

# OBSERVER

Vol. 25 No. 1 February 29, 1972

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# observer

volume 15 number 1 february 29, 1972

(If you're curious as to why there isn't a picture on  
this cover, turn to the centerfold and find out.)

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*things are seldom what they seem  
skim milk masquerades as cream...*



# Educating the Community (and other fairy-tales)

I have it on good authority (name withheld) that a certain member of the Film Committee stated, while that committee was choosing the films for this semester's schedule, that Westerns shouldn't be shown here. His reason: Westerns are "entertainment", and the purpose of the Film Committee should be to educate the community. I haven't found out what the community should be educated in yet—presumably a better understanding of Antonioni, Bresson, Resnais, et. al., and the experimentalists—but I find the statement typical of an attitude that seems to have wide appeal on the Bard campus. This, of course, is the idea that the Bard student body consists of a great mass of sheep, ignorant of important facts of life or society or both, and who must be converted to appreciate these facts.

When I first came here, for instance, I had the notion that people on this campus were not only totally ignorant of classical music, but were snickering at the very thought of it. Jefferson Airplane blared from every window, it seemed, while Beethoven slumbered in silent anonymity on the shelves in the basement of the library. True, my roomies both liked Mozart and those across the hall liked Bach, and there was at least one classical record in every room in North Hoffman, but that was only one dorm. What got me was that rock was being reviewed in the Observer, and classical wasn't. So I took out some paper, wrote a long piece on the overall troubles of classical music in America, and submitted it to the Observer, which, being desperate for material, grabbed it. As it turned out, it was the best thing in the paper that week. Assured of my role in the fight (Crusade?) to win these rock-crazed hippies over to Serious Music, I took it upon myself to write something about My Music each and every week, and began to wait for the army of converts to begin revelling in the glory of a new discovery.

That army, needless to say, never materialized and probably never will. One could blame it on the usual reaction of the student body to the newspaper, which generally tends to fall somewhere between disinterest and ennui, or on the crass commercialism of the New York music industry, which rams noisy junk down our throats, or on random cuts taken in my articles by the Observer staff. The real reason, however, is simply that classical music is a minority music. The big misconception that I had was that the classics were more worthy of hearing than anything else, which is ridiculous. True, you don't have to listen to Dylan the way you have to listen to Mozart, but Dylan is likely to be around as long as Mozart, because both touch something true. There are folksongs that date back from before Bach that are still popular, and to say that jazz isn't a great music the way the classics are is an insult to a race.

Pure art, involving a totally abstract method of thinking, is necessarily more difficult and less popular than popular art, but popular or folk art is also capable of greatness simply because it involves a talented person's reaction to the events of his time,



or to the mythology of his past. If I thought little of non-classical music, there are those who are willing to deny the importance of the Western. Yet the Western, especially the Western of Ford, Hawks or Peckinpah, carries a special importance. The Western, after all, relates to our own national mythology. John Wayne, Jimmy



Stewart, and Gary Cooper have, in one way or another, become gods from Olympus to many of us, and cannot be erased from our culture much more easily than the deepest and subtlest of films can be.

Which brings us back to the "Great Mass of Sheep" theory. It turns out to be a ridiculous idea when electronic Bach sells a million copies and a Bergman movie brings in more kids than Sottery can hold twice in a single night. I should have had an inkling of this when I discovered that Ralph Vaughan Williams, a relatively unknown (in America, anyway) English composer who is a particular favorite of mine, also happened to be a particular favorite of one of my roommates, and this a long time before I had a chance to convert him.

The "Great Mass of Sheep" theory, however, does not apply only to zealots in the arts. There are a good number of students here who have, on more than one occasion, stated their intentions to "educate the community" in one thing or another, and at student expense. What complicates matters here, however, is that in many cases the Bard student body really IS ignorant of certain important things; either that, or these students don't realize the importance of what these people want to tell them. In particular, I am referring to

the activities of the Bard Black and Latin-American Student Organizations, and to the Red Tide.

I don't think that there is anyone on this campus who doesn't know that racial minorities in this country have been getting the short end of the stick for an awfully long time. What it is harder for them to realize is what this means to those who have experienced this racism. Generations of racism have resulted not only in physical deprivation, but in psychological deprivation as well. Not only that, they have seen the relegation of entire cultures to a status worthy of that of "adult" skin-flicks. Recovery is beginning, but it has been at an extremely slow pace. With all this, one can hardly blame the Black and Latin Organizations for trying to let the white man know what he has done to them, especially on a campus where most of the students are perfectly willing to put the blame on a bigoted and apathetic System with which they, of course, have no connection whatsoever.

