

OBSERVER

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Bard OBSERVER

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ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

APRIL 4, 1967

Rule To Suspend Thieves Curtailed; Dean Not Voting

In view of the negative reaction of the community, Council amended its resolution of last week calling for suspension of any one caught "red handed stealing." Instead, Council only recommended that the administration take punitive action up to and including suspension.

The request to reconsider the resolution was made by Harvey Fleetwood.

"Stealing Not Defined"

The point was raised that the term "stealing" had not been defined. Several people seemed troubled at the prospect of the same punitive measures being afforded to students stealing candy bars from the bookstore as would be carried out for a more serious theft in the library.

Dean Hodgkinson pointed out that, as with narcotic and social violations, each case is individually judged. "It is not our purpose to ruin peoples lives. Each year we take several students (Continued on Page Two)

Mr. Kirshner Is 1 Of 15 To Win Prix de Rome

By Robert Stephenson

Mr. Julius Kirshner, Assistant Professor of History, has been chosen by the American Academy in Rome, Italy to receive the Prix de Rome, one of 15 annual awards for study in Rome.

Mr. and Mrs. Kirshner will leave for Florence in late June and move to Rome in October. They will live at the Academy while Mr. Kirshner continues his studies on the relationship between the usury doctrines of the Middle Ages and the public financing of Italian city states Florence, Genoa, and Venice during the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries.

The Prix de Rome winner will use a number of libraries in the ancient city as well as the famed Vatican Library, where any number of important documents on the subject are kept. Given for a wide variety of scholarship fields, the award (Continued on Page Four)

Students Plan To Join Anti-War Rally in New York

by Kenneth Vermes

The ad hoc committee of 30 students met to plan ways to encourage student interest in the April 15 National Mobilization to End the War in Vietnam. The gathering was in Albee last Wednesday.

Dr. Kline To Supply Figures Wed. Night

A meeting for the community to discuss the College budget, the use of our money at Bard, the plans of the Long-Range Planning Committee will be held Wednesday evening at 7:30 in Sottery Hall. President Kline has agreed to supply all interested students with figures relevant to most of the problems that face students here, from Dining Commons to one-man departments.

Mr. Warren H. Turner, Trustee and Chairman of the Long-Range Planning will also attend.

Dr. Stanley Falk, Bard '45, Lectures On Military Hist.

Dr. Stanley Falk, Bard alumnus of 1945, gave an informal lecture on the problems of writing military history, last Tuesday. (Continued On Page Four)

Fulbright Award Goes To Jeff Levy To Study In Peru

Bard senior Jeffrey Levy learned last week that he has been selected as a winner of a Fulbright Scholarship for a year's study of marine biology in Peru.

Mr. Levy, a biology major, had been a finalist for the grant since December 8, and was contacted last Monday by the director of Inter-American programs of the State Department in Washington.

The grant covers the cost of international travel, living expenses, allowance for books and tuition at the Villarreal University in Lima, and research at the Instituto del Mar in Callo.

Mr. Levy will attend a pre-departure orientation program in Washington and will arrive in Peru on July 1. The scholarship will last for one year.

Mr. Levy has worked in marine biology at the Smithsonian Institution during the field period of 1965-66 and travelled for the Smithsonian during the summer of 1966 to the waters off northeastern South America on a research cruise. He became interested in this field while at Bard and was influenced by Prof. Kritzer. Mr. Levy was a John Bard Scholar of 1966-67.

Hochman And Pierce Win "Younger Scholar" Grants

by Fredi Towbin

Baruch Hochman, an assistant professor of literature, and David C. Pierce, an assistant professor of religion, are among the recipients of "Younger Scholar" fellowships instituted under a new \$1,900,000 grants program administered by the National Endowment for the Humanities.

The awards are granted under three fellowship programs which this year provide 130 "younger scholars," support for a defined period of study and individuals who have earned doctorates in literature, philosophy, history or some other branch of the humanities within the last five years.

Mr. Hochman, whose grant extends over an eight month period, will work on a book tentatively entitled, "Agnon and the Literature of Modernity." Agnon, the Hebrew Nobel Prize winning poet of 1967, has been a subject of Mr. Hochman's research since his own undergraduate days.

