

OBSERVER

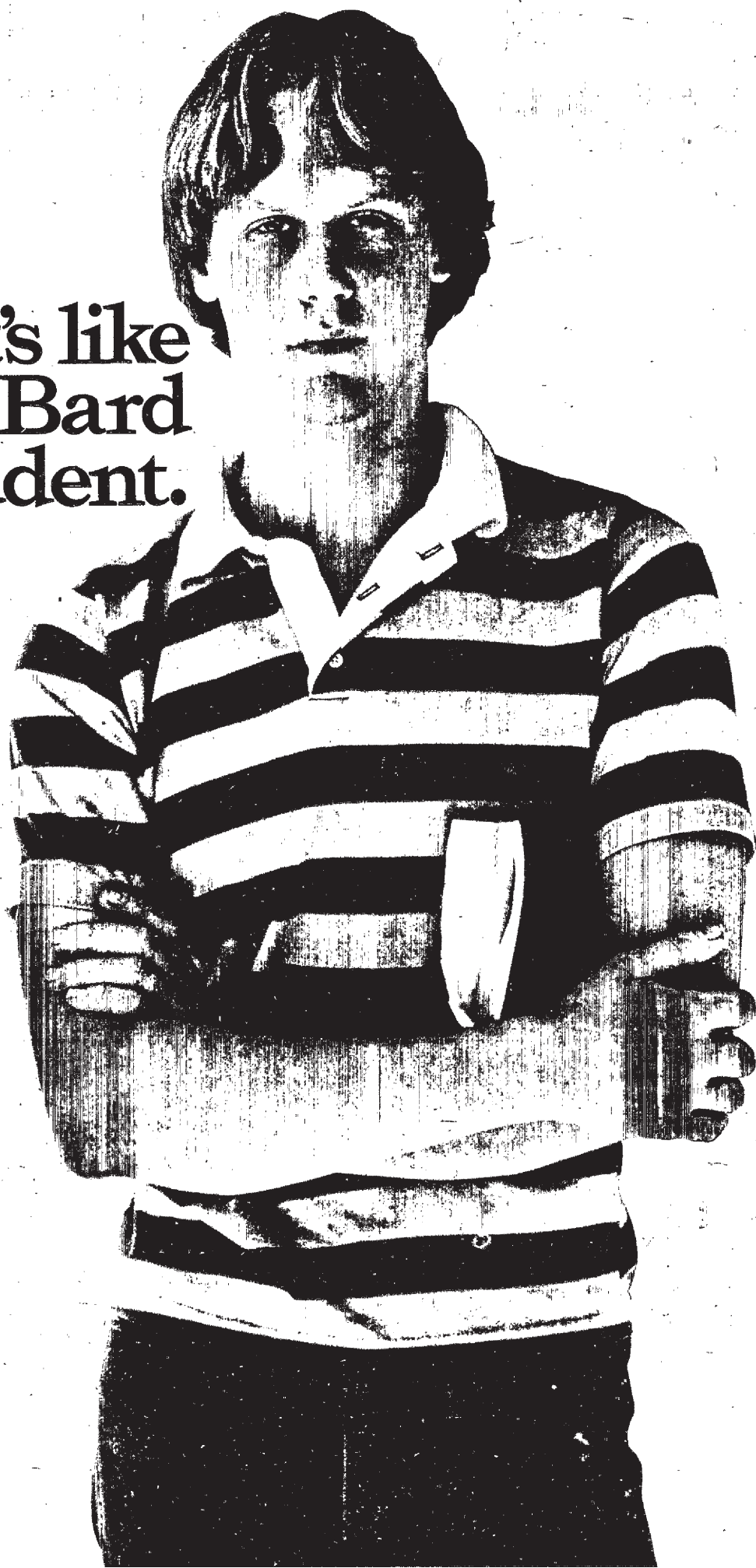
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Thomas M. Talpey Memorial Issue
observer

Volume 17 Number 1 February 23, 1977

What it's like
to be a Bard
student.



BOARD APPROVES 9% TUITION HIKE

By Catherine Williams

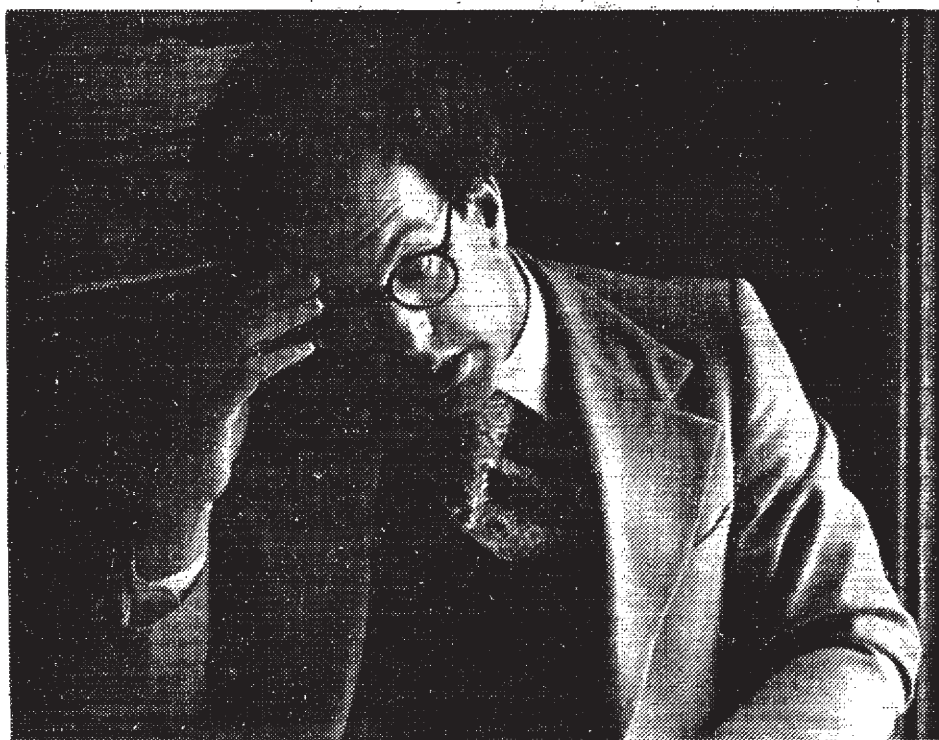
The financial landscape at Bard has been undergoing some changes recently. The change that we, as students, will directly face is that of increased tuition costs. The approved 9% increase will bring the \$5,994 figure for this year (tuition, room, board, and fees) to a rather jolting \$6,514. Some of the reasons for this increase can be traced through Bard's past financial history.

It is common knowledge that at one time Bard was called St. Stephens, and was an all-male school. In 1928 Bard was taken over by Columbia University as a kind of "experiment." During World War II, Bard looked like it was going under, unless some changes were made. Bard was still an all-male institution, but the war was posing a draining factor on the all male enrollment. Columbia would not consent to Bard becoming coeducational. (Barnard, affiliated with Columbia, squashed the idea in order to keep competition away from its all-female enrollment.) Bard made the decision to break away from Columbia and to operate independently, but Columbia maintained that Bard had run up operating deficits of about \$340,000 and that it would have to be paid to them before Bard would

to pay it all back, and having to take out new loans, Bard gradually built up a deficit of about \$300,000.

Banks are expected to clear up their outstanding debts on a regular basis. The Securities and Exchange Commission is a federal watchdog whose job it is to make sure business is transacted in an orderly fashion. The S.E.C. discovered that The Sterling National Bank had an outstanding debt of \$300,000. As a result, Sterling asked Bard to repay their debt. Bard was unable to do so.

