

Bard College  
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# OBSERVER

Vol. 101    No. 15    February 16, 1994

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The  
BARD

# OBSERVER

VOLUME 101 ★ NUMBER 15

BARD COLLEGE ★ ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON ★ NY 12504

FEBRUARY 16 ★ 1994

"... reasoning must  
affirm what desire  
pursues."

—Aristotle

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Club	Received last semester	Asked for this semester	Received this semester
A.A.S.O	\$2,000.00	\$2,861.80	\$2,200.00
Akido	\$350.00	\$660.00	\$400.00
Anthropology Club	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$450.00
Art Club	\$0.00	\$900.00	\$450.00
Audio Co-op	\$529.00	\$1,100.00	\$1,100.00
Bard Hudson Summer	\$0.00	\$1,500.00	\$1,500.00
Bard Amnesty Int'l	\$450.00	\$875.00	\$450.00
B.A.G.L.E.	\$1,800.00	\$3,763.53	\$1,290.00
B.B.S.	\$550.00	\$709.60	\$709.60
B.B.S.O.	\$2,200.00	\$9,325.00	\$2,000.00
B.C.F.G.	\$0.00	\$270.55	\$150.00
B.C.F.S.	\$200.00	\$1,700.00	\$800.00
B.J.S.S.	\$620.00	\$2,968.00	\$1,000.00
Bard Observer	\$2,200.00	\$1,310.00	\$1,000.00
Bard Papers	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$0.00
Bard Party Brigade	\$150.00	\$1,350.00	\$550.00
Bard Pool Club	\$0.00	\$140.00	\$100.00
B.E.M.S.	\$746.00	\$1,394.00	\$1,200.00
Candle Club	\$0.00	\$131.43	\$0.00
Central Committee	\$2,000.00	\$1,930.00	\$1,930.00
Chess Club	\$0.00	\$490.00	\$290.00
C.E.S.O.	\$0.00	\$657.00	\$300.00
C.F.C.	\$0.00	\$2,142.00	\$1,200.00
Cricket Club	\$0.00	\$910.95	\$408.95
Dance Club	\$500.00	\$1,830.00	\$450.00
Debating Club	\$0.00	\$2,193.00	\$400.00
Entertainment Comm.	\$10,000.00	\$13,575.00	\$10,000.00
Film Comm.	\$10,000.00	\$10,585.00	\$9,800.00
Fishing Club	\$0.00	\$130.00	\$70.00
Freak	\$450.00	\$810.00	\$550.00
I.D.R.O.	\$550.00	\$1,290.00	\$700.00
I.R.C.	\$682.00	\$2,769.00	\$1,000.00
I.S.O.	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$2,100.00
J.S.O.	\$750.00	\$1,200.00	\$800.00
L.A.S.O.	\$1,500.00	\$2,200.00	\$1,100.00
L.P.S.G.	\$700.00	\$1,925.00	\$850.00
Menage	\$0.00	\$2,400.00	\$1,400.00
M.S.O.	\$0.00	\$848.00	\$500.00
Outing Club	\$300.00	\$1,065.00	\$400.00
Performance Club	\$0.00	\$210.00	\$150.00
Ping Pong Club	\$310.00	\$510.00	\$260.00
Psychology Club	\$200.00	\$717.00	\$400.00
Russian Club	\$500.00	\$2,300.00	\$700.00
Scottish Dancing	\$150.00	\$287.00	\$200.00
Sister City	\$0.00	\$769.85	\$400.00
S.M.A.C.E.S.	\$850.00	\$1,242.90	\$1,050.00
S.M.O.G.	\$600.00	\$600.00	\$500.00
SPAZ	\$150.00	\$275.00	\$175.00
S.P.S.	\$600.00	\$1,625.00	\$600.00
Trek	\$150.00	\$220.00	\$200.00
Wedding Proposal	\$0.00	\$800.00	\$300.00
Women's Center	\$1,500.00	\$1,650.00	\$1,100.00
W.X.B.C.	\$1,270.00	\$272.00	\$272.00
Zen Jugglers	\$23.05	\$170.00	\$40.00

For More Budget Forum Results See p.4



## Six feet under

## B&amp;G tries to keep up with snow

According to the National Weather Service, almost five feet of snow has fallen in the Hudson Valley Region so far this winter. That figure does not include any of the sleet or rain that has also descended upon us. This vast

amount of winter precipitation has wreaked havoc upon roads all across the east coast, and as the winter continues, some hard-pressed communities are confronted with an even greater problem:

They are running out of sand, salt and money.

In a brief interview Monday morning, Chuck Simmons, the Director of Buildings and

Grounds, affirmed that Bard College is facing this dilemma as well. "The problem is, we don't have enough material," he said.

According to Simmons, the College has already depleted its stockpile of salt. Since the local distributors have been cleaned out, Bard is buying its salt from the western part of New York State—and paying the hefty shipping fees which that entails. Simmons said that 32 tons of salt arrived on Monday morning, and that the retailers are taking advantage of Bard's predicament.

As for sand, Simmons stated that the College's "normal buyer" still has a supply left. But that, too, is going quickly. Simmons could not confirm the status of Dutchess County's snow supplies (Dutchess County is responsible for maintaining Annandale Road.) However, he did state that

"I understand that the Department of Transportation piles are quite hefty, and that communities can purchase from the County if their own supplies run low."

Simmons also

commented that the budget for snow removal is "floating." In other words, since no sum was previously established as a limit, money is made available as it is required.

While Simmons could not comment on the status of the major construction projects around campus, he reported that there have not been "too many problems with general maintenance." He admitted that there are still leaking roofs which cannot be repaired as of yet. He said that workers have inadvertently caused more damage to the roofs while trying to remove built-up snow. He asked for a "little patience" regarding the roof leaks, because the repair work cannot be done until the most of the snow is gone.

Of course, there is the possibility that things will get even messier when the thaw actually does arrive. Simmons anticipated that "the roads won't be in the best of shape," especially since the frost-line is so deep in the ground.

"All the rain drainage is blocked," he said. If the college receives too much rainfall, or if the snow thaws out too quickly, excess water could cause more problems than potholes.

## Baccalaureate Service

The Baccalaureate Service will be held this year on Sunday, May 22nd, 1994. The service is an interfaith gathering, attended by the Senior Class and the faculty, which marks and celebrates the upcoming graduation of the senior class. We are looking for creative contributions to our program. This would be a marvelous setting for the presentation of some of your work. If you have composed a piece of music, written a poem, or created a dance which you feel could be incorporated into the service, we are eager to include you. Your piece need not be of a "religious" nature.

Also, we would like to include in this service prayers, blessing and readings from all religious backgrounds represented on campus. If you would like to present anything from your religious tradition, we are also eager to include you.

Please contact Rabbi Jonathan Kligler through the campus mail or at his office in Hopson 203, if you are interested.

## Classifieds &amp; personals

## \*SPRING BREAK '94\*

Cancun, Bahamas, Jamaica, Florida & Padre! 110% Lowest Price Guarantee! Organize 15 friends and your trip is FREE! TAKE A BREAK STUDENT TRAVEL (800) 328-7283.

box#1046.

Hey Rabbit! Dear my dreamy, if you're reading this you must be here! Joy and rapture! Take off my shoes and stay awhile, a long, long, long while. Loved of love, Tigger.

**Help Wanted!** Children's Entertainment Agency Now Hiring local talented, reliable, and energetic people. Excellent pay. Males only at this time (sorry girls). Must have a car. (914) 758-6084

Stop. Stop. Stop. Stdp. Stop. Stop. Stop. Stop. STOP! DAMMIT, JANET, STOP WHIPPING ME WITH YOUR ACTION FIGURE!

Gretchen! Silly Wabbit, wicker baskets are for clowns! Love, peace and corn, Gretchen.

Applications are now available in the Dean of Students Office for Peer Counselor positions for the 1994-95 academic year. If you think that you have the potential to be an effective leader and you like working with people, this might be the job for you. Applications are due on Monday, February 28 by 5:00pm. Why not talk to a Peer Counselor or Gladys Watson at extension 455 for more information.

"What is this want that makes me fun to look at you?

I do not know.

It is of me as is my breath.

Do you tell yourself to breathe?

It is my nature, and being nature is not right or wrong nor good or bad, but innocent of purpose. It is my body's music, and its truth."

Thomas: Leave him alone. I like you too, but leave him alone!

Horseback Riding lessons in Tivoli, NY. Indoor ring, \$15/hour. Call Jorge at 757-4400 or Michelle at (203) 845-0869.

Hear ye, hear ye, all ye virgins (and all you debauched old-timers too): this Friday at 10 pm, we'll be showing and performing *Rocky Horror* in the Old Gym. We look forward to giving you over to absolute pleasure...immerse yourself in an erotic nightmare.

