

Bard College
Student Newspaper Archive
(1895-1999)

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OBSERVER

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Place your tongue here.
Press hard.

"It's all your fault."

THE BARD OBFUSCATOR

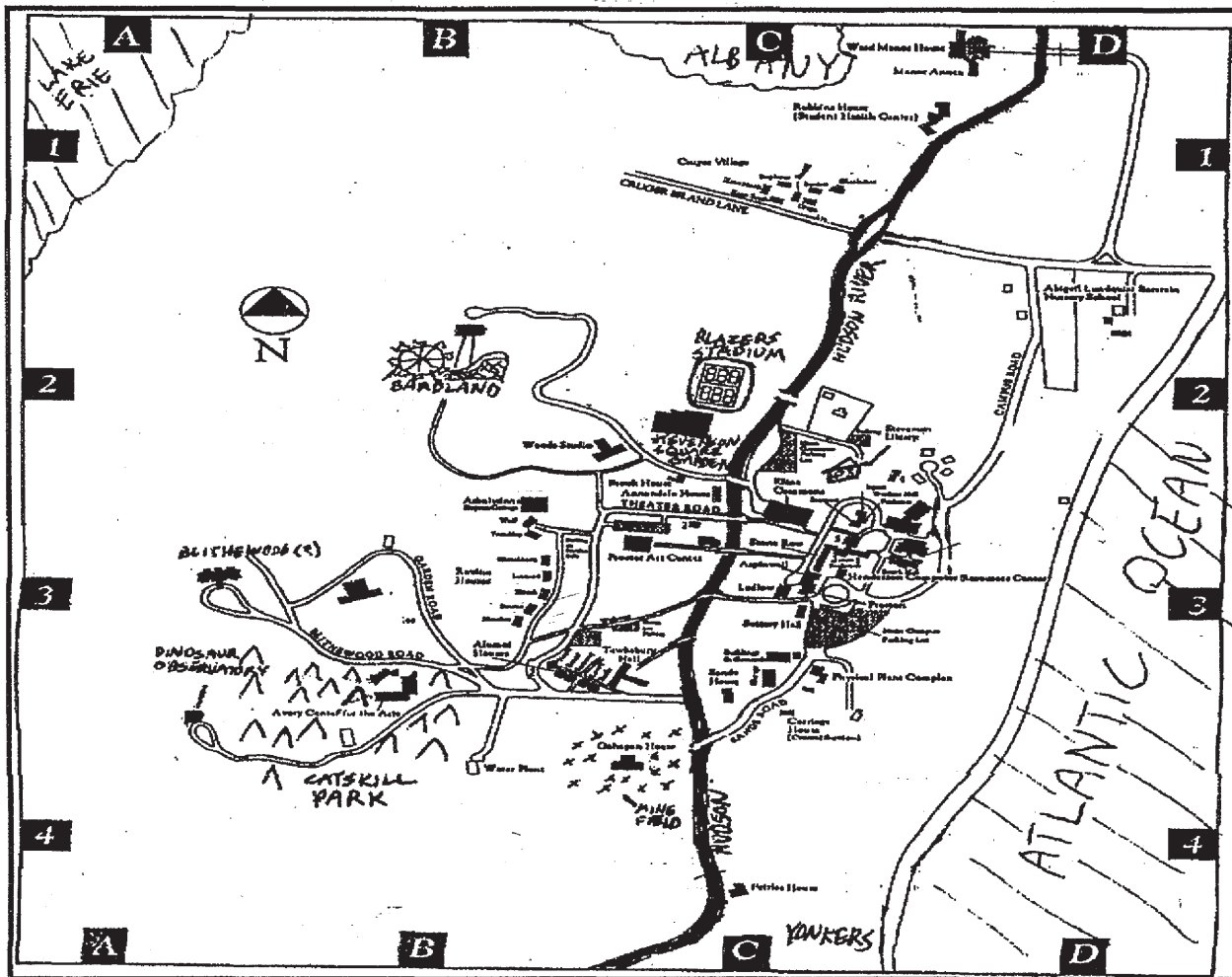
Volume 666 Number Fore

Drab College, Apathy-on-Hudson, NY 12504

April Fool, 1995

Map Key

Albee (offices, residences) C3	Manor Annex (residence) D4
Alumni Houses C3	Old Gym Galleria Mall C3
Annandale House C2	The F.W. Olin College of Humanities C3
Aspinwall Creaky Floored Retirement Home C3	4 President's House C3
Avery Center for the Arts B3	Preston (one big office) C3
2 Bard Hall C3	Procter Arts Condominiums C3
Bardland B2	Ravine Houses (breeding pits) B3
Blazer Stadium C2	Robbins House of Pain C1
Blithewood (Training Grounds of the New World Order) A3	Rose Science Institute C3
Blum Conservatory B3	Sands House (residence) C3
Airplane Hangar B3	South Hall (residue) C3
Brook House C2	Stevenson Square Garden C2
Chapel of the Holy Innocents C3	Stevenson Library and Shooting Gallery C2
Cruger Village (residences) C1	Stone Row Penitentiary C2
Dinosaur Observatory A4	Student Health Hospital C1
Explosives C4	Tewksbury (Institute for the Criminally Insane) C3
Feitler House (residence) C4	Wardens Hall (zoo) C2
Gahagen House (residence) C4	
Hegeman House of Skiff C3	
Henderson Computer Resource Plaza C3	
Kline Commons C3	
Ludlow (administrative orifices) C3	



The new face of Bard University. (Many Bothan spies died to bring us this information.)

Innards

Bard University Finalized

Construction to begin in the summer

2
Goodnight,
John Boy

3
Real Cooking
at Bard

4-3+2x6=
42?

5
My Left Nut

Sir
Simon
Milligan
Evil!

Bard Administration has announced this week that, due to the evergrowing demands of students currently enrolled, and the increasing number of applications received from prospective students, it will go forward with its plans to convert Bard College into a university.

Starting this summer, wrecking crews will be called in to demolish not only the existing college, but also the neighboring towns of Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinebeck, Kingston and Poughkeepsie, among others. The newly designed Bard University, it is said, will span an area of 100 miles from North to South, and 150 miles from East to West; this will effectively make Bard the largest university, and Annandale-on-Hudson the largest dead town in the United States.

The benefactor of this project, Charles P. Stevenson, was unavailable for comment, as he has been mysteriously reclusive since the announcement by the administration. (It is rumored that he has developed an acute fear of germs.) His next

project is said to be a spaceship called "The Charles P. Stevenson Spaceship."

College President Leon Botstein, who has officially changed his title to "The Oracle at Annandale," deferred all questions to his attorneys, who quickly evaded the subject by offering their opinions about the O.J. Simpson case.

It was made sure that Dean Stuart Levine was unavailable for comment.

Listed below are some of the changes (and some non-changes) that Bard students will see next year.

Academic Life

Most of the familiar academic buildings at Bard will simply be reincarnated into a larger version of themselves in the new university setting. Therefore, Olin will be known as The Olin College of Humanities, Rose will become The Rose Institute for Science and Aspinwall will be known as The Creaky Floored Retirement Home for Tenured Professors. Some of the others, however, will go through more

radical changes.

—Due to the great geographical expansion of the campus, The Avery Center for the Arts (The Theater) will now be located somewhere in the Catskill Mountain range, where silly behavior and excessive shouting will cause avalanches. The Blum Conservatory will be an innocent victim when this inevitably occurs.

—Blithewood, which will be even farther removed from the main campus, will become a secret military training base. Here it is said that Vice President "All Father" Papadimitriou will begin the recruitment of over 100,000 mercenaries for a yet unknown purpose.

—Preston will become one huge office for a certain professor. When asked about the future of the prospective film students, this Professor "X" was quoted as saying, "They'll just have to fail Moderation somewhere else."

—The Black Center for Curatorial Studies will be converted into an airplane hangar, which it seems to have been designed for in the first place.

Campus Life

continued somewhere, go find it yourself!

Another Spew

Bard Armageddon

A satirical look at Bard after the Foretold End

Spunky Lord of the Pit

Let it be known that it is now the Year 3095. Over a millennia has passed since the Mikh'rohs-Offt Wars, and humankind now lives in an idealistic society where they all pray to the same god, The Eye of the Pyramid, and the pursuit of knowledge is paramount. Let us now visit them, a small shrine of knowledge in the northeastern mountains of Khoka'ch-Ollah, a land once known as America...

The boy sits underneath a giant statue of a sagacious looking man with curious neck apparel. The Colossus was Nerval's favorite place to read the Scrolls of Ancient Wisdom, for it shielded him from the deadly sun, and was just far enough away as to drown out the loud chantings of the Intoxicates and the Cannabites.

As Nerval began to read the seventh volume of the Masculinist Interpretations of the ancient poet Leonard Cohen, he saw a familiar figure in a dense black robe walking in the distance. "Leandra!" Nerval shouted, as he ran toward the figure.

Leandra smiled as Nerval rushed to meet her. "Nerval," she said to him, "it has been a long time."

"Indeed it has," Nerval replied. "It has been a long time since I have seen any of the Master Apprentices. How goes your final labor for the Moving Pictures Guild?"

"Quite well, Nerval, quite well," Leandra said, after a moment of hesitation. "And what of you? Have you completed the tasks of the Guild Initiation Ritual? The Circle of Spring is nearly at its end."

"I am still uncertain as to what guild to join, elder," Nerval replied, frowning. "I may be forced to prolong my apprenticeship another year."

"Ah, then you are fortunate that your parents are willing to suffer the consequences of your time here," Leandra said to him. "As for myself, I must provide ten years of indentured servitude to my local magistrates for the honor of apprenticing in these sacred halls of knowledge."

