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Calendar
NEW YORK STATE SENATOR DANIEL P. MOYNIHAN SPEAKS AT BILTHWOOD

“How we stand
Levy conference addresses current economical concerns

Saturday concluded a two day conference at the Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College. The conference was entitled ‘Restoring America’s Economic Growth and International Competitiveness.’

The conference, intended to provide an open exchange of ideas concerning economic policy, included several prominent members of business, economics and government, most notably Saturday’s opening speaker, New York’s Honorable Daniel P. Moynihan, U.S. Senate.

Senator Moynihan, who said “this is not about economics, this is about politics,” spoke about both present and past states of the economy and how these were and could be affected by fiscal policy. Of Bush, Moynihan said, “what Reagan got away with, he did not get away with.” Of Clinton’s NAFTA policy, he said, “people [when they have or are about to lose their jobs] don’t feel like hearing ‘well I’ll think of something this’ll be good for you in the long run…’ he’ll have to figure out how to do this without spending any money because he doesn’t have any money to spend…”

In short, Moynihan implied that the federal government is broke because after so many years of trying to create a deficit, the deficit has gotten out of hand and suggested that “we need a little peace and quiet, need to figure out how to pay our bills.” When the government becomes too big and politics becomes too important, “they think of new programs without realizing that they can’t pay for them,” said Moynihan. In reference to Clinton’s proposed Health Care program, for example, he said that Clinton claims that the program can be installed with zero growth; “if you believe that, then you believe in our program.”

On the same subject, later speaker, Mr. Paul Huard (Senior Vice President, National Association of Manufacturers) remarked that to believe that the Health Care plan will cause business costs to go down, “is to believe not only in Santa Claus, but also in the Easter Bunny and the Tooth Fairy.” Anybody who thinks this legislation will be a benefit to business, he said, must believe in “smoking controlled substances.” Huard believes that, although many feel that life is priceless and it shouldn’t matter how much it costs, coming up with outrageously expensive regulations will “make our economy about as vibrant as the Soviet Union’s economy is right now.”

Moynihan, too, seemed to state that our country is experiencing “fiscal drag.” Economic policy, he said, has “destroyed the effectiveness of the U.S. government,” and we’re left with a deficit that’s never going away. The deficit, however, is not the only problem; American attitude is at stake as well. Education, for instance, was once considered a capital investment and is today called by many a debt. A member of the audience suggested that “unless we become more rational, we’re going to go bankrupt.” To this, Moynihan replied, “brute logic won’t work…we’re already broke.” He earlier admitted, however, that families are at their wits end trying to pay education bills. When asked about Bard’s tuition, President Leon Botstein said, “I can’t count that high,” but explained that very few pay the full amount anyhow.
Off the Beat

New York State Law Cancels Foot Patrol

Two weeks ago, Assistant Dean of Students Jeff Huang finished typing the \textit{eagerly}-awaited \textit{Stu-}
\textit{dent Foot Pa-}
\textit{tro}. The Foot Patrol had been initiated by two students and, with approximately sixty volunteers, was preparing for upcoming training ses-
tions in order to begin patrolling the campus by the end of the month. However, after a meeting with the Acting Director of Safety and Security, Kim Squillace, and the Assistant to the Executive Vice-President, Jim Brudvig, Huang realized that an upcoming New York State law had sud-
denly made the Patrol impossible.

"This legislation just puts a line through everyone’s plans," commented Huang in an interview last Friday. "It came at exactly the right time to cancel out the Foot Patrol."

As Huang explained, the legisla-
tion is a revision undertaken by the Governor’s Security Guard Advis-
sory Council upon the Security Guard Act of 1992. Due in part to pressure from the Security Guard Contract Industry, a lobbying group for registered security guards, the definition of what constitutes a guard will be broadened to include virtually anyone acting in a security-minded capacity. To prevent people from walking off the street and acting as security guards, and to protect the jobs of current guards from cheaper and unskilled competition, anyone working in a security position will have to meet the same requirements as officially registered guards.

For the Foot Patrol, this means that if a student volunteer would have to go through eight hours of state approved pre-job training, a fingerprint and criminal record check, fourteen hours of on-the-job training, and eight hours of re-training each year. In essence, students would have to receive the same training as any other security guard. Huang confirmed that this would amount to a cost in time and money that the College, and volunteers, could not meet.

"It’s really frustrating to see how people have worked so hard, and then this comes along," said Huang. "Before coming to Bard, I had trained student patrol at LeMoyne University. He explained that other colleges in the state, particularly those in New York City which rely heavily on student patrols, are going to be hard pressed by these new requirements. Vanass, for example, has about twenty work-study student patrol members whose jobs are going to vanish in the near future.

"It’s a shame they didn’t take the college environment into account when they made this law," said Squillace. "This really put the squash on some of our programs." She commented that the legislation was pushed in part to promote business for private security firms. Two private firms have already contacted her to offer their services at Bard to "avoid the hassle of training new guards."

Squillace did say that there were some advantages to the new legisla-
tion. "Other universities have had problems with unregistered guards," she explained. "Some of them probably had folks working on the staff. We went on to confirm that the current security staff will have no prob-
lems meeting the stricter require-
ments. "It will be business as usual for us," she said.

The Corporation of Independent Colleges and Universities has used their lawyers to try and lessen the restrictions on student guards, if it alleviate them entirely. According to Elizabeth VanVleet, General Counsel for the CICU, the Council has dete-
mined that the Act will not apply to those whose jobs are not primarily security minded. If that determination is made, less than 50% of their job time concen-

pered with security, they will not fall under the law’s jurisdiction. There-
fore, resident directors and other stu-
dent jobs will not be subjected to the regulations. However, even if the Foot Patrol was redefined as an "escort service," the volunteers would still be subject to the regulations by acting as "bodyguards."

As the final legislation is prepared to go into effect on January 1st, the Foot Patrol has been placed on indefi-
nite hold.

November 17, 1993

Classifieds & personals

I need a ride to Southern WV or anywhere therafor. I'll help with gas, tolls, driving, etc. Won't need a ride back. Contact: Mary (752-7625).

Thanksgiving: I'm going to Durham, in Southern New Hampshire - leaving Weds., re-

Do you need someone to look after your baby, feed your cat/dog, shovel the snow in your driveway, organize your computer files, wash your car, cook for your guests or edit your memoirs? Second half of Decem-
ber & all of January. I'm here to do all this & more. Call Zolton at (914) 752-7518 or 341-9448.

Need a ride for Thanksgiving to Jamestown, N.Y. Will take a ride to Buffalo, Rochester, Binghamton, Cleveland, Erie, P.A. Anywhere in that direction! Deirdre Box 379 752-7074.

Horseback Riding Lessons in Tivoli, N.Y. Indoor ring, $20/half hour. Call Jorge at 757-4400 or Michelle at (203) 845-0869.

N E E D E D — 3 People to take part in an American Red Cross First Aid Class. $20 and 6:11/2 hours on Sunday the 21st are all you need! Contact: Will Hazen A.S.A.P. Box 880 757-7310.

Please Please Please Let me whip you! My leather goods are still in a state of lost-edness and that leaves me in a state of sad-
ness. If you found my whip at the Halloween Ball at Manor, I would be greatly gratified if it were to find its way home to mommy. Love and lashes, Stephy Box 693 752-7300.