## Scholarships Available

The New York State Dietetic Association is offering scholarships in several categories. For information on applications, contact Eileen Fitzgerald at 229-7384.

I lay there fearlessly, the noumena floating over me. He said it would only hurt for three seconds, but I counted sixteen. The gauze was rather loose: my trust diminished with the twinkling of the headlights. I never did like grape-fruit....

**Fretless Electric Bass Guitar:** 4-string; recently refinished, resoldered, re-stringed. 20' Patch cord included. \$200 obo. Shawn

## Attention

According to Kim Squillace, Director of Safety and Security, students parking in the Cruger Village and Oberholzer lots are being asked to park at Kline for the night of Thursday, February 17th. In order to remove the tremendous amount of snow and mud that has accumulated in the parking lots, Buildings and Grounds will be cleaning out the lots early Friday morning.

Transportation from the Kline lot back to Cruger Village is available every evening at 7pm, and the morning shuttles at 8:30 and 9:30 am can bring students back to their cars. "This is going to make everything easier for everyone in the long run," said Squillace as she urged students to vacate the lot tomorrow night. Similar maintenance is likely to be conducted on the other lots on campus in the near future.



## THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW

a different set of jaws.



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10 pm Friday  
in the Old Gym

Sponsored by BAGLE, the Film  
Committee, Trek and SP4Z



## Career changes in Career Development

### Bard College promotes from within

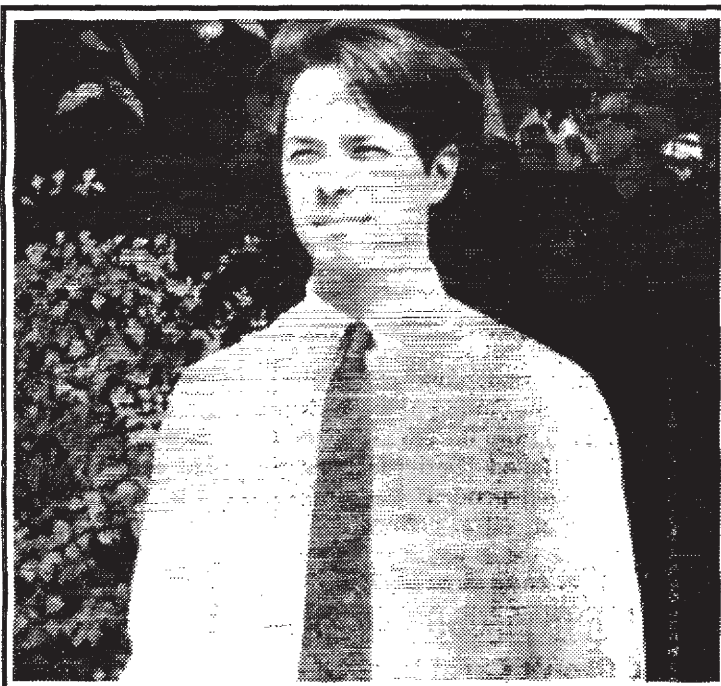
You may have read about it in the packet you received over intercession. Or you may have heard about it through word of

mouth. Either way, you were probably a bit surprised to learn that Jefferson Huang will no longer be

the guy you go to for summer jobs or grad school applications. Perhaps even more surprising is the fact that Maureen Forrestal, Bard's counselor, will be taking over his position.

As the dust settles, students have had a hard time finding either Huang or Forrestal, and no one has really had much idea as to what is going on. As confusing as it might seem initially, the situation is actually relatively simple: as the semester progresses, both will be increasingly easy to reach as they become accustomed to their new duties.

Late last semester, Huang was promoted from Assistant Dean of Students to Associate Dean of Students, with his primary responsibility being first-year students. In his old position, his functions included career counseling, organizing orientation activities during L&T, drug and alcohol education, scheduling student activities/party registration, general counseling, and being on call for emergencies. His job has not changed drastically, but his duties have consolidated and deepened. He will provide counseling and assistance to first-year students, work to bring the class together as a community, run substance free events every weekend, and continue his work during L&T.



**Linnea  
Knollmueller  
Staff  
Writer**

In response to the students' surprise at the job change, Huang said, "It kind of surprised me too." With the promotion having taken effect January 1, he spent intercession tying up loose ends and working with Maureen Forrestal, showing her around the cluttered office in Stone Row and talking about the transition. It wasn't until recently, however, that Huang found permanent housing (as anyone who has looked for him since the beginning of the semester can attest). An office in Tewksbury was considered, as was Annandale House, the former home of the music department. The final decision was put to him in the office above Security, in the Old Gym. The Women's Center, which had previously been housed there, will move to Annandale House, a switch which should work out well for everyone. Not only will Huang be right in the center of campus in a highly travelled area,

but the Women's Center will have more room for their office and a library. The move is not quite complete, and Huang does not have a phone yet, but if you have to find him, that is where to find him.

The intrepid Associate Dean is already planning a semester full of fun activities. Tewksbury lounge was packed last Friday for the pizza testing party. About 200 students came to try the area's offerings, voting Four Brothers the best. Students can also watch the Winter Olympics on the large color television Huang purchased, while munching on the free food. A student committee has been giving input as to what to schedule and some of the upcoming events are velcro jumping, a bungee run, a battle of the bands, comics and singers.

Perhaps the piece de resistance would be a dance disc jockeyed by professors. "We could get Mat-

thew Deady to play Motown, and Deirdre d'Albertis to take out all her old Madonna," joked Huang, though in all seriousness he is attempting to involve faculty in the activities. "We're not trying to knock out the entertainment or film committee with everything we plan. We're just increasing the variety."

Meanwhile, Maureen Forrestal has spent a great deal of time shuttling from Health Services to the Career Development Office. She was approached by Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou, who asked if she was interested in filling the vacancy left after Huang's promotion. She has had experience at Bard's Career Development Office, having filled in during an intercession after Harriet Schwartz left. She also had an internship and assistanceship at Syracuse University in which she helped to start a career and life planning counseling service while in the doctoral program. Though a therapeutic counselor here since 1990, she has been employed in the career development office of SUNY Morrisville.

Forrestal's job situation is a little sticky. "Because Bard is hiring a full time drug and alcohol counselor, I wouldn't have been kept here full-time. Now I'm splitting my time, and I'll have both jobs at least until the end of the semester." That does not mean her job is in jeopardy, just that she might be a little hard to find for a while. Watch for her posted office hours.

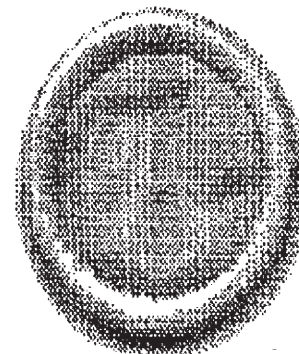
She, too, has been planning activities which allow her to combine her experience in career and emotional counseling. For example, she is hoping to hold a day-long senior conference this spring (after senior projects are due), with speakers from on and off campus, who will discuss a

variety of situations facing the graduating students. How to create a budget, how to make social ties in a new post-Bard community, choosing health plans and company recruitment are some of the sessions she hopes to offer.

Forrestal is also interested in using internships as part of President Clinton's volunteerism plan. She wants to place students in agencies sponsored by the United Way of Poughkeepsie, but a program like this is still being discussed. An updated list of summer internships and jobs has been completed, and is available in the Career Development office. Forrestal is still waiting for her budget, so many of her plans will have to remain merely possibilities until funding is made available.

Open to suggestions, Forrestal encourages students to approach her with any ideas they may have. "I can't promise anything, but I'll sure try," she said confidently. Anyone with ideas about the senior conference should talk with her, or Tami Sloane or Ephie Colter, the senior class co-presidents.

When you give  
the gift of love,  
make sure it's  
wrapped properly.



To protect  
against AIDS  
and other STDs,  
always use  
latex condoms.

I Need  
A Computer



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## MORPHINE

This is the good stuff.  
Drums, bass and saxophone.  
Good, good, good.

Tomorrow night, Thursday Feb. 17 at  
10pm in the Old Gym.

Free w/Bard id. Brought to you by  
the Entertainment Committee.



## Essay contest

by Anne Miller

The Sunkyoung Group of Korea is presenting its second annual Essay Contest for registered undergraduate and graduate students in the areas of science, government/law, and business. The top essays in each of the three areas will be chosen as the winners of Sunkyoung's "Global Leaders of Tomorrow" Essay Contest.

The Sunkyoung Group is a major producer of petroleum products and chemicals, a worldwide general trading company, a manufacturer of textiles, polyester film, magnetic tapes and discs, and a specialist in engineering and construction and bulk shipping. Founded in 1953, Sunkyoung is one of Korea's largest business groups, employing more than 22,000 men and women in 35 countries. With revenues of over 15 billion dollars, Sunkyoung ranks among the top companies on the *Fortune* International 500 list.

