

OBSERVER

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observer

Volume 17 Number 2 March 9, 1977

*Sculpture
Associates*



Thoughts on Adversary Press

by Kim C. Graves

Within the words "adversary press" lie a paradox. A paradox that stands before every reporter, editor, and citizen of a republic whenever they are exposed to the press.

The press has three responsibilities: one is to be objective; the others are to be free and adversary. But this is impossible. Any reporter cannot possibly report the whole truth. The reporter does not make the news. He does not take part in the decision making, does not struggle with the ethical responsibilities. He only reports what he sees. He only asks the questions that are at the level of his understanding. He does not know truth a priori, and therefore must deduce his truth analytically.

Most importantly, though, is that he receives his information from those he is reporting on. He depends upon it. He cannot function without reporting the information given to him by whatever institution he is exploring. People do not tell the whole truth. They give the reporter information for a reason. Those reasons vary, but they are always present and must be remembered when trying to report a perspective on a issue.

So the reporter cannot know the whole truth. Yet he can not report on what he does not know. If he does, he is irresponsible. So much for an objective press.

If the reporter does not

synthesize what he does not know but only prints the information given to him by those he reports on, he may as well be putting out a newsletter for that institution. He ends up acting as a voice for the institution, or government, which is essentially "government censored and approved." He is no longer free and adversary.

The founding fathers must not have imagined the paradox within their "constitutional free press." Thomas Jefferson once said, "Were it left to me to decide whether we should have a government without newspapers or newspapers without government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the later." But you can not have a newspaper without a government to report on. A paradox!

All of this is only to say that the press needs the government or the institution to report on. Within the objectives of the press is a direct contradiction. There is no such thing as a press that is objective and, at the same time, free and adversary.

This reality has been directly modeled in recent past events with the **OBSERVER**. A reporter for us had written a rather lengthy article regarding possible improprieties with the Planning Committee and a lax Student Senate who was not overseeing its budgetary arm. At the time of the writing of the

article the reporter used facts that he had. He reported upon what he knew, not what he did not, and then drew his conclusions from that. He believed at that time, and I do now; that the Planning Committee directly and purposefully influenced the policy of the Student Senate by not telling the senators all of their options, and using statistics to their own advantage. The Planning Committee and Senate heard of the article before it went to print and came down to read it. Both strongly objected to what the reporter had said and pointed to other facts that countered the argument presented. Given the new information the reporter felt that he could not allow his analysis to be printed. The objective press stands. But the free and adversary press steps back.

Mark Callahan, Senate co-president also strongly objected to my editorial, "Senate", saying that it was inaccurate. I decided to run it, accurate or not, with the paradox I have outlined in mind. I believe it to be accurate to the best of my ability at this point and must stand by it and take whatever repercussions it presents in the future.

On the **OBSERVER** wall are two quotes to remind myself of my job. One by John Mitchell, former Attorney General, to Carl Bernstein of the Washington Post;

"You print that and Katie Graham will have her tit in a ringer."

(Katherine Graham is the publisher of the Washington Post.) The other is an anonymous quote;

"Master the Obvious before Printing the Subtle."

Paradoxes and fears of a "government censored and approved" newspaper sit in the editor's chair. I cannot say whether we have done what is right or just or ethical; or whether we are government censored and approved. I do not know.

I do know that the **OBSERVER** must not be. There is a balance to be drawn between being objective and being free and adversary. That is necessarily a challenge for the editor. The editor has the responsibility of not leaning toward either extreme. If the **OBSERVER** is to maintain its integrity it cannot service any one fraction of the community: administration, faculty, Senate, or students. It must stand outside and attempt to seek out and report the truth. That impossible task of playing referee is what makes working for the **OBSERVER** infinitely challenging and rewarding. The **OBSERVER** shall continue to provide the best possible press retaining these high ideals.

by Peter J. Pratt

There is a small elite group of men who have a plan to control the globe. Initially organized by a wealthy international banker, the members of this group now have assumed policy-making roles in the political, financial, military, industrial, and intelligence sectors of some of the most powerful countries on earth. One member of this elite has recently become the sovereign head of state of the world's most potent nation. In this position of power he has surrounded himself with a coterie of subordinates selected from the same exclusive sect. This individual has masked the true nature of the brotherhood's plan for control behind self-serving rhetoric stressing the humane element in international affairs.

The scenario has not been culled from "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion" nor from the works of the late J. Edgar Hoover. Instead it is a rather paranoid analysis of an organization called the Trilateral Commission and its role in the developing foreign policy of the Carter administration. Indeed, mere reading of some of the Commission's membership-- President Carter; Vice President Mondale; National Security Advisor Brzezinski; Secretary of State Vance; former Vice President Rockefeller; Secretary of the Treasury Blumenthal; Secretary of Defense Brown; former Secretary of State Kissinger; Director of Central Intelligence Turner; Coca-Cola Chairman J. Paul Austin; Chase Manhattan Chairman David Rockefeller; Editor-in-Chief of Time, Inc.

Hedley Donovan-- is apt to give rise to paranoid visions. An examination of the Trilateral Commission may perhaps ameliorate our paranoia. Here it is necessary to divorce the general foreign policy theory known as trilateralism from the individuals involved with the Commission itself.

"Trilateralism" entered the phraseology of international relations during the early seventies, a period during which American policy-planners began to look for 'the meaning' behind ominous events of the recent past: The "pitiful helpless giant" (Nixon's term) had met defeat in Indochina. Neither counter-insurgency nor the most technology-laden was machine in the history of man could "disprove the idea of wars of national liberation" (Kennedy's term). The concurrent ideologies of Marxist-Leninism and national self-determination had proven themselves effective forces to be dealt with on their own terms. The American solution to a resurgence of liberation struggles in the third world-- the support of strongmen and elites sympathetic to U.S. interests through the efforts of the intelligence/defense community--became increasingly unpalatable to the democratic tastes of Americans. This

was particularly the case as Americans began to discern that the intelligence/defense community had as little respect for the domestic rights of Americans as it had for the real interests of foreign nationals. Still, the demands of the third world resource-supply nations could no longer be ignored after the Arab oil boycott revealed the power of third world amalgams such as OPEC. The American response to the changing face of international economics brought on by the parity demands of the resource suppliers in a post-Keynesian world was to reintroduce the economics of Versailles. The Nixon-Connelly policy of economic unilateralism sent shock waves through the economies of Japan and the European Economic Community. Perceived as hopeful were dissident voices within the Soviet Union, the stirrings of workers in Poland, and new calls for closer ties with the West in Czechoslovakia, Romania, and Yugoslavia (In part exacerbated by the "Ospolitik" of former West German Chancellor Willy Brandt.) These stirrings revealed that the Russian monolith contained important and potentially explosive centrifugal pressures.

