Page 1  “And Hordes of Sports Fans Flood the Field”
   Josh Ledwell
Page 2  Garbage and Guitars
   Thieves and litterbugs on campus
   Michael Poirier
   Classifieds and personals
Page 3  Bullets [Movie Review of Woody Allen’s Bullets Over Broadway]
   Broadway
   Pedro Rodriquez
   Cooking Column
   Jeana C. Breton
Page 4  Sports to End All Sports [Continuation of Front Page Story]
   Wanting to Swim
   Kelly Messerle
Page 6  Entertainment Committee Candidates
   Idiopathic Illness Hits Bard
   Eric P. Keller
Page 7  Letters
   Resist hegemony…
   Eric P. Keller
   Preposterous New Policy
   Liam Tumulty
   Enough Cynicism
   Benjamin Epstein
Page 8  Calendar
"News is whatever sells newspapers. The Observer is free."

THE BARD OBSERVER

Volume 102 Number 12
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504
December 7, 1994

"Think how thou hast stab'st me in my prime of youth at Tewksbury.
Despair therefore and die!"—Shakespeare
Richard III

Contents
2 Security beat
Classifieds and Personals
3 Bullets over Broadway
Cooking Column
Chillers Comic
4 + 5 Sports Centerfold
6 Entertainment Committee statements
Illness at Bard
7 Letters: Hegemony, parties, and the end of the world

Josh Ledwell
Sports Editor

Fall 1994 has been a terrific semester for student participation in Bard athletics. According to Athletic Director Joel Tomson, more than 170 additional students have used the gym and facilities this year than at the same time last year.

A major part of this influx has been in varsity sports. Men's and women's soccer and women's tennis had large numbers of players who consistently reported to practices and games. Assistant Athletic Director Kris Hall also noted that some students are "part of Bard history in the making" this semester, as the college's first women's squash team begins playing.

Tomson mentioned that crowds of spectators helped in keeping athletes' enthusiasm alive. During soccer games, for example, "It wasn't uncommon to have 100+ people out there," he said.

Other activities also drew people to the Stevenson Gym. Intramurals brought in large numbers of weekend athletes, while the new Natural High program enticed hardened Bardians into having fun naturally. Don't leave out Thursday Night Madness, which Hall says will return next semester "with enhanced marketing." Finally, Tomson added that the aerobics classes have been popular, attracting "a lot of completely different students" than those in varsity sports.

Tomson said that overall he was "pleased with the participation, but not satisfied." The Athletic Department plans to significantly expand its programming next semester. There will be new personnel, including a full time fitness and athletic trainer and a part time aquatics (pool) director.

Bard sports will have even more to offer next semester. Look for it!

"And hordes of sports fans flood the field!"

Varsity Sports

On Thursday, December 1, the men's varsity basketball team played its first game at home, versus Yeshiva University. Against a team they had never beaten, the Blazers maintained a marginal lead throughout the game. But Yeshiva slowly closed in near the end, as Bard shot horribly from the free throw line.

It all came down to the last twenty seconds. The score was tied. Yeshiva had the ball, and they worked it around the perimeter of Bard's zone defense. With only a few seconds left, a clever pass behind the basket set up a Yeshiva layup. The ball hung on the rim...and a Yeshiva player tipped it in as time expired. The final score: Yeshiva 54, Bard 52.

Blazer partisans howled that the basketball had been sitting on the rim when it was tipped, and therefore the shot should continued on page 4
Garbage and guitars

Theives and litterbugs on campus

In an interview Tuesday morning, Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillaceti discussed the two most recent events on campus which had come to her notice.

Last Saturday around noon, an assortment of wreckage was found in the parking lot near the Alumni dormitories. According to Squillaceti, a fire hydrant and a plant holder were found demolished in the road-way. Squillaceti said that the fire hydrant and plant holder were Bard property.

On Monday, a student in Hirsch reported to Security that his guitar had been stolen from the lounge. The guitar is a red Fender Jazz Master. Anyone who has any information on this theft is strongly urged to contact Security. As Squillaceti said, "The student would be very, very happy to get it back."