**Eligibility:** You must be a registered college undergraduate or graduate student at the time you submit your contest entry. No Sunkyoung employee or family members of Sunkyoung employees will be allowed to compete.

**Contents:** The essay will address the U.S.-Asia relationship in the era of globalization as it pertains to a particular field of study; science, government/law, or business. Students are required to choose only one field and indicate the field of their choice in the release form. A sample essay topic may be how the U.S.-Asia economic relationship will be affected and how it may evolve with the passage of NAFTA.

**Rules:** Each essay must be individually written and submitted. There will be no team efforts. Each essay must be no longer than two pages. The essay must be typed and double-spaced on a 8 1/2 X 11 sheet of paper. The name of the contestant must appear on each page of the essay. Mail entries to this address: Sunkyoung U.S.A., Inc. OCMP c/o Essay Contest 110 East 55th Street, 16th Floor, New York, NY 1002

**Judging:** Judging is based on the following: Understanding of the US-Asia relationship in the era of globalization as it pertains to a particular field of study (Science, Government/Law, or Business). The persuasiveness of the argument/opinion presented. The originality of the argument/opinion presented in the essay. The final selection will be made by Sunkyoung U.S.A. Three winners, one in each category will be selected.

**Deadline:** April 1, 1994

**Awards:** \$5,000 to each of the three winners and a one week trip to Korea during the summer of 1994.

At the start of last night's budget forum, Planning Committee Chair Jeff Rhyne commented that he felt this semester's was "the most objective budget ever."

**Jeanne C. Breton**  
Editor-in-Chief

Some questions were raised about this, particularly from B.A.G.L.E. and L.A.S.O. (who felt that their allotments had been unfairly reduced over the years), but after an hour and a half of deliberation, only one change was made. B.A.G.L.E., in an attempt

to protest monetary attacks on other clubs and the emergency fund, proposed an amendment to give \$10 of their allotment back to the emergency fund.

A total of six amendments to the budget were proposed. The first, proposed by the Recording Studio, who did not submit a budget, was to take \$290 from the emergency fund to get equipment they failed to purchase last semester. This failed. The second, proposed by a member of the Outing Club was to take \$185 from the emergency fund, also failed. The third, proposed by an independent student, was also aimed at giving money back to the emergency

fund, but failed miserably due to the fact that it would have entailed taking \$300 from the I.S.O, \$300 from B.B.S.O, \$400 from the Menage and \$300 from L.A.S.O. (four of the biggest groups on campus). The fourth, proposed by B.A.G.L.E., symbolic resolution passed. The fifth, proposed by a member of the Senior Class, also passed. This amendment stated that whatever money remaining in the Convocation Fund at the end of the semester (if any) be given to the Senior Class so that they may hold a better tent party and donate a better gift to the college. The sixth, and final, amendment proposal was

brought forth by Wedding Proposal, formally called the Wedding Club, and called for \$100 from the emergency fund be given to them so that they could hold more than one event this semester. Although the sponsor of the amendment received a lot of attention (due to the Wedding dress she wore while reading the amendment), the proposal failed to be passed. The budget then went to be passed (as is shown on the front page of this paper).

Election results and committee reports will be featured in next week's issue.

## Following the money

### Budget Forum results in brief

## Survey: Dreams for a New Student Center

\*Please insert a Yes, No or DC (Don't Care) in each box according to whether or not you think the new Student Center should have and return to the Observer via campus mail.

First Aid Station		Music Practice Rooms	
Couches		Change machine	
New Pool Table & Equipment		Laundry Facility	
Video Games		Campus Phone	
Film Viewing Area		More than 1 pay phone	
Dance Floor		Posted Local Bus/Train Schedules	
Recording Studio		Individual Club Bulletin Boards	
Jukebox		Community Bulletin Board	
Radio Station		24 Hour Post Office Access	
Newspaper Office		Lounge area	
Club Offices		Ping Pong Table	
Club Meeting Space		Condom Vending Machines	
Cable/T.V. Watching Room		A Wipe Off Message Board	
Designated Smoking Room		Rotating Student Art Exhibit	
Art Studios		Cigarettes for sale	

Other Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

Results will be printed in next week's issue. Next Week's Survey: What to eat?



## Insane Excuses

by Andy Choung

In the February issue of *Time* magazine, there was an interesting and insightful essay by Margaret Carlson, entitled "That Killer Smile"—a reference to the smile that appeared on Lyle Menendez when the jury admitted being deadlocked. Her basic point was that "At a time when the public is clamoring for a get-tough policy on crime, juries are being led to emphasize." Today is the "age of the culprit as victim."

While mentioning other recent, well-known cases of "victimization", Carlson focused upon the Menendez trial as the finest expression of victim chic. She pointed out that despite obvious incriminating evidence, the defense was able to lull the jury into a state of doubt through theatrics, which relied upon the obnoxious length of the trial. There was nothing legally amiss, however. That was the point: in another time, such theatrics would not have confused a jury away from the fact that the Menendez brothers killed their parents (as they sat eating ice cream and watching TV and admitted it. I think Carlson's point is about the attitude that has swept the recent prominent cases.

Carlson's essays set me thinking and I think that an even more substantial point can be made about the justice system, something more than just an attitude. My girlfriend made a very insightful observation about that other "victimization" case—the Bobbit trial. From what I have been told, the basis of the "not-guilty-by-reason-of-insanity" verdict was the sexual and physical abuse (which included failing to orgasm—Bobbitt failing that is) she suffered. The abuse drove her to the act. However, I believe "Wayne" was also found not-guilty in his trial—not guilty of abuse. So, it seems then that the justice system found Bobbit innocent of an assault by reason of the abuse she suffered which the courts concurrently acknowledged in another trial as being, at the least, legally inconsequential.

This is a confusing and disturbing situation. Granted that the two cases were separate trials, is there not a glaring inconsistency? Isn't the implication that had Bobbit and Wayne switched juries, the verdicts would have been reversed? Of course, one can't stretch this kind of thinking too far since you might say that a jury that convicted one accused murderer would convict all accused murderers. But the tie between the cases seems so direct.

I think that Carlson's point is certainly applicable, since theatrics on the part of Bobbit's defense and Bobbit's own performance were undoubtedly effective. But I think the more startling implication is the absurdity of the defense. The discrepancy between "Wayne's" acquittal and the basis of the Bobbit verdict indicates that the actual fact of the abuse is not the issue, but rather to what extent can an external influence justify criminal actions. What Carlson points out in her essay is really about the tendency, visible in these prominent cases, of the justice system to seek an excuse for individual actions, to accept that an individual is not culpable as a matter of principle—after all, aren't we all just social and psychological products. But this is precisely the opposite of what justice means.

Maybe I am overreacting (being a male) to my observations on the Bobbit case, maybe they are not as cataclysmic as I make them to be. But I am reminded of something Sigmund Freud muttered, something about us all being a little mad in our own way. If insanity is an excuse, then we are all innocent no matter what we do.

## Straight From the Stars

**Aries** (March 21 - April 19): Your life will reflect a fluctuation of highs and lows. The lows will play the strongest role in future happiness.

**Taurus** (April 20 - May 20): You will be saved from public shame. Remain humble and loving.

**Gemini** (May 21 - June 20): Fashion concerns you. Maybe it's time to sort through your old clothing and treat yourself to a shopping trip.

**Cancer** (June 21 - July 22): A storm will cause you to temporarily lose interest. The worry, however, will pass.

**Leo** (July 23 - August 22): It's time to wash yourself of anything and everything that's been making you feel uncomfortable. Expect a special call.

**Virgo** (August 23 - September 22): Few have suffered as you have, but this week will bring only good things your way.

**Libra** (September 23 - October 22): To identify with the problems of your friends you may need to first spend some time away.

**Scorpio** (October 23 - November 21): Do not reject the signs of destiny. Your secret thoughts hold the key to your happiness.

**Sagittarius** (November 22 - December 21): Fantasizing about it will not make it so. Share a thought or two this week with a good friend.

**Capricorn** (December 22 - January 19): Facing your fears will help you express how you really feel; maybe you'll discover that you're not afraid after all.

**Aquarius** (January 20 - February 18): Getting caught up in the ways of society may lead to discovering how alone you really are. Within the realization lies strength.

**Pisces** (February 19 - March 20): Finding the courage to reunite yourself with something, or someone you thought was lost will also allow you to dream.

