

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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The Bard Observer

Volume 102

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Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

April 26, 1995

Athletic director fired

Joel Tomson dismissed from Bard for undisclosed reasons

By Joshua Bell and Joshua
Ledwell

Staff Writers

After 15 years as Bard's Director of Athletics and Physical Recreation, Joel Tomson was fired in the early afternoon of Friday, April 21. Assistant Athletic Director Kris Hall has been named the new Athletic Director of the college.

Neither Tomson nor the college administration would give exact reasons for the firing, which was unusually timed in the middle of the semester and interrupted his coaching of the varsity tennis team. Dean of Students Shelley Morgan and Hall were careful to explain that the reason for Tomson's termination did not involve Bard students.

According to Dean Morgan, last year she and Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou had expected that Tomson would be able to encourage more student involvement in gym and recreational activities. The former Athletic Director said that his termination was partly a result of these expectations not being fulfilled. However, Morgan said that Tomson's abrupt dismissal had "nothing to do with" these expectations.

Dean Morgan initially asked Tomson for his resignation on Friday. He approached Papadimitriou and Dean of the College Stuart Levine to con-

firm the college's decision, saying that he "needed to make sure everybody understood" his position.

Tomson then talked to several students he knew at the gym, who said he thanked them for their participation and support.

Tomson stated that his relationship with the administration had grown "tenuous (during) the last year or so." In response, Morgan said that "there needed to be more creative" programs held in the gym and a "greater" response from the students. She noted that in the last year there had been small, but measurable results.

Tomson reacted to his firing with "disappointment," but emphasized the positive aspects of his fifteen-year tenure at Bard. He said that he "enjoyed personal relations with students" and that he was "going to miss a lot of people." Tomson also had praise for Bard in general, saying that the college provided "a total educational experience" and produced "students who challenged everyone to be better at what they do."

The former Athletic Director had good things to say about his successor, Kris Hall. She "will do a wonderful job," he said. Tomson also stated that he wished Bard "only the best in the future."



Joel Tomson File Photo

Students discuss rape

By Linnea Knollmueller
Features Editor

Responding to the mixed emotions, fears and anxieties caused by the April 13 rape of a Bard student, Julia Wolk arranged a campus security meeting in Tewksbury lounge last Tuesday. The meeting, attended by over 70 people, including students, Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, Assistant Director of Safety and Security Jim Lawlor and Resident Director Rich Kelley, served as an outlet for peoples' confusion regarding the role and effectiveness of security at Bard College.

Wolk and Antonia d'Amato are two of the students who labored for over a year to organize the Bard Foot Patrol, which consists of pairs of students patrolling the campus on foot, armed with flashlights and radios. The patrollers are available for walking

escorts and as 'eyes and ears' for the community. They do not intervene in any incidents they may witness, but radio security immediately.

After extensive recruitment and training, the small patrol finally began working this fall, with limited success. Due to the failure of members of the Bard community to utilize the program, it was dropped this spring.

"Last semester there were twelve people walking around," said d'Amato, "but it felt really futile. We got, like, one call for a walking escort. People didn't know about it, or saw us as the dorks. It was stigmatizing for the patrol."

While the students at the meeting overwhelmingly favored a reinstatement of the foot patrol, they also expressed grave concerns about the quality of the Bard security force. Requests repeatedly posed included more access for escorts

after the Shuttle has stopped running, and the hiring of more security guards.

Jim Lawlor explained that there are usually four guards on duty at night, who have a round of building and areas to secure in addition to responding to any alarms or ride requests. It is for this reason that students may have to wait for a security escort after the shuttle has stopped running.

His explanation did little to allay the underlying feeling of insecurity experienced by many students at the meeting. One female student accused dispatchers of "laughing at" her when she has called for rides from Tewksbury to Wolff, and denying her such a short escort. "I know it's a short ride, but I'm a student here, and it is my right to get a ride when I ask for one."

Tara Padua responded
continued on page 4

*O sleep! it is a gentle thing,
Beloved from pole to pole!
To Mary Queen the praise be given!
She sent the gentle sleep from
Heaven
That slid into my soul.*

—Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Potter lounge burns

Fire raises questions of safety

By Kristin Oland
Guest Writer

It has always been difficult for me, a non-believer, to take the idea of apocalypse too seriously. However, after last week's events in Stone Row I am beginning to change my outlook on life. The less tragic of occurrences was the on-again off-again hot water which plagued the residents of the rapidly deteriorating dormitories. The randomness of the miracle of hot water (brought to us by the almighty boiler in the sky) has no simple explanation. Ask any B&G worker.

Of course, the more frightening of events was last Wednesday's fire in Potter. Rumor has it that the fire began when careless residents left an ignited cigarette on a lounge chair. As to be expected from cheap green synthetic chairs, it began to smolder. The odor apparently wafted into one of the rooms from where

Security was notified of the possibility of an electrical fire (determined by the odor). At approximately 4:45 am the alarm sounded and residents began to evacuate. Much to the surprise of some Potter first floor residents, this was not a false alarm. Indeed, the lounge was thick with smoke. Adding to the confusion, a few moments after the arrival of Security upon the Potter scene, a fire broke out in McVickar when a record leaf fell onto a lamp and burned (this was quickly gotten under control). Security, momentarily baffled, did then manage to collect themselves and contact the Red Hook fire department.

After only a half an hour the fleet of little red fire engines appeared on the scene with bleary eyed fire fighters intact. They entered Potter, broke out the window of the lounge and squirted some water on the smoldering object and walls (or so I assume as it appeared afterwards). Windows were opened in rooms not only on the first floor but second and third floors as well, for the smoke had penetrated quickly through the porous building. Unfortunately the smell of carbon-soaked walls lingers on and the carpet still have soot embedded in them.

As to be expected, the rooms of innocent bystanders were most greatly affected, with blackened doors and damp carpets, and the smell of chemicals used in cleaning; it's difficult to tolerate. Fortunately for all, no one was injured during the fiasco, nor has any personal property suffered damage. The task of cleaning soot off of shelves and desks will be an endless one however.

One important issue to be discussed is the time in which it took students to evacuate. Because of the frequency of false alarms, it has become habit to disregard the alarms and remain inside until the

alarms are disengaged. Had this been a more serious episode and had the first floor residents not evacuated, there undoubtedly would have been injuries and possibly fatalities. Another burning issue (pun intended) is the time it took for the fire department to arrive. Imagine if the fire had been located in a Ravine dorm—in half an hour all seven of the Ravines could have been leveled to the ground. Another rumor which flitted past my ears was one that greatly disturbed me. Can it be true that our distinguished institution (Bard, that is) does not support the local fire department or emergency health services? It's just scandalous that for a \$27,000 tuition my safety has not been secured.

Now, of course there is the matter of repairing the damage caused by this mishap. Walls and floors of the Potter lounge had to be torn up and replaced and the

ceiling of the bookstore suffered damage. The black soot also had to be scrubbed from the door and carpets in students' rooms, costing workers a great deal of time and effort. Hours which could have been saved if two seconds had been taken to insure that the cigarette had been properly extinguished in the first place. Because of the high percentage of smokers at Bard the chances of accidents such as these are greatly increased. Extreme caution should be taken because, let's face it, most of the dorms are highly flammable.

I would like to compliment the clean up crew in their endeavours. They have been working diligently to make repairs as quickly as possible in order to reduce the inconvenience to students. Also a thank you to Linda the maid who went beyond her call of duty and helped to scrub down students' doors and walls.

Security Update

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/News Editor

At 4:56 am, Wednesday, April 19, security was notified of a fire alarm sounding in the Stone Row dormitories. The

first floor of Potter, the southern-most Stone Row dormitory, was on fire. The Red Hook Fire Department was called to extinguish the blaze.

Security currently believes that the fire was probably caused by an ignited cigarette which was blown from an ash tray onto a chair. The ash tray was placed next to a partially open window.

By 5:50 am the fire was under control. There were no injuries.

The bookstore, lying directly underneath the site of the

fire, was damaged as well. Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace estimates the damage at around \$5,000. A computer, a fax/modem, a printer and an answering machine were damaged (if not destroyed) as were many books.