Quest for Experience

Mr. Pierce, who received his B.A. from Wooster College, did advanced work at Yale Divinity School and received his Ph.D. from Columbia University, will explore "The Quest for Experience, 1840-1889, the Reorientation of Religious Sensibility." Mr. Pierce will do work in New York, Philadelphia and Cambridge for only the summer months. He intends to examine some of the periodical literature of these years, in an attempt to determine the "grass roots" origins of the new sensibility. This may be published as an article, but is part of a larger study.

The December 1966 issue of "Commentary", which was dedicated to the poet, carried an essay by Dr. Hochman. A trans-



Prof. Baruch Hochman

lation of one of Agnon's earliest stories, translated by Mr. Hochman appeared in a September, 1966 issue of the Jewish Congress Bi-Weekly.

Will Write in Jerusalem

Work on the proposed book, which will deal with Maugham, Joyce, Proust and other contemporary writers as well as Agnon, will take place in Jerusalem and in New York.

Mr. Hochman, who has been teaching at Bard for two years, received his B.A. from the Hebrew University and his M.A. and Ph.D. from Columbia University. His essay on Robert Lowell's "The Old Glory" appears in this month's issue of the "Tulane Drama Review."

Attrition Rate Is One Symptom Of 'Crisis' Strides of 1930's & 6-Pt. Program Called Inadequate

The following article is part of a study being made by Mark Favus for the Total Committee with the cooperation of the Dean's office. The opinions expressed are those of the author.

By Mark Favus

Bard is in the throes of a great crisis. Its status as an "experimental college" whose goal has always been academic excellence is endangered. The turning point has been reached—we can reaffirm our belief in the vibrancy of such goals or lapse into stagnant mediocrity.

During the 1930's great strides were taken by Dean Tewksbury to establish a program which would be unique in the field of education for its relevance to the contemporary human condition. In 1951 the Bard faculty issued a statement which clarified the college's academic goals and made curricular adjustments to keep pace with ever-changing society.

In 1962 the faculty made a further attempt to provide Bardians with "cultural literacy" by instituting the Six-Point Program. These changes proved to be dramatic and incisive breaks with traditional concepts of education.

Bard Is Slipping

Yet anyone who attends Bard for more than one semester becomes vaguely but uncomfortably aware that the college's ed-

ucational processes have slipped from the forefront of American education. Past measures are no longer adequate. It is from an increasing awareness of this static condition that new concepts are finally being generated. It must be realized that we cannot merely cling to past accomplishments — in trying to maintain the status quo we can only regress.

Because of this, Bard's educational philosophy demands continuous examination and evaluation of every aspect of life. In perceiving the hypocrisy of the social regulations, part of the community has recognized one significant area in which change is essential.

What is wrong with Bard is far more pervasive. For too long there has been scant communication among elements of the Bard community. That the college is a community is even questioned, as is shown by the refusal of the faculty to designate a second representative to Council. It is with all this in mind that the following symptoms are brought before the community for further analysis. We must begin to achieve a dialogue now!

Fresh Attrition

One of the major problems which the college must confront is that of increasing freshman attrition. In September of 1965, 274 students enrolled at Bard for the first time; of those, only 171 re-registered in September, 1966.

In this short span of time approximately 36 per cent of this entering class disassociated itself from the college—72 stu-

dents, 27 per cent of the original number, withdrew voluntarily. According to Dean Hodgkinson, some of the 72 were potentially highly motivated students, who were expected to do well at Bard, although he did say that it is often difficult to pinpoint specific reasons for student attrition.

Transfers Successful

It should be noted however that transfer students who come to Bard from structured collegiate atmospheres are usually among the most successful students here.

Many students and faculty members have complained of the lack of selectivity which seems evident in sections of each freshman class, but what we often fail to recognize is that the inadequacies of the present system are self-perpetuating.