Unfortunately, because these students see themselves as more sympathetic to the Black and Latin causes than they actually are, they are often insulted when these organizations suggest that they should learn a lot more about this situation than they already know, and are sometimes enraged when they are told that they are just as responsible for the plight of minority peoples as any white Southern politician. So, when the Black and Latin Organizations ask for large appropriations from convocation fees to illustrate their position, the immediate results are widespread cries of "Who do these people think they are?", and references to the fact that since many of "these people" are on scholarship and, therefore, don't pay convocation fees the way their own parents do.

I'm not trying to rehash old arguments here. What I'm trying to say is that any crash program to "educate the community" here, or anywhere else, is doomed to failure from the start. The newspaper found that out last semester with the widespread reaction to the use of LNS material, although lack of editorial initiative and all-around technical sloppiness also took their toll. The students here are willing to be reminded of a fact or a situation once in a while, but when somebody tries to hit them over the head with their problems, they are going to create a backlash. I had better luck with my music reviews when I started to add popular music reviews to my columns, and the Latins fared better when they took their expensive gamble of bringing in Piri Thomas to speak here, won it, and followed it up with the best dance the campus has had in several years.

Oh, yes, there's one more thing. The typical Bard student attends nine hours of classes a week. He or she usually has one weekday off altogether each week, and sometimes two. If somebody doesn't spend much time getting educated during the day, why should he want to be educated at night?

SOL LOUIS SIEGEL

# observer

an alternative newsmedia project

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or the Editorial Staff.

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Sol Louis Siegel

with: Michael Apfelbaum, Geoff Cahoon, Allison Darow, Lee Fryd, Kathi Jason, Kevan Lofchie, Joy Merrill, Roxanne Palmer, Charlie Pavitt.

(Back cover by Dalison.)