In other news, Squillaceti said that once again Security and the Dean of Students Office is holding a festive meal for students remaining on campus after the college closes on December 16th. This year's "food feast" will be held in the Kline Committee Rooms at 3 o'clock on Tuesday, December 20th.

Looking back at the Fall 1994 semester, Squillaceti said that "this was overall a good semester." She continued to say that she was pleased by a number of improvements that occurred over the course of the last few months.

"There have been a lot less incidents concerning student parties," Squillaceti commented. "The officers have observed that students have also been drinking much more responsibly."

In regards to vandalism, Squillaceti said that "incidents are down from last semester."

Finally, concerning the parking policies that were instituted in September, Squillaceti said: "I want to commend the many students who have been adhering to the parking regulations. The majority of students have been doing a really good job."

Squillaceti had one final message for students. "I want to wish everyone a happy holiday, and a safe trip if they're going home," she said.

"I also want to remind people to make sure that their valuables are properly secured. This might be the season for giving, but there sure are a lot of people out there taking."
**Bullets**

**Broadway**

Between exclamations of “I’m a whore!” our hero agrees. Accompanying the leading lady to every rehearsal is one of the mob head’s right-hand men. Most of the other characters make up the rest of the play’s cast, each with their own peculiar traits.

An actress, a “legend” on Broadway, vain and manipulative, coaxes our playwright into steering her role more toward the strong-willed and powerful woman she envisions in herself, and seduces him along the way. Also suffering from a string of flops, she accepts her secondary role only after she herself is cajoled by her agent.

An actor of great repute and equal girth takes the male lead. Always on a new diet between gigs, we watch him balloon as the rehearsals and finally the shows roll around.

Another woman in the play is played by a perky, flaky actress who carries a chit-chat attitude to every rehearsal. Allow me to illustrate her sense of humor. She remarks after introducing the dog to all that he needs his milk. Someone offers to get him a bowl and he says, “no thank you, “I breastfed him. Is there...just kidding!”

In the midst of all the resultant banter, someone arises as another playwright: philosophical issues are dealt with (does a woman love the artist or the man?); people enjoy knowledge of other people’s spouses; etcetera.

Bullets Over Broadway is a fine, very watchable film/play, rich in irony and great performances. Note however, that Woody Allen cannot take full credit for this one.

Players: Jim Broadbent, John Cusack, Harvey Feinstein, Chazz Palminteri, Mary Louis Parker, Rob Reiner, Jennifer Tilly, Tracey Ullman, Joe Viterelli, Jack Warden, Diane Weist

Writers: Woody Allen, Douglas McGrath

Producer: Robert Greenhut

Director: Woody Allen

**Zucchini Pie**

12 cups zucchini
1 cup tomato (chopped)
1/2 cup onion (chopped)
1/3 cup cheese (grated)
1 1/2 cups milk
3/4 cup bissquik mix
13 eggs

Preheat oven to 400 degrees Fahrenheit. Grease a 10” pie plate. Spread zucchini, tomatoes, onion and cheese in plate. Beat remaining ingredients in a mixing bowl until smooth, then pour into plate. Bake until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Salt and pepper to taste. Serves 4-6.

**Potato Puffs**

1/2 cup flour
1 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
1/2 teaspoon salt and pepper
1 cup mashed potatoes (pre-cooked)
2 eggs (well beaten)

Mix all ingredients together and drop by teaspoonfuls into heated deep fry oil. Fry until brown. Remove from oil and drain on paper towels. Serve hot.

**Corn Casserole**

1 stick margarine or butter
1 large onion (chopped)
1 large green pepper (chopped)
1 small jar red pimento peppers
1 can cream of mushroom soup
1 cup minute rice (pre-cooked)
4-5 slices American cheese
1 can uncooked corn (drained)

Melt butter in skillet. Saute onions and peppers, stir in pimento peppers, then add soup (do not dilute). Stir in minute rice and corn. Mix well. Transfer to an 8x8x2” baking dish. Place cheese slices on top of mixture. Bake at 350 degrees Fahrenheit for 30 minutes. Serves 4-6.
Basketball acrobatics at the Men's Varsity Team’s first home match

three times for losses. Josh Bell, Ben Epstein, and fencing captain Steve Stevens each won 2-1 with the sabre, resulting in a 6-3 bout record. 