Cannot Be Selective

In a typical year Bard must admit approximately 230 new students in order to maintain a student body level of 600. According to a recent study made by the Administration, we must accept approximately 400 out of 600 applicants in order to achieve this total. In other words, Bard cannot be highly selective. We must admit about two-third of all applicants each year no matter how minimal their qualifications seem to be. A decrease in the rate of attrition, however, would mean a corresponding increase in selectivity.

Proposals For Frosh

The high attrition rate and its consequences have been a (Continued on Page 3)

Bard Observer

THE BAROBSERVER, the official publication of the Bard Student Body, is published weekly during the Fall and Spring Semesters. Letters may be sent to Box 76, Campus Mail.

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Letters from readers are welcome. All are subject to condensation. We assume no responsibility for statements made. Send to Box 76, Campus Mail.

AMENDING A "MISTAKE"

Council got ahold of itself once again last night when it amended the resolution on suspending thieves. This time a good number of students showed up and every member of Council was able to give his own view.

Last week's resolution was openly referred to as a "mistake" by community and Council members alike. Council realized that extreme moral pronouncements are totally unworkable as legislations. The resolution to suspend thieves is now a recommendation to the administration which is the proper agency to decide such matters.

"Mr. Heller swept us off our feet," said one Council member. This is a true admission of the danger of allowing moral indignation and the desperate need for "making a stand," interfere with the careful and calm legislative process. Fortunately, this time Council only took one week to come to its senses. It may not always have such leeway in the future.

CARD BURNERS FACE DANGER

ITHACA, N. Y., Mar. 29 (CPS)—Nine undergraduates at Cornell University have been suspended by their administration for soliciting pledges for a draft card burning.

The decision by the administration to discipline the students has threatened a campaign by Cornell students to find 500 collegians willing to destroy their draft cards at an April 15 demonstration of the Spring Mobilization Committee to End the War in Vietnam in New York City.

Organizers of the student campaign began circulating the pledge at several college campuses in March. It states, "We are fully aware that our action makes us liable for penalties of up to five years in prison and \$10,000 in fines. We believe, however, that the more people who take part in this action, the more difficult it will be for the government to prosecute."

We won't waste our time on the absurdities of the Federal laws in this regard; we just hope college administrations don't follow Cornell's example.

Letters to the Editor

Pros and Cons of Freshman Dorms

To the editor:

I would like to offer to the community some points which must be considered by those who discuss the pros and cons of Freshmen dorms.

1. Unless we alter the system of choosing rooms, Tewksbury and Stone Row will continue to be Freshmen dominated dorms; and the new students will be subject to whatever haphazard influences exist there—for better or worse.

2. If there are substantial changes made in the Social Regulations such as abolishing all intervisitation rules in men's dorms, which seems very likely, we face the problem of how much freedom to give those students who come from a much more structured atmosphere, to an extremely loosely structured one. One way in which to en-

force a transition is to institute Freshmen dorms, with (say) our present rules. This would allow for the new students to orientate themselves academically and socially, without having so much freedom at once that they can't handle it.

3. Remember when discussing the benefits of your own Freshmen experiences, that those who did not make it through are not here to tell us why, or to help us formulate some solution.

I have heard many persuasive arguments against the idea. Unless there is significant student interest in the proposals, I doubt that the administration can take whatever objections they hear very seriously. The Total Program Committee meets weekly, and will be discussing the Freshmen dorm and other (major) changes in the Social Regulations this Wednesday at 8:00.

Linda Boldt

April 3, 1967

Council...

(Continued from Page Two)

who have made mistakes at other schools. We can't make generalities. Each case is different. Last year a student took 60 records from the library. The records were returned and no action was taken".

Dean Will Only Advise

During the debate, the Dean stated that he had been advised by the faculty to serve only in an advisory capacity and that on this and other issues he would not vote in the future. The motion to allow freshmen to have cars on campus failed 1-6-0.

Mr. Fleetwood said that in light of the Dean's assurance of leniency in individual cases there was no reason why the motion could not stand. The motion to condemn stealing and recommend punitive measures passed again 6-1-0.