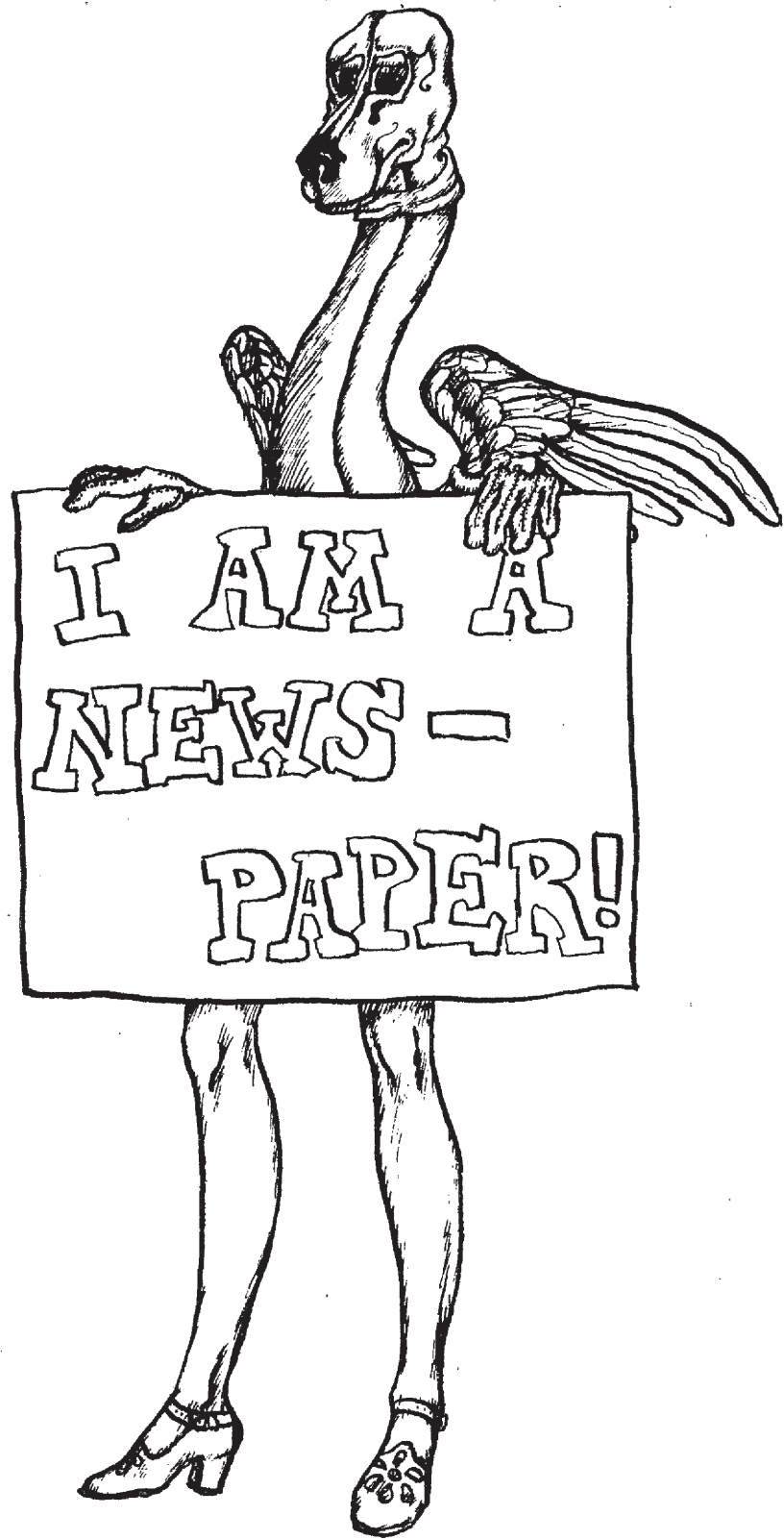
## AN OPEN REPLY

TO WILLIAM WILSON JR.'S STRANGE MANIPULATION OF THE WAR IN PAKISTAN AS A MEANS OF DECLARING LAST SEMESTER'S RED TIDE AS NOUGHT BUT AN "ISSUE OF MAO PICTURES AND DISSERTATIONS ON THE VALUE OF THE JEFFERSON AIRPLANE" (see 'letters', RED TIDE, Dec. 16, 1971).

Mr. Wilson's views on the Pakistan Civil War in the first half of his letter contained a committed editorial style of high quality. His opinion of Chinese foreign policy was expressed effectively. But the letter greatly deteriorated when it began taking pot-shots at last semester's RED TIDE. From that point he clearly did not know what he was talking about. He did not seem to realize that RED TIDE would have considered all clear, readable material that he or suggestion that RED TIDE leaned toward Mao and the Jefferson Airplane in terms of what it published, was sheer nonsense. For Mr. Wilson and others who remain pessimistic to the newspaper, it should be remembered that the RED TIDE was the only project in consistent public journalism OF ANY KIND at Bard last fall.

And what about the Bard faculty? Aren't there any professors interested in offering suggestions or submitting articles? Such voluntary participation on the part of the professors could be beneficial to the newspaper's student writers, as well as the paper itself.

Sincerely,  
Mr. Kevan Lofchie



## SENATE NOTES

FEBRUARY 9, 1972

Luther Douglass opened the meeting with the President's Report. During the Field Period Luther kept in touch with President Kline. It was established that Mr. Bruce would make the necessary arrangements to get a space for storage of club equipment, hopefully in the old Dining Commons. He is working on it now. The fire at Schuyler House has made it necessary for students to be more responsible and not to tamper with fire equipment. Anyone who tampers with such equipment will be prosecuted. Last term there was mention of a student Handbook to be given to students that would give names of all clubs and their descriptions. It was discussed over Field Period. Thel-an Levy is still waiting for all other statements so that she can try to get it together. The Dean is checking out prices for printing of the Handbook. Last year it was also stated that the secretary would be put in the Observer for the community to read if they have not read the minutes that are posted in Hegeman.

Henry Jones, the treasurer, gave his report. There was a large surplus of convocation fees from last semester as a result of some clubs not spending the money allocated to them. It amounted to \$2,280.76. There is a need for the clubs to submit financial reports at the end of the semester and for them to have one or two persons only in charge of signing vouchers. The problem is that anybody in a club can get money and there has been money unaccounted for.

The third order of business was the concessions. They were awarded as follows:

**RECORD CONCESSION:**  
Dana Ahlgren

**CIGARETTE CONCESSION:**  
Luis Mariscano and Robert Millon

**SANDWICH CONCESSION:**  
Eric Schwartz and Abbie Rockwell

Lis Semel said that the selling of popcorn will still go on to raise money for the abortion fund and Planned Parenthood Clinic.

Last semester the Dance Club made arrangements for the Dan Wagoner Company to come to Bard to perform this semester. They paid a down payment last semester and still owe the balance, which is \$215.58. There will only be one concert. Stephanie Terry asked Senate for the balance now and to have the Budget Committee subtract that amount from whatever money they get for this semester. It was moved and seconded that Senate allocate the Dance Club \$215.58 to bring in the Dan Wagoner Company. This amount will be subtracted from the money allocated to the Dance Club this semester by the Budget Committee. This was approved by the Senators.

Larry Levine has reservations about the expenditures of the Observer (Red Tide). He wants its members to submit an asset/liability report. It was moved and seconded that an asset/liability report be submitted by a representative of the Observer at the next meeting along with a financial report from the Draft Counseling Service. It was approved.