Theories of international relations, like international treaties,

respond to shifting power alignments rather than direct such alignments themselves. The theory of trilateralism then is a coherent plan of action which recognizes, and thereby attempts to deal with, the shifting fortunes of "Western" power in the final quarter of the twentieth century. As I see it, there are three (appropriately enough) cardinal points of trilateralism:

1) Recognition of the common economic interests of the industrial giants of the first world--United States, Canada, Japan, France, West Germany, United Kingdom, Benlux, Scandinavia. To greater (U.K.) or lesser (U.S.) degrees, all these nations are experiencing the enigmas of post-industrial economies such as stagflation (high unemployment with high inflation) and the international problem of decreasing returns on capital investment. The failure of the 'beggar-thy-neighbor' economics of the late Nixon years reinforces the fact that such mutual problems must be solved on a mutual basis. Such mutuality of interest recognizes a more overt threat to the stability of the first world's economy:

2) The growing political-economic power of the rapidly developing resource-supplier nations of the third world must be met by multilateral counter blocs of the industrialized commodity-producing nations of the first world.

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Page 1

Green Revolution

Undaunted by several typographical errors in the last issue's article, and having received his pre-established quota of one (1) favorable response, P. Gremaud continues his column on the Green Revolution.

It has become clear to many of us in this country that many of our tools, customs, and habits have become obsolete. A way of life based on incessant consumption is not compatible with living on an increasingly crowded planet with marvelous but finite resources. Fundamental change has to occur. The aims of the civil rights movement and the women's movement can be, and have been, undermined by those in power. The essentially exploitative fabric of American society has not been altered by either of these two movements. This inefficacy does not apply to the environmental revolution because, in the words of Erik Kiviat's bumper sticker, "Nature bats last." I'd say we were in the seventh inning stretch right now.

More and more people are discovering the American way of doing things to be either financially, emotionally, or spiritually untenable. The picture of the business executive sealed into his air-conditioned automotive love-object has become a joke where not long ago it was a symbol for success. Some people are beginning to feel guilty about throwing out plastic wrappers minutes after supermarket shopping. Occasional shortages in food or fuel are teaching many people, for the first time in their lives, that resources are not unlimited and that it is not their inalienable right to get whatever they want or ask for in this world. Eventually it will be the cool reality of shortages and non-abstract moralizing that will teach us that money is not everything. No amount of money will buy fuel when the supply is spent, and no amount of money will buy fish if it has all been poisoned.

It is not just an empty platitude to say that Technology has completely replaced culture for most Americans. It dictates what we eat, when we eat, and how we travel; it gives us the synthetic materials for our clothes, our houses and furnishings, and our everyday tools. Technology has suffused music and all but taken over what serves as visual art for the vast majority of people in this country. The most important manifestation of our technology-as-culture is that Science has supplanted Nature and God. Not only can Science completely control Nature, the thinking goes, it must control Nature. And if we are in a mess now, then Science (particularly the god of Medicine) will rescue us. I have no doubt that this is the way the vast majority of people have been thinking. During the cold spells of this frigid winter, I have been greatly amused at people's shock that Science could not somehow control this deadly weather. The disappointment at the impotency of the weatherman (no medicine man, he) was only partly allayed by the Scientific charts, tables, and explanations profusely proffered in Time-News-week and all the newspapers.

What is there to fill the cultural void left when a person, or a nation, rejects technology? What happens when I see that my way of thinking about something or doing something has been wrong? In the capitalist framework, the changes are more apt to be wrought financially. What happens when my way of doing (e.g. driving an empty car, eating a meat-based diet) becomes too expensive to continue?

Eating and traveling are parts of culture. The word "culture" had been an empty left-over from high school to me before I took Stanley Diamond's "Culture and Personality" course last semester. Human biology dictates that man must eat, sleep, etc., but it is human culture that tells man how to do these things. Man without culture is like a rat fearfully huddled on the laboratory tabletop. He is bedazzled by his surroundings. Biological man performs necessary functions; cultural man lives life. Culture is human natural history, its autecology. Stanley Diamond's course helped me see what a crucial part culture will play in the coming necessary changes in American life.

The present situation in America of people abandoning the culture, or culture-substitute, that has sustained them is a cultural oddity. It would not at all surprise me to learn that it is indeed unique. If I find myself in Kiana, Alaska (latitude 67° N), I am going to be like the laboratory rat. I have no cultural knowledge to help me survive in this cold. There are two things I can do. I can see how the aboriginal Alaskans eat, sleep, and clothe themselves in this environment. They have lived here, evolved here; their methods are proven. Alternatively I can see what answers science can give me. The U.S. Army has, through extensive scientific testing, developed survival skills for the cold. They also have evolved clothes, food, and shelter. The two approaches are culture and science; in the twentieth century they have been more or less sharing information on living methods. The situation in Kiana is analogous to that of the American who has newly abjured technology. His solution seems to involve the acceptance of large chunks of foreign cultures with a sprinkling of science thrown in.

America is an historically unique blending of cultures. It is potentially the best possible place in which to acquire new ways of living. But traditional ways are quickly abandoned here. Immigrants have to fight to control the loss of traditional methods and values. First generation Americans (like myself) are lucky if they can retain some of their parental culture. Second generation Americans are usually completely American. But it is not through the direct path of immigration that other cultures are being incorporated by a growing number of people today. Foreign ways are instead read about or seen practiced; they are seen to be superior in some respect (financially, ecologically, spiritually), and are adopted. Oddly enough, science often adds impetus to such adoptions through its confirmation of the new way's superiority. Science still holds some credibility.

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Bard

OFFICE DEVELOPMENTS

by Kim C. Graves

During the past year the Office of Program Development has been strongly urging, if not pushing, the Science Division to apply for grants. Rick Tilden, along with Gene Mason, has had meetings with the Division and said, in effect, that the Division was not being very cooperative in the securing of grants for the Science Division.

In response to this encouragement Professor Karen Kato has come up with a proposal to add a molecular biology class to the Biology Department. She needed a machine to trace molecular pathways in cells. The machine she needed was being offered in a grant by the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Kato spent her field period drawing up the grant proposal, finishing it a month before the deadline.

