

# OBSERVER

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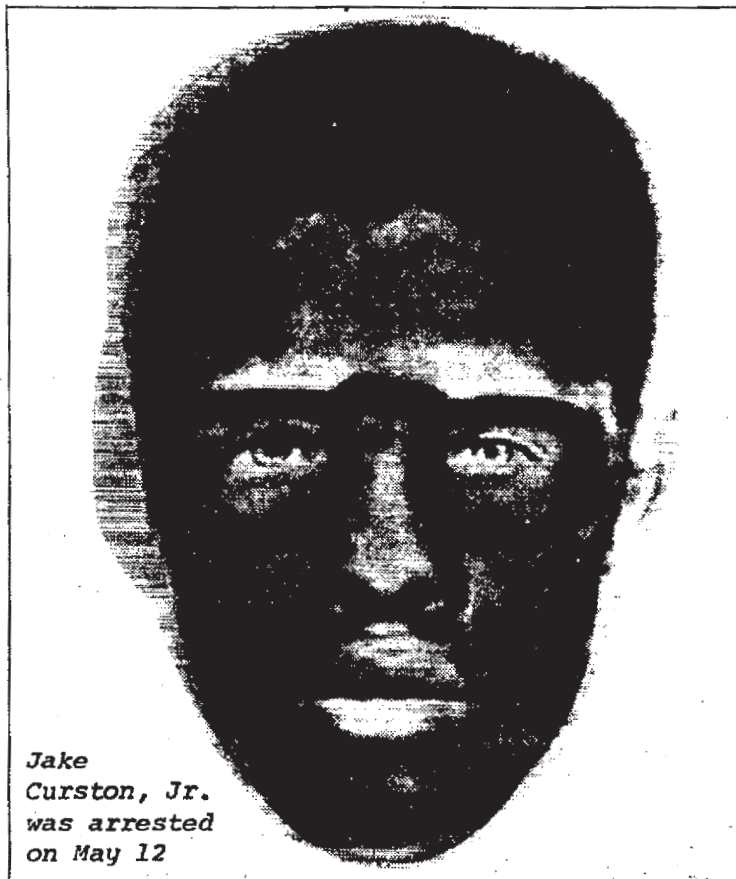
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# The Bard Observer

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MAY 18, 1989

Bard College  
Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

News is whatever  
sells newspapers.  
The Observer is free.



Jake  
Curston, Jr.  
was arrested  
on May 12

## Robbins Intruder Captured

by Brenda Montgomery

On Friday, May 12, Dutchess County Sheriff's Department and the New York State Police Department arrested and arraigned Jake Curston, Jr., a local man, in connection with the Robbins incident on May 5.

On the morning of Friday, May 5, an intruder entered three rooms at Robbins and frightened a female student who was in the hallway.

Curston lives in College Park, a development east of Bard, across 9G. He was identified in a photo line-up on May 10. Curston has been charged with four counts of burglary and criminal trespass.

Curston was recently released from prison where he was serving time for a similar charge. He was held by police following the arraignment. A \$2000 cash bond has been set.

Between 4:30 and 5:00 a.m. the perpetrator entered three rooms, belonging to female students. The first student screamed and scared him off, the second asked him what he was doing there and told him to leave. The third sat up and before she realized it

wasn't a dream, he had fled.

Next the individual hid himself behind a doorway in the hallway next to the bathroom. A female student was exiting the bathroom and noticed that the door looked different and suddenly saw the  
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## Bard Loses Rabbi

by Matthew C. Duda

Bard College will find itself without a Jewish Chaplain as of May 23. Nancy Flam has decided to leave Bard to accept a position as rabbi of a congregation in Port Washington, L.I.

Her sudden departure is at the center of a controversy surrounding the until-recently amicable relationship between Vassar and Bard College.

In a letter dated February 1, 1989 from Bruce Chilton, Chaplain at Bard College, and Janet Cooper Nelson, Director of the Office for Religious Activities and Chaplaincy at Vassar College to Leon Botstein,

## Dissatisfied parents sue for \$60 million

by Cormac Flynn

A \$60 million wrongful death suit has been filed against Bard College by the parents of Neill Wells, a freshman student who died in his Ravine dorm room of a sudden heart attack almost two years ago.

Although the suit had been filed last September, the first public account of it appeared only last Wednesday in the Kingston Daily Freeman. The front page Freeman article, which quoted the Wells' and their lawyer extensively, seemed to take the college administration by surprise.

The college declined to comment to both the Observer and the Freeman about the case. However, sources said that the administration has been in negotiations with the Wells for months now and had believed the matter close to resolution.

Neill Wells was found dead on September 14, 1987 by his roommate. An autopsy showed that he had an undiagnosed case of colitis, which was aggravated by stress and flu, causing a cardiac arrest. Neill's roommate

and some of his friends were aware that he was feeling sick, but didn't realize the magnitude of his condition. The Wells' maintain that had Neill received treatment he would have lived.

The Wells' attorney Thomas Maroney, a partner in the Tarrytown firm of Walsh, Maroney and Ponzini, told the Freeman that Neill's peer counselor (P.C.), Cathy (Cat) Anderson, had "admitted" to being aware of his sickness. This contradicts earlier reports including, the Observer has been told, Anderson's deposition. The Wells' are charging that Anderson was inadequately trained and insufficiently mature for her position.

Anderson is studying abroad this year, but her many friends on the college campus rallied to her defense today. "They're hurt and their angry, I understand that, but that doesn't give them a right to drag Cat's name through the mud and print it on page one of the newspaper," said one student. "I don't think they have much of a case. Cat is an excellent peer counselor." added  
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# Campus News

## For she's a jolly good fellow

by Valerie Scurto

Sophomore Michele Berger has been accepted to be a Fellow in The Washington Center's Minority Leaders Fellowship Program in Washington, D.C. this summer.

The ten week program designed especially for minority college students has two features—one theoretical and one experiential.

The theoretical component consists of a one-week intensive seminar and nine weekly mini-seminars focusing on leadership theory and skill development. Fellows will hear lectures from national experts and participate in small group discussion sessions and skill-building workshops.

Fellows will also take part in

two Washington Center speakers series and participate in a weekly course which will require them to design and implement a project in which they will take a leadership role. Berger plans to take a course on public policy or on issues of the third world.

Beginning the second week, Fellows will participate in a nine-week internship, the experiential component, related to their areas of interest. Fellows will serve as entry-level professionals throughout Washington for thirty-five hours a week. Positions will be available in the private sector, the federal and city governments, and in non-profit organizations.

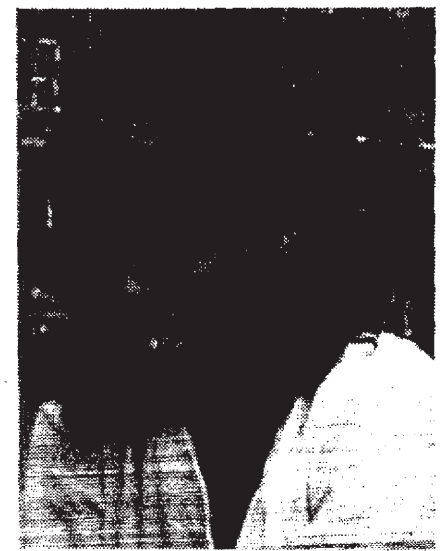
Each Fellow will assess his or her own progress three times over the course of the

internship. Also, an on-site agency sponsor and a Washington Center program associate will evaluate the Fellows.

Berger was nominated by President Leon Botstein, who, like other presidents from colleges and universities across the country, was asked to nominate one outstanding student from their campus. Then, a Blue-Ribbon panel considered each nominee and evaluated his or her potential for leadership and achievement.

Berger was selected out of approximately 3,000 applicants and notified in March as being one of the top five alternates. Additional funding was provided for the program and in late April, Berger was accepted as one of the 45 Fellows.

Criteria for the program included that the student be a U.S. citizen, in one of the following minority groups: Afro-American, Asian-American, Hispanic, Native-American, and Pacific Islander, and enrolled in an accredited institution of



Michele Berger

higher education. The student must also be in good academic standing and have demonstrated an active role in campus or community affairs.

The Washington Center is the largest independent, nonprofit organization that enables students to earn college credit for internships and academic seminars.

## Library of the future

by Valerie Scurto

The completion of the new addition to the Hoffman-Kellogg Library may be expected in the early 1990's.

Presently the college has selected three architectural firms and is awaiting their design proposals. A final selection of a firm is to be made in June.

Head Librarian David Tipple says the project is estimated at \$7 million. President Leon Botstein is in the process of finding a donor for the project. However, if no donor is found, the college will fund the project through its budget.

The three firms which the school is considering are Venturi, Rauch & Scott Brown, DeStefanno/Goettsche, and Torre Beeler Associates. Each of the firms have previous experience with libraries and college campuses.

The conceptual proposals due at the end of May will be considered with regard to how well the needs outlined in the building program are met.

Needs in consideration focus on the library's role on campus. "How the library supports the academic program, the tutorial work and individual research are things we want to continue at Bard," said Tipple.

In 1893, the Hoffman Library

was built and in 1972, the Kellogg addition was completed. This addition was built with the intent that when another addition was needed, it would connect on to the present one. However, due to the problems with lighting and the heating-cooling system, this idea was eliminated.

The question has been raised as to why a new library facility cannot be built, apart from the present one. The main problem is the funding of such a project which would be too costly for the college. Another factor is the addition built in the 1970's. "That would have been the point to build a new free standing library, however, at the time, there were circumstances in the way," stated Tipple.

