

OBSERVER

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observer

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the Observer / Triana Kirtikals



midget's voice

BARD SPORTS

The Bard soccer Jet I Knights have been taking their lumps lately much to the confusion of this reporter. After a heartbreaker against Southern Vermont College, the Jet I's came back strong against Columbia-Greene C.C. This brings their record in league play to a disappointing 1-2 but a seven game home stand in the month of October should put them back in the winning column. The Midget feels the possible return of leading scorer Jumpin' Jeff Kinnard could turn their luck around.

The Bad Boogie Boys of the Bard Cross-Country team gave a strong effort in a losing cause at Olana State Park against an organized Columbia-Greene team.

WINNERS

The Midget extends his congratulations to the Bard student who won the *Eastern Sculpting Event* held this summer. His winning entry of "The Perfect Cube" will be on display on the Chapel lawn in the near future.

MIDGET MEDICAL ADVICE

While training at high altitudes, nosebleeds can be a pro-

blem, however, the Midget discourages putting a tourniquet around the neck to stop the bleeding.

MIDGET GOSSIP

Two Bard students were seen at Sunday brunch still "small" from Saturday night. A study at Stanford University has shown that people who get "small" too often have a tendency to dislike peas and spell the word "Mississippi" with too many s's.

TASTELESS SPORTS

DATELINE: BANGLADESH

Bangladeshians are preparing this week for their annual "RABBIT RABBIT, WHERE'S THE RABBIT?" contest. First prize, of course, a young spry rabbit with other prizes ranging from transistor radios to vasectomies.

DATELINE: OSHKOSH, WISCONSIN

Midwesterners are making their yearly pilgrimage to Oshkosh for the "23rd Annual Bestiality Olympics." Special guest Johnny Wadd, famed X-rated film star, will be on hand to throw out the first heifer.

DATELINE: SIDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Ausies are sending out invitations to all points on the globe for their "KANGAROO INVITATIONAL TOURNAMENT." In this sport, pioneered by those crazy Ausies, the contestant must run barefooted across 100 prostrate Bushman, all the while balancing two (2) baby kangaroos, or "joeys" on their shoulders. This sport has yet to attract international appeal or the "Good Housekeeping Seal of Approval."

STAR SPORTS

With the advent of the movie "Star Wars," kids and people all over America are getting involved in, appropriately enough, "Star Sports." One cunning youth in Bayonne, New Jersey, found that by using his pocket calculator programs he can turn his mother into a rather efficient "R2" unit (named, of course, R2-MA2). He says she performs all basic functions including recycling old bubble gum. (FLASH: Rumor has it Secacus youngsters are working on a "Death Star" pre-programmed to land on Elizabeth. Stay tuned for more info.)

This is DannyO, Good Night.

MIDGET QUIZ

What famous American midget poet succeeded in charming thousands and nauseating millions with his rag about the saddle-sore silversmith in the American Revolution?

Henry Wadsworth
ANSWER TO MIDGET QUIZ

Soccer

- Oct. 13 Thurs. - Stevens College Home 3:30
- Oct. 18 Tues. - Berkshire Christian College Home 3:30
- Oct. 21 Fri. - N.A.C. Championship Lenox, Mass. 3:00
- Oct. 24 Mon. - Columbia Greene C.C. Home 3:30
- Oct. 27 Thurs. - Triangular Meet Dutchess and Albany College of Pharmacy Home 3:00

CONGRATS
TO THE
SOCCER TEAM

10/7/77

Cross-Country

- Oct. 13 Thurs. - Stevens College Home 3:30
- Oct. 15 Sat. - Southern Vermont College Home 2:30
- Oct. 18 Tues. - Berkshire Christian College Home 3:30
- Oct. 22 Sat. - Albany College of Pharmacy Home 2:30
- Oct. 24 Mon. - Columbia Greene C.C. Home 3:00
- Oct. 27 Thurs. - Dutchess Community College Home 3:00

BITTER HOMES AND GARDENS

Down The Road

Liz Royte

Yes folks, that house at the end of Annandale Road (the end convenient to Adolph's) is a dorm. Surprised? We were too when it came down to eight freshmen, two sophomores and one junior moving into a house completed (? debatable) on the day that we moved in.

Feitler "Arms," as we affectionately refer to our home, came to Bard College as part of the Sabriskie Estate along with Blithewood and the Blithewood gatehouse. The property was to remain in the Feitler's possession until such a time as all the Feitlers were gone. Since October of 1976 the house has belonged to Bard, although only recently was it decided to turn it into a dorm.

Constructed in the early 1800's, the Feitler House was fairly small. Since then there have been two additions; a front room and a side wing. From the first week of August '77 when the go-ahead was issued, B&G has been diligently working to restore the house to a functioning capacity for eleven students.



Among our numerous assets, we also boast of a new kitchen, complete insulation, plumbing and electrical works and the biggest doubles and single on campus, not to mention the giant cesspool they jackhammered into the ground below my window (at seven in the morning, I might add). Plans for the Feitler future (cute, eh?) include excavating our mud hole into a real backyard with a yard (you're all invited for croquet) shrubbery, flowers and general landscaping. The woodshed and outhouse we hope will be left alone, they are really so quaint.

Now that you have an idea of

our comparative comfort and Waltonesque lifestyle, you're probably wondering why so many measly freshmen got in. There's a simple explanation for that so don't get all upset. Most freshmen here were either late decisions or late acceptances and so were placed last in the dorms. Feitler was last on the available list so that is where they were stuck. Hard luck, eh? You'll have your turn next year.

Until then, anyone is welcome to look around and see what Feitler is really like. Stop in the next time you go down the road - preferably before you stop in at Adolph's...

Up The Creek

While wandering through Stone Row last week I accosted several of its inhabitants to question them about any changes or improvements they would like to see made.

"The plumbing and heating in winter, please," requested one student. This seems to be a rather universal complaint, with some students making general comments and another telling of actually receiving burns due to the fluctuating water temperature in the showers. Another Stone Row resident complained of having to run outside between the two Hoffmans to take a shower.

Beyond this, many seem reluctant to see Stone Row change. A typical opinion ran.

"We like the suites. We don't want it turned into a Tewksbury Hall Situation." Still many others were unaware that the long-awaited Stone Row renovations are to take place this year. According to Dick Griffiths, as long as Bard gets approval from HUD, the agency providing the money for the work, the project will be undertaken.