## Shameless Filler

What is the most perfect knowledge one could have? Knowledge of self. And why do so many people feel so thoroughly alienated from their world and the people around them? Well, unless the people around them are dolts, they are seeing some aspect of what they'd like to be in others and feeling a sense of inadequacy. And what would prevent this emptiness; this loss of self? Self knowledge. Four years of training in philosophy and this is all the kid can come up with. Anyway, I bring this up because there are so many people out there who want to tell you (and, as a common consequence, sell you) something that you as a human being are lacking. Some kind of personality trait common to most everybody else you know; some key ingredient that needs to be enriched or fortified so you can be happier and a better person. Hogwash; you're already a perfect person, since you're flawed and doomed like the rest of us. All you need to do is determine what it is in you that you haven't applied or exerted yet.

So, I was hardly surprised to receive a mailer from a book club which promised me books for long-forgotten or neglected parts of my personality. What surprised me is the fact that they apparently knew something about me I didn't know. The Literary Guild sent a catalog and introductory offer, clearly addressed to *Matthew Gilman*, which offered books for "all the women you are." Who, me? All the women I am? I'm sorry, I didn't realize I was any woman. I'm not sure I'm completely one man, how could I also be several women, all of whom crave books of one type or another? Perhaps I should get in touch with these women and charge rent.

Of course, it must have been a simple mailing-list misunderstanding (I belong to quite a few—uh, shall we say, *unique* book clubs...), but since they were offering, I figured I'd flip through to see what they were offering to all these different women every individual woman seems to have within. First of all, the only thing which seems to make this a *women's* book club is the large number of women photographed on the pages of the catalog itself. You'll find selections from Danielle Steele right next Dean Koontz; P. D. James next to Stephen King. Nothing you wouldn't get from Book-of-the-Month, only more "tar-

geted" for women who might need to feel special by buying overpriced hardcover bestsellers (plus delivery) from a club made just for all those women locked up inside them. How do we know these women want to read anyway? Maybe they want out, now, and for good. Or have they accepted their fate and now crave some way to kill time?

The only thing we can be sure of is that these women are very, *very* confused. In the section for the "smart" woman in there, the selections include the expected *Rogel's The-saurus*, *1001 Ways to Cut Your Expenses*, and, for some reason, an exercise book called *Bottoms Up!* and, of course, *How to Make Love to A Man (Safely)*. How smart is it to have this knowledge anyway? Do you need to be reminded how boorish men can be?

The "romance" section (I suppose they couldn't resist this section, oh well) holds the usual collection of bodice-busters, a copy of *The Joy of Sex*, and for some reason, *How to Satisfy a Woman Every Time... And Have Her Beg You for More* (actual title, reserve your copy now). Considering the proliferation of "family scenes" scattered throughout the catalog, we can assume gay women aren't the target audience here, so how would the "romantic" woman inside become confused enough to buy this book? Could it be the same one who

was smart enough to buy *How to Make Love to a Man* and discovered that it really *does* take two? Or perhaps this book belongs in the "self-help" section.

Finally, in the section "for the kid inside of you," we have a page full of fun books like one on hair styling, a collection of James Herriot stories, a Regis & Kathy Lee Cookbook. Okay, possible kid's stuff so far. But then it gets ludicrous. Why oh why would the kid inside *anyone* want to read *How to Have an Orgasm as Often as You Want?!?*

Perhaps this catalog got sent to the wrong person; I wonder if I should forward it to the person inside me it's really for. Whoever that might be. But despite the apparent uselessness this catalog might hold for me, it did leave me with a new mantra to repeat when the voices inside get too loud: just sit in a darkened room, breathe deeply and repeat their glorious tagline over and over: "I AM ALL THESE WOMEN, ALL AT THE SAME TIME..."

## In which our personal space gets hopelessly crowded

By Matthew Gilman



## International Review Column

by Shawn Milburn

On Wednesday, February 9th the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) provided the former Yugoslavia's Serbian forces 10 days to clear out heavy artillery from the region directly encompassing the besieged city of Sarajevo. This ultimatum is explicit. If the Serbs continue to shell Sarajevo within 10 days, or if the Serbs do not remove their 500+ guns beyond a 12.4 mile NATO prescribed treaty zone by 7pm. February 20th, NATO will initiate tactical air strikes against the aggressor. While the Serb's have apparently arranged for a cease fire, this does not ensure compliance with NATO's demands.

On Saturday, February 5th the Serb's demonstrated their ruthlessness when they killed 68 people and apparently wounded approximately 200 others by using the very weapons that NATO insists the Serbs relocate. Snipers and stray mortar fragments have decimated the people of Sarajevo for a significant proportion of the 22 month civil war. The slaughter on February 5th is a good example of why NATO feels that finally they must act to initiate forced peace in the short term, eventually spawning interest in harmonious relations between the two sides of the fragmented Yugoslavia in the years to come.

NATO's pursuit of peace in this region involves a complicated network of interests which I find very fascinating. In the wake of a global community moving so earnestly towards the acquisition of the "democratic" political structure, NATO (made up entirely of democratic nations) sees the former Yugoslavia as an inhibition towards this trend in Europe. The consolidation of a European Community (east and west as one) saturated in democratic ideology provides the foundation upon which a future Europe can truly achieve their aspiration to become an international economic superpower. NATO is seeing through the pieces, looking forward into the future of a Chess match which is slowly reaching endgame.

NATO is interested in this future democratic Europe, which I call the 'Eurocracy', for purely economic reasons. I do not mean to insinuate that there is an interest in the unification of the diverse cultures of Europe (please...), but I do see a keen interest in the establishment of an environment where free-market economics can finally rear its ugly head. We can see how the outcome of this particular historical "Chess match" will benefit the United States and Canada, and why the U.S. has agreed to the 10 day deadline and consequential air strikes if the Serbs do not comply. It is apparent to this author that a future Europe where democracy can prosper, liberal economics can be universal, and where traditionally democratic ideals can open new markets for nations (such as NATO members) who may be at a present loss to locate new places to exploit with Capitalism, will produce a fresh, contemporary EC with a solid economic foundation.

Alas, my hidden cynicism towards the Capitalist system has finally appeared (at least I waited until the end this time). I would like to think that NATO sees a future Eurocracy as one which will be inherently more at peace with itself (as democratic nations rarely if ever go to war with each other), but I know (from listening to Gabor and others) that economic gains are where the incentive begins. I suppose this is a case of ends over means, where the process to attain global peace does not matter as much as the attainment of that peace, but I cringe at the thought of a mutual human decency being placed second to the attainment of a great human fallacy, material wealth. We need to keep in mind, that at the end of every Chess Match, there is one king who does stand alone.

(This column is provided by the International Relations Club, and any opinions expressed are those of the author alone. The Observer will print any responses directed to these columns.)

## Menage Performance Anxiety?

Menage '94 would like Bard student suggestions on rather to hold the Menage on Saturday April 16 (one week after spring break) or Saturday May 7 (three days after senior projects are due)? Please send us your suggestions by March 4.

The rumors & gossip you've heard is probably true. So, if you're interested in helping out on one of the many affairs the Menage is planning before the big night or if you have something to submit for consideration for our March "Erotic & Romantic Readings," please drop us a note.

Of course, auditions will be held for go-go dancers. But this year we would also like to host some other performance art throughout the night. So, if you want to perform, inform, impress, or just be pleasantly objectified—WHATEVER the act or idea—start preparing for auditions in late March. Make us laugh, make us smile, or just make us wish we had come up with it first.

Remember, this year the Menage is about "communication" in the era of AIDS: safe sex & safe spaces, information & options. Please contact Menage through campus mail box 1068 (Oh! and we hope you wrote your "crush" and had the chance to, uh, "talk.")

Brought to you with pleasure by the Menage '94 working group.

## Grand Opening Bard's natural foods store

by Susan Prill, Maya Kucij, and Jen Gaudioso

The old DeKline site has been transformed into a community health food co-op store. Opening this Thursday, Feb. 17, the current store hours are: Thursdays 1-5, Fridays 1-5, and Friday nights 6-10. Since this student-run store is staffed by volunteers, the hours are, for now, limited. Presently all profits are being used to repay our loan from the Dean of Students Office. Hopefully, before long, these profits can be used to hire work-study students and therefore extend our hours. Any profits beyond these will then be used to help sponsor campus activities.

The store carries a variety of food and

non-food items, for example: pasta, tortilla chips, Ginger Brew, After-the-Fall Juices, tofu, soymilk, Cloud Nine Chocolate, dried beans, Fantastic Foods, shampoo, soap, Tom's of Maine toothpaste, and much more. Where possible, organically grown products are carried. If you do not see an item in-stock, it may be possible to place a special order.

Look for our coupon in this week's Observer. It's good for 5% off any purchase of at least \$5.00. Members receive a 5% discount on all purchases, including sale items. Membership is open to everyone at the rate of \$10 a semester.

Help us name our store. Drop by and give us your recommendation. If we choose your suggestion, you will receive a gift certificate worth \$10.00 at our new store.