Freshmen Cars

One of the first items on the agenda was the issue of allowing freshmen to bring motor vehicles to Bard. Linda Boldt reported that a poll taken indicated the amount of actual additions to the present number of vehicles showed there would not be a danger of serious overcrowding.

Miss Randolph and others stated that they could not even at present find a place to park

cars on campus. The Dean questioned the jurisdiction of Council in this matter in the first place.

\$300 For Bard Papers

The meeting closed with the priority of \$300 additional dollars to be awarded to the "Bard Papers" pending the return of previous grants to Council. Mr. Coover explained that "exciting and interesting" copy had made it imperative that the original grant of 200 dollars be supplemented. The motion passed 6-0-0.

Anti-War Rally

(Continued from Page One)

everyone, no matter what his political or a-political beliefs, to formulate a position of conscience whether he agrees with us or not."

Pledge to Burn Cards

The committee is also distributing literature about the April 15 mobilization at tables in Hegeman every day this week from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Students may arrange for housing in New York City during the week-end of the demonstration at this time and may sign a pledge to burn their draft cards at the rally.

Miss Hearn said general information about the draft will be available.

Drama Review

Two Approaches To The Absurd

By Erica Brown

The combination of Beckett and Ionesco could have easily overwhelmed the Bard audience with an overdose of absurdity. But instead, "Play" and "The Lesson" provided a fascinating comparison of two very different techniques of the theatre.

It would be difficult, if not indeed absurd, to try to attach a specific meaning to each of the plays. The visual, auditory and verbal innovations and the phenomena of what was going on resulted in an experience for the observer rather than a residue effect of a moral wrapped up in a neat little package.

Samuel Beckett's "Play," directed by David Crabbs, was like a symphony complete with an exposition, development and recapitulation. It was an intricate production of light synchronized with sound, sounds meaningful and meaningless revolving around an amusing situation of an adulterer and his simultaneous affairs with Woman One and Woman Two.

A Wierd Set

Each of the three characters was sitting in a large jug on an otherwise naked stage. The light was focussed so that their necks were obliterated, and one had the impression of faces floating over the rims of the jugs. It was a wierd set, and the audience was left to contemplate only voices, words, chalked faces and light.

Morgan Rieder, Ellen Barber and Glenn Bristow gave the effect of a chorus as the play opened with all three speaking, almost harmonizing, a nonsensical word salad. A sudden black-out was followed by a rapid dialogue between the three characters as they each recounted their version of the affair. The action was then resolved with a repetition of the beginning choral effect.

The light, managed by Mark Melnick, accompanied each speaker with perfect timing, giving an intensity not only to the dialogue, but to the palid and deadpan expressions of the actors as well.

The entire play was repeated and there were several echoes of "Thank God for the second time around" heard during the intermission. After the first run-through we were accustomed to the starkness of the set and the effects of the light and then, much to our surprise, we were given the chance to digest and appreciate the puns and various innuendoes of the dialogue.

It was exciting and enjoyable and Miss Bristow, Miss Barber and Mr. Reider performed very well in what must have been a difficult production, both technically and dramatically.

A Different Approach

Ionesco's "The Lesson," more involved and detailed represents a totally different approach to the theatre of the absurd. The set was elaborate, if not slightly overcrowded, and the costumes, make-up and lighting all gave the appearance of an estensibly traditional play. However, what started out in a rational and normal vein progressively became more and more irrational and absurd as the play continued.

Margaret Castleman started out extremely well as the eager and aggressive pupil with a "great thirst for knowledge." The professor, Rufus Botzow, was a perfect bumbling, confused and lecherous old academic.