The original loan from HUD was approved in 1972, for the amount of \$589,000. However, two progress-blocking difficulties arose.

The first of these was that Bard discovered the Davis-Bacon Act, which requires that workers on federal loan projects be paid predominant wages, which are usually based on union scale. Therefore, Bard College would have to come up with the money needed to meet the difference.

The second difficulty was that architectural and engineering costs as designed exceeded the amount of the loan. Nothing was done with the loan for several years, until HUD requested to know how it would be used. President Botstein initiated new designs that would make Stone Row more suitable as a dormitory, yet reduce costs.

The old plans were restudied and some new thoughts were brought in. A major source of construction cost savings came from adapting the designs so that no structural walls were cut, or steel joints inserted. So, if all goes according to plan, this is what Stone Row will look like come next Labor Day weekend.

There will be one suite of rooms per floor, with five student rooms and one study room per suite. Each floor will have its own bathroom. There will be 3 suites per building in each of the four buildings and there will also be the addition of lounges and a coffee shop in the basements. Due to the nature of the renovations the plumbing and heating systems, as well as the wiring, will be completely replaced.

The only remaining problem is the amount of time required to complete the work. Revisions of this nature cannot be completed within the confines of June, July, and August. It is a simple physical impossibility. According to Mr. Griffiths work would have to begin at Field Period in order for the renovations to be finished by the Labor Day weekend. The talk in B&G is that some students will have to be shuffled to make way for the workmen, probably starting with the Potter-McVickar end of Stone Row and reaching the two Hoffmans somewhere around graduation.



INSIDE:

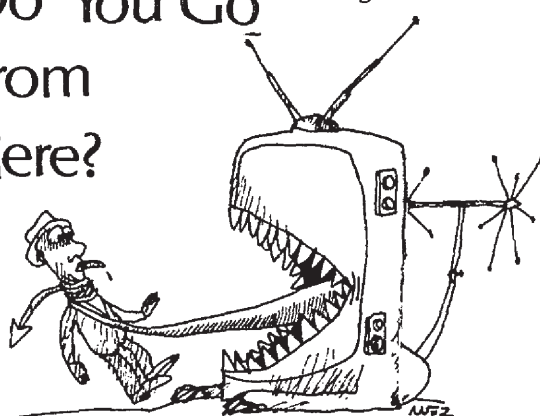
See Page 3---The 6 Million Dollar Man



Botstein's New Funding Plan

Teresa Vilardi on: Where Do You Go From Here?

Page 2



Meet Iska Alter

Elliot Junger
Iska Alter, former teacher of Writing and Literature, at New York City Community College is a new addition to Bard's Language-Literature Department. She replaces Prof. William Wilson, who is on sabbatical.

Prof. Alter is a graduate of C.C.N.Y. and the University of Wisconsin, where she received her M.A. Most recently she has completed her doctorate at New York City University which consisted of a critical analysis of the works of Bernard Malamud.

I asked Prof. Alter some pointed questions, and received some equally pointed answers. For example, I questioned her, why she chose Bard College out of the other options open to her, and more important, what did she find specifically distasteful about her previous post, that made her want to switch. New York City Community College was so large and financially unmanageable that she would sometimes be faced with as many as forty students in one classroom, and "ordered" to teach the students even when she insisted that such a thing was not in the best interests of the students. She would teach up to four or five classes a day and in most cases would receive little, if any, encouragement from the administration. When she first started teaching there, roughly six years ago, the college maintained an open admissions policy. She remembers that perhaps one-third of the class was lacking in basic reading and writing skills, and consequently she found teaching there to be "extremely frustrating" on occasion. She recalled that most of the students had outside jobs and that few of them lived at home.

During a two year hiatus, Prof. Alter worked in the publishing field as an editor for Oxford University Press in New York. After the second year she gave it up, saying that; "Working with human beings is much better than working with manuscripts."

Why Bard? Prof. Alter told me that the idea which attracted her to Bard, was the idea of learning for learning sake, a concept which she felt was virtually non-existent at the college she taught at previously. She felt a strong sense of communication with both students and other faculty members, along with a general "flexibility" of programming.

What are her objectives? "Too many teachers have overblown, grandiose plans for their students and answers to lots of questions," Prof. Alter vehemently remarked. She has watched her growth critically from her first teaching job until now. Iska believes that the more the teacher begins to act as neutral stimulus which allows the students to react to concepts for themselves, and less as an "authority figure" or "pedagogue", the more the student as an individual will discover for himself what the world around him is all about. She adds "One does not always arrive at true knowledge by burrying one's head in a textbook."

Prof. Alter, from the limited half-hour I spent talking with her, proved to be not only an interesting and articulate person, but a teacher with fresh ideas about learning. I wish her luck.

THE YANKEES MIGHT LOSE, BUT THEY'RE STILL MINE

Martha J. Toomey
Romantic pieces on baseball have very little to do with Bard, which is the beauty of the game. It has very little significance in anything but itself. It's a big business now, baseball. It's different than it used to be, but it's still baseball. We live in a world accused of constantly changing, etc. Some people fall towards religions for social stability, others cultivate their particular brand of political theory. I'm not crazy enough to find social stability in the baseball world, but there is something about the end of baseball seasons that makes me want to cry. Baseball, curiously enough, brings sentiment to otherwise unsentimental men.

My friend Steven Murphy says that the end of the season is the end of yet another Childhood. He says that his life always resumes on Opening Day at Yankee Stadium, and ends with the World Series. There is no happier man than my friend Murph watching a great double play. I learned how to love sports, especially baseball, from Murph. Not a love easily cultivated. Much of baseball is, well... tedious. Much of sports, face it, is boring.

Never the less, there seems to be a valuable lesson to learn from these games; innocent competition and team power give us some-

thing that more sophisticated actions can't. Pure sportsmanship is when we do find it, it often goes unappreciated. I admit that watching a bunch of men throwing around a ball, and being paid to do it, seems dim-witted. But baseball fulfills something for some people--as Murph says "It makes me happy." Murph belongs to a very special group of people who label themselves as baseball fans, Yankee fans in particular. The joy of belonging may be subdued, but it is there. You can rely on your team in a way you cannot rely on the "Real World".