## Student Center dialogue

from Shelley Morgan, Dean of Students

I would like to invite all students to participate in a discussion about the new Student Center. The Central Committee has agreed to devote a Forum meeting entirely to the Student Center and will elect two students to the committee. A member of the Bard Observer staff will sit on the Committee and report on its progress. We should, however, have an on-going dialogue about ideas, wants and needs for this space. Any student who has a suggestion that he would like to pass along, should write to the Observer, attend the upcoming Forum meeting, seek out Student Center Committee members (printed in next week's Observer) or talk with me directly. The planning of the Student Center should be a collaborative effort and I hope that all students will contribute to the process.

## Grand Opening of Bard's Natural Foods Store!

5% off any purchase of  
\$5.00 or more with this coupon

store opens Thursday, February 17th, 1-5pm



## Another View

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## WE LIVE HERE!

by Carolyn Dechaine and Gabriel Miller  
As many of you are aware last semester a series of discussions was initiated with the objective of examining the lack of community at Bard and the extent to which Bard students are relatively passive recipients of what is known as the "college experience". From the beginning these two phenomenon were seen as linked. Some of the participants, including ourselves, argued that because Bard students are almost completely excluded from the decision making processes of the college the degree of dissatisfaction and overall lack of community are hardly surprising. Because students have little or no input on decisions concerning curriculum and all aspects of the campus, the "college experience" seems to be less a process of sharing knowledge and more something which is done to a passive student body. We often talk about or hear others referring to the "apathy of Bard students". But is apathy surprising when we are excluded from the process of creating our college and our world? This may be incredibly naive, but why can't our college be run democratically? Why can't students have direct input and take part in making decisions about our education? "We live here!" means that there is no distinct separation between our lives and our educations. We don't only study at Bard, we also live at Bard. A voice in the academic and student-life decisions will be an act of will in the determination of

our lives. Don't we have a special opportunity to increase the level of participation and include people in discussion and debate? Essentially the question is why can't Bard College be the student's college?

Perhaps these questions aren't naive at all.

Let's look at an example of a somewhat inclusive form of decision making, the Student Forum. The Student Forum is, not surprisingly, a forum, which means that the student government is constituted by all the people who come out and show an interest in what is going on. Everyone who comes to Forums, is part of the student government, has the opportunity to speak and introduce resolutions. This is a very participatory way of making decisions. Does it work? Well, yes. Sort of.

The structure of the Student Forum is a good one; decisions are made and often good ones—even if the process is somewhat painful. Only a small portion of the student body attends forums. *This should surprise no one.* It should surprise no one that a governing body which is relatively powerless is not well attended. Last semester when the administration initiated dorm locking against the will of the overwhelming majority of students, the forum passed a resolution which criticized the administration's blatant disrespect for student wishes and called upon the administration to stop locking *our homes* without our consent. The administration

felt free to ignore the decision of our Forum. Many students felt (whether they were for or against dorm locking) that the behavior of the administration revealed their disregard for our wishes and their denial of our efforts at self determination. Essentially the Student Forum is free to make decisions which may or may not have any impact at all depending on whether the administration and faculty like what we have decided. The problem does not lie with the individual administrators who are no doubt frustrated in their efforts to make the choices for a student body whose composition is ever-changing; the problem is structural.

The role the administration should be administering to the needs of the community, which is of course made up largely of students. The administration should not be making decisions for the community, but rather acting upon them. As a student once said, "Bard college is not something done to us in our best interest."

These ideas are largely drawn from a series of discussions which took place last semester in which students talked about issues such as community, student life, student-faculty-administration relationships and the simple fact that while we do receive a Bard education we have very little to do with defining what that education is. These initial discussions were sponsored by the I.D.R.O., but participants in the IDRO and non-participants alike agreed that stu-

dent unity and the largest participation possible were the objectives and toward that end it was agreed that these discussions and any potential organizing for a student voice would be independent of any group and that it should strive to be as inclusive as possible. Many students attended the discussions, there were many new faces at each gathering. Each discussion was different but each time a common thread was visible, that many things about Bard need to be changed and that the best method towards positive changes was the development of a dialogue among students and organizing to act on our needs and our ideas.

In student discussions a variety of issues were raised all relating to decisions that were carried out despite student opposition. Students expressed their frustration with dorm-locking, the Presidential Commission report and Bard's continuing reluctance to introduce a multi-cultural education. The Presidential Commission proposed major changes to the curriculum, but the members of the Commission neglected to ask Bard students what they thought about the matter. The uproar among students was enormous and a Student Forum was called at which students expressed themselves articulately and intelligently and made very clear that the vast majority of the students were opposed to the recommendations of the commis-

continued on page 10



## Hot Cocoa Madness

with answers to your questions about your sweet confusions and your sticky sex problems

Dear Hot Cocoa,

I have a problem with my love life. It's dead. I have been looking to breathe some life into it, and I have some ideas. However one particular possible sweetheart is difficult to approach. Here's why: this young lady had a long standing relationship with someone else on campus. I am inclined to believe that they are no longer an item, but certain "activities" lead me to suspect things between them are not as "cut and dry" as I would hope. I also feel that this lady's ex-beau is mightily suspicious of me. As far as I know she is oblivious to my feelings. I don't want to interfere, nor do I want to jeopardize our friendship. How would you suggest I approach this delicate situation?

Signed,

Onanizing in Oberholzer

Dear Onanizing—

I'm sorry about the corpse. I think any student at Bard has to deal with the fact that this is a very "incestuous" place. Almost every one here has gone out with other people here, it is a small campus and there's no way of getting around it. I think the best way to find out about your lady-friend and her ex-beau would be to ask. Don't sky-write the question, bring it up in casual conversation (assuming you have them with her and she's not on a distant pedestal) about relationships. You can ask under the guise of friendship and take your steps from there. Most friends talk about their love-lives semiregularly, it shouldn't arouse any undue suspicions. I wish you luck and feel free to write again for advice when you've reached the next step.

Hot Cocoa

Dear Hot Cocoa,

I have a lover/girlfriend, and I am having immense emotional problems coming to accept the status of our love life. I am from South Asia and am brown-skinned. My girlfriend is white with blonde hair and blue eyes, and I think she may be intimidated by my skin color. I tried to make her more comfortable by enacting what I thought would be an erotic experience; before she came home from class one day, I prepared myself by rubbing cooking oil all over my body, and wrapping myself in saran wrap. I greet her at the door, literally dripping, holding out a rum+coke. She screamed and ran away. She won't talk to me now and says I'm a kinky pig. What should I do? Help.

The Crisco Kid.

Dear Kid—

Gosh, all greased up and no one to do, sounds tuff. My mama always told me, "Never let yourself be hand-cuffed on a first date!" You simply can't solve emotional problems with kinky sex (not that I have anything against kinky sex mind you—I'm all four it!) It seems to me like you should have talked about the problem first. My advice is to give up, try again with someone else and try not to start any grease fires if you smoke after sex.

Hot Cocoa

Disclaimer: Letters will be answered in the manner in which they are written. So if you're not serious, neither am I. Send your inquiries through campus mail to Hot Cocoa, c/o Bard Observer, Observer Plaza, Bard College.





## Philadelphia and Schindler's List

Our reviewer even looks at *In the Name of the Father*

Okay, we'll start off this semester's movie column with the two biggies of the winter

**Shawn  
Taylor  
Movie  
Reviewer**

movie season: *Philadelphia* and *Schindler's List*. Both were long awaited, both are much talked about, and both are about big issues: the AIDS epidemic and the Holocaust, respectively.

Issue movies are kind of a problem, though, because it becomes difficult to talk about the movie without discussing the issues which are their subject matter. Is *Philadelphia* a better movie if it makes people aware of the AIDS issue? Is it a lesser movie if it doesn't? Is the validity of *Schindler's List* as a film to be based on whether it accurately portrays what really happened? Do either of these movies, or the people involved in them, have a responsibility to the issues they present, or should such issues be considered just another device for making a film more effective, like when a TV mini-series claims, "based on a true story?" Along with the movies themselves as cinematic experience, we have to consider what effect these issues have on our viewing of them.

First off, *Philadelphia*. A young, up-and-coming lawyer (played by Tom Hanks) is fired because his senior partners find out he has AIDS—at least that's how it appears, even though this is left slightly less than concrete in the end. In his passion for his work and for justice, Hanks sues his employers based on a Supreme Court decision that it is illegal to discriminate against AIDS patients. A local ambulance chaser (Denzel Washington) agrees to represent Hanks, in spite of his own prejudices against homosexuals. From there, the movie addresses the various points of the court battle, as well as the issues both Hanks and Washington must face in their lives as the story unfolds.

The story is well told, the

pace is gripping, the acting is nigh-impeccable. The development of the relationship between Hanks and Washington is entertaining and touching, and the developments in Washington's personal life and views as a result of coming into contact with Hanks are moving and entertaining.