A group of students were playing a game Squillace referred to as "catch the flag" on Sunday, April 23. The students would hide in the bushes and jump out at people walking by. "In light of what has happened [the recent student rape], it's not a good game to

be playing" said Squillace.

Students continue to drive across the field in front of Robbins. As printed in the Student Handbook, the penalty for driving on the grass is a \$100 fine and possibly the cost of repairs to the lawn.

A student received a minor injury climbing through the window of her dormitory. Squillace asks that students call security to be let into their rooms if they don't have the key and that they stay off the fire escapes and ledges.

The warmer weather also has students clambering up to the dormitory roofs, particularly those of Robbins and the Ravines. Because of safety and structural concerns, security asks that students refrain from using the roofs. Anyone caught on a roof will be held liable for any damage, including leaks.

A professor's son, while riding a bi-

cycle, was bitten by a leashed dog on April 18. A policy concerning dogs on campus is forthcoming from Assistant to the Executive Vice President Jim Brudvig.

There was a hit and run car collision at the Kline Commons docking area. No injuries occurred. The parked car of an employee was hit. Students, faculty and staff are reminded that the Kline dock is a no parking area.

A student's bicycle was stolen from the South Hall lounge, although it was cable locked to a heating pipe. It is a black Trek model 800 10-speed mountain bike.

Anyone with any information or anyone witnessing strange goings on around campus should contact security at the current Student Center (Old Gym).

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In support of democracy

Bard graduate lectures on the future of Russia

By Joshua Ledwell
Editor
Linnea Knollmueller contributing

Bardians who attended last week's Russian and Eurasian Studies club events experienced the treat of meeting a former student who made good. Mark Nichols, Bard class of 1991, now works for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).

On Thursday, over dinner in Kline Nichols hosted a meeting on government internships and job opportunities. Later that evening he gave a talk describing his work with USAID in Russia and the New Independent States (NIS) of the former Soviet Union.

Professor Gennady Shkliarevsky introduced his former student Nichols at the evening talk. He recalled a college-sponsored trip to St. Petersburg, Russia, that the two took, saying that he could still see the "very adventurous" Nichols walking on Nevsky Prospect. Shkliarevsky also noted that Nichols once headed the Russian

Studies Club.

More recently, Nichols worked on President Clinton's election campaign, which led him to his current position within USAID. His region of expertise is in Tajikistan and the NIS states of the Caucasus.

The Party Line

Nichols appeared at the talk dressed in a sharp, dark suit and power tie. He began by reading from a policy paper titled "Facing the Challenge: U.S. Aid to Russia and the New Independent States." The paper, he said, would make the case that it is "fundamentally in the national interest of the United States" to continue economic and humanitarian aid to Russia and the NIS.

Nichols explained that the USAID program in the region has three major goals: to reduce the number and contain the spread of nuclear weapons, to fight crime and terrorism, and to assist in the relaxation of ethnic tensions. This agenda, of course, is dear to the hearts of U.S. foreign policy experts. He emphasized,

though, that "no external forces can remake Russia" and that the best efforts of the United States could only guide the area's transition to democracy.

The USAID effort in the former Soviet Union is in its third year, and has already injected more than \$4 billion into the region.

Nichols noted that the United States wished to "create an environment for prosperity" in the NIS. To achieve this, USAID focuses on three "systemic changes" taking place in the area's new countries. The government hopes assisting the development of market economies, democratic institutions, and new social structures will lead to a stable and friendly set of democracies.

Nichols singled out the states of Armenia, Georgia, and the Ukraine having governments in a "second wave" of change. These recent reformers have received specially targeted aid to help them with balance of payments deficits and other pressing needs. As an example, USAID helped the Georgian Parliament into the 1990's with computers and equipment

for electronic mail.

Russia, in the "first wave" of reform that started about two years ago, has had "setbacks," Nichols said, but "reforms are on track" there. He believes elections scheduled for later this year will occur and will be very important in shaping the destiny of Russian democracy.

Beyond the Rhetoric

Following the reading of his official paper, Nichols opened the floor to questions. He began by explaining how USAID distributes money. The agency provides funding to private U.S. contractors and non-governmental organizations, not to foreign governments directly. It does supply advisers and technical know-how to new democracies unaccustomed to managing necessary bureaucratic evils.

When asked if native Russians have participated in the aid process there, Nichols replied that "a lot of Russians have been involved." He noted, though, that the Russian public doesn't like him and his colleagues. Russians often associate USAID with Western aid promises that never quite materialized. While Russians expected an influx of cash, Nichols said, much aid came in the form of debt forgiveness, purchase credits, and loans. As a result,

many Russians have lost faith in the aid process and in the West.

Addressing the rampant crime and disorder in Russia, one questioner asked if the push to privatize industry may have come too quickly for governing institutions to adjust. Nichols asserted that "the rule of law has been quite successful," but did admit that aggressive privatization may have been "a little shortsighted" because it did not take possible political consequences into account.

Finally, another skeptic asked the fundamental question about aid to the NIS, and indeed any type of foreign aid. Can our sweat and treasure really make a positive difference in the affairs of these new nations?

Nichols, perhaps worn down from answering several successive negative questions, appeared to deviate from his upbeat USAID position to answer this question with a more personal shading. The development of the base to a civil society in Russia is at least "ten years down the road," he said. Great distrust of the state exists alongside growing nationalism.

But, the Bard graduate said, USAID can and is producing significant economic results, and that translates into political stability. "People need a sense of security, and that comes from jobs." □

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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. 7454.

Vacation Plans
When considering

whether or not to volunteer, many people limit themselves by assuming they can only volunteer in communities surrounding Bard during the school year. There are, however, many opportunities to volunteer with programs around the country and internationally and with programs that suit many interests. Usually, you are able to participate in these programs any time of year and most organizations allow you to help them for as long as your schedule permits.

You will probably have to pay travel expenses; however, once there, room (and sometimes board) is offered in return for the services you provide.

So, consider your plans for the summer, Reading Week, Intercession and Spring Break. Even if you have only a few days, you may find an appropriate program.

Security talks continued

continued from page 1

that "dispatchers are supposed to give their names whenever they answer the phone, but many don't. So it's hard to report a bad experience with a dispatcher."

"Please, let people know—security, or the dean of students office—when people are lax on the job. I promise, things will be done," assured Shelley Morgan.

Many students advocated not blaming security for last week's incident, suggesting that people learn how to monitor their own behavior. More call boxes and lights were suggested, as were giving out rape whistles. When Reka Prasad asked about self defense courses, Abigail Morgan and Jennifer Shykula said that they organized a self defense workshop over two weekends last fall. "Only eight students showed up. We advertised, but need students to pay attention to these things." Dean Morgan responded that, "unfortunately it takes a crisis for people to come together like this, but if interest is renewed in self defense, we'll do what we can." She cited a workshop two years ago which was immensely successful.

"We shouldn't turn this into 'us against them', but should work towards a community where we're aware of each other and ourselves—where we'll look out for each other," said Shykula.

As potential solutions were brought up, and warmly

received, the atmosphere turned from one of agitation to one of action. Demonstrating her attachment to the issue of campus security, Julia Wolk arranged a second meeting for Friday, which would include Vice-President Dimitri Papadimitriou, in the Kline Commons Committee Room.

Follow Up

Friday's meeting was attended by a smaller group of students, but one with a very specific agenda. They wanted specific information about how to improve campus security. Vice President Papadimitriou opened by expressing his support for the idea of the foot patrol. "This structure was proposed two years ago, but my concern was that a student is watching an incident, and in his or her interference, gets hurt. That is undue exposure for a student. I got cold feet about providing such a program. In principle it is a good idea, but how do we structure it so students don't get hurt?"

Shelley Morgan responded, "Jeff Huang and Jim Brudvig organized the patrol, with a manual. Students do not interfere in any way, but immediately contact security. Because it is volunteer, the interest dwindled."

"We were wondering if there is any way to reward students for doing the foot patrol," asked Wolk. "Could it be made work study, or could

they get some sort of recognition?"