I was recently quite ill, staying in bed for days on end; with very little humor I lay there for too long. I watched more sports in the past week than I will ever watch again in one week, I enjoyed boxing, football and even car racing; and one theme ran through all these sports; the world would not stop if football ceased to exist on Sunday afternoon. But it made me feel better...

This all led me to think about our soccer team, and the sports program at Bard and other small academic institutions. Our soccer team has known better seasons, but there are some great sportsmen on that team. and for someone like me, a protege of Steven Murphy, winning is a whole hell of a lot, but the beauty of the sport and the innocence of playing around with a ball makes losing a lot easier...

Finding the Future

Jane Hurd

Before coming to Bard, Teresa Vilardi taught Medieval History and Women's History at Vassar, and she was coordinator for Women's studies there. I asked her how she felt about her experience there as opposed to her job here as Director of Student Futures. Though she declined to express any personal feelings about Vassar, she said she was very pleased with her position here: "there's a feeling of energy here" that appeals to her. However, she thinks that the students have a rigidity that doesn't "jive with their intellectual sophistication" and she is sincerely concerned that the students open up a little more to their opportunities for both jobs and grad school. It irks her that college students seem so religiously bound up in myths about what one is "supposed" to do after college; that they are hung-up on choosing a career which is respectable, which society would "expect" of them as graduates stepping out into the real world. She submits that there are a variety of alternatives which most people don't even consider, and this is not so much ignorance on their part as a lack of information. It is her job to point out some of these alternatives, to provide the information students need, or at least to point out the most available route in order to obtain some information. She was hired, she says, "to develop a program for whatever Bard students need" to help them make choices which will steer the course of their futures.

"Nobody at Bard reads!" she exclaimed, annoyed that although her services and programs are listed in the newsletters, not enough people have taken advantage of this information. Her office is in Ludlow 210. Though it's an easy location, people still have difficulty trying to reach her. So far she has held two workshops. The first, a freshman workshop entitled "The World Out There: Options and Opportunities" is an on-going workshop intended to aid freshmen in comprehending where they are going within college and how to utilize available oppor-

tunities within and outside of their college activity. The other was one of a series of workshops which she plans to develop which will involve a select alumnus who will come and speak on his particular field. This last was devoted to the publications field. She has also set up a program in resume writing for seniors and juniors who need specific counseling in how to go about applying for careers. On Tuesday, Oct. 18, she has scheduled a Career Exploration Workshop, which is open to everyone. She would like to know whether or not people can make the 7:00-9:00pm time, so she could either reschedule it or set aside a period for a second workshop. Soon to be arranged are two other workshops, one on "Diverse Opportunities in Social Work" and another concerned with the opportunities of grad school. Teresa is planning to add a regular coffee hour on Wednesday afternoons between 4 and 6, which should begin sometime in the next two weeks but she is still undecided as to how regularly it will occur.

Her real concern with these workshops, she maintains, is "to help students become more self-directed". She believes that although she can and is glad to help provide students with the information they need, they have to take some responsibility by at least asking for help. She thinks that the more students gain some idea of the realities of their situation, instead of going around with vague notions dependent on traditional mythologies, the less apt they are to be negatively confronted with that reality. Teresa would like to see students make use of alumni internships by using her file of alumni willing to speak to interested students about their careers. A lot of these alumni propose some long-term possibilities which can be of real help if students take the initiative to contact them.

Since we have such an able, sincerely concerned person, it would really be to our advantage to take advantage of her--as she put it, "do a little research, only with yourself as the topic".

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6 Million Dollar Man

Stephanie Carrow

President Botstein is directing a major campaign to raise \$6 million which, he explained in an interview on Sept. 19, will go for the support and enrichment of Bard's academic program and for the construction and renovation of Bard facilities. The campaign was launched last June, when, said Botstein, the college's trustees gave him the "green light" to begin, and he expects the total \$6 million to be raised over the next four to five years. The first phase of the campaign was completed at the end of this summer, when Bard received a \$300,000 Challenge Grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH).

Challenge Grants are awarded each year by NEH to educational institutions. The money goes for the support of the academic program and it can also be used for the renovation of existing facilities; but it specifically may not be used for new construction. (Similar Challenge Grants are awarded by the National Endowment for the Arts--NEA--to museums, opera houses and other institutions of the fine or performing arts.) Botstein explained that NEH has awarded money to Bard in the form of a three-to-one "challenge": for every \$3 which Bard can raise on its own (through gifts and special programs) NEH will contribute \$1. This means that the college must raise \$900,000 in order to "meet the challenge" and receive the full \$300,000 from NEH.

Botstein called the grants "very competitive" and noted that Bard is lucky to have received one. The grant was applied for in late June of this year, and the application was backed by Senators Moynihan and Javits and by Congressman Hamilton Fish. On a trip to Washington, D.C. this summer, Botstein "explained the application to the National Endowment people" and the grant was awarded at the end of August.

Aside from the NEH Challenge Grant, Botstein expects to raise money through gifts--from alumni and other sources--and through the college's current practice of renting out its facilities to various groups during the summer.

Botstein expects the \$6 million to be used for the following purposes: 1) completion of the theatre; 2) scholarships; 3) renovation of Blithewood, including the reclaiming of its basement; and renovation of Stone Row; 4) a basic endowment for educational purposes, to develop programs to enhance the curriculum, especially in the humanities; 5) a new art

gallery; 6) possibly a sports facility. Botstein explained that the trustees must still decide specifically how the monies will be distributed, but he estimates that approximately \$2.1 million will be used for the completion of the theatre, the renovation of Blithewood, the renovation of Stone Row, and the creation of an art gallery within one of these facilities. He also estimates that about \$1.2-\$1.3 million will go to the scholarship program. This averages to about \$300,000 per year, over the next four years, in scholarship aid, which is the same annual amount of money currently allotted to the program.

Botstein considers the completion of the theatre to be the "first priority" of his fund-raising campaign, but he emphasized that the money for its construction will not come from the NEH grant, since that money is specifically not to be used for construction of new facilities. Instead, "related monies" will go toward the building of the theatre, which Botstein expects to be completed within the next two or three years.