This grant is a matching funds grant. If Bard was granted the grant, the school would be expected to match whatever monies were awarded by N.S.F.

It was after the proposal was written that the Office of Program Development started to talk about whether or not they could raise restricted funds to meet the match. There had been no discussion previous to the writing of the grant. Rick Tilden said, "There may have been some misunderstanding regarding the whole grant submission process and how one goes about getting matching funds." "Perhaps we should have discussed in advance of the writing of the proposal what a realistic budget should be." Mason and Tilden were concerned. They have been securing unrestricted funds from the alumni to pay off the schools debt and did not feel that they could ask them to pay out monies for an expensive machine.

The Science Division feels that it is the job of the Program Development Office to find existing monies; especially because they so encouraged the Division to apply for grants and Grace Allen told Karen Kato to go ahead and apply for this specific grant that the administration should show their support.

Gene Mason told Dr. Kato that perhaps she should reconsider the submission of the grant. If NSF grants the monies to Bard, and the school is unable to come up with the money, it will hurt Bard's future chances with NSF. Professor Kato has decided not to withdraw her grant. Dr. Kato said that she "will be very disappointed if the Program Development Office does not come up with the money."

ANOTHER DEAD END ?

by Lisa Foley

In anticipation of Saga's contract expiration in June, the Food Committee has been seeking alternatives to the present meal management.

At first, the Culinary Institute of America seemed like a good choice. But the CIA has made it clear that they have no intention of completely replacing SAGA, which hires the Institute's graduates. At best the CIA would provide cooks only, letting SAGA supply food, and literally sweep up behind them. Nor will SAGA agree to any arrangement to dismiss employees (other than cooks), some of whom have been here for 18 years.

In any case, the decision to deal with the CIA is not in our hands. Unfortunately, it seems that all depends on whether or not the CIA and SAGA can reach an agreement.

Remaining alternatives for the Food Committee include finding and engaging in local food service in place of SAGA, or continuing the committee's attempt to upgrade SAGA with suggestions and proposals.

CARTER'S FINANCIAL AID BUDGET PROPOSED

By Siobhan Silag

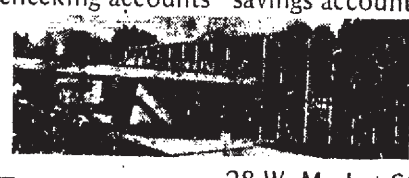
Last week, President Carter released his budget recommendations for the Education Division of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. In the 1978 fiscal year, starting Oct. 1, \$1.9 billion are to be given to the Division. This will provide federal higher-education programs with \$3.29 billion; \$3 billion of which will go toward financial aid. The money is to be divided as follows:

Basic Educational Opportunity Grants: \$2.31 billion
Supplementary Educational Opportunity Grants: \$240 million
Work Study: \$390 million
National Direct Student Loan: \$15 million
Incentive Grants for State Scholarships: \$44 million

The proposed funds for BEOG will raise the maximum from \$1400 to \$1600. Besides this increase, the program is expanding to include 1/2 million students whose family income is in the \$13,000 to \$17,000 income bracket. This expansion, however, will adversely affect students who are receiving Social Security for school. This limitation is devised to make student aid programs "more consistent" in the words of a Carter administration spokesman.

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Exchange of the Centaury

Sept. 9, 1984

There's a reception tonight for the new exchange student from Greece. I probably won't go—there'll be watered down punch and not enough stale brownies to go around.

Sept. 10

Surprise! The new student is a centaur. From his chest down, he's . . . um. . . oh . . . well, a horse. His name is George Aristophanes. George has been assigned a suite in Stone Row, and his roommate is Charlie, a friend of mine.

Sept. 24,

George has apparently adjusted to the difficulties of college life. He has announced his intention to complete the usual four-year course in one semester. His advisor suggests that George first decide on a major.

Sept. 25

George has decided not to become a dance major. Although the professors are quite competent, none of them has ever taught a four-legged student.

Sept. 26

The Dean was overheard saying that George "is just another average Bard student."

Sept. 27

The art department will not let George become an art major. George says it is a case of discrimination. They are prejudiced because he does not have arms.

Sept. 28

At last! George has decided to major in religion.

Oct. 6

Charlie has been fined \$25 for keeping an animal in his room. He tried to explain that the "animal" is a Bard student . . .

Oct. 14

George went down the road last night. In a drinking contest with another student, he drank nine gallons of beer. George lost the contest, but that didn't seem to bother him. On the way back to main campus, he galloped through one of the mods. Luckily, it was vacant at the time. The remains of the building are being sent to Manor—for use as kindling wood.

Oct. 15

The refugees from the destroyed mod have moved in with George and Charlie. They have been dubbed "the Gypsies".

Oct. 20

George and the Gypsies have been partying every night until dawn. No one minds the smell, the noise, or the puddles of wine on the stairs, but there have been a few complaints about the bonfires.

Oct. 23

Charlie has moved in with his girlfriend. He says that it is better to live in sin than in a stable.

Oct. 24

George has been fined \$100 for destroying College property. It seems that he has been grazing on the president's front lawn. George says that it is the only edible food on campus.

Oct. 31

George moderated yesterday. He presented a paper on "The Rites of the Bacchanal". Three major studios are bidding for the film rights.

Nov. 2

George has been asked to join the soccer team. He accepted, but is disappointed that there is no uniform that will fit him. The coach remarked that George is easily recognizable as a Bard student and that he is unlikely to be confused with the opposition.

Nov. 3

George has been asked to leave the team. He has been guilty of unnecessary roughness. He says it was an accident that those five students were trampled to death. The coach suggested that George take up yoga.

Nov. 17

For his film class, George has produced an avant-garde movie. It consists of eight hours of blank film. It is being hailed as a masterpiece. Three showings daily have been scheduled in Sottery.

Dec. 12

George has announced that for his senior project he will perform a miracle. His advisor left two hours later, presumably on sabbatical.

Dec 18

George's senior project was scheduled for this morning. At 11:30 the ivy growing on Hegeman began to sprout bunches of grapes. The science department was upset. At 11:45 the water in all faucets and drinking fountains turned into wine. B&G was upset. At 12:00 certain members of the administration turned into dolphins and had to be placed in the Hudson. The students were not noticeably upset.

Press Release

Jan. 2, 2001

Annandale-on-Hudson, N.Y.

Mr. George Aristophanes, a noted scholar, has been named the president of Bard College. Mr. Aristophanes, himself a Bard graduate, has been quoted as saying that he intends to make substantial changes at his alma mater . . .