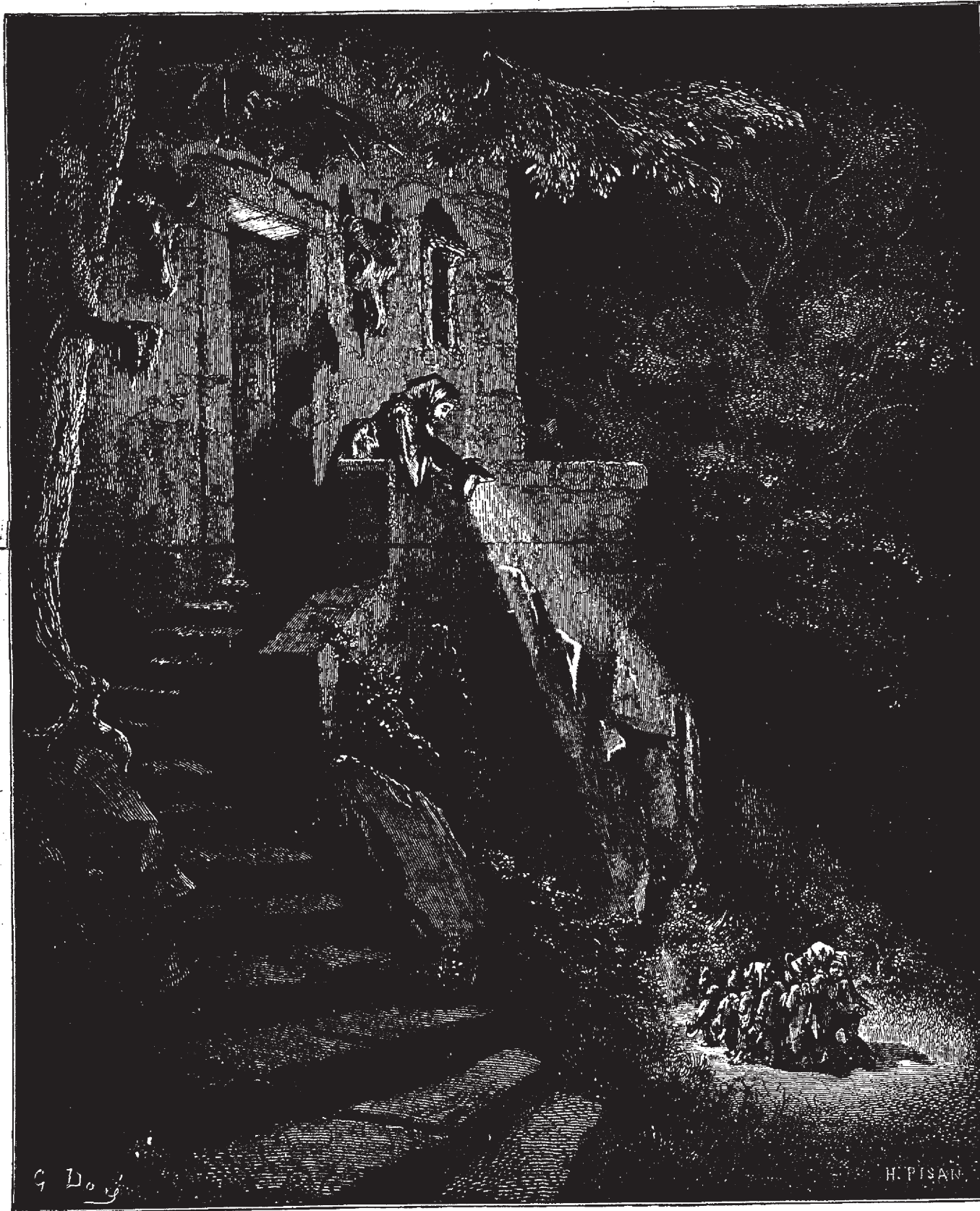
Sol Siegel sent out circulars concerning the P.A. system in the new Dining Commons. He received 300 replies. He asked for Senate recognition concerning WXBC using the P.A. system to play music for the students. He will be handing in a budget for equipment.

Peter Herman feels there should be no music in the coffee shop. It was moved and seconded that the P.A. system be shut off in the coffee shop when music is playing. Luther feels that this problem should be worked out more because the circular was inaccurate. It should have included such things as where, when and whether or not there should be a disc jockey, etc., along with what type of music should be played. Sol will put out another survey which will be more complete and detailed. He will get the help of a social scientist.