After the selection of the architects, there will be a 50 week period covering time for design development, preparation of the 'bid set' of drawings, bidding, and selection of the contractor.



## C.S.O. to form

by Matthew C. Duda

A great number of changes have occurred in and around the Chaplain's Office this year at Bard, such as the gain of a Jewish Chaplain and the resurgence of the Jewish Students Organization. Now, plans are being made for a Christian Students Organization (C.S.O.) this fall.

"Although I have been supportive of the idea from the start, I consider myself more of a resource to the C.S.O. than

playing an active role in the organization. It is exciting -and proper- to see students getting involved in their faith, to witness with others and form a organization. It seems that we'll really see some dynamic support for the group next semester," Rev. Bruce Chilton, Chaplain of the College, commented.

Expected activities for the fall include informal gathering and discussions of the meaning and faith of being a Christian.

If you would like more information or input into the C.S.O., please drop a note to the Office of the Chaplain.

## Suspended student drops suit

by Brenda Montgomery

A second semester junior was suspended for two years following an incident at Manor on April 13. The student was alleged to have threatened the life of two other students. Since the student involved has not been tried yet, his name is being kept confidential.

The student was allegedly acting in "an irrational manner," according to Art Otey, Director of Security. The State Police were called in and the student was arrested. The two students threatened signed charges against the junior and he was

suspended from school and removed from campus.

The junior, a transfer student, went before a judge and was released on his own recognizance. Before he had left the courtroom, he made another threat in the presence of the judge, which prompted the judge to place him in confinement. He was released to his parents.

The student recently dropped his grievance suit against the college, which protested his suspension. According to Otey and the Assistant Dean of Students, Shelley Morgan, the student plans to leave Bard permanently.



## Vehicles vandalized

by Brenda Montgomery

There has been a rash of auto vandalism on campus. During the fall semester, the vandalism was accomplished with rocks, but this semester's incidents have been of a different sort. The fall vandals have been arrested and are awaiting trial.

Recent acts of vandalism were done with a window punch, a tool used by firefighters to rescue people trapped in cars. The window punch is a metal device that shatters the window completely, allowing firemen to fold back the window. At Bard, it was used to damage cars.

Thursday, May 27, students reported four white males vandalizing a car in Manor parking lot. When the students heard glass breaking, they called Security with the license plate number of the vandals car. What followed were two car chases and an arrest.

Security pursued the vehicle to Rt.9, south to Annandale near Adolfs, where the suspects did a "Bootlegger 180." Art Otey, Director of Security, explained that this occurs when both the

gas and brakes are hit at the same time, causing the car to turn 180 degrees. "Our car couldn't do that--it would turn over," said Otey. The suspects escaped to Rt.9.

Forty-five minutes later, State Police resumed the chase on Whalesback Road, following the car to Rhinebeck, where they apprehended the suspect. The individual was intoxicated and underage. He named three other boys that had been with him earlier that night.

The investigation is still ongoing. Otey said, "the questioning takes longer because they are juveniles."

The campus has been host to other acts of vandalism and theft recently. There has been an increase in bicycle thefts on campus, but Otey is confident that Security is close to solving the case, "thanks to student help."

Students that witnessed the suspects have provided Security with the same license number twice now. "We can't move too fast now. We'll have a better case if we don't rush," said Otey.

## Pell Grant recipients may be checked for drug use

(CPS)--Federal investigators soon may be conducting "spot checks" of students who have Pell Grants to make sure they are not using illicit drugs.

U.S. Dept. of Education Secretary Lauro Cavazos announced the new effort, in which investigators would make spot checks at various campuses to make sure the students are not taking, making or selling illegal drugs, in mid-April.

He also said he would rely on anonymous tips to determine whom to investigate.

"That's some scary stuff," observed Scott Affleck, executive director of the Philadelphia-based American Association of University Students, a coalition of private campus student leaders.

Education Dept. officials immediately began backing off Cavazos' statement, refusing to elaborate on what a "spot check" might involve--a urinalysis? a broad questioning of an accused student's friends?--or how the department might field anonymous tips.

"We are still working out the details of enforcement, including spot audits and spot checks," said department spokesman Jim Bradshaw, cautioning that nothing is final. "We are discussing the options."

Starting for their fall 1989 term, students already will be required to sign anti-drug pledges to get federal college aid.

Under the Drug-Free Work Place Act of 1988, all federal grant recipients--from weapons builders to students--will be required to prove they don't take illegal drugs. Before getting their Pell Grants, students will have to sign a form swearing they "will not engage in the unlawful manufacture, distribution, dispensation, possession, or use of a controlled substance."

Cavazos' new spot checks, the secretary said at the Conference on Drug Free Schools and Communities held in Baltimore, are to help the department enforce the Drug-Free Work

Continued on page 6...



## Friendship Walk: A Success

by Jonah Gensler

Months of planning paid off last Saturday as nearly 100 walkers left Ward Manor at Bard College and started the ten kilometer walk to Rhinebeck as part of the Mid-Hudson/Larreynaga Sister City Project's "Friendship Walk".

The Walkathon, intending to raise enough money to send an ambulance to the Mid-Hudson Valley's Nicaraguan sister city Larreynaga, was deemed a great success by its organizers. "We're quite on our way to reaching the range we need to send an ambulance down to Larreynaga this summer," said Fred Nagel, an organizer for the project, "and we had a great time in the process."

The Friendship Walk had been scheduled for the previous Saturday but was postponed a week due to threats of thundershowers.

The Mid-Hudson/Larreynaga Sister City Project was started last June when two area residents travelled to Nicaragua to look for a sister-city. Since then, project members have presented their slides and information to groups in Manor, in elementary schools and elsewhere. Publicity for the walkathon included stories in the leading local newspapers, radio stations and even an appearance on WTZA-TV.

Brian Reid, the project's press coordinator commented that,

"Besides involving the actual participants, our campaign exposed thousands of people to the work we are doing as a result of all the great media attention we've been getting."

The walk, which included lunch at historic Rokeby farm and a Central American dinner at Church of the Messiah, began and ended with music from the Hudson Valley Folk Guild.

The mood was a festive one as the walkers, who included area residents and Bard staff and students, covered over 10 kilometers of roadway. "I felt good walking so far 'cause this will help some kids in Nicaragua," proclaimed one of the younger participants.

Larreynaga, and Nicaragua in general, needs people's support. Recovering from a heavy hurricane last fall, and a Contra-war that is only recently dissolving, things like polio-vaccinations and school books are hard to come by in Nicaragua.

Tim Siftar, a Bard student who walked on Saturday, hoped that people working to lift the U.S. trade embargo might help speed up the process of improving Nicaraguan life.

Those sponsors who wish to give in their pledges are asked to contact me, Jonah Gensler (box 686). You can also contact me about material aid donations and future sister city activities.



# Editorials

## Dream Team detrimental

With the recent production of films such as "Dream Team" and "Crazy People," the National Mental Health Association (NMHA) urges the entertainment industry to "get the facts" on mental illnesses, be sensitive and be careful when portraying people with mental illnesses.

The illnesses are complex, often involving brain dysfunctions sometimes expressed through "abnormal" behavior. Historically, society's interpretation of these behavioral symptoms has been harsh and stereotypical. Victims are labeled as "wacko," "lunatic," "nuts" or "crazy."

According to Preston Garrison, NMHA executive director, "Research clearly demonstrates

the biomedical and biochemical factors involved in mental illnesses. The entertainment industry has a responsibility to treat these disorders as illnesses, not simply to focus on symptomatic behaviors when a person with a mental illness is portrayed in comedy or drama."

Since one in four American families is affected by mental illnesses, presenting people with a mental illness as unique, strange or different is not only dangerous but ludicrous as well. No one is immune from or escapes the impact of a mental illness, whether a phobia, mild depression, or a serious long-term disorder such as schizophrenia or manic depression. No one suffers alone--in the wake of pain are

family, friends and co-workers, indeed, the nation itself.

"Normalizing the portrayal of people with mental illnesses in the media is a key objective of the National Mental Health Association," said Garrison. "Producers, writers, and film and television executives must recognize the need to consult with consumers of mental health services--the patients themselves--and with organizations representing their interests to ensure that an accurate message is delivered along with an awareness of the suffering--emotional, financial and social--imposed by a mental illness."

The enemy of normalization is stigma, a modern-day remnant of the chains and handcuffs which once physically restrained patients in state mental institutions in the 1940s and 50s. Stigmatizing attitudes and language serve the same function today--to restrict, isolate, and

de-humanize people with mental illnesses.

During May, celebrated nationally as Mental Health Month, NMHA and its 600 affiliates focuses the nation's attention upon more than 8 million children and adolescents in this country who have a mental or emotional disturbance. Of these, 70 to 80 percent are not receiving appropriate mental health care. In addition, in any six-month period 18 million adults have a diagnosable mental or emotional disorder.

Public attitudes and perceptions of children and adults with mental illnesses are largely shaped by the entertainment media. Negative consequences surface as inadequate funding for community-based mental health services and for mental health research.

NMHA hopes the industry will heed this critical lesson in accountability--get the facts, be sensitive and be careful.

## Lakens cope positively with their tragedy

Dear Bard Family,

As this school year draws to a close we are experiencing emotions of unparalleled intensity which we want to share with you.

First, we feel the agonizing pain and emptiness which accompanies the final acknowledgement that our son, Shawn, will not now or ever again be returning home for summer vacation.