The campaign to raise \$6 million ties in with Botstein's goal to "bring the college and the surrounding community closer together" and to make Bard a regional "center of cultural activities and education in the humanities... a center of learning, inquiry and discussion... a place to gather for independent intellectual inquiry of a high quality." Botstein believes that his conception of what Bard should be is "not a grandiose scheme, but a very modest idea about the way we reside in the community." He points out that Bard has already become a "significant educational resource for the region" through its various programs, including Independent Study, Hudson Valley Studies, Community Focus, Community Outreach, and summer seminars for elder adults, alumni and community, all of which create an interaction between the college and the community. In addition to these programs, Botstein plans to hold "intergenerational seminars" on a pilot basis this year, to take place in the evenings in connection with the Community Focus program. Bard students and faculty and members of the surrounding community will be able to participate in discussions of the topics covered in the Community Focus programs. All students interested in participating in this extra-curricular program should contact Rick Landau in the program development office in Ludlow.

Parent's Day

George Smith

This October 15 is Parent's Day at Bard. It is traditional for Bard to invite parents to campus on a day in the fall term because this is when the campus flora is changing colors and the weather has yet to settle into the constant cold of deep winter. Many parents use this as an opportunity to visit with their son or daughter. While parents are always welcome, the college likes to offer parents a chance to see the campus during the term.

The college has also prepared myriad activities to give parents a representative sampling of Bard life. When parents first arrive they will register and have coffee in Ludlow. The Deans will be available from 10 to 12 for consultation and some faculty will also be available in their offices from 11 to 12 for discussion.

When lunch time arrives your parents will have to stand in the SAGA line like the rest of us. It is meals as per usual, except that three meals, rather than two, will be served on that particular Saturday.

At 1:30, President Botstein will be in the gym to speak about the college and answer any questions. At 2:30 there is a soccer game and a panel discussion. The panel discussion is titled, "Writers and Their Work" and will take place in the Commons. The panel will consist of four Bard professors; William Gaddis, Leonard Michaels, Robert Kelly and Peter Sourian, each of whom is a respected writer himself in a variety of mediums.

Finally at 4:00 there will be a President's Reception at Blithewood.

Senate Notes

Student Senate met Wednesday October 5th for a regular meeting. High points of the evening included a revote on Student Judiciary Board members and a speech by Ed Colon, (the major thrust of which appears as an alternative viewpoint on Page 4), concerning the lack of publicity given to student elections and the need for senators to arouse interest in student government. This sentiment was applauded by Mary Sugatt and other Senators, who then planned the October 10th student association meeting to allow students to hear candidates' views and show some real participation in the student government. Constitutional changes concerning the elections procedure were also scheduled for discussion if a quorum (51% of the student body) was present.

George Dobbs, Treasurer, presented the allocations budget, as decided upon by the Planning Committee, (see page 3). George announced that few clubs were holding events (except of course the Observer which always meets its publishing schedule.)

It was announced that few people had signed up on the CRC (College Review Committee) and DEC (Divisional Evaluation Committee) sheets posted in Dining Commons. These important committees must have student members if students want to have a say in

hiring and firing of faculty and other important academic affairs.

Three other important committees are now looking for student participation. The committee to find alternatives to the current peer counseling program welcomes student input. This committee, which does not have the support of the dean's office, has been fully endorsed by Student Senate. Contact Steve Salzman, care of campus mail.

The Tenants Union and the Student Incorporation Committee are two other committees which Steve is heading. The Tenants Union is organizing to allow students to voice their complaints about problems in residency to B&G in an organized manner. The Student Incorporation Committee is gathering information on incorporating the student association which will allow legal representation of the student body.

The Student Senate meets every Wednesday night at 6:30 p.m. in Albee Social. These are open and students are always welcome to attend.

The Senate Bulletin Board, right outside of Dining Commons at the door where the SAGA checker sits, contains many important announcements, sign-up sheets, Senate minutes and other notices of general interest.

Allocations

Convocation Fee Allocations

convocation	20509.76	folk & trad.	250.00
senate	1885.00	govern.	75.00
plan. comm.	306.41	jazz	650.00
entert. comm.	2216.00	lit.	263.10
film comm.	3609.00	l.a.o.	800.00
proj. coop	796.75	m.a.g.	800.00
akido	70.00	observer	1840.00
art	250.00	open field	350.00
b.b.s.o.	800.00	panama can. wkld.	700.00
ceramics	137.00	photo.	250.00
chavurah	200.00	physics	0.00
choir	400.00	psych.	150.00
cine. matrix	250.00	softball	22.00
coff. house	24.50	varsity	400.00
dance	450.00	video	350.00
drama	450.00	woodwork.	195.00
econ.	280.00	w. afr. mus.	250.00
fem. alliance	400.00		



Observer Notes

In our next issue the Observer will begin a series examining Health Care at Bard. Please send us your comments, criticisms, anecdotes, and suggestions on health care at Bard care of Box 85. Your contribution may be anonymous.

The response to our articles by Robert Koblit and Heinz Bertelsmann in our last issue has been so favorable that we urge, plead,

demand, beg and otherwise request **FACULTY WRITTEN ARTICLES.** We encourage members of the faculty to submit material that is of interest to themselves and others in the Bard community.

The Observer will hold its next general staff meeting on Thursday October 13 at 6:30. We need new writers, layout people and cartoonists to contribute their work and suggestions. It is futile for a few people to try and put out a newspaper for a community of over 700 persons with so little real input. **PLEASE** come to the next meeting. **DEADLINE** for the next issue is **OCTOBER 19 at 12:00 NOON.**



VIEWPOINTS

g. f. levinson

This has been one of those weekends where it's hard to write an editorial. There aren't too many burning new issues waiting to be emphasized and the Alternative Viewpoint for this week is more than adequate. Somehow the twentieth time I try to talk about student power it isn't very exciting and I can't help wondering how much is accomplished by the rhetoric and lecturing that often decorates this space. So this week, the column will have to be more of a meditation than an attempt at inspiration.

It's Autumn as this piece is being scrawled—still early enough for all kinds of changes to be made, but far enough into the year that some of the new students are beginning to lose the feelings of strangeness and replace them with the sensation of finding a new home.

Home. The word sounds strange to some of us, for "home" is an odd word to apply to a place that houses so many disparate people, a place where stereotypes are sometimes played till 4 A.M., or a place where food is eaten on trays in cafeteria-sized rooms. Still, with time the routine turns familiar and becomes something which you can observe or ignore as you wish.