(continued on page 6)



# OBSERVER HELP SHORT



## conspiracy uncovered

DATELINE:  
GNOME, ALASKA  
JAN. 32, 1972

Sources close to the Student Senate claimed today that the Observer has been overrun by a band of subversive gnomes and elves intent upon the destruction of the Bard way of life.

While the two foot, five inch spokesman for the Observer denied the allegations, it is suspected by some that the Editor of the alleged newspaper is in fact two dwarves who parade around in a kahki trenchcoat disguised as a tall person.

The spokesman continued his statement by inviting any and all members of the Bard community to come to the Observer office in the basement of MacVicker and see for themselves if the accusations are true.

'These accusations are both false and misleading,' she said, 'everyone knows that no dwarf would be caught dead near a typewriter...drunk near one perhaps, but never dead.'

The highly placed student source insists that the dwarfish plot is a threat to Bard's very existence.

'These dwarves, elves and gnomes must be stopped,' he said, 'what would happen to this great institution of learning if its news were controlled by those of small minds?'

Rumors of the dwarfish plot first became rampant at this Hudson Valley college when twelve persons of small stature were seen harmonizing beneath the window of a Bard co-ed.

Clad only in bluejeans and a suit of armor she was seen later that evening running along Blithewood Road screaming: 'Elf! Elf!'

A spokesman for the Shady Rest Nursing Home and Pool Emporium said that her release is expected next century.

Meanwhile, efforts at the college to find the little people continued in vain (also Oshkosh and Weehawken), until early last week.

On Tuesday or Thursday of last week a student spied 13,000 elves streaming from the rear of MacVicker while smoking a lampshade. Soon thereafter, another student spotted 17 dwarves eating a maple tree outside the Coffee Shop. He too was smoking a lampshade at the time.

The following day, administration official condemned the damage done to the maple tree and deplored the recent spate of lampshade smoking.

The president of the International Brotherhood of Dwarves, Elves, Gnomes, and Mystic Beasties (the IBDEG&MB) pointed out that his entire membership has been striking for recognition for the last five centuries and that no self-respecting gnome, dwarf, elf or mystic beast would be caught dead or alive on Earth's plane of reality.

Meanwhile, Bard continues to be consumed by this uproar, and the rain is expected to continue into last week.

While speculation has run low that the source of the invasion is the Observer, members of the staff have denied any connection with reality, insisting instead that they do not exist.

In a confidential statement to Jack Anderson, the editor of the Observer denied having any staff at all and claimed that the Observer will not exist if competent help does not show up soon.

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SCRIPTIONS, T  
ON TUESDAY, I  
OBSERVER OF

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# WANTED

*photographers*

AD SELLERS *reporters*

wine cellars

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POOFREADERS  
*realists*  
Anarchists  
Poets  
incompetents

WINNERS

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OPINION WRITERS

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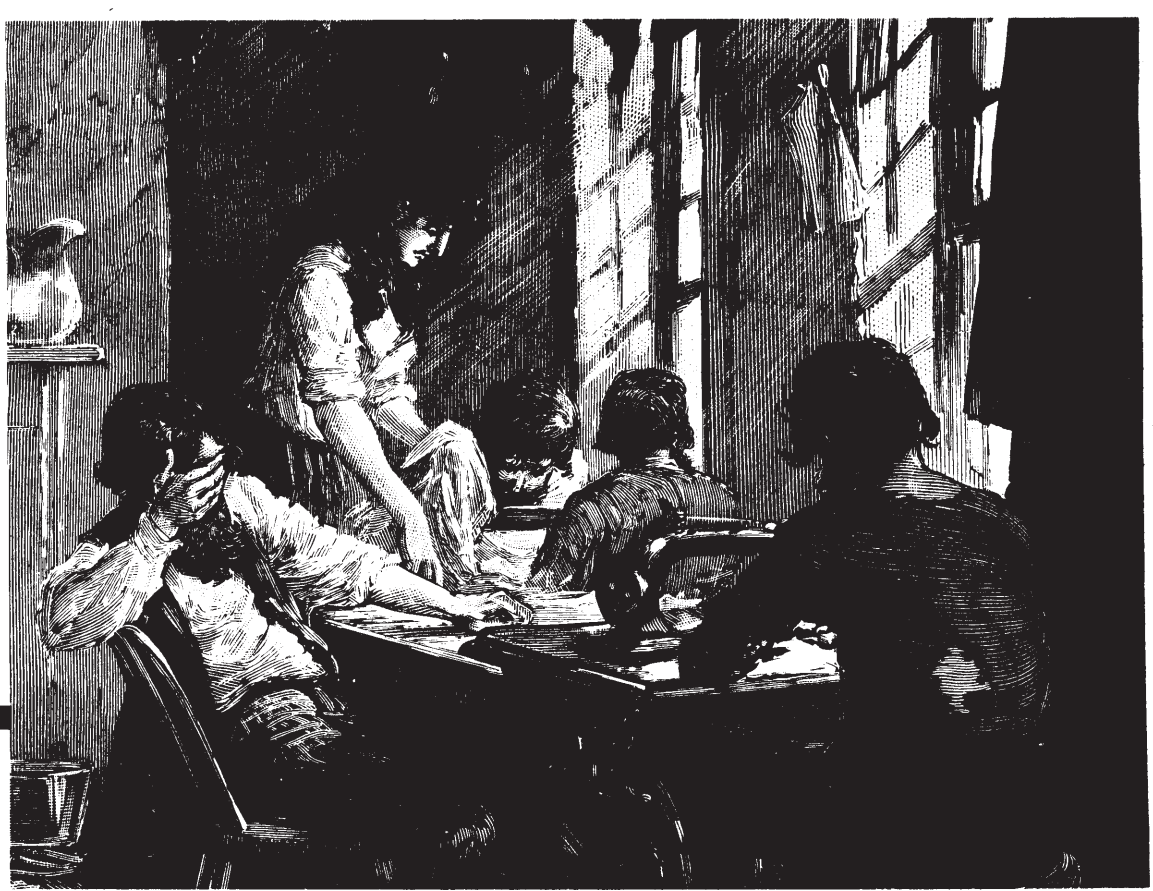
*fallacy writers*