On the other hand, there are many relationships in the film which are not so well developed—for example, we are to believe that Hanks' family is so enlightened that they can accept both his lifestyle and his illness with a completely enlightened and supportive attitude. Okay, so maybe Hanks is one of the lucky ones, but this seems like an issue that might have been better off addressed rather than blown off—the family is quite large, and even a quiet dissenting voice would have made it relate better to the world of fear and prejudice that the film goes to so much trouble to present. The other relationship that lacks is the one between Hanks and his lover—somehow, the chemistry is less than believable.

The biggest complaint to be made, however, is that the character of Hanks winds up underdeveloped—by the end of the movie, he's a guy with AIDS, and little more, to the point that the outcome of the court case is underplayed to the fact that Hanks is back in the hospital. Is this an intentional attempt to show dramatically the results of living with AIDS, or is this the filmmaker allowing the issues addressed to subjugate the story that is the medium? It would be fine if Hanks' character were set up to be a simple victim role all through the film, but in the beginning we are made to feel that there will be more to him than that, and throughout we are shown strange but moving glimpses of passion that hint to us that there really is a character behind that disease. Not that it doesn't work effectively, just that I question how calculated that effect is.

On the other hand, many people are saying that the film doesn't dwell strongly enough on what it means to be an AIDS victim in our society, so perhaps this is an attempt at a compromise between story and social issue. So here's where

the issue comes in: do the filmmakers have an obligation to address certain aspects of the issue in their work, or only those which fit into the story conveniently? Discussions of this film are inevitably turned to real life, and critics are more often than not forced to defend their opinions not with evidence from the film, but from personal experience—"well, have you known anyone with AIDS?" To its credit, *Philadelphia* strikes a reasonably skilled balance, in that it manages to present both an issue and a story in such a way that the average person can get both out of it, neither feeling that the story has been sacrificed completely for the sake of the issue it addresses, nor that the AIDS issue is just a gimmick to tug the viewer's heartstrings.

Okay, now for *Schindler's List*—the story of Oskar Schindler (played by Liam Neeson), a businessman in Nazi Germany whose exploits saved several thousand Jews from dying in Auschwitz. The film is three and a half hours long, and it tells a real epic of a story, from just before the relocation of the Jews into the Jewish slum areas by the Nazis all the way up to the end of World War 2. It's filmed in black and white, and the only criticism of Steven Spielberg's direction is that he does push the limits of melodrama once in a while—but when you're there in the middle of it all, it's pretty easy to forgive him.

Overall, the mood of the film is really effective, and the pace of the story allows exultation in the small victories that occur without losing the sense of overall horror at the events surrounding the story. Ben Kingsley is excellent as the humble accountant who manages to sway Schindler from opportunistic profiteering into a position of sympathy for the oppressed Jews, although this is actually the area where the film has the most problems—Schindler's character slips too easily into the role of philanthropist, and whatever doubts he has about himself in such a position are washed away with a quick shrug of Kingsley's humble shoulders. On the other hand, since we all know

that this switch is coming, it would not necessarily have been a good idea to belabor the point, either.

As far as issues go, this one is a little different from *Philadelphia* in that it addresses an issue of history rather than one of contemporary life. This makes it no less an emotional experience, and in fact probably aids it in that fewer people will want to debate it from personal experience. The point of the movie is both to honor the figure of Schindler and recognize his work in the war, as well as to focus a more dramatic eye on the atrocities of that time.


Again, here's where the issue comes in: was Schindler really someone worth honoring? Different people are saying different things—while it is not disputed that he made it possible for many Jews to escape Nazi persecution, there are some who say that he only did so when those Jews were able to pay small fortunes for the service. For the sake of the story itself, this question is almost irrelevant; whether it happened or not, it makes a great movie, and regardless of the melodrama, there are segments that call into question the values we apply to life—most notably in a scene where Schindler compares the value of the material objects around him to the price it cost to save a Jew from the death camps.

Spielberg really does seem to want us to walk away with the thought that Schindler was a genuine hero of sorts during a time when few were brave enough to act, and because of this his film is being strongly debated. For every person who wants to thank him for a conscience-raising film, there is another who would condemn him for sensationalizing the truth and glossing over the facts of history. If you see the movie, try not to worry about whether it really happened or not—there's time for that afterward. Appreciate it for the beauty it achieves and the points it makes—and makes well—about human nature, and try to accept the rest as at least well-intentioned, whether you find it plausible or not.

Yet another recent movie addressing poignant social issues is *In the Name of the Father*,

starring Daniel-Day Lewis. This is the true story of a young Belfast Irishman who, along with several friends and family members, was wrongly accused of the IRA bombing of a London pub. Forced to sign a confession under the threat of violence to his father, who was then also arrested as a conspirator, he was sentenced to life in prison. The circumstances under which Lewis' character is arrested and then jailed are truly horrifying, and the movie is well directed enough to carry this point without belaboring it. The acting in the film is for the most part excellent, from the main characters to the bit parts, and Lewis himself is exceptional, especially considering what a demanding role this would have to be (he is on-screen for at least 75% of the film).

The details of the story as it unfolds are as complex as any mainstream thriller, which is amazing when you consider that it's all taken from actual events (the film was adapted from Conlon's autobiography, which has now been re-released under the same name). It's truly scary that a story with such Orwellian undertones could have happened so recently (Conlon was finally cleared of all charges for the crime in the late eighties, and only then was he released from jail; his father had already died in prison), and the film makes the point that many people in similar situations don't live to have their names cleared.

In my opinion, this movie does a better job of dramatizing an issue than does either *Philadelphia* or *Schindler's List*; it is a factual story, one that few today will question the validity of, and it presents the horrors of political oppression with a realistic but insistently focused attitude. The characters are never forced to be anything more than human, and we are allowed to see the frustration and fanaticism that can be associated with a quest for justice. A really effective film, it scores big in all categories—the acting, the story, the directing are all there, and I'm really surprised it hasn't become more popular. Highly recommended, even if you have to hit NYC to do so. 



## Sports highlights of the past week

**Basketball (1-17)**

1/28 vs. Southern Vermont Lost 56-99

2/3 vs. Pratt Institute Lost 61-84

2/5 Bard Tournament

Lost to Albany College 58-81

Lost to St. Joseph's/ Brooklyn 57-74

**Men's Fencing (1-3)**

2/5 vs. Stevens Tech Lost 7-20

**Women's Fencing (2-4)**

2/5 vs. Stevens Tech Lost 6-10

**Men's Volleyball (1-4)**

2/10 vs. Danapo Lost 0-3

2/13 Independent Athletic Conference Tournament

vs. Mt. St. Vincent Won 3-0

vs. NJ Tech Lost 0-3

vs. Yeshiva Lost 0-3

vs. Stevens Tech Lost 0-3

**Men's Squash**

2/4 vs. Navy Lost 0-9

2/13 vs. Haverford Lost 1-8

vs. George Washington 2-7



Men's varsity volleyball team makes valiant attempt

*Athletes of the week*  
**Todd Hefner**  
 &  
**Nicole Grimes**

**\*Rate the Deans Survey Results\***

On Average Is:	Shelley Morgan	Gladys Watson	Stuart Levine	Ethan Bloch
Friendly	Yes	No	No	Yes
Responsive...	Yes	No	No	Yes
Readily available	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Polite	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Helpful	Yes	No	No	Yes
Understanding	Yes	No	No	Yes
Easy to get in touch with	Yes	Yes	No	Yes
Getting things done quickly	Yes	Yes	No	No
Cooperative	Yes	No	Yes	Yes
Doing a good job	Yes	No	No	Yes
Running worthwhile programs	Yes	No	No	No
<b>Overall # of responses</b>				
Answer	Shelley Morgan	Gladys Watson	Stuart Levine	Ethan Bloch
Strongly Agree	35	15	5	28
Agree	86	56	62	78
No Opinion	28	20	46	90
Disagree	33	38	49	17
Strongly Disagree	38	91	56	7



## We live here (continued)

*continued from page 7*

sion. However, the matter was not decided with the direct involvement of student. The Faculty Senate decided the matter and only because the proposal was terribly ill-conceived and the students were able to plead their case to the powers that be, did the Senate's decision coincide with the students wishes.

In many other cases the interests and wants of the students have not coincided with the faculty's or administration's, such as dorm locking, apparently still MES, and the denial of tenure to Carol Nackenoff and the failure to rehire Leo Smith (who have both gone on to very prestigious positions).

Discussion also touched on practical approaches. The need to constantly be involving more people was stressed. The significance of the Forum as a center for students, but also its relative powerlessness, was referred to.

The need to influence the design of the planned new student center as well as all additions to the campus was talked about. In fact, so many excellent ideas were being formulated that the appalling waste of our exclusion from decision making became readily apparent.