Robin Carroll

Hands Across the Sea

The usual reaction to Noel Coward's plays is that they're entertaining, funny, clever, and, well, you know "they're Noel Coward dahling." It's curious that one is never quite sure whether they are mocking the English upper-crust snob mentality, or whether they are, in fact, providing a kind of elite humor for that mentality. Perhaps the problem I have with Coward is that because his theme is so tied up with superficiality, then his process (the characterization, the gags) becomes highly superficial also.

The Coward play that went up Saturday night, Hands Across the Sea, involved an English couple, Lady and Commodore Gilpen, and their circle of gossiping, liquor-lapping friends. (And don't forget the inevitable maid inevitably opening the play with the inevitable feather duster and the inevitable phone call.) As soon as Lady Gilpen walks on stage, it's obvious that she is totally wrapped up in the art of being social. She has forgotten that a certain couple, whom she once stayed with in Malaya, is expected at any minute. In the five minute frenzy of telephone calls it takes to arrange all the proper activities for them (thereby getting them out of her way for the weekend), we realize that the art of being social means little more than a gesture of how things ought to be done. Rather than entertain these people herself, her immediate impulse is to shove them off on someone else.

When the couple arrive, Lady Gilpen's predictions as to how they would mix with her own social circle are obviously correct: they

don't know what to say, their conventional and sober clothing is a ridiculous contrast to the flaming red of Lady G's gown, and, once surrounded by the confusion of the Gilpen's clattering, guzzling friends, the poor couple edge deeper into their seats. Somehow amidst the inanities of social conversation, the sprawling acrobatics of the flamboyant Clare Widderburn, and the incessant telephone calls that after awhile become almost indistinguishable from the disjointed dialogue, Lady Gilpen manages to dredge up their name out of her memory just as they're leaving, but name or no name, those two are just going to drop back out of her memory as quickly.

Coward creates a deluge of carefully timed dialogues throughout the play; a good deal of the comic effect depends on them. I think perhaps the performance I saw of the play was somewhat off in respect to the building up of density and energy in those dialogues. It seemed to happen all at once, and then the "decrecendo" was brought on too quickly also.

A good deal of this play depends on characterization of types, and the actors did a good job at getting that immediate kind of humor across. Unfortunately, however, that kind of character loses its impact after a few minutes into a scene because what you're watching is an actor doing a routine of "shticks" in order to spell out the laughs. Fortunately, the play was short: it didn't go on long enough to get tiresome. But it's that kind of superficiality within the process of the play that makes me question what it's aiming at with its humor.

Foreign Policy

Continued from Page 1

Inherent in trilateralism, however is the concept that members of the advanced nation club must aid the third world in a structured pattern of development rather than block their efforts at advancement. Thus there is a wide gap between what many observers see as the reason detre of trilateralism and its pronouncements of planned third world development. All the facts are not in yet, but the recent move by Saudi Arabia and Iran to moderate the OPEC announcement of a 15% increase in OPEC oil, points to the effectiveness of the counter pressure of the petroleum consuming nations.

3) Cognizance of the continued drift toward dictatorial and totalitarian regimes in the developing states. Economics aside, the nations of the first world are the bastions of western liberalism and representative constitutional government. The doctrine of constitutional liberalism, once itself a revolutionary force in the modern world, can be used as effective rhetoric to challenge the authoritarian political structures of both the developing states and the second world communist countries. The Soviet Union and her eastern European satellites hold the particular atten-

tion of Polish-born National Security Advisor Brzezinski. Since he was Chairman of the Trilateral Commission in 1973, Brzezinski has publically regarded dissidence in Warsaw Bloc as an indication of the internal weakness of the Soviet system. By supporting the force for liberalization within the Soviet state, Carter and Brzezinski hope to mold a communist second world better able to co-exist with the West.

it just might work. So far, Carter's call for the pre-eminence of human rights in the game of nations has met with favorable response from nations as diverse as Chile and Australia. One can hope that the amoral cynicism which marked the thinking of Henry Kissinger is behind us. One can hope that the prerogatives of common interest and structured international trade will replace those of limited national interest and military might.

We must however retain a good deal of skepticism. International relations seldom follow the dictates of theory, no matter how well planned. More important to the conduct of Carter's foreign policy than the intentions of trilateralism are the men whom he has at the center of power.

observer

Did You Know

When Mayor Richard Daley died I was shocked to learn that many students did not know who Mayor Daley was, much less what he stood for.

I am even more concerned that students know little or nothing about Idi Amin or the atrocities going on in Uganda. One man, Idi Amin, has been responsible for the systematic murdering of thousands of persons. Estimates vary from 25,000 all the way to 250,000. It is shocking to know that that many persons can die without any outside verification. Persons are being picked up in the streets and their mutilated bodies found later in rivers, car trunks and beside roads. Earlier last week, President Amin ordered the two hundred Americans that were in Uganda to meet with him. Only through strong State Department pressure, along with the military presence of the U.S. Carrier Enterprise, was a potentially ugly situation averted.

But many students knew little or nothing about what was going on. *People did not know that the United States was on the brink of war!* This is outrageous! If students are to be responsible and educated individuals, they must read the newspapers. We cannot hide in our cubbyhole, called Bard, and pretend that the outside world has

little or no effect on us. It is the outside world that is dictating the raising of our tuition \$550. It is the outside world that will dictate whether the Bard men and possibly women will be going to Africa to fight a war. It is the outside world that will decide whether a SALT II agreement is signed, and therefore where our tax dollars are spent; whether they will be used for the creation of jobs or the building of nuclear weapons. How many of you financial aid students know that President Carter has restricted the NDSL funds? Where are you going to get the money to come to school next year? You should be writing to your Congressman.

There are issues that involve each and everyone of us and will dictate the direction of our lives. We are all adults now and we must know what is happening out in the adult world. You cannot be a responsible participant by just reading the Arts and Leisure section of the paper. At least read the front page and editorial page every day. As Peter Skiff says, reading the paper is "just part of the daily chores."

The Times is available in the bookstore, from Connie in the mailroom on Saturday, and from Guy Yarden in the Dining Commons on Sunday.

Senate

The Student Senate did it this time. On Wednesday, March 2, the Senate passed a motion not to pay the pet fines. Their reasons being that they could not afford it, and that their referendum, that was only meant to be a polling instrument, came up with questionable results.

At no time did the question of ethics and responsibility arise. Larry Soloman, Senate co-president, refused to recognize persons who could have contributed valuable facts to the debate.