Help Wanted! Children's Entertainment Agency Now Hiring local talented, reliable & energetic people. Excellent pay. Must have a car. (914) 758-6084.

The international students office is planning a "Buddy System" for international students at Bard. Volunteers are needed from U.S. citizens only. Must be a full-time Bard student. If you are interested in being a friend to an international student, please contact Christie Achebe, 758-6828 ext. 283, Box 174.

Attention Bard Clothing fans! The coolest idea in clothes since the invention of the elastic legging! Hydrowear underclothes, the only boxers that appear when wet! You might have trouble locating them in your room, but just wait for that big pool party! Another Pleasant Pleasant Peasant product.

Warm, easyswinging male looks for female to share rainy nights, walks in the woods, closeness and companionship — write to box 970.

Machine for Making Sense—5 of Australia's Most Interesting sound artists will be performing in Bard Hall at 8pm on Tues., Novem-
ber 30th. Sponsored by the Australian Council & the Bard Music Department.

DANCE for the Right Thing! A.I.E.S. DANCE-A-
THEON November 20, 1993

Javitz Center, NYC

Transportation provided by the Dean of Students office (sign up encouraged due to limited seating)

Van leaves at 3pm behind Kline

Students must be sponsored in order to enter.

For more information contact Eric Hoffman 752-7071.

UPSTATE FILMS

RHEINBECK

BARAKA Thurs, 7:00 & 9:00, last shows

Fri - Wed (Nov 19-24), 7:00 & 9:15 (closed Thanksgiving)

Dazed and Confused

"The Most Silly Funny and Dead-On Portraits of American Teenage Life Ever Made" — Owen Garvin, Entertainment Weekly

"The Ultimate Party Movie, Socially Irresponsible & Totally Irresistible" — Peter Travers, LOLLIE SPOON

Mae West & Cary Grant in a risque pre-code Hollywood ode to pulchritude & double entendre

ADMISSION: $5.50 or $3 for Members

Submissions for the Dec.1st issue must be turned in by: November 26th.

There will not be an Observer next week.
The BARD OBSERVER

November 17, 1993

Features

The Lessons of Bhopal

You didn’t have to attend Sanjay Hazarekar’s seminar about the 1984 Union Carbide chemical accident in the Indian city of Bhopal to suspect that the inadequate safety features at industrial plants that produce poisonous-by-products in creating pesticides, paints, or other substances have gone largely unaltered in the time after the tragedy. One lesson of Bhopal is that government and business regularly fail to live up to their obligations — a fact that no one who attended the meeting had to get a PhD or travel abroad to discover — but that in Bhopal it was 250,000 more residents in the time since the disaster, and that people endure and need jobs and need industry. According to the International Labor Organization, the number of job seekers in Asia, Latin America, and Africa rises by 38 million each year, and more than 700 million people will become job seekers (at the legal working age) in the next two decades.

Everyone at the talk presumably opposed the destruction of human life in the pursuit of monetary profit through the taking of unnecessary risks, as in the case of the Bhopal accident. Yet some people in the audience expressed hesitation with the legal incidents, with the number of rapes of women there were, and how successfully revenge was extracted from advanced-capitalist nations. Where we are at the moment knowing that a government elected through pro-business sentiment will favor the interests of business, just as a newly-titled professor will have a world view that is consistent with that of the faculty that selected him or her.

Some noted the power differential in the global marketplace — that those who have the money can get the impoverished to follow their orders. The factories in Bhopal are just the hundreds of thousands functioning every day in the developing nations of our world, as the multinational corporations based in advanced-capitalist nations decide what industries they consider to be deserving of investment and place them in “Third World” cities, regardless of whether the cities will consume the product. Although everyone knows that for capitalism to consume millions of new workers it needs to have more consumers, the vast majority of the five billion people on the planet do not, indeed, cannot, consume what the marketplace produces. The factory in Bhopal creating the chemicals for pesticides and other substances on which the majority of the residents of Bhopal could not afford to purchase in large amounts for increased food production. When a poisonous gas cloud escaped from it, 1600 people suffered dreadfully deaths in the first few days, and 4000 have died in subsequent years. Over a hundred thousand people were affected.

A Catastrophic Event

Hazarekar discussed the Bhopal accident for The Times, and whose reporting won the publisher’s award for that year. He also wrote a book entitled “Bhopal: Lessons of the Tragedy.”

“In a broader sense,” he said, “I think journalists… have been one of the most honest, courageous, and brave people on this earth over the years, particularly for me in the Indian subcontinent. We cover civil and religious strife, social reform and social decay, emerging nations’ conflicts, crackdowns, assassinations, elections, environmental consciousness and ecological destruction. Now there are many events which have moved me personally in the coverage of these events. Because whatever you think of journalists, they are very human. We are perhaps a very cynical breed, but this cynicism comes from a very close observation of the human condition, and of the brutality that people inflict on each other. For me, Bhopal stands out among the events I’ve seen.”

Mr. Hazarekar explained that the process that Union Carbide used to obtain its variance on cyanide gas, a legal M.I.C., M.I.C., was the saddest of all. I.C., in the most efficient one, as a rival German company was using an alternative process. He said he was most frightened at the prospect of a “double standard” by the American-owned Union Carbide in having identical plants in North Carolina and Bhopal, India, but permitting accidents in Bhopal because the workers were somehow less important. Of additional concern to him was the unchecked urban growth, rapidly expanding into areas where no one had ever lived before. At the time of the construction of the chemical plant, the land was largely open and was owned by the government. But, over time, potential job seekers from the countryside, who were ironically displaced by the increased mechanization of agriculture which the plant was contributing to, came and made attempts to farm the land and plant. They were given ration cards, placed on electoral lists, and given/Fate papers and remained on the land indefinitely.

Beginning in 1980, the plant began to suffer from numerous leaks. According to Mr. Hazarekar, the primary method for workers to identify leaks was wassifying the area, as the workers were not using a sophisticated, computerized safety system. In addition, all of the safety procedures manuals were printed in English, a language which most of the workers could not read. A plan to relocate the plant fifteen miles away in a less populated area went unimplemented. A few weeks prior to the accident, a Telex message was sent to corporate headquarters noting his story on the pipes and equipment of the M.I.C. production system, which was under repair. Speaking of the Unacceptable

Mr. Hazarekar ruled Guatemala’s new government New Delhi, the international media, with Mr. Hazarekar among them, went to Bhopal. “We were confronted by something totally unimaginable. Edmund Burke said at one point, and I think it is very true of Bhopal, ‘An event has happened of which it is difficult to speak but impossible to restrain silent.’” Many people just walked into this lethal cloud not knowing what it was,... people fell in the streets, in their homes. And one sight I shall always remember was when I walked into the main hospital in Bhopal... just after midnight on the day after the disaster, the first I saw was a room full of very young children, inane... and all of them had glazed eyes and cyanosis marks, and they were gasping for air, and the sheets were soiled, and they didn’t know what was happening. They were totally helpless. And the doctors were helpless because they didn’t know what to do. The parents and children were helpless, and the children screaming..."It was a tragic story of how the story being used as propaganda."