Secondly, we feel tremendously comforted by the warm and understanding support that so many of you have bestowed upon us throughout this long year. Hearing from you has been a major catalyst in the long and difficult healing process.

Thirdly, we feel hopeful that this tragedy will have been a sobering reminder to all of us of the serious responsibilities driving entails.

Also we feel thankful. We thank all of you who so generously ushered us through the process of completing the business details to which we needed to attend. We thank all of you who formed a blanket of support to carry us through several difficult times on campus. We thank those of you who have continued to stay in touch regularly, helping us feel, even now, more connected to our son.

We thank you who have so generously sent us copies of photographs, letters, music, poetry, art, etc. of and by Shawn.

These items are priceless additions to our scraps of memory which becomes so cherished when a beloved child is gone.

We would naturally welcome any additional mementos any of Shawn that you could share with us. Please send them to:

The Lakens  
Box 52  
Glyndon, Maryland  
21070  
(301) 526-4714

Because Bard played such an important role first in Shawn's life and now in ours, we feel a deep commitment to the Bard Community. In concert with the administration, we have established the Shawn Laken Memorial Fund, which will be

used in a way which would have been very meaningful to Shawn.

We invite all of you to contribute as generously as you can in Shawn's memory. Funds can be sent to: Shawn Laken Memorial Fund, c/o Susan Gillespie, Development Office, Bard College.

Although we are sorry to have gotten involved at Bard for the reason we have, we are honored to be in such company. Bard is unique and wonderful. Hopefully we can help to increase its strength through our involvement.

Hope to be in touch next year. Have a wonderful summer.

Very fondly,  
The Lakens



The Bard Observer  
Bard College  
Annandale, NY 12504

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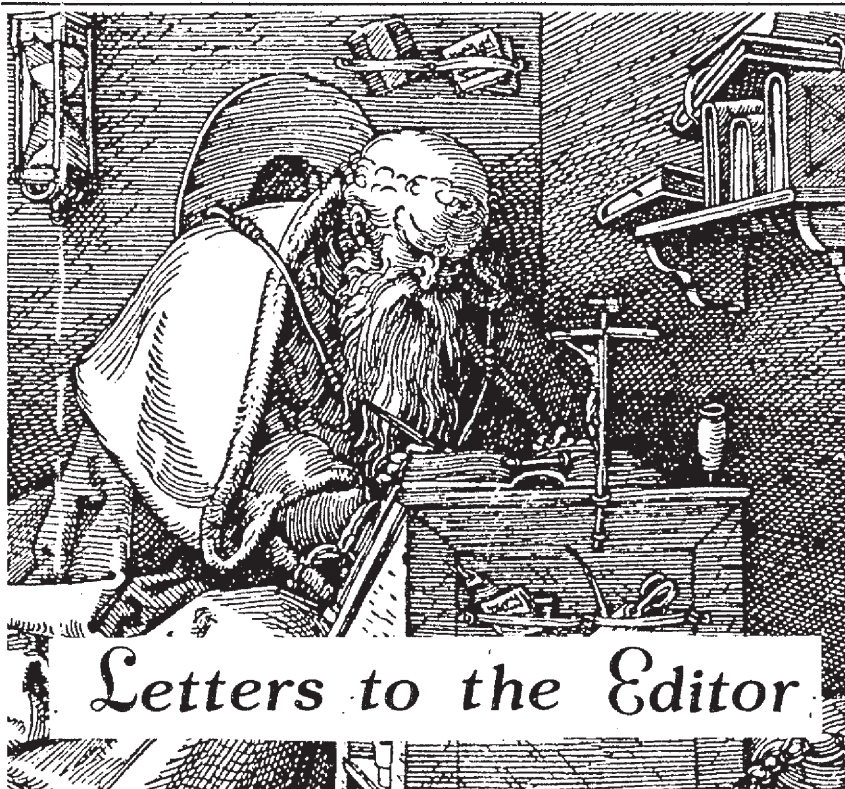
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Letters to the editor should not exceed 300 words and must be signed legibly. All articles, cartoons, and photos that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the front desk of the library. The editor reserves the right to edit for style and space.

Display Ad Rate: \$2 per column inch.

Classifieds under 25 words:  
\$ .25; 25-50 words: \$ .50.





## Letters to the Editor

### Chilton sets the facts straighter

To the Editor,

Now that you have run an article alleging to report proposals of the Division of Social Studies, and printed a letter from President Botstein which responds to the article, perhaps you would like to know what the Division had actually proposed.

First, no proposal concerning moderation or the project has been made. We shall continue our internal discussions of those institutions, from which suggestions might or might not arise, because as teachers we must constantly consider how best to help our students learn.

Second, we are currently discussing a plan within the Executive Committee of Faculty, concerning lectures. But the lectures we propose would be strictly limited, meet more frequently than such courses presently do, and include fewer students.

Their purpose would be to add variety and to keep seminars at a reasonable size. Very full consultations, with every aspect of the educational community, has always been on our agenda, and would be required prior to any major change.

My Division intends, by means of discussion and (if necessary) the suggestion of changes, to enhance the standards of the moderation and the senior project. The excellence of which your editorial spoke is our goal; but the maintenance of excellence requires continued creativity and experimentation.

Lastly, I want to say that the engagement in educational questions in your recent issues is admired by everyone I have spoken to in my Division. But we also wish you would consult us before claiming to state our positions. And I would say that Bard's 'philosophy' is not one you 'take or leave:' rather, it is something you stay and create.

Yours sincerely,  
Bruce Chilton '71  
Chair of Division of Social Studies

### Balls in an uproar

To the Editor RE the "Tewksbury Beer Balls, Go Home!" letter from Scott Heckendorf of Thursday, May 4, 1989.

We were appalled at this vicious, frustrated attack on the Tewksbury Softball team. Scott Heckendorf was obviously looking for someone to blame for the vandalism of the science wing on April 15. We, the Tewksbury Beer Balls, were accused of being the "self-centered yuppies" who left their "calling card" at Hegeman that evening. On behalf of the softball team and the residents of Tewksbury, we had no involvement in any "childish partying and acts of vandalism."

At the suggestion of the Athletic staff to create more rivalry between the softball teams to spice up the playing season, a few members of the Beer Balls decided to make a sign  
*Continued on page 12...*

## Drake dredges up the dirt

To the Editor:

I am writing to commend the Observer for its efforts in pursuing and reporting such controversial issues as the Social Studies Division proposals and the chapel organ.

While you will, no doubt, be clobbered from all sides, you have been willing to verify several truths: that the faculty of Bard has an active interest in the evolution of the college's educational process, that the administration acts in a heavy-handed way to stifle such creativity, and that a fiscal shell game is being played with Bard resources.

It is clear from my one year stay at Bard, and from my experiences at other liberal arts colleges, that the administration here is unusually haughty, and disrespectful of the students, staff and faculty of the college.

The ink was hardly dry on the April 20th Observer when a letter appeared from the

President, citing trustee support, denouncing the Social Studies Division plan. His contempt for faculty ideas, established faculty appointment processes and faculty majority votes, if they do not square with his own, are legendary.

He told a recent visitor to the campus that the faculty lacked his broad vision of the future. If this vision is reflected in his own recent proposal, it reflects a lack of understanding of societal needs in science and math education.

His call for the development of new ways to teach science courses, and for a new math requirement, is a bit odd considering that he has never approached the NS&M division about them. Nor has he become personally involved in the interviews of two new mathematicians.

In fact, he rejected the appointment of a math candidate  
*Continued on page 16...*

## Racism is still a concern

To the Editor:

I refer to the artist's rendering/mugshot of an alleged CRIMINAL which was recently plastered on most of the walls of the dormitories here at Bard.

At first glance, I saw a Black man with glasses in an F.B.I.-like mugshot format. Ever susceptible to what paranoid, racist fears I still have left within me, I say to myself, "Oh my God, there must be some kind of serial rapist or murderer lurking about the campus! How awful! And of course, he's BLACK," and I expect to read an account of how this man had attempted to rape or murder some poor white girl.

On the contrary, according to the dispatch, this felon had done nothing more than "trespass," something which occurs surely fifty times every week at Bard. As to the "criminal" nature of this trespassing incident, I am still unclear. Unless, of course, I am unaware of some college rule restricting the access of Blacks and other people of color to the campus.

To the best of my knowledge there are no signs informing one as one enters the campus, that a special pass is required, or that one is automatically criminally trespassing should a single step on the property be taken. I

thought Bard was still an "open" campus.

If this horribly threatening Black male had indeed done something wrong on the morning of May 5, please let us know, lest we fall back yet another step into the Dark Ages and assume, as a rule, that the Black man is guilty of the most heinous crimes unless proven innocent. Who's next? Puerto Ricans? Jews?

Is the Bard College Security Department so insensitive to the feelings of Blacks and other people of color on this campus (and elsewhere) that such reckless steps are taken to find a suspect? Shame on whoever is responsible for the posters! This person has neither a) been to see Purgatory nor b) a modicum of sensitivity toward the feelings of others and the so-called "liberal" tradition of the college.

Outraged,  
Peter Crossan

To Mr. Crossan,

You have some very good points. Not enough information was released initially. However, the Observer would like to refer you to Brenda Montgomery's article on the Robbins incident (page one) for further details.

--The Editor





## Art Otey: The Man and His Revolution

by Brenda Montgomery

Since Art Otey came to town, Bard Security has been undergoing many changes. "My goal was to make it something people could rely on," said Otey, Director of Security.

