

OBSERVER

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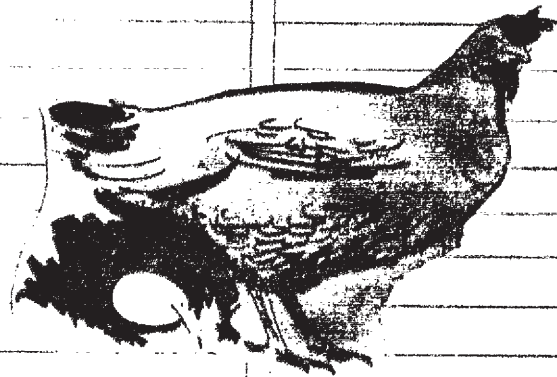
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observer

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THE newspaper of Bard College

Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.



THE FILM DILEMMA

There is a growing dilemma concerning the film dept. at Bard. In addition, President Kline suggested a four full time faculty reduction for next year which has been whittled down to two, and several faculty members are pointing their fingers at the film dept. to satisfy Kline's suggestion.

As the community is acutely aware, the college is faced with a period of financial stress. The film dept., an experimental program, has the largest budget of any dept. in the school, and is presently being evaluated by the faculty senate.

The faculty senate submitted their proposal for the film dept. at the last faculty meeting where it was discussed heatedly, and recommitted.

The faculty senate's proposal suggested a cut from 2.5 full-time faculty positions to slightly over one full-time position distributed over three teachers.

When asked his opinion of the worth of the dept. at Bard, Kline said, "I think it's a very desirable dept. for Bard, there's no question film is a growing and developing art form. I also think it's part of the 'youth culture' or the culture of the future. It's an art form where the action is." Kline wasn't asked to explain what he meant.

Kline continued by saying that for those reasons it was a very desirable "thing" for Bard to be in. (cont'd on p. 6)

SENATE ELECTION SCREW-UPS

On Wednesday, March 14, an election was held to fill a Student Senate seat which had been vacated. On Thursday, March 15, the same election was held again. The reason was simple enough: there had been ballot-box stuffing during those periods when the person running the election was inundated by several people wanting to vote at the same time. Gerald-Pierre, an unsuccessful candidate, brought this to the attention of the Senate after the election, which was then declared invalid. Therefore, the Wednesday election was held again, with two people manning the polls to prevent any more foul-ups.

On the surface, the difference wasn't too great--Jeff Crist won both times--but the margin between first and last on Wednesday was 15 votes, with only 1 vote separating the winner and the runner-up, Mitch Rabin. Although Gerald withdrew his name from the Thursday ballot, the difference between Crist and Rabin then was only 3 votes. In short, there was no way of knowing what difference might have been made by a retake. As a result, somebody's warped sense of humor caused three people to lose a day needed for schoolwork (yes, we do work around here) so that the Senate seat could be filled.

What next?

Sol Louis Siegel

Letters To The Editor.....

Dear Editor:

You stated in an editorial for the Observer of a need for Bard to have a student newspaper. I perfectly agree. However, the issue put out dealt with old news, (no announcements for forth-coming events, etc. were given either), no articles of much interest- either you re-hashed elections and Kline's speech or you spoke about the need for a paper at Bard.

Granted, first issues are often most difficult, but I don't think it especially inspired anyone.

I also think many of your advertisers will be upset at the poor printing quality of their advertisements.

This is not to discourage you, but only to let you know how I, a Bard student, felt about this endeavor and hope that any subsequent endeavors will be of a better quality.

I don't think Bard needs a vehicle for Mitch Rabin to speak about what we already know.*

Dear Schmucks:

Bard College was an innovative college in the fifties, forties and thirties, however this is 1973. Bard College earned a reputation in the 50's of a liberal school, a different school offering alternatives to traditional sorts of education, however this is NINETEENHUNDREDANDSEVENTYTHREE. The Bard of today is a museum, a dusty closet filled with fifties liberalism. Bard has not kept up with the times. Bard's liberalism is a myth, a lie, a fallacy. Bard's 'progressive' curriculum has long since been surpassed by most other Universities and colleges in the nation, not to mention most public high schools.

* Dear Anonymous: From now on, if you want your letters printed, include your name. You must stand by your pearls of wisdom just like Dr. MR

Bard, with its dated distribution requirements, with its outrageous tuition fees, lack of facilities, and run down plant. Bard, with its phony study now-pat later independent study programs, backwards way of thinking and traditionalism is a mockery of its myth! Bard is not a school, it is rather a further pollution along the Hudson.

Anyone coming to Bard is crazy, anyone staying is blind. Bard is living testimony to the fact that the small college in America is doomed.