They were many things which gave us hope. Army engineers who worked non-stop for twenty-four, forty-eight hours, without think-by of the risk to their own lives, evacuating the injured, clearing the bodies. And there will always be an incident which I will remember, which was told to me by another reporter. There was a woman running away from this cloud — think of giant cloud moving at four or five in the morning, and the people are falling and dying, and this woman is running, and a car passing her stopped, and the Muslim woman handed the child to the person who was inside and the car drove off — there is no way of knowing the religion of the driver — and the woman collapsed.”

Mr. Hazarekar argued that the impact of the accident in spurring the U.S. reaction, which he called more powerful than the Bhopal, was "...to happen here?" He said that the U.S. reaction might be summed up in the remarks of one congressman holding a conversation on the subject. "We must make sure that the accident that happened in Bhopal must not be repeated anywhere. As terrible as Bhopal is, we must face it and learn from it."

Mr. Hazarekar concluded by saying, with the image of the hospital ward and the injured children in mind, that "the price of progress is not worth that at any point or at any time."
Features

The health of the student body

The abuse of sex, drugs, and alcohol

"I don't know why, but it seems this semester I've seen more that the usual amount of extreme risk-taking behavior," says Mandi Davis, Director of Health Services. She cites that the rate of unintended pregnancies this semester is double the usual rate of four per semester. She says there is an increased interest in testing for sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) without a commensurate level of interest in adjusting behavior. Additionally, drug and alcohol experimentation, particularly among the first-year students, more frequently goes beyond Haldimand to serious abuse. In response, the Administration may commit itself tomorrow to a proposal by a group of students, headed by Haldimand Sasa Lee, to hire a full-time drug and alcohol counselor and outreach educator.

"Some students are really courting tragedy," says Ms. Davis. She characterized some student behaviors as outright appalling, stepping beyond unfortunate lapses of judgment toward doing things with potentially long-term and life-threatening consequences that she considers "playing with a loaded gun." Some students are reportedly experimenting with heroin, cocaine, and prescription narcotics, and there have been rumors of alcohol and blood-alcohol poisoning as far this year.

Ms. Davis says she recognizes that "students always take risks in college, and it's developmentally a time of experimenting, identity-seeking, and learning your limits," but she hopes that students can recognize the extreme behaviors that place their health and emotional well-being in jeopardy. "I see a lot of students not practicing safer sex," she says. And for those who ask her if there's STDs at the Bard, she wonders "what planet have you been on?" Yes, there are STDs at the Bard, but the trend every week at Bard. The most common STD seen is the herpes, and genital warts. She says that "there is serial monogamy at college, but over the course of years that becomes multiple partners, and there is some risk there."

"If you're having sex and a penis is involved, use a condom properly," Ms. Davis says. And while she notes that dental dams are less popular, she recommends their use in oral sex, particularly when between women. She has treated more than one case of herpes transmitted by oral sex.

"You can test all you want for HIV/AIDS, but it does not protect you from other diseases," says Ms. Davis. "I have students getting tested and re-tested. To me, that means they're not changing behavior." She advocates HIV testing "when you realize that you're not safe or when you want to be safe," and you need the reassurance. "But in continuing "crazy behavior," one might contract a disease that is both immediate and fatal. She says the only way not to get STD's is to practice safer sex. It can be fun, it doesn't have to take away the erotic nature of sex... just don't get drunk to the point of blacking out so that you don't know what you're doing."

"Not that many Bard students are having sexier sex," she notes. Professor John Poot, a member of Bard's AIDS Committee, says "for the first time... a number of students want to be tested, and that's new. Also... heterosexual students now want to be tested, which is also new."

"It appears at last that heterosexuals are realizing that they are at risk themselves," says Prof. Poot. "The recognition is that everyone is at risk if they have an active sex life, vaginal or oral."

"Why not have testing on campus? Currently, HIV tests are free and by appointment only at Ulster County Health Department (386-1910), with free transportation provided by the Dean of Students Office. If testing began on campus, it would cost students a significant amount of money, and would require a additional registered nurse on the staff. Also, when a person gets tested at the Health Department, they do not get recorded as their insurance record, but if a person gets tested at Bard, the insurance company would have to know and the student's premium would jump. Additionally, confidentiality would be difficult to maintain with on-campus testing."

"The AIDS committee will sponsor an upcoming open panel discussion on testing and what it is risky behavior. And, on December 2nd in the Bard Chapel, "This AIDS Thing," a theatrical performance written and directed by people with AIDS will be presented.

Graphic violence

Mathematicians converge for Graph Theory Day

"One should not think mathematics and drive at the same time," remarked mathematician Margaret Cozzens in her presentation last Saturday as part of Graph Theory Day 26. "Cars are the only known way to get from point a to point b."

Sponsored by the New York Academy of Sciences, Graph Theory Day is a twice-annual convention of mathematicians gathering to discuss their research and discoveries in the complex field of graph theory. Bard Mathematics Professors Mark Huber and Peter Dolan were pleased to invite the twenty-sixth Graph Day to Bard College, and greeted a turnout of over thirty professors, graduate students and professional researchers from across the Northeast.

Cozzens offered the first presentation of the day featuring her paper, "Visualizing the Huygens Fusion Networks: Some Interesting Problems." Formerly affiliated with Northeastern University, Cozzens now works for the National Science Foundation as a coordinator of primary and secondary school mathematics education. Without going into the specialized mathematics of her lecture, Cozzens discussed a variety of problems and observations concerning graphs which have numerous practical applications in communication networks.

"The transportation highway of communications" promised by President Clinton, Cozzens explained how graph theory is used in the analysis of fiber-optic and satellite communication networks. Everything from local telephone networks to global transmissions of data are conveyed across a matrix governed by graph theory. "We don't just want to work on these problems for theoretical reasons alone, we need to look at their applicability," she said.

"Utilizing graph theory, Cozzens and many others have investigated how to construct networks that will operate at maximum speed. These optimal designs also have to remain somewhat intact even if a part of the network breaks down; in mathematical terms, if one "neighborhood" is removed, will large components still remain? On paper these problems may seem simple enough, but when physical complications like engineering problems or satellite antennas are considered, the innovations of graph theory become necessary yet incomplete.

"There are far more problems than there are people thinking about them," said Cozzens as she explained the "wide open" nature of these problems. "Wearing the other hat at NSF, I need to see how these networks are used in education," she commented. "By 1995, we could have connected every school and museum if we could efficiently make use of a system that will not collapse.

"During the Graph Theory Notes Session, where conference participants were invited to present their own research, Rich Goldstone of Mariest College offered a very different kind of network than what Cozzens was looking for. With his colleagues, Goldstone designed a neighborhood connection for "Cayley Graphs of Abelian Groups." In his own words, "How to design incredibly expensive and fantastically unstable structures." Goldstone's "horrible network"
The Observer takes no responsibility for this column, the opinions herein or its effect on small children and animals.

Nothing gives a person a sense of appreciation for the Bard Library like a senior project. Sure it’s lacking in sources, books you need are always gone, and the security system goes off at odd yet frequent intervals, but that’s what makes it such a great place to procrastinate!