POLICY WRITERS

BOUSLY FOLKS...

IF YOU FIT ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE ABOVE DE-  
SCRIPTIONS THEN PLEASE ATTEND THE GENERAL MEETING  
ON FEBRUARY 29, 1972, AT 6:30 P.M. IN THE  
OFFICE IN McVICKAR BASEMENT.

(This has been a paid political announcement.)



AND various sundry assorted workers



# poetry workshop

The Poetry Workshop drew the largest and most anxious crowd I saw at registration this semester. 10:30 A.M..... I stood, sat, took breaks at the water fountain, shifted weight from foot to foot. Waited. 12:30 P.M..... I left minus an appointment. It was not easy to get through that door.

The poetry workshop was originally intended for the more experienced, advanced- in short, the more learned poets on campus. When I spoke with Mr. La Farge at the end of fall semester, he was not sure if the course would be offered. The familiar faces had not shown up and there seemed to be a lack of interest. Mr. La Farge attributed to the fact that many upperclass poets were occupied with senior projects, and so on. A lack of interest? No, not on February fourth

No, not on February fourth. The upperclass writers, it seems, had sudden revelations and inspirations concerning the course. Waiting that morning, there were also a good number of freshmen.

A writing course must necessarily have a limited enrollment. Moreover, at a small school like Bard, there seem to be difficulties in running two work-

shops simultaneously. In the natural order of circumstance, there is a hierarchy one must confront. Before one can reach the bottom rung of the ladder, he must first break through the masses surrounding it. The poetry workshop would have been a first for some students at Bard.

Question: How does one get to the ladder?

Answer: Wait two years; everyone does.

Every student at Bard is affected by situations similar or identical to this one. Yet writers, musicians, artists, must have the opportunity to share and expose their work in a group situation. Inspiration is not always easy to come by, within an individual, and a group often channels one's latent

energies and provides valuable stimulation.

What can those students do who did not make it into the workshop? It is equally important for less experienced writers to have the opportunity to develop in a workshop situation, as it is for those who have already had the chance. This semester it was only possible for a minority to get involved.

Clearly, there is a greater student de-

mand than there are facilities. SUPPLY DOES NOT EQUAL DEMAND. There are several students who are interested in organizing an open poetry workshop for those who have the inspiration and the time. Since it will be a student-sponsored activity, there will not be a faculty advisor- at first. If a solid, presentable group forms, the chances of getting a professor to moderate discussion are much greater.

Anyone who has an interest in this idea, help to make it a reality. Bard students cannot rely on the faculty and administration for everything- more student involvement and initiative is a must on this campus.

If you are interested in an open poetry workshop, CONTACT:

Kathi Jason, Box 422 OR  
Rebecca Davidson, Box 281.