Security is also in favor of the foot patrol. "It worked very well, and security didn't feel in any jeopardy because the patrol is on a volunteer basis. If it became work study, students would have to spend at least 50% of their time in class. If they work more than 50% of their time, they would have to be trained. That's New York State law. But I think we should do it. We really, truly believe that it is another set of eyes and ears. The issue is a budgetary thing," said Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace.

To this, Wolk responded that students would only work

about 3 hours each week, so the '50% rule' would not be a hindrance.

At that, the foot patrol issue was dropped, and escorts were addressed. After some discussion as to why students need to wait for rides, the only decisive action to be taken is to "look at the frequency of request after 1 am," by the Vice President.

Discussions about lighting and phones came to little effect. Because the county owns Annandale Road, the college has little leeway to install lights and paths.

In the end, platitudes and promises took the place of actual plans, though some progress has been made.

"Security has gotten first rate. We have a good force. That doesn't mean we can't do better, but there has to be recognition for what they do. Also, individual behavior is very important. Sometimes ten more officers won't prevent incidents," concluded Papadimitriou.

"I can try to bump up the shuttle runs until something more definitive can be done," suggested Morgan.

Said Squillace, "we are trying to educate everyone that security is everybody's business. Everyone who is a community member should notify us about anything. If we pull together as a community, we can make a difference."

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A vegetarian dorm?

Room Draw 1995 features creative new ways to live

By Joshua Ledwell
Editor

To legions of anxious underclassmen, Spring means that it is time to choose a home for the next academic year. Room Draw, Bard's annual domestic epic, took place on Wednesday, April 12 and Thursday, April 13.

All students enrolled at Bard and not scheduled to graduate receive randomly generated numbers to determine the order in which they pick a room. All Senior II, or eighth-semester students, select a room before all Senior I students, and so forth down to the lowly first-semester students.

The draw was staggered, allowing seniors and juniors to pick their rooms on Wednes-

day, a day before sophomores and first year students. At least, that was the theory.

In practice, said Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life Gladys Watson, selection of double rooms on Wednesday took longer than anticipated, causing the process to run late for upperclassmen. "It really slowed things down," commented Watson. She noted that it was "kind of hard for first-year students" who take most double rooms, since they are participating in their first Room Draw.

Thursday's draw went more smoothly for the sophomores and first year students who did not take double rooms.

According to Dean Watson, the objective of Room

Draw is, as always, to "house everybody who wants to be placed." However, students with the worst draw numbers had to be remanded to a waiting list when all available rooms were filled.

Dean Watson distinguished between a primary waiting list, composed of students who attended Room Draw but did not get a room, and a secondary list of students who came to Watson after Room Draw. There are about 120 people on the primary list, and 9 on the secondary list.

Most students on the waiting list will eventually receive rooms, Watson said, but ultimately the college cannot guarantee every student a room.

This year's Room Draw

featured new types of theme housing. An idea for a vegetarian dorm, once rumored to be the theme for Feitler, has not yet been finalized. "I have not heard full confirmation" from the Dean of Students Office on that issue, Watson said. Students interested in a vegetarian living space should contact Dean of Students Shelley Morgan.

Watson expanded the number of designated co-ed doubles from six to twelve for the coming year, and eight were filled during Room Draw. Six rooms were set aside in each of Steinway and Manor Dorms. Currently, three of the original six doubles are occupied, Watson said.

Was co-ed housing a success? "Some intrinsic problems did happen," the Dean ex-

plained. Watson said that conflicts, such as who would get the room if the roommates wanted to stop living together, were anticipated but could not be helped.

An exciting new development for next year will be the inauguration of a college shuttle service between Bard and Tivoli, making living off campus easier for students. Watson expects that the shuttle van's hours of operation will begin at 7:30am and end at 1-2am, "around library hours." She added that "it would make sense" for the shuttle to also run on weekends.

The Dean of Students Office is still trying to find a van to buy for the shuttle, but Watson says that the Tivoli shuttle "is definitely going to happen."

Midnight Run report

By Rich Kelley

On Saturday, April 15th, several residents from Bluecher and two residents from Obreshkove took part in The Midnight Run program in New York City. Midnight Run is a non-profit group that provides food, clothing and various other sundries to the homeless.

Leaving campus at 8:00pm laden with supplies-sandwiches made by students with provisions donated by Wood Food Service and clothing donated by the campus community-they travelled south to Dobbs Ferry where the office of Midnight Run is located. After meeting the other volunteers, discussing the itinerary and being told what to expect upon ar-

rival, they set off for the city.

Three stops were made: 53rd Street, 57th Street and the Riverside Boat Basin. At each location, greeting were offered followed by shouts for underwear, socks, t-shirts and warm soup by those outside the vans. Organized chaos prevailed until the final blanket was distributed at 3:00am in Riverside Park.

As the sun was rising over the lush green landscape surrounding the Ravines, they returned; tired but satisfied. They hadn't solved the problem of homelessness, but rather than turning away at the sights and sounds of the homeless, they provided the means necessary to survive another night on the street.



Rueger Dorm File Photo

Thank you to Wood Food Services and everyone who provided food, clothing and time for the Midnight Run

<http://www.tripod.com>

Feeling Dirty?

Come talk about gardening and dig in the dirt with:

Laurie DeCiutiis, Bard Horticulturalist
Susan D'Agostino, 1994 Herb Champion
Chris Riley, Semi-Pro Gardener & Exotic Vegetable King

Saturday, April 29, 4:00 PM
In front of B&G

What's What

Is "the media" public enemy number one?

By Sean O'Neill

I know a student who wrote the same paper for four different college classes, with minor amendments to each, and who received satisfactory grades on each one.

This reminds me of those individuals who, like toys that repeat the same word after each pull of a string, answer all questions about society's troubles by faulting "the media."

The original idea may have had merit, but its repetition is a waste.

"The media" often escapes the lips of the sullen student, suddenly stunned into response by a professor's unexpected query, with the voice of Citizen Kane pronouncing "Rosebud."

If a villain need be named in most any college classroom, it is the usual suspect that is trotted out and denounced for its crimes against humanity. The scapegoat wears a black-and-white striped prison outfit with a network TV logo emblazoned across it.

The otherwise lucid and perspicacious Joel Kovel is offering a class on "the media" this semester. It is worrisome to think of the resulting proliferation of easy quippers who prefer to attribute the nation's racism, economic and cultural poverty, and belligerent foreign policy, to that dreaded abstraction, "the media."

Perhaps the new synthesis for the Marxian dialectic is "the media" — a large, indeterminate force creating history, rather than a mere mixed blessing.

Yes, it is criminal that we are numbed by the blizzard of ever-changing electronic and print "events", and that we conclude from it that our society is beyond our understanding and can only be experienced, not changed.

The irony, however, is that when we use "the media" as a substitute for thoughtful explanations about what ails America, we still wind up without plans of action. Such gripes are as profound as the commercials for laundry detergent.

It is true that defending against a misleading image is near impossible. While one can take apart his spoken arguments, no one can refute a picture of Rush Limbaugh standing lovingly next to the American flag, some teddy bears, and an "electronic fire-side."

We find ourselves in odd positions, however, when we blame "the media" for everything. We say the media reinforces racist stereotypes, yet, simultaneously, we defend film directors like Tarantino and Woo, saying that their displays of violence do not affect people's behavior. Come on, either we're manipulated or we're not.

Bad, Bad, Bad

Despite its seeming sophistication,

media theory is simple. In summary, entertainers need cash to make television shows, *et cetera*, and the money comes from the sellers of consumer goods.

Proctor & Gamble, Inc., wants to interrupt a popular TV show, where the characters all have beautiful hair, with an advertisement about someone buying their brand of shampoo X. When Joe Kansas walks into the supermarket after seeing the show, he thinks he "needs" to have the "best" shampoo which he "knows" is X. In fact, he is too proud or unconscious to admit that he has been brainwashed about getting a hairwash.