The office has been recently renovated and now includes new medical supplies that are quite impressive. Compared to the contents of the medical kit a student would have found in the Security Office in 1986, 1989's supplies make Security seem like the Infirmary.

The Office is now equipped to treat several types of emergency, including airway insertions (should the patient be unconscious and their air pathway is blocked), burns, bee stings, and even delivering babies. The medical program has become self-sufficient thanks to the new lock-out fees paid by students.

Money from lock-outs and half of the money from parking violations has been used to supply the office with needed emergency equipment.

Otey plans to increase the Security staff next semester. "There will be more officers on duty on a regular basis," he said.

Campus security will become a part of L&T with Otey teaching a class to the incoming freshmen on "how to live away from home." The dangers of Bard and the world will be the theme. Otey hopes to impress both the students and their parents with

what their responsibilities are in ensuring their safety and the safety of the people around them.

The school is looking into installing an extensive security system which would work as a pass key to dorms. Blithewood and Tewksbury both used to have such systems but they've failed in the past. "The downfall of these systems is that they prevent friends from visiting students," said Otey.

The system Otey is interested in would be a universal key--enabling all students that live on campus access to all dorms, practice rooms and labs (eliminating the need to get keys from Security), and would serve as a meal card and library card. "The food service is estatic about the idea," said Otey.

"The system is reasonable and responsible but expensive," said Otey. Students would have access to each other, but non-campus individuals would not be able to enter dorms after normal visiting hours.

Otey stressed that help from students has been crucial in several of the cases Security is investigating. In at least two cases, students have called in license numbers that have led to the questioning of suspects.

"When I came here I wanted to change Security and make people feel that they could trust in it," said Otey. He seems to have succeeded.

## Robbins Intruder

...continued from page 1

man. The perpetrator reached toward her with both hands and she cried out for assistance. The individual fled the area at that time.

A composite drawing of the individual was released on Friday, May 5, to inform the community of any danger. Art Otey, Director of Security, released the drawing to encourage response from the community, and did not release all details to "avoid panic." His efforts were successful as other female students came forward with similar incidents that night.

Otey says that the investigation has ruled out any connection of this incident with the Rhinebeck rapist. "The Rhinebeck rapist was very violent; this guy was passive, non-aggressive."

The Sheriff's Department has two suspects that fit the description well. Bard Security and the Sheriff's Department arranged for a photo line-up to see if one of the students involved could pick out a suspect. On May 10, one of the students identified the intruder from one of the photographs.

Curston was picked from among

the photo line-up, in which both suspects had been placed. He's known for voyeurism, though his record in this area was based on incidents in Red Hook.

Bard Security encourages students to make efforts to insure their personal safety at all times. Any person having a similar incident should not hesitate to call the Security Office.

Any persons with information pertaining to this incident, please call the Dutchess County Sheriffs Dept. at 452-0400 or Bard College Security at 758-7460.

\*\*\*

The arrival of State Police on campus led to the confiscation of some marijuana plants. State Police were on campus Sunday, May 7, to check any connection between the Robbins intruder and the Rhinebeck rapist.

When the officer passed Sands, he observed what he thought were marijuana plants on the roof. The officer entered Sands, talked to students about the Robbins incident, then entered a room to get access to the plants.

A Bard student was released without charges, since the plants were "outside of the students control," said Otey. A search warrant was threatened, but since it was Sunday, the officer was unable to get one.



BEFORE YOU TAKE OFF—

CHECK IT OFF ✓

1. Windows closed and locked \_\_\_\_\_
2. Curtains or blinds closed \_\_\_\_\_
3. Valuables stashed out of sight \_\_\_\_\_
4. Bicycle secured in room \_\_\_\_\_
5. Appliances unplugged \_\_\_\_\_
6. Fish and plants cared for \_\_\_\_\_
7. Door locked \_\_\_\_\_

HAVE A GREAT BREAK!

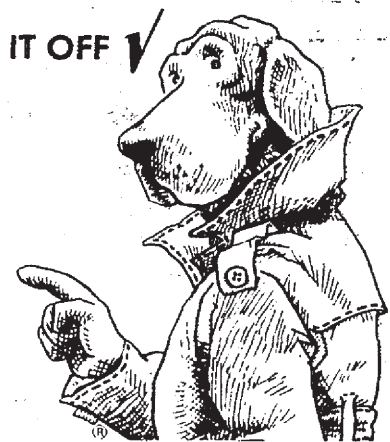
P.S.—Let a friend or relative know where you're going and when you're coming back.



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## PERSONALS

SUKRAM: What? You haven't unscrambled last issue's classified yet?!

D.B.S., Do you know that badgers kill other animals just for fun? Think about it.--check mate darlin'

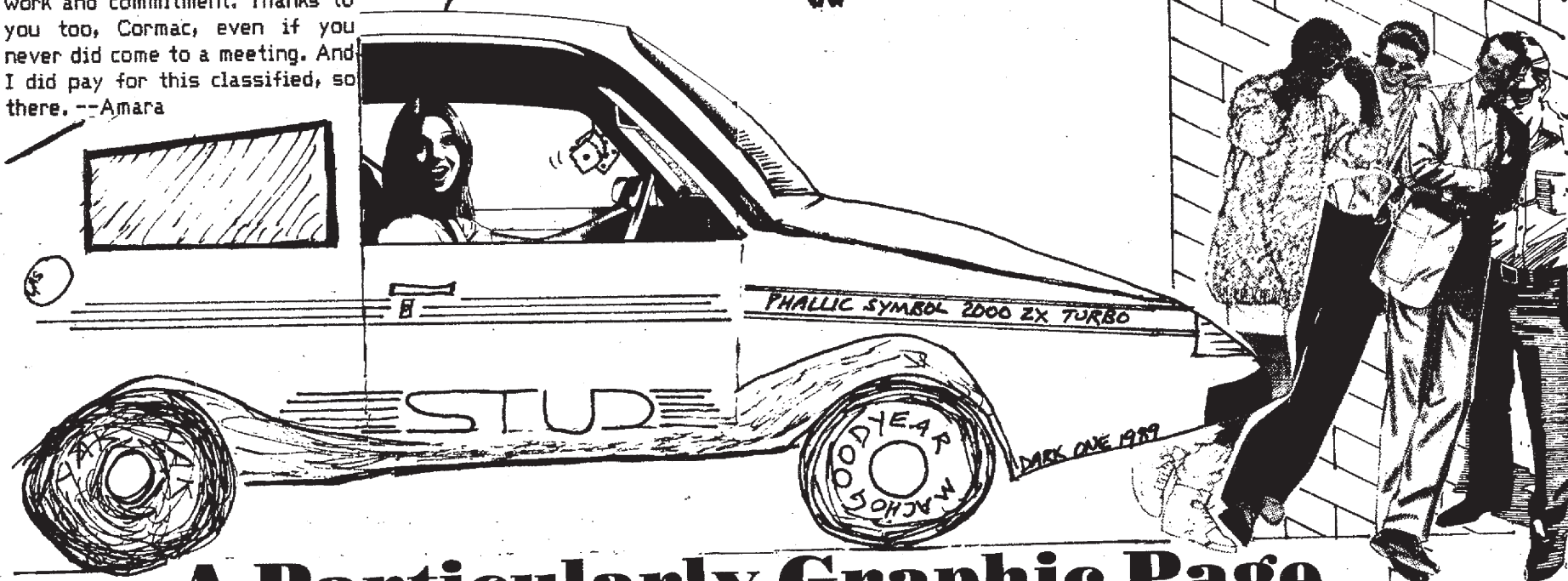
Me friend. You get the Tony the Tiger and I'll get the strawberry Haggen Daaz.

I was happy in the haze of a drunken hour but heaven knows I'm miserable now.--Morrissey

To the Freshman Seminar Dept. Somehow I envisioned going to college as a way of becoming a well-rounded, educated individual. Instead, here at Bard, I am faced with having to take a male-oriented, white-centered class, such as Freshman Seminar, against my will. from an unhappy student

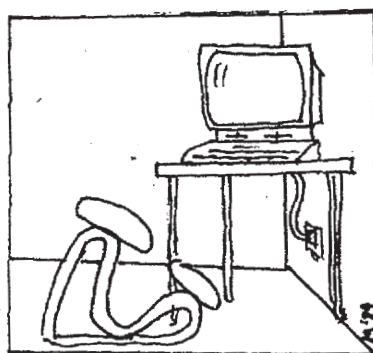
Me friend. What lies inside must many times remain hidden. Silence is at times strength; at others a piercing pain.

To the Observer staff: You are great!! Thanks for all your hard work and commitment. Thanks to you too, Cormac, even if you never did come to a meeting. And I did pay for this classified, so there. --Amara



**A Particularly Graphic Page**





## Computer Corner

by Matthew C. Duda

As the end of the term approaches, the thought of term papers and exams fill the air for most undergraduates. For those fortunate (or unfortunate) enough to be graduating students, however, an additional worry may appear: "How and where am I going to get a job?"

As the importance of job searching before graduation becomes increasingly important, several enterprising companies have come up with software which can greatly increase one's chances of finding a job.

One product in particular, KiNexus, from Information Kinetics in Paramus, New Jersey, is a top-notch example of how powerful a tool the computer can be.

KiNexus has two major components. The user end consists of a extremely user friendly database system which colleges and placement offices can use free of charge to register their students. A powerful program organizes a

dossier on each student encompassing their skills, education, jobs desired, location of jobs desired, salary desired, a condensed resume-type section, personal information, and more within the same vein. Each student and placement office can get a hard copy of the data from the computer system.