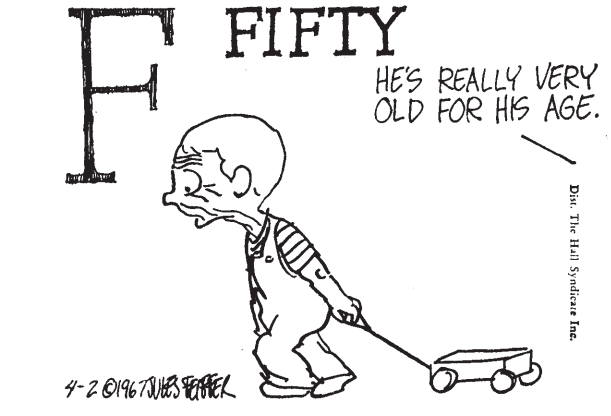
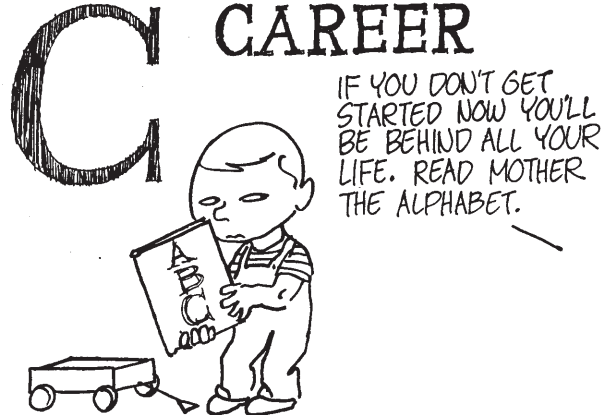
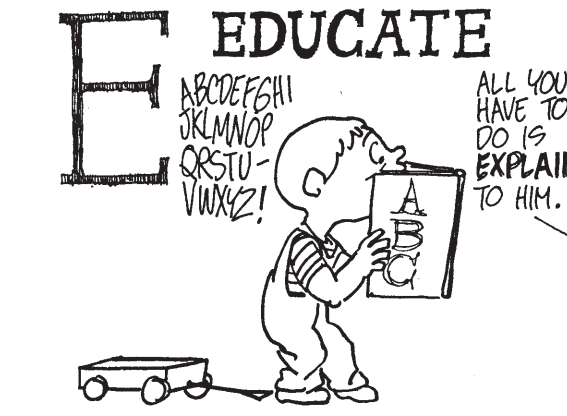
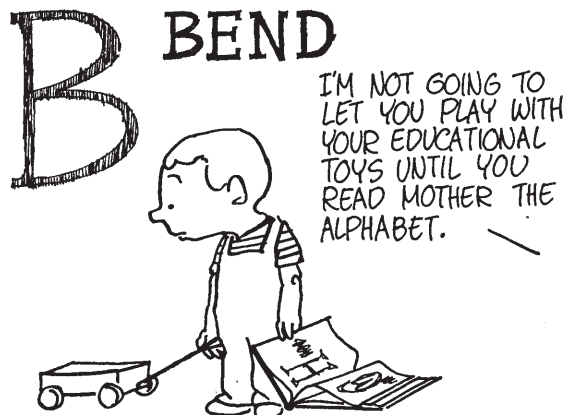
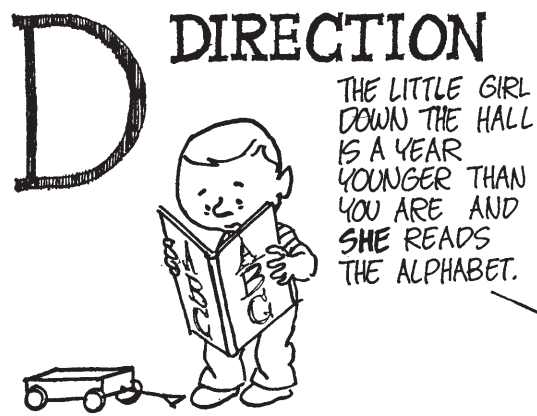
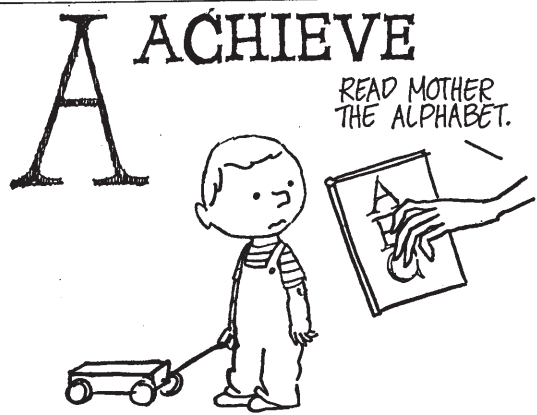
Roles Did Not Change

There should have been more momentum to the action, however, and there should have been a reversal of roles between the pupile and professor.