Leon Botstein, while he was at Franconia College, floated a loan through the Federal Housing Administration for Franconia. The refinancing program that President Botstein has been working on over the past year or so, is changing the rather unstable economic picture of Bard's past. President Botstein and David Wagner decided that the only way to solve the problems was to find a long term lender. They first went to the local banks, and then to their insurance company. The loan was too big for the banks and the insurance company had decided that several of the buildings on campus were dangerous and planned to raise the insurance rates enormously. Columbia had also



The Man in the Middle

be allowed to separate. The Bard trustees agreed to pay the debt, but later found that they could not afford to. An alternative plan was agreed upon; the reverter clause. This clause cancelled Bard's monetary debt, but placed 31.4 acres of Bard property (then the whole campus) into Columbia's ownership, should Bard, as an independent college, ever go out of business.

Since separating from Columbia and until recently, Bard financed its short term cash flow floating short term loans with Sterling National Bank in New York City. Bard paid back these short term loans with capital raised from tuition and endowment, but could not meet the payment schedule regularly. Through the process of borrowing money, not being able

made overtures of financing the refinancing. During this period the reverter clause was discovered.

Banks ultimately depend upon the acquisition of property if their debts are not paid. With the reverter clause intact, banks would not be able to acquire Bard's land if the college should go out of business. The banks, therefore, would not lend Bard any money. Botstein and Wagner got the F.H.A. loan, and at the faculty meeting of February 16 told the faculty that a major corner had been turned. The administration had bought back the reverter clause from Columbia after months of hard bargaining - at the price of \$150,000. The federal refinancing had erased our debt with Sterling, and the college budget will be balanced for the first time in three years. Continued on Page 7

IS NUCLEAR POWER SAFE?

By Burton Brody

Friends of the Hudson (Box 619, Woodstock) recently circulated "Ten Good Reasons to Oppose Nuclear Power," including (1) Low-Level Radioactivity: All nuclear power plants discharge quantities of "low-level" radiation into the air and water around the reactors. No one knows all of the ways in which ionizing radiation damages the body and the gene pool. (2) No High-Level Waste Handling: After 30 years of trying to solve the problem, there is still no safe way of handling or disposing of the incredible deadly wastes that are taken out of the plants yearly. A 600,000 gallon dump at West Valley, NY endangers the northeast, but it will cost \$540 million to solidify and move the material. Where? (3) The Catastrophic Accident: Nuclear reactors are inherently dangerous. Commercial plants could spill out billions of curies in the event of a fuel meltdown caused by system failure, human error or sabotage. The damage to health and property and the loss of life could be catastrophic. (4) Creation of By-Product Plutonium: In a real sense every nuclear plant is a weapons plant making enough plutonium for a nuclear bomb every two weeks. The distinct possibility that this by-product plutonium can be stolen and used by terrorists or be sold by black marketeers to unstable countries have convinced many scientists that "atoms-for-peace" has become "nuclear bombs for sale." (5) "Loss" of Radioactive Materials Inevitable: At every step in the long and intricate process called the nuclear fuel cycle, radioactive materials escape into the biosphere. Obtaining uranium results in tailings that give off Radon-222 gas, adding ionizing radiation which will produce health effects over centuries. (6) Transportation Hazards: Hauling radioactive spent fuel from reactors to reprocessing centers and taking contaminated equipment to burial grounds endangers millions of highway users and those who live along rail and truck corridors.

Such popular opposition has spurred our own U.S. Representative Hamilton Fish to join in sponsoring, on January 4, 1977, H.R. 882, "A bill to terminate the granting of construction permits of nuclear fission powerplants pending. . . a study of the nuclear fuel cycle with particular reference to its safety and environmental hazards." As a physicist, let me consider the Friends' objections in turn.

1) The principle health hazards of radiation are radiation sickness, cancer, and genetic defects. Radiation intense enough to cause fatal radiation sickness is much more than anything encountered from nuclear power plants under normal circumstances (and people who do not die recover completely in a matter of weeks). The characteristic level of radiation release from normally operating plants is much less than what is always with us from natural sources, and there is no "sickness" we ascribe to that natural radiation. There is clearly a link between intense radiation and cancer, but many researchers believe there is no damage potential at very low levels. Even if it did,

the contribution from such low level radiation is calculated to be much smaller than from even occasional cigarette smoking. Statistical studies of the Japanese bomb survivors show no effects of that intense radiation on the incidence of other diseases and no great increase in genetic defects among offspring. Again, radiation induced mutations leading to observable genetic defects would be a miniscule contribution to the other spontaneous mutations occurring all the time, in everyone.

2) It is true that very little mass is actually lost in the fission process, so one ton of uranium transmutes into approximately one ton of fission product, much of it with radioactive decay half-lives of thousands of years. A few years ago a former director of Oak Ridge, Alvin Weinberg, testified that "the price that we demand of society for this magical energy source is both a vigilance and a longevity of our social institutions that we are quite unaccustomed to." The current front-runner in waste disposal schemes is drying out and compaction, embedding in a glass mixture, cladding with a special steel, then burial in subterranean, geological formation, dry vaults whose anticipated stability is much longer still than the longest radioactive decay times. Geologists can point to deep formations which have been stable and dry for tens of millions of years. Should water nonetheless enter these formations, first the rock would have to erode, then the glass, then the ground water would have to carry the material away. Observations of leakage from a ruptured container several years ago indicate that the processes are faster than might be hoped, but they are all, still, very slow.

Burial at sea or under the polar ice caps or in deep space may at first look more promising, but the inherent dangers may be greater. For instance, an accident during the launch of a rocket carrying radioactive waste could be disastrous. No permanent disposal scheme has yet been enacted, but as long as subterranean burial appears feasible, while the accumulation of glassified waste might only be a few cubic meters per reactor per year, those responsible can afford to explore all options and optimize the process before committing themselves. Radiation changes the properties of materials, and there is little information on which to base engineering decisions for systems built to last "forever." Since it is harder to undo, it is better to proceed cautiously.

3) The accident hazards of nuclear power plants are a matter of ongoing controversy, immune to quick resolution, since the full-scale tests or repeated experiments demanded by critics are not feasible. The AEC-financed reactor safety study directed by MIT's Norman Rasmussen, which was published in November, 1975, as WASH-1400, resorted to "fault tree" analyses of probabilities of concurrent or sequential failures of specific power plant systems which many comparably qualified physicists (for example, the Union

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Burton Brody is Associate Professor of Physics at Bard College; B.A. Columbia College, 1963; Ph.D. University of Michigan, 1970

Green Revolution

CONSUMPTION CALAMITY

By Pierre Gremaud

There is a revolution coming to this country—not just the proletarian over his ruler, but the enjoyer of the Earth over the despoiler of the Earth, the consumer over the spurious merchant. The evidence for this revolution is manifold. More and more people are genuinely investigating alternate ways of living. The declaration "contains no artificial preservatives or flavorings" is beginning to sell products. The corporate giant, Allied Chemical Inc., has been fined \$13.3 million for flagrantly defiling the environment. The lavishly produced Audubon magazine has changed from a coffee-table ornament to an eloquently radical voice in environmental affairs. From both within and without the power structure, the seeds for fundamental change are being sown.

The people taking part in this fundamental Revolution come from diverse avenues of life. This diversity stems from the varied motive forces for this movement. There is a broad line of change being pushed forward by different peoples in different ways. Marxism, spirituality (a rediscovery of the infinite resources within all of us), and environmentalism are all forces at play here. In a way it is the uprising presaged by Marx; in a way it is a return to the realm of the Spirit; in a way it is the inevitable result of peoplekind confronting a beleaguered Earth. It is all

one. It is all the same. Though these forces may be catalogued separately by the likes of Time-Newsweek, their drive as well as their aim are the same.