Alternative Viewpoints

In view of the past senatorial elections, interesting revelations have come to light. There appears to be a paralyzing disease infecting the Bard student politic, its name being apathy. But the Association are not the only ones left open to blame. The predominant carriers of this epidemic happen to be the Bard Student Senate. You know them - or don't you? Do you know what powers are delegated to them? Do you know the composition of the student government? Do you care? The last question is the crux of the problem. And though many students are foolishly indifferent, the government yet has much to answer for. The Senate holds elections in a most clandestine manner in which the students know little or nothing about the candidates. The Association can be accused of ignorance and carelessness. The government is guilty of negligence.

Having been on the ad hoc elections committee, a question most frequently asked of me by students about the candidates was, "Who are they?" It was hard to answer. Indeed, I know people who refused to vote because they felt a picture and a letter on a wall were not much to put faith in. Thus you have the reason why only 266 out of more than 650 students voted - and this being a very high turnout for these types of elections.

The Observer is an independent student publication of the Bard College community. Publication is bi-weekly during the Bard College academic year. Letters to the Editor and other inquiries should be addressed to Box 85, Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, 12504. The contents of the Observer are copyright 1977 by Observer, Inc. unless otherwise stated. The Observer is a member of the Alternative Press Syndicate and subscribes to College Press Service and Intercollegiate Press Service. The opinions herein are not necessarily those of Bard College or the Editorial staff.

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The point where you control your activities seems to be the point at which a place begins to become a home.

Much of Bard is like that. The common link that permeates my vision lately is of opportunities that no one is trying to use. The College Review Committee and the Divisional Evaluation Committee sign-up sheets in Dining Commons are conspicuously bare. The Student Senate is practically pleading with students to take part in government. This newspaper too, suffers from a lack of input and support and is in real danger of becoming a Sunday comic section and humor supplement.

If people do not wish to have a voice in controlling their educational process or their daily life, why come to Bard at all? Though a place begins to be a home when you have an effect on your personal arena, the effect of such limited effort is small when compared to the progress that might be made through your efforts.

It is Autumn now, and the leaves that turn to tones of cider and cinnamon are beginning to fall about us. Soon it will be Winter and no one will have time to add new activities to their schedule. Now is the season for making yourself at home.

Unfortunately, the Senate laments the light balloting, yet does nothing to remedy it. But is this a Senate or is it slowly being transformed into a country club? The finger again points to the students for allowing this state of lethargy to occur.

Why should students be concerned with the Bard government? For the simple reason of practical experience. In a sense, voter awareness here may prepare you for the outside world of politics and balloting. It may sound ludicrous, but an aware and well-informed voter does mean something in the American democratic system. Do we continually have to be led about like sheep by some political wolf in shepherd's clothing who promises but does not produce, or worsens an already tense situation? Memories of Nixon, Watergate, and voter apathy are not that faint. In fact, most abuses in government result from political indifference and ignorance by the populace. And the tragedy is that they could have been corrected or even prevented by awareness and concern. A constituency of mindless masses is temptation enough for a politician to become lackluster and degenerate into an immoral attitude towards his electors.

For Bard, there should be a debate session among the candidates which would be open to the public and to their questions. Now some may argue that not enough students would attend. This need not be the case if they knew about it (since they usually don't about the dates of elections). Advertising it well in advance might alter the present dismal situation and should be seriously considered by the elections committee. People become interested in a topic if it affects them or catches their attention. And even if publicizing still brought small crowds, it is still the duty and obligation of the candidates to express their views to any part of the constituency, no matter how minute.

Candidates should not have a free ride to the Senate. They have names, faces, and viewpoints. Remember, when you vote you are not voting for the most photogenic, or the person with the nicest handwriting, or the candidate who makes the most promises (no matter how lofty). The individual you should cast your ballot for is the one who can get the job done - and you should make an effort to find out if he or she can.

The Observer prints all letters that are submitted and signed with the author's real name but the letters do not necessarily reflect the feelings of the Observer staff and Editorial Board.

letters

To the Editor:

This is a letter not about The Administration; it is also not about the Student Body; the issue of pets does not cross my mind, and I'd rather not even think about the relationship Saga has to my stomach. The two words "Student Senate" have long been absent from my daily vocabulary; "P.C." will hopefully follow in rapid succession. I don't really want to call Leon nasty names, and to be quite honest with you, I have no trouble resisting the urge to reform this wicked Bard community to a meaningful life of granola morality. What I really want to know is, why Bard, who the hell is Catherine Deneuve anyway, and if cheesecake is really better than sex, why did they stop serving it at Adolph's? (the cheesecake, that is.)

C. S. Williams

To the Editor:

You may have noted that the printer omitted part of my article on atomic energy in the last issue of the *Observer*. I would appreciate it very much if the missing section could be included in your next issue.

Here is what I had written:

III. Physicist: Brody is aware of the possibility of a "melt down" of the core of a nuclear generating plant, pointing out that this is not the same as the explosion of a nuclear bomb, but he more or less minimizes the chances of this occurring.

But the humanist Brody knows that a "melt down" could well involve the loss of many tens of thousands of lives, many more injured and debilitated by radiation, that property losses might amount to more than \$100 billion and that the area affected by the radiation would be uninhabitable and the groundwater contaminated for a long, long time. He is also aware that the safety measures against a "melt down" have never been tested, that faulty construction and metal fatigue - both of which have led to frequent shutdowns of plants - and human error - as the recent Con-Edison blackout shows - are ever present possibilities and that therefore a. atomic energy plants are not located in congested areas, and b. that no single insurance company, despite high premiums, will write a policy and that no group of insurance companies combined has ever underwritten a policy for \$100 million. He also knows that several attempts of sabotage have already been made, but that so far, fortunately, only one minor one has been successful.

Thank you,
Heinz Bertelsmann

To the Editor:

Why are we being kept in the dark? Each night students walking from the library to their dorms are compelled to grope, stumble and trip blindly over the many bumps, potholes and patches along the way; perhaps B&G could shed some lights on this subject? Especially in front of Hoffman.

Stephanie Carrow

To the Editor:

There seems a puzzling discrepancy between implementation and dispatch where respectively speaking, our student government, its constitution and its senate members are concerned. It is as if the constitution of the Bard College Student Association is without weight and its senators would stay in office on their own recalcitrance. In the student handbook, under the Constitution of the Bard College Student Association, it is stated that "the student senate is composed of nine members of the association who are elected at large." It further states that its elections "shall be so staggered so that four senators will be elected for the fall semester and five shall be elected in the spring."