How does Bard keep up with the times? By smashing its film department. By raising its tuition. By eliminating professors, by cutting back and back and back. Bard is doing a full circle, going back to what it was originally in 1865, with two-hundred students, a monestary on the Hudson.

Of course the reasons for all of the cutbacks given by the administration are financial ones. Not enough students want to come to Bard to keep present curriculums and faculty. This is no small wonder, for who in their right mind would come to Bard?

And what of the future of this great institution? Well, after film who is next to go? Most likely science, for here is a comparatively great cost on a greater percentage per student basis. Who then? My advice to anyone not in a department of no comparative cost, is to get out before it is too late. Bard is sinking, sinking fast, get out before you sink with it.

Cynthia Murk

Dear Cynthia,

Please don't take offense if we made sentences out of your phrases and paragraphs of incoherent misspelled scribblings. Genuine improvement, Glad to see you've stopped using a Chinese typewriter. And while we're sinking, we'll see you here next year! the editors

Private colleges and universities throughout the country are feeling the economic squeeze this year; Bard College is one of 106 in New York State doing something about it.

Members of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities have evaluated their impact on higher education in New York State as revealed through the 1972 Master Plan for Private Colleges and Universities, mandated by the state.

On the basis of that report, the C.I.C.U. is pressing for more state support---and asking an interested public to help---by urging "yes" votes on bills now before the legislature.

Bard Vice President Robert J. Bruce described the campaign "to make the collective voices of all the private colleges and universities in the state heard in Albany" at a March 29 meeting of the college's Board of Trustees, held in New York City.

(cont'd. on p. 6)

TOOTH OF CRIME

"The Tooth of Crime," a play with music by Sam Shepard, one of today's major writers for the theater, will be presented by the Bard College Theater of Drama and Dance Saturday through Tuesday, April 14-17.

Performances are set for 8:30 p.m. evenings, with a 3 p.m. matinee Sunday, April 15, in Preston Hall on the Annandale campus. The

(cont'd. on p. 6)

Karl Schoelpple
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MOVE TO THE WOODS?

Michael Turcot, a freshman and former resident of Stone Row, has moved into a cabin located somewhere on Bard's 900 acres, nobody quite knows where. Or cares.

When asked what encouraged the move, he said, "I hate dorm life. It's too hectic."

Mike converted a tool shed, which he says is bigger than the McVickar singles, into a liveable cabin. He built a fireplace from stones, a hundred-gallon oil drum, and a stove pipe. He has since built a new fireplace in the middle of the shed "Indian style."

In the time Mike's been out there getting it on with nature, he has befriended and trained (who trains friends?) an outgoing, extroverted, starving woodchuck, appropriately named W. Chuck. Mike's flaring imagination shines through again.

In the shed there are plastic windows but no electricity. To amuse himself out there in the wilds, Mike romps around the woods playing such intriguing sports as Neandtherthal Man, caveman, and Indians. Last week he reported that his humble abode was a "Zen monk's hut."

Well, Mike, good work. Be healthy and praise the dirt. It's au naturel!

Mitchell Rabin

(Turcot, you're a menace to society as we know it today. Keep up the good work. -S.L.S.)

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IN DEFENSE OF THE FILM DEPT.

by Niles Jaeger

I will try to speak for film students. The financial situation at Bard necessitates a cut in faculty time and/or from the overall college. Film has the largest dept., so we recognize the logic of cutting our budget first. But a significant cut in budget, which we now offer, is a far cry from the outright castration of the dept. proposed by the faculty senate report on the film dept. The "film program" that would have resulted from the proposed cuts would be a toy, an experiment in mediocrity. Fortunately, it seems that the proposal was rejected by the faculty.

There remain two decisions to be made: 1. Should the film dept. continue to exist at Bard? 2. at what level? Regarding the first question: There are 33 film majors, a total of 60 students enrolled in film-making courses, and an additional 58 students studying film history or aesthetics. To eliminate the dept. would mean first, that the aspirations of a large number of students were being totally ignored or rejected. Secondly, such a move would reveal very poor foresight in solving Bard's financial problems, which are due to underenrollment. The faculty senate report said that film does not attract students (perhaps if they really did have 'substantial' interviews with film students they would feel differently. They interviewed some six students.). This statement is absurd, especially when one considers the sub-

stantial growth of the dept. and the fact that it has kept many students at Bard who would have left. And to consider film as a "fad" that will pass with time is to have no vision of the future, and is an insult to the art-form we are studying. What will happen if they cut film and other experimental programs, and, in two or three years, face an even more severe shortage of students? To retreat into traditional academia in the face of nationwide changes and problems can only be a regression that would be ultimately damaging to the college, spiritually and financially. Bard must face its future.