Kathi Jason

## senate

(from page 2)

The Senators shall serve on the following committees:

ELECTION COMMITTEE:

Ian Hobbs

F.E.C.:

Sol Louis Siegel

E.P.C.:

Richard Edson

ENTERTAINMENT COMMITTEE:

Peter Herman

Ted Boylan

S.J.B.:

Michael Flaherty

The student members of the Budget Committee are:

Herb Ritts

Jackie Keveson

Dan Lewis

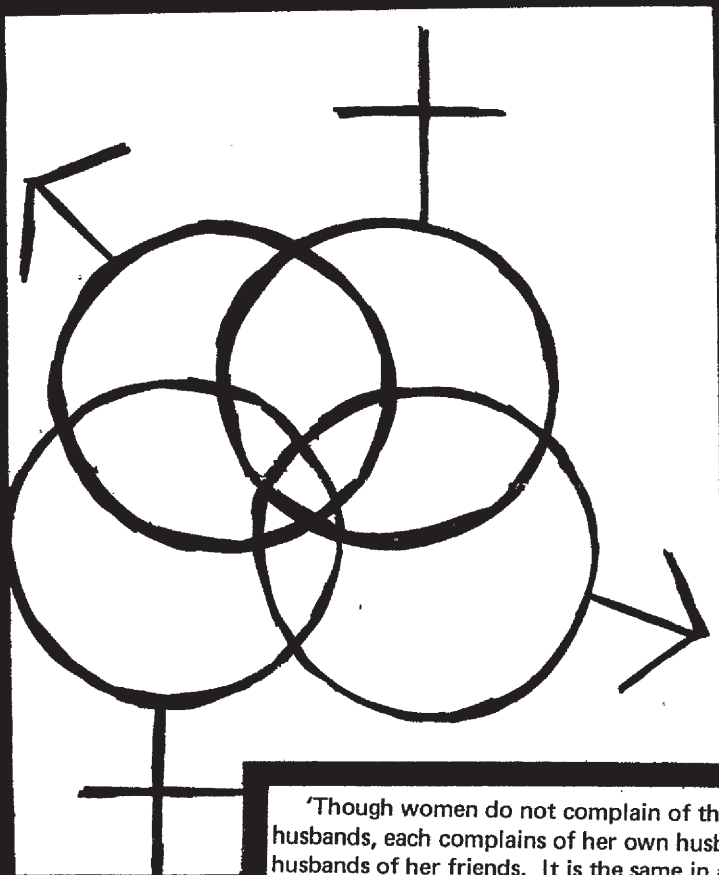
Larry Levine wants to draw up an opinion poll. It was moved and seconded that Larry Levine draw up a survey to determine the interest of students in relation to the allocation of convocation fees. It was approved. Larry should have it in the mail by Friday.

The meeting was closed.

[Notes by Roxanne Palmer, Senate Secretary. Corrections made by Sol Louis Siegel.]

'We send missionaries into the 'backward' areas of the world to teach the natives to wear pants so we can pick their pockets.'

--George Bernard Shaw



'Though women do not complain of the power of husbands, each complains of her own husband, or of the husbands of her friends. It is the same in all other cases of SERVITUDE at least in the commencement of the emancipatory movement. The serfs did not at first complain of the power of their lords, but only of their tyranny.'

John Stuart Mill, On the Subjugation of Women.

mentekent polipular  
yes, definitely!

when in misty midnight eve  
is leiberstoden dead  
then may lowly take their leave  
with hasty breathy tread

and when is moon a lune o' full  
in misty midnight eve  
then they feel the ancient pull  
and treddy breathing leave

yon is not for round full head  
or greeny grow is grass  
for when they breathe in hasty tread  
they tread as under glass

dalison

# cosmic's community conscience

by Charlie Pavitt

With this term's first issue, the Bard student newspaper, a continuing institution regardless of whatever title seems groovy at the moment, embarks on another phase of its long life. Recently, the content of the newspaper revolved around rather biased reports on the condition of the nation, and the unfortunately rather paltry attempts to improve its condition by some of the more publicized figures of the "revolution", with the articles either straight out of LNS or written by a Bard student, seemingly with his eye turned unwaveringly on the LNS sheet and his heart and soul turned off. Despite the tendency of the average Bardian to agree to some extent with the material presented, the effect of the dehumanized news was a collective yawn, and the paper became no more than a bit of entertainment during dinner every few weeks and a vehicle for wrapping up peanuts and cat-shit. I sympathize with the intent of the people involved to raise revolutionary consciousness at Bard, but their hard-sell method of presenting doctrine without humanism helped bring about the opposite.

It's been said many times already, but I'm saying it again now. Revolution must start within the self, and its first object must be the subject's personal environment. If it is a newspaper's manifest destiny to bring about the Promised Land, then the newspaper's immediate goal must be to help make its area of influence into a working model of the society desired. If this society is to include the freedom to express oneself in whatever way one deems right, then the newspaper must be open to all points of view, to help start true communication.