The coolest part of the new library are the new computers. I discovered the part where you can send messages to the strange and pernicious Library administrators through them. At first I just put funny messages in like “Change the decor outside. It looks awful. Sincerely, Helen Keller.” One of the goofy things I did was to request that the library acquire ‘Batman Year One’, a graphic novel by Frank Miller. I thought for sure the serious and mysterious Library Overlords would reject that.

“Ha, a silly, puny mortal wants us to delete our temple of literature with a ‘more comic book’... Let us initiate our overdue book charges.”

However, a few weeks later I discovered that the egomaniac Library Overlords were actually benevolent. They sent me a note in campus mail notifying me that my request had been granted and that no sacrifices were required. It was then that I realized the library computer catalog was all powerful and all good. I began to serve it with reverence. I began to sacrifice to it. Perhaps you’ve noticed the goats gifts.

In return, the computer has granted me access to divine knowledge. For instance, I asked it the important questions of our age and it gave me the answer in terms of number of entries. There is only one true Overlord of the Library and the computer is its prophet. For instance, I asked it what was more important: church or state. Church lost with 542 entries to 1296 for state. The computer was able to solve many of the controversies of humanity. For instance, a central problem in philosophy is whether or not Aristotle is better than Plato. The Library Overlord sway Aristotle 78, Plato 95. If Philosophy were a Mortal Kombat game, then Plato wins! Freud beats Jung by 115 entries to 29. Surprisingly, Hitler beats Elvis Presley 95 entries to 2, but Jesus is clearly in the lead with 220 entries to his name. The jury is apparently still out on whether Kirk was a better captain than Picard.

As economic philosophies go, Capitalism beats Communism 196 to 137. This was no surprise to me. Neither was the fact that war peace beat big time, 1508 entries to 552. Perhaps peace should get trickier and nastier like war.

The battle of the sexes is pretty overmatched according to the computer. Men have 627 entries, women have 3148. Likewise, minorities have 36 entries, while the majority has 24. This brings up a curious question. If there are outnumbered, then is the minority actually in the majority, then how oppressed are these so called victim groups? Perhaps they’ve been putting us on all these years. I think this book might be good for affirmative action.

I also consulted the Library Overlord’s Oracle on a few controversial topics and the results were somewhat smaller in scale.

Food has 256 entries in our library, sex has 1107. Therefore, sex is 436% more important than food. This was a revelation to me, but I see that most of the campus has changed their habits accordingly. Of course, the next question on my mind was a controversy on this campus a little over a year ago. We now know definitively that S&M is better than vanilla five entries to zip. That’s not much of a margin, however, so there must be something better out there. What it is, we don’t know but keep up the search.

The Library Overlords certainly know, but they don’t tell all. When I typed in “Freemasons” under keyword search, it told me, “PREEMASONS is in 3 title. Record using FREEMASONS are for library staff only.” That certainly lends some credence to the Freemason conspiracy theory doesn’t it? Furthermore, powerful are the Library Overlords, let us not offend them.

By the way, the Oracle in the Library tells me one other thing. This is very important. It said that “History will remember who stood for the landing of the domes and who stood against it. There will come a reckoning.”

Happy Thanksgiving to all!

A page of unedited observations by guest writers

Dead Goat Notes

Shameless Filler!

In case you missed it, last week I was bitching and moaning about the bleakness of my future prospects, and I’m sure you were just dripping with sympathy for me, too. Leaving aside the issues of my uncertain present, I decided dwelling on the future was an ordeal that, once determined too big to face, I could easily push aside and worry about more immediate and important things. Oh, like, whether or not to put my left sock on first or my right sock...

Very soon after this scary epiphany, I was reminded by someone very close to me that I was, um and will always be a clever, inventive, and resourceful young man. Except that in the future I won’t be young anymore; that’s the only part of the equation which won’t change.

Doesn’t it seem short, Gilman, was the message, and I decided that a good old-fashioned histrionic strop was in order. One which would inspire visions of financial security without sacrificing prime amounts of free time. Not unlike my current academic situation.

Now, realize that some of the following ideas seem a little far-fetched, but keep in mind that I’m only sharing the bare minimum with you here. All right, you’re only getting a taste of the frivolous this time (which is nothing new). Maybe I have an intricate scheme up my sleeves that I’m not prepared to unleash on an unsuspecting and devious, idea-stealing public such as we. I have none of that. Enticing schemes have a habit of finding their way into other people’s minds sometimes. Yeah, maybe I have such schemes, or maybe I’m just covering for the fact that these schemes were entertained merely for the humorous quality of a semi-successful weekly column in a two-bit college rag. Either way, the ideas that follow aren’t meant to be taken too seriously, unless, of course, you have some kind of financial backing you’d like to bestow on me. Reasonable offers will be entertained; no solicitation, please.

A very successful book on the subject of career success is the overly-optimistic tome, Do What You Love, The Money Will Follow. Well, that’s all very cheery, now, but what if what you love doing is something for which there is no market? Honestly, I wouldn’t mind hanging around all day with Chris Metnick, Andy Costell and Aaron McCormick quoting random lines from old episodes of Saturday Night Live and the Ren and Stimpy Show. If someone wants me to sound like an asthma hound, I’ll gladly take the money from their hands. But who would find any truly redeeming value from such an occupation beside the people involved? And Chris, Aaron, Andy and I can’t all pay each other. We’ve tried it, it doesn’t work. Eventually Andy needs to buy Ramen Noodles. That’s a loss right there. Becoming involved in a self-sufficient collective is only viable when one produces something you can actually live on. But, hey, maybe with some bright marketing schemes, we could bill ourselves as "Renee and the Electric Banana".

The allure of 900 numbers presents possibilities as well. The job is simple: act on the phone. I’ve got one brilliant idea that nobody has, as yet, tapped into: Dial-A-Mime. "Okay, now, I’m a box. And it’s really, really small. And, the funny thing is, the walls are pretty much invisible. So, I’m kinda feeling around the sides of the box. Okay, there’s a corner...whoa! It’s crushing me! All right, right, I’m pulling on this invisible rope, and there’s this great big invisible beastie tied to the other end of it...It really doesn’t want me to pull it...okay, I got it...whoops! It punched me right off my feet! Thanks for calling!"

The most shrewd use of a 900 number has to be the one that ESPN used a few years back. They were conducting a telephone poll to gauge the public’s reaction to the "instant replay" rule in Pro Football. They had three numbers up, one "For," one "Against," and one "Undecided." And the results were sort of evenly spread out, almost 30% each. And this was a nationwide telephone poll! Do you realize what that means? Somewhere around three thousand people actually spent $1.50 just to call in and tell someone they were undecided about an issue. What a windfall! That gave me the idea for 1-900-NO-COMMENT. You call up, and for $3.00 a minute you can leave a recording telling us why you couldn’t care less about a vital issue of the day. I would assure the caller that I’d pass along the lack of comment to someone who has something to do with whatever it was you spoke about. Really: Not because I’m lazy, money grubbing scum, oh, no. But because I care about your apathy.

by Matt Gilman
Another View

unbarded love

by Sean O'Neill
Two young men sit in a car outside Manor Annex.
"If she keeps rattling at my door one more night, I'm going to have to call Security," says James.
"You've been talking about her for twenty minutes," says Basil. "That girl Alabama's stupid cat. I've got real problems to worry about. I have to work my way back into Nadine's heart by getting her best friend to talk to me. I thought you said Minh lives here. You said she goes jogging regularly.