Bard was less successful wielding foil, with a 3-6 score in individual bouts. Danny Verra won two and lost one, Brandon Ramos won his first bout but was stopped in the next two, and John Berman must not have riposted enough, since he lost three.

The women’s team competed in foil only. Nicole Grimes wiped out all of her opponents and recorded a perfect 4-0 bout record. Sarah Granett won three of four bouts, and Eva Olsgard fought valiantly but lost her four bouts. Olsgard’s performance could hardly be faulted, though, since she had joined the team only two days earlier! Bard was forced to forfeit four bouts, since the team lacked one of the four required members.

In the epee category, the men’s and women’s fencers next compete on Saturday, December 10, against Hunter College. The meet will be in the Stevenson Gym at noon, so take a study break and come watch this intense sport.

Bard “squashed” Colgate but lost to host college Hamilton on Saturday, December 3. Against Colgate, the men’s squash team played impressively to compile an 8-1 record. Mustafa Shah Mohammed had a particularly exciting comeback victory. He won 15-12, 16-17, 13-15, 15-9, 15-11. The tougher Hamilton squad beat Bard 7-2 overall. The two Blazer victories came from the two top seeds, as Shery and Shezy Hamed both won 3-1. So far this season, Shery has won four out of five games in the tough first seed position.

The new women’s squash team has had two difficult matches, losing to Vassar 10-1 and against Hotchkiss 10-0. Their difficulties can be attributed to the youth of the team (most players first picked up a squash racquet a few weeks ago) and the odd scoring system used in women’s squash.

In a men’s game, either the server or the receiver can score on any one rally, like tennis. In contrast, only the server can score on any given rally in women’s squash, as in volleyball. This tends to produce lopsided scores, according to assistant athletic director Kris Hall. Nevertheless, the women remain psyched to continue playing. On Friday, December 9, they will play against Mt. Holyoke College and Deerfield Academy in a specially scheduled competition.

Athletic director Joel Tomson wants to start a women’s varsity basketball team! He says that Bard used to have a women’s team, but it was dropped in the 1980s due to lack of student interest. Now, he is eager to see if the sport can be renewed. If you are interested in reviving a long-absent sport at Bard, see Tomson at the gym or drop him a note in campus mail.

Intramurals

On Friday, December 3, four teams fought it out in the first round of the intramural floor hockey playoffs. They all played at heretofore unseen levels of intensity and effort, but there could only be two winners.

Hidden Valley Brawlers was the first victor, beating underdog Mana Burn 4-1. The score, though, was not fully indicative of the tense, competitive level of play both teams exhibited. Chuck Beckius struck first for Mana Burn, and the score remained 1-0 until midway through the second period. Finally, one of a blizzard of shots trickled in for Hidden Valley, and momentum shifted their way for good.

Mana Burn desperately pulled their goalkeeper near the end of the game, which produced some exciting shots, but Hidden Valley scored on the open net to ice the game. Brian Grant and Doug Patton had two goals each for the Hidden Valley Brawlers.

A vigorous run at one of this semester's intramural floor hockey games
all sports!

In the second game, Pupaska defeated Babushka II 3-1. Stick-handling sensation Dan D’Oca scored all three goals for Pupaska, and Luke Potashi netted one for Babushka. Floor hockey semifinals took place last night.

The final records are in for intramural volleyball. Queens of the Court rule the league with a 7-2 record, after their tie with second place Milagro was broken based on head-to-head scores. Agusi placed third at 4-5, while The Hybrids ended the year winless at 0-9. (Wonder how many varsity players were on their team?) The teams will play a semifinal playoff round on Thursday, December 8, at 9:30 PM.

Sports Notes

Last Saturday, the Natural High committee sponsored two unique events at the gym. Velcro Olympics and Bouncy Boxing attracted a diverse crowd who participated in the fun, surprisingly strenuous activities. This sportswriter enjoyed himself despite suffering a bloody nose in one particularly bouncy bout of boxing. Students also spontaneously shot baskets, threw a football at each other and danced to DJ Jeff Huang’s musical selections.