I call this movement a revolution because changes in action and attitude are happening quickly. In many cases, the change must be quick because of the fatal consequences of inaction. The metropolis of New York City dumping its inexorable stream of sewage into the Hudson River is just one good example. Plaintive urgings, heated rhetoric, even government proddings (still a woefully small force) are easy for the general populace to ignore. "Eccentric" scientists, health food "fanatics", fresh air "freaks" can be disregarded, but environmental fiascos simply cannot. It will be interesting to see in what direction the voters of Michigan turn after the PBB disaster has affected each and every inhabitant of that state. (If you are not acquainted with this nefarious incident, I suggest you become so). Perhaps their November referendum ban on non-returnable bottles, despite a heavy industry campaign in this traditionally "job-oriented" state, is an indication.

Every day's New York Times brings us reports of new environmental calamities. It seems that this country's West is in the vanguard of the Revolution, but events such as the recent large-scale threats to Massachusetts' coast and to Long Island's shellfishing are spurring the East into awareness. Continued on Page 6

Local Affairs

CONSOLIDATED EDISON; THE LOCAL DEBATE

By Connie Fowle

On November 17 last year, a ripple of shock passed through the local community as Con Edison announced that the Red Hook/Milan area was one of two possible power plant sites in the Hudson Valley. Now that the initial shock has worn off, we are left with the seemingly endless line of questions that the possibility of having a power plant complex in our backyard raises. On January 20, Con Ed representatives met in Milan with town officials from both Red Hook and Milan at a well attended public meeting designed to begin to answer some of these questions.

The questions at this meeting were limited to three areas --- land access and acquisition, siting and licensing procedures and tax revenues. The audience was told that all siting and licensing of power plants comes under an Article 8 process which requires an environmental impact statement as well as a statement of public need and a statement of Con Ed's objectives. The Article 8 process as described at this session is a rather lengthy process. Under the Article, Con Ed must propose two distinct site areas as well as two modes of power generation, hence the selection of both Lloyd/Esopus and Red Hook/Milan as possible areas and hence the confusion as to whether the plants would be nuclear or coal-fired. Both sites must be studied by outside consultants before site selection can be determined.

By mid-1978, Con Ed might be able to choose which site they prefer -- Red Hook or Lloyd. Then this site decision must be approved by the New York State Siting Board. If it is approved, Con Ed must make the necessary licensing applications to the state and, in the case of a nuclear plant, to the federal governments. At some point during the governmental review, there will be public hearings, although it is unclear what impact such hearings might have.

If Con Ed decides on nuclear rather than coal plants, and if they are certified by the proper authorities, they would get the green light for construction in 1984. Many local people fear, though, that Con Ed may really want to go for a coal plant and we should all be aware of this. Coal may seem more attractive, but its impact on this area would still be felt in a big way. Air quality could suffer. Coal would have to be brought in large quantities -- how? By truck, perhaps? Or a railroad spur? The construction of any kind of large plant complex would have an impact on this area environmentally, economically, sociologically, and in many other ways.

Con Ed has promised that it will come back for more discussions in the future. There were many questions that were not answered at the first meeting, as well as many questions that were not asked. Hopefully, at future meetings, public input will be at a maximum as we all try to become as informed as possible.

Senate

Emanations From On High

By Scott Porter and Andy Abbatepaolo

In the low-lit back rooms of Dining Commons, political wheels yet churn. In the midst of Bard's First Annual Winter Weekend, (surprisingly successful), two of our biggest wheels, Mark Callahan and Larry Solomon, found time while awaiting Chico Hamilton's performance for an informal discussion with a former colleague. Waving aside clouds of smoke, the party bosses acknowledged their inquisitor.

Scott Porter grilled them on the issues of the day: administration tactics, administration dynamics, incorporation of the Student Association, student trusteeship, hiring of minority faculty, the nature of the student body, and the quality of the present Senate.

What are the aims of Senate?

Mark felt that the Senate had great potential for pursuing and achieving various goals, as listed under issues of the day, above. Development of communication between students and, as Mark casually refers to them, "the dynamic leadership," is also improving. Recently, Mark and Larry met with President Botstein to work towards the betterment of life at Bard.

What are the immediate results of your efforts thusfar?

"It's clear from the pressure that Senate has put on SAGA and the administration," Mark responded, "that student input has had dramatic effect in several areas." (Last semester's Food Committee initiated negotiations with the Culinary Institute of America on the possibility of their replacing SAGA as Bard's food service.)

In what other areas has Senate made headway?

Mark had attended the last meeting of the Board of Trustees, in January, and presented a petition outlining student opinion in regards to a seat on the board for a student. It was fairly well received, and should not be written off as lip service. However, since each seat on the board shares an equal responsibility for any and all debts, should Bard go bankrupt, few interested students are monetarily eligible. Furthermore, as President Botstein has advised in the past, each trustee is also a source of income for the college.

Larry restated Senate's feeling: "We are still adamant about securing student seat on the Board of Trustees."

Is Senate still a "joke?"

"At times," admitted Larry. He suggested that time alone will tell.

How about you, Mark -- do you take Senate seriously?

"NOW I do."

What has changed your mind?

There was not much going on -- in Senate, the student body, or the Administration. Petty issues, no pun intended, consumed everyone's time. Mark feels that there is now an administration which demands greater concern from Senate, in that decisions are being made that will affect the college's future, as well as residential life and Bard's academic standing.

What, specifically, about the mechanics of the present administration is causing problems for you, as well as for students in general?

Continued on page 7

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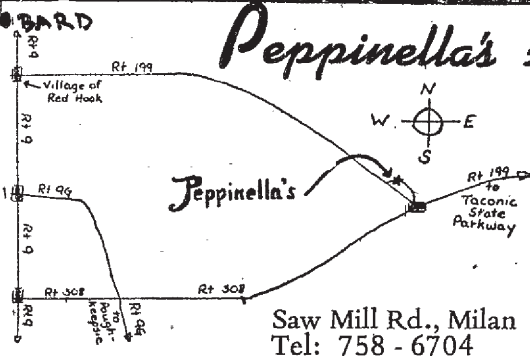
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Education

THE LIBERAL ARTS DEBATE

By Gail Levinson

Bard students may be particularly interested to hear that "College Could Be Worth It. . . ." So claims the December cover of Change Magazine (the self-proclaimed Magazine of Higher Learning). The author, one Leon Botstein, charges American liberal arts colleges with neglecting their role as educator of future citizens while over-emphasizing the job-preparation aspects of college. Citing national trends and surveys he makes apparent the confusion which many colleges are presently experiencing over just what a liberal arts education is and should be.

The present controversy centers around the question of curriculum and requirements. At least part of this conflict, contends Mr. Botstein, involves the individual student's desires for a plan of study concentrated on one field and the responsibility of the liberal arts to offer him a challenging, broad education which will give him a knowledgeable awareness of the issues of his day.

In the second portion of his article, Mr. Botstein offers his personal analysis and the three areas which he believes liberal arts colleges should be focusing on today.

Citing the importance of science and technology in the modern world, Mr. Botstein stresses the need for students to achieve a less superficial understanding of the principles and possibilities involved in contemporary issues. He speaks disparagingly of distribution requirements that are satisfied by gut classes and warns, "The teaching of science and technology must overcome the false sense of a secret knowledge obtainable on a reasonable level only by professionals or incipient professionals."

The second area he feels is in grave need of review is the teaching of history, geography and exploration of the non-western world. To aid this lack of a "historical sensibility" Mr. Botstein recommends that students be given work involving some facet of the community they live in or a similar sort of program that will remove history from the realm of a bygone finished entity and awaken the student to the concept of history as an ongoing process.

Lastly, the article concentrates on the arts as a daily element of students' lives. Mr. Botstein stresses the need of all students to become active participants in the arts. Noting the change in both amounts of leisure time and the roles of work and play, Mr. Botstein urges, "Art should not be entirely left to the professionally trained practitioner any more than politics. Both artists and the public need what liberal learning might offer."

As a final note the suggestion is made that the residential character of most liberal arts colleges be used as an educational advantage instead of merely tolerated.

