

# OBSERVER

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## Student withdraws under charges of harassment

by Keightie Sherrod

A male Bard student has withdrawn from the college as a result of events that took place on the night of Saturday, September 29 and the early morning of Sunday, September 30. Together with the members of the rap band G.M. Web D., who had performed on Saturday night in the student center, the student, (whose name is being withheld) created disturbances in several dorms, sexually harassed two women, and did in excess of \$90 worth of damage to campus buildings.

The student was facing charges of sexual harassment and failure to cooperate with security personnel at

the time of his withdrawal.

According to Director of Security Robert Boyce, security received a call at 4:20 AM that Sunday reporting that a group of unidentified black males were banging on doors, shouting obscene and sexually offensive phrases, and "looking for women" in Manor and Robbins.

Security responded to the call, but found nothing when they arrived on the scene. A little later on, however, security received another report, this time from Tewksbury, of a similar series of events in that building.

Officer Tony Downing responded to the Tewksbury call, which again had only identified the perpetrators as "a group of black males." The

group was then found to be the student and the band members, whom Downing detained near the front door. Downing attempted to question them, but the group refused to identify themselves and told Downing to "fuck off."

A confrontation nearly ensued, but Downing at last managed to quiet the student, and a friend of the student approached the scene. The student left with his friend and the gathering dispersed.

At some time during these events, the group broke a window in Tewksbury. In addition, after the group at Tewksbury dispersed, the members of the band returned to their rooms in Honey House and did \$90

worth of damage that included a broken towel rack, ripped sheets, and extra cleaning.

On Sunday, two women, one of whose room the student had entered on Saturday night, charged the student with sexual harassment.

After meeting with Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, at which he was given the choice between withdrawing from the college and accepting suspension pending a hearing before the Student Judiciary Board, the student was escorted to his room, where he was allowed to collect his belongings.

He informed the college on Monday, Oct. 1 that he had chosen to

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## Trustee's comments taken out of context

by Emily Horowitz

Recently, students may have noticed posters around the campus with a quote from Martin Peretz, member of the Board of Trustees and editor-in-chief of *The New Republic*. The quote on the posters read, "There is many a mountain made out of a mole hill. In the instance of the so-called 'date rape,' such a phenomenon must have gone on since time immemorial, yet only now it is being obsessed over. In the meantime, we've forgotten all about kidnapped children, last year's media discovery."

Michael Beattie, a student, found the quote in the Spring 1988 issue of *Annandale* magazine, and made the posters from an enlarged photocopy of the passage.

The quote that Beattie put on the posters was extracted from a longer response Peretz gave in an interview for *Annandale*. Peretz was asked what advice he had for students who develop an interest in journalism.

Prior to the quote extracted and posted by Beattie, Peretz made the following statement: "They must become allergic to cant. They must see that ordinarily the story everyone is writing is not the one worth writing. They must look for the significant detail, just as novelists must. To be an opinion journalist, they will need to answer the question, 'What of it?' There is many a mountain made out of a molehill..."

Beattie put the quote up because he found the "phraseology offensive, such as 'so called' media invention." Beattie agrees that "the media bring up issues, but that does not deny that it [date rape] is a problem."

"I thought this legitimized it [date rape]," said Beattie. He stated that he put it up because he wanted "the response of the Bard community."

Peretz was upset when he learned the posters had been distributed. He unequivocally stated that he understood the implications of date rape, and in his view, "date rape is a serious social and interpersonal problem." He also realized the significance of media coverage of date rape; that "its recognition by social scientists and journalists is long overdue."

While realizing that out of context the quote seemed like an "unfair thing to say," Peretz stressed that he was misinterpreted. "The student who put the quote up was trying to distort what I was saying."

Peretz expounded that the issue that he was addressing was the fickleness of the media. "I'll probably get myself into trouble again," he said, "but the people who were concerned about whales a few years ago are concerned about the environment this year."

Peretz said he wanted to illustrate that there was "no staying power behind causes." Anyone can see, he said, that people "go from wrong to wrong with amazing alacrity."



From left to right: Sanjib Baruah, James Chace, and Caleb Carr

## Debate on Iraq draws large crowd

by Emily Horowitz

Students, faculty, and other scholars came together on October 3 for a debate on the gulf crisis. Sponsored by Students Against Interventionist Policy (SAIP), the debate turned out to be more of a discussion, as the four participants seemed to agree on most points.

The panel was made up of three Bard professors (Joel Kovel, Sanjib Baruah, and James Chace), with the participation of Caleb Carr, who co-authored *America Invulnerable* with Chace. Each participant spoke for about ten minutes, and then the floor was opened up for an extended ques-

tion-and-answer period.

Baruah opened the debate. He expressed concern that people were quick to equate Saddam Hussein with Adolf Hitler. This, he argued, is "not appropriate." Although in the West, we all seem to agree that the invasion was wrong, we have to understand the Iraqi position. Baruah explained the two main facets of it.

First of all, Kuwait was originally part of a province in Iraq. The borders that they are protesting now are "colonial borders." Secondly, after Hussein annexed Kuwait, he made a distinction between Kuwait and the two islands. The claim that the two

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## Gorby takes the prize

by Emily Horowitz

Mikhail Gorbachev was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on Monday, October 15. Professor Gennady Shkliarevsky, who is originally from the Soviet Union, was delighted. "I think that this is a good thing. It will help him domestically, especially now that there is such a sensitive situation in the Soviet Union."