The second component is the most fascinating one. Not only does the system organize the data in an easy format for the placement offices, this data is actually collected by Information Kinetics to be entered into a giant database network of coast-to-coast (and overseas) employees. These employees then can search the database to seek the student for recruitment.

KiNexus is supported and endorsed by the College Placement Council (CPC), the largest organization of its kind in the world. Information Kinetics' C.E.O. Peter Watts is an energetic, dynamic individual (much in the same mold of the early Steven Jobs of Apple Computers and PepsiCo) who has a winning record of innovative software design in Britain.

All in all, a well designed, well supported package, which may very well prove to be the crucial career placement tool of the future in America's colleges and universities.

If you wish more information on KiNexus, the company's address is: Information Kinetics c/o Computer Learning Center, 160 E. Route 4, Paramus, New Jersey, 07652. Telephone: (201) 587-8586.

## Places to visit in Kingston

by Robin Cook

Although getting information on sites across the river seemed to be nearly impossible, I found some worth checking out.

Meanwhile, someone pointed out that I forgot to give the directions to Olana last issue. Here 'tis. Go up 9G past Clermont, for about 15 miles. It's on your right. There's a sign which says "Olana State Historic Site".

Another correction: Clermont's hours are 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., not 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Now for the goings-on across the river:

THE SENATE HOUSE is open Wednesday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. During January,

February, and March, it is open on weekends, Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Sunday 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Directions are as follows: Go across the Kingston-Rhinecliff Bridge, get onto Rte. 28 east, and enter a traffic circle. Exit onto Washington Ave., then take a left at the first light. You will now be on Plaza Lane, and will come to a light by Sears. Keep driving, and Plaza Rd. will join with Schlank Rd. Turn right at a stop sign at Schlank Rd. The Senate House will be located at about 25-50 feet.

Near the Senate House is the VOLUNTEER FIREMAN'S HALL AND MUSEUM. If the directions Continued on page 11...

## Grieved parents sue Bard

...continued from page 1

Carl Berry, himself a P.C. Similar sentiments were expressed by many others, but for a few, the anger ran even higher: "I just can't imagine trying to make money from my son's death by taking it out on the people who were his friends!"

While Anderson's friends defended her, peer counselors, breaking with both the administration and the student leadership criticized the suit and the Freeman article. "The case falls through in so many places, I think they're just looking for someone to blame. I understand they're angry and I sympathize, but it's no one's fault," said Sean Sullivan. "The Freeman article was really biased and misinformed about both the training and the role of peer counselors. I was really angry when I read that," added Peter Criswell, a senior peer counselor and a friend of Anderson's.

Student officers, citing the delicate legal situation, uncharacteristically followed the administration's lead and declined to comment on the matter. However, student opinion would seem to run universally in the college's favor.

One student, summing-up the general feeling said, "I feel very sorry for them, but seriously, when you go to college it means you're grown-up and that involves responsibility. In an apartment building, there's no one to look after you. It may sound harsh, but this is not a nursery school. It was a terrible accident, but no one is to blame."

Numerous attempts to reach Maroney for this article found him unavailable. In the Freeman, however, he seemed to suggest an out-of-court settlement, implying strongly that a trial would be disastrous for the college "because the facts of the law are against them."

That assumption was widely questioned on the Bard campus. "The guy was nineteen, he refused or resisted his friends attempts to get him medical attention until it was too late. How is that Bard's fault?" asked one incredulous senior who remembered the incident.

Wells had in fact finally made an appointment with the student

health service. He died before going that same day.

"I remember hearing that he'd gone home for a week for his grandmother's funeral; that's what caused the stress I think. Anyway, he was already sick when he was at home and they didn't do anything."

The contradictions between Maroney's assertions in the Freeman and the recollections of students present at the event, which are sometimes vague and conflicting, combined with the silence of the administration makes it difficult to set precisely what the sequence of events was.

The facts of the case will be sorted out in the court. The assignment of blame may prove a much more difficult issue. At one time, American colleges were held to be in loco parentis, or "in lieu of parents". With the lowering of the age of majority to eighteen, however, the roles of colleges and students began to change. Students, now considered adults under the law, were therefore to be considered adults on campus, with all of the attendant rights and responsibilities. Recently the courts have begun to move in the opposite direction, holding institutions increasingly responsible for the acts of their students.

If the Wells case goes to trial, (a date may be set within the next three months) the outcome may depend on the court's interpretation of the proper relationship between a student and an educational institution.

Even a judgement awarding an amount far smaller than the \$60,000,000 demanded could force the permanent closing of the college. The college remains confident that if a trial takes place, it will prevail, but even a legal victory in such a case could have a heavy cost in negative publicity, and some have speculated that this is the true reason for the Freeman article.

"They know that we're poor. They know that the most important thing we have is our reputation. This [the Freeman article] was a warning shot," one administrator said.





## International I.D. offers special benefits

New York, NY—More than 1.3 million students in 62 countries this year will obtain lower airfares, visit museums and theaters at reduced rates and tap into a toll-free, 24-hour travel assistance hotline by carrying the International Student I.D. Card, made available since 1951 by the International Student Travel Confederation, a worldwide federation of student travel organizations based in Zurich, Switzerland.

"The International Student I.D. Card helps high school and college students enjoy international travel at a discount and also provides a comprehensive package of benefits that reduces anxieties about traveling abroad," says Anne Bellows of The Council on International Educational Exchange, the U.S. sponsor of the card. "It's the only internationally recognized proof of student status."

Americans tend to be surprised that students have a special status in foreign countries and are entitled to reduced rates for travel, lodgings and cultural events, says Bellows.

Major benefits include domestic and international travel discounts by air, rail, bus and ferry; discounts on accommodations and shopping, reduced or free admission to museums, theaters, cinemas and

other places of interest. There is also a basic accident/sickness insurance package included.

While the discounts are of special appeal to the student traveler, the card's new Travel Assistance Service is particularly popular with parents.

"It's reassuring for parents to know that in case of a medical, legal or financial emergency—from locating an English-speaking doctor to help in replacing a lost passport—a student traveling abroad can dial a toll-free number and get help," says Bellows. "The hotline also helps student travelers with practical advice such as necessary health precautions for travel to remote areas and even information about car rentals, exchange rates and the dates of national holidays."

Students who are at least 12 years old and enrolled in a program of study leading to a diploma or a degree at an accredited secondary or post-secondary educational institution are eligible for the card. Maximum age restrictions may apply for some of the discounts. Information about how to obtain the card, which costs \$10, is available by contacting the Council on International Educational Exchange, Dept. 16, 205 East 42nd St., New York, NY 10017. (212) 661-1414.



## Nancy Flam leaves Bard

...continued from page 1  
Dartmouth, where she was a Phi Beta Kappa graduate in Religion, and has received higher degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary and the University of Judaism. Her work has exceeded every expectation for the first year of a Chaplaincy and leads us to propose to her and to ourselves a new opportunity. We envision a full-time rabbinical position to be shared by our two institutions."

Why, then, is Nancy Flam leaving Bard, despite an offer which she had called "very supportive?"

"Basically, Vassar never got back to me. Although I received a tremendous amount of support from President Botstein and others at Bard, and Janet Nelson at Vassar, [when the decision reached the President of Vassar] she didn't take the ball and run with it even when it was in her court. I had received other offers that were rock-solid, and felt it was unwise to wait any longer."

Chilton, having warned in his letter that Flam was "a particularly attractive candidate to [other] congregational search

committees," was upset with the handling of the situation.

"We were all set here at Bard. The problem occurred on the highest level of administration at Vassar. While the offer is still open for another candidate, I feel I cannot act on good faith anymore with Vassar College," Chilton said.

Chilton commented that he will renew the search for a suitable candidate for the Jewish Chaplaincy at Bard, although he could not guarantee that the position would be filled in even a part-time capacity this fall.

"I am thankful for the time that I had at Bard. I feel that the school really needs a rabbi to solely handle campus ministry for the Jewish community. The Jewish community at Bard is small but growing, bright, somewhat assimilated, and can be a part of, and affect, the community as a whole," Flam said.

Flam will complete her rabbinical studies at Hebrew Union College on May 28th, when she will be ordained in the Reform tradition at Temple Emmanuel in New York City.

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## Bard cleared of unfair labor practices charges

The National Labor Relations Board has cleared Bard College of all charges of unfair labor practices in a decision issued on May 3.

Charges had been brought against the College by Service Employees' International Union, Local 200D.

Following what it called a "carefully investigated and considered" inquiry, the Board refused to issue a complaint, citing a lack of evidence of violations of Section 8 of the National Labor Relations Act.

The decision indicates that:

(1) No evidence exists to suggest that the College has violated any provisions of the National Labor Relations Act;

(2) The College has acted entirely within its rights, consistent with contracted guidelines, in making specific decisions regarding scheduling, promotions, and vacancies;

(3) No evidence exists to substantiate Local 200D's allegation that Bard acted in a discriminatory manner against any member of the bargaining unit;

(4) No basis exists to support Local 200D's allegation that the College refused to supply information in violation of the National Labor Relations Act; and

(5) No evidence exists to support the union's allegation that the College has sought to undermine the status of the collective bargaining representative.

Dr. Dimitri B. Papadimitriou, Executive Vice President of Bard College, said, "Bard remains committed to working faithfully with its bargaining unit employees and with representatives of Local 200-D to carry out all provisions included in the current contract."