The Jeffersonian ideal of democracy based on an educated citizenry capable of understanding the intellectual and moral issues of their time is clearly the idea motivating these suggestions that these areas receive greater attention in the college curriculum. Whether or not this concept conflicts with the idea of Bard as an institution adaptable to the needs and wants of individual students might provide some worthwhile discussion for members of the Bard community. The article is currently on library reserve.

ENERGY CONSERVATION FOR BARD

By Lisa Foley

We've been hearing about the "Energy Crisis" for some years now, but few of us are still listening and general feelings of disinterest and skepticism prevail. With respect to the coldest winter in 100 years that the Northeast has faced, however, fuel resources are appearing frighteningly low and prices are threatening to become frighteningly high. Bard is not immune to effects of this trend.

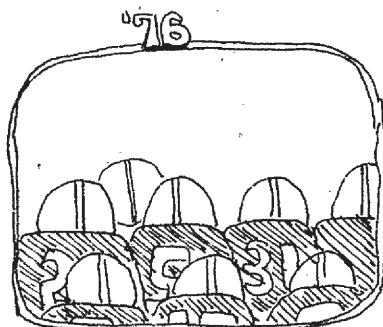
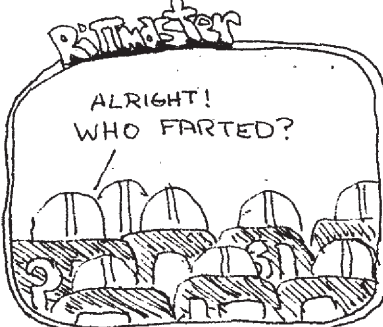
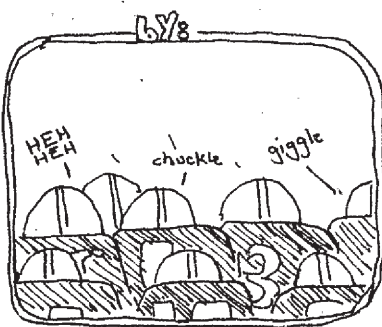
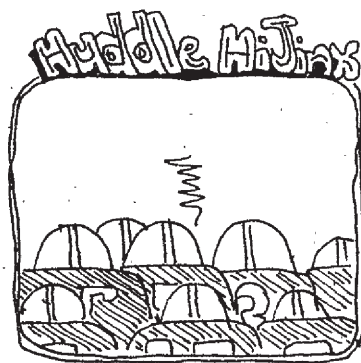
Last year the school paid 34.6 cents per gallon for heating oil. This year the cost is 40.5 cents per gallon. Next year the price is expected to reach 50 cents. Cost of electricity, which was 3.4 cents per kilowatt including a .0012 cents per kilowatt hour adjustment figure for fuel generation, has also risen. The figure this year is 40 cents per kilowatt with an adjustment of .006 cents per kilowatt hour. The administration has taken steps to reduce energy consumption with the object of saving enough energy to at least meet the rising costs with no increase in total expense. The much publicized move to set all dorm thermostats at 65 degrees just touches upon the efforts being made and considered.

Hot water heaters, once able to heat water to 180 degrees, have been cut back to a maximum of 120 degrees, 90-95 degree showers being the average tolerance temperature of the human body. Water volume in showers has been decreased from 8 to 2 gallons per

minute. An 8 minute shower at 8 gallons per minute costs approximately 21 cents. An 8 minute shower at 2 gallons per minute costs 7 cents. The combination of cutting heat and volume per minute of water results in an energy reduction of 125% in water heating. Cold water laundering, while not directly saving money due to increase in costs, is conserving a considerable amount of energy.

Thermostats in several buildings are computer-controlled at 65. B&G will investigate reports of over and underheating in specific rooms of these buildings and asks to be notified in such cases. Parts of heating systems on campus have been replaced and updated with more efficient and conserving parts. Concentrated maintenance will be put to work to maintain the efficiency to boilers and heating systems. Future renovation of campus buildings will be designed in terms of heat loss, durability and usefulness.

Students can cooperate in a number of practical, common sense ways to cut energy use by 1) turning out lights when not in use 2) avoiding unnecessary or frivolous car rides around campus 3) not defeating purposes by employing electric heaters in rooms. 4) voicing ideas and criticisms to the administration. The goal of energy conservation is not to freeze to death, or read in the dark, but sensible, foresighted and thrifty energy habits. While they will not make oil fall from the sky, they will help control the rate at which resources are diminishing.



To know that we know what we know,
and that we do not know what we do not know,
That is true knowledge.

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ADOLPH'S

observer

Statement of Purpose

Criticism of the **OBSERVER** has been levied from all sides. Charges that it does not deal with real issues, that it says very little regarding the true state of affairs at Bard, and that no one knows where it stands, have been heard.

As a new board of editors comes in, we would like to share with you some of our ideas regarding what we think the responsibilities of the **OBSERVER** should be, and what our editorial policy will be.

The college newspaper is foremost a communication medium. Its job is to provide the community it serves with information and tools that individuals require to be responsible participants within that community. Toward that end we

will be printing a variety of articles regarding world, national, and local events in conjunction with information regarding the state of Bard College.

Editorially, our policy will be that the editorial will embrace an attempt to decipher the truth regarding an issue. Rather than present an oversimplification we will try and present the complexity of an issue. Almost all issues are complex with no simple answers.

Toward the above ends, we ask, encourage, and demand your criticism. We cannot be a responsible institution without it. The **OBSERVER** is a student publication. It belongs to all of us and we are all responsible for it.

Pragmatism

You must have your yellow card in order to eat. You cannot park in a no-parking zone. You cannot arrive back early to school and expect to be allowed to stay in your room.

This all has a familiar smell of DOGS to it. And it should. The issue underlying the "pet proclamation" underlies the above new regulations as well. That is, pragmatism before moral justice. (After all, morals do not pay the bills).

On the ninth of February many students were arriving back at Bard. One student parked his car behind the post office in order to have easy access to carry his belongings into the dorm. "Someone" called a tow truck and the owner of the car had to pay twenty dollars to get the truck attendant to put his car down.

What is outrageous is not that we are not allowed to park in firelanes. That is certainly understandable. What is outrageous is that enforcement procedures were suddenly changed without

allowing for a grace period in which the community could familiarize itself with the new regulations. After all, we have all been parking in firelanes all along. Pragmatism before justice.

Bard, certainly has problems; pets not being taken proper care of, potential impedance of emergency vehicles by illegally parked cars, mooching off the institution, are only the tip of the iceberg. But these and many other problems have been ignored for a long time. The way to solve them is to bring them into open discussion. Suddenly effecting changes only serves to alienate and create hostility amongst the community.

Most importantly though, pragmatism on the part of the administration is pedagogically unsound. If one of the jobs of higher education is to teach young men and women to be moral, just, good, kind, considerate, creative, and thinking, then an example of those qualities must be demonstrated by higher ups.

Being hard-assed pragmatists is no way to do it.

Gilmore Again

By now we have all heard our fill of the case of Gary Gilmore. Most of us were greeted that evening by smiling Walter Cronkite saying, "Gary Art Gilmore is dead," followed by the grisly report of the execution.

It is best not to forget him, though, and to learn from the event. Perhaps the public would have been better served if the news media had shown live television coverage of the firing squad execution, if for no other reason than to drive home the horror of the act. It is all too easy for us all to wash our hands of the blood spilled and to feel that we, you and I, were not responsible. The nature of the state is such that once bureaucratic processes are put into effect, power and therefore responsibility are spread out to the

point where not a single individual is responsible for the act of the state.

When the question is asked as to who is responsible for taking the life of Gary Gilmore, we can all look away and feel no guilt. But it is you and I who elect the officials who make the laws.