"That's what she told me. Obviously, she isn't going to show up." Basil, yellowing, says. 

"I'll drive you back to Stone Row," says Basil, standing the car. "I give up."

"Sorry I wasn't any help." They drove to the parking lot.

"What are you going to do now, James?"

"Go to the gym to work out before dinner."

"I'm always scared of that fitness center, because I don't know what equipment's supposed to do what."

"It's simple," says James, pointing to various parts of the body as he speaks. "Leg pressies work gluteal muscles, bench press uses the muscles in the chest and backs of the arms, and pull-downs are great for building the biceps and back muscles."

"I don't believe it!" shouts Basil.

"But it's true," he says.

"No, James. That's her! In the black skirt and shorts. He slams down on the car breaks. It hails before the two joggers. They jump out of the car.

"Hi, Minh," says Basil.

"Hi, Minh," says James. "Nice clothes, "

"Hello," says Minh. "This is my friend, Meg."

"What's up, man?" says Meg, putting out her hand.

"I, uh, lost my cat," says Basil. "I think it's sick, and it's lost its way. It's a grey tabby with a black collar on it. Have you seen it?"

"No," says Minh.

"Well, I live in Robbins," says Basil. "Let me write down my room number for you."

"I didn't know you jogged, Meg," says James.

"Well," says Meg. "Minh, here, has been introducing me to the fundamentals of exercise. She's a fine athlete. I'm already worn out, trying to keep up to her."

"If I see it, Basil, I'll bring it to your room, if I can," says Minh.

"Great, I really appreciate that. Thanks a lot. Come on, James. Bye!"

"Bye, Minh, Meg."

"See ya."

Basil and James speed off. The joggers resume their run.

Now I was saying, Minh, before those boys rudely interrupted, about the American flag. Do you know what the colors of the flag stand for?"

"No, Meg," she says. "What do they stand for?"

"Red, for all the blood shed by victims of anti-minority violence. Blue, for all the stolen skin of rape victims. White, for the skin color of the power-brokers and the judges."

"And the stripes, for prison bars?" says Minh.

"Ve-ry good, Minh," says Meg. "It's nice to meet someone on this campus who is culturally aware."


"I need the cat," repeats Basil. "Where is that damned cat?"

"It's funny how it's not around when you need it," says James. "But, heh, why do you need it?"

"You said it was Alabama's cat that's been dealing all the rackets, didn't you? This is Alabama's room."

Basil looks under her bed.

"Here, little kitty. Basil is going to take you for a little ride and bring you back, and Alabama will never know. Here, you little furball."

"Your roommate would get a kick out of watching this," says James.

"Colby couldn't care less. He's been in a bad mood all week. I told him I broke up with Betsy finally, and he didn't say anything. I thought he'd be glad I wouldn't be tying up the phone lines to Nebraska anymore. Catch me?"

Basil has the cat.

Later, near the Admissions Office, the two joggers are still running.

"Now, as you are well aware," says Meg.

"Anglo-America makes up seventy percent of the population. And 70% of the population is not going to administer itself. Hence, I have a mandate to criticize them, because if I don't, who will?"

"I don't know," says Minh. "That's a good question."

"In order to fight the oppressors, who wish to deny us our identity, we have to be more that in touch with our heritage, we have to proclaim our heritage. Do you see what I'm getting at?"

"I think so."

"Now, Minh, I have noticed that you haven't been regularly attending our organization's meetings. I realize that you have a busy life."

"She says nothing.

"I also realize that your background is of both Dutch and Chinese descent."

"They stop jogging. "Meg, as much as I sympathize with the cause of Scottish Country Dancing, and the moral imperatives of defending a culture that's being homogenized . . . Wait, what's that over there? Meg, isn't that the cat the guy was looking for?"

"Yeah, it matches the description."

"Here, kitty, kitty. Come to Minh. Are you feeling sick?"

As the cat cautiously walks over, a pickup truck swings around the bend."

"Oh, my goodness! Stop! Oh no . . ."
White Supremacist Organization in the Hudson Valley Region

by Shelleen Greene

Within recent months there has been increased visibility of White Supremacist organizations in the Hudson Valley region. In the months of September through November alone, there have been major Klan and anti-gay rallies in the Mid-Hudson area. These however are not unusual occurrences being that there has been a history of Klan and other aren't militant groups in the region. The Hudson Valley after decades of fluctuation, is becoming a major area of White Supremacist activity.

The Anti-defamation League, along with investigating White Supremacist activity in the Hudson Valley region, has issued status reports on the Ku Klux Klan and their younger offspring, the neo-Nazi Skinheads. The Ku Klux Klan, according to the ADL status report, suffered a "decade-long decline in strength" during the 1980's. However, with the "onset of new social and economic problems in the country" KKK membership is on the rise.

The decline during the eighties from a membership of approximately 11,500 in 1981 to an estimated 5,500 in 1986 was also caused by implications of Klan violence across the country and numerous "convictions and stiff sentences given the participants." Another factor in the decline of Klan membership was the departure of three important leaders, Robert Shelton, David Duke and Bill Wilkinson. Increased factionalism and a tendency to create smaller groups also contributed to the demise in the 1980's. Today, the two mainstay of the KKK are the Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan, located in North Carolina and headed by James Farrand, and the Knights of the KKK centered in Arkansas and led by Thom Robb.

The ADL status report on the Ku Klux Klan found that the area of greatest Klan growth in 1991-1992 period had been "the Mid-Hudson Valley, especially in Orange and Dutchess Counties." White supremacist groups associated with the KKK can still be found in "Wappingers Falls, Middletown, Poughkeepsie, Buffalo, Queens and Yonkers." The leaders of the New York State Invisible Empire are Grand Dragon William Hoff and Grand Knight hawk John Ellis.

The Hudson Valley region has historically been an area of poor race relations. In the 1920's and 30's, there was high Klan activity against Jews, Blacks and Catholics. On September 10, 1974, Roy Dinoro signed incorporation papers establishing the "Invisible Empire, Northern Chapters, in the region. Mr. Dinoro eventually left the organization and stated that it had "dissolved." From 1974 to 1980 however, the SUNDAY FREEMAN reported that the Northern Klux Klux Klan was headed by Mr. Earl F. Schoonmaker, Jr., a former officer at the Eastern Correctional Facility in Napanoch, his wife, Jane, and Glenn Wilkinson. The early and mid-eighties marked a low period of Klan visibility until the 1987 Tawaan Brawley case.

Through a series of articles published by the DAILY FREEFMAN, a recent period of high racial tensions and white supremacist visibility was in 1987. On November 24 of that year, Tawaan Brawley, a fifteen-year-old black female from Wappingers Falls was abducted. Found with racial slurs and "KKK" scrawled on her body, Brawley claimed that she was abducted and attacked by white police officers. Within a month of the incident, the Mid-Hudson Valley Civic Center, the Rainbow Coalition and the Dutchess County Committee Against Racism requested a special prosecutor, L. B. Wolfe, to investigate the case in the Ulster County Police department.