Additionally, the nightly news shows are disguised moral lessons where murder, fire, and crime are displayed, and then a commercial flickers on-screen to suggest that the American Express Card can buy you an escape from all such danger.

Politicians step on camera, lie, are caught, and the lesson we draw is to distrust the government and to place things in the hands of a business and military elite who are efficient and decent. You just head out to the Wal-Mart, Joe, and be happy.

Who's Duped?

Nevertheless, what is the revelation in admitting that people are influenced by Oprah Winfrey? I doubt there is one. The Evil Media argument fails to account for the times when people equally exposed to its

pernicious propaganda think independently and choose to act against the crowd.

In Italy, Silvio Berlusconi actually owned his nation's media and used it to campaign for office with a coalition that included neo-Fascists. Yet he was still removed from office by democratic methods after seven months of corruption.

The media is similar to the wizard in the land of Oz. It is an instrument of the storytellers and sellers and human agents who are always creating history.

The media is as often a mirror as not, and when we blame it, we blame ourselves more than we care to admit.

Note: Brian Patterson, whose senior project, in part, traces the political currents that led to the split of Yugoslavia, noted an error in last week's "What's What." I had erroneously claimed that Serb and Croat leaders used parallel methods to create nationalist hysteria and thus attain and maintain power. The scholarly record, in contrast, is more forgiving than I was of the Croats, since the most blatant, egregious and authoritarian tactics used to rally nationalist fervor were committed disproportionately by Serb leaders. Croatia's leader, Tudjman, used nationalism with relatively more temperance than Serbia's Milosevic did.

Bard Spring

Recalling Annandale in the year 400 B.C.

By Sean O'Neill

Professor Rob Robinson, in the spring of 1997, continued a tradition of the Classics Department by having his students perform one of Aristophanes' plays. This year he chose "the Plutus."

The plot, set in the year 400 B.C., consists of the adventures of two art history majors at a small liberal arts college outside of Athens, Greece. Robinson, trying to build stronger ties between the classics department and the literature division as a whole, had the play performed in English.

"The lines of this play resonate with meaning for us today," said Robinson, dressed in a skiing outfit before the Bard crowd. "I particularly thank our students for their original translations of the text from the Greek."

Scene One.

"What a wonderful day to stroll in Athens, eh?"

"Yes, Trackius, indeed it is."

"Say, Nikos, isn't that cloud shaped like a penis?"

"Indeed, you are quite right."

"That reminds me of politics. You know, it's odd how this democracy has changed from its beginning, when all the citizens spoke at public meetings. Some time ago, they began using rhetoricians to speak on behalf of different groups. Nowadays, the citizens lazily consent to their leader's lone monologue."

"Very insightful, Nikos. Hey, look at that blind African man, on the ground there. Go and toss him some change."

"I don't need your money!" shouts the blind man. "I am Wealth. Get away, or I'll curse you. Accept the omen and the man."

"You said your name is Wealth?" asks Nikos.

"If I explain myself, you will never let me go."

Trackius puts him in headlock.

"Don't mess with us," says Nikos. "We're art history majors."

"I am Wealth, and I must return to the ivy-covered halls of the Lyceum in Athens where I will be safe among the smarter students and away from you evil art history majors."

"You mean that, like, you're a god?"

"I am the god Wealth, yes. Whoever I am with is rich."

"If you are Wealth, then something ain't right. Why are you blind, when you ought to have sight?"

"'Twas the Devil who caused my blindness, jealous of mankind's pleasures. Once, I would visit none except the wise, orderly and good. Since I've been struck blind, however, I cannot distinguish who is who."

"If you could see again, would you avoid hanging out with the wicked?"

"Yes, I would."

"Trackius and I could find someone to perform a katechism on your eyes. The oracle's doctor uses animal entrails, I think. I'm sure he'll

cure your blindness."

"Oh, I see."

Scene Two

"We've lured the sighted god Wealth to stay at our collegium!"

"It's amazing! The Lyceum in the city-state of Cambridge, Greece has collapsed into rubble."

"And look! A brand new residence hall and a discus-throwing field, here on our own good campus."

"Come, people. Tell us your stories."

"We faculty members were always bickering amongst ourselves. But, thanks to the god Wealth, there's plenty of funds to go around these days."

"I'm so happy. I can play that expensive trading-papyrus game I never could afford before!"

"Now I don't have to wait in line for P-mail. I have my own pigeon that can fly messages from my room!"

"I can afford all the Egyptian dope I want!"

"All the people who are deserving receive food, nowadays. I don't have to swipe students' meal stones anymore."

"We don't have to stay up all night until the sundial is lighted to finish making a campus newspaper. Now we have plenty of slaves from Carthage to help us."

"I don't have to form a protest to get funds

for our Dionysian orgy. The students have got Parthenons full of money!"

"And as director of security, I don't have to give outlandish fines to everyone for illegal donkey parking anymore. We don't need to gouge people for extra money!"

"Now that I'm rich, I'm going to Euripidesland!"

Scene Three

"Wendius! It's me, Nikos. Why aren't you wealthy, too?"

"Like my life the way it is. Leave me be."

"Are you feeling ill?"

"No. Don't take this personally, but I'm happy as I am."

"Wendius, don't you realize how wonderful it is that the god Wealth has become fair to the good-hearted?"

"I'm healthy and wise enough. I have friends, music and laughter. I don't need this stuff."

"Can I tempt you with a new wind instrument? A double-reed, Wendius. It's war-booty from Troy, you know. Helen's favorite."

"I said NO!"

"Are you hurting inside? Do you think you don't deserve this because of inner guilt? Here, why don't you fill out one of these wealth-attitude surveys, and we'll explore this."

"I don't want to change my mind! I'm sane! I just don't have an obsession with wealth. Goodbye, Nikos."

Curtain closes.

Blazers drop two matches

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

There have been some dramatic changes in Mens' Varsity Tennis this past week. First off, the Blazers lost all three of their weekend matches bringing their total record to 3 and 5. Second, the men in red, white, and grey, lost their coach, Joel Tomson [see related article on page one]. The Blazers' first loss of the weekend was to SUNY New Paltz, by a score of 1 to 8. The only win came from the first seeded doubles team of Shehzad Hameed and Andreas Tschung, who won their match with a score of 8 to 5.

Accordingly, on April 21st, the Blazers lost again to the New Jersey Institute of Technology by a score of 2 to 7. Although there were several close matches, the Blazers' only wins came from team leader Hameed, who won his matches 6 to 3 and 7 to 5, and

from the double team of Hameed and Garret Montgomery who won their match 8 to 4.

Finally, on April 22nd, the Blazers lost to Stevens Institute of Technology, in another blow-out match, with a final score of 1 to 8. Once again, the only victory came from Shezy Hameed, who won his sets 6 to 0 and 6 to 1.

Yet, the season is far from over. The Blazers have three more matches to play, and with these three matches they have a new coach to assist them on their way to victory.

Last Friday, with the departure of Coach Joel Tomson, Charles Riedinger became the acting coach of Mens' Varsity Tennis. Reidinger, who lives in Red Hook, with his wife Christine and his three children Meghan, Joshua, and Jessica, is currently the tennis instructor for the town of Rhinebeck's recreational programs. Previously, he has also been a coach at Red

Hook High School and an instructor for the township of Stanford and Lagrange.

Riedinger describes his style of coaching as a teaching of all the

"fundamentals" in which the key is "practice, practice, practice, and more practice."

We at the office of the Observer would like to welcome

coach Riedinger to Bard athletics, and wish him and the rest of the team the best of luck in the upcoming weeks. Go Blazers.

Intramural softball

By David Hyde
Guest Writer

With the third week of Bard Intramural softball under way, fans can be sure of one thing - so far it has been a peculiar season. The defending league champions St. Tula (in the Rec League) and the American Dream (in the Athletic League) have both struggled, while a team of freshmen have taken the Rec League by storm.

Several consistent factors of Bard softball have been missing these last few weeks: the old field by Tewks is gone, Adolphas Mekas is on sabbatical, and alcohol is no longer allowed at games. The most noticeable absences, however, have been the fans, many of whom say that they miss the convenient location of the old field.