Shkliarevsky said that he believed that Gorbachev won the prize because of his foreign policy. "He is first person of his caliber to articulate the importance of global interest." While Shkliarevsky realized that many others have seen the importance of global policy, he stressed that Gorbachev is the first world leader to express this idea. "If he follows his policy or not is unim-

portant," he stressed. "The important thing is that he articulated these goals."

Gorbachev was instrumental in the changes that took place in Eastern Europe last year. Olivia Schoeller, a student from Germany, gives him credit for getting the ball rolling for the recent reunification of Germany. "I think that Gorbachev was the initiator of everything and I think that without him it would not have happened so soon," said Schoeller. Nearly a year ago he was honored at the Berlin Wall, where somebody painted, "Thank you, Gorby. You are the one who made this all possible."

Finally, Shkliarevsky said that he felt that Gorbachev deserved the award regardless. "Gorbachev greatly decreased world tension...He



Mikhail Gorbachev

ended Russia's isolation," explained Shkliarevsky. "Gorbachev is the new beginning of high politics."

## Wiedervereinigung: rejoicing and rejoining

by Kristan Hutchison

On October 3, the two Germanies became one and the entire population celebrated. Anka Mittelsten-Scheid and Olivia Schoeller brought the party to Bard, with German sausage, sauerkraut, and two kegs of Löwenbräu.

Berliners demonstrated their joy with a patriotic party. "On every channel they told about the party in Berlin. We saw it in Berlin and in Hanover in the center of the city," said Astrid Köller, a student of music and English in Hanover. "The Germans just went nuts, they could really understand and feel it," said Mittelsten-Scheid. German flags flew all over Berlin and the national anthem was sung, gestures rarely seen since World War II.

Americans exhibit similar patriotic symbols at every baseball game, but experience has made Germans aware of the fine line between patriotism and nationalism. "I am afraid of that, especially for the Germans to have so much patriotism," says

Köller, "but I think the politicians of other countries will be careful that Germany won't have too much power." Other countries, particularly Poland, have been wary of the potential power of one Germany. "There is so much tension there right now between East Germany and West Germany and the other European countries that I'm really glad I'm not there," said Mittelsten-Scheid.

Germany will be busy with domestic problems for several years. Unemployment, higher prices, and a cutback in services such as daycare are the first results of the *wiedervereinigung*, the Deutsch word for reunification. "They have not really realized that they have to give up good things like nursery schools," said Schoeller, "and they feel bad because it is hard for them to accept that they have spent 40 years of their life in a system that is now disappearing. They have spent their life working for the wrong thing, that is what they think."

After all those years the East Ger-

mans have run out of patience and want the amenities of the west instantly. "There are many people who say [the East Germans] just imitate the West Germans because they want the same standard of life, but they can't have it in just one week or one month. It takes years," said Köller.

In the meantime, the East Germans may lose the bonds that tie struggling peoples together. "I read that before [the opening of the borders] people went to churches and they were much more engaged and had friendship and helped each other because they had to. Maybe this will change," said Köller.

But East Germans will also lose the repressive communist regime which had weighed upon the German psyche. "I remember a very frustrating thing to me was the posture of the women in East Germany," said Schoeller, "especially the women were not walking upright. They were walking bent over like they were in fear all the time. In their faces and actions there was no femininity left."

Some Germans look down upon the new immigrants, particularly those from other central European countries such as Romania. "Many people don't want to have them here," said Köller, "but of course it's different with the East Germans. There might be some people who will look at the East Germans as second class, but this won't be many people." Nonetheless, East Germans are sensitive to their position in the unified Germany. "They are kind of arrogant, because they feel like animals, being watched," said Mittelsten-Scheid. West Germans' feelings toward reunification have also been dampened by its effect upon their pocket books. "The West Germans have everything. They have to give a lot away right now,

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## Chinua Achebe: A great Nigerian novelist comes to Bard

by Ephen Glenn Colter

His face is not familiar. He is a man many have heard of, and perhaps some have read, but on the Bard campus he is seldom seen. Chinua Achebe is a storyteller, a writer, a descendant of the oral traditions of Africa. He is the most widely acclaimed and well-known fiction writer of black Africa today, a gentle raconteur canvassing the life and history of the Ibo, his people, of Nigeria, his homeland, of Africa, his aestheticism.

Achebe is now Charles P. Stevenson Chair in Literature here at Bard, and resides on Bard campus convalescing with his wife and son Chidi Achebe. A BBC presentation documenting his life was shown to the students of his African Literature class, and would be a great opportunity for Bard to understand the greatness of the man within our reach. Though he is confined to a wheelchair since a car accident earlier this year, Achebe is yet another example, not unlike the physicist Stephen W. Hawking, of the mind unbound, the spirit up in arms, the artist dodging the slings of arrows of outrageous fortune.

Achebe has written many novels and other works over the last three decades. His works and awards include:

1958 - *Things Fall Apart* (His highly acclaimed first novel, winner of the Margret Wrong Prize.)

1960 - *No Longer At Ease* (Winner of the Nigeria National Trophy.)

1964 - *Arrow of God* (First recipient of the New Statesman Jock Campbell Award.)