The DAILY FREEEMAN reported in December 1987 that Dutchess County District Attorney, William V. Williams, ordered Wolfe to prepare a preliminary investigation, that there was an "active Ku Klux Klan in the Mid-Hudson region." Immediately after claiming this, however, Attorney General retracted his statement, saying, "that is not correct, that is an error...no party affiliation (has been confirmed). The question of whether the incident was solved or the Brawley incident led to further inquiries into the actual existence of the KKK in the Hudson Valley region.

By mid-December, rallies were being led by Reverend Al Sharpton and Louis Farrakhan in protest against the handling of the case. Other racial incidents were now being brought to media attention because of the Brawley case. The Orange County police department was being attacked because of supposedly high numbers of false arrests of minorities. In Peekskill, claims were being made of black inmates being harassed by men with white sheets on their heads. In Kingston, anti-semitic graffiti were found on synagogues. In New York City, the Howard Beach incident was being referred to in relation to the Brawley case. Police departments in the Hudson Valley area feared that protests in the form of civil disobedience would turn into riots. The Imperial Wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, James Farrand, claimed no involvement on the part of the KKK and called for justice to be served.

Organizations that specialized in the surveillance of White Supremacist activity in the country, such as the Center for Democratic Renewal and the Anti-Defamation League, were called into the situation. Although these groups found no White Supremacist activities to be behind the Brawley case, they did not deny the existence of the Invisible Empire in the Hudson Valley. The Tawaan Brawley case was eventually dismissed after a Grand Jury investigation found her claims to be false.

The HUDSON HORNET a reactionary newspaper which is supposedly supported by the Ku Klux Klan, wrote extensively on the Brawley case during its initial months. In a 1992 response to the controversy over the Tawaan Brawley case, the paper stated that non-conservatives have "attempted to prove somehow that Tawaan did not actually lie, or if she did, there was perhaps some Overall Great Truth that we conservatives fall to see...Tawaan was bad news all around."

Reports of Klan activity from around 1989 towards the present have been few and far between. However, in November 1989, the head of the Indiana Ku Klux Klan, Douglas Tuttle was arrested in East Fishkill and charged with "felony land misuse-meanor weapons possession counts after police found a handgun and a club in his car. The visit of James Farrando to the Poughkeepsie Incorporation facility where Tuttle was exonerated from a protest in which two demonstrators were arrested.

Another incident was the September 29, 1990 New York Klan march. It was the first time in recent history that the Klan in New York State marched in full costume. The march, consisting of twenty-six KKK members, was in protest to a controversy over separation of church and state involving a crucifix displayed in a Schuylerville public school. The march, as reported by the KLANSMAN, a publication issued by the Invisible Empire, was lead by Grand Dragon William Hoff who stated that the Klan's intent was to "walk from the high school to the Colonial War Monument." The paper goes on the state that "the Klan was well prepared and they had the protection of both State and County police. The march turned out to be better than ten rallies for the Realm of New York."

One of the most public denunciations of Klan activity in the Middle-Hudson region came in the form of a protest to combat the distribution of White supremacist literature in Dutchess County. The FREEMAN reported in October 1989, that the Dutchess County Executive, Lucille Pavilion along with the Legislature Chairman Harry Schroeder issued "a joint statement de-nouncing the Ku Klux Klan." Executive Pavilion stated that in calling for the resolution, "we urge every citizen in Dutchess County to make clear that we do not want the Klan. We denounce its message of hatred." In response to the calling for the resolution, THE KLANSMAN published an editorial written by William Hoff, Grand Dragon of New York. Concerning the resolution Hoffman stated, "The so-called 'resolution' was the City Council's grave mistake for, unknown to them, the audience contained former members of the now-defunct white supremacist movement. Upon their departure from Council Chambers, these patriots decided to become active again by joining the Invisible Empire..."

Recent white supremacist activities include a September 1992 march in Newburgh, New York, a "March for White Power" in Auburn on September 25, 1993, a march in New Paltz and a "Gay Bash '93" in New Hope. The Independent Democratic Revolutionary Organization, headed by Gabriel Miller has been campaigning against white supremacist groups within the Hudson Valley area. The Democratic Revolutionary Organization maintains a radical leftist perspective, is concerned with addressing immediate issues and holds the ideal of theory and practice working together to bring about its goals. The organization's Anti-Klan work force has gathered information from local news sources in the Hudson Valley and Poughkeepsie area. The organization also receives information from community activists such as Paul Gertzowitz, who runs a cultural center in High Falls, New York. The sources will be available to the campus in a Reading Room the DRO is establishing in the Tewksbury basement.

A flyer that was distributed during the New Paltz march represents the attitude of the community activists who fight against white supremacy in the Hudson Valley region. "Not only do hate groups terrorize the people directly, they also help legitimize and strengthen 'mainstream' forms of oppression and bigotry...Facists give raw, open expression to violence deeply rooted in US society. Anti-fascist resistance means confronting the immediate danger, but also its underlying causes."

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Questions, problems? Talk to Zatman or Gaber.
Refugee continued

Continued from page 3

Approximately 300,000 peasants fled to Chiapas, Mexico, which borders Guatemala. Though supported in Mexico, the refugees have encountered many difficulties over the past ten years. They were not encouraged to enter the Mexican work force and could not leave the settlements they formed there. The United Nations High Commissioner on Refugees sent medicine and supplies, but aid was eventually cut off. The Guatemalan army also repeatedly invaded the refugee camps and killed people.

Meanwhile, the military talks about human rights and refuses to admit knowledge of the massacres. The people are not fooled, and are certain that the military is guilty of many atrocities. UNCHR has a one year commitment after the return to supply food and medicine, and has a continuing commitment in the area of human rights. Beyond that, little is certain.

The world’s attention is focused on Guatemala now because Rigoberta Menchu won the Nobel Peace Prize, and El Salvador and Nicaragua have been demonstrating under the supervision of the UN. As the CCCP helps the Guatemalan refugees improve their situation, one can only hope that the progress will go forward in such a way that will not be too quick. Perhaps the current President will finish his term, perhaps negotiations between guerrillas and the government will yield results, as did the refugee predecessors. "Now is a good time to go to Guatemala," said one, indicating that in the long run that might not mean much.

Aries (Mar.20-Apr.19): You want to relax, since lately you’ve been under a lot of stress. Remember, it’s good to take a vacation, but also good to be back, so plan accordingly!

Taurus (Apr.20-May 20): The trendy way that others have of doing, being and wearing the right thing is wearing thin for people like yourself who don’t want to just fit in.

Gemini (May 21-Jun.21): What is this thing called love anyway? Do not let your heart be broken when your sanity is on the line.

Cancer (Jun.21-Jul.21): It is unlikely that you will find relief from your responsibilities soon, so instead you should treat someone you love (or even just like) to a special night.

Leo (Jul.22-Aug.22): The reason that you are in such a tight spot right now is that you refuse to really spend your time. You should remember the things you need to do, and wait to do the unimportant things.

Virgo (Aug.23-Sep.22): The last few days have been rather hectic for you and now you will find relief in introspection, if relief is to be found at all.