The Senate has seemingly forgotten that it has the extremely important function of protecting individual students from a denial of a "concern for the individual," by a pragmatically minded administration. The function of the Senate is not just to provide booze for social gatherings. The function of the Senate is not just to ratify clubs' constitutions and distribute monies.

The students only have the Senate, the OBSERVER, and the Dean of Students to represent their interests. All three have very possibly not done their job. The OBSERVER is committed to this ideal.

We strongly remind the Senate and the Dean of Students that the function of any institution is to act as a tool for the betterment of its members. When the institution becomes an end in itself, and individuals start to serve the institution rather than the institution serving the individuals, that institution become destructive and must be changed.

At Bard it is the function of the OBSERVER to act as watchdog for individuals. It is the function of the Senate and the Dean of Students to represent student interests. Recently we have seen a stirring from Mary Sugatt, but the Senate is still sitting around on its ass.

The Senate is sitting around on its ass partly because Senators are not doing their homework and partly because of a lack of concerned and responsible leadership.

If the leadership does not get off its ass, the OBSERVER will ask for the resignation of the student co-presidents. In the meantime, we strongly suggest that the Senate remember they are the voice of the students and they must be strong and united in that purpose.

Letters

To: President Botstein,

A Reply to Pierre. . .

After reading your letter concerning the need for increased tuition and fees for next year, I was appalled at your glib comparison of the yearly cost of Liberal Arts Education to the average cost of a medium-sized Ford automobile. Off the top of my head, the average price of medium-sized Fords approach \$5500.00. Assuming that the tuition increase averages \$500.00 per year for the next four years, the cost would then approach \$29,120.00 over a four year period without including student transportation, books or incidentals. Clearly this total would provide for several medium-sized Fords or one moderately priced Rolls-Royce.

After serious consideration, I believe you may be disregarding the nuances of your decision. You mention Bard's "superior scholarship program" with understandable pride, yet I believe two consequences will develop if the increase in the rate of tuition continues over an extended period of time. This school could become a concentration of financially elite; composed of students whose families are located in the 70% Tax Bracket and thus able, however unhappily, to educate their progeny in one of the "few institutions." Or Bard will have the distinction of supplying more financial aid on a percentage basis than any other private college in the nation. Both of these alternatives seem equally unappealing. The first because it destroys the myth of equal opportunity for advanced education to all, which has been so carefully cultivated since the New Deal. The second because it would leave the school in a tenuous position financially. Large scale aid programs require a nice, tidy bundle in endowments, something which Bard persistently lacks. In both cases the school might be cutting off its nose to spite its face.

Clearly, something has to give. Preferably, through an extensive campaign to enlarge the endowment, which would stabilize cost increases, Bard could change "something" to someone and preserve its status as "one of the very few."

Mark D. Collier, '78

To the Editor;

Alright! Alright! I have had just about enough of this crap! I mean, it's not like this place is an educational institution or anything, but my christ I can't even get a cup of coffee before ten around here on a weekend let alone get into the Library before noon.

Now I know it's a lot to expect the Library staff to stay up past ten on Saturday night even if they do have a little trouble getting up the next morning, but if we do have a salaried staff supplemented with work study students available to run the essential facilities of this institution then why must we suffer the total inconvenience of not having these facilities at our disposal when we need them?

Perhaps if I showed up at Leon's one morning before 9:00 a.m. for coffee something would get done.

J.C.

I have already thanked you privately and now I wish to thank you publicly for your article, "Green Revolution." I too feel that a revolution is upon us and although at times I am filled with doubts, I am optimistic that environmental attitudes are changing. I have begun to read the newspaper with new attentiveness seeking out news about the environment. There is clearly no shortage of news. It's not just in the New York Times, but in the Hudson Register Star, the Poughkeepsie Journal and even the Red Hook Advertiser. It might make a headline or it may be tucked away in a corner. It can be found in an editorial or in a letter to the editor. Sometimes it's good news, sometimes bad: "Smog Control in California Called Costly for Drivers"; "Shellfish in Polluted Waters Get Tumors"; "Reserve Mining is Backed by Minnesota's Judges on the Dumping of Iron Ore Waste on Land"; "Seabrook Hassle May Portend End of Nuclear Power"; "Bill Would Allow State to Seize Firms that Pollute". Even though some articles tend to discourage, the very fact that the articles are there is a good sign. The environment is making news. Issues are being presented to the public, with the result that many more of us are aware of what's going on.

My optimism is nurtured by our administration. It seems to be moving along in positive directions, environmentally, as President Carter begins to carry through on his campaign promises. To many people, his request that we lower our thermostats seemed little more than a symbolic gesture. I would like to believe that it is more than symbolic - that this gesture is indicative of a new attitude on the part of our government toward the conservation of our remaining resources and the safeguarding of our physical environment. I would like to believe that this administration will seek sensible interim and long range solutions to our problems rather than the shortsighted ones that have characterized the past. But in the end, the positive effect of action by the government can be drastically diluted by a lack of support on behalf of the general public. Change cannot be legislated easily. Laws mean little without the benefit of public acceptance. Who hasn't heard of a company that is willing to pay a nominal fine in order to continue to pollute the air, water or land? An oversimplification, perhaps? I think not. What is needed more than anything is a change in people's attitudes and this is never easy.

Most Americans live very comfortably, often too comfortably. We must remember that one of the major reasons we can live this way is that from the very beginning, we have drawn upon our country's natural resources to provide us first with the necessities of life, and after that, with the many extras that allow us to live so comfortably. Common sense would dictate that to insure an equally comfortable future, we must use our resources wisely and treat our environment accordingly. But clearly, common sense has often been lacking - as our environment disasters, big and small, testify.

The Observer is an independent student publication of the Bard College community. Publication is bi-weekly during the Bard College academic year (vacations observed). Letters to the Editor and all other inquiries should be addressed to Box 85, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, 12504. The contents of the Observer are copyright 1977 by Observer, Inc. unless otherwise stated. The opinions herein expressed are not necessarily those of Bard College of the Editorial Staff.

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Notes

FINANCIAL AID STUDENTS

Due to recent delays in getting information to you, the deadline for submission of applications is being moved to March 25 th.

You will be able to submit an application for aid after the 25th. Such aid will be granted to students on a first-come-first-served basis with no guarantees of full packaging.