Students spoke of these decisions and how genuine student participation in decision making could have made a real difference. Of course the faculty and administration have skills, expertise and knowledge and we are lucky to have them working for us, but if their arguments are sound why can't they convince us rather than make decisions which affect our lives behind closed doors.

Inspired by the discussions a group of students tried to attend a faculty meeting but were expelled because of the Faculty meetings closed door policy. The majority

of faculty voted for expulsion, but a minority did support the student presence, one professor expressing pleasure at the student interest and another raising a fist in support. This situation led to the formulation of a letter calling for entry of students into all meetings (except in exceptional cases) which a quarter of the entire student body signed. As of yet the faculty Executive Committee has not even felt obliged to respond.

At this time communication and debate in the *Observer* began. Many students wrote to share ideas that had been developed in the discussions while others wrote in response. These writings raised awareness of important student issues and brought people who had not been involved into activity. The community discourse needs to be developed; the conversation is ongoing.

The conversation thus far has led to a call for change in the

college's decision making process in order to bring students faculty and administrators into collaborative participation. Since forums already exist for each of these groups to gather among themselves the need is clear for a new forum. The ideas discussed in the faculty meetings or the student forum or in administration meetings would be brought forth in the new forum for discussion by all groups and individuals involved. The proposal is for a decision making forum open to equal participation by any and all students, faculty, and administrators (a truly egalitarian non-representative structure) from which the

final and binding decisions will emerge. By keeping the existing forums intact the members of each group, students, faculty and administrators will all be able to confer among themselves, but the power to put ideas into action is not held in the hands of an

exclusive or minority group. This model exists only as a proposal; there are many problems and concerns to be worked through. The process of change at Bard will need to involve the broadest sector of the community possible. Right now the idea is to foster communicating and organizing.

Discussions will continue on Tuesday nights when no Student Forum is scheduled. We will get together in Aspinwall, third floor at about 9:00 p.m. Clearly there is a need to maintain motivation and continue to build the level of participation in community discussion. It often seems that Bard is changing. Who is deciding the direction the college is moving in? Who is setting priorities and choosing goals? Students, both through their ideas and actions, need to become directly active in the process of determining what Bard college is.

## Liar, liar

Dear Editor,

In the cover of last week's *Observer*, Mr. Charles Simmons was quoted as saying that the reason why many rooms in Stone Row had no heat was because students left windows open and turned their thermostats off. Assuming Mr. Simmons was not misquoted or paraphrased incorrectly, he is lying through his teeth.

Point number one: Students did not leave their windows open over January Intercession. I know both students whose rooms were flooded in South Hoffman, and they did not leave even their storm windows open, either. (Oh, he didn't mention that, did he?)

Point number two: Leaving windows open does not make the heat go off. Quite the contrary, it makes

the heater work more. That's how heaters work. If it's colder, they crank it up.

Point number three: Students did not turn off their thermostats—Bard did. I stayed in my Stone Row room until the Sunday before Break, as I was allowed to, but Bard had shut off the heat that Friday afternoon. I couldn't figure out how to get the heat on, let alone off. Some of my neighbors still do not have heat, and those who do have it on an intermittent basis.

Point number four: I worked in the bookstore all January, and we did not have heat at all. In fact, neither did any of the offices in Stone Row (Career Development, HEOP). One of the bookstore managers brought in a thermometer and put it near the computer in the back. The thermometer read 45

degrees most of the time, only once approaching 60 degrees, and certainly nowhere near room temperature. When we complained of lack of heat, Mr. Simmons himself offered no less than three alternatives for lack of heat. He first blamed the students outright; a couple days later, he claimed that the "Honeywell" thermostats which every room on main campus uses were all broken, and that B&G had to wait while a Honeywell repairman came to Bard to fix them; finally, he told us that the boiler was down. But then he changed his story. Then he did it again. Now I guess its back to blaming Bard students.

There are three possibilities for the lack of heat leading to the frozen pipes and flooding. An administrator thought Bard could save money

by turning off the heat (I've heard this is done every January); B&G turned the heat off (unlikely, as B&G only does what the administration tells them to do); or the boiler broke down. Now, if the boiler broke, which is the most probable cause, why doesn't Bard simply admit it? It's not as though B&G is to blame for Bard's hopelessly outdated and constantly in need of repair heating system. It appears that Bard is all too willing to blame students through faulty arguments rather than just admitting the problem and fixing it.

By the way, the washer machines in Stone Row were finally emptied of dirty water from being flooded. Somebody must have left the laundry room's permanently sealed window open.

Sincerely,  
Matthew Apple

**The Observer is always on the lookout for more volunteers. We need writers, photographers, advertising personnel and help with layout. Oh yeah, a Sports Editor would be nice too. Anyone interested should come to a weekly meeting, Mondays at 7p at our office in the basement of Tewksbury.**

## Spencer Green





## Financial Politics

Dear Sean O'Neill:

I read your editorial on page 10 of the last *Observer* of the Fall semester. I am very encouraged by the extent of your discussion and interest concerning the College and its governance. I leave it to your judgment and that of the editor whether you wish to publish this response in the next issue of the *Observer*, but I am writing it with the full expectation that you may wish to do so. However, I did not want you as the writer to wait for a formal reply that could be printed. I think that some of the points you raised merit a response. My purpose here is to correct certain errors in fact and to suggest that some of the points of view you put forward may warrant reconsideration.

First, there is no statistical increase in attrition. As I indicated in my letter to the *Observer*, it is not clear who does not return and for what reasons. We hope to find out. While you may have the subjective impression of the College as "nomadic", the facts tell a different story. Seventy-five percent of the students who enter graduate within five years. Students take semesters off and study abroad. The history of retention over the years is exactly opposite from the one you suggest. A decade ago it was 60 percent, and twenty years ago it was under 50 percent. So attrition at the College has been going down steadily. Second, there is the startling and, I have to admit, even staggering notion imbedded in your editorial that the financial aid we give is "buying off" students. And you make the allegation that the money for that presumed process comes from the full-tuition-paying students. Let me address these points in order.

1. In order to fulfill its mission, the College, as an institution dedicated to a high quality and diverse student body, has intentionally increased its financial aid budget and raises money for that purpose. The College raises over \$7 million a year in the annual fund, of which the overwhelming portion goes to financial aid. Another part of the financial aid comes from the income we receive from endowment. The amount of unfunded financial aid is therefore miniscule. Furthermore, only 30 percent of the student body pays full tuition, so that it would be implausible for

the funds for financial aid to come from tuition income. For the College to break even, it must raise the money it does not receive from tuition and fees, and since the largest expense item is financial aid, the money has to come from philanthropy.

2. While I perfectly understand a concern about the financing of financial aid, I am astonished at the attitude expressed in your editorial about the giving of financial aid. I have the highest respect for two institutions that charge no tuition at all, Berea College in Kentucky and Cooper Union. The principle behind financial aid is the idea that people should be permitted to attend college regardless of their means. In this sense, merit and need for financial aid go hand in hand. Any college or university of real quality in the private sector has between 60 and 70 percent of its students on financial aid. This year Bard will have between four and five applicants for every place in the freshman class. Our capacity to give away financial aid permits us to admit students to Bard without regard to their ability to pay. The idea that the College would raise money and give financial aid in order to "buy" students, as if that were some kind of cynical or sinister act, is troublesome, to say the least. Since my ideal of an institution is one in which no tuition at all is charged but where admission is solely on the basis of merit and appropriateness, it is clear the giving of financial aid is at the very essence of what an institution ought to do.

While we hope that students who come to Bard remain here for the full four years of their undergraduate education, all colleges (and particularly smaller institutions in rural areas) know that the initial choice of an entering student may not be the appropriate or best choice. I have always been sympathetic to the European system in which students spend semesters at various institutions. It is clearly an English and American tradition that one starts and finishes at the same college. But there are positive reasons to leave a particular institution. We have many alumni/ae who are very generous to Bard who transferred in and also transferred out and completed their education elsewhere. One institution cannot be all things to all people. There is a

constructive process of transfer and change. Our goal is to improve the quality of the academic and extracurricular life on campus. It is not to push retention rates beyond what they reasonably ought to be.

I wanted to express these points of view to you as soon as possible so that you might have the chance to reflect on them over the break. I would be happy to talk to you about these matters. I am probably most concerned about the notion that Bard, whose applications have quadrupled over the last fifteen years, would so aggressively increase its financial aid precisely at a time when it did not have to do so for any other reason but to provide a more fair, equitable, and broad-based opportunity for young people to attend this college. My life would be a lot easier if we simply admitted students who could pay. I then would be relieved of a lot of fundraising.