At what level should the dept. continue, considering the financial situation? We have agreed to a cut of 1/4 time for faculty and a cut of \$5,900. (to \$11,100.) We consider this a very ample accomodation of present financial realities, and a minimal level for operation of the dept. Next year, if it still seems to be a high budget, consider these points: 1. we are a new dept., and must accumulate basic equipment, essential for our budget can go down. (cont'd on p. 7) DEPT. BUDGETS '72-3

Psych.....	1400.
Religion.....	655.
Economics.....	275.
History.....	795.
Gov't.....	375.
Philosophy.....	435.
Soc/Anthro.....	565.
Painting.....	6905.
Sculpture.....	1621.
Graphic Arts.....	510.
Music.....	5640.
D.-D.....	13,440.
Lang.&Lit.....	5000.
Biology.....	8100.
Chemistry.....	7250.
Math.....	840.
Physics.....	6020.
Film.....	17,320.
Ecology.....	1460.

redhook national bank

SAVES...

editor's note: The author of the article Angela Maenad-Story of a Concerned Bard Student, was Andre Vagliano. SORRY FOR LEAVING OUT THE NAME.

(cont'd from p.1)
Film Dept. Picked Like Mutton...

However, Kline stated that "the problem is twofold here. A small college can't be everything, and there are obviously worthwhile areas of knowledge and experience in the world that we can't include in the Bard curriculum simply because if we did, we'd be a university. Secondly, a small liberal arts college has certain things it's obligated to...we must teach english, math, history or you aren't a college," said President Kline.

In reference to the financial status of the college Kline said, "it's very difficult to, in a time of financial stress, to fit new and exciting areas in, when you have no way to pull positions out of the old traditional areas." He said that we are committed to established academic areas and in a time of such financial pressure he wonders how much film we can afford.

According to the admissions office Kline said, "a program as expensive and elaborate as our present one isn't necessary for admissions reasons." However, it is necessary for admissions to have a program for film majors. This will be compensated for by the area studies program. If the senate proposal is passed, students entering Bard as film majors must have previous experience in film, much like the music dept. does not give beginning instrument instruction, but requires prior experience. The senate proposal also states that film majors moderating this semester will be able to continue as majors in the present program, but other majors who aren't already in the upper college must switch to area studies to continue as a film major.

Again it is repeated that all these decisions rest on the lap of the faculty senate. If there proposals aren't passed, these proposals are not enacted.

According to the original film committee which met eight times in 1970, said that there would be initially two full-time positions in the film dept, to expand to another half-time position in later years.

The initial costs were:
\$900. for reconstruction
of the Red Balloon, \$1600.
for lighting and furnishing,
\$2,000. for film equipment.
The committee, in its report
in Dec. 1970 said the dept.
would cost \$5-6,000. annually.
The budgets of the film dept.
since inception were: 1970-1
(first year) \$6,076., 71-2
\$11,000., 72-3 \$17,300.

The faculty members of the original film committee were Matt Phillips, Andrew Wanning, Robert Rockman, and William Wilson. The two students on the committee graduated.

At a faculty meeting in the spring of 1971 it was officially decided that: "We've recommended a two year trial period as a test both of the validity of the program and a continued student interest during which time of course no instructor should be engaged on any tenured basis. A review in the second year would be appropriate." This spring semester is the time designated by the committee. Due to unfortunate circumstances, the film dept. evaluation is shaded with a paramount concern, which again, is money.

Mitchell Jay Rabin

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(Rainbow)

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everything!

MONEY SQUEEZE con't from p. 31

Bard's enrollment figures show no substantial change from last year's but most private colleges and universities in the state have been caught in the chain of rising costs; flattening incomes; the necessity to increase tuition; and the subsequent decline in applications as prospective students choose less expensive public education.

The legislative package now under consideration would cost the state \$47.7 million. John I. Kirkpatrick, C.I.C.U. president, has made a "conservative estimate" of \$750 million, the cost to New York State's taxpayers if the private colleges were forced to close and their students absorbed into the state's system. He has also pointed out that that New York State ranks among the 10 lowest states in amount of tax funds committed to higher education.

Area residents interested in writing their legislators should refer to the following proposals: Increase in Fundy Aid for both undergraduate and community-college programs (Senate # 2490; Assembly # A-6185); an increase in the Scholar Incentive Program to at least \$1,200 (Senate # 1418; Assembly # 1795); establishment of a new 'Transfer Incentive' program (Senate # 3024; Assembly # 3908); and an increase in the Regents scholarship program to make them available to 10% of the state's graduating seniors (Senate # 1861; Assembly # 2879).