This week is Learn-To Swim week at the Stevenson gym pool. Today and tomorrow, from 7:00 - 9:00 PM, lifeguards will be on duty to help you perfect your strokes or get comfortable in the water.

Speaking of the lifeguards, they are continuing their lap swimming competition. As of December 5, Malia DuMont leads with an amazing 1,757 laps this semester. Stacie Turner is not far behind, with a cumulative total of 1,605 laps. Next is Brad Cline, with 540 laps; Raksh Beyer, 240; Misty Williams, 162; Amanda Goll, 132; Jessica Foster, 116; Walter Sweff, 103; Katrina Halagos, 71; and Khalim Taha, 35.

This will be the last sports article of the semester, but don’t forget Thursday Night Madness next week! Take advantage of the gym’s late hours to work off a little final stress, or celebrate the completion of the semester. And see you in February!

A well aimed drill for two members of the Men’s Fencing Team

Wanting to swim

Dear Sports Editor,

I wanted to comment on your remarks concerning the pool and swimming laps. It isn’t really that boring. I do it almost every day. It’s actually very soothing. And to be honest with you, there are quite a number of people who swim on a regular basis.

Your description of the pool, however, did not quite hit the mark. It is not, usually, clean. I have never seen a pool where so many people were allowed to wander around on the dock in street shoes. Gym employees, Buildings and Grounds workers, random students who drop in for a bit. And they all bring dirt, grass, hair, whatever in and deposit it on the dock. Not only does this get into the pool, which is bad for the swimmers and the filters, but it’s nasty to sit in when I’m stretching.

As to Mr. Thommen’s concern that no one uses the pool, let me explain why I did not swim yesterday morning. I waited 25 minutes for the lifeguard to show up. Finally, I was so angry I didn’t even want to exercise. I have complained about this before, but it doesn’t seem to do much good. I realize it’s difficult to get up and be at the gym at 7:30 AM, but I manage to do it five days a week. I don’t even get paid for it, as the lifeguards do. Don’t get me wrong, some of the student guards do a great job. Today, the life guard was five minutes early. Unfortunately, security had not opened the gym yet. A group of us sat outside in the cold morning air for almost a quarter of an hour—again, not an isolated incident.

I think it’s great that the gym wants to increase interest among students. But will many who become interested continue to frequent the pool if they have to wait so long to swim amidst unidentifiable debris?

Sincerely,

Kelly Messerle
Entertainment Committee Candidates

The following are statements of purpose submitted by students running for the Entertainment Committee. Elections will be
held in the POST OFFICE WHEN WHEN.

Why should you vote for Chris Chinmook, Dow Kimberll and Abe Rein for Entertainment Committee?

Let’s be frank. It’s getting colder and going to the student center and standing outside is getting more tedious. It’s getting dangerous. For the betterment of the community as a whole, we, the three most entertaining men in the world, have joined together to put an end to this threat. So listen... 


You have just experienced a smattering of the musical deluge that will be at your fingertips the day you vote for entertainment committee, Chris Chinmook, Dow Kimberll, and Abe Rein have turned on and tuned in to the Bard College entertainment vibe. Vote for us. You’ll be working it out here.

Hi. We are Katherine "Duff" Smith (Virgo), John Morton (Sagittarius) and Joel Hunt (Libra). We are running for Entertainment Committee because we love music and want to bring a diverse group of musicians to Bard College.

We are qualified. We are responsible people and have all worked in the music business. We volutarily worked with the Entertainment Committee by setting up shows and taking down sound equipment. There is a lot of work involved in planning and executing a show. It takes about twelve hours of our time to put on a four hour show, not to mention the time it takes to write up contracts and talk to booking agents. We want to work this hard. We know the blood, sweat and tears the Entertainment Committee demands, and we’re willing to give it. (We’d also like to get Blood, Sweat and Tears to play here.)