The pupil, who at first was dynamic and overly self-assured should have slowly become morose, withdrawn, almost aphasic as the play progressed.

The professor's role should have changed from meek timidity to anxious, uncontrollable

Continued on Page 3



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Attrition Rate

(Continued from Page One)

real problem for years, but the rate is rapidly increasing, thus signalling the need for concrete action. The Total Planning Committee, interested students, and the Administration and Faculty, feel one possible means of decreasing the attrition rate is through a more structured freshman year.

Proposals under discussion to achieve this include freshman dorms with resident upperclassmen; a four week intensive academic orientation program; regular group conferences with advisers; a four day class block; and social regulations, at least for the first semester, which will afford the freshman a gradual transition from home to college, and to the new, liberalized social regulations for returning students (which hopefully will be instituted next year).

It is significant that virtually

all these suggestions were independently arrived at by the Total Planning Committee, The Administration, the House Presidents Committee and the Ad Hoc Committee on the Social Regulations.

Most of these proposals are of a controversial nature, which perhaps indicates that they have struck at the heart of a very real challenge. The suggestions in their present form contain certain drawbacks, but those who reel in horror should remember that these plans, like most at Bard, are highly flexible and experimental in nature. One cannot stress too strongly the problems which the College must face in the near future—they are dramatic problems which must be met with dramatic measures. We cannot expect Bard to set the pace of progressive education if the attitude of her students and faculty is typified by the famous remark of a Bennington co-ed: "Experimental education is fine as long as it doesn't affect me."

* * *
More specific manifestations of this problem will be discussed in future issues.

Stabbing Not Built-Up

As it was, the pupil started out aggressively and remained aggressive and the professor began with a semi-aggressive tone and stayed that way. As a result, there was not an exchange of roles at all and there wasn't a build up to the stabbing. Its effect was innocuous and unconvincing.

If anyone was meek and timid, the maid was—inappropriately so. Although Elena Kehoe was convincing as an efficient, gentle-spoken servant, she was perhaps too servile, not intruding enough and did not emphasize the severity of the professor's action as she could have.

The play as a whole, however, was infectious: it certainly involved the audience and kept one's interest and attention at a peak. It was a novel experience in itself to watch, not necessarily to understand, but to observe and to enjoy.

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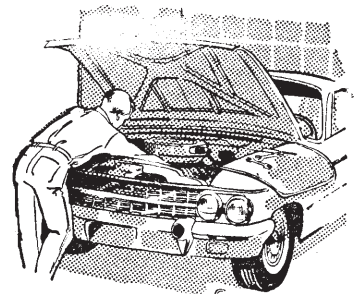
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Drama Review

(Continued from page 2)

and overwhelming aggression. This exchange of emotion is needed to substantiate the climax of the play.

The momentum of the dialogue and action should have accelerated at a much more rapid pace, so that at the climax when the professor stabs the pupil with a knife, the action is backed with an appropriate madness and a peak of absurdity.

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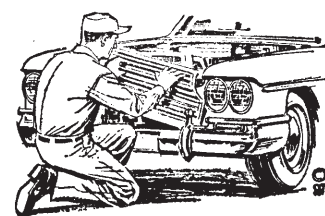
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Bard College Calendar