"Let us not talk of such unpleasant economic matters until the time arrives to do so," Nerval retorted. "That is, after all, the First Teaching of the All Seeing Eye. Let us instead exchange knowledge. You have grown wise, Leandra, in your years at this shrine. Share with me your knowledge of the olden times."

Leandra smirked when she heard this. "Ah, so you remember that I was once of the Archivist's

Guild. Very well. I shall tell you of a time when this great land was not yet known as Khoka'ch-Ollah, and all people did not yet pray to the Eye of the Pyramid. The people of these times were so primitive in that they had not yet even learned of procuring labor for labor, and they instead traded with odd pieces of parchment and metal."

"Such strange and barbaric times!" Nerval interrupted. "But what did it all mean, this parchment and metal business?"

"Only the Great Eye knows for certain," Leandra continued. "Anyhow, it is fabled that this place of knowledge, where we stand now, still existed in those times. It is also said that much was the same here as it is now: Apprentices were initiated into guilds, they provided the Final Labor, and danced with fury at the Mh'en-Nahji Festival of Fornication, as we do now. But..."

"But what Leandra? What?"

"The Apprentices of those times were deeply troubled. They came to these halls of knowledge with a powerful yet naive idealism, only to leave with a stark cynicism and find themselves becoming mindless automatons in a savage world of bureaucracy. It was they and their kind that weaved the very fabric of the Great Mikh'rohs-Offt

Wars."

Nerval was silent for a long time. "Shall we ever revert back to such horrible times?" He finally asked.

"Not if we are careful to avoid the mistakes of our ancestors, Nerval," Leandra replied. "We must never forget what our function in society is as Liberal Artisans. That is, it is our duty after our apprenticeship to acquire small domiciles in large cities, and while supporting ourselves with unpleasant, tedious labor, continue our creative endeavors. Hopefully, these endeavors will then be of the few that appeals to the general masses. Remember, we must leave all practical matters to the machines. They are, in the end, our superiors."

Nerval nodded. "I have learned

much today, elder." He said. "I shall now be ever vigilant in completing my scrolls of tales about the tragedies of misunderstood youth."

Leandra smiled. "And I too, will strive to complete my Final Labor: a script for moving pictures about the tragedies of misunderstood youth. By the by, is today not the day of the Quarters Lottery?"

"Yes," Nerval replied, "and I believe that as an Apprentice of the Second Order with a decent drawing, I shall finally obtain quarters of my own. Perhaps even in the peaceful northern village of Kh'rugah."

As Leandra turned to depart, she smiled once more. "You've much more to learn, Nerval." She said. "Much more."

Remember substance-free events? We don't...
But the Dean of Fifth Year Students is proud
to sponsor a new series:

The Huang-athon

Friday, April 7th: Velcro Olympics (featured events: water polo and cross-country skiing)

Friday, April 14th: Whistling-through-a-mouth-full-of-saltine-crackers competition.

Friday, April 21st: Full contact Trivial Pursuit

Friday, April 28th: Wine tasting

Friday, May 5th: Wet tee-shirt contest.

Friday, May 12th: Beer and Prostitution Night

Friday, May 19th: Nothing. Is that ok with you?

Bard University continued

far q Pete!

Demand for housing is expected to be larger than ever, as the size of the student body is set to increase over 1000 times next year. When asked to comment over the phone, Housing Dean Gladys Watson provided the usual reply, "(Sigh) Do you have an appointment? I didn't think so. (Click)" Nevertheless, some information regarding on-campus life has been obtained.

—The Ravines will look exactly the same as they are now, only 100 times larger. Amazingly, there will still be only 12 Y-shaped rooms in each Ravine, and each of these rooms will be shared by approximately 200 First Year Students. The administration plans to cut down on this number by releasing giant insects in the area, which they hope will each devour about 5 students a day.

—Tewksbury will become an institution for the criminally insane, but will still house a majority of the First Year Class.

—North Campus will now be so far away as to effectively become a suburb of Albany, but B&G has assured the school that a "convenient dirt path" to the Albany area will be completed within the next ten years.

—Gahagen will be located in the middle of a mine field, at the

request of the six seniors who will live there.

—Feitler will be somewhere in Yonkers.

For those wondering about food, Kline Commons is set to expand so that up to 300,000 students may eat there at one time. The food will still "suck," as the students like to say, but there will be a considerably larger number of cereal dispensers. Arview will still kick your ass if you try to sneak in.

Other Facilities

—The Library will depart from its multiple personality architecture, and next year will resemble a giant wedge of Jarlsburg Cheese. When asked what his inspiration was for this design, architect Robert Venturi said, "I was hungry."

—The beloved Old Gym will finally live up to its billing as a student center next year, when it becomes the Old Gym Galleria Mall. This six story shopping center shaped like an abandoned gymnasium will feature over 100 stores, a food court, and a multiplex movie theater. The Current Bard Security staff will serve as mall security next year, and most people agree that it is a step up. The Bard Health Food

Store will still be in the basement next to the boiler room, and there will still be only one pool table.

—The Health Center at Robbins will become a hospital-sized infirmary next year, but will still be staffed by nurse's aides who will give you ibuprofen for any ailment and stare at you blankly.

—The Ecology Field Station will be converted into an observatory for genetically engineered dinosaurs and fifth year students.

There will be some notable additions to the facilities at Bard, one of which is Blazer Stadium, an 80,000 capacity football stadium which will open next year for the inaugural season of the Bard Football Program. When asked for predictions about the Blazers' first year, soon-to-be installed head coach Jimmy Johnson was quoted as saying, "Win a game? They'll be lucky to pass the drug tests."

Another premier addition to the campus will be the Bardland Theme Park. You will no longer have nothing to do when family or friends from home come over, when you can take them to ride the Academic Rollercoaster, visit the Senior Project House of Horrors, or feel the real-life tension of Virtual Reality Moderation. The administration

plans for Bardland to be the site for every registration and commencement from next year on. Deans Shelley Morgan and Jeff Huang will don giant furry costumes and serve cookies and punch to everybody, and it is rumored that this will eventually be a permanent change of position for them.

How can I afford Bard University?

Quite frankly, you probably can't. With the costs of constructing an entirely new campus and demolishing several small towns looming

over their heads, the administration has decided to increase the tuition from \$25,000 to a whopping \$1.2 million a year. With eminent financial aid cuts and the dismantling of HEOP, it is predicted that starting from next year, the average Bard student will come from a family in the top .001% income bracket in the country. When told of the plans for Bard University, New York State Governor George Pataki was quoted as saying, "That means I can tax the shit out of it and poor people will stay uneducated, right? Wow, someone get me a drink."

Do you like fast trucks on slow roads?
Do you like short work days and long coffee breaks?

Then you too should come to work for

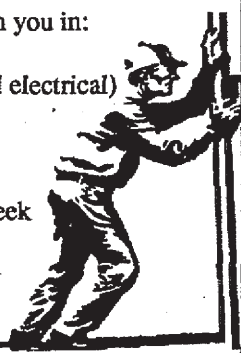
BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

Inexperienced? That's ok, we'll train you in:

- finding the best places to nap on campus
- ogling
- cutting wires (telephone and electrical)
- drag racing down Annandale Road
- placing "At work" signs where nobody is working
- pot-hole installation
- turning that three hour job into a thirty week nightmare

And don't forget our special incentive plan:

Free beer for anyone who can
repair fire alarms!



Soros continued

Continued From Page 1
worth one-percent more. Tomorrow arrives, the mark is announced to be worth one percent more, and the marks are exchanged back into dollars. That man then has a million dollars to add to the original billion.

With fast computers, and with values changing every hour, much money is made and lost in currency futures. And, in our hypothetical deal of someone buying a billion dollars worth of marks, the deal itself causes the value of marks to increase, encouraging others to buy marks.

The man with a billion dollars, so to speak, is George Soros. But it has not been his own billion that he has usually traded. With his record of successes in guessing rate changes and seeing the long-term trends behind the fluctuations, Soros convinced people to give him their cash that he invested for his and their profit.

People have placed money in his hands since 1969 when he opened the Quantum Fund. This is similar to a mutual fund (with a premium), where an investor buys shares (about \$30.00 a share) in the Fund. The cash is used to buy many currencies, as well as stocks. Over several years, shareholders take

out of the Fund what they own at profits of about forty percent a year, often without taxes to pay.

This is a more lucrative way to earn money than depositing funds in an account at First Rhinebeck of the Hudson Valley. It is also a more risky way. To minimize the risk, managers of hedge funds study markets carefully. They decide that, if the Fund invests in X in the hopes that it will dramatically increase in value, but event X instead crashes spectacularly, then event Y must, as a consequence, increase in value because of event X's failure.

There is no easy analogy to convey this concept. Generally, it is that if the Fund invested millions in the stocks of a computer software company, Fourier-Cutler, then it would also invest a few hundred thousand in the stocks of a competitor, such as Microsoft. If the first company collapses, in this case, the educated guess is that this will benefit Microsoft and that the value of Bill Gates will increase sharply. So the Fund, while losing millions in this example, would still have a small amount won in its Microsoft investment. The Fund "hedged" its bets.

On a good day for Soros in 1992, his Fund made \$1.5 billion by

betting \$10 billion that British currency would lose its value further.

On a bad day in 1993, the Fund lost \$600 million when it put its money in dollars against the Japanese yen.

Quite an active life, one might say, for a senior citizen who lives on an estate in Southampton.

Hidden Costs?