When George Washington was contemplating whether to support the revolution, he was troubled. He said something to the effect of; "In deciding whether the British are morally wrong we must be damn sure we are right ourselves." The same consideration must be applied when judging and sentencing another human being, lest we ourselves be guilty of the same offense. The blood of Gilmore's death is on our hands.

Letters

To the Editor:

Last semester the planning committee was approached at one of their last meetings with a proposal for the partial funding of the basketball team's Winter Field Period schedule. The Athletic Department had planned to cover the schedule, but at the last minute the budget was cut. The committee felt that its hands were tied and so decided to put up the money needed. Two things can happen from this point concerning this affair. The Planning Committee's position (and the college's) can degenerate or it can evolve. We can continue to pay as we go for various athletic services, or we can try to force the administration to develop a responsible program of physical development for those that desire it. It must be decided whether the college should work towards the beneficial evolution of its students in ways which are not within the narrow sight of the intellect. Bard should desire to graduate good people who are balanced in their attributes, for it is they that certainly will do well in life and bring a good name to the school. But it is clear that the college as it has now become is not pursuing with due diligence this goal.

The administration has come to have an air of a group of experimental scientists trying to manipulate the college to make it strong; strong enough to last awhile anyway. Yet it is the group genius of the

students that will make the college strong or weak. Should the students be weakened and disenfranchised by the new "bully says this" emanations of Ludlow it would be a tragedy. The irony would be the moral destruction of the college as an effect of its "financial savings."

George Dobbs
Planning Committee

To the Editor:

I would like to thank the wonderful people who have been destroying the pool room equipment. You are real sweethearts. In one week you have succeeded in breaking five cues and turning a perfectly good rack into a hilarious parallelogram. How can I ever repay you?

Well I mustn't let my voice overshadow those of my comrades. Charlie Patrick is even more eager than I to congratulate you on your commendable efforts to destroy the equipment he had repaired less than a month ago for the mere price of \$500. The other pool regulars are dying to meet you personally and express their gratitude; your creativity has enabled them to spend all of their time in other activities, and they no longer feel confined by their desire to shoot a game of 8-ball or straight in the evenings.

Thanks again, fellas. Hope I see you soon to let you know exactly how grateful I am.

Shelia Spencer

Notes

PLANNING COMMITTEE We Exist For Your Benefit

You ought to know more about us:

WHO ARE WE?

We are the Planning Committee, a subcommittee of Student Senate. We are a seven member board consisting of elected and Senate-appointed Bard students.

WHAT DO WE DO?

We are the budgetary arm of the Senate whose function is to allocate student convocation fees for authorized purposes, which totals on the average to \$22,000 per semester. In addition, we keep close check on how the monies are used once allocated; and we aid clubs in organizing events.

WHEN and WHERE do we MEET?

Our committee has its initial meeting the first week of every semester, when the initial allocations are made to those clubs that have submitted a request for funds. Thereafter, open meetings are held once a week (time and place to be posted on Senate Bulletin Board), to review the various clubs' activities, and to deal with new problems.

HOW DO YOU BENEFIT?

Now that you know the WHO, WHAT, WHERE, and WHEN — You benefit most if you participate in and take advantage of the activities at Bard that we sponsor. You are invited to attend the open meetings, and your suggestions would be greatly appreciated and welcomed.

IT'S YOUR MONEY — YOU OUGHT TO KNOW HOW IT'S SPENT!

David Segarnick
Chairperson
Planning Committee

FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS

Next year's financial aid forms are now available at the Admissions/Financial Aid Center-Blithewood Gatehouse. All interested students should pick up copies promptly and complete them.

CORRECTION

It was reported in the last issue that Stuart Low would be working for the **OBSERVER**. He will not be. Stuart felt that being on the Editorial Board would represent a conflict of interest with his job on the Student Senate.

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observer

S. C. A. R. E.

Illegitimi non carborundum.

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DR. BISH questions & answers

All letters welcome; a newspaper, public television, all media belong to you. Briefly stated questions, or answers, to OBSERVER, P.O. Box 85. If not published try again.

Dear Dr. Bish,

Is surviving in the world a "violent" action? It seems to me that the blade of grass pushing its way through cement is violently struggling to survive and to be known. I read part of a poem once that said, "everything begs to be known." I myself want to know my world and want the world to know me. Sometimes I feel I must be violent for the knowing to take place; my violence I think is the theatre I do. What do you think the correlation between assaulting someone on the street and the blade of grass coming through the cement? Everything wants to live doesn't it?

It seems to me that a lot of violence takes place in the family. Many families are like Punch and Judy shows. How can members amongst a family live in harmony but avoid dullness and suppression of feelings? I'm asking this because it seems that the family is the basis of our society and that if families remain violent so will the world.

I realize that I am speaking of violence on different levels but something has to be done to stop nuclear warfare so that we can survive in loving violence.

Peace,
The Green Mambat

Dear Reader,

Thank you for a thoughtful letter. Dr. Bish sends it on to the OBSERVER without particular comment for the time-being. Perhaps other readers would like to contribute their thoughts on the subject.

Dear Doctor,

Please send me a question for this answer.

Too much salt; also, irregular hours. Actually, its the low calibre of the men, but since there's not much I can do about it I didn't think I'd mention it.

Dear Ms D.,

Question; What's wrong with me?



Dear Doctor B.,
I hope you can help. I can't believe M_____ any longer, he's promised and broken his promises. What can I do?
Love Lost

Dear L.L.,

By way of reply, I submit the following:

"One wishes to be believed. Each should be believed. It is in this romance, this shelter built of expectation- our delusion of substantiality—this stuff to which we fasten our very souls—It is within this giant unreality in which we have 'beliefs' that we judge others, according to their apparent consistencies which we choose to view as criteria of truth—our way, in fact, of deciding the fate, allowing the life or death of others; usually those to whom through our own 'needs' we have attached certain attributes which once seemed real but now elude us and leave us feeling . . . let down.

If we just locate that which is truly constant—behind time ('stopping the world')—we fall into easy contentment; all projected hopes and the pain of unfulfillment vanish.

Otherwise we cling to a chosen (beloved) and suffer as we must continuous alterations within that fabric which we take for reality." . . . from the writings on romance, of the Egyptian scribe, Tatmas el Taltac, 4th dynasty.

Dear Dr. Bish and students,
Thank you very much for the help some of you have offered over field period and promised through spring. Its been a tough year and the weekly hay loads you have made up to my place for the cows have helped us more than I can say.

Sincerely,
Marvin Menscott
Tivoli

TODAY'S BISHERY

As all Bardonia knows, animals are serious business. Mr. D.L. Overton has prepared a pamphlet entitled, Your Pet and You, which is recommended particularly to owners of exotic pets such as the rare Boston Racer pictured below. (Mr. Overton says his pet has a tendency to hide in cellars and becomes quite vocal at night). For further information about this new pet pamphlet, write to us at Box 221 Campus mail.

NEXT WEEK

Or sometime soon, we will review the works of poet, Paul Tulley

Sorters of sorts—
for socks
fingers
toothbrushes
songs or
what have you

Paul Tulley



BOSTON RACER, PHOTO SUBMITTED BY OWNER, D.L. (DANCER) OVERTON, PUXTAWNEY, PA.

Tales of Courage



EDWIN: An Excerpt From "An Exercise For Its Own Sake"

"Has there ever been a close study of the behavior of enraged pigeons?"

"Only at Berkeley, in 1965. Howards and Howards recorded over seventeen hundred reactions, with —

"Yes, but were any of their findings conclusive?"

Edwin was caught. He scanned his carefully organized memory, but came away empty-minded.

"Well, Edwin?"

"No, sir. Roberts and Dinkly, however, deduced the punishment and pleasure tolerances in chickens to three significant figures — Iowa State, 1959."

"Chickens are *hardly* pigeons, Edwin."

"Very true," Edwin agreed.

What else could he say?

"Come now. *THINK!* Think pigeons!"