TOOTH OF CRIME from p. 3

public is invited and no admission charged. Reservations may be made by mail (Box 70, Campus Mail) or by calling 758-8622, 2-4 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

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jeff scher- vice editor
fabrice van teslaar- assoc. ed.
bill hahn- business manager

KLINE COPS \$50,000 FOR LIBRARY

The Kresge Foundation of Birmingham, Mich., has approved a \$50,000 grant toward the enlargement of the Hoffman Memorial Library at Bard College, according to an announcement made today by Bard President Reamer Kline.

William H. Baldwin, President of the Kresge Foundation, informed Dr. Kline that the foundation's Board of Trustees had voted to participate in the current fund drive, which will double the library's facilities with the building of a \$500,000 addition.

The Kresge Foundation's gift is contingent on the college's raising the balance of the costs by Nov. 15, 1973. In thanking Mr. Baldwin and the Foundation's trustees, President Kline expressed the college's gratitude for the "psychological lift" vital to a campaign at the two-thirds' mark; gifts and pledges to the library fund now total \$354,000 and college officials are extremely optimistic that the goal will be met by the date specified by the Kresge Foundation.

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dinner

CAMPUS RHETORIC

~~_____~~ We feel that it is truly a shame to cut out a department for financial reasons. Had we been deterred from our efforts to bring out a newspaper by reasons such as these, there would be no newspaper. Furthermore, if the situation is as chronic as the administration would have us believe, and desperate measures must be taken, such as cutting a department, then we can only assume that they have exhausted all possible sources of income. In our opinion, they have not.

Desperate situations call for desperate measures. We have come up with a few possibilities.

1. Halt plans on the library.
2. Sell all of the books in the library: the library is so bad at this point that to improve it is a financial undertaking of which we are not presently capable. Thus, we can turn a great expense into a resource, and actually come out ahead on the whole deal.

Furthermore, anyone needing a library may drive, walk, or scooter into Red Hook to use the high school library there. If an extremely rare or obscure book is needed, and it can't be obtained in paper back at greatly inflated prices through the bookstore, then Vassar is just around the corner.

3. This proposal would vacate the present library, which could then be converted into a theatre, a further saving.

4. Then again, we can cut down on the B&G staff, and hire students at a reduced salary. Not skilled, you say? But then again how could anyone do a worse job than that currently done by B&G?

5. Put a tax on all dope sold on campus. Someting along the lines of 5%. This would be an additional ten thousand, at least.

6. Open up Tewksbury to Kiwanis Club conventions.

7. Print up nude 8x10 glossies of popular faculty and administration members--such as Adolfas Mekas, Mary Sugatt, Reamer Kline, Robert Kelly--and the Coffee Shop girls.

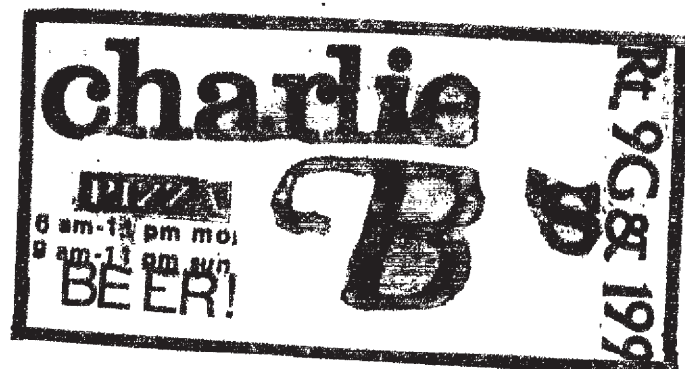
Jeff Scher **NOT AN EDITORIAL STAFF MEMBER.**

In Defense of the Film Dept. (cont. from p. 4)

(we are getting quite close to that point, but, in view of things momentarily, we are now shelving our goal of synch sound equipment, essential for advanced narrative and documentary filmmaking.) 2) The nature of the art and the number of students involved justify our proposed budget. (as the nature of science necessitates a larger budget than religion.) 3) An \$11,000 budget for any sizeable film department is extremely modest, and this reflects the unique nature of Bard's film Department: proximity to New York provides us with some of the best film teachers in the country, and access to film laboratories while our program (as opposed to most others) emphasizes aesthetics, self-expression and a closer student-teacher relationship. Our Stress is on ideas rather than equipment. 4) We believe the college has not promoted the Film department enough. (if \$500,000 can be raised for a library addition, why can't ANY money be raised for film?) A better advertising campaign could attract more film students and/or more money. (the department is starting to gain a reputation.)

Finally, we will take other steps to reduce costs: second semester students can be required to have their own cameras, we have already stopped supplying light bulbs, and we can have student run "technical" courses.

All we can say: we are a legitimate department deserving of our place at Bard, and a decent level of operation, and, as a financial investment, the department is proving itself.



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