When one party makes money, another party often loses money, and most economists note that it is taxpayers and small businesses who pay the costs incurred. The central banks of the U.S., Germany and Britain, either raise interest rates, or else spend six to ten billion dollars a year buying their own currencies. They take these actions to defeat traders such as Soros, and, more significantly, to defeat the large corporations who see the relatively tiny Soros riding a new wave on the ocean and take their huge surfboards to catch some of the action, too. Once people believe a currency will collapse, everyone sells the currency, and it collapses.

Soros commands several billions of dollars, and plans to spend the money to escape, perhaps, inheritance taxes. Around the time he married Susan Weber, an art historian who is currently running

Bard's capital campaign to expand the college's endowment, Soros decided to circumvent traditional philanthropy by creating his own foundations. According to *The New Yorker*, Soros despises bureaucracies. He looked to governments that were changing the rules of the political game, in Hungary, China, South Africa, and elsewhere, and he invested his foundations there to help.

The proper role of Soros' groups in the world is disputed. For example, a program to build new schools in nations such as Albania requires bribes and gifts to those people who are in positions to speed the construction contracts, permits, and timetables.

Soros' foundations have consequently found themselves spending money in rather unusual ways and on people with rather dubious characters.

The potential, though, for lucrative business connections, and the intellectual challenge of the endeavor and its rewards to the ego, led Soros to this kind of spending.

In short, the man who will speak in Olin this Saturday demonstrates more than the virtues of generosity and dispassionate calculation. He symbolizes how bizarre the free market is that we live in, where a man makes a fortune without producing anything. Soros merely intuits the direction of a shifting breeze of numbers.

Volunteer Opportunities

In order to provide an opportunity for students at Bard to involve themselves in social service programs, they must first be made aware of what is available. During the next few weeks, there will be articles highlighting several organizations that provide various services to the surrounding communities. These programs are also available through the Social Action Workshop: a collection of faculty, students and staff working to combine academic study and the experiences gained through

social service. If you would like additional information or to speak with someone about the programs, please contact Rich Kelley in the Dean of Students Office, ext. 454.

Survivors of the Shoah

The survivors of the Shoah Visual History Foundation is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing the most complete archive of Holocaust survivor testimonies ever assembled. The goal is to conduct videotaped interviews with as many survivors as possible throughout the world.

To preserve the integrity of the interviews, they will remain in their complete unedited form. The testimonies will be made available worldwide to museums and nonprofit organizations devoted to educational, historical, religious, and charitable pursuits. Initial repositories include the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C., Simon Wiesenthal Center in Los Angeles, Museum of Jewish Heritage in New York, Fortunoff Video Archive for Holocaust Testimonies at Yale University and Yad Vashem in Israel.

There was a tremendous response for the interviewing positions in New York. There are, however, volunteer positions available in the office that is being set up in New York. Please note: this is an opportunity to work in a newly created foundation. Transportation cannot be provided due to the location, but please consider taking part if you will be in NYC this summer.

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What's What

Sexuality in right-wing America

By Sean O'Neill

Tomorrow night, Thursday, in Tivoli, Bard students are encouraged to attend a candlelight demonstration against bias-motivated assaults on homosexuals. According to Klanwatch, 25% of the "228 assaults targeting a victim's race, ethnic background, religion or sexual orientation" were anti-gay last year. Twelve people, it reports, were murdered in 1994 by assailants who admitted to anti-gay motives.

These extreme examples of violence against sexual minorities underline a general homophobia in America.

I stumbled across a conversation a couple of summers ago between two neighbors of mine in New Jersey.

The two women were a generation apart, one a thirty-eight year old and the other an eighteen-year old. One held forth that homosexuality was a sin, while the other insisted that it was a purely genetic trait and thus authorized by God.

Interestingly, it was the younger one who was condemning homosexuals to Hell. The older one countered the youth's Bible quotes with the prophet Ted Koppel of ABC News.

"Homosexuality is genetic. It's the truth. I saw it on *Nightline*. Everywhere you go in the world, in all the different cultures, with all the different accents and languages, they find the same amazing thing. Gay people

everywhere speak with a lisp."

The woman arguing that all homosexuals have a lisp was trying to divide the world into the many Us and the few Them, the heterosexuals versus the homosexuals.

People like her want to make sense of these supposed sexual distinctions and want to develop identifiable markers so that they can tell who falls into which category.

They must resort to foolish imaginings to do so because, unlike all other dual categorizations of nature that they make (tall/short, child/adult, man/woman) there are no distinguishing characteristics demarcating people's supposed orientations into groups. Indeed, bisexuals confound this crazy system and demonstrate its illogic.

One homosexual has little in common with another homosexual in attitudes and actions toward perceiving the world, except when he or she is forced to share a defensive action in reaction to a homophobic society. Conversely, two males who get aroused by looking at a woman may be the two most different people anyone could imagine when their values, actions and personalities are compared.

There are no social or cosmic significances in pursuing exclusively one gender in your sexual interests, any more than for someone pursuing both when the libido sways them.

While none of these words will cause a

stir on our relatively open-minded campus, one cannot say these things enough when the Republican party leads the nation.

Mr. Gingrich, if your America is about freedom, we remind you that our most essential freedom is the right to be fully human. How can you face your sister Candace, who is openly a lesbian, while you support the bigoted "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy in the military?

Mr. Helms, we must fashion our lives alone, accommodating occasionally, but never capitulating to, the half-baked social ideals of people like yourself. How can you judge the quality of N.E.A.-funded artwork by the sexual practices of the artists?

Mr. Arney, we can each guide our instincts and impulses with a guiding will and conscience, but we cannot deny our sexuality, whatever it is. Your derogatory reference to Representative Barney Frank is reprehensible.

Ideally, America is a place where people can significantly improve upon their dreams, despite any handicap of poverty or physical disability.

Except, that is, for the handicap of stubborn, supersstitious ignorance, which makes all dreams impossible.

Again, the policy regarding homosexuals in the military must be changed. Ample evidence demonstrating the need for the change is in a report by the Washington-based, Servicemembers Legal Defense Network, which provides legal representation to those stripped of their rank because of accusations of

homosexuality.

304 violations of the "Don't Pursue" policy have occurred since it went into effect last year. Fifteen "witch hunts", and ten cases in which personnel received death threats because of their actual or perceived orientations, are documented as well.

The discharge rate for homosexuals has remained unchanged under this policy that disallows all discharges based on considerations other than improper behavior.

594 men and women were dismissed from the military last year. In each case, no disorderly conduct was evident. Dismissals were based on accusations about orientation and on reports of off-duty activities occurring outside of military bases and naval vessels.

These violations of constitutional rights to privacy, as well as the repeated violations of a policy meant to prevent intimidation, are causes for outrage.

Judge Eugene Nickerson bravely and correctly ruled last week that this policy for gays in the military violates the free speech and equal protection provisions of the First and Fifth Amendments. He demanded reinstatement for six homosexual soldiers and sailors who, he concluded, "had done no more than acknowledge who they are..."

There is a need for courage in this, the most recent civil rights movement. Courage is required to take actions now to remove any future stigma for same-sex acts. Public demonstrations may be one way to challenge popular attitudes.

Bard Spring

Is Sandeep the Great Adversary?

By Sean O'Neill

Sandeep splices the film "My Coming 2: The Cheerleader Demons" from five reels, subsequently winding it in a large spiral onto a horizontal steel disk.

He is not doing this so he can see the teen flick for his own pleasure. He despises the gruesome, implausible film, about the murder of an Iowa girl with lengthy blonde hair set in a complex system of barrettes.

A silly plot, he thinks. She ought to have known better than to step out of her pick-up at Midnight on a dirt road isolated between cornfields when the cicadas ominously stopped chirping.

No, it's not for him. It's for *them*. It's for a late-night crowd of young women and men, out on dates, anxious for an excuse to kiss in darkness. Sandeep pulls the beginning of the film from the middle of the disk and threads it through some guide rollers in preparation for a screening.

He's built, fed and broken down quite a few films these past months for this job at Lyceum Cinema that has brought him some extra cash. Republicans had eliminated work-study programs and student loans, and 1997 was a lean year for a Bard student

such as himself.

Sandeep continuously thinks about his girlfriend. After turning on the projector, he sits back for a moment's rest, thinking of how her mouth is like the inside of a jelly doughnut. Not that she overapplies her lipstick or anything. Quite the contrary. This was just a mental association, something about her crimson sumptuousness that gave him spasms of desire.

I'm projecting these thoughts onto his mind for novelty's sake, obviously. No one knows what he thought as he looked through a view-port at the moving images.

Sandeep has opened the sluice gates of blood onto the silver screen, and the youths gasp in delight at the opening montage of gross disembowelments caused by a rotating helicopter propeller blade.

Maybe his mind was on how earlier that day he had learned that "Sandeep" is an English transliteration of the Sanskrit word meaning "writes with small scrawl."

Maybe he was planning to send condoms to all the administrators who had banned the spring menage party.

Maybe his mind was craving a cigarette, here in the flickering projection light of his past dreams about writing an incomparable movie

script for Professor Fruit's film class.

Sandeep sits, inscrutable amidst the celluloid, presenting a nice tableau.

He paraphrases a poem.

"Films fall apart, the rollers do not spin. And what attenuated beast, its hour come round half past, slouches toward Manhattan to be born?"

Sandeep has a slouch, the typical Bard student's posture. It was first discovered in one of those ghastly line-ups in the high school gym when the physician has all the fourth grade boys remove their shirts to check their backs for contorted spines.

The physician had rubbed his fingers along the knobby bones protruding through Sandeep's skin, sending shivers throughout him. The prompt diagnosis: a classic slouch.