1974 - Commonwealth Poetry Prize

1974 - A Fellowship in the Modern Languages Association of America

1975 - Second recipient of the Scottish Arts Council's Niel Gunn Fellowship

1984 - *The Trouble With Nigeria*

1987 - *Anthills Of The Savannah*

Born in 1930, Chinua Achebe grew up in Ogidi, to the north-east of Onitsha in Eastern Nigeria. Nigeria is one of the largest countries of West Africa, extending from the forest and swamps of the coast in the south to the Sahara desert in the north. Known as the White Man's grave in the myths of the noble savages due to the malaria-carrying mosquito and the insidious heat, West Africa was one of the first paths beaten in the Dark Continent.

By 1914 the country of Nigeria was brought into the confines of the British Commonwealth. Chinua Achebe went to Government College, Umuahia, and then University of Chicago, Ibadan, with a scholarship to study medicine. Within a year he focused his efforts on literature, with the growing realization that the African way of life was considered increasingly inferior, that her rich traditions and customs were not only being rewritten, but were being abridged as well.

In 1960 a federation of three regions, each with a major tribal group, (Hausa in the North, Yoruba in the West, and Ibo in the East) declared independence from British domination to establish Nigeria as an independent nation. A portion of the large tribe of Northern Nigeria was massacred in 1966, which was only the beginning of Nigerian political chaos, civil war and national corruption. The Ibo region asserted its independence as a result, and the Biafra conflict raged. The profound experience has since encompassed the man and inspired the writer.

Chinua Achebe and Stanley Diamond will read old poems/new poems in Bernard Mayor Auditorium, 66 West 12 Street, on Monday, October 22, 1990, at 8:00pm.

## A practical sort of environmentalist

by Jason Van Driesche

Those who work for environmental causes are all too often beyond our reach. Either they are technical gurus, spouting out facts and figures about global warming and acid rain faster than any normal human being can take them in, or they are misty-eyed idealists who can't seem to get their message across to others through the thick, rosy haze that often covers their eyes.

Not so with Bill McKibbin, professor in Bard's summer journalism program and nationally acclaimed

environmental writer. Both a clear-eyed idealist and a well-informed layman, McKibbin gets his message across every time. His talk at a *Come Back to Bard Day* luncheon on Saturday, October 13, entitled "The Environment and the Planet: A Reflection on the Choices that Lie Ahead," was no exception. He spoke in a clear and reasonable voice to an audience of about 40 people, outlining what he sees as the major problems that face the planet today, and pointing the audience gently in the direction we all must follow if we are

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### MODEL UNITED NATIONS CLUB

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## Where does your trash go?

by Tatiana Prowell

You've just spent 15 minutes figuring out which containers to put your six kinds of garbage in.

So where does your trash go after it leaves your hand?

To take care of the non-recyclable material first, it heads to the Poughkeepsie Resource Recovery Burn Plant, an incinerator. Bard's non-recyclable material must stay in Dutchess County for financial reasons, and although there are some landfills in the area, they are filled almost to capacity. For this reason, Bard is forced to incinerate the majority of its non-recyclable solid waste.

The recyclable material has a bit farther to travel. When it leaves Bard, it is picked up from four transfer sites, one by B&G, one by the treatment plant, one by the old SMOG building, and one in Faculty Circle.

In this lies the reason why many students have seen the carefully sorted piles jumbled up together. The company that recycles Bard's solid waste sorts its recyclable materials at the plant. While the recyclable materials and non-recyclable materials must be separated to avoid contamination during the recycling process, and the paper must also remain separate, plastics, glass, and metals can be put in the same pile. The company uses a process of sorting for this comingled group which involves several steps, including the use of magnets and hand-sorting.

Why pre-sort at all then? The first reason is that it is less confusing to sort trash into separate categories (plastic in one, glass in another, and so on) than to try to explain to everyone what should go together and

what should stay separate. The second reason is that Bard currently recycles at Karta Recycling of Peekskill, in Westchester County, because there are no recycling plants in Dutchess County.

One such plant is scheduled to open in early 1991, but it has not yet been decided whether they will use the comingling process or insist upon pre-sorting. Thus, Bard hopes to encourage the habit of pre-sorting so as to be prepared for either case.

The goods for recycling leave Bard with a transporting company called

actually occur at Karta. In fact, some of the blocks (especially the metals) are transported to places as far as Asia for recycling there.

Since Bard uses Top Job as a middleman, the college does not receive any direct financial compensation for recycling. It does save money indirectly, however, because it costs Bard \$90 per ton to have non-recyclable material incinerated, whereas it costs only \$50 per ton to have recyclable material taken to a mrf plant. Altogether, Bard produces well over 30 tons of solid waste each month.

**"I have heard students say, 'If you're throwing it all together, why can't I put my orange peels in with the glass?' But this can actually contaminate the materials for recycling and undermine the entire process. Before it can get to the plant, it has to get to the bins."**

**--Jennifer Poitras, head of the Environmental/Recycling Club**

Top Job, which take the materials to Karta Recycling. Karta is a privately-owned materials recovery facility (mrf). At Karta, the paper, plastic, glass, and metal are sorted and packed into dense blocks which are then sold to other recycling companies, such as Reynolds Aluminum.

Therefore, the recycling does not

Because of the fact that Bard mixes some of the recyclable materials together, a number of students have stopped using the bins on a regular basis. Jennifer Poitras, head of the Environmental/Recycling Club, says that "I have heard students say, 'If you're throwing it all together, why can't I put my orange peels in with



Recyclable trash goes in containers like these, located all over campus.

the glass?' But this actually can contaminate the materials for recycling and undermine the entire process. B&G has a certain role to play; Top Job has a certain role to play; and the staff, faculty, and students also have a certain role they have to play. Before it can get to the plant, it has to get to the bins. Don't pass the buck. It's not a one-step process."