After we’re elected, we’ll send a questionnaire to all Bard students. You tell us what bands you’d like to see and what kinds of music you want to hear. We’ve thought about jazz shows, ska shows, funk shows, surf shows, and indie rock’n’roll. We’ve contacted the booking agents of Fugazi, Mephiskapheles, the Toasters, Man or Astronaut?, Billy Bragg, John Zorn, Bela Fleck, Pavement, SSD, and others, but we want to hear from you before making definite plans.

Vote for us and you won’t be sorry. We’ll entertain you.

Christina Clogston, Karen Snelder, Allison Fletcher, and Roni Shapira want to entertain you.

The following is a sampling of our purposes:

1. We want a VARIETY of music. The four of us have different and far-reaching musical tastes. Aside from the given indie rock bands, we would like to bring punk, hip-hop, lounge, ska, rockabilly, hardcore, jazz, klezmer, garage bands, blues, etc. to Bard.

2. Our WISH LIST: Jamisoner, Basher, Holy Rollers, Clutch, Murphy’s Law, the Pietasters, Vaginal Cream Carousel, Strange Boutique, Sapphire, Slant Six, Lone Icon, P-Funk, Heaven 20, Betty, Hay, Man or Astronaut?, Bikini Kill, Cars, Kustomized Nocentelli (The Metron’s guitarist’s band), Johnny’s & the Haydes, Seen Your Bitch, Slat, Klaxals, Eckotronics (ex Lounge Lizard members), Michael Spencer (Elvis impersonator), Langish, Thinking Fellows Union Local 282, the Curbstone James Experience.

3. We will set up a suggestion box in the post office and will actually listen to suggestions (especially if your suggestion is for a band you know and can get cheap.)

4. We got mad hook-ups.

5. We are in different years in school have different majors, thus we won’t all be busy with moderation, etc. at the same time and none of us are seniors.

6. We love Bard bands. We want our Bard to play.

7. We’re damn cute. (Christina alone is 3 cute people.)

8. More shows.

9. No more messy, ugly stamps or $X on your hand. Stamps will be discreet and tasteful.

10. You’ll never have to pay with a Bard ID.

11. We’re funny and really nice, except for Karen who is a lying slut.

12. We aren’t self-indulgent in our decision making process.

13. We are all superstars in our own special way.

14. We’re responsible and won’t embezzle entertainment committee funds. So you should vote for us.

We, Ashish Anujwalia, Dale Canney and Hellia Kay are running as one group for Bard’s Entertainment Committee. Because our tastes are very diverse we guarantee an eclectic and satisfying selection to please everyone’s musical tastes. Dale’s main goal is of the Acid Jazz variety, as well as the Lounge Lizards and Curtis Blow, while Hellia will be concentrating on the likes of Fugazi, the Toasters, Slant 6, 7 Year Bitch, Killclover, The Vandalas and Hole. (Oh...and Screaming Weasel...) Ashim’s goal includes the musical talents of bands such as Kraftwerk and George Clinton and P-Funk, as well as individuals such as Tom Waits and David Hasselhoff. We thank you for your time and consideration.

Idiopathic illness hits Bard

by Eric P. Keller

The Health and Counseling Services have recently reported a half dozen outbreaks of a virulent illness which has also been reported on other campuses concurrently at the end of the semester. Though a vaccine has not been made available, there are warning signals and prophylactic measures one might take to avoid this extremely devastating and enigmatic illness.

Students at high risk would be those who are experiencing acute anxiety surrounding academic, family or peer relationship issues. If two or more of these stressful precipitants intersect at final exam time, it may be too late. Symptoms would include anxiety, excessive cravings for nicotine and caffeine, mood swings, depression, mild hallucinations, paranoia, screaming fits and most of all, an inability to fall asleep. This final factor regarding sleep disturbance is a major factor in the greatest cause of academic fatalities thus far.