Sandeep had handed the doctor's note to his mother, who responded, "That's okay, since you're the Anti-Christ, slouching toward Manhattan."

Sandeep worries that he really might be the Anti-Christ, all things considered. His girlfriend's father is an upstanding cleric, and he, unreligious, lives with her in sin. He leads a group to reverse a ban on a (safe) sex party at his college. He also shows a film about mutilation to a crowd of impression-

able, gum-chewing, seventeen to twenty-year olds — an act that is essentially propaganda for Satan and the glamorization of evil.

He is heading after Bard toward Manhattan, too, a choice setting for the hideous new Incarnation.

Yes, coffee, nicotine, and a steady diet of the concession stand's hot dogs, had combined to give Sandeep more than existential sorrow, or even indigestion. These attritions aggravate his self-doubts.

Is he the Anti-Christ? He tries to justify himself. He hadn't intended to corrupt his girlfriend. She consented. He had merely asked whether she would like to sleep over at his place. You know. A sleepover. Like the kind kids have in sixth grade. And she just stayed around for several months. A very-long sleep over. That's all. Nothing big.

And he didn't make the films he showed, either. He's not responsible if the guys in the audience experiment with their babes after seeing the movie, right? Not at all.

Should he abandon the cause of returning the menage to Bard? Sandeep dozes off as the film slips out of focus.

(To be continued.)

Working on the World-Wide Web

Or, what Michael Lewis never told you about the Internet

Josh
Ledwell
Editor

The following is a list of addresses to various interesting World-Wide Web pages. This list is gleaned in part from the February 27 and March 13 issues of *Newsweek* magazine. Some entries are fun, some are informative, and some are downright scary. Surf the Net at your own risk, however, because I have not visited any of these sites myself to be sure they work.

To access them, type in the address line on the home Galaxy page that comes up first on the Bard Web software.

<http://www.whitehouse.gov>

A virtual tour of the White House, plus profiles of the First Family.

<http://lcweb.loc.gov>

The Library of Congress page, offering access to legislation and a POW/MIA database.

<http://www.ic.gov>

The CIA World Factbook.

<http://www.os.dhhs.gov>

The Department of Health and Human Services, FDA and World Health Organization page.

<http://www.clark.net/pub/jeffd/index.html>

The conservative page, including the Contract with America, a Newt Gingrich fan club, and updates on Whitewater.

<http://www.info.net/cc>

Ralph Reed's Christian Coalition page.

<http://www.igc.apc.org/igc/pn.html>

The Peacenet, with bulletins and updates from human rights organizations.

<http://www.cnc.ac.cn>

Access to universities and other resources on China.

http://www.music.indiana.edu/misc/music_resources.html

A table of contents for online music information.

<http://www.iuma.com>

Sends you into the Internet Underground Music Archive.

<http://www.addict.com/ATN/>

"Addicted to Noise."

<http://www.vix.com/pub/men/index.html>

Take a look at the Men's Issues page.

<http://da.awa.com/artnet/artnetweb>

A gallery with pointers to visual arts sites.

<http://maas-neotek.arc.nasa.gov:80/Marsokhod/>

Real time images from a Russian robot roving in Hawaii's Kilauea volcano. The machine is being tested for a trip to Mars.

Anyone with an interesting Web address should send it to the Observer and share it with the rest of the wired masses!

Tank Girl: The Movie Review

"Delightfully awful!"

Helder
Mira
Guest
Writer

It's a shame this movie didn't come out in time for the Oscars. Maybe it would have blown away *Forrest Gump's* sweep. (But then again, if a well made documentary about actually working to fulfill a person's dreams doesn't even get nominated and instead the phallic little golden boy goes to Mr. Gump's dumb luck. . .)

To be honest, *Tank Girl* is not by any means a brilliant movie. It is however a delightfully awful little film that plays like a two hour music video, much in the same way that last year's comic-movie *The Crow* and Oliver Stone's *Natural Born Killers* did. Unlike those two soundtrack infested rapid cuttin barrages of visuals, *Tank Girl* doesn't pretend to take itself as seriously. If anything, the filmmakers were doing this to have fun. The very premise of *Tank Girl's* punk style leaves it open to being engulfed in a barrage of alternative pop music, which the producers have gladly seen to, leaving Courtney Love in charge of the soundtrack, in

hopes of having a top seller (ala *The Crow* soundtrack). I'm not much of a music person, so the soundtrack just didn't do anything for me, it only caused an annoying buzz in my ear at times. An interesting point was when Tank Girl broke into a musical number with a chorus line which consisted of prostitutes and transvestites (this number got old quickly).

Created by British artists Alan Martin and Jamie Hewlett, the *Tank Girl* comic strip followed the rowdy adventures of a girl and her tank in the outback (a twisted female version of the *Road Warrior*). The strip didn't have any sort of plot or scheme, aside from lots of swearing, drinking, and tons of blood-gushing violence.

To my dismay, *Tank Girl* the movie lacked most of this while attempting to sustain the mandatory revenge-driven, out-for-justice comic book plot (can someone please tell me which idiot on the Ratings board gave this movie an "R"?). The producers toned this film down just a bit too much so that Ice-T is the only person to utter "fuck" in the 118 minute running time of the film.

The violence is almost

along the lines of the A-Team; lots of guns but little maiming and blood. The script is layered with an excessive amount of one-liners for Lori Petty (mmmmmmmm. . .sorry, I'll do her later) to spew forth in almost every scene. Occasionally, they work. More often, they're forced.

Although director Rachel Talalay attempts to convey Martin and Hewlett's spirit of *Tank Girl*, the film becomes too watered down as it tries to follow a plot. Its flashy look and sometimes manic editing would make it feel at home if aired on MTV.

The snappiest aspect about the visuals is the animated sequences and cutout Jamie Hewlett art (I'm a sucker for Hewlett's art and the animation was just bitching, if straight out of Liquid TV). These pieces are interspersed throughout the film, oftentimes doubling for sets or scenes (better than matte paintings); it might have been neat to see more of the art though, and to have had animated kangaroos instead of the Stan Winston created makeup.

While Winston is gifted, he really screwed up on the design of the Rippers, half-

man half-kangaroos. They often resemble Winston's other creation, the Predator, when they are in armor; or just look like men in masks when out of armor. Only one Ripper came across as a kangaroo (and turned out to be the most interesting).

All that aside, the casting was great. Lori Petty (mmmmmmmm) truly embodied the spunkiness of Martin and Hewlett's character, even with a watered down script. I was hoping she would be a bit more rowdy (and not have so many annoying one-liners), but she gave a great performance nonetheless (personal feelings of love and obsession for her aside) and was definitely the star of the movie.

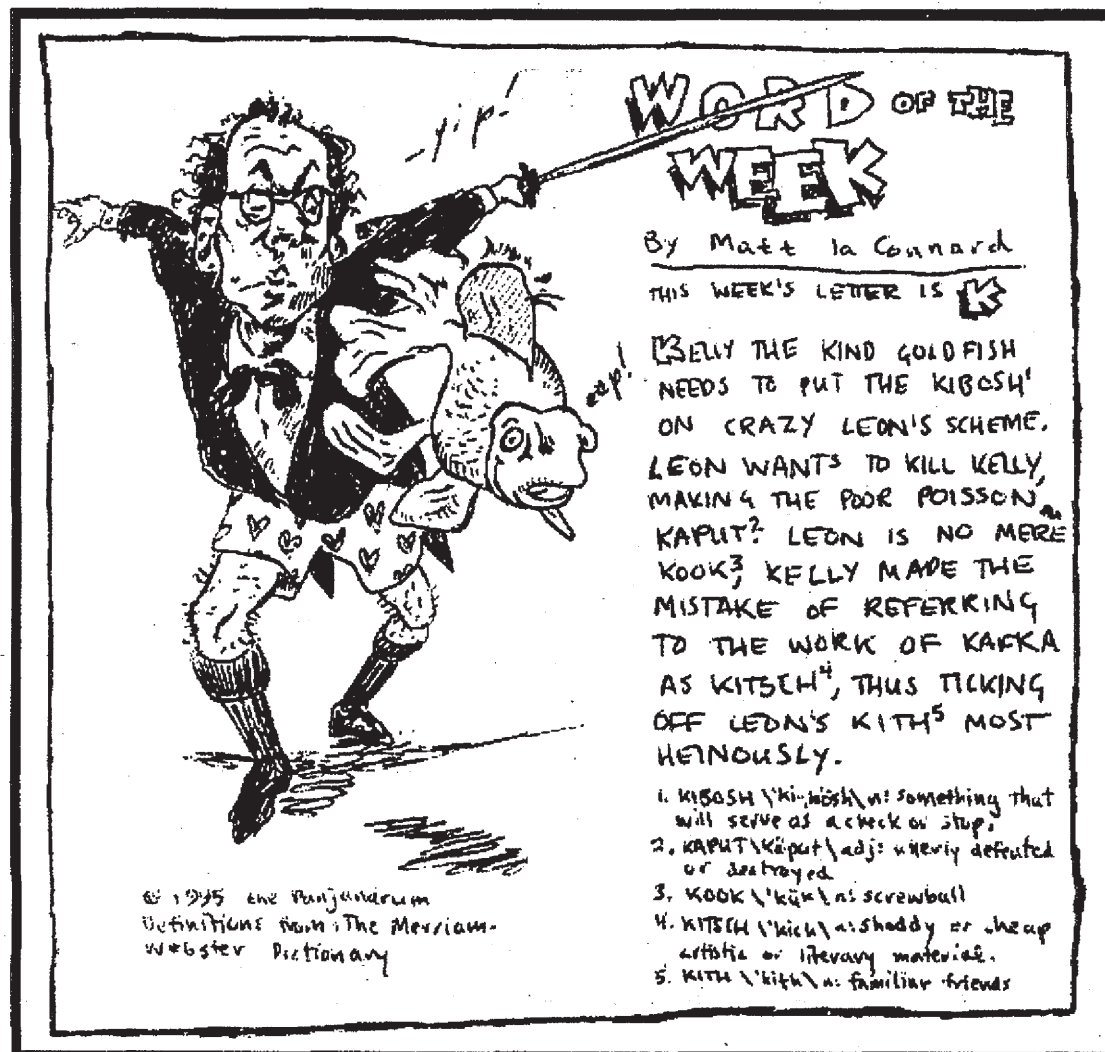
Not even Malcolm McDowell's sinister powerfiend was able to steal the show as most villains do. Although McDowell was good, he was underwritten and missing from the second half of the film. He played the role of the evil, power-hungry villain having fun very well, and if you look carefully, you will be able to see just a wee bit of Alex Dalarger in his eyes.