John Mastrocola, a student, admits that he didn't bother to use the bins until recently. "Why should I walk all the way to the bins when the trash all goes to the same place... the landfill!" he exclaimed. Now that he knows the truth about Bard garbage, however, he plans to use the bins. Other students seem to feel similarly once they learn that their trash is recycled. Terry Valeris, a freshman, says, "If it helps the environment, I think it's worth it."

Despite the co-mingling process utilized by Karta, Top Job emphasizes the importance of continuing to use the bins, since estimates that 5% to 7% of the total goods taken in for recycling are contaminated. For example, spaghetti scraps mixed in with a truckload of paper can ruin the entire truckload and force it to be discarded.

The recycling plants set standards about how much can be contaminated before they will discontinue business with a college or organization, and if Top Job receives too many contamination complaints from

Karta, they will be forced to stop servicing Bard. This would mean no recycling on campus until next year, at the earliest.

The recycling program has come a long way since its origins in late 1988. It began with a group of freshman, who collected deposit bottles and cans after parties during L&T. They received a nickel for each bottle and can, which constituted the funds for their group.

Later in the fall, they also began collecting paper and taking it to a now non-existent recycling plant in Red Hook.

In the fall of 1989, the group had a greater following, and students and admissions volunteers collected recyclables from the dorms and buildings on Friday afternoons. Although this was often unorganized and inefficient, the group applied for funds and was given \$157.

Using this, they created a recycling area in the old gym for paper and deposit bottles and cans. While this was an improvement over the old process, the bins were made of cardboard and were often discarded accidentally by B&G. "We made a small dent and tried to do what we could, but we made little progress because we had so little manpower and equipment relative to the amount of goods," says Poitras.

This year, B&G took over the responsibility of actually overseeing the

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OCTOBER

**22**

Location:  
Career Development Office

Time:  
10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bard College

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## Alumni and the environment meet

On *Come back to Bard* day, experts discuss who's responsible

by Laura Serecin

All of the Bard campus is familiar with our illustrious alumni — Chevy Chase, Donald Fagan, Larry Hagman. While watching *Saturday Night Live*, *I Dream of Jeannie* or listening to Steely Dan, one can't help but feel a tinge of camaraderie. However, those alumni who aren't seen in the media are active as well, and expressed a sincere concern for environmental responsibilities while returning "home" for the alumni weekend, *Come Back to Bard*, on October 13.

The theme for the year was to address the responsibilities of those faced with the present state of the environment. Alumni/ae who were invited span back to the years when Bard was known as St. Stephen's College. This year, all were invited to take a morning hike to Grouse Bluff to visit the archaeological dig with professor Chris Lindner and senior Beth Waterman, who both spoke about their findings at the site and about Native American land use. Also featured was Bill McKibbin, author of *The End of Nature* and numerous articles concerning global warming, as the luncheon speaker. His speech was entitled "The Environment and the planet: Reflections on the Choices

that Lie Ahead." (See article on page 2.)

"Our purpose for the day," stated Laura Epstein '89, "was to educate the public about environmental issues and to involve those non-traditional people with environmental activism." Epstein is the newly-appointed director of the Bard Alumni Association.

The most intriguing part of the day proved to be a panel discussion moderated by Professor Burt Brody, addressing the question, *Who is taking the responsibility for the environment today?* "We tried to gather groups from all factions of society, so as to receive answers from all different sides of the community: big business, the government, independent environmental activists," related Epstein.

The panelists included: Jack Blum '62, an international law attorney and an associate counsel to the Senate's Foreign Relations Subcommittee on Multinational Corporations, who helped investigate the 1988 Contra arms scandal;

Susan Davis '83, a Berkley-based free-lance writer with articles published in *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post* and the *Whole Earth Review*. Davis is currently working on a book for

the EPA on the subject of global warming;

Nancy Matthews '64, a free-lance environmental consultant whose clients include the Environmental and Energy Study Institute and the Leman Marshall Fund of the U.S. She has worked in government research and administration and has been a long-time environmental advocate;

Allen Feldbaum '76, an environmental consultant for Dow Chemical and Du Pont and researcher for projects concerning U.S. chemical weapon demilitarization and consumer product and market studies;

Peter Samton, a partner in the urban and architectural planning firm Gruzen Samton Glass, who has taken part of the planning of the American Embassy in Moscow and is the founder and director for Architects and Designers for Social Responsibility; and

Michael F. Zinn, Founding President and CEO of Besicorp Group, Inc., a corporation specializing in alternate energy technology, and it is the regional manager of Citizen for a Better Environment.

"It was a very diverse and well-informed panel," reflected Feldbaum. "Everyone had some-



On the right, Bill McKibbin, speaker at the Come Back to Bard day luncheon

thing of interest to say...a very productive interaction occurred between the panelists naturally. The most pertinent question that was raised asks how one can change his/her lifestyle to promote a healthier environment."

Joann Wasserman '77 offered this advice in response to the discussion, "America's attitude of 'having it all' needs to be changed; our expectations must be lowered in order to change the situation of the environment."

Professor Robert Kelly also found that the panel was "small but intelligent, focused but not paranoid...I

liked the calm I heard," he stated. "The precision and calmness is always more effective when combating environmental views."