"B.F. Skinner, during the war accumulated data on —

"Skinner *never* enraged his pigeons! Think harder!"

Edwin was thinking. He was thinking of the night before. Cathy had dropped by for a drink, but it never ended there. Then there was the night before that, when he'd shown her his tattoo.

His thoughts drifted aimlessly across the unending series of hot nights in his basement, with his goat ("Boss" Tweed) and his cabbage (Skeets). The late brunches. All those uncomfortable moments at the restaurant where Cathy worked, watching all those burly truck drivers molest and abuse her jiggling form as it tap-danced tirelessly in the Men's Room. His parents' touching concern. Questioning glances from his friends. Insulting the receptionist at the out-patient clinic where he worked. Hagglng with the salesman at the Custom Leather Boutique. Preparing *all those years* to get declared 4-F, only to have the draft end the week he turned eighteen.

All of these things did Edwin think, and still no enraged pigeons.

"I'm sorry, sir," Edwin left his conference wondering if he'd ever get his Masters. Wondering if he'd feel any sense of accomplishment when and if he did. Wondering if anyone else would give a damn either way. Wondering if Cathy had remembered to sprinkle the cabbage today, and if "Boss" Tweed was still angry with her about the shoe-horn (another case of literal-mindedness in a figurative world).

Edwin got in his car and absent-mindedly pulled away — wondering what he'd do for dinner, and hardly noticing that the hood of his car had

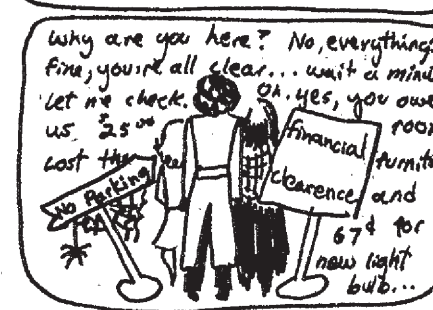
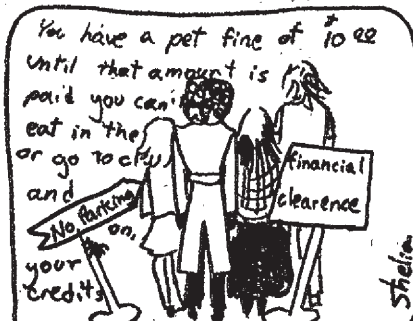
shot sixty feet in the air. And that the remains of his engine were spouting torrents of smoke, encircling the car in a noxious cloud as it ground to a halt. Edwin casually swiveled and rolled down his window. He peered through the dense haze, but the train was hardly discernible as it thundered down the tracks in his direction. Edwin had all of about fifteen seconds to abandon his car on the crossing and run to safety, but he sat motionless, his eyes fixed on two squawking pigeons he had interrupted with his calamitous approach.

Enraged was not the word.

Andy Abbatepaolo



On the cover: Bard's very special Tom Talpey. Remembered fondly.



Nuclear Power

Continued from Page 1

of Concerned Scientists' Henry Kendall, also at MIT) dismiss as grossly inadequate and inaccurate. Meters can fail and minor accidents occur with no serious consequences, not unanticipated events can also occur in this still new field. Nuclear reactors *cannot* blow-up like bombs — that is an unfortunate historical correlation — but they *are* elaborate systems whose normal operations entail dangerous possibilities. Nuclear power plants are not particularly enticing targets for sabotage: much more dramatic damage could be realized by much simpler means.

The real danger is not from earthquakes, bombs, or plane crashes, but in the nature of the process itself. Radioactive decay generates heat which is converted as in an oil-fired plant into electrical energy. Reactors are theoretically stable against "running away," but should a loss of coolant accident (LOCA) occur, the typical boiling water reactor would be doomed to melt down in a matter of minutes if the emergency core cooling system (ECCS) failed. Since appropriate full-scale tests of these systems are out of the question, small-scale, partial tests and observations are parlayed into predictions of system efficacies and long term accident probabilities — and again, different groups come to very different conclusions. Should meltdown occur, radioactive materials might sink into the earth, contaminating it irrevocably over a large area, while radioactive gases might be dispersed and under unfortunate weather conditions, sicken or kill many, but proponents argue that this eventuality is so remote that in the long run, all things considered, nuclear plants are safer than alternative energy sources.

4) Only a fraction of a percent of naturally occurring uranium is the fissionable kind, U-235, but in reactors the normally stable U-238 becomes fissionable Pu-239. Since reserves of U-235 are limited, an ongoing nuclear reactor program would require development of special "breeder" reactors, designed to produce or "breed" large quantities of this plutonium for fuel (the breeder uses U-235 to convert U-238 into more Pu-239 than the U-235 it begins with). It is, however, much easier to make a plutonium bomb than a uranium one, and nuclear proponents argue that since the technology is now dispersed worldwide, aborting our program in fear of this potential would be closing the "barn door" too late: we would do better to maintain our involvement in the hope of maintaining influence on international regulation.

5) There is an unavoidable increase in personal exposure to radiation from the operation of nuclear power plants. Everything exposed to the reactor flux may be transmuted so that the entire facility "warms-up" and leaks traces of soluble and volatile fission products and transmuted materials into the external cooling

water and into the air. Operation of the plant and reprocessing of the spent fuel cannot avoid this, but the level of leakage is ordinarily negligible compared to alternative sources of radiation — naturally occurring radioactive isotopes in the earth, in building materials, in the body, medical X-rays, and increased exposure to cosmic rays in airplanes! Some proponents even argue that consumption of U-235 in nuclear power plants actually cleans the earth of harmful radioactivity.

6) Ongoing operation of nuclear power plants involves regular shipment of spent but radioactive materials to reprocessing and eventual burial. The spent fuel rods are customarily stored on site for several months while short-lived radioactivity dies away, so the fuel has cooled considerably by the time it is shipped. There is no theoretical impediment to building containers able to withstand possible road accidents, and the form of the spent rods or the glassified residue also renders the material unlikely to disperse. The greater danger would appear to lie in the potential traffic accidents, but since nuclear fuel is very compact compared to, say, coal, on this score nuclear power represents a net improvement in safety.

Proponents of nuclear power maintain that if we are to maintain or even increase the energy capacity of the United States, nuclear fission turns out to be the safest source. Bernard Ghen, former chairman of the American Physical Society Division of Nuclear Physics calculates that, at worst, "the risk of nuclear power is equivalent to the risks of smoking 3 cigarettes per year, spending 20 days of one's life in a city, riding in automobiles an extra hundred miles per year, or being 1.6 pounds overweight." On the other hand, alternative energy sources cause much more "air pollution, . . . property damage, and death." Even the worst possible accident would create, not Armageddon, but about 0.5% increased chance of getting cancer, and as for the risks borne primarily by those who live near the plants, "if moving away from a nuclear power plant increases commuting distance by more than . . . half a block, it is safer to live next door to the power plant." "Even with the critics' estimates, living next to a nuclear power plant reduces life expectancy by only 0.03 years, which makes it 150 times safer than living in a city."

Opponents charge that these numbers are grossly wrong, but it is fiendishly hard to tell. The problem is complicated by the extent to which emotion clouds reason. Many urge conservation as the only good response, but even conservation has its social costs. The one clear imperative is to keep studying, as the clock ticks on.

Green Revolution

Continued from Page 2

As with all revolutions, this one has its reactionary factions. The present American mode of incessant consumption (the proclaimed American Way) has drenched a small number of people in wealth and power. Most are unwilling to see the faucet turned off. Education of this class of people is practically impossible. They are themselves consumed by greed; their thoughts and actions are guided by a profound egoism. As with all revolutions, this one has its potential for violence. But this possibility certainly need not occur. Money can, and does, talk for the Revolution also. In January of this year, the Environmental Protection Agency sponsored a meeting of industry men whose businesses have monetarily benefitted from judicious implementation of environmental controls. The importance of interaction such as this is scored by the fact that this meeting was chaired by the head of the EPA. Change can occur within the capitalist framework. Rich Florida real estate developers, foiled in their attempts to build on filled-in Everglades marsh, have also the red tides (a symbolic omen?) to contend with. Potential vacationers and buyers can only be white-washed for so long.