Low attendance may also be a result of the flurry of recent rainouts. The weather has forced Kris Hall to re-schedule several games and even the teams are confused as to when these games will be made up. The rainout schedule is as follows... The Distinguished Scientists Softball Series vs Slut Trash at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, April 27th. The Blumfish Rainbows vs GA Enlightenment at 3:30 p.m. on Friday the 28th. There are five games scheduled for Saturday the 29th: Superdiva vs Elks/EOC at 12 noon, the Elks/EOC vs Klugers at 1 p.m., Fashion Rules vs the Unicorns at 2 p.m., Naked Ice Borers vs Klugers at 3 p.m., the Zebraheads vs Naked Ice Borers at 4 p.m. On Friday the 28th the Gym Rats will play the Dirty Dogs. And eventually, the Elks/EOC game against the Naked Ice Borers will be scheduled.

Luckily, there were some good games played this week.

On Monday, Keynes Curse, led by Shehzad Hameed's two inside the park homeruns, won their first game of the season, 10 to 7 over Fashion Rules. Shehzad's teammate Yat Qasimi also hit an inside the park home run. In Monday's second game, the Wood Warriors secured at least a tie for First Place in the Northern Division by defeating

the Unicorns, 16 to 7.

On Tuesday the two undefeated teams in the Southern Division, Graceland and Bountiful Crop, played at 4:30 p.m.; it was **THE GAME OF THE WEEK**. Graceland took an early lead of 9 to 2, but in the bottom of the second inning Bountiful Crop roared back with eight dramatic runs to take the lead. In the top of the third inning, Graceland squeezed out the tying run when Ben Schwabe scored. They were unable to score any more runs however when Pete Rodriguez hit a high pop fly to centerfield.

In the bottom of the third, Rodriguez redeemed himself with brilliant catches in centerfield, keeping the game tied and sending the players into extra innings.

Graceland took a three run lead into the bottom of the fourth, but again Bountiful Crop rallied back with a strong offensive attack. With one out, Jack Ehber slammed the ball into short right field, driving in the tying and winning runs, giving Bountiful Crop a 14 to 13 victory. Bountiful Crop ends the Regular Season with a record of 3 and 0 and an early favorite in the playoffs. They have displayed a solid lineup and a good team attitude; as freshmen, the only thing they're lacking is experience in the league.

The second game on Tuesday featured two teams, St. Tula and KEG, struggling to stay out of the basement. St. Tula, once the dominant team in Rec League softball, has seen better days. This season they have looked tense and frustrated both on and off the field.

With their favorite heckler, Mekas, on sabbatical and Hutton M.I.A. for the first two games, the pressure to compete has fallen on the shoulders of first baseman John Pruitt and the veterans who did not desert the team. On Tuesday, Hutton finally returned and brought with him some of the swagger from St. Tula's glory days. Pruitt seemed rejuvenated by his college's presence and responded with two triples and his best game of the season.

Jeremy Wilson made the game interesting with an inside the park homerun and his own unique style of coaching. Yet despite the homerun and a nifty catch by left fielder Aaron Diskin, St. Tula won the game, 12 to 5. The victory may have come too late for St. Tula who may be headed to the B Tournament.

Finally, two games were played last Tuesday in the Athletic League. In the first game, the Tony Danza Bonanza defeated the Dirty Dogs, 14 to 8, despite a homerun by **PLAYER OF THE WEEK** Dirty Dog Steve Race. The homerun, to right centerfield, was the first homerun to go over the fence at the new softball field in an Official game. Andrew Greenberg got the victory and every member of the Tony Danza Bonanza who played in the game scored at least once. Asked if he had any quotes for the team's legions of fans, co-captain Seth Travins smirked and asked "who's the boss?"

In the other Thursday game the Gym Rats beat the American Dream by a score of 10 to 3. The Gym rats scored 3 runs in the second, 4 in the 3rd, and 5 in the 5th to beat the defending champions. The season has not been kind to the American Dream who fell to 0 and 2.

When asked about the team's performance so far this season, Bucky Purdom who was on the hill for the Championship Game last year, blamed the club's difficulties on its poor defense. Freshman shortstop Kamani Davis was more outspoken in his criticism of the team's play. Davis pointed out that the team's poor defense is often a result of players 'playing out of position'. He also added that his teammates have been quick to blame each other for errors. This Thursday should be a test for the American Dream; they are scheduled to play the B&G team that they beat in last year's finals.

Hopefully, fans will come out and watch the game on Thursday, as well as all the games this week.

Real world sports

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

Today is opening day of the 1995 Major League Baseball season. There are a ton of games being played today by teams in the American and National Leagues. Yet, with opening day here, we are still be subject to "replacement labor." That's right, the professional umpires are not going to be calling the balls and strikes until some of their demands are met. Go Umps.

For all those who can stomach the idea of watching ball, knowing that some of the professionals are still suffering, the games will be starting about one o'clock today on ESPN. New York fans, will be able to see the Yankees play at one-thirty P.M. and the Mets will begin at seven-thirty P.M.. Go Red Sox.

In other baseball news, Darryl Strawberry was sentenced Monday to six months of home confinement for federal tax evasion. Strawberry must also pay 350,000 dollars worth of back taxes. Strawberry, will also not be allowed

to play baseball until June 24, due to his positive test results for cocaine use. I guess it has been a tough year for him. Go role models.

Finally, in basketball news Lenny Wilkens, coach of the Atlanta Hawks, and subsequently the coach with the most wins in basketball history, has been named the coach of the 1996 United States Olympic Basketball Team. Go Lenny.

In boxing news, George Foreman got lucky with sympathetic judges and referee's who gave him a win by decision in his Monday night fight against Axel Schulz. Foreman made a lot of jokes about his win, but the truth remains, he's old, he's fat (and he looks like the Michelin Tire man), and he should retire. But, he still holds the I.B.F. title making him still the world heavyweight champion. Go figure.

Howard Cosell died Sunday. Loved and hated, he should be remembered as the best sports journalist of all-time. He was a great fan of the games, and he will be missed (even if he could be jerk). Go Howard Cosell.

Professional dancers come to Bard

David Parker Dance Company performs

By Stacie Turner
Staff Writer

Saturday, April 22 the David Parker Dance Company performed at the Bard Theater.

Mr. Parker attended Bard College from 1977-1979. He left after two years, feeling that as a dancer he should be in the city working instead of at Bard, although he says now that he visiting Bard makes him wish he had stayed for a full four years. This is the second time his company has appeared at Bard, as last year they also did a concert in which they performed the award winning Bang and Suck.

David Parker has had his work presented regularly in New York since 1990. He has appeared twice on DTW's Fresh Tracks and was presented in his first full evening program by Dance Theater Workshop in 1993. Parker has received commissions from the American Dance Festival as part of the young Choreographers and Composers in Residence Program in 1993, the Yard's Company Development Session in 1994, and from the Colloquium Contemporary Dance Exchange in 1995.

Mr. Parker's work Bang and Suck received a choreography award at the IV International Competition for Choreographers of Contemporary Dance in Groningen, the Netherlands, in 1994.

As a 1994-95 roster member of the Colloquium Contemporary Dance Exchange, Mr. Parker has shown work at the 101 Wooster Street Gallery, and HERE's Culture Mart Festival.

Appearing with Mr. Parker were Sara Hook, Jeffrey A. Kazin, and Eddy Talton-Jackson.

Sara Hook is a B.F.A. graduate of the North Carolina School of the Arts and a Certified Movement Analyst from the Laban Bartenieff Institute of Movement Studies.

Ms. Hook has performed in the companies of Alwin Nikolais, Murray Louis, Pearl Lang, and Jean Erdman, among others.

Ms. Hook's work has been presented throughout the U.S. and in New York City at the DIA Foundation, Marymount Manhattan Theater, the 92nd Street Y, the Merce Cunningham Studio, and Pace University Downtown Theater.

This summer Ms. Hook had the distinction of being chosen as the first American representative to the International Choreographers Residency Program at the American Dance University, and the North Carolina School of the Arts, where she has also been a guest instructor in the NCSA summer program.