To assist you in completing the sometimes complex and seemingly repetitive forms, I will be available Thursdays from 2 p.m. to 4p.m. for the next two weeks (March 10 - 17) in Hegeman 2B. The sessions will cover:

PCS/FAF
BEOG
TAP & other STATE GRANTS
BARD APPLICATION
STATE LOANS

Information packets and application materials for the 1977-78 year are available in the Blithewood Gatehouse. You are encouraged to stop by at your earliest possible convenience between the hours of 9 and 5 week days.

Bob Reese
Financial Aid
Director

MINOR TROUBLE

The manager of the Annandale Hotel has compiled a list of minors at Bard. The **OBSERVER** has seen that list and it is both accurate and complete. Minors are now systematically being identified and removed from Adolph's. The manager told us that the State Police are on his back and that in order to protect his business he will prosecute any student who comes back after being thrown out or who tries to pass bad papers. We suggest strongly that under-age students not "go down the road." The list is complete and the manager is serious.

We can only offer the poor alternative of the coffee shop. They do not check ID's.

"NIGHTCLUB CANTATA"

Former Bard student David Schecter and Senior Mark Zagaeski are performing in:

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Sat	12-3

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ADOLPH'S

NEED MONEY FOR SCHOOL?

The American College and University Service Bureau announces a service to aid students in obtaining funds from foundations.

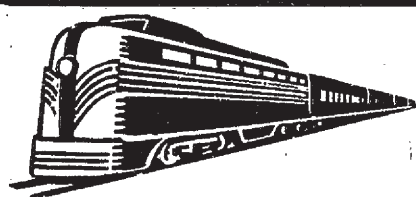
The Bureau's Director says, "There are hundreds of foundations with millions of dollars in funds earmarked to aid students in meeting the cost of higher education that go untouched each year. Why? Students do not know of the foundations or how to go about obtaining these funds."

The Bureau offers its services to deserving students by supplying names of foundations and guidance as to how to go about obtaining funds from same.

For more details on this service interested students may write:

American College and
University Service Bureau
Dept. S
1728 - 5050 Poplar Ave.
Memphis, TN 38157

Tales of Courage



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

A sudden footfall fractured Edwin's concentration. His spiritual tie with the victimized pigeons was snapped, and it was several seconds before he oriented himself to his physical situation. Unlike his train of thought, the diesel's locked wheels had not significantly slowed its inexorable approach. As fear gripped his throat, Edwin became aware of an arm shaking him powerfully and a voice shouting over the squeal of the train's air brakes. The arm and the voice belonged to the crucial footfall that had broken his reverie, and (he hoped) may well have saved his life.

Edwin reacted to his savior's urgings with a frenzied attempt to open his door. It was locked and, in his panic, the obvious means to release it eluded him. The uniformed man who had valiantly initiated his unlikely rescue was running away, his hands pressed tightly over his ears. Thusly abandoned, Edwin suddenly knew that it was too late, (the train was only ten yards away). His body shook violently in terror.

His life passed before his eyes. He saw his first tricycle, its bright pink radiating vibrantly in sharp contrast to the coal-black dismal basement where he played. The first series of operations, designed to approximate the human form on his elaborately scrolled and filigreed frame. His first appearance in society without the shroud and mask. The

sympathy of the women ["The poor thing! —Is he in pain?" they asked his mother] and the squeamish men ["Are you sure that stuff doesn't stain?" they commented sourly on the mucus covering most of his body]. His many-tutors, each resigning after the first affectionate nibble. The research exobiologists from Stanford, with their electrodes and cameras. The specialist from Vienna, whose scalpel had worked wonders. The brief demeaning career in special effects and monster movies. The daily therapy sessions, using biofeedback methods to help him learn to operate his prosthetic limbs with the same muscles that once coordinated his ever-probing antennae. The conviction on obscenity charges in Cincinnati, based solely and entirely on his physical appearance, brought to mind the job he'd held during his unhappy stay there — working for a collecting agency while the worst of his many scars healed. Then, while in prison, he had saved a good deal of money by selling skin grafts to the Harvard Botany Labs, and buying Federal Savings Bonds.

From that, his mind jumped to the night by the fountain in Central Park, when he had won the undying friendship of "Boss" Tweed, the goat, and Skeets, the cabbage, by saving them from a group of deviant muggers. This triggered a vision of the scene in Times Square, during

the *Natural Childbirth Society's National Rally*, where he had met Cathy. She had performed the *new-and-improved* methods on the stage, and, thoroughly impressed, he had gone backstage to get her autograph. Once she had gotten used to his grotesque physique, "Boss" Tweed's nasty disposition, Skeets' prickly fronds, and Edwin's bizarre intentions, she had been eager to move in. Besides, she was broke at the time, and had no where else to stay.

The minutiae of this segment of his life flashed like neon signs in his brain. Arranging to have Cathy water Skeets in the desired crouching stance. Teaching them all monopoly, so that they'd have something to do while he was attending classes at N.Y.U., since "Boss" had a tendency to be over-assertive in *intimate dealings* when Edwin wasn't around to moderate. Finding out that a B.A. in Parapsychology could not even get him a job with the *National Enquirer*. Learning to speak Armenian in order to completely master backgammon. His first psychic experience: a memory transfer with a boiled ham. The TV talk show hosts, bidding for his appearance on their shows first. The disagreement with the ham over Skeets. The fights with his landlord that always ended in bloody —

THE TRAIN MADE

Impact, smashing Edwin's car into bits of smoldering debris, and abbreviating his incessantly mundane memoirs with a death blow to his being. The ambulances had little to cart away. No one on the train was hurt. Only Officer Treeroot was seriously affected. His glimpse of Edwin's face, contorted beyond human semblance by fear, had aroused a dormant instinctive fear of...of.... — *Of What?*

He couldn't put his finger on it, but it was to change his entire life. He only knew that *something should be done*, and *quickly*, before it was *too late*.

A week after the incident, he was released from Bellevue, as an out-patient reporting to the mental health clinic where Edwin used to work. He had convinced the doctors of the ridiculousness of his convictions, but he had not convinced himself.

Andy Abbatepaolo

Letters cont.

Continued from Page 4

If we continue to misuse our resources, in the interest of the progress we Americans seem to view as inevitable, we will paradoxically insure that our quality of life will deteriorate and our lives won't be quite so comfortable anymore. Whatever progress we achieve will be at a tragically high cost. In the philosophical underpinnings of our society lies a utilitarian approach which calls for the greatest good for the greatest number. Our abundant resources have allowed us to translate this ideal into something of a reality. Conservation, rather than unchecked exploitation of our resources, can help insure the continuing fulfillment of this ideal. In short, conservation makes sense -- common sense.