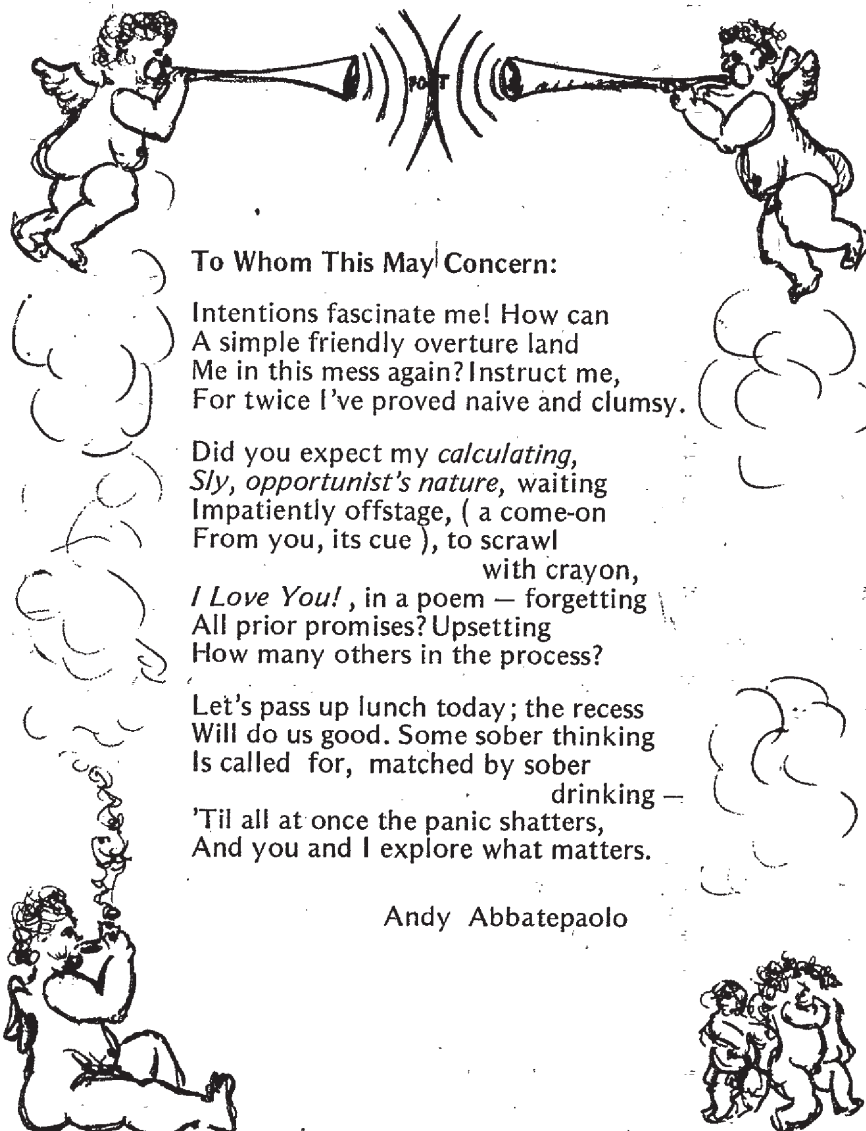
All of us right now must make important decisions. The need for change in attitude and action is imperative. The opportunities for contributing to the revolution are numerous. For example, every daily item, from paper bags to automobiles, must be treated as a piece of precious material and energy. I earnestly believe that in ten to fifteen years, perhaps sooner, such action will no longer be voluntary in this country (just as it is not voluntary in most parts of the world today).

I have been following the environmental and spiritual progressions of this country for some time. My attitude has changed from pessimism to cynicism to my present buoyant exhilaration. I feel compelled to provide a forum

for the momentous issues that we presently face. These issues are so urgent and revolutionary that they transcend the professor-student traditions of this college. I hope to make this a regular column for addressing the environmental, philosophical, and economic bases of the revolution. This article is to be viewed as an introduction; the issues are deep and far-reaching. I welcome all comments, questions, criticism, and discussion. Please communicate these to me in vivo, or through Campus Mail.

TODAY'S HELPFUL HINT:

There are a number of publications that present well written and informative articles and news briefs pertaining to present and future approaches to our environment. Two of the best are Audubon and the New York State Conservationist. The color-page "Audubon Cause" section of the former (that now makes up about one third of the magazine) is a gold mine of environmental information. An annual student membership costs about ten dollars (the photography alone would make it worthwhile). The Conservationist is put out by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation, and it is comforting to see such a conscientious project published by a government agency. It also represents a radical change in dictatorial policy. The Conservationist, up until a few years ago catered only to sportsmen; the letters to the editor still occasionally contain angry letters from hunters condemning its present firm ecological stance. Six dollars brings you two years of this nifty periodical (\$3.50 per year). DEC also puts out a monthly newsletter, NYS Environment (one dollar for one year) detailing pertinent environmental news state-and countrywide. The Bard library carries both of these publications.



To Whom This May Concern:

Intentions fascinate me! How can
A simple friendly overture land
Me in this mess again? Instruct me,
For twice I've proved naive and clumsy.

Did you expect my *calculating*,
Sly, opportunist's nature, waiting
Impatiently offstage, (a come-on
From you, its cue), to scrawl
with crayon,
I Love You!, in a poem — forgetting
All prior promises? Upsetting
How many others in the process?

Let's pass up lunch today; the recess
Will do us good. Some sober thinking
Is called for, matched by sober
drinking —
'Til all at once the panic shatters,
And you and I explore what matters.

Andy Abbatepaolo

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Sports

By Mark Callahan

The Bard Basketball team showed its stuff Wednesday, Feb. 17 with a tight 67 - 33 victory against Columbia Greene. As Columbia Greene is ranked number one in the league (the NAC), this was a big win for Bard, and proved that our squad can do it all. The win over Columbia Greene, as well as an earlier 69 - 66 win over Albany Pharmacy, makes Bard an extremely strong contender for the League Championship, at the tournament held at Columbia Greene's field house on March 4th and 5th.

We are currently number two in the league, with an 8 - 3 record. If the Bard squad gets enough support at the Columbia Greene tournament, we should be able to clinch the first league championship for Bard in recent memory.

So be sure to drive up Friday, March 4th and Saturday, March 5th to the Columbia Greene Community College campus for the big games! Directions available from Dick Starkie at Security, or Charlie Patrick in his office at the gym.

Tuition Hike

Continued from Page 1

It's important to understand the significance of these developments. Institutions sink or swim depending not so much on how much money they have, but rather on how it is managed. President Botstein is committed to maintaining a balanced budget. Eighty-five percent of the college's expenses are paid for using student tuition and fees. In order to maintain a balanced budget, the Board of Trustees voted unanimously to increase the tuition.

One concern is that Bard, by raising its tuition, would price itself out of competition and would not be able to attract students. The colleges that Bard is most often compared with are also raising their tuition costs. Sarah Lawrence tops the list with a \$7,000 tuition for 1977-'78. Bennington's will be \$6,880; Hampshire College, \$6,350; the Ivy-League Colleges are all up around \$7,000. Both David Wagner

Senate

Continued from Page 2

Mark and Larry summed up this apparently tender topic warily. "There is a lack of unity and coordination between Ludlow and B&G." Communication exists between residents and the Dean of Students Office, as well as directly with the Building and Grounds Department. Unfortunately, the same cannot be said for discussion between the two branches themselves. And along the way, *whose* showers, *whose* unpainted rooms, and *whose* inconveniences in general are we talking about?