Libra (Sep.23-Oct.23): You are at times too demanding of your friends. Even though you are there for your friends, they can’t always be there for you, so don’t take it personally.

Scorpio (Oct.24-Nov.21): Analytical thought will come in handy when you are trying to figure out your problems.

Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21): Hasty decisions can make you feel unhappy later, so be wise in choosing mates, jobs or other lasting decisions.

Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19): There are few things which will bother you this week, so you should take it easy, and attend extra activities that will bring you enjoyment.

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18): Your time and energy will be appreciated this week by someone close to you. If you can’t choose what to do, look to a friend for advice.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20): This week is hard for you because of the favoritism within your department. You will be surprised at the amount of politics which are damaging your studies.

At the end of the year, if you are really in the mood for a vacation, you might try some of the places you have been wanting to go, and plan your vacation for a time when you can really enjoy it.

For those of you who are single, you may be interested in finding someone who is compatible with you. It is possible that a new relationship may be on the horizon.

For those of you who are married, you may be interested in finding ways to improve your relationship with your partner. It is possible that a new relationship may be on the horizon.

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West Point invades Bard

Snugger-than-snug fit

Well, anyway, this last Saturday, lots of people, even some you may know, shed their typical drab black garb in favor of strangely elongated duds with a snugger-than-snug fit, strapped on a comely lame vest which was wired for electricity, picked up long, phallic metal objects, faced people from other schools similarly dressed and waved their various objects at one another. The technocrats say it's "functional." The elite among us call it "fencing."

Yes, the fencing season started up this weekend, and the men's and women's teams pitted their homespun style against the weapons masters and methodologists transformed out of slightly confused youth of the U.S. Military Academy who are molded into fine, upstanding young women and men at nearby West Point. As you may recall from the helpful columns penned by Mr. Daniel Kurnit last year, fencers compete against one another in one of three weapons types foil, saber and epee. Bard's men's team hefted all three weapons of destruction against the Military folk. In the foil competition, Bard's men took four of the nine matches, barely losing. Todd Heifner defeated all three of his opponents, and Kapil Gupta out-touched his first opponent. Bard was on the short end of a 5-4 score again in the saber, featuring victories by Will Hayden, Benjamin Epstein, and two wins by Stephen Stephens. Jim Puljanowski was the only Bard fencer able to take a match in the epee weapon round, and in the end, the Bard men fell to West Point by an overall score of 9-18. The women's team also faced the U.S. Military Academy, competing only in the foil weapon type. In a four-person rotation, the Bard team took seven of the sixteen matches, barely losing by an overall score of 7-9. Nicole Grimes, Angela Jandus and Amy Pfeifer all split their matches 2-2, while Sarah Granett took one of her four matches.

Later in the afternoon, the women's team faced the women fencers of Vassar College. Amy Pfeifer and Nicole Grimes took two apiece of their four matches, but that was all the women could do against Vassar. Bard fell by a final score of 12-4.

Intramurals
The fall intramurals, chock full of goofiness and violence (not to mention sportsmanship and competitiveness) finished up the first week of their seasons last Thursday. In floor hockey, the Mother Fuckers out-hockeyed Doug's Bunch by a score of 6-2. Keeping in the plucky puck vein, the Mighty Pucks fell to the non-puck related Weed Wackers four goals to one.

In Volleyball, fun was had by all, except for the teams that didn't play. While you figure out that odd comment, I shall relay the results of the matches that did occur. Multicultural Attack belted their PC play between the evening, first facing the assorted employees of Bard who compete under the catchall title of Dirty Dogs. The 'Dogs came back from the brink of defeat to steal a match against the 'Attack by a score of 9-15, 15-11, 15-12.

Then the Zen-sport high-weirdness collective known as But Am It Art? stormed the court and was hastily brushed aside by an increasingly perturbed and con-founded Multicultural Attack team 15-4, 15-7. However, the team was seen scratching their heads as they left the court. But Am It Art? accomplished their mission. Their work here is done...for now.
Editorial

Let's get a few things straight

by Joanna C. Breton

I have come to realize, much to my dismay, as the Editor-in-Chief of this publication, that there is still a large majority of students here at Bard who have many misconceptions about the Observer. Maybe this is because the Observer is already running on the tightest budget that it can. Also, it would not be fair to ask the circulation manager, who volunteers and is not paid to stuff all the mail boxes with an Observer every week, to take extra time to look for the boxes of only the people who want one. Nor would it be easy to do.

Even though I have seen, on several occasions, people who have complained again and again that the Observer is a "worthless rag," reading the Observer quite avidly, I do not accept the fact that it is possible and probably so some people who do not want one. There seem to be, however, many more who wait in the Post Office impatiently until the steward finally puts a copy in their box. I have stuffed plenty of times and heard plenty of people ask me some copy, for example, some cartoon. I hope that those of you who do not want yours, will help to see that these undesired copies make their way to a recycling bin. As I have already said, I do not wish the Observer to be or become unnecessary. I don't have the best at printing only 1500 copies per week and by personally picking up and recycling any discarded copies I come across, to reduce the amount of waste that the Observer is responsible for producing.

There are, however, a few more little things I'd like to point out.

The first is the reasonable need for those who submit classifieds and personals to sign and print their names on their submission(s). It is also very helpful if a box number is added, and more importantly a phone number. This may seem a bit much for a few words in print in an attempt to sell an item you no longer want, or to send a few lines of advertisement to a friend, but it is absolutely essential for the newspaper's continued existence. Promotion of anything that may be libelous. Having your name and number on the submission does not mean it has to appear in the classified or personal (it will only be printed if that is what you request), but it does make it possible for me, as the Editor-in-Chief, to verify that you are actually the one who made the submission. Without the signature requirement, it could run any kind of advertisement in someone else's name or with someone else's number. If someone, for example, were to submit "For Sale: Sex doll 275$...", I would be responsible for any perceived offenses; just the person remembering that the Observer is only the means of publication, not the author.
Letters

It's better here than most places

Dear Editor,
I'd like to make some comments specifically regarding the "We Live Here" Student Empowerment article in your November 10th issue and also regarding the Observer and Bard student attitude as a whole.
I am a transfer student and on arrival at Bard, I was amazed by the freedoms and administrative support that the Bard students receive both academically and in regards to student life. Although I do realize that Bard has problems, as there are bound to be in any academic institution, Bard Students, at least in this article, do not seem to realize how much better their situation is than most other college students. I believe we need to appreciate more freedoms we do have, as well as work for future student empowerment.

In an ideal society, college students would have an absolute say in how they are educated, but basing my opinion on my experiences and those of my friends, I would say Bard students have life pretty damn good. The administration here is hardly conservative, as Brent suggested, and appears to me to solidly back their open door policy for student complaints. We do not actually have "little to say in who teaches us" as students are allowed to give oral and written testimony of teachers. We also have a decent amount to say in "what we want to learn about" as Bard has very few academic requirements and students have the opportunity to make up courses through tutorials, contribute ideas for courses, etc. all of these freedoms are almost unheard of in most other academic institutions, including the last one I attended. I know that as a transfer, I have had fewer run-ins with the administration than long-term students, and may not completely understand the blockades that have been erected to barricade student empowerment, but I believe we should recognize and value the freedoms that we do have. There is hardly another school in the country where the students enjoy such academic and social freedom, support from the faculty, and opportunity to create our own community and environment. While I do agree that the Bard student population is an apathetic one, I do not believe it is from running up against administration blockades as Brent suggests. Perhaps we are apathetic because we take for granted all of the freedoms we enjoy, in much the same way we do as American citizens. I cannot say that Bard doesn't have problems, the current door-locking issue being one, but this doom and gloom prophecy is not going to do us any good. By recognizing our inadequacies and our defeats, we will be better able to form the community needed to handle present and future battles for student empowerment.