This, however, poses many serious questions, not the least of which is how much is the average American willing to sacrifice in the name of common sense? Many proponents of conservation claim that there is little sacrifice involved, but this is not necessarily a common view. Shortly after President Carter's plea to his fellow country men and women to turn down their thermostats, I had the opportunity to hear how some of the public felt while I was on a break from a class at Dutchess Community College. Ironically, we had just left a classroom that was so overheated we were forced to open the windows after it became apparent that the radiators and thermostat had no accessible controls. Upon entering the lobby, we were met with a blast of cold air that sent several of us scrambling for our coats and generated a discussion about Carter's announcement. Most of us were bemoaning the increase in our oil usage due to the severe weather.

Some of us were quick to say that we had been keeping our thermostats down all along mainly as a practical, common sense means to keep the oil bills down. But inevitably, it would seem, there was a woman who talked at length about how she could not function if her thermostat was set below 72 degrees. In fact, she readily admitted to us that she often put it at 75!

I have said enough. I admit that I have rambled a bit and I know I haven't said anything new. But I felt the need to say something. You are right, Pierre, in saying that the issues are "deep and far-reaching." Perhaps that is why I find it so hard to think about them in anything but the most general terms. You are also right in saying that these issues are "urgent and revolutionary." They compel us to find solutions that may in the end alter attitudes that have been part of our national heritage. I believe, as I feel you do, that in the next five to maybe fifteen years, as we address these urgent issues, we will see changes that will have a profound effect on the future of all humankind.

I am thankful for your article for it shows that you care. I am convinced there are a lot of us who do. Although I am still tormented by the inescapable knowledge that the world we pass along to future generations will be less environmentally sound, I take hope from people like you who are concerned. I take hope that maybe we will set a precedent for future generations by dealing with our environment in a sensible way so that we may continue to progress and maintain, or even improve, our quality of life. Thank you.

Connie Fowle

Bard

Continued from Page 2

As to the National Direct Student Loan program, the administration believes that no further capital contributions are needed for NSDL funds because of repayments of \$275 million from previous student borrowers. These payments will be recycled back into the program and only an additional 15 million dollars are needed to cover loan cancellations.

This move has been greatly protested, especially by financial aid officers, who believe that the NSDL program is the only reliable

source of loan dollars to students unable to qualify for Guaranteed Federally Insured Loan Programs because of various lenders' restrictions. This recommendation of 0 extra funds for future NSDL loans will eliminate 335,000 loans which might have been made otherwise.

All other programs have been furnished with the money needed. The cuts of these funds, which were urged by former President Ford's administration, have been restored by the Carter administration.

Green Revolution

Continued from Page 2

I find such borrowing from foreign cultures to be very exciting. The very act of borrowing from distant parts of the planet would not be possible without some technology. (Technology is, for better or for worse, here to stay -- it is not all written down on some scrolls that can be buried at sea.) I must admit that the recent fascination for, and adoption of, customs of the Orient used to strike me, inveterate cynic that I am, as contrived. There is no denying that there is a great deal of capitalistic debasement of culture-borrowing. One need only open a *Mademoiselle* (you will find that I love lampooning popular magazines) to see the marketing of the wok and the six hundred dollar "Chinese look." But it is equally undeniable that many people are seriously changing their way of living by adopting from other cultures. And the serious adoption of the most integral part of culture, its religion and philosophy, is taking place without any capitalistic corruption.

I would like to briefly illustrate what I have been saying here with a popular example. There can be no question whatsoever that the American consumption (consume as in devour) of meat will have to decrease if the Third World of Asia, Africa, and South America is to reduce its ranks of hungry. . . even if its populations were to stabilize tomorrow. The peoples of these continents do not eat much meat. This is not due to any inherent distaste for meat, but is simply because *ten to twenty* times more people can be supported on an acre of land if that land is devoted to growing grains and legumes to be directly eaten by people than if that land is devoted to grains and legumes to be eaten by cattle who are to be eaten by people. That extra link in the food chain (the cattle) introduces *at least* a 90% reduction of calories and protein for human food. Consequently, meat was eliminated as a staple from the diets of these peoples. Alternatives were amply developed through the people-land evolution known as culture. For instance, the people of the Orient have fashioned from the miraculous soybean an enormous array of foods -- from soybean sprouts to soy sauce to tofu to soybean custard to tamari to soy milk, etc. Many Americans are adopting this cultural backbone for financial, moral, health, and aesthetic reasons. American ingenuity (popular Science) has even added some variations of its own such as soy flour and, believe it or not, many soybean-based plastics and other

synthetic products. This borrowing of Oriental culture-knowledge is more efficient and much more cooperative than trying to develop from scratch our own way of handling meatlessness.

Why do I see the adoption of Oriental soybean wizardry as a great change? Why did I say such a change is absolutely necessary? And what are these vague allusions to morality and spirituality about? As I said before, science can sometimes give us impetus for change. It has established the soybean as the unequivocally finest protein producer for a crowded globe (thereby confirming Culture). Astonishingly, the United States is the world's largest producer of soybeans. In fact, two out of three of the world's soybeans are grown in this country. But no one here had ever even heard of soybeans until a few years ago, right? Thirteen per cent of our non-exported soybeans are fed to farm animals, thereby incurring a large waste as described before. Almost all of the rest of our non-exported production of this excellent protein source is used to make soybean *oil*! Incredible, but true. One year's worth of American soybeans could, right now, with all the present agricultural ineptitudes, provide every person on this planet with at least 25% of his or her protein need. I find it neither ridiculous nor naive to assert that we are keeping food from the hungry peoples of the world. This is the kind of moral impetus for change of which I was speaking.