Naomi Watts as Jet Girl was a fine straightman, an Abbott to Petty's *Tank Girl* Costello, although underused at times. Ice-T's second billing

is a bit much considering that his character—a half-man, half-kangaroo—is a very minute character, on the verge of cameo. The rest of the Rippers are unidentifiable under all that makeup, although three have major roles. Jeff Kober (known as the devil in every movie he is cast in) is great as Booga, *Tank Girl's* lovable dopey kangaroo boyfriend (implied sex). And look for Iggy Pop's cameo appearance.

With this precious little article, I have broken my first commandment, "Thou shalt not review movies." I despise critics because they take all the fun out of watching movies by analyzing the films to death and being nit-picky. So I should've just given you the skinny from the beginning and let anyone who really wants to know read the rest of the article.

Anyway, my real feeling about the movie is that it's a fun and entertaining flick. It's delightfully awful, but enjoyable if you shut down your brain for two hours. Don't expect anything brilliant or hardcore. Suggestion: watch it at the dollar theater or matinee. Any comments? Let me know here at the Observer.



Bard opinion table feedback

by Allen Josey

The Bard Opinion Table is an outlet for students to voice suggestions, complaints, praise and questions about what's going on at Bard. Starting last semester, Allen Josey and Rich Kelley, Resident Directors, along with a representative of the Student Life Committee, have been having lunch every other Friday in the main dining hall at Kline to talk with students.

Here are more responses to some of the questions and opinions that have been brought up.

Q: "Why do we have to pay \$250 to live off-campus?"

A: Actually, the amount is \$210. Page 41 in the Student Handbook mentions this "facility user fee" but provides little explanation as to what it is. Chuck Crimmins, the college Controller, explained that this fee is actually not an additional fee that students who want to live off-campus are given as a penalty. Every student contributes to paying this fee. However, as a campus resident, this fee is included within the amount charged for tuition and is therefore not given a separate name.

The non-resident fee is re-

quired by the college's 40 year bond indenture agreement set up in the 70's with the federal government's department of Housing and Urban Development for various campus facilities, which includes for example, the Library, the Henderson foundation, Old Gym and certain parcels of land and the buildings they contain. Even off-campus residents utilize some of these Bard facilities and are therefore responsible for some of this bond indenture. Crimmins explained that this fee was lower for off-campus residents since they use fewer facilities but did not give an actual breakdown of the amount an on-campus resident pays because it was buried in complicated 40 year bond calculations and accounting formulas.

If it is of any consolation public universities, which are often required to keep tuition fixed, charge all kinds of bizarre fees to students in order to keep up with the expenses of running the school, some of which are actually higher than the cost of tuition! Examples include: "Educational Services Fee", "PUB Expansion Fee", "Community Center Maintenance Fee", "Career Services Fee", "Library Fee" and the ever popular "Special Fee".

Opinion: "I think it's lame that you have to be on the meal plan as an on-campus resident."

Response: The college, explained Shelley Morgan, signs a contract each year with Woods Food Service for each residential space on campus. Whether a student occupies that space or not, the college pays Woods. The college cannot pay twice for a student's meal; that is, to Woods and to the student if a student does not wish to be on the meal plan.

However, creative alternatives are currently being reviewed! The Student Life Committee is working with Residence Life and Woods Food Service to establish a Food Co-op for the fall '95 semester. A food committee has also been formed as a feedback to Woods Food Service Director Dan Szandyba is critical in improving food service. I believe, for example, the Grapevine works well. I advise concerned students to contact Marilyn Bernard, the PC heading the committee, or me with suggestions. Let me add that Woods Food Service and Administration have tried repeatedly to form a student food committee without success because students to date are not willing to

commit to 1 hour meetings bi-weekly to give feedback or problem-solve. It should also be mentioned that I rarely receive complaints about the food and ask PC's approximately twice each semester for input, which is usually positive.

Opinion: "I think there should be a Servicemaster Appreciation day."

Q: "Why are student loan checks made to the college? Most schools make checks out to the students."

A: Andrea Parent-Tibbetts, Assistant Director for Financial Aid, provided the following information, which is available to any student. "Your loan checks are issued to you and the college (copayable). They may be issued at different times, on a schedule determined by the college. When the college receives your loan disbursement from your lender, the college will require you to sign the check and will pay it to you or to your college account. If the college receives your loan through Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT), the transfer from the lender must be authorized by you."

Opinion: "Although student activism is an integral part of a fully functional campus environment, it is not the responsibility of the student's to make the school run effectively. That is the responsibility of the administration. For example, it has been repeatedly voiced by students that the present system used for the board plan (i.e. no matter how much you eat, you pay the same price; by how much I mean how many meals.) Yet the administration does nothing. It is the administration's responsibility to consistently strive to improve student life. The Bard administration is strictly reactionary. Get some initiative!"

Response: Shelley Morgan in response to this said that, "in the past five years the college has hired five additional full-time staff in the Dean of Students department. They are Gina Delmont/Fitness Director, Allen Josey/RD-Career Development, Rich Kelley/RD-Leadership Development, Barbara Jean O'Keefe/Nurse Practitioner, and Eric Keller/Counselor.

Jeff Huang was also moved to Dean of First Year Students to devote special attention to the needs of freshmen students. They were all hired to work proactively in the community. as a result, all members of the dean of Students Office Staff have sponsored

sored programs on a variety of topics in and outside of the residence halls to facilitate discussion and to share their expertise. This has been very successful. The college has also bumped up transportation off campus to New York City, area libraries, and is currently establishing a Red Hook-Tivoli shuttle with the input of the students from the Student Life Committee.

The Campus Center Committee, composed of faculty, students and administrators is in the final phase of plans for a Campus Center to improve the lives and activities of students. Student surveys were distributed and many general meetings were held by the committee to gather student input. I would be happy to review the Student Center plans with interested students. (They have been previously reviewed at Forum Meetings.)

Jeff Huang sponsored a successful 'Carnival' party with a student, faculty and administration committee. He also sponsors alternative events every Thursday, Friday and Saturday. The gymnasium has sponsored a rock climbing course off campus, despite the expense and lack of follow through from the students who signed up.

The gym also sponsored a self defense course with B.R.A.V.E. and the Dean of Students Office. The Bard Opinion Table was an administrative initiative to obtain student feedback. The President has offered and paid for buses to rallies demonstrating against the financial aid cuts proposed by Governor Pataki. The Director of the Physical Plant and a committee of students, faculty and administrators have organized a new recycling program since it was evident to all that our current program was not working.

I ask students concerned about administrative initiative to look around and take part in the many discussions initiated by the Administration, students and faculty. I am available to talk at any time. The Dean of the College and the members of the Executive Planning Committee would also be happy to speak with students about academic initiatives, which are very exciting. In a small community such as this, conversation, input and feedback are essential. Activism and initiative are equally valued."

Bard Opinion Table

Where: Kline Time: 12:00 to 1:00

When: Fridays April 7, 21; May 5, 19.

Please give us your feedback

and comments.

Carrel vandalism

This Sunday, April 2nd, I went to the library to do some work, and discovered that someone had written on and torn several of the posters and cartoons decorating my senior project carrel. The posters were all feminist and/or lesbian themed, and the graffiti written on them was all anti-woman and anti-lesbian.

One poster was a xerox of a Guerrilla Girls poster which asked "Do women have to be naked to get into the Met. Museum?" The vandalizer had written in "Yes!!!" The second was a cartoon with a picture of a woman and her cat with the caption "Hothead Paisan: Lomical Lesbian Terrorist." This cartoon had a thought balloon drawn in with the cat saying "Feed me tender vittles," and a second balloon drawn from the woman's mouth saying "Feed me Pussy!" Someone (but apparently someone else because the pen color and handwriting were different) had so written "Fag" in small letters in this cartoon. Lastly, the writer of most of this graffiti left me this message on another poster: "You gotta learn to get along w/ men, use we ain't goin' NOWHERE!!!" Another poster was torn, but I have no idea if this was done at the same time or by the same person or not.

I find these events both offensive and threatening. While I have no doubt that the cartoons and posters I chose to put on my senior project carrel may be obnoxious or even offensive to some people, I do not believe that anonymous graffiti and the tearing of posters is ever appropriate. Further, my carrel is my designated space in the library, which I have earned by coming a senior at Bard, and anyone who didn't care for my decorations certainly had the option of moving or complaining to the librarians about it. This, of course, never happened, and instead someone chose to express their views in a way which was at

once cowardly and offensive.

The act of vandalizing my carrel was sexual harassment. The things written on my posters were anti-woman and anti-lesbian. I was harassed because I am a woman (and one openly expressing feminist views) and because I am gay. This is sexual harassment.