After the panel discussion, a reception was held in the Olin Rotunda where alumni freely discussed their feelings about "coming back to Bard" and the changes on campus, both in the people and the place, that they have observed. "I remember when you were considered 'weird' to go to Bard," said Wasserman. "Now the college has a very esteemed, competitive reputation. The change can, of course, be attrib-

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## Writing Tutors program now open to all

by Tom Hickerson

While the Writing Tutors program has been around for a while, this year is the first time that the program has had a stationary office and established office hours. During these hours, competent students are able to help both those students who are referred there by their professors and students who are seeking help on their own.

"Students can come to the office during any stage of the writing process," said Assistant Dean Elaine Sproat. "The tutor's role is to really help the student come to articulate ideas more clearly, fully and even more eloquently." Students should not have to feel awkward about asking for help, as Sproat noted: "Even good students can benefit by talking to another good student — that way, they can determine if there are

any flaws in their arguments or anything that needs further development."

The tutors have met with Sproat several times already and have been fully instructed as to the role of the tutor and how to respond to student writings. They are able to help all students, from those who are still organizing their thoughts to those writing their final draft, but they are not proofreaders. "The tutors might pick up a pattern of missing errors and instruct the student on how to improve his or her grammar," said

Sproat, but she added that having the tutors as a proofreading service is "not the case."

In past years, students could only be referred to the program by professors, and then the students would be matched with an individual tutor. This process was found to be time-consuming, and the problem was usually addressed in another way or lost its importance by the time the tutor could get in touch with the student.

However, the past program was not unused—nearly twenty profes-

sors referred their students to the Writing Tutors program. The demand brought about the current changes.

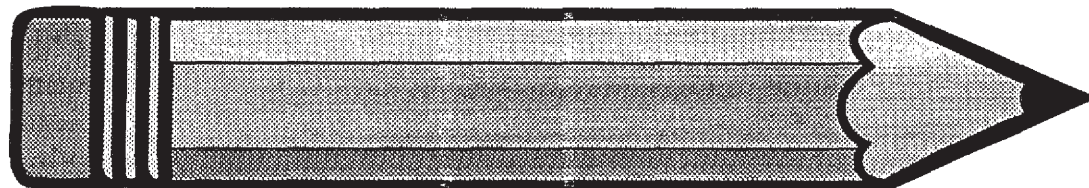
"[The program] is an opportunity for all students to get feedback from another's response," said Sproat. "This can help students whose skills are strong as well as those who need to pay special attention to their writing."

The students who are writing tutors are Mike McDunough, Ben Goldberg, Michael Beattie, Andy Molloy and Roberta Harper. All

writing tutors are work-study students on the honors list, and were carefully selected and were required to have positive references from their professors.

"[I can] learn a lot by doing [the work of the tutor]. I've found it even helps my writing," said junior Roberta Harper. While the program is only in its initial stages, people are encouraged to just drop in with any questions they may have. "It's important for people to treat it as a casual thing; it's not like an operating table," added Harper.

The office is located in Albee Annex 103, which is one level below Albee Social. The tutors' office hours are from 7:00 PM to 10:00 PM, Sundays through Thursdays, and, while the office does not have a telephone as of yet, all students are invited to stop by the office and make an appointment.



RED HOOK'S ★★★★★  
RESTAURANT & CATERER

Fine dining  
in a relaxed  
setting.

GREEN & BRESLER

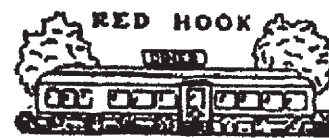
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## Reality spoils the movie

by C. Grube

What, may I ask, is going on? Remember those good old days when we would see a movie and watch impossible people doing impossible things? Zorro? Robin Hood? The Lone Ranger? Do any of these ring a bell? Good guys doing good things which we could sit back and enjoy and leave the theatre knowing that, through we could never do that, maybe we should live our lives more honorably.

But what of it, Colin? What's your point? All I'm saying is, that the tendency these days is to bring about two kinds of movies. Incredibly violent action adventure films or films about real people in real situations. Okay, so there are some others out there, but those are the two kind I'm going to concentrate on.

First of all, who wants to watch real things happening to real people? I hate leaving a theatre thinking, "Gee, that could have been me or someone I know!" or something like that. Sure, I saw the appropriate "real" movies. *Wild at Heart*, *Do the Right Thing*, whatever, old and new, you know which ones I'm talking about. So, maybe I learned something, but I didn't really enjoy it.

It's fine to tell a story with a moral, but can't

we make the characters a little bit larger than life? Since Aristotle (Or whoever, excuse my ignorance of Greek playwrights) we have had plays which gave us morals and taught us lessons. But they were fun because the people were larger than life. In my opinion, that's what makes a good movie. I want to see amazing people with problems that *parallel* my own. That's what I want to see!

Now, this violence kick is another thing I can't get into. Who needs to see a liver flying at their face? Is that really enjoyable? Remember how the Lone Ranger would shoot someone off-screen and then go over to the prone actor and say "He's dead." The blood wasn't necessary. He told us, therefore, we could accept it.

Now, I'm no saint. I saw *Die Hard 2* and yes, I enjoyed it, but as a rule, I'm sick of these bloodthirsty movies. (The reason I liked *Die Hard 2* more than most other movies of that genre that came out this summer is complex and deserves another article.)