## More sites to see

...continued from page 9

to the Senate House confuse you as much as they did me, then you can, while on Plaza Rd., take a right at the traffic light onto Fair St., and the museum is two blocks down, on the right. It's within walking distance of the Senate House.

Anyway, the hours for the Fireman's museum are Friday 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., from April to October. During June and August, it is also open 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Thursday and Friday.

Neither the Senate House nor the Fireman's museum charges admission.

Another alternative is to visit Rondout, a section of Kingston by the Hudson River. To get there, get on Rte. 28 east, enter the traffic circle, and get onto Major Chandler Dr. Drive through the

first intersection that you come to, and turn left onto Broadway. Keep going, and you will reach Rondout as Broadway reaches the river.

THE HUDSON RIVER MARITIME CENTER is by the river. It is open May 7 to December 3, six days a week (Tuesday it is closed). Weekdays it is open 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., and weekends it is open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. The admission fee is \$2.

THE TROLLEY MUSEUM is across from the Maritime Center. July and August it will be open 12 p.m. to 5 p.m. (other information wasn't available at press time.) The fee is \$1.

If the directions confuse you, there are signs in Kingston which point to these places. They may even be more accurate than me. In fact, I am sure they are. So don't worry about getting lost.



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ACROSS

- 1 Propositions
- 5 Imitates
- 9 Male turkey
- 12 Metal
- 13 Volcanic emanation
- 14 Regret
- 15 Choir voice
- 17 Mends
- 19 Scandinavian monetary unit: pl.
- 21 Long, deep cut
- 22 Toward shelter
- 24 In the vicinity of
- 25 Lamprey
- 26 Likelihood
- 27 Be present
- 29 Note of scale
- 31 Possessive pronoun
- 32 French article
- 33 Behold!
- 34 Lubricate
- 35 Prefix: down

DOWN

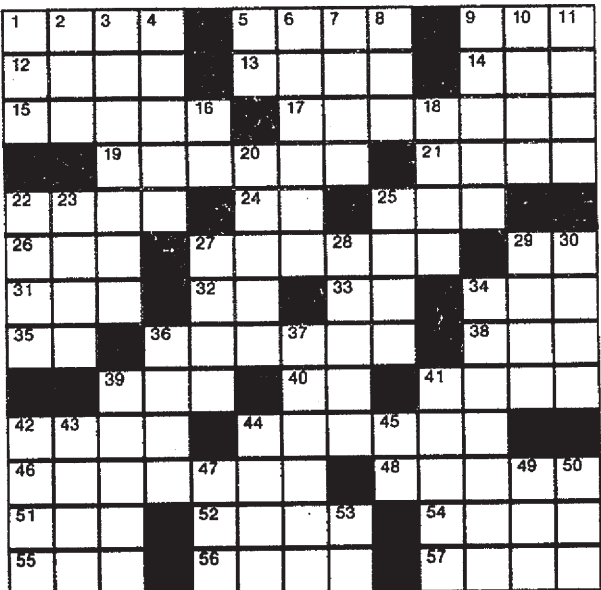
- 36 Patterns
- 38 Teacher's favorite
- 39 Stalemate
- 40 Myself
- 41 City in Nevada
- 42 Monster
- 44 Fragile
- 46 Wander aimlessly
- 48 Semi-precious stones
- 51 Goal
- 52 Character in "Othello"
- 54 Case for small articles
- 55 Female ruff
- 56 Pintail duck
- 57 Limbs

DOWN

- 1 Small amount
- 2 Anger
- 3 Obstinate fellows

- 4 Breathe loudly in sleep
- 5 Indian mulberry
- 6 Father or mother

- 7 Without end
- 8 Weaken
- 9 Test
- 10 Possessive pronoun
- 11 Intertwine
- 16 Artificial language
- 18 Matured
- 20 Famed
- 22 Among
- 23 Tardy
- 25 Biblical name
- 27 Century plant
- 28 Girl's name
- 29 Hold on property
- 30 Singing voice
- 34 Manage
- 36 Attitude
- 37 Come into view
- 39 Barter
- 41 Repulse
- 42 Hebrew measure
- 43 Dominant or recessive
- 44 Athletic group
- 45 Execute
- 47 Underworld god
- 49 Haul with effort
- 50 Female relative: colloq.
- 53 Faeroe Islands whirlwind



COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

# The Weekly Crossword Puzzle

## Uproar

...continued from page 5  
to the effect of "Beer Balls, good, other teams, bad," and hang it up to antagonize the other teams.

Outside the windows of Hegeman seemed a highly visible place to hang it, being easily seen from Kline Commons. All the sign said was "Tewks Beer Balls. Yuh Mutha. Get Out." It was obscure and hardly vulgar in any way.

In putting up the sign that night, which was the evening of the 16th, not the 15th, we "partners in crime" were hardly in Hegeman for more than twenty minutes, all spent frantically in the stairwell, trying to find a way to hang our sign out of a third floor window. We were out of Hegeman and off main campus by 11:50 p.m.

The only people who had seen us were the juniors and seniors who were working in the labs before and after we left. The one person we talked to, a Chem student or something, thought the idea harmless enough and said it was okay with him as long as we closed the windows when we were done.

As far as we know, it did not take anybody six hours to clean up our "mess," considering that our sign was gone by 9 a.m. the next morning, less than six hours.

At no point did we enter any of the labs in the science wing. It was a harmless sign, made of an old bedsheet, hung with string and masking tape out of a window, and that was the end of it.

Softball has the greatest participation of any of Bard's intramural sports, and the hanging of a few signs should not be unexpected.

Scott is trying to pass the blame onto an unknowing, innocent party. Besides the two or three of us who made the sign, none of the other members of the Beer Balls had any knowledge of the banner we were going to put up.

We appreciate that Scott made an apology in case he was wrong about the Beer Balls, but in light of his hostile, knee-jerk accusations it came a little too late. We have the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty.

We have the same sympathy for B&G's janitorial staff that Scott does, and we know how frustrating it can be going to a college who's financially secure students lack any respect for the property and livelihood of others.

Going to a school that their parents have to shell out \$20,000 a year for, you'd think they'd think twice about where they put their limitless cigarettes out, who's walls they're writing on, who's dorms they're destroying, and how much garbage they leave in front of Kline.

Once again, the Beer Balls would like to say that we and the Tewksbury residents had nothing to do with the vandalism of Hegeman in April, and that we are sorry to hear when anything at Bard is destroyed. The next time Scott wants to play campus detective, he should check his facts and know who he is accusing first.

Truthfully,  
The Tewksbury Beer Balls & Friends



This photo does not come with an article.  
Just look at it. Thank you.

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By Appointment

# Arts and Entertainment

## Moon ringed with aura of comedy

by Robin Cook

The air which surrounded the Sunday, May 7, performance of "Ring Round the Moon" was one of gaiety and lightheartedness. The title, the setting (beautifully designed by Robert Joel Schwartz), the hilarious interchanges between the characters—all were evocative of a French social comedy.

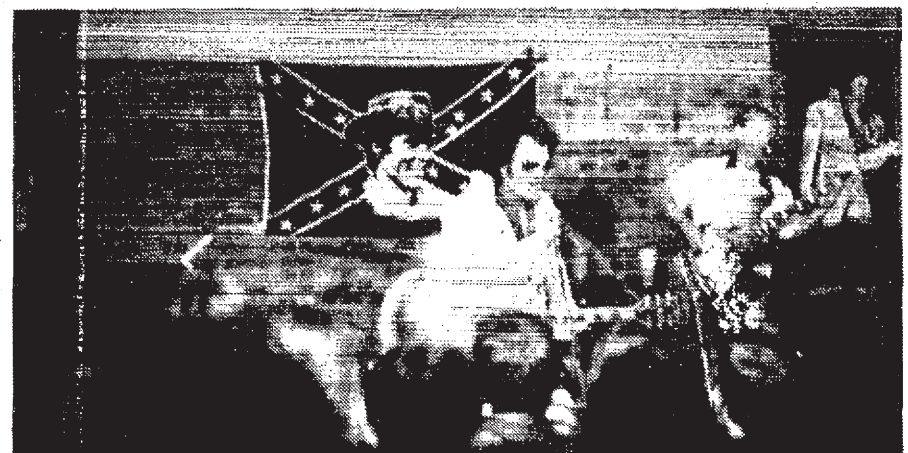
But "Ring Round the Moon" was a triumph not merely of style but also substance, with moments of drama and social commentary on rich/poor relations—not to mention excellent acting on the part of the performers involved.

The plot concerns a set of identical twin brothers of different personalities: the cold, malevolent Hugo and his fainthearted brother, Frederic, both played adeptly by Peter Criswell. Hugo has a plan to bungle his brother's engagement to the rich, haughty Diana Messerschmann (Candace Coney) whose affections lie not with Frederic but with Hugo.

Just when the social shenanigans couldn't grow more convoluted, Hugo enlists the bashful and impoverished Isabelle (Jubileth Moore) to win over his brother and to draw the wrath of Diana. Isabelle is hesitant and intimidated by Hugo; she finds herself cooperating reluctantly, only to be drawn into the center of Hugo's ugly machinations.

Isabelle gradually becomes more assertive, and more resentful of Hugo's manipulation of her. Moore deserves credit for the emotion she brought to her role. Flushing with rage at the thought of Frederic's faithlessness, and turning her nose at Isabelle, Coney turned out a fine performance as Diana. Kari Samuels, meanwhile, was effervescent as Isabelle's social butterfly of a mother.