I like to kid myself into thinking that Bard is one of the places where women are respected and that gays, lesbians, and bisexuals are free from harassment and violence. Once again, a fellow student has proven me wrong. To say that I am disappointed is an understatement. I am also scared by the implicit threats contained in the statements written on my posters, scared both for myself and for other women, gay, lesbian, and bisexual students. I am also incredibly angry that another student has felt it within his rights to violate both my personal rights and space, and to do so in a cowardly and anonymous manner. I will be graduating this May, and I wish that this was not one of the last memories I will have of Bard.

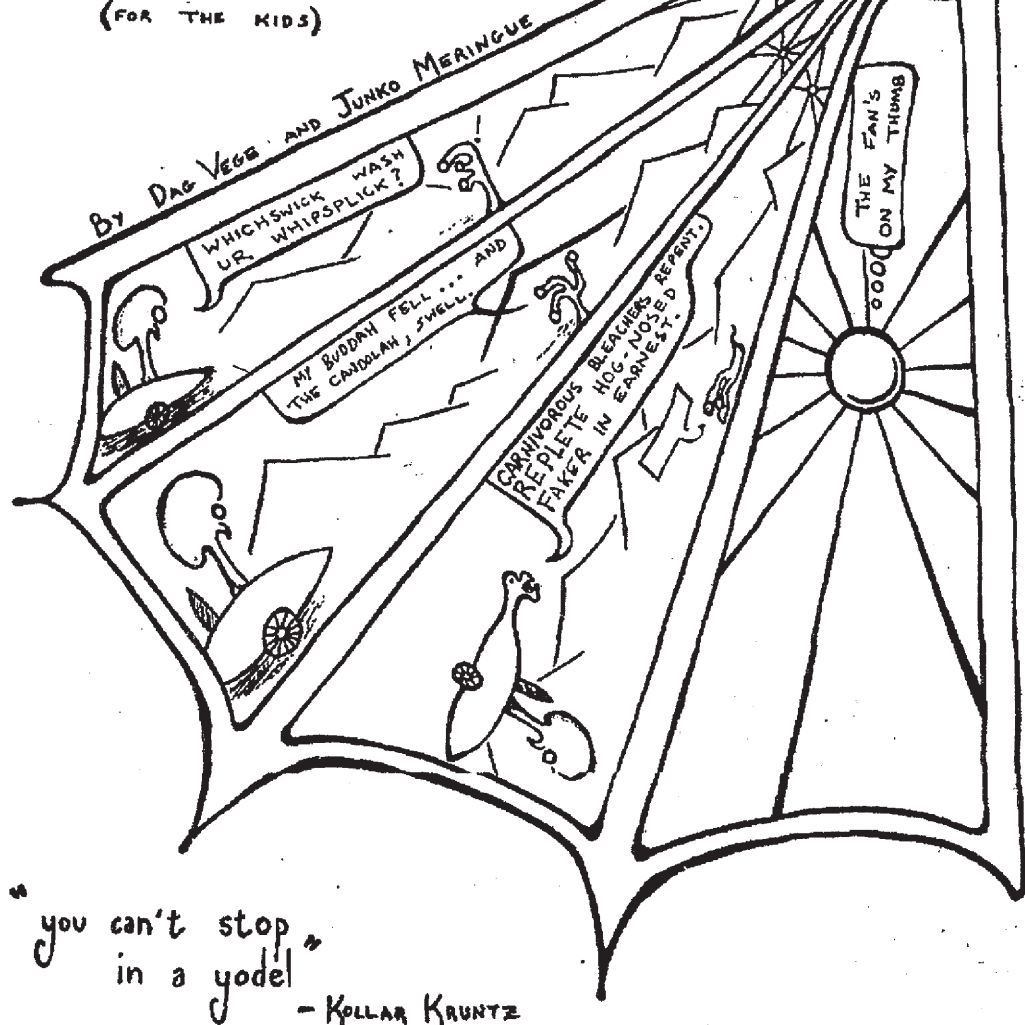
I realize that since the graffiti was written anonymously, there is little that anyone can do about it. I don't expect the college to go on a man-hunt for the person who vandalized my carrel. I do, however, want it on record that the incident occurred. Last November President Botstein wrote a memo to the Bard community about the fact that posters by the Student Jewish Association and the Gay and Lesbian Association had been defaced and torn down. He asked not only for the vandalism to stop, but for the Bard community to work toward ending the ignorance and hatred which causes this behavior. Since what happened to the posters on my carrel was an act in very much the same vein, the president's message has obviously not been heeded.

It seems to me that the college, including its student body,

Retina Soybean

AND/OR FRIENDS ©

VOLUME 5, NUMBER 1
(FOR THE KIDS)



needs to continue its commitment to ending ignorance, violence and harassment. I have spent three of my years at Bard working towards just this goal with BRAVE. I am angry that having my student carrel vandalized has been one of my rewards. I cannot ask that the person who vandalized my carrel be punished because I do not know who did it. But, if that person is reading this, I have a few things to say:

I want him/her to know that I am very angry. I am angry that my rights, my personal space, and my beliefs were violated. I am angry that the only way that I can respond to anonymous harassment is to write a very public letter. I am angry because I certainly had better things to do with my time tonight—like work on my senior project—than to write this letter. And mostly I am angry because the harassment worked: When I saw it, I felt like shit. I felt like I was not safe, and that I was hated. I was reminded that it will

never be safe for me to be a woman in our society, much less a gay woman. And I was reminded that if I do want to be safe it will always be necessary for me to hide who I am.

But hiding is something I am not willing to do. So I'm writing this letter instead. You may already know who I am if you bothered to read my name of the label on my carrel. If not, you know now. I want you to know what you have done. You have violated my mental and physical space, and you have made me very angry. More than that, however, you are participating in a system of institutionalized sexism and homophobia which keeps all women and all gay people (not to mention the rest of the world) down. If you think of yourself as liberal, please be aware that your actions were those of a bigot. You are part of the problem.

I know that there are people who will think that I am over-reacting. That a little anonymous graffiti is just a stupid college prank, and that I shouldn't waste my energy

But, as I pointed out in my remarks to the person who did the vandalizing, every individual action of bigotry is part of a system. People are not oppressed merely by laws or vague structures like the government. People are oppressed by other people. It's happening all around us every day. Even at places like Bard.

I'm not so naive as to think that this is the first incident of sexual harassment of a woman or gay student at Bard. But this one happened to me, so it's one of the few incidents I have a right to talk about. One lesson I have learned is that breaking the silence is the first step in ending oppression. But I can only break my own silence about these matters. It is up to everyone else to help, both by breaking their own silence and by listening. Talk to your friends. This stuff is happening constantly. If you think it isn't, you're not listening. And after you've talked to your friends, do something about it.

Angela M. Snyder

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BARD CALENDAR

Brought to you by the Dean of Student's Office

April 5 to April 11, 1995

TRANSPORTATION

Jitney Schedule: the Jitney runs Monday through Friday and makes stops at the following places and times:

Robbins: 8:30a, 8:50a, 9:10a, 9:30a, 9:50a, 10:10a, 12:00p, 12:20p, 12:40p, 1:00p, 1:20p, 1:40p, 4:00p, 4:20p, 4:40p, 5:00p, 5:20p, 5:40p.

Tewksbury: 8:42a, 9:02a, 9:22a, 9:42a, 10:02a, 10:22a, 12:12p, 12:32p, 12:52p, 1:12p, 1:32p, 1:52p, 4:12p, 4:32p, 4:52p, 5:12p, 5:32p, 5:52p.

Tuesday: Van to the Lyceum in Red Hook, 6:30p - 10p.

Wednesday: Shop 'n Save Run, 6p - 9p.

Friday: Vans to Rhinecliff Station at 4:20p (4:53 train), 6:00p (6:31 train) and 7:20p (7:51 train). Vans to Poughkeepsie Station at 5:30p (6:19 train), 7:45p (8:35 train) and 10p (10:45 train). Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall trip, leaves at 5p.

Saturday: van to AA Red Hook, van leaves at 6:15p from Security. Shuttle to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck, 10a - 2p.

Sunday: meet at 9:15a to go to various churches in Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck (St. Johns, St. Chris and St. Paul). Pick ups at Rhinecliff Station for trains arriving at 6:15p and 8:02p and 10:12p. Pick ups at Poughkeepsie Station for trains at 6:45p, 8:45p and 10:45p.