If you are already in the secondary stages of this illness? If you are in a panic and are not thinking coherently, you are urged to make a prompt phone call to the Health Service at ext. 433. At this juncture, make an appointment (or drop in) and try to relax. For those of you who are not "too far gone", there have been numerous experimental treatment measures utilized successfully by our Health and Counseling team. These include the following: evening. evening of sleep tetracycline (equivalent to one mug of warm milk), warm baths, herbal tea, daily exercise, balanced meals at regular intervals, meditation, pleasant bed time literature such as "The Prophets" or "Bard Counseling Service statistics from '92-'94," and consistent sleep habits including fixed bed times and raising hours. Even if you don't sleep, the rest may postpone the spread and intensity of the illness. If only enough, safe sex has also shown significant positive correlation in mitigating C.S.F. (can't sleep fever). Note: It is a myth that04

Preventive measures at various colleges in the Northeast include: reduction of caffeine, avoidance of alcohol and other drugs that exacerbate the situation and interfere with restful R.E.M. sleep patterns, and prioritizing work loads which may accidentally get procrastinated until the last minute. Lastly, don't worry about Christmas shopping. Try and study as this will take your mind off it.

Seriously folks, if you are experiencing insomnia and can not sleep, the advice in this article can help break the cycle of anxiety and sleeplessness that is disrupting your life. It is important to note that if your condition persists, the Health Service is a necessary appointment. There may be psychological or emotional components you can not resolve alone. Nevertheless, take heart because winter break usually coincides with a well deserved remission. Keep on paddling.

For more information regarding relaxation tapes, please contact Eileen at ext. 433. Five various tapes are available for a $2.00 purchase or rental. If you choose to rent, your $2.00 will be refunded when the tape is returned.
Resist hegemony...

by Eric P. Koller

During a friendly tea time discussion over at the Dean of Students office, I glanced up and noticed a polynoid rockin’ party poster. I grabbed it and was surrounded by a veritable cloud of social justice such as nigger, worry, spic, etc. That same day I was passing the halls and noticed a rather fancy bit of artwork entitled “Shoot Fucker, Heroin.” I refer to this as a more realistic and just depiction of the realities of heroin. There’s no time in my life that I can quote the fact that my son’s in shock with therapy and in therapy with the social justice. I feel I’ve been bashed at hard as a counselor partly because of this “generational bubble” coupled with my sound clinical qualifications.

Now during the rigorous process of being in a group was a prospective counselor, they found hard, I had been pointed out to me that a tragic episode took place on campus in the Spring of 1994. I must try to direct so I will clearly repeat the fact that during that semester a student had overdosed on heroin and went into a prolonged coma. The following semester a comic appears with the title “Shoot Fucker, Heroin.” Being both a sensitive person and a rocket scientist, I spontaneously made the connection between last year’s overdose and this silly little heading. I wonder if the student who overdosed was a linesman, a linesman or a linesman. They have departed the world that the image around the frontiers of their fear, heartbreak and rage. I imagine that they probably would not take the time to realize that the whole thing was just a “good” written to express our generation’s sociopathic intelligence and entertainment. They would probably say because “words hurt.”

I am not condemning the comic here nor the authors. I am condemning the mentality that the authors, artists and the people behind the publishing company play in our society. I have this feeling that people are so far away from any idea of this. They are wrapped up in their own thoughts and do not feel any responsibility to change the world for the better. I think that people feel that they can get away with towards banning alcohol on campus. Gilbert Alfonso and the students who complained to them fell right into their hands and gave them an excuse to pass along to others that this would reduce the amount of alcohol on campus. I know that Gilbert Alfonso and these students felt that they would be able to work out a way to have free parties thrown for them. They believe that they deserve to get in for free because they are not drinking alcohol. I would want to attend if they think that their beer is all we are offering. As you know, state and federal law keeps us from charging for alcohol. I wish we could. Then we could buy good beer and charge the class. As it is, we usually provided free beer because most people want it. It was one of things that we paid for, and in an indirect way what some of the other people paid for. If you come to our parties you also paid for tours and food. If you break up the fights, deal with the EMTs when you overdose in the bathroom, pay hundreds of dollars for your vandalism, put up hundreds of dollars for sound equipment, and deal with snoot-nosed motherfuckers trying to claim that they don’t have any money. If we were cheap and easy everyone would do it. It is already common knowledge that Shelby Morgan’s new party program is a joke. If you wondered where the money was going before, you ain’t seen nothing yet. This new policy amounts to a hostile take-over by Shelby Morgan and party organizers are not happy about it. Very few party throwers have any problems with getting their beer. It is now more difficult to throw a party and someone is going to pay for the hassle.