"Ring Round the Moon" was a success in its production. All the actors deserve applause for a play well executed. And all deserve to stand up and take a bow.



## The Return of the King

by Monique Dyan

He looked like Elvis, he sweat like Elvis, he probably smelled like Elvis, and he certainly tried to sing like Elvis, but I wasn't impressed.

Last Friday night, the Kline commons was haunted by the aberration of Lee Elvis, a spectre conjured up by the Elvis Presley Fan Club. Swiveling his polyester-covered hips and curling his upper lip in a vaguely convincing fashion, Elvis

presented a blood-curdling collection of mouldy oldies.

Poor guy. Face it, Elvis had the misfortune to die in the seventies, a period known in history as The Decade of Tacky. Unfortunately, the upshot of this is that every Elvis impersonator wears clothes that are more effective than syrup of ipecac for inducing vomiting. There have to be more dignified ways to make a living. Like washing car windshields at red lights, for instance.



## BOOK REVIEW

### Breathing Lessons in Middle America

With great pleasure I welcome the arrival of Anne Tyler's new novel, Breathing Lessons, her latest since The Accident Tourist, one of the most intimate, claustrophobic, and yet happily familiar books available today by a current writer.

The premise evokes all the mingled emotions that the book itself does. Maggie and Ira Moran, married for twenty-eight years, set out in the car to attend the funeral of Maggie's oldest friend's husband. The three-hundred twenty-seven page novel begins at nine o'clock on Saturday morning and ends at about ten o'clock at night of the same day. So what besides thirteen hours fill these pages? The painful resentment, the psychic intuitiveness, the touching love, and the closeness and distance between the two participants in this remarkable marriage.

Anne Tyler plunges the reader into thirteen hours of Ira and Maggie's married life. We hear their thoughts, their memories, and reflections about each other. There is nothing like a long car trip to bring to the surface any

animosity or resentment that the spouses might feel toward each other. Their squabbling and recriminations, even their resentment fill the reader with tension, because one already senses the importance of what is at stake, and the precarious balance it has survived upon for twenty-eight years.

And they fight. They fight about resentments that can never disappear, only be forgotten for a little while.

Sometimes you want to know how they can do it—go through their ritualistic little squabbles and seem to get so little support from one another. Does mere presence a marriage make? And then, when their squabbles have been put aside for a moment, and one sees the comfortability and trust of their relationship, it seems a crime that they ever squabble at all.

The claustrophobia of their marriage is enveloping, the tension of their resentments and minor cruelties, and the seeming hopelessness of their situation when these resentments surface. But then, with grace and magic, Anne Tyler ends their argument, brings them back together and closer than before, we see the genuine love and solid foundations of a marriage that seems truer and better for it is always real. Tyler shows how illusions can destroy and rebuild what makes a marriage like Maggie and Ira's possible, how resentments are never forgotten but only put aside for awhile, and, most importantly, that a love twenty-eight years old, and based on a mutual dependence so strong that it can never be truly threatened, is the most beautiful and mundane thing that life has to offer. Never before have I found Middle America so touching.





## Mojo Nixon: Profound Profanity

by Dan Hillman

Take two seriously scratched hollow-bodied guitars, a broom handle, a washboard, and some good ol' down-home vulgarity and what have you got? Mojo Nixon & Skid Roper. But in Poughkeepsie, New York? The Bon Jovi t-shirt capital of the Western Hemisphere? Dear me, will wonders never cease.

Mojo and Skid came prepared to have a good time at The Chance last Saturday night, as evidenced by the condom package stuck on Mojo's guitar. Compensating for their truly dreadful opening cover band, "The Rolling Blackouts" (featuring Lee Harvey and Cheese Blotto), Mojo & Skid cajoled the audience to crowd the dance floor ("Are you all a bunch goddamn cripples?") and blasted off with Gin Guzzling Frenzy from their 1987 Bo-Day-Shus album. This was quickly followed by Debbie Gibson is Pregnant With My Two-Headed Love Child, from their new album Root Hog or Die.

Vaguely resembling Bruce Springsteen on amphetamines, Mojo Nixon entertained the audience with his "plug one, spray with the other" school of nose blowing, led an "Old McDonald Had a Farm" singalong from the audience (complete with grunts, hoots, and Foghorn Leghorn imitations), and tried to catch a plastic water-cooler bottle that he'd throw against a wall. At one point, Mojo threatened to jump off the stage, put on his condom, and bugger anyone who didn't dance. It wasn't necessary. Without the distractions of fancy lights, lasers, and smoke machines, or even a guitar strap, Mojo played a blistering rockabilly that smoked with raw energy. If Don't

Worry, Be Happy is your idea of a hot rockin' dance tune, Mojo's frenzied chords and screamed lyrics would have made you gag.

In direct contrast to Mojo, Skid Roper is a sedate fellow who stands to the side with his washboard, maraccas, and cymbal. When Mojo left the stage it was Skid the crowd yelled for. "What do you want?" he asked, "I'm busy."

The duo played for nearly two hours and included old fave rave tunes like Burn Down the Malls, Mushroom Mania, Stuffin' Martha's Muffin, and Jesus at McDonalds. They even played an extended version of their international hit Elvis is Everywhere complete with a tacky backdrop of "The King." Lambasting bland, shopping mall heavy metal bands like Cinderella, Poison and Journey, Mojo & Skid saved most of their verbal venom for Bon Jovi. They must have known they were in Poughkeepsie.

Not unlike the U.K.'s Billy Bragg, Mojo & Skid seek to defend the everyday working person from the corporate structure and mass-production of modern society. They hate McDonald's hamburgers, ("Your Uncle Weirdo could make a cheeseburger that was better than beating off. Eating a McDonalds cheeseburger is like thinking about watching someone else beat off in a movie."), Budweiser's Spuds McKenzie, ("Sure needs a 12-pack shoved up his ass!") and the president of Exxon, ("I'm gonna take this jack-hammer and ram this oil-covered dead duck down your throat.") They're vulgar, sophomoric, and vile, but they have an important message.

Now try explaining that to your Mom.



Poet Imanu Amiri Baraka

## Burning Questions and Baraka's Poetry

by E. Renae Plummer and Michele Berger

YSA, BBSO, and SIS were pleased to have brought to Bard's campus the distinguished poet/playwright/author Imanu Amiri Baraka formerly known as LeRoi Jones. We were all amazed at the high turnout in the Olin Auditorium, especially in light of the fact that there were at least three other events happening simultaneously.

Professor Robert Kelly, who is an old friend of Barakas, did a wonderful job welcoming him to Bard. Baraka lived up to the extraordinary reputation that preceded him. He delivered a number of his poems from various times of his life and on a number of different issues.

In his delivery of many of his poems, he incorporated a musical element which captured and enhanced the rhythm and emotion of his poetry. The words juxtaposed in syncopated

rhythms illustrated the nature of music as an integral part of African-American folklore.

One of the more intriguing aspects of his reading was his ability to make correlations between the abstract realities of his work and the students' realities at Bard. His readings and the discussion he had with many students afterwards encouraged people to challenge their way of thinking.

There was an overwhelming eagerness to talk to him afterwards despite the fact that many people felt intimidated or ambivalent about questioning him during the question and answer period. Baraka commented later that he does not understand why when young people have these burning questions, most of which he finds extremely interesting, they don't ask them openly.

In addition, he also felt that what young people have to say to him is often more interesting and thought provoking than when he

*Continued on page 15...*

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# Events in the Hudson Valley

## ANTIQUES FAIR

May 27-28--Rhinebeck Antiques Fair at the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Rt. 9, Rhinebeck.

## ART

Through May 26--Juried Spring Members' Exhibition of the Dutchess County Art Assoc. Barrett House, 55 Noxon St., Poughkeepsie, 471-2550. Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Sat 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Donation \$1.

May 27-June 25--Hans Van de Bovenkamp's "Dreams, Myths and Deities." Opening reception on May 27, 3-6 p.m. Kleinert Art Center, 34 Tinker St., Woodstock. 12-5 p.m. Closed Tuesdays.

May 27-Sept. 4--Holograms by New York State students at The New York State Museum in Albany, (518)473-0823.

Through May 29--Exhibition by the Dutchess County Senior Citizens Association. Cunneen-Hackett Cultural Center Gallery, 9 Vassar St., Poughkeepsie. 471-1221. Mon-Fri 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Free.

Through June 4--Social Life. Photographs of the American "social landscape," juried by Catherine Evans (photography curator for the Museum of Modern Art) and Andy Grundberg (critic for the New York Times). The Center for Photography at Woodstock, 59 Tinker St.,

Woodstock. 679-9957. Fri-Tues 11-5 p.m. Free.

Through June 25--The Emerging Figure in Contemporary Sculpture. Blum Art Gallery, Bard. 758-7437. Open daily except Tues., noon-5 p.m. Free.

July 30-August 26--Karl Beckwith Smith III, Hudson Heritage: An Artist's Perspective on Architecture. The Squash Court Gallery, Montgomery Place. 758-5461.

## DANCING

May 20--Hudson Valley Country Dance. Various bands and styles of dance. Saint James Church. Rt. 9, Hyde Park. 473-7050. 8 p.m. \$5.

May 27--Dinner dance fundraiser to benefit the Africana Studies program at Vassar College. The Radisson Hotel, 40 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie. 8 p.m. For ticket prices, call 437-7490.

## FILM

Upstate Films, 26 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck. 876-2515.