Okay, so Colin doesn't like blood or life movies, so what? So I felt like saying it. I just want to watch something that I'll enjoy, maybe teaches me a lesson and doesn't throw body parts in my face. Any comments? If not, let's get back to some good old Errol Flynn.

## Spandex's Return Part IV

by ZZYX (David Steinberg)

I slowed down to a stop. There must be some way to talk myself out of this. I looked into the booth to see the collector, only to discover that it was the SPHINX. As I rolled down my window, he boomed, "You must answer my riddle or pay my toll. How does a dog with no nose smell?"

At this point I relaxed. If there is one thing I know after 3 years of liberal arts education it is the answer to the riddle of the SPHINX. I gave him an ear to ear grin and said, "Man."

He was dumbfounded, "Mortal, many have passed this way, but you are the only one to give me the right answer. Only you have truly understood the deeper implications of my query. Is there any favor that I can do for you?"

"Well," I asked, "can I have a map please?" He reached behind him and grabbed the top map off of the stack. By far it was the best toll booth map I have ever received. The cover, rather than being a flat picture of the toll road, was a hologram of the SPHINX. Looking carefully, I noticed that the ZZYXMOBILE was in the background of the shot. (I wondered for a moment about how he knew that I was going to pass that way; I decided just to blame the general interconnectiveness of the universe.)

On the inside of the map, the entire world was represented. Getting out my magnifying glass I realized that this map had much more detail than I ever would have thought possible. In fact, with the aid of a microscope, you could see any street in the country. If the ZZYX drive worked, it would be a most valuable tool.

I thanked the SPHINX and drove off in the sunrise. The sunrise?!?! It was 3 in the afternoon. I quickly checked the ZZYX computer. The earth apparently did its last rotation in only 17 hours and 46 minutes [error ± 4 minutes]. I looked in THE GOOD BOOK and read "When days are as nights and nights are as days, a sacrifice must be laid down in a green field — lest all be lost." I now had a new goal. I only hoped I could make it in time.

—To Be Continued—

Penny for your thoughts... or photos or graphics.

Just submit them with your name to the Observer box in the library or send them via campus mail to The Bard Observer.

## Club Forum

## QUESTIONS, ANSWERS

by The Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence

**What is the Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence?**

The New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence is the nation's first government-sponsored agency designed to teach people the principle of nonviolence as a way to seek long-term solutions to today's social problems.

**What does the Institute do?**

The King Institute develops educational programs to examine the causes and effects of violence and social inequities such as racism, sexism and unemployment and provides training to concerned citizens seeking nonviolent solution to those issues.

It is through nonviolence that we can most effectively get people to solve conflicts by attacking problems directly, instead of the persons connected with those problems. By fully embracing the philosophy we gain a respect for all individual, regardless of any cultural differences.

Through its training programs the King Institute attempts to spread this message and develop the type of leaders who will put the teaching to work in addressing community concerns across New York State.

**How does it operate?**

There are three primary levels in which the King Institute operates: as a community training resource; as a developer of curricula and academic programs for primary and secondary schools, and in creating similar programs for higher education institutions.

As a community resource the King Institute provides materials, information, seminars and workshops on the practical applications

of nonviolence for community-based organizations and individuals. In addition, it is also teaching a network of Associates to serve as resource people at the grass-roots level.

The King Institute designs curricula and programs for parents, teachers, pupils and school administrators in grades K-12, so that nonviolence can foster a new way of interrelating for all involved in the learning process.

At the college level the King Institute works with the State University of New York (SUNY) in developing more advanced educational approaches to aid not only the serious student of nonviolence, but have an impact on the campus community. These programs will be available for both public and private colleges and universities.

**Why was the Institute created?**

The idea for the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Institute for Nonviolence grew out of a 1986 report prepared by a special committee of the New York State Martin Luther King, Jr. Commission (the King Commission was established in 1985 to organize the state's observance of Dr. King's birthday.)

The report recommended that Commission members be trained in Dr. King's methods and philosophy of nonviolence and then make that training available to the general public.

Following further study and consultation with experts in the field of nonviolence, legislative officials, community activists and others, the Commission decided the best courses of action was the establishment of an institute for nonviolence. They made their opinions known to Governor Mario M. Cuomo.



From left to right: Scott Heckendorf, Miriam Blake, and David O'Reilly, of the MLK Institute



# Music for the environmental age

by Victoria Pierce

"Children of the Earth" is a musical group representing a concept.

The concept is found in the sounds and lyrics of their self-titled album. They hope this album will make a social and environmental impact on a world that they believe is ready for their message.

In its simplest form the concept is that we are all children of the Earth, that we all have obligations and responsibilities to that which gives us life, and that, collectively, we have not recognized and met those responsibilities and that we all can and must do so.

The group has three principal

members: Will Amrod, singer-songwriter; Paul Amrod, keyboard wizard; and Pee Wee Ellis, legendary saxophonist and arranger. The sax solos on the songs "Children of the Earth" and "Anything Goes" and section work on the track "Poor Folks" give listeners a clue as to why Pee Wee Ellis found longstanding engagement as a soloist and musical director for such musical legends as James Brown, Van Morrison, and Ester Phillips.

Producer Gary Burke helped collaborate on their new album. He had been on tour with Bob Dylan's "Rolling Thunder Revue," which sparked his recording career, playing on Gold Albums with such greats as Dylan

and Joe Jackson.