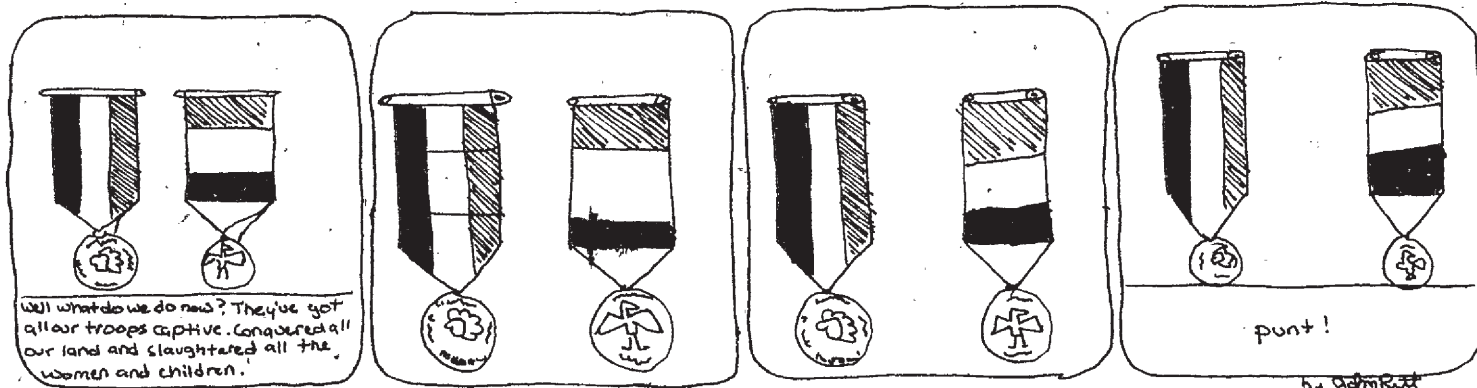
I am grateful for the opportunity to express my thoughts in Bard's newspaper. Again, I invite reactions to the words written here, either in person or through the mail.

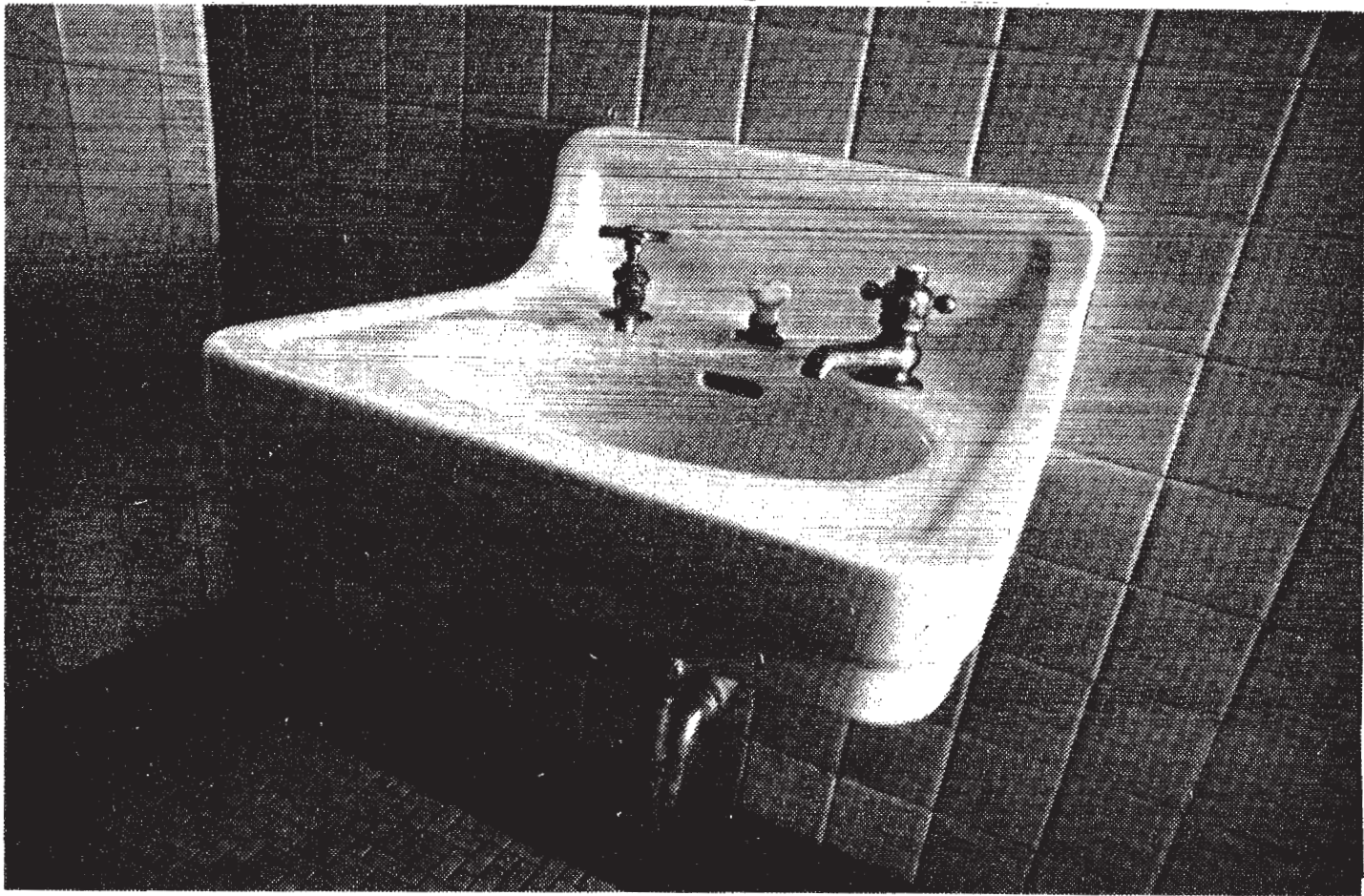
The soybean figures cited are from The Book of Tofu.

TODAY'S HELPFUL HINT deals with a bit of culture-borrowing that is widespread in the Bard community. Many of us here have adopted Eastern disciplines by which to guide our lives. Many of us have tasted yoga, Tai Chi, or aikido and enjoyed practicing these arts, even for the pure joy they give as physical culture. It is a beautifully warming experience to practice these arts with other people. There is much to be shared.

I think the Bard administration should administer to the demonstrated interest students have for these disciplines. This college prides itself on introducing the student to new modes of thought and expression: Bard the great innovator. Its aim is to prepare the student for a full life in the world. This is a changing world, and as I have tried to point out, there are great fundamental changes yet to come. I think the Bard administration has not addressed itself to these imminent changes as it is obligated to. The personal investigation of philosophies and disciplines based on non-Western values is definitely in keeping with these revolutionary changes and is certainly worthy of official encouragement.

What do you think?





Whenever I find myself
growing grim about the mouth;
whenever it is a damp, drizzly
November in my soul; whenever
I find myself involuntarily
passing before coffin warehouses,
and bringing up the rear of
every funeral I meet; and
especially whenever my hypos
get such an upper hand of
me, that it requires a strong
moral principle to prevent
me from deliberately stepping
into the street, and methodically
knocking people's hats off - then,
I account it high time to get
to sea as soon as I can.

Herman Melville
Moby Dick



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