Why were there only two seats open to candidacy this semester? And, if some complexity had altered conditions of the race, why was the Bard community not informed? Why did we go ignorant of these particular transactions? Moreover, if "when a vacancy occurs, a general election shall be held, and members so elected shall serve for the remainder of the term," what happened to these elections or these two seats that denied us a standardized race.

Aladio Abreu, who was a candidate for this semester's senatorial race, seemed some pawn for peculiar circumstance when his photo and statement for candidacy arrived at the voting post only moments before the end of the elections. Only moments before tabulations Janet Sapein who arrived somewhat incredulously as winning candidate had not even given being a senator a thought, which is probably why she was not registered to run. Which is probably why she arrived on the electoral scene at the last day of voting. Which is probably why in absence of Janet, illicit electioneering continued in her favor at the voting post.

Aladio lost, but yet still seemed hopeful of being an active member of political life at Bard. You see after the ballots had been so counted, Steve Salzman took the liberty to discuss giving a free seat to Aladio. When asked at the Student Judiciary Board meeting with whom did he discuss this Steve stated "I'm not mentioning any names." Where Salzman would get this third seat I cannot say.

Why would Steve Salzman have need to remedy Mr. Abreu's loss? What suspicions would Aladio's losing carry? If Mr. Abreu was in fact a losing candidate, why should he have a free seat? Moreover, from where would a third senatorial slot come, if only two were open to candidacy? I was present at every student judiciary board meeting and the truth never failed to get lost in semantics, in a blunderous staging of conflicting truths. At Mr. Abreu's request a 'secondary election' was held. The results: Janet Sapein, Victor Victoria and a one semester seat for Mr. Abreu. I ask the Bard community: Has this thing been resolved?

The discrepancy between implementation and dispatch, between law and act is as obscure as that third seat which fades in and out of the situation and thus remains phantom-like and mercurial. I think it is time for the student government to clean house.

Hear our president Arthur Carlson speak on behalf of the student government: "The student government is never run by the constitution."

Kevin McKiever

Record Reviews



by Lee Kessler

The music of Gentle Giant has, over the years, deteriorated from excellent progressive music to excellent progressive rock music. Their music has always had a rock influence but only in recent years has the rockin' element subordinated the jazz and quiet instrumental elements. Their scope has narrowed but the quality of their work has not faltered.

The new album, "The Missing Piece" is great. It is less blantly repetitive than their previous album and is also more consistent. There isn't much delicate music on side one. It's reasonably intricate, invariably interesting, craftily compelling rock music. The side opens with a tune called "Two Weeks in Spain" which is a happy celebration of a sunny vine-soaked holiday, of a typical English family. The lyrics are sung by Derek Shulman with an almost cockney flavor. This is followed by a tune which you may have already heard by now called "I'm Turning Around." This track was conceived, performed and engineered for A.M. airplay. In spite of the almost inherent superficiality of those qualities, the song works. It's the standard mournful love motif with mellow yet spicy keyboards by Kerry Minear. The next tune, "Betcha Thought We Couldn't Do It" is a fast happy rocker true to the spirit of "Dizzy Miss Lizzy." The hard drumming of John Weathers is nicely offset by the liquid bass riffs of Ray Shulman. "Who Do You Think You Are" is certainly edible; A tight turn which is funky without descending to disco.

The second side is not so thoroughly rock oriented. "As Old As You're Young" is refreshing partly because the lead vocal is done by Minear rather than Derek Shulman. At one point they combine in two voice counterpoint, a device for which G.G. is famous. The middle of this piece is marked by an odd and amusing bit of electric vaudeville music. The theme of maturity experience within this song is one that appears in some degree, in all

Gentle Giant Cont'd on Page 6

Pep rallies at Bard? Sock hops? FRATERNITIES? If you think that it can't happen here, you're wrong. It did. Read on - if you dare.

As late as the Forties, there were several fraternities at Bard, complete with secret oaths, pledge week, and initiation ceremonies. Now, out of the dusty depths of the Bardiana room, come the never-before-revealed details. This is what *really* happened.

Scene: The lodge room of Kappa Gamma Chi. On the East is a raised platform, with the throne of the GLC (Gubernator et Legum (Conditor)). Directly in front is the Altar of Brotherly Love, which is covered with a white cloth, and holds the two Lamps of Wisdom. Nearby is the chair of the DCR (Director Ceremoniarum Religiosarum). On the North is the chair of the PCS (Progubernator et Custos Sigili). On the wall above it is a bracket supporting a skull. On the South is the chair of the STC (Scribor et Tabularum Custos). Above it is a bracket holding a bust. On the West is the chair of the DTE (Dispensator et Thesauri Exactor). On the wall are the symbols of a purse, and a heart transfixed by a dagger.

The brethren are assembled, wearing white aprons and scarlet sashes. The GLC, wearing a purple cape and a sword, addresses the SCO (Salutis Custos Ordinis).

GLC: Very worthy SCO, is the door of this lodge now closed and guarded? (The SCO, who wears a black robe, salutes with his sword.)

SCO: It is, Most Worshipful GLC.

GLC: To keep it thus guarded is your duty, faithfully to be performed. For this purpose we have placed a sword in your hand, that you may protect us from all external enemies. But there are enemies even more dangerous whom we must guard against, internal enemies, ever ready to sow the fruitful seeds of strife and discord. You will now advance and give the password.

(The SCO whispers it to the GLC.) GLC: I now exhort you, Brethren, to give careful heed to the precepts of our order.

DTE: Our Order would have us be gentlemen; she would have us cultivate true nobility of conduct, not simply a servile obedience to

Through the Looking Glass

Robin J. Carroll
(Class of '79)

the rules and conventions of society, but those qualities which are characteristic of the truly gentleman.

Brethren: So mote it be!
STC: Scholars, too, she would have us be, making our own improvement the elevation of the whole Order. Let us make ourselves ornaments of the world and of society; but above all, let us prove ourselves worthy of the confidence and just pride of our fraternity.

Brethren: So mote it be!
GLC: Brethren, we have heard the teachings of our beloved Order; let us take them to heart, and by the constant practice of them, render them not only professions, but living realities. Let no discord enter here, but let our intercourse in this place promote that feeling of brotherly love, which our allegiance to the Order, so solemnly promised, ever demands of us.