The "Children of the Earth" album also features guest performances by Macio of the "James Brown Band," Jimmy Wieder of "The Band," "The 'In' Crowd," and the "Whole Wheat Horns," featuring Don Adams of NRBQ.

Background vocals were provided by members of the OWS Baptist Choir from Albany, New York.

"Children of the Earth" is currently performing in the New York area, and is soon to embark on a tour of the United States, Canada, and Europe. Their first stop, however, is Bard College, this Saturday night, October 20, at 10:30 in the Student Center. What more is there to say?

## Iraq panel

continued from page 1

islands are part of Iraq is "not a new one."

Understanding those two factors, Baruah said, is necessary to understanding the situation. Baruah did not take a stand on what should be done in the Middle East, because he "didn't want to take a position, but raise questions."

Baruah pointed out some little known facts about the region, such as the fact that in Kuwait, less than half of the population are Kuwaiti citizens. In addition, it is difficult to understand the important role that Islam and Arab nationalism play in the Middle East. He ended his talk on a pessimistic note, saying that even if Hussein withdraws from Kuwait, the questions that this conflict raised will not go away.

The next to speak was Chace, who announced that he was going to focus on policy issues. Chace sees the Iraqi situation as "another war in the making." One reason for this is that Hussein is, Chace pointed out, an "easy man to hate." Bush, Chace feels, has been unclear on what his goals are, except that he wants Hussein to withdraw from the region and fall from power. However, Bush has not offered any long-term goals, and has no clear "negotiating position."

Obviously, we are not there to defend democracy, argued Chace, but "the price of oil." While the United States is not directly dependent on the oil of the Middle East, Chace predicted that "global inflation would bring on a world disaster."

Chace feels that there are three reasons why the United States is in the Middle East. Most importantly, we are there to "preserve the relatively low price of oil." Secondly, we are there because the United States does not want a hegemonic power in

the Gulf, "especially not the Iraqis." Finally, we want to maintain the status quo, because, Chace joked, "we like it."

Chace expressed hope that the United States would accept Gorbachev's suggestion to occupy "under a U.N. umbrella." It is not too late to do this, concluded Chace, for "it [the occupation] will be a long run."

Carr followed Chace. He said that he was disappointed in the failure of the CIA to have not known about the invasion, but, he added sarcastically, "it wasn't the first time." If we had known about the invasion ahead of time, Carr argued, we could have made a rational decision. "The first 24 to 48 hours are crucial," he explained, "and the administration did not move quickly enough."

Carr feels that the Iraq could survive "a few months or even years" with the current embargo and blockade. The problem is, Carr pointed out, "that we cannot change forces midstream." He emphasized the fact that we should have acted immediately, and are in trouble because we didn't and because our intelligence network failed us.

Carr gloomily predicted that if we go to war with Iraq, "it will make Vietnam look tame." The Iraqis are very well-prepared for war. Carr concluded that since we had gotten ourselves into a bad situation, the only viable alternative is to place UN troops in the region, and remove the US troops as soon as possible.

Kovel was the last member of the panel to speak. He began by expressing the feeling that the situation in the Middle East is a "terrible dilemma" with no easy answers. In his talk, Kovel attempted to contrast the goals of the United States in the Middle East as compared to his own goals for the region.

He began by stating the goals of the United States. First of all, we want to "exert control over oil markets."

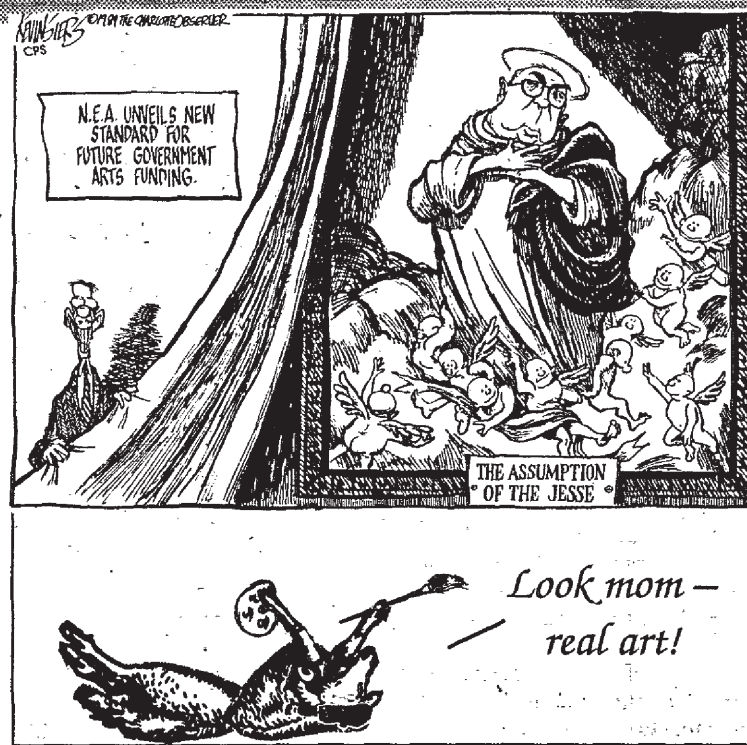
Secondly, we are trying to "preserve our superpower status" in the post-Cold War period. Thirdly, we want to "sustain the military and industrial complex" of the United States. Kovel pointed out that in this regard "hundreds of billions of dollars are at stake." Fourthly, this is a way to keep Bush as President, since he is "on the line" if he does not come out of this a winner. Lastly, we want to neutralize Saddam Hussein.