Meet all vans behind Kline

Wednesday April 5	Thursday April 6	Friday April 7	Saturday April 8	Sunday April 9	Monday April 10	Tuesday April 11
<p>Table Française. Kline President's Room, 5:30p - 6:30p.</p> <p>German Table. Join us for some conversation. All are welcome to attend! Kline Commons Committee Rooms, 6p - 7p.</p> <p>Thurman Barker and Marilyn Crispell will offer a jazz concert tonight at 7p in the Olin Auditorium. The concert is free and open to the public.</p> <p>Photographer Alex Webb will visit Bard today as part of the Photography Lectures sponsored by the Photography Department. Olin 102, 8p.</p>	<p>Russian Discussion or <i>Rysski Stol</i>. All are welcome to come from 5p 'till ???.</p> <p>Kline Commons Committee Rooms.</p> <p>Sister Cities Project Meeting. Kline Committee Rooms, 5p.</p> <p>S/M ACES meets every Thursday at 6pm in Kline Committee Room.</p> <p>Benvenuti alla Tavola Italiana. Kline President's Room, 5-6p. Join us for Italian conversation from 6-7p. All welcome! Olin 202, 7p - 9p.</p> <p>A Gift of Hermes. a lecture by Professor Lewis Hyde, of Kenyon College. Sponsored by the Institute for Writing and Thinking. Olin Auditorium, 8p.</p>	<p>Bard Opinion Table. Talk with the Resident Directors and members of the Student Life Committee. Kline Commons, 12p - 1p.</p> <p>Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting. Bard Chapel, 7p. All are welcome.</p> <p>Jewish Students' Organization meeting. Kabbalat Shabbat: Wind down after your hectic week. Olin Moon Room, 7:30p.</p> <p>Tracy Feldman and Friends will be performing music for guitar, clarinet and violin, tonight at 8p, Bard Hall.</p>	<p>Democracy Triumphant? Issues and Perspectives on the Post-Cold-War Era. International conference hosted by the Levy Institute, featuring participants George Soros, Ernest Gellner, James Chace, Ian Bremmer, Miklos Haraszti, Katharina Pistor and Stanislov Wellisz. Starts at 9:30a, Olin Auditorium.</p>	<p>Gargoyles, an exhibition by artist Paul Myoda, at the Center for Curatorial Studies, starts today. There will be a reception with the artist at 3:30p.</p>		<p>Green Coalition Meeting. Come to discuss campus recycling, composting and other environmental issues. Aspinwall, 7:30p.</p> <p>What are U.S. Banks doing in Mutual Funds? A lecture by James F. Cleary, Professor of Economics at Boston College. Levy Institute, 8p.</p>

Free Fitness Seminars

April 4 & 6: Men and Weight Training: How to achieve the muscular definition you've always wanted.

April 10 - 14: Diet and Exercise: How to lose the extra ten pounds in a healthy manner.

Instructor: Gina Delmont, Bard Athletic Trainer/Fitness Director.

Stevenson Gymnasium
7:00pm - 8:00p.



Special Spring Break Edition

Basic Ramen

One (1) Package of Ramen
One (1) Cup of Water
One (1) pot

Get a pot. Dump water into it. Throw ramen into pot. Turn on stove. Put pot on stove. Let boil for three (3) minutes.

Beef Ramen

One (1) Package of Ramen
Some Beef (what you can find)
One (1) Cup of Water
One (1) pot

Scrounge through dorm to find remnants of McDonald's hamburgers. Dump water into pot. Throw ramen into pot. Add your ersatz beef. Turn on stove. Put pot on stove. Let boil for three (3) minutes.

Wabbit Wamen

One (1) Package of Wamen
One (1) Wabbit
One (1) Cup of Water
One (1) pot

Hunt yourself a wabbit. Dump water into pot. Throw wamen into pot. Dice wabbit and add to wamen. Turn on stove. Put pot on stove. Let boil for three (3) minutes.

Chicken Ramen

One (1) Package of Ramen
Some Chicken (what you can find)
One (1) Cup of Water
One (1) pot

Get a pot. Raid dorm fridge to scrounge up some leftover chicken. Dump water into pot. Heave ramen into pot (hey - it's heavy stuff). Chuck your chicken in. Turn on stove. Put pot on stove. Let boil for three (3) minutes.

Squirrel Ramen

One (1) Package of Ramen
One (1) Squirrel
One (1) Cup of Water
One (1) pot

First you gotta catch the squirrel. Then the rest is just like chicken.



Jack the Samurai ran out of ramen today.

Blowfish Ramen

One (1) Package of Ramen
One (1) Blowfish
One (1) bowl

Procure blowfish. Find certified blowfish chef. If chef is unavailable, cut blowfish up yourself, choosing the most colorful parts to eat. Add to ramen. Don't cook. Its sushi, stupid. Let your roommate try it first. If roommate dies within 24 hours, don't eat the rest.

Tofu Ramen

One (1) Package of Ramen
One (1) Tofu
One (1) Cup of Water
One (1) pot

Go eat some meat, vegan pansy. Squirrel tastes great.

Maoist Preverter

Issue #5, April 1, 1995



Huey Newton

Gonzalo Jose Maria Sison

Jiang Qing

Mao Zedong

Edith Lagos

Open Assault on Corporate AmeriKa

Lima, Peru. Last week, Comrade Gusto Plante took his own initiative to stage a highly synchronized and coordinated attack on a huge statue of Ronald McDonald, symbol of U.S. AmeriKan economic colonization of SurAmericana. Plante fired a rocket at the statue, blowing a chunk out of Ronald's mid-section and groin. Our correspondent caught up with Plante in a safehouse in Montevideo. He looked rested and fit after his strategic, well-coordinated assault on AmeriKan crypto-colonialism.

"Hit 'em where it hurts," said Plante. "When dealing with an enemy as cunning and ruthless as the capitalist conspiracy, one must take off the gloves. As Chairman Mao said, 'When we are making an omelette for the collective consumption, some may suffer indigestion or fractured skulls.'"



The scene in Lima after Plante's attack.

Was Stalin Really so Bad?

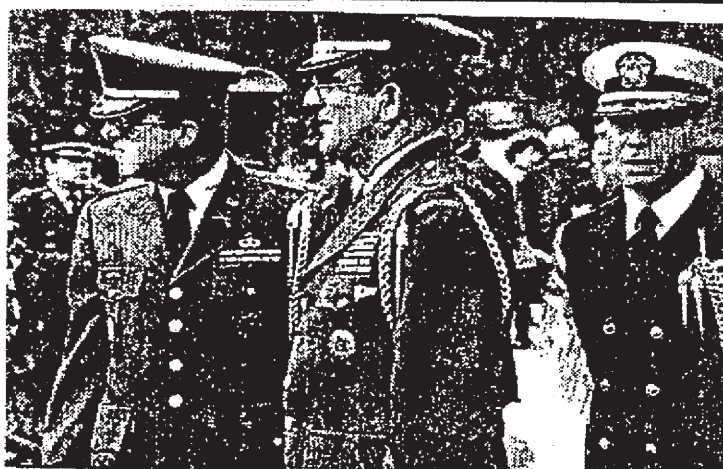
Known as Uncle Joe to his friends, Josef Stalin was a man who wouldn't take lip from anyone. But could he cook!

Revisionists Attack True Revolutionaries
Revolutionaries Respond with Recipes

Stalin Cooks Cajun is a must see. Just listen to this quote:

Comrade Yagoda knew his tenure as Chief of the Secret Police was over. But first, Stalin offered him a steaming tureen of gumbo. "Hope you enjoy," said the rotund dictator. Yagoda wet his pants in fear.

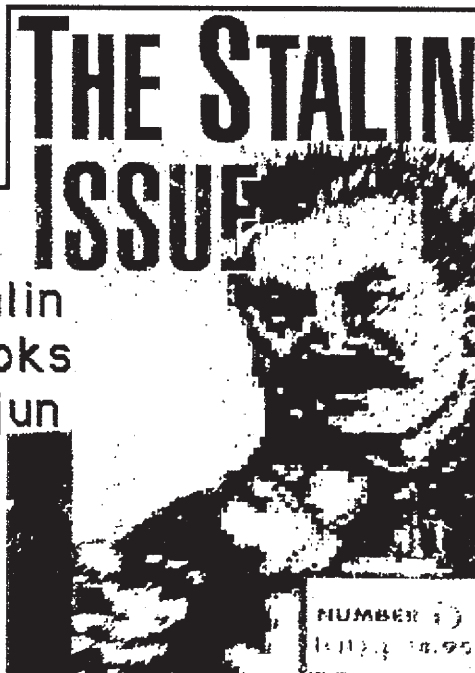
Next issue: Mao Cooks Szechuan



Imperialist Military Clique Discovered in Manor Annex

Exclusive to the Maoist Preverter

Bard College, Annandale, NY. A resident of Manor Annex, a dormitory at posh Bard College, opened a storage closet today to find three four-star generals lurking inside. They escaped before she could interrogate them about what they were doing in the dark among the cleaning supplies. Sources say the generals may have been involved in a plot to test new hallucinogens that were to be mixed in with the mashed potatoes in the cafeteria. The incident highlighted Mao's warning: "The counterrevolution rears its malformed head everywhere. Even among the turnips, or in with the Mop-and-Glo, hide the running-dog-capitalist-high-rollers, awaiting their chance to take power back from the people. Eternal vigilance is the key."



Stalin
Cooks
Cajun

Ask Doctor Doctrinaire

On Dec. 13, 1968, Forbus Renfrew and William Stick were brutally ambushed by the Chicago pigs. Stick refused to cooperate with the coppers and bit off his own tongue rather than rat on his fellow revolutionaries, and was left to die in a pan of warm Kook Aid. Renfrew was framed and sentenced to 1300 years in the Federal Pen for allegedly assaulting 14 Chicago Police detectives with a turkey baster. To this day he proclaims his innocence. Today, Renfrew is Doctor Doctrinaire™, answering your questions on revolutionary correctness.

Dear Doctor Doctrinaire,
I'm so Bourgeois that I even make myself sick. I drive a BMW 700 series my mommy bought me, I have a six hundred dollar-a-week allowance, and I own more CDs than I can count. What can I do about my problem? Please help.

Anguished in Annandale

Dear Anguished,
First, get a poster of Che Guevara and put that mother up on the wall in your room. Resolve to use the words "disenfranchised," "co-opted" and "media-manipulation" at least 5-6 times every day. Finally, put some leftist political slogan bumper stickers on your car. Just in case anyone calls you a hypocrite, memorize a few harsh quotes from Mao, like "Power grows out of the barrel of a gun." That one should shut them up right-quick.