Last year, Ms. Hook was on the faculty of Mason Gross School of the Arts dance department at Rutgers University, where she was the Artistic Director of the student dance company University Dance Works.

Currently, Ms. Hook is on the faculty at Princeton University in New Jersey, and teaches Composition/Improvisation at the Alvin Ailey School. In addition she continues to dance and choreograph for Colloquium Contemporary Dance Exchange. In April she will premier a work commissioned by New Dances for the 21st Century at the Sylvia and Danny Kaye Playhouse in NYC.

Jeffrey A. Kazin has been a member of David Parker Dance for four years. He has created several roles with DPD, including Bang and Suck.

Eddy Talton-Jackson received his B.F.A. from the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. He has danced with, among others, Cleo Parker Robinson Dance Ensemble, Joseph Holmes Chicago dance Theater, and is currently a member of the Paul Taylor Dance Company.

The dancers performed five works.

Housebroken, choreographed and performed by Sara Hook and David Parker, was made possible through a 1995 commission from Colloquium Contemporary Dance Exchange.

Hind Legs, choreographed by David Parker and performed by Jeffrey A. Kazin, was made possible by a grant from the Manhattan Community Arts Fund with public funds from the City of New York's Department of Cultural Affairs.

Under was choreographed by David Parker and performed by Jeffrey A. Kazin, David Parker and Eddy Talton-Jackson.

We're Not Married was choreographed by David Parker and performed by Jeffrey A. Kazin and David Parker.

Caucasian Spirituals, choreo-

graphed by Sara Hook and performed by Sara Hook and Eddy Talton-Jackson, was made possible in part by Durham, North Carolina Arts Department, the American Dance Festival's International Choreographers residency Program, the Space Grant Program at the 92nd Street Y, and the Colloquium Contemporary Dance Exchange. The dance is a response to a much earlier modern dance piece entitled Negro Spirituals.

The David Parker Dance Company will appear at Artspace in New Haven in May and at the Pro Danza Italia Festival in July.

This summer the David Parker Dance Company will be in residence at the Harvard Summer Dance Center and will be presented by Danspace Project at St. Marks' Church in February of 1996 in a full evening of Mr. Parker's work.

The Bard Dance Club brought this fine production to the Bard Campus. Lighting design was by Andrew Hill, and Stage Management by Carrie Smith. Hopefully this fine company will appear at Bard many times in the future.

ASO plays to meager audience

Indirect insult to UN or high art hypocrisy?

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/ News Editor

The American Symphony Orchestra Chamber Players presented a program Friday night, April 21, entitled *The Memory of War: A Celebration of the Founding of the United Nations*. It is the latest of the ASO's renowned "theme based" concerts.

Friday night's concert was, overall, perhaps the ASO's most satisfying performance this year at Bard, though only the chamber players performed. Sadly, this was also perhaps this year's most poorly attended concert.

I don't understand it. Why wasn't there more audience? This was Schoenberg and Messiaen!—two of the greatest composers of the twentieth century!

That must be it—"twentieth century." Unless there's an environmental issue in-

volved, the term "twentieth century" is generally embraced. We love our MTV, our cars, our computers, our Internet, our sliced bread, our answering machines and our individually wrapped slices of processed American cheese.

Even in the realm of art, "twentieth century" is considered "good." Sculptors can tack a piece of rope to a wall and call it art. No serious poet habitually writes in metric rhyme anymore.

But as soon as a musician steps into the great beyond, it's unlistenable and unimportant to the world of art, at least as far as the public is concerned.

"Classical music" cannot go beyond Beethoven or it's a random cacophony. Instead, we want rock n' roll's 16th century rhythms. We want a hip-hop beat (if that is the correct term among scores of marginally differing styles) that

Stravinsky pulled off in *The Rite of Spring* decades before the "old school" was in diapers. Yes, give us all this while we read our Nietzsche and our Paul Bowles and our Brecht.

Maybe everyone was simply attending parties and there is no "high art" hypocrisy. Maybe everybody hates the United Nations. Either way, too bad.

The show opened with Gideon Klein's *Sonata for Piano*. Unless I misheard pianist Sarah Rothenberg's unamplified voice, this is the relatively unknown composer's only surviving work. It was composed in 1944 within a Nazi concentration camp where he was imprisoned as a Jew.

Rothenberg suggested that we hear it as a "young" piece, as Klein composed it in his mid-twenties and died shortly afterward at the infamous camp of Auschwitz. If

his work was consistently at this level, then for the sake of art, there is indeed much to mourn.

Schoenberg's *Ode to Napoleon Bonaparte* followed. Composed in 1942, the piece is a dynamic setting of Lord Byron's *Ode to Napoleon Buonaparte*.

Arthur Burrows, a bass/baritone from Bard's theater department "narrated" the poem. The term "narration," however, does not quite fit. I'm very curious as to how Schoenberg notated the part, which involves more than just speaking. There seem to be distinct, composed pitches.

Quartet, piano and narrator were in fine form.

The final, and most difficult piece was Messiaen's *Quartet for the End of Time*. The difficulty here is for both players and audience. With eight movements almost an hour of music, the quartet can be taxing. The piece may also be hard

to get into for first-time listeners though the rewards are great.

Clarinetist Laura Flax tackled the solo third movement with considerable grace. Sustained single note crescendos made to slam the overtone series into the ear are frequent. Flax turned numerous shades of red.

Cellist Eric Bartlett broke his D-string in mid-movement to a collective groan from the audience. The quartet, incidentally, was premiered in a French concentration camp on less than sterling instruments; the cellist used only three strings. Bartlett joked that he could never figure out which one that cellist could do without.

The concert ended with four curtain calls—small recompense for the uninspiring showing at Olin Auditorium.

Why Bard students missed this well played concert of great music I cannot understand. Their loss.

STATEMENTS OF PURPOSE

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POSITIONS:

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STUDENT JUCICIARY BOARD,
CHAIR

PLANNING COMMITTEE, CHAIR

EDUCATIONAL POLICY
COMMITTEE, CHAIR

SECRETARY OF THE STUDENT
ASSOCIATION

TREASURER OF THE STUDENT

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Hours:	day	eve.
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WORD OF THE WEEK

BY Matt La Courard

THIS WEEK'S LETTER IS **S**

SKIDDING¹ OFF THE SOFT SNOW²,
SNAZZY SNOWBOARDER, MR.
SEARROE COMPOSES SONGS
FOR THE STARS³ AS HE SAILS
THROUGH THE AIRY SKY⁴. SADLY,
HE SUCKS, AND SOON WE SHALL
SEE HIM SLAM⁵ INTO THE
SURFACE WITH A SPLAT!⁶

1. SKID \skid\ vb: to slide without rotating
2. SNOW \snow\ n: crystals of ice formed from the vapor of water in the air
3. STAR \stär\ n: an Indian tale with a long neck
4. SKY \ski\ n: the upper air
5. SLAM \slam\ vb: a heavy jarring impact
6. SPLAT \splat\ : ? (next sound)

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Definitions from: the Merriam-Webster Dictionary

retina's soybean ~~AND~~ FRIENDS VOLUME SEVEN
OR IN "TUCK'S SIEDO"
by JOHN + JOSEPH



Dear friends:
"Let's you and me rassle"
- CLOE



My Two Cents



By Michael Poirier
Nettling Imp

Nearly one year ago, I first reported upon the efforts of the Bard Security guards to form their own union and sign a contract with the College. The guards were looking for, among other concerns, competitive salaries, shift differentials and job security. However, preeminent in the guards' minds was the issue of campus security. They felt that the College's lack of concern for safety was reflected in its refusal to improve the guard's working conditions by simply increasing the number of guards on duty. As one guard said to me, "Bard only seems willing to pay for a false

sense of security."

Twelve months later, the guards and the college have yet to finalize a contract. According to a guard who spoke to me last week, roughly three-quarters of a contract is completed and the two sides are moving into final negotiations this week. The guard was only informing me of this because he was afraid that, even with the recent events on campus, the College was still going to refuse the guards reasonable salaries and an increased staff. He said the guards and the college had kept negotiations quiet in order not to disrupt the negotiation process; but the process has been dragged out too long for students not to be informed and involved.