If that's not enough, both Mark and Larry agree that the individual deans do not have enough power to make decisions or influence policy.

In light of this communication breakdown, what tactics might increase our bargaining power with this sometimes-fractured administration? For example, would incorporation of the Student Association increase our leverage?

In some ways, yes. It would increase our domicile rights, for one thing. That would hopefully manifest itself in the controversy over pets, showers, etc., with our *landlord*, so

Overall, it's been a good season for Bard. Veterans Cliff Forrest, Aladio Abrieu, Waverly Robinson, Rolando Irizzary, and Bill Moss have led the scoring and rebounding this year, with Rich Starkie, jr., leading a fine freshman crop of talented rookies. As coach Stuart Levine, normally a mild-mannered Psych-Prof, says:

"We've had some excellent games, and fine team efforts.... In the Columbia Greene game, Cliff Forrest, with 23 points and 25 rebounds, did an excellent job on the backboards. Roland Irizzary also deserves special mention for sparking Bard in a flat period. It was a fine team effort! We're going to the play-offs on March 4th and we hope to do well."

So remember, be sure to make the scene at Columbia Greene — March 4th, Time To Be Announced.

Top Five Bard Scorers total avg
Cliff Forrest — 300 pts. (18.4)
Aladio Abrieu — 255 pts. (16.2)
Waverly Robinson — 201 pts. (12.3)
Richard Starkie, jr. — 140 pts. (10.7)
Rolando Irizzary — 123 pts. (8.2)

and President Botstein felt that a student considering any of these colleges within the \$6,000 range would not likely base his decision on a \$200 difference in tuition between colleges. President Botstein stated in the faculty meeting that what would attract students to Bard might be the fact that Bard would have something original to offer, and he said he was not too sure that it did at the moment. The administration stresses the fact that services would have to be cut back in preference to lower tuition. The present increase should supposedly allow not only for the maintenance of the now existing services (i.e. the Bard Choir, the visiting professors, the present psychiatric service), but should also provide for the on-going need for new services that will arise.

Several questions do need to be asked and clarified. Why is it that Bard has such a small endow-

to speak.

Are there any areas where communication between Senate and the Administration is congenial and/or sympathetic?

Larry responded thoughtfully. "Yes. In the hiring of minority faculty." In talks with President Botstein, he has expressed interest and concern, and has stated that if, and whenever, a duly qualified black or Puerto Rican applies for a position, positive consideration will be given.

In a meeting with Larry Curtis, bringing more L.A.O. and B.B.S.O. participation into Senate activities was discussed. However, apathy in the student body, minority students included, is the major stumbling block in any of these ventures.

What are your feelings in regard to apathy?

"There is no apathy on Student Senate," Larry stated.

Senate arranges elections and referendums, but the response is very often discouragingly poor. Attempts to directly involve students in the formation of policy prove to be disappointing and frustrating. Accurate representation of student opinion, in Senate, is therefore questionable.

Bard

BARD FASTS FOR CHILD

By Lisa Preschel

On December 16, 1976 over two hundred Bard students fasted in order to sponsor a child in the inner city. Through the cooperation of S.A.G.A. Foods and the manager, Jim Gavin, arrangements were made to donate 80% of the food costs to Save the Children Federation.

The drive for signatures was a vast success and, with the efforts of the organizers, the day of the fast went smoothly. A light meal of tea and brown rice was served in Blithewood that evening.

A check was sent to S.C.F. for \$249.92. In addition, donations totaling thirteen dollars were collected and sent on.

S.C.F. is a non-profit organization that channels money into depressed areas in the United States and abroad, through an individual sponsorship program. The money donated is multiplied

in the community by self-help. People in the community volunteer their labor to build badly needed schools, clinics, and day care centers (in the Inner Cities Program), and to increase agricultural production throughout the world. By enriching a child's environment all children gain a better chance of surviving and improving their lives.

Many students wanted to make fasting a more regular event. Possibly another child could be sponsored in this way or the funds could be used for another project. Those interested in fasting a second time should contact Wendy U. Jackson.

A profile of the child who we have sponsored should arrive soon. Letters are encouraged although often the child does not write back. There is also the possibility of visiting the child in New York City. Further information about S.C.F. can be obtained from Lisa Preschel. Thank you one and all.

ment? The Board of Trustees during the 1974-'75 school year only collected \$45,000 between them. Last year the Board set a goal of \$150,000 and met it. This is still a mere pittance. The school has only a handful of wealthy benefactors, and our alumnae have never, on the whole, contributed very much. What can be done to raise the endowment to a reasonable level?

The administration is stressing how many services it has brought to the students, but at the same time, the departments are complaining of drastic budget cuts. When David Wagner was asked about this, he agreed that the emphasis has been put on providing needed services for the students. Does this mean that there is an erosion of basic educational materials?

Is Senate to blame for this?

"Partly, yes," admitted Larry, "but the blame is shared by the general student body as well. There are frequent elections and referendums that students simply do not participate in wholeheartedly."

Do you have any final statements?

Mark and Larry expressed optimistic feelings concerning Senate activities, and they hoped that all the goals discussed will be realized to the satisfaction of Senate as well as the student body.

Note: the text of this article represents the interpreted and related remarks made by Mark and Larry at the time of the "interview," and contains quotations only when so indicated. Pertinent information not discussed during the interview, but that we felt was necessary to elicit understanding of the various topics, was added as seemed called for.

Ultimately, the survival of the institution depends upon attracting highly qualified students to fill its enrollment. What are the philosophical and pedagogical arguments that need to be resolved in order to attract students who are not only intelligent, but original and creative too?

Shouldn't students have input on what priorities they believe are most important? Are students really getting their money's worth out of Bard? \$6,514 is a great deal of money to spend. What is a Bard degree really worth?

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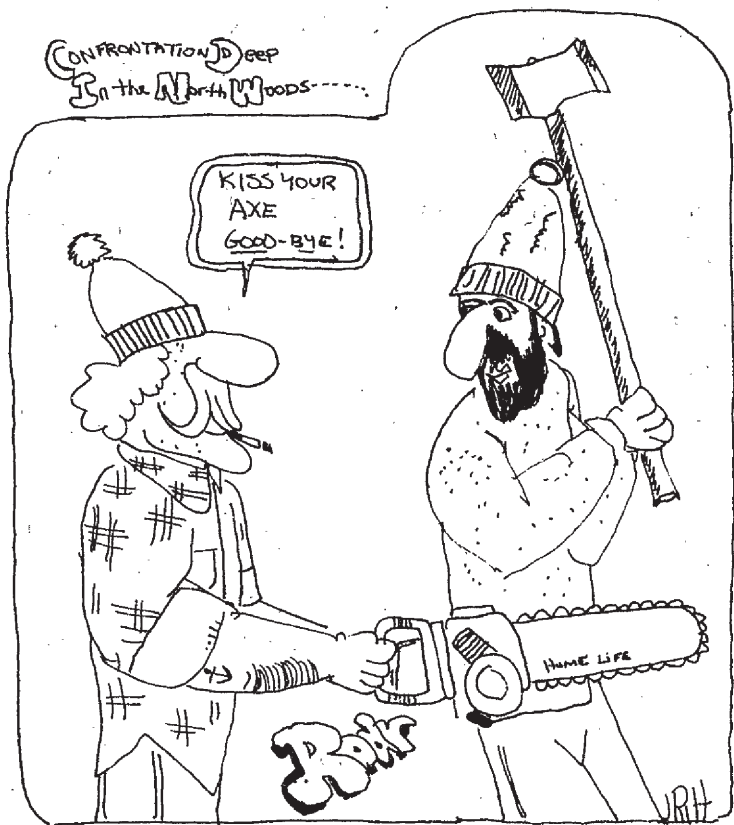
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