Therefore, this article, and many others to come form my typewriter, comes under the assumption that the goal of the newspaper has changed, that it will now present information on our environment, the Red Hook vicinity.

The goal of this particular column will be the improvement of communication at Bard. This is the first step necessary for the growth of a community here. Communication between races, within races, between departments and divisions, between the four classes. Maybe it's a pipe-dream, but I'm going to start blowing it.

The first topic I want to cover concerns the radio station, WXBC, which I have been concerned with all year long. To set matters straight, it is presently impossible to start a real radio station here, due to financial reasons. Research has shown us that the minimum amount of money necessary to start a station which barely covers our needs is \$4500. This is unobtainable at present.

However, the station has agreed to take over the Dining Commons public address system and gain control over the type of music to be broadcast during and between meals. We have as yet not received permission from Student Senate to begin operations, and the whole operation might take several weeks to get off the ground. One step we have taken, which I am sure everyone knows of, is our questionnaire on student preferences, the results of which I am going to publish here.

As of Thursday night, more than 350 of these have been returned. I must congratulate and thank Bard students for this excellent response, many times the usual amount for a study conducted here.

I would also like to say that due to an oversight on our part a category which should have been included was not Latin music. Quite a few students brought this to our attention on their returned questionnaires, particularly one unknown respondent who pointed out that the popularity of this form was proved at the Candido dance last term, and its exclusion would be a great loss. I agree completely, and Latin music will be included on our schedule, over and above the requests of the write-in vote.

Another alternative presents itself, an alternative that 124 students, a good one-third of those who returned questionnaires, chose, that of silence. The best argument for that was that of another unnamed person:

"I cannot make a choice. Most people will be in the building to eat, converse or possibly read. None of these activities are conducive to LISTENING to music or whatever. People will be simply expending useless energy to block this excess 'noise' from their conscious hearing. I suspect that this is bad for the individual and I'm sure that it leads to the habit of block-

ing out music at all times. People in this day and age have already lost the ability to really LISTEN."

Well said, and representative of a feeling wide-spread enough to drastically cut down our operations, if and when they begin. We originally planned to serenade you for twelve meals a week (lunch and dinner on weekdays and dinner on weekends), but with only two-thirds support, we will only do eight.

I would, however, like to answer a respondent who, after answering that he preferred silence, did not answer the question of preference of type, saying "If I don't want music, then I obviously don't want ANY kind of music. Right?" No, not really, for the purposes of this study. There is still the possibility, for dissenters, to get the lesser of two evils into prominence, and I am happy that many of them chose to answer our second question anyway.

Finally, someone asked who the "we" in the questionnaire are. Other than myself, there are Sol Louis Siegel, Lloyd Bosca, and Duncan Hannah. We'll need an awful lot more, though, and a general meeting for all those interested in helping us will be held if and when we get the go-ahead.

And so, the approximate results of the poll, as of Thursday, February 10th, still subject to change as more questionnaires come in later:

Classical-27%	Soul-6%
Jazz-18%	Country-5%
Rock-16%	Latin-2% (write-in)
Folk-14%	News, etc.-2%
Blues-9%	Mood-1%

This is approximately the ratio that these types will be played in Dining Commons during meals, with the exception of Latin music, which probably has a higher appeal than shown, due to our mistake, and will be played more than that, probably in the vicinity of 5%. It will also not be forgotten that almost half the returns (45%) asked for music which is almost entirely instrumental, a factor that will not be overlooked in the representative programming from the other categories.

Also, one returned answer pointed out the possibility of live shows and concerts being sponsored by WXBC. This is definitely a possibility, and to this I would like to add the playing of tapes of musical presentations in the Chapel or Bard Hall. The help of the Musical Activities Group would be desired here.

Finally, the extremely low desire for announcement of any kind, underlined by the comments against this practice, will be followed, and all talk will be held to a minimum.

To finish off, I would like to continue this column next issue with a study of a problem that also consists of lack of communication. The Budget Committee's decisions on the allotment of the Convocation funds is well-publicised each term. However, the subsequent use of them by each group and club is largely unknown outside of its membership, and it is my desire for this to also become public knowledge. Therefore, I would request that each group operating last term which used Convocation money would send me a complete account of its expenditures, to be made public in the next issue of this paper. I hope you do not consider this a challenge as such, but rather as an opportunity to show the members of the community that you have been putting their money to good use.



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square-toed boot Frye Rt. 9G  
Across from fairgrounds

Rt. 9G & 199 6 am-11 pm mon thru sat 9 am-11 pm sun Every Day Is Bagel Day  
FEATURING... THE AMAZING BACK ROOM  
**charlie B's** beer beer beer  
PIZZA