ACTIVITY	DATE	PLACE	TIME
House President's Committee	Tuesday, April 4	Albee	6:45 p.m.
Music Club presents Harald Chaney, harpsichord		Bard Hall	8:30 p.m.
Theatre: "The Herne's Egg," by W. B. Yeats, directed by Jeff Rochlis; Dance Theatre One, choreographed by Ana Itelman		Theatre	8:30 p.m.
Book Sale (every day through Friday)		Kappa House	1-5 p.m.
Russian Club presents a film, "The Inspector General" from a story by Gogol	Wednesday, April 5	Proctor	7 and 9 p.m.
President Kline and Warren Turner, Trustee with plans for Long Range Planning Committee		Sottery	7:30 p.m.
Theatre: second night for play and dance concert.		Theatre	8:30 p.m.
Theatre: final performance of play and dance concert	Thursday, April 6	Theatre	8:30 p.m.
Spring Vacation begins, 5:50 p.m., for ten days. Ends Sunday, April 16.	Friday, April 7		
Community Council	Monday, April 17	Albee	7:00 p.m.
House President's Committee	Tuesday, April 18	Albee	6:45 p.m.
Guest Evening at President's House: Howard Koch, St. Stephen's '22, on "How Movies Are Made." Mr. Koch wrote the film scripts for "Casablanca," "Sergeant York," "The Fox"		President's House	8:30 p.m.
Music Club presents Malcolm Bilson, pianist	Wednesday, April 19	Bard Hall	8:30 p.m.
Movies: Phillippe De Broca's "That Man From Rio," with Jean-Paul Belmondo; also, Fritz Lang's "Metropolis."	Friday, April 21	Sottery	8:00 p.m.
"That Man From Rio," "Metropolis"	Saturday, April 22	Sottery	8:00 p.m.
College Service	Sunday, April 23	Chapel	11:0 a.m.
Passover Seder	Tuesday, April 25	Dining Commons	8:00 p.m.
Literature Club presents Uwe Johnson, novelist		Bard Hall	8:30 p.m.

Dr. Falk Lectures

(Continued from Page One)

day night. Dr. Falk is currently Professor of National Security Affairs at the Industrial College of the Armed Forces.

Dr. Falk, who received his doctorate from Georgetown, is the author of "Battal: March to Death" and "Decision at Leyte." He was instrumental in the library's acquisition of a 50 volume set of the Official U. S. History of World War II.

Military history had been the private concern of military personnel until the Second World

War. Dr. Falk considers two trends responsible for the opening of this field to civilian researchers.

First, many civilian historians who were in the armed forces during the war were connected with the extensive military effort to record the history of the war and simply stayed on after its end either as civilian or military personnel.

Secondly, since the war touched almost all Americans, they were interested in understanding the nuances of the course it took.

Need for Other Sources
The tendency of historians working from a single body of information to accept the viewpoint of the source can be combated, according to Dr. Falk, by the alternate use of other sources: official enemy records, memoirs, diaries, liaison with allied historical programs, and various government documents.

Kirshner Awarded

(Continued from Page One)

Mr. Kirshner received was the only one given for advanced work in classical studies.

Literature professor and poet Anthony Hecht also was the recipient of the prize several years ago and did work in poetry.

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The Bard OBSERVER will not publish on Tuesday, April 18. The next issue will be April 25, 1967.

Campus Notes

Bard has recently received a bequest of \$5000 from Francis P. Van Ingen in memory of her father, the Reverend Jacob Probst, who graduated from St. Stephen's in 1892 and later became a trustee of the college...

Dr. Justus Rosenberg, in Singapore this semester for his sabbatical, has been asked by the Nanyang University in that city to set up a Department of Modern Languages. The Department will offer French and German, besides English, as a second language. The Bard professor is currently teaching and studying Maylay and Chinese...

The Art Department's Matt Phillips will be having a one-man show of his paintings and monotypes in Boston's Tragos Gallery, 128 Newberry Street, from March 31 through April 21...

Former Bard Dean and sociology professor Dorothy Bourne is the co-author, with her husband, of "Thirty Years of Change in Puerto Rico," a new study published by F. A. Praeger of New York and London. The book takes a close look at ten selected rural areas and follows their development in a ten year period. A AID grant of \$100,000 covered the expenses for the research done by the couple, who did social and relief work on the island during the 1930's...

Sent to the OBSERVER by Muriel D eGre.

Higgledy-Piggledy
Anthony Hechtical's
Double-Didacticals
Cause us some pain.

Although we try to be Quite dialectical
Rhyming as well
Is a strain on the brain.

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