Pamela Baumberger

The ends do not justify the means

Dear Editor,
I was deeply offended by Matthew Apple's letter regarding the Student Life Committee survey on the locked doors policy. Matthew had many provocative, intelligent points in his letter, but these are overwhelmed by his angry, unsupported, obnoxious comments regarding the SLC. Why alienate half the people you are trying to reach? Matthew accuses the SLC of "lying through their teeth," which is fine (although I see no reference to any attempt on his part to question members of the SLC as to the true results of the survey), but then why bother to discount his argument with such statements as that the SLC "kiss up to the administration and beg to lock their boots clean"? I cannot claim to know whether this statement has validity, but it certainly unsupported within the letter. The other two pieces addressing this policy within the same issue of the Observer were clear, concise and persuasive, without resorting to petty insults. I know it can be done.

I also took affront at Matthew's absurd remark, suggesting that the SLC may have just taken a survey of all their friends, "who all happen to be PCs under the dominion of Shelley Morgan." As a PC myself, I wonder...why bother insulting me over this issue? For one thing, I believe that my opinion (which is separate from that of the Dean of Students office) as a Peer Counselor is valuable. Apparently Matthew doesn't think so; in this letter he is telling me that, even outside the issue of the survey, he doesn't respect me or my views. He also states that he doesn't respect the views of anyone who isn't as outspoken as he is about their opinions; "the only [voices] that count are the loud ones."

And people wonder why this campus is so divided. On one letter, one man has managed to discount half the student population. Matthew isn't interested in changing things; he's interested in making people angry. Anger changes things, but only when it directs a community, not divides it.

I remember last year when people were bitching about the quality of the Observer. Matthew (as Editor-in-Chief) told those people to get off their lazy asses and come write for the Observer if they didn't like it. I agreed with his sentiment. Now I tell you, Matt, to swallow your own medicine. If you don't like the SLC; change it, don't slander it. The anger that you raise in your last letter, and in things in the past, is not being directed where you want it to be.

As for the issue at hand; what are the interests of students, and are they being represented? I strongly suggest a second survey or, preferably, a table set up in Kline. I would also like to suggest that Matthew (or anyone else) write another letter addressing whether the student government is misrepresented us. I disagree with Matthew's methods, but I am curious.

Stephanie Chasteen

Graphs continued

continued from page 4. Revealed how the removal of one point on the graph would leave only two components, blowing out virtually the whole network like one broken bulb on a string of old Christmas lights. Other offerings in the Notes Session included new ways of graphically naming biological and chemical structures, in addition to less practical, more purely mathematical graph theory innovations.

Fred Roberts of Rutgers University presented the second lecture concerning "Chomatically and Amenability in Graph Coloring." While this report promised to be one of the better attended lectures, we will see.

Pamela Baumberger

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Linnea Knollmueller

Bard Observer Editorial Policy

All submissions must be turned in to either campus mail or our Tulips office no later than 5pm the Friday before the issue for which they are intended. Space on the Arts, View and Letters pages works on a first come basis; if we cannot fit your submission in one week, it will be guaranteed space for the next week. We do not accept any material unless it is slanderous, or does not include the name of the author. Classifieds are free to Bardians and cost $0.10/word per issue for all those in our local region. For more information on our policies or advertising rates please call
(514) 768-6772 or write
Bard Observer Bard College Box 185 Annadale, N.Y. 12504
Presented by the Dean of Students Office

Wednesday, November 17


Table Française. Berets and Baguettes required. Kline Committee Room, 5:30-7p.

Chinese Table. Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.


Scottish Country Dancing. Join the club for traditional music and dance. Manor Living Room 7:30-9:30pm.

Thursday, November 18:


Tavola Italiana, Kline President's Room, 5-6p. All Welcome; join us for conversation 6-7p.

German Table, In the Kline College Room, 6p.

Bisexuality. Activists, Gays, Lesbians, Et al. B.A.G.EL. will meet this Thursday Club Room In the Old Gym, 7p. All interested are welcome.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. Thursday nights, 7:30p.

Bard's Christian Fellowship at the Bard Chapel, 9:30p. Everyone is welcome, Christian or not.


Friday, November 18:


Saturday, November 19:

Distinguished Scientist Lecture. Molecular Biologist Robert A. Weinberg will speak on "Genes and the Origins of Cancer." Dr. Weinberg is a founding member of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research and professor at MIT. Bard Theater, 8p.


Monday, November 21:

Anyone for Cricket? Cricket, lovely cricket... every Sunday. Inside or near Stevenson Gym, 3:30p. Contact Damath (752-7348) or Shengyao (752-7725) for more information.

Holy Eucharist at Church of St. John the Evangelist, 10a.


Monday, November 22:

Body Image Support Group for students dealing with issues of weight, appearance and body image. Come to talk or listen. Upstairs in the Student Center, 7-9p.

MES Lecture Trip. The Multicultural and Ethnic Studies group is sponsoring a trip to Vassar for a lecture on "Race, Nazism, and Neo-Nazism," by Professor Anson Rabinbach of Cooper Union College. Van Leaves Kline at 7p.

Peer Tutors in the Stevenson Library, Room 402, 10-Noon, and 8-10p and every night except Friday and Saturday: 8-10p.

Tuesday, November 22:

Townshin Poetry Room. Come listen to Bard’s record library of poets and authors. Olin 101, 6-8p.


Thanksgiving Transportation.

Rhinecliff: Leave at 1:15p, 5:15p, 7:30p for the 2:19p and 8:35p trains.

Rhinecliff: Leave at 9:15a, 3p for the 9:45a and 3:30p trains.

Grand Union: One trip this afternoon.

Friday, November 24

Grand Union: One trip this afternoon.

Sunday, November 29

Poughkeepsie: A van will meet the 7:43p, 8:43p, and 10:43p trains. Rhinecliff: A van will meet the 9:30p and 11:35p trains.

More Transportation Than Ever Before!

Wednesday: Grand Union runs: Leave at 6p, return at 7p.


Saturday: Rhinecliff Train Station, Rhinebeck, and Red Hook: Leave at 10a, return at 2p.

Sunday: Church: Leave at 9p, return at 10:30a for St. John's (Barrytown) and St. Christopher's (Red Hook).

Rhinecliff: Meet 7:15p and 9:05p trains.

Poughkeepsie: Leave at 5:30p for the 6:30p train, leave at 7p for the 7:45p train.

Other Transportation: Poughkeepsie Galleria trips on 11/26 and 11/19, leave at 5p, pick up at mall 9p.

Meet all vans or busses in the parking lot behind Kline Commons.