:30p and 9:30p.**

★ **Come to the "teach-in" outside of Olin.** Show your support for Multidisciplinary Ethnic Studies**. All day Friday.**

★ SATURDAY. MAY 22 ★

★ **Shuttle to New York** See the glory that is Grand Central Station. **Van leaves from behind Kline at 10p. Returns at 7p.** Limit nine people. Sign up in Dean of Students Office. Cost is $2. This is the last shuttle this semester.

★ **Anthropology Lecture.** Gerald Sider, Professor of Anthroplogy, will give a lecture entitled "The Political Economies of Hegemony: Silences and Commerations." **Olin 102 at 2p.**

Have a nifty summer!

★ SUNDAY. MAY 23 ★

★ **Learn Chapel tunes.** Spiritual fulfillment through song. **Bard Chapel at 6-7p.**

★ **Non-denominational service.** Join in worship with your fellow theists. **Bard Chapel at 7-7:30p.**

★ **Student Center Movies!** See *La Dolce Vita*. directed by Frederico Fellini. **Old Gym, 7p for non-smokers and 9p for smokers.**

★ MONDAY. MAY 24 ★

★ **BAGLE Meeting.** Bisexuals, Activists, Gays, Lesbians, Et. al. will meet each week **at 7p in the Club Room in the Old Gym.**

★ **Spanish Cinema** with English subtitles. Ven a ver peliculas en espanol todos los lunes en **Olin 309 at 7p.**

★ **Forum on Bosnia** The students in the International Education Program will present a forum on the topic "Bosnia: Nationalism Gone Awry." **Olin 205 at 7p.**

★ **ACOA Meeting.** Adult Children of Alcoholics meets **In Red Hook, 50 South Broadway at 8p.** Contact Jeff Huang at ext. 539 in the Career Development Office for more information.

★ TUESDAY. MAY 25 ★

★ **Christian Fellowship Meeting.** Bible study, prayer and spiritual nourishment. **In the Bard Chapel, 7:30p.**

★ **Electro-Acoustic Music.** fromColumbia University, from Richard Teitelbaums's Electronic Studio, and from the MPZ Cybernetics Laboratory. **From 1:30p on, in various places around the campus.**

★ **Speaker on music** "Women's Voices in Technologically Based Art, Gender Issues in Computer Music. **8p, Brook House..**

★ WEDNESDAY. MAY 26 ★

★ **German Table In Kline's College Room 5:30p.**

★ **La Table Francaise:** Berets et baguettes required. **Kline's President Room 5:30-6:30p.**

★ **ALANON/ACOA.** An anonymous program for persons who grew up in an alcoholic family. **Third floor of Aspinwall, 8:30-9:30p.**

SHUTTLE VAN SCHEDULE

FRIDAY:

Rhinecliff:	Leave at 7:05p. for the 7:41p. train
Poughkeepsie:	Leave at 6p. for the 7:18p. train

SATURDAY:

Rhinecliff, Rhinebeck, Red Hook and Tivoli: Leave at 10a., return at 2p.

Hudson Valley Mall: Leave at 5:45p., return at 10p.

SUNDAY:

Rhinecliff:	Meet 6:05p, 8:15p and 10:29p trains
Poughkeepsie:	Meet the 7:38 train
Church:	Leave at 9:45a, return at noon. (St. John's)

Meet all Shuttles behind Kline Commons