Brethren: So mote it be!
SCR: May no unkindness, ill will nor enmity be manifested in this order.

Brethren: So mote it be!
SCR: May we be lovingly drawn towards one another, and may we cherish the interests of this Order in our hearts, until our life's end.

Brethren: So mote it be!
GLC (draws his sword and places it on the Altar) In the name of Kappa Gamma Chi, we pronounce this meeting open.

The various officers make their reports. New members are proposed and voted on (by the

traditional white or black ball method). Future activities (a dance, a picnic, a beer party, etc.) are discussed. Other discussions, all equally as exciting, take place during the meeting.

GLC: Brethren, we are about to depart from this home of fraternal love to mingle in the distracting life of the outer world, but before we leave this lodge-room, let us gather around our Altar to implore divine benediction that the truths and principles of our beloved Order may rule and direct our hearts; so that when again we meet in this hallowed place, we may find our hearts animated with the same noble sentiments which now find utterance in our midst.

Brethren: So mote it be!
SCR: May the secrets of this order never be revealed to the uninitiated. (Note - that's you, folks.)

Brethren: So mote it be!
DCR: May our hearts be pure and unsullied before the outer world.

Brethren: So mote it be!
DCR: May we present no spectacle of anger or unseemly contention before the uninitiated.

Brethren: So mote it be!
GLC! (sheaths his sword) In the name of Kappa Gamma Chi, we pronounce this meeting closed.

This story is true. Several minor (and boring) details have been deleted, but the rest is unchanged. Fellow students, beware! It happened once... and it could happen again.

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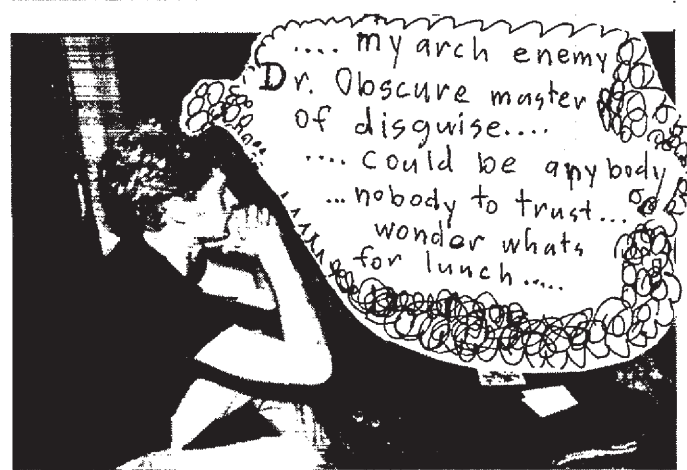
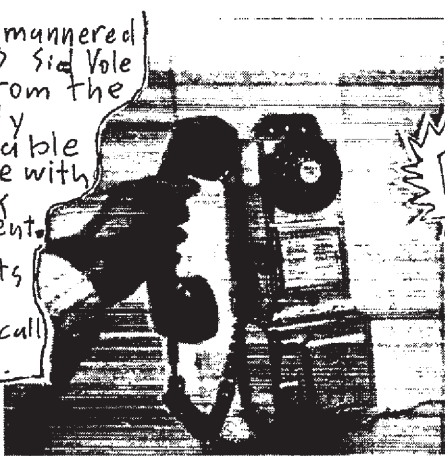
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CAMPUS WARS

by Paul K. Spencer

Let me now tell you my story. Long ago, in the days of my great-grandfather, Bard was what they called a "liberal arts college." That does not mean liberal in the bad sense of the word. Liberal didn't mean subversive then. I think that it meant a school where you just went to learn things like literature and Philosophy, and biology and math. There weren't even any classes in artillery or small arms; there weren't classes in warfare at all. I think this was because colleges didn't fight with one another. This went on for a long time.

Anyway, things happened and this changed. At this time the country was united and people didn't fight each other. Like I said, some things happened that changed all this. The economy got in trouble and the country went into a depression. There was a heavy energy crisis. The lower educational institutions became disorganized and in most cases they stopped working all together. People got stupid. When you wanted to go to college you had to take a test called an S.A.T. I don't know what that stood for. Anyway, the average score got well below 300 and I guess it used to be a lot higher. Back in those days they probably would have considered

me pretty stupid but nowadays I'm one of the smartest people around. In fact, I'm one of the only people around!

Since people were dumber the colleges had less people and had to lower their entrance standards. Also, people didn't have so much money any more, so they had to make tuition cheaper. Colleges were in financial trouble so they had to look for other ways to make money. They started by getting involved in the local politics in their area. After awhile they just started to take over the farms and industries and cities around them. They had the power to do this because they still had money from their endowments. They started by buying industries and farms with their money but after they started building little armies, which they supplied with arms with the money from their endowments, they just took things over by force. They rarely met with any resistance. So city-states were formed and each college ran its own.

The big universities made their moves fast. M.I.T. took over Harvard and all the other schools in Boston. They were very powerful. Columbia took over New York. S.U.N.Y. took over Albany and

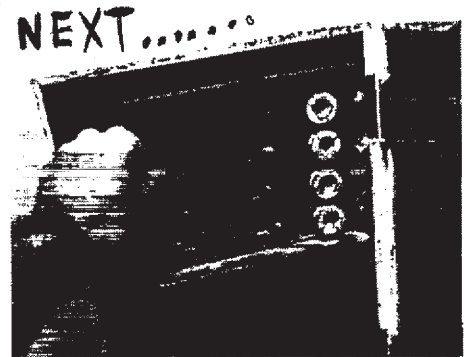
most of the small schools in the area. Caltech merged with U.C.L.A. and U.S.C. All the major schools ended up taking over neighboring schools. Small colleges that resisted were immediately annihilated. Such would have been our fate at Bard if it hadn't been for one man.

Skiff. His name is forever immortal. We owe our survival to this man. To us he is actually more than a man, he is something akin to God himself. I, of course, never met him but my great-grandfather did and the stories of him have been passed down over the last four generations.

When the first universities began occupying land and other colleges, this man Skiff saw that unless Bard did something we'd either be occupied or destroyed. Skiff had the answer. THE WALL.