The reason I am writing this is that I rather not deal with the added hassle of getting funds from Shelby Morgan for DJs, records, monitors... and making sure that the workstudy students show up at 1am to pick-up broken glass and mop-up puke. I’d rather not compete against people who have beer and charge the leg. My main problem with the new policy however, is that I don’t want to throw parties for the Dean of Students Office. That’s Jeff Huang’s job. Anyone who does this has absolutely no reason to throw a party that anyone would want to go to. In fact you would try to throw the perfect party for yourself with no one where no one but your friends came to.

If the administration has money to give away then maybe I’ll do a party, or get the school some new computers, or pay my rent... Of all things, why would anyone want to give away parties?

Please, come to the next student forum on the 7th and demand that this policy be changed.

Thank You,
Liam Tumulty

---

Enough cynicism...

Response to Andy Wing’s letter “GATT & green” which appeared in the Nov. 30 edition of the Observer:

Dear Andy, or Mr. Wing if you prefer,

I’d like to thank you for your enlightening letter on how the passage of GATT marks the world’s final death throes and the coming extinction of humanity. I would like to go through just how poorly you made my day with your letter.

Yes, GATT is bad. Yes, companies are going to leave the United States to exploit even poorer people. Yes, these companies will engage in even more environmentally destructive behavior than they do today. Yes, the environment is going to be polluted and spoiled until our planet is inhabitable for human beings. Yes, we’re going to desolate the ozone layer and fry. Yes, we’re going to chop down all the tress and asphyxiate. Yes, we’re going to pollute all our drinking water, create massive amounts of radioactive active waste, and yes, we’re all going to die. The rich will grow richer until they face famine and war. The poor will starve endlessly until they’re all dead, and the Sun will go nova and incinerate everything anyway.

Perhaps you think I’ve been having a tough semester, but that isn’t true. I, like most people who keep up with the news, am aware that there are many problems facing our country and our world. And I am well aware of the evils perpetuated by mankind. And I am aware of what I contribute to some of them in my day-to-day life. (I have a driver’s license, I throw things in the garbage can that I don’t need, and I eat meat.) Perhaps the world is coming to an end and we’re all responsible. (Or perhaps we could shift the blame and say that only THEY are responsible, them being large corporations, the lazy welfare mothers, the racists, the minority groups, or whoever we point the finger at to avoid taking responsibility ourselves.)

And with all this decadence, despair and gloom, we still have the doom-sayers with messages (like that in your letter) who continue to remind us of our evil, our imminent extinction, and our corruption. To quote the end of your letter: “The axioms ‘Power corrupts’ and ‘The end is near’ have never been more accurate than in this age, at this time and, unfortunately, in the years to come.” So what am I supposed to do? If the world is ending, should I graduate college? Should I hope that I can avoid the end, and just survive and make a living? Or should I just drop dead, and avoid doing more damage to the Earth?

You may respond that I should try to change it. Perhaps get myself elected President, or organize protest down in Washington D.C. Of course, you didn’t mention that in your letter. It just ends with a note of the end of the world, and a post signature of how pretty hard is, isn’t that nice? And I only get to stay here a few years before returning to the maestrol of the real world! How comforting! Perhaps a message of hope would prevent so many people from slipping into the security of apathy, which is occurring more and more often these days.

People have been predicting the end of the world for hundreds of years. It hasn’t happened yet. True, with the 20th century’s surge in technological advancement, the end is potentially within our grasp. But please, realize that hopeless pessimism and wailing about how soon we will all die is not going to reverse the trend. Instead, it will only contribute to our apathy and despair, making the end come all the sooner.

So in the future, please place a spark of life into your forecasts, so that we might hope that something we do will have an effect on this world, instead of filling us up with the desire to curl up into a ball and die.