May 18--Lightning Over Braddock at 7 p.m. Law of Desire at 9 p.m.

May 19-24--Little Dorrit Part One and Two. Call theater for times.

May 25--Tex-Mex: 3 films & food by Santa Fe Restaurant. Reservations \$10.

May 26-June 2--Chocolat.

## MUSIC

May 20--Newport Jazz Festival: "The Golden Age of Jazz." Oliver Jackson, Slam Stewart, Warren Vache, George Wein, Norris Turney, and Scott Hamilton perform jazz in the Newport tradition. Bardavon Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. 473-2072. \$20, \$18.

May 24--Lunch 'N Listen. Soprano Andrea Buergers with pianist Gary Palmieri performing art songs. First Lutheran Church, 327 Mill St., Poughkeepsie. 462-0514. Noon. Free.

May 31--Lunch 'N Listen. Violinist Joseph Lin with pianist Mary Canberg performing works by LeClair, Prokofiev, Godowsky-Press and Kreisler. First Lutheran Church, 327 Mill St., Poughkeepsie. 462-0514. Noon. Free.

June 3--Leonore Trio, with soprano Lucy Shelton. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 338-1172.

June 10--Juliette Kang, violin, with pianist Audrey Axinn. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 338-1172.

June 17--Gary Schocker, flute, with Dennis Helmrich, piano. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 338-1172.

June 24--The Emerson String Quartet. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 338-1172.

The students who voiced these concerns had not read enough of Baraka's work to make the accusation.

Baraka, during his reading, spoke briefly on some of the very unpleasant aspects of his protesting during the 1960's. Not to justify or excuse the particular aggressive sentiments in some of his earlier works, but it is no wonder that some hostility was expressed.

We feel that all of these were concerns that were articulated in a righteous and ignorant manner and were somewhat racist in their approach. The questioning of a culture's validity and the freedom of speech by these students was appalling. Simply, we feel that many white authors, male or female, that are presently canonized, are not scrutinized in the same rigorous way.

We sincerely apologize for any offense taken by those students who voiced concern. We also hope that in the future, we can all work together in a unified and open way.

acknowledged this and addressed this matter with the students who spoke to him after the reading. His response was simply that "many of my early works were clumsy and misogynous...I have been attacked on this matter many times in the past fifteen years."

Baraka went on to say that people must realize that others do grow and change and essentially re-evaluate their beliefs. And furthermore he added, "We must always hear both sides of any grievance."

The third issue was the accusation that he is presently anti-white is totally unfounded. Some white students felt alienated during his reading. Let us simply say that when someone of another culture speaks of their experiences as part of that culture, it should not be taken to mean that they are anti-other cultures.

Specifically, when African-Americans decided to openly explore their oppression in the past as well as today, it should not be read as anti-white.

## Baraka

...continued from page 14 simply reads.

Finally, we would like to address the controversy surrounding his speaking here at Bard. There were many concerns voiced directly and indirectly about the misogyny and "racism" of some of his earlier works. Frankly speaking, we the BBSO and the YSA didn't appreciate the hostility and condescension with which these concerns were voiced. In addressing, we would like to make a few points that we feel would help to clarify the misunderstandings.

First, concerning the discrepancy over the use of YSA's money on a speaker who was not a socialist. This charge is unfounded. Baraka was in fact a socialist for a number of years of his life, but is presently a communist.

Secondly, the accusation that many of his earlier works were misogynous we never denied. However, Baraka fully



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## Calendar

### Thursday May 18

Narcotics Anonymous, Aspinwall 302, 7 p.m.

Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 8 p.m.

### Friday May 19

Film: The Adventures of Buckaroo Banzai Across the 8th Dimension, dir. by W.D. Richter. Student Center 7 & 9:30 p.m.

Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 8 p.m.

### Saturday May 20

Elvis Presley Fan Club, Committee Room, 5 p.m.

Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 8 p.m.

Distinguished Scientist Lecture: Biochemist Jin H. Kinoshita speaks about "A new approach to control diabetic complications." Olin Auditorium at 8 p.m.

### Sunday May 21

Dance Theater II, Dance Studio, 2 p.m. only.

Film: Nostalghia, dir. by Andrei Tarkovsky. Italian & Russian with subtitles. Student Center 7 & 9:30 p.m.

### Monday May 22

Bookbuyer in the bookstore, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Da Capo/Joan Tower/Bard students in concert. Bard Hall, 7:30 p.m.

Student Film Show, Student Center, 9 p.m.

### Tuesday May 23

Bookbuyer in the bookstore, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

## Hudson Valley Events

...continued from page 15

June 30--Jazz-man Grover Washington, Jr. at Bardavon at 8 p.m. 473-2072.

July 1--Festival Orchestra, Gundaris Pone, conductor. McKenna Theatre at SUNY New Paltz, 8 p.m. 257-3880.

July 8--Vladimir Feltsman Solo Recital. McKenna Theatre at SUNY New Paltz, 8 p.m. 257-3880.

July 14, 21, 28--Three concerts of music by J.S. Bach and Joseph Haydn on period instruments. John Hsu, Artistic Director. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. Pre-concert talks at 7:30 p.m. 758-7425.

July 15--Festival Chamber Players, Peter Alexander, music director. Sarah Rothenberg, piano. McKenna Theatre at SUNY New Paltz, 8 p.m. 257-3880.

July 22, 29--Festival Orchestra, Gundaris Pone, conductor. McKenna Theatre at SUNY New Paltz, 8 p.m. 257-3880.

August 4--Trio sonatas of the 17th & 18th centuries. Arias from Mozart's "The Magic Flute" with violinist Lucy van Dael. Olin Auditorium, 8 p.m. 758-7425.

### THEATER

May 27--And Sarah Laughed. Colleen Dewhurst will relate humorous tales of her career in theater, television, and film. Bardavon Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie. 473-2072. 8 p.m. \$20, \$18.

## The Dirt

...continued from page 5

supported by the division last year because the person had once taught at a private high school. Presumably such a person would know a fair amount about math education.

It is clear that the administration at Bard is interested only in the image of Bard, not the reality of Bard for those of us who are Bard. To this end the Publications Office gets to squander \$400,000 a year on lavish publications designed on the West Coast and produced off-campus at great cost.

While desk-top publishing is ubiquitous at other colleges, particularly for catalogs, Bard, famous for the arts, does it the "old fashioned" (expensive) way, and uses zero in-house talent in the process. Meanwhile the Observer has difficulty obtaining \$5500 for a Macintosh and laser printer to raise the level of on-campus publications.

The administration's lack of respect for the faculty, both collectively and individually, is blatant. A study of secretarial support at colleges around the country, which I conducted this winter, indicates that the faculty-secretary ratio averages 15:1 nationally, while at Bard it is about 100:1.

Though the Faculty Handbook promises "adequate secretarial support," and "first priority" with that secretary, the administration pays the faculty secretary \$10,500 per 12 months and then asks her to do work for Ludlow "in her spare time."

Most colleges have divisional secretaries at the very least, but Bard faculty members are

expected to waste time copying, collating, etc., which reduces quality time for student-faculty interactions, research, writing and family. The administration's recent promise to purchase a new copier machine for the faculty has not been acted upon, like so many other promises.

Are you aware that the faculty members supposedly have the right to nominate people for Bard Center Fellowships? A Fulbright Scholar from New Zealand so nominated last year had his application quashed by certain members of administration even before it came before the selection committee, because, he was told, without remorse, he was "not a marketable commodity."

While this person shared, with ten other adjunct professors, an office with three desks and one phone, a Center Fellow picked by the Administration was given a Blithewood office with word-processor and computer mail account.

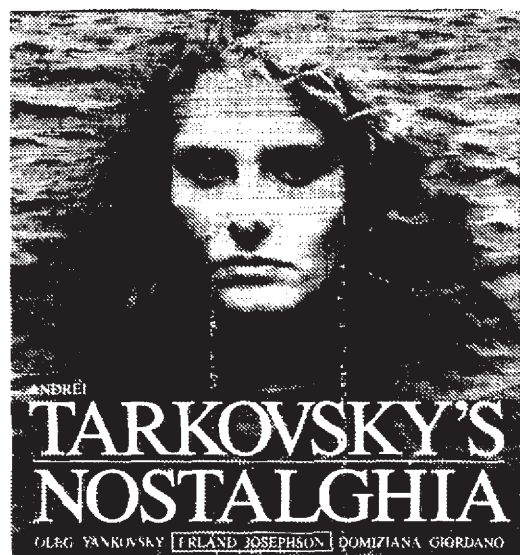
The President has also made several faculty appointments with tenure, in direct violation of established procedures, without even token consultation with the faculty, "for the good of the college."

I suggest that the Observer should redouble its efforts to act as a conscience for the college. Reject the typical administration double-talk that too often serves as "truth."

Why, for example, must the Chapel, the only building on campus with an endowment, pay its own way, with the endowment income disappearing into the same fiscal darkness into which endowment funds have already disappeared? Had the income been used for preventive organ maintenance its current state of disrepair might have been avoided.

There is a lot to like at Bard. The students and faculty are vibrant, creative forces. Though many students may not know the science and math faculty members very well, I have found them to be some of the most collegial, dedicated and friendly people I have ever had the pleasure of working with. Too bad the administration doesn't measure up.

Sincerely,  
Robert Drake  
Visiting Associate Professor of Chemistry



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BRILLIANCE"

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—Wall Street Journal

LAST FILM

Sunday, May 21

7 & 9:30 p.m.

In the Student  
Center