THE WALL. This barrier of defense surrounds the thousand-acre campus for an eight mile radius. It stands twenty feet high, with an additional ten feet sunk in the ground below. Its width is twenty feet with a tunnel running through it six feet wide by eight feet tall. The inside surface of the wall is four feet thick, the outside ten. Machine gun turrets are placed every fifty feet and heavy anti-tank guns in steel shrouded turrets are placed every four hundred feet. A minimum of one thousand eight-hundred and seventy-six men

Continued on next page



The lights go out!!

Gentle Giant (Cont'd from Page 5)
of G.G.'s previous eight albums. The second cut, "Memories of Old Days" is the most relaxed and leisurely on the album. The primary guitar work, by Gary Green, is acoustic and the slow pace seems to imitate the warm savorings of a melancholy remembrance. "Winning" begins with an interesting piece of assorted percussion which is vaguely reminiscent of Zappa stuff. The final song "For Nobody" employs the beautiful two-voice counterpoint again in addition to a scathing guitar solo by Green.

In the long run Gentle Giant must, like all bands, break up, sell out or exhaust their worth. But to judge by "The Missing Piece" it seems like they're going to take a long time before they go.

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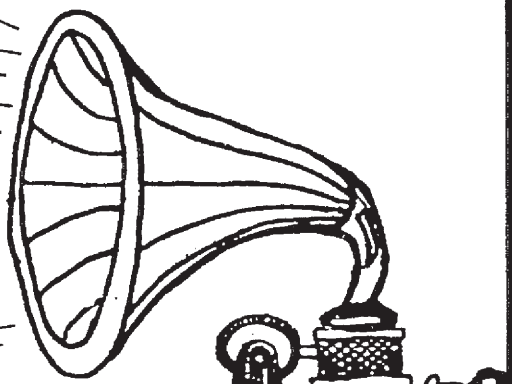
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Campus Wars (Cont'd from Page 6)

are needed to man this defense system. Almost seven hundred thousand tons of concrete and steel went into the construction of this wall.

To build such a wall cost us a tremendous amount of time, money and labor. To afford such a costly undertaking we had three main sources of income. One was the profits from farms and businesses in the area we occupied. We had, with the little money in our possession, built a small army and occupied the area from Tivoli to Rhinebeck, and as far east as Pine Plains.

We also controlled traffic on the Hudson River. We mined the river in a complicated pattern and had heavy artillery trained on it for miles. No one would use this area of the Hudson without our permission. The toll charges were very high as we'd long ago blown the railroad tracks and overland travel was extremely dangerous.

Our last and very profitable source of income was the production and sale of "Hejeman 200." I will talk about this at a later time.

Men and women of all ages in the occupied areas were called upon to work for Bard. This work ranged from manual labor on THE WALL to dancing in the canteen. They were paid back with the guarantee of military protection.

And so, after fifteen years THE WALL was complete. It is said that Skiff laid down half of the bricks and concrete used with his bare hands but I don't think this is true. Throughout the construction of THE WALL he helped with other things. We tore down sever-

al buildings for their material including a group of them called Stone Row. These added very little to THE WALL but were considered unstable in the event of an attack anyway. Many buildings were torn down because Skiff said they would be indefensible. Most living quarters and class rooms were moved to new facilities thirty feet underground. Most left over space was used for farming as we were becoming totally self-sufficient.

There were other developments. Skiff said that we must turn our area of focus from academics to military training. In their freshmen year students had to take Basic Training. This mainly involved small arms practice and hand to hand combat. In your sophomore year you could experiment a bit with classes ranging from artillery tactics to armored combat (tank warfare). Our strongest department was undoubtedly Artillery but Guerilla Warfare came in at a close second.

At your junior year you would have to moderate. I moderated in Armor. Then in the last year you had a senior project. This usually consisted of taking some command in active duty for a minimum of three months. It was never hard to find action as we were constantly raiding other small colleges like Vassar and Columbia-Green Community College. My senior project was participating in a five month long offensive against Vassar and Marist, in which I commanded a group of eight of our medium and heavy tanks. It was a glorious battle! We did a lot of damage! But all this came long after the time I'm talking about.

We had no problem with manpower. Now all the eligible young men and women in our area of occupation served us faithfully.

Our army grew tremendously. With the Breeding Program we had no fears of our population being depleted, in future generations.

The administration had some big changes also. The man called Botstein was still King but he was in reality just a puppet. The true head of the school was Field Marshall Griffiths. He was a tough leader from what I've heard and reflected the strength of Bard.

And so The Wall was completed and Bard was finely tempered into an effective fighting machine. We were a match for just about any college. Even a big university would think twice before attacking us.

We were ready. And just in the nick of time for we were soon attacked by SUNY. They had evidently not realized our strength as they were somewhat isolated from our area. They must have thought we'd be an easy victory but ran smack into the Wall. We cut them to ribbons! Their few survivors limped home to tell the news that BARD was not shitting around.

From what has been written, these early days must have been glorious! We were well respected by even the large universities. These were the good old days. We have other, greater victories in the future, but we would also have the times of total hell. These we shall soon see.

Another thing. Soon after these early victories we decided to change the motto on our Bard emblem. We changed it to a much more appropriate one in my opinion. The old saying said something like "Doba Tibi Coronam . . ." something or other, nobody even knew what the hell it meant. We got rid of that and changed our motto to "We're Bard, We're Tough, So Don't Fuck With Us!!!" I thought that was really clever.

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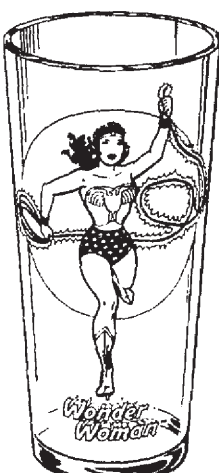
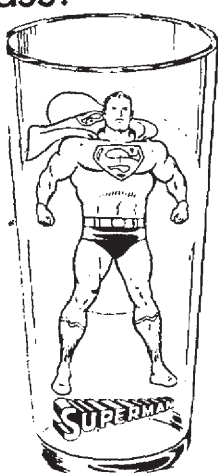
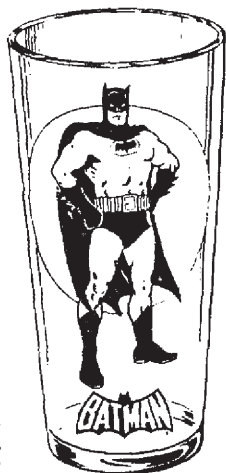
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