Sincerely,
Benjamin Epstein

---

Preposterous new policy

As some of you may know Alex Cheker, Vicki Ryder and I run many of the campus parties. We each risk between $100 to $200 in cash and we usually turn a small profit. We also put a lot of time and energy into our parties. We enjoy being our own boss and having full run parties. Not everyone enjoys our parties and I can respect that. I just would not want to attend them if I were not involved in throwing them. Most of the campus does not attend our parties and I would never force go. If you do wish to attend however, I must insist that a $2 entrance fee is unreasonable. In fact I with the administration would allow me to charge what the market would bear so that I could pay the many people who invest their time and energy in our parties. As it is we are only able to let them in the party for free.

I have no idea where students get the idea that they have the right to have free parties thrown for them. If this is a right that you feel you have, I suggest that you attend Jeff Huang’s many parties. Or throw your own party. If you believe that party organizers don’t have a right to make a profit you should organize free parties, we could never compete against a good free party, we could not afford it. I would also suggest that you look into how much Jeff Huang and others are paid to throw parties.

Alcohol at parties seems to be a problem with the administration. They have taken every action they feel they can get away with towards banning alcohol on campus. Gilbert Alfonso and the students who complained to him fell right into their hands and gave them an excuse to pass rules that would reduce the amount of alcohol on campus. I know that Gilbert Alfonso and these students felt that they would be able to work out a way to have free parties thrown for them. They believe that they deserve to get in for free because they don’t drink or they don’t drink the cheap beer we offer. I wonder why they want to attend if they think that their beer is all we are offering?

As you know, state and federal law keeps us from charging for alcohol. I wish we could. Then we could buy good beer and charge the class. As it is, we usually provided free beer because most people wanted it. It was one of things that we paid for, and in an indirect way what some of the other people paid for. If you come to our parties you also paid for tours and food. If you break up the fights, deal with the EMTs when you overdose in the bathroom, pay hundreds of dollars for your vandalism, put up hundreds of dollars for sound equipment, and deal with snoot-nosed motherfuckers trying to claim that they don’t have any money. If we were cheap and easy everyone would do it. It is already common knowledge that Shelby Morgan’s new party program is a joke. If you wondered where the money was going before, you ain’t seen nothing yet. This new policy amounts to a hostile take-over by Shelby Morgan and party organizers are not happy about it. Very few party throwers have any problems with getting their beer. It is now more difficult to throw a party and someone is going to pay for the hassle.

The reason I am writing this is that I rather not deal with the added hassle of getting funds from Shelby Morgan for DJs, records, monitors... and making sure that the workstudy students show up at 1am to pick-up broken glass and mop-up puke. I’d rather not compete against people who have beer and charge the leg. My main problem with the new policy however, is that I don’t want to throw parties for the Dean of Students Office. That’s Jeff Huang’s job. Anyone who does this has absolutely no reason to throw a party that anyone would want to go to. In fact you would try to throw the perfect party for yourself with no one where no one but your friends came to.

If the administration has money to give away then maybe I’ll do a party, or get the school some new computers, or pay my rent... Of all things, why would anyone want to give away parties?

Please, come to the next student forum on the 7th and demand that this policy be changed.

Thank You,
Liam Tumulty
TRANSPORTATION

Jitney Schedule: the Jitney runs Monday through Friday at the following times: 8:00a - 10:30a, 12p - 2p, 4p - 6p. The vans run continuously between Kline, Manor and Pellet during each of these periods.

Monday: van to OA Barrytown (7:30-8:30p), leaves at 6:45p.
Tuesday: van to AA Red Hook (6p-8p), leaves at 7:45p. Van to the Lyceum in Red Hook, 6:30p.
Wednesday: Grand Union Run, 6p. Van to AA Barrytown (8p-9p), leaves at 7:45p. Volunteer transportation to H.H. leaves at 5:45p, for info call 876-3001.

Meet all vans behind Kline

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Wednesday</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>Friday</th>
<th>Saturday</th>
<th>Sunday</th>
<th>Monday</th>
<th>Tuesday</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

The Calendar Editor would like to wish you all good luck in your finals, a very happy holiday season, and a great Intersession.

See you all next semester!