Dear Doctor Doctrinaire,
I want to help further the revolution, but I am trapped in the body of a small, bloated Chihuahua. Any suggestions?

Concerned in Scarsdale

Dear Concerned,
There is room in the revolution even for a dedicated Chihuahua. Keep up the struggle! Power to the People and Chihuahuas!

Dear Doctor Doctrinaire
I want to help the struggle but I am locked in a small steel box in the maximum-security wing of Schreckenmeister prison in Berlin. My tiny cell is filled with water so I have to breathe through a straw, but I am still a motivated comrade. Down with the capitalist pigs! Up with the humble soy patty!

Determined in Deutschland

Dear Determined,
Comrade, you must really be dedicated if you could write that letter while you were desperately grasping air through a straw. I hope it was one of those fatter ones you get with a shake at McDonalds. You are an example to the masses. Don't let the man's oppression get you down. Power to the People!
fin

Trustees meet

Student reps report on triannual meeting

Laurie
Curry
Guest
Writer

Bard's Board of Trustees gathered for their Spring meeting March 22 in New York City. President Leon Botstein's opening report touched on a few positive developments in the Bard community.

He revealed that the college is having a banner year for admissions. The fact that Bard has had to reject more applicants than ever before is due mostly to the publicity that the school receives for its affiliation with the Bard Center for Studies in Decorative Arts in New York City and Simon's Rock, from "word of mouth," and as a result of diversity mechanisms like the Excellence and Equal Cost (EEC) program, among others.

With these positive developments, commented Botstein, come new challenges for the school, like evolving new criteria for selectivity.

Another problem of growth (which the students fated to the waiting list already know) is, where to house more students. The space problem can only be alleviated by more housing, the president explained, with an eye towards the college's future.

Also regarding growth, Botstein explained to the trustees that Bard could make up for the lack of

a "college town" by taking advantage of the popularity and the grassroots development of nearby Tivoli.

Bard is already establishing shuttles which run to and from the Bard expatriate village. Other Bard actions could include the purchase of real estate for housing and the expansion of the path leading to Tivoli.

In terms of on-campus development, Bard will use grants from IBM and Mellon for the use of technology in teaching arts, to expand the capabilities of the computer center. The college will use monies given by the Claire Booth Luce foundation to develop a program for female science scholars at Bard.

At the end of his report, the president enumerated the speaker and honorary degree recipients for this year's graduation. Henry Louis Gates, Jr., African-American scholar, author and educator from Harvard, will be the major speaker at commencement.

Arnold J. Davis, Bard alumnus, class of 1944, will receive a Doctorate of Humane Letters. Mary-Claire King, the biologist who discovered the gene that causes breast cancer, will receive a Doctorate of Science. The Painter Claes Oldenburg will be given a Doctorate of Arts and the economist James Tobin will be honored with Bard's Doctorate of Humane Letters.

The Bard Medal will be given to Susan Weber Soros, Director of the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in Decorative Arts.

Botstein intimated that there may be some surprises for the seniors.

President Botstein and Jay

Levy spoke on the role that the Levy Economics Institute played in defeating the balanced budget amendment. Letters, personal appeals and institute reports from the Levy were very instrumental in dissuading policy-makers in Washington from passing this constitutional amendment.

The institute was unified in its protest of the policy, explained Levy, "but individuals were against it for different reasons."

Finally, the crux of the meeting was discussion of the increase in tuition for the 1995-96 year. Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou presented several options to the board and demonstrated from a market forecast report, that Bard's increase was on par with or even less than the proposed increases of comparable schools like Reed, Haverford and Bryn Mawr. To student representative Dara Silverman's question whether Bard had any contingency plans if cuts are made in federal and state financial aid, the president responded, "We are fighting this battle. If we lose it, we will have to regroup."

(See President Botstein's March 21 op-ed piece on financial aid cuts from the *New York Times*.)

The position of Student Representative to the Bard Board of Trustees entails travel to New York City for three meetings a year, at which the representatives are given time to express student concerns to the Trustees and administration. Both representative positions will be up for election this spring. Interested students should contact either Dara Silverman or Laurie Curry.

Classifieds and personals

ENTREPRENEURS: Start your part-time business. Residual income monthly. No inventory, No retail sales, NO RISK! Sound intriguing? Call 679-4150.

SUMMER SUBLETS The Graduate School of Environmental Studies is looking for student housing for this summer, mid June through mid August. If you wish to sublet or rent, please call 758-7483 or, see Molly or Liz in Sottery 101.

The Bard Observer seeks staff. All interested writers, photographers, copy editors, artists, cartoonists, etc. are welcome. Meetings are held in room 84, Tewksbury basement, Thursdays at 7:00 pm., or call 758-0772.

The Bard Music Festival needs people. If you are going to be around this summer, or would like to be around this summer and would like to get first hand knowledge of how a music festival works, or even if you are just curious, please call Robin Leebardt at 758-7410 (x. 7410).

Lost keys, little yellow keychain. If you find them, please call 876-8355.

I found a skateboard by Manor. Box 1254 to identify.

All blame for this year's April Fool issue should be addressed to its contributors: Andrew "Propagandist and Glandist" Fowler, Kathy "Baby Driver" Hoover, Bill "Red Fuckin' Meat" Hornbostel, Robin "Astro Boy" Kodaira and Michael "Houdini Blues" Poirier. Remember, it's all in

fun and we love you all. Really.

Fay

Student looking for a quiet place to live and do research over the summer. If you are looking for a responsible housesitter or want to sublet your apartment, please call Julie at 752-7523.

To the wild woman from this afternoon: kiss me! kiss me! kiss me!—love Billy Ray C.

"Tim Hart," give us your real name—we might print your letter.

"Am I too slow to turn my thoughts to words?" You can still kick my in Scrabble...

"Whet have I done? What have I done? What have I done?"

Repeat: "I will write for the *Bard Observer*." Repeat.

Si! Si! Soy "hip!" Soy "hip!"

Fey

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Baccalaureate Service

The Baccalaureate Service will be held this year on Sunday, May 21, 1995. 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, blessings 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.

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THE BARD OBSERVER

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April 5, 1995

April is the
cruellest month.

—T.S. Eliot

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Earth's most legendary investor

George Soros

Shaping markets, shaping history

by Sean O'Neill

George Soros, the first billionaire ever to visit Bard College, devotes his days to the out-betting of other speculators in the currency markets and to the rescue of his birthplace from its own worst instincts.

Mr. Soros, Earth's most legendary investor and benefactor, will address Bard students in the Olin auditorium this Saturday, April 8.

His speech on the "perils of the post-communist era" will finish a day-long conference here about fostering stable, democratic societies in east and central Europe.

The New Republic has described his talks as having "the chilly clarity of a fingernail clinking against crystal."

Soros has distributed or committed one billion dollars to the nations of Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, and — his favorite — Hungary.

Soros, aged 64 and author of three books, refers to himself as "a stateless statesman", a "deus ex machina", and "a self-made man."

He created the Central European Uni-

versity and the charitable organization known as the "Soros Foundations." These twin institutions help to educate people about the traditions of civil society, as it was defined by the philosopher Karl Popper. His groups especially encourage the toleration of tolerant thought.

He pledges money for building houses for the poor of South Africa, for the care of Gypsies under attack in Bulgaria, for scientists desperate in Russia, for actors locating Romeo and Juliet in besieged Sarajevo, and for doctors changing "the culture of death" in the United States.

Soros evaded the Nazi death camps when German troops occupied Hungary in 1941 by pretending he was not Jewish and by hiding in a collaborationist gentile's house.

Soros sometimes uses his personal history to dispel suspicions about his dispersal of cash to intellectuals and reformers across the globe. His intentions are plain, not megalomaniacal, he insists.

First is his financial self-interest. Each

dollar that he donates from his U.S. income is tax-deductible.

Second is his philosophical self-interest. He gambles upon the success of emerging pluralistic societies with his disbursements, hoping that these nations will always welcome independent-minded characters such as himself and his three children.

To Get Rich Fast

Soros succeeds by anticipating changes slightly ahead of everyone else. The financial markets are much like an Alice in Wonderland chess game where the rules keep changing, and where one player appreciates the significance of the changes more quickly than another. If a new rule states that a pawn can move backwards, an adept player will add this consideration to his strategy to bring victory closer. Governments are constantly announcing new rules, and an announcement that restrictions on a kind of trading will be imposed, for example, is much like the powers of a pawn being altered. Better still for Soros is the fact that a billionaire, if he chooses, can cultivate influence among government officials in order to learn about rule changes in advance of their announcement.

Soros became wealthy mostly by making trades in the currency markets. What follows is an explanation of this sort of speculation.

When an American tourist landed in Germany last year and changed her dollars into marks, she had much money to spend. When she returned this month and exchanged the same number of dollars for marks, she had less to spend. The dollar is worth less now against the mark than it has in fifty years.

This decline primarily results from a larger international demand to have money in German currency. Why? To prevent prices from rising too quickly, German banks pay businessmen high rates of return on their investments in what appear to be safe and profitable German bank accounts and bonds. Also, because Germany has had increasing success in business transactions in Europe, it makes sense to close deals in marks, the common denominator in currency, just as it makes sense for international conferences to use English as a main language.

The dollar is also worth less and less against the Japanese yen. Mainly, this is because Americans buy more Japanese V.C.R.'s and consumer goods than the Japanese buy American movie studios and similar "services." Since more importers need the limited supply of yen, the value of yen rises.

These long-term trends are hidden by fluctuations resulting from banks buying and selling currencies. To make a profit, a man with a billion dollars might exchange his greenbacks for deutsch marks with the expectation that, tomorrow, the mark will be

continued on page 3