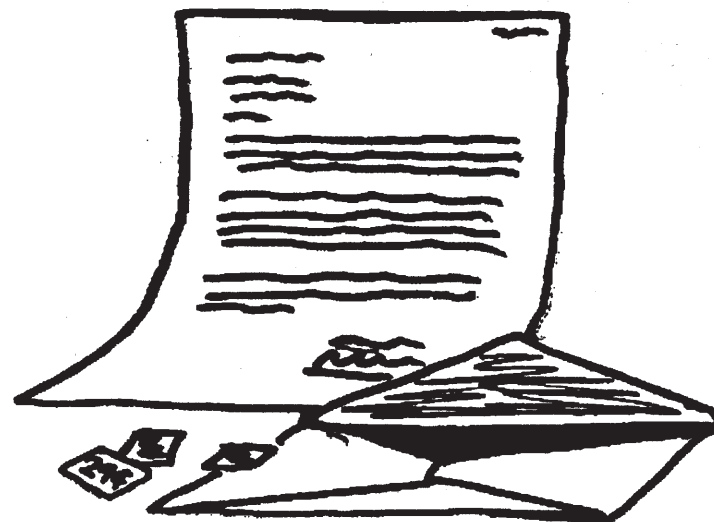
Even a cursory glance at other institutions of Bard's quality will show that every institution in the private sector in this country is dependent on financial aid in order to recruit and maintain a high-quality and diverse student body. The private sector in the late twentieth century is surrounded by a much cheaper public sector, and its cost have risen well beyond the capacity of most people. Financial aid is a constructive necessity and should be looked upon in that way. I speak for many donors to the financial aid fund when I say that they believe, and I think correctly so, that they are giving to a good cause and helping people attend Bard, where the process and experience of education, by any reasonable comparison in the private sector or with state institutions, are distinctive, desirable, demanding, and of the highest quality. This does not mean, as you and other students suggest, that things at Bard can't and shouldn't be changed and improved.

Cordially,  
Leon Botstein  
President

Please Recycle

This Paper!

Thank-you!!



## Archives of the Elders

To the Bard Community

Since December 13, a group of Bard students have been attempting to establish a tutorial called *Archives of the Elders*. The tutorial will be led by Nancy Red Star. We have received resistance from the administration from all angles and are reaching out to you, the students. If you would like to support us and receive a packet of information about the tutorial, please contact one of the individuals listed below and they would be happy to help you.

Sarah Fridrich (752-7320)  
Eric Landaverde (ext.341)  
Edward Martinez (7124)  
Tim Oakes (7124)

Leslie Kuhn (7153)  
Sesame Lee (7028)  
Monica Monroy (7121)

## The Bard Observer

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## Bard Observer Editorial Policy

All submissions must be turned in to either campus mail or our Tewksbury office no later than noon the Saturday before the issue for which they are intended. Space on the Another View and Letters pages works on a first come basis; if we cannot fit your submission in one week, it will be guaranteed space the next week. We do not exclude 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

(914) 758-0772 or write:

Bard Observer Bard College Box 185 Annandale, N.Y. 12504



# CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE

FEBRUARY 16 TO FEBRUARY 23 • 1994

## ★ WEDNESDAY. FEBRUARY 16 ★

- ★ **Mesa de Español.** ¡No te la pierdas! Kline Committee Room 6-7p.
- ★ **Grand Union Run.** Leaves at 6p and returns at 7p. **Meet the van behind Kline.**
- ★ **Scottish Country Dancing.** Join us for dance and refreshments. **Manor Living Room, 7:30-9:30p.**
- ★ **Bard College Folk Society Concert Series** presents **Susan Werner.** This folk songwriter and interpreter will be performing in the **Olin Auditorium at 8p.**
- ★ **Maureen Forrestal,** Career Development Counselor will discuss summer internships and jobs. **Obreshkove lounge, 9p.**

## ★ THURSDAY. FEBRUARY 17 ★

- ★ **GRAND OPENING.** Bard's own natural food store is now open for business. **Old Dekline, 1-5p (also open on Friday 1-5p and 6-10p.)**
- ★ **5:30-6pm Tavola Italiana, Kline President's Room.** All Welcome! Join us for conversation at **6-7p.** Benvenuti!
- ★ **Introductory Yoga** will start today, contact Prof. Ben Vromen for more information.
- ★ **Mid-Hudson/Larreynaga Sister Cities Project** welcomes new memberstoday in the **Kline College Room at 5p.**
- ★ **BAGLE** (Bisexuals, Activists, Gay Lesbians Et al.) meeting. Come one, come all! **Albee Social 6:30p.**
- ★ **Charlie Roth,** storyteller, performs Chassidic tale, meditations and Niggunim with musical accompaniment by Zoe Zak from Cara de Luna. **DeKline, 9p**
- ★ **Morphine,** phenomenal band from Boston that does not have a guitar player. (That is a good thing). **Free with Bard ID, courtesy of the Entertainment Comm. Old Gym, 10p**

## ★ FRIDAY. FEBRUARY 18 ★

- ★ **Avi Hadari,** Israeli Actor/Director presents Israeli theater and music. Drama workshop at the **Drama Studio, 4p.**
- ★ **Beginning squash lessons.** For further information contact Kris Hall at 758-7530. **At the Stevenson Gym, 3-4p.**
- ★ **CZEC IT OUT!** Do you have an interest in Czech culture? Would you like to learn some Czech words, Czech expressions or experience Czech humor? Come to the Czech table. **Kline Presidents Room, 5-6:30p.**
- ★ **The Independent Performance Club** is meeting in the Olin Moon Room, 6:30p. **Bring Ideas!**
- ★ **Israeli Music** presented by Avi Hadari. Videos as a reflection of Political, Social and Cultural life. **Preston Theatre, 8p.**
- ★ **The Rocky Horror Picture Show.** Sponsored by BAGLE and the Film Committee, **Student Center 10p.**

## ★ SATURDAY. FEBRUARY 19 ★

- ★ **The Garden of Finzi-Continis,** directed by Vittorio de Sica. **Preston Theater, 7p.**
- ★ **Europa, Europa,** directed by Agnieszka Holland. **Preston Theater, 9p.**

## ★ SUNDAY. FEBRUARY 20 ★

- ★ **Late Summer Blues,** directed by Renen Schorr. **Preston Theater, 7p.**
- ★ **The Black Banana,** directed by Benjamin Hayeem. **Preston Theatre, 9p.**

## ★ MONDAY. FEBRUARY 21 ★

- ★ **No classes today!** Just kidding, wanted to see if you were paying attention. Go to your classes!

## ★ TUESDAY. FEBRUARY 22 ★

- ★ **Taxes and Tea.** Workshop with Gerald Kelly on filling your taxes. Ask all your questions and have a beverage with the financial wizard. **Albee Social, 7p.**

## ★ WEDNESDAY. FEBRUARY 23 ★

- ★ **Mesa de Español.** ¡No te la pierdas! **Kline Committee Room 6-7p.**
- ★ **Grand Union Run.** Leaves at 6p and returns at 7p. **Meet the van behind Kline.**



Take advantage of free advertising in **THE BARD OBSERVER**

### HOW TO PUBLICIZE IN THE BARD OBSERVER

If you have an event to publicize in the *Bard Observer* Calendar:

1. Drop off the announcement at the Dean of Students Office in Ludlow 204 and it will be forwarded to the Observer office. Please put your name on the announcement and how you can be reached if there are any questions.
2. Call the Calendar or the Observer at 758-0772.
3. Call Ext. 454 to make a reservation for your event in a committee room at Kline Commons. The Observer will then publicize the event in the next issue of the Calendar.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE ★

**WEDNESDAY:** Grand Union Runs: Leave at 6p, return at 7p.  
**FRIDAY:** Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall Runs: Leave every other Friday at 5p. Pick up at the Mall at 9p. Trips are scheduled for February 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 15, 29 and May 13.  
 Rhinecliff Train Station Run: 4:20p for the 4:53p, 5:50 for the 6:21p, 7:00p for the 7:41p.  
 Poughkeepsie Runs: 5:30p for the 6:15p, 7:45p for the 8:35p, 10:00p for the 10:45p.  
**SATURDAY:** The 10a-2p shuttle from Bard to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck.  
**SUNDAY:** Van meets the 7:15p and 9:30p trains at the Rhinecliff Station.  
 Van meets the 7:43p and 10:43p trains at the Poughkeepsie Station.  
 Church Runs: at 9:15 to go to Red Hook for St. Chris Church and Tivoli for St. Paul's Church.  
**Other Transportation:** Jitney Service: To South Campus, leaves Manor Gatehouse at 8:30 am and 9:30 pm. Return to North Campus, leaves behind Kline at 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm.  
 Van trips to New York City: every three weeks: March 5, 26, April 16, May 7. Sign up in the Dean of Students Office - \$5.00.

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