In a campus safety meeting

last Friday, Executive Vice-President Dmitri Papadimitriou deflected a question about the status of Security on campus. He maintained that students don't know both sides of the union issue. (He's right about that—the administration has kept its mouth shut because they don't want to admit that they are not willing to spend the money on campus security!) Papadimitriou also claimed that there is no proof that more security guards will improve the safety situation on campus when "individual actions" create all the problems.

I beg to differ with the Executive Vice-President. Security's presence on this campus has been reduced to that of locksmiths and chaffeurs.

Instead of guarding the

campus and responding to emergencies, the guards spend too much of their time with doors and fire alarms.

The solution is obvious and necessary. We need more guards on duty. With more guards Security can actually patrol our streets, walkways and parking lots. They can become a presence on campus and, by their very availability, serve as a deterrent to future criminals. (Who knows what might not have happened on Annandale Road last Thursday if Security could patrol it constantly?) Furthermore, emergency response time will only be improved and guards will actually be left available to respond to other campus needs during an incident.

Papadimitriou hinted that

the resurrection of the Bard Foot Patrol and the installation of emergency telephones defeats the purpose of more security guards. That claim is ridiculous. Who is going to respond to the Foot Patrol's observations or an emergency if the few guards available are tied up deactivating a fire alarm in Tewksbury and securing the computer center?

The College must learn to treat the guards we have with more respect for their vital role on this campus. Bard operates with only a fraction of the guards used at similar-sized schools such as Vassar. Our guards are paid at a salary closer to warehouse guards rather than other campus security positions. The turnover rate is shockingly high as guards must look for better jobs and new guards must be continuously trained.

The administration must realize the absolute necessity of Security's presence and availability on campus. If those in control of the money are really serious about our safety, they should have no difficulty on hammering out a new contract as soon as possible. Students have been increasingly concerned about campus safety, and that concern should be vocalized in support of our security guards. No matter how the administration might whine, security guards are not a luxury that we cannot afford. They are an essential resource that must not be short-changed.

Community meeting on campus safety

Almost 70 people gathered in the Tewksbury lounge on Tuesday night to discuss issues of campus violence and ways in which we can work together towards a safer campus and community. Dean Shelley Morgan and Assistant Security Director Jim Lawlor were both helpful and informative at the meeting.

There were talks of reinstating the Bard Student Foot Patrol; it had been dormant for the last few months. I am hoping to have more information on the role the Foot Patrol will play, after speaking with Dimitri Papadimitriou

this Friday.

Dean Morgan asked for student help to find the future locations of Call Boxes around campus, and we should be hearing more about those in the near future. We made plans to get every student a safety whistle. There were several possibilities of more Self-Defense Programs that we will offer campus wide. For this semester we are going to try to organize a weekend event like last semester's. I am hoping to find more out about Model Mugging, a nationally renowned and powerful self-defense group. I

will be letting you know more about that as I find more information.

The meeting centered around safety issues, and we stressed the fact that after last week's tragedy we all have to have a heightened awareness, rather than feel a sense of heightened danger. The possibility for tragedy has always been present, and I hope that with our growing awareness we will be able to help keep ourselves and those around us safer. I hope we will all watch out for each other as well as ourselves, and keep communicating.

We have Counseling Services and B.R.A.V.E., both available for anyone who wants to talk, even simply to get information. Hopefully we will also continue to talk to each other both in these meetings and privately.

Anyone who is interested in working further, I am organizing a group of active students willing to work together to fight for campus safety for every student. Please call Julia Wolk at 752-7202 if you are interested.

Julia Wolk

Theft angers student

To the editor,

Near the end of last semester, my friend Benjie's electric guitar was stolen from the basement of Hirsch. This week, my brand new \$285 amplifier was lifted from the same place. Anyone who has ever played an instrument knows how touchy people can be about their instruments. Stealing someone's equipment is a crime beyond description.

It amazes me how anyone at this school, where all of your needs are taken care of, could steal someone else's property. We are fed three meals a day, given our own

space, we have easy access to the intoxicant of your choice, and we are rewarded for something most people can't afford: idle thinking.

What sort of selfish, egotistical, insensitive brat would take advantage of this utopian environment, and resort to the basest, most immature behavior possible? Is it really that difficult to get a (gasp) job, instead of ripping other people off? If the person who stole my shit reads this, I hope you either enjoy my amp, or get a good price for it; I never will.

If, at the age of at least eighteen, you are grown up enough to understand what a

ridiculously puerile thing that is to do, then return the damned thing, no questions asked. I don't expect anyone on this campus of overprivileged whiners to do something that extreme, but maybe you'll prove me wrong.

Jonas Eno-Van Fleet
Tewks 216
752-7646

P.S. The amp is a Fender Princeton 112, with a distortion pedal, a strap, and 3 cords in the back. If you see someone with it, spit in their eye and take it back.

You are enthusiastically invited to an evening of revolutionary merriment:

Sister Cities Auction Friday, 28 April 1995, 8pm, Kline

An abundance of the fabulous and bizarre, donated by faculty and students (contact Box 582 if you'd like to donate something). Plenty of scrumptious goodies, both wet and dry. All proceeds benefit a student delegation to Nicaragua, to further efforts of participatory social change.

COUNTRY CONNECTION
TAXI **TAXI**
Tivoli Red Hook Bard Rhinebeck & Surrounding Areas
(914) 758-CARS (2277)
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK • 6 A.M. TO 11 P.M.

Summer Health Insurance

To the Bard community,

The supplemental insurance which all full-time undergraduates are required to have, provides coverage for the academic year only! Students treated at the Health Service at any time other than the academic year will not be covered for any charges normally submitted to the insurance company. Payment for lab services or physician charges will be the responsibility of the student.

The exception to this will be for all entering freshmen

(L&T), students who have enrolled in the optional summer coverage plan, or Peer Counselors for the L&T program. All students are eligible for this coverage, at an additional cost of \$84, and have until May 27, 1995 to enroll. Interested students may stop by the Health Service for the necessary forms; completed forms are to be submitted to the Student Accounts Office.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call the Health Service at ext. 7433.

Eileen Hilbrandt

Non-Student Housing

To the Editor:

I believe that a community is defined by its ability to assume responsibility for its actions. There are difficult decisions to make and the entire community must take responsibility to make these decisions and to accept their consequences. The academic community of Bard has the responsibility to evaluate and select its members—at times a pleasant task and at times, a painful one, but one that must be done with as much honesty and candor as possible. Likewise, the community must evaluate social behavior and it must delegate this responsibility to its representatives and support the decisions of these representatives.

If the community is to ask its

representatives to choose members who should benefit from "subsidized housing," those representatives should not be co-opted by isolated power figures in the community because such an action destroys the important belief in communal responsibility. I do not believe in the Divine Right of Kings, Papal Infallibility or Presidential Omniscience.

If the administration would like to reserve four housing units for the four top-salaried administrators, that is their business, but if other housing units are to be assigned by community representatives, those decisions should not be abrogated by Divine Right.

Hilton Weiss, Professor of Chemistry

Editorial Choice Questioned

To Joshua Ledwell, Editor-in-Chief,

I am writing to you as a woman offended, to protest strongly the manner in which your article of April 19 reporting the recent rape at Bard was titled. The word "assaulted" has primary shades of meaning which do not describe in truth what rape is. Rape is rape and I commend you for using this word in the first sentence of your article. However, I caution you not to make the editorial mistake of turning a frank gaze into something

which seems more civil. Surely you know that in the act of editing, no less than reporting, what is true and what is civil to note are the same thing. It is your responsibility as editor-in-chief of the *Bard Observer* to choose, always, language that is real. Had I been editor of the paper's April 19 edition, the article I have referred to would have been titled "Woman Raped on Campus."

Sincerely,
Helen Louise Richardson

Notice to all Bard students

The last day for charging medications at the Red Hook Drug Store this semester will be Wednesday, May 10, 1995.