Kovel's goals differed significantly from the goals of the United States. His primary objective is to stay out of war at virtually all costs. He feels that this will be the "worst possible thing" that could happen. His secondary objective is to acquire a "sane energy policy." He would like to begin using "renewable energy sources" to prevent a situation like this from ever happening again. Thirdly, Kovel would like to "dismantle the military state." It is bad, he explained, morally, economically and politically. Fourthly, in agreement with the United States, he would like to neutralize Saddam Hussein. Finally, he would like to get rid of President Bush.

Kovel concluded that the United States got itself into this situation. It is an "unjust situation" that we have created, and, like it or not, "Hussein has a certain objective justice on his side." Kovel added that he hoped that in dealing with this injustice we would deal with the unjust occupation of the West Bank by Israel.

The members of the panel all agreed that the United States should not be in Saudi Arabia, and that United Nations troops should be. The panel presented different perspectives on a confusing situation. As Kovel accurately pointed out, "it is impossible to understand the situation completely." The large turnout and lively and lengthy question-and-answer period indicated that this is an issue students are interested in and concerned about.

## Arts &



Look mom —  
real art!

## Harassment charges

continued from page 1

withdraw. "I don't think it would have gone well for him anyway," Morgan commented.

Later that day, the entertainment committee stopped payment on the check written to cover the band's performance, and Morgan called the

band's agent and informed her of the band's conduct on campus. Morgan and Assistant Dean of Students Beth Frumkin, who was on call at the time of the incidents, plan to circulate the news of the band's behavior among their colleagues.

"We were appalled that a group of individuals that were hired as professionals would act this way. This kind of thing gives rap a bad name," Frumkin said.



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## GoodFellas leaves you with good feeling

by Colin Grube

Martin Scorsese scores again with his latest hit about the Brooklyn mafia, apparently a scene he is fond of. True, there are a lot of the rather cliché Scorsese-DeNiro close-ups, but that is a technicality we won't concern ourselves with at this moment.

*GoodFellas* is an excellent movie depicting the life of the gangster Henry Hill. We watch his rise to success, his days of glory, and finally, his fall, where he becomes another everyday "schnook." It is a movie I definitely recommend, at least most of it.

Based on *Wiseguy* by Nicholas Pileggi, *GoodFellas* gives us a startlingly vivid view of a lifestyle which is fascinating, decadent, horrifying and unbelievable. The movie speaks like life, combining the elements of humor with elements of grotesqueness. At the same time, one can simply not accept the fact that this type of thing goes on, so it seems almost unreal.

Ray Liotta plays Henry Hill, the Irish-Italian gangster who makes his

way from the bottom of the heap in 1930's Brooklyn, to eventually becoming a successful "Business man."

Liotta develops his character rather admirably. Throughout, he remains a tough guy, but we see him develop from the point where being tough was used to survive to the point that he actually is that tough and hard.

There is almost a hint of sensitivity in Liotta's character in the beginning, but that sense is completely lost by the end of the film, where the desperate man is struggling for his own survival.

Robert De Niro, it need hardly be said, gives another rave performance. Okay, you may be tired of seeing him in these Mafioso/tough guy movies, but you have to admit, he plays them well. He can watch unsympathetically as a boy is shot down in cold blood and then comment that it was stupid, not out of concern for the boy, but more like an older brother telling you how stupid you are to have knocked over that plate of cookies, and uh-oh, here comes mom.

His smile shows that he takes a

perverse pleasure in watching all of the carnage and violence about him and, at the same time, thinking up his own plots for grandeur. He desires power, for which he strives constantly, nervously watching his back at every turn and waiting for the inevitable knife.

Tommy, the only one of the three who is pure Italian and so stands a chance of getting "made," is played by Joe Pesci. Tommy is a bloodthirsty killer who will make a joke with someone one minute and then shoot him through the head the next. He is the hitman of the group, a comedian who takes a nonchalant pleasure in dealing death. His insecurities due to his height are the primary reason behind his ruthlessness. He tends to overcompensate, to say the least.

I missed the first couple of minutes of the movie, but as I understand, it begins as it ends, with Henry Hill talking to an F.B.I. agent, preparing to rat on his friends and set himself up in the witness relocation program. He begins by telling of his childhood, working as a courier. The scenes tend

to be more comic than violent, although there are moments of brutality. We watch his steady and rapid ascension of the social ladder, and he tells us how much he enjoyed the life.

He lived "like a movie star," with everything there for the taking. The narrative switches for the middle part of the movie to Henry's wife as they tell about how they met and how their marriage is working.

By the middle of the film, Henry's peak, the action slows a little, showing scenes of overt decadence and violence, but not much plot development. Fortunately, it isn't too long before the film starts picking up and getting exciting again. By the end, everything is a fast paced fervor as Henry's cocaine addiction, paranoia, and hectic life all begin to build on one another until we reach the explosive finish.

The movie is well shot and written, keeping a continuous feeling of familial closeness and the constant need of people who don't know how to live without great wads of fifties in their pockets and sex whenever they

want it. The occasional freeze-frames which allow for insight by the narrator are interesting, and used in a non-distracting manner. The movie is brutal and hard, but with enough comedy in it to keep the entertainment coming, and not to make it into a boring and violent documentary about mobster life.