There will be no exceptions!

If you have any questions, please call the Student Health Service at 758-7433 (x-7433)

Classifieds and personals

ENTREPRENEURS: Start your part-time business. Residual income monthly. No inventory. No retail sales. **NORISK!** 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.

Beautiful lake house to rent academic year 1995-1996. Situated on 1/2 acre, 20 minutes from Bard, 125' private lake frontage. Private dock, car port, finished basement with entertainment center, washer/dryer, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, dishwasher, LR with fireplace, antiques, decks, views, passive solar. Responsible people only. No smokers, no pets. Call 212-595-8618.

Open, loft-like residential and/or professional co-op on Riverside Drive in a designated landmark area. Architect: H.L. Meader, built 1916, 1000 sq. ft., faces South and West, original ceramic tile floors. Location: corner Riverside Drive and 96th Street. Maintenance \$418.00. Asking price \$165,000 (negotiable). Owner will hold a partial mortgage. Call for fact sheet: 212-595-

8618. Leave return fax number or address.

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

Need some spending money for the summer? Do you have a knack for appeasing large crowds? Do you have good organizational skills? Do you like Bartok? The Bard Music Festival needs people to do a variety of jobs over the summer including the two weekends of the festival (Aug. 11-13 and 18-20). If you are interested, please call Robin at 758-7410.

Stephen Sondheim's "A Little Night Music" will be presented in July by the Rhinebeck Theater Society. The parts of Henrik, 20, a tenor, and Anne, 18, a skilled classical soprano, are still uncast. Any Bard students who are interested in auditioning please contact the director, Ellen Honig, immediately at 868-1217.

Looking for a two-bedroom apartment to rent in Tivoli, Barrytown, or Annandale starting June 1 through next school year. Please drop a note in Box 1340.

Responsible student seeks summer housing in which to work on Senior Project. If you need a housesitter or someone to sublet for June and July (I leave in August to study in India) please call Kathy Hoover at 32-7539 or drop a note to box 36.

Used compact discs by the Alarm * Kate Bush * Classic Rock * Counting Crows * Sheryl Crow * Church * Elvis Costello *

Ani DiFranco * Divinyls * The Doors * Duran Duran * Duke Ellington * Enuff Z'Nuff * Extreme * Faure * Dizzy Gillespie * Gin Blossoms * His Latest Flame * Robyn Hitchcock * John Lee Hooker * Billy Idol * Jesus Jones * Lighten Up * Madonna * Manhattan Transfer * Bob Marley * Tom Petty * Robert Plant * Poco * Radiohead * R.E.M. * Ren & Stimpy * Smashing Pumpkins * The Story * Matthew Sweet * They Might Be Giants * Voice Farm * Grover Washington Jr. * Andrew Lloyd Webber * Xymox * \$6 each * 752-7455

For Sale: Tandy 1400HD laptop computer, complete with manuals. Contact Box 1295. Also dot matrix printer, \$25. Contact Box 1295.

Malae Semper Bibunt

To all Tewksburians: Beware of the R.O.U.S.'s. They are the ones who make those "marble-dropping" sounds you hear at night. Princess Buttercup

A big long overdue thanks to Caylor for organizing the April 9 trip to the Rally in Washington.

To whoever wrote about the vomiting in Kline: I was beginning to wonder if I was the only one who noticed it.

The Robbins residents want WXBC also!

My INFANTILE behavior? P.S. I wasn't aware I was "Running."

Ignore it and it will show up on your doorstep.

T.S. Eliot was right.

Mom make "Mr. Coffee" go away.

The Bard Observer

Editor-in-Chief
Joshua Ledwell

Managing/ News Editor
Pedro Rodriguez

Features Editor
Linnea Knollmueller

Featured Columnist
Sean O'Neill

Sports Editor
Joshua Bell

Advertising Manager
Michael Poirier

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Robin Kodaira

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Diego Socolinsky

Tewksbury Basement, Room 84, (914) 758-0774

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The Bard Observer

Calendar

Brought to you by the Dean of Student's Office

April 26 to May 2, 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 (4:50 train), 6:00p (6:31 train) and 7:20p (7:51 train). Vans to Poughkeepsie Station at 5:30p (6:12train), 7:35p (8:20 train) and 10p (10:45 train).

Saturday: van to AA Red Hook, van leaves at 6:15p from Security. Shuttle to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck, 10a - 2p. Trip to the Hudson Valley Mall, leaves at 5:30p.

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 6:07p and 8:55p and 10:06p. Pick ups at Poughkeepsie Station for trains at 6:46p, 8:46p and 10:52p.

Meet all vans behind Kline

Wednesday April 26	Thursday April 27	Friday April 28	Saturday April 29	Sunday April 30	Monday May 1	Tuesday May 2
<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>The Calculus of Venus: The Female Nude and Perceptions of Women in Ancient Rome. A lecture by Eve D'Ambra, Professor of Art History at Vassar College. Olin 102, 7p.</p> <p>Sex Crimes and the Press. A presentation by Helen Benedict, Associate Professor at the Graduate School of Journalism of Columbia University. Olin Auditorium, 7p.</p> <p>The Women's Center invites you to come to Annandale House for talk and tea from 7p to 8p. You can stay later for the weekly meeting from 8:30p to 10p.</p>	<p>Russian Discussion or Russki Stol. All are welcome to come from 5p 'till 5:30p. 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>Poetry Reading by Leonard Schwartz. The author will read from his own work in Olin 202 at 7:30p.</p>	<p>Reflections on the Eve of the 50th Anniversary of the Full Employment Act of 1946. This conference starts today at 9a at the Levy Institute and extends through tomorrow.</p> <p>Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting. Bard Chapel, 7p. All are welcome.</p> <p>Lean and Mean: The New Landscape of Corporate Power in the Age of Flexibility. A lecture by Bennett Harrison, Professor of Economics at the Carnegie Mellon University. Levy Institute, 8p.</p> <p>Jewish Students' Organization meeting. Kabbalat Shabbat: Wind down after your hectic week. Olin Moon Room, 8:30p.</p> <p>Take Back the Night. March and Rally to end sexual violence. Tonight at the 7th Street Park, in Hudson.</p>	<p>The New Science of Complex Fluids. A Distinguished Scientist Lecture by William Gelbart, Professor of Chemistry at the University of California at Los Angeles. Professor Gelbart's presentation will be dedicated to the memory of his father, Abe Gelbart, who was the David and Rosalie Rose Professor of Mathematics at Bard College. Olin Auditorium, 3p. There will be a pre-lecture talk at 1:30p.</p>	<p>Help clear a trail. Red Hook Trails will clear the remaining portion of the trail that connects Bard to Tivoli. Call ext. 7454 for information.</p>	<div> <p>The Bard Music Festival</p> <p>*Do you have a passion to do good deeds?</p> <p>*Do you have a desire to go around town and schmooze with the entrepreneurs in the Hudson Valley?</p> <p>*Do you have a car?</p> <p>If you have answered YES to one of the above, the The Bard Music Festival needs you!</p> <p>RIGHT NOW!!</p> <p>We need able bodies to solicit advertisements for this summer's Festival Program Book. (\$\$\$ for you!)</p> <p>If you would like to help or find out more details, please contact Robin at 758-7410 Mon.-Fri. 9-5.</p> </div>	<p>Green Coalition Meeting. Come to discuss campus recycling, composting and other environmental issues. Aspinwall, 7:30p.</p>
				<div> <p>Shuttles to Tivoli and Red Hook</p> <p>Monday - Thursday:</p> <p>8:15a - 8:45a: Bard-Tivoli-Bard</p> <p>11:45a - 12:45a: Bard-Tivoli-Bard</p> <p>2:45p - 3:15p: Bard-Tivoli-Bard</p> <p>3:15p - 3:45p: Bard-Red Hook-Bard</p> <p>5:30p - 6:00p: Bard-Tivoli-Bard</p> <p>6:00p - 6:30p: Bard-Red Hook-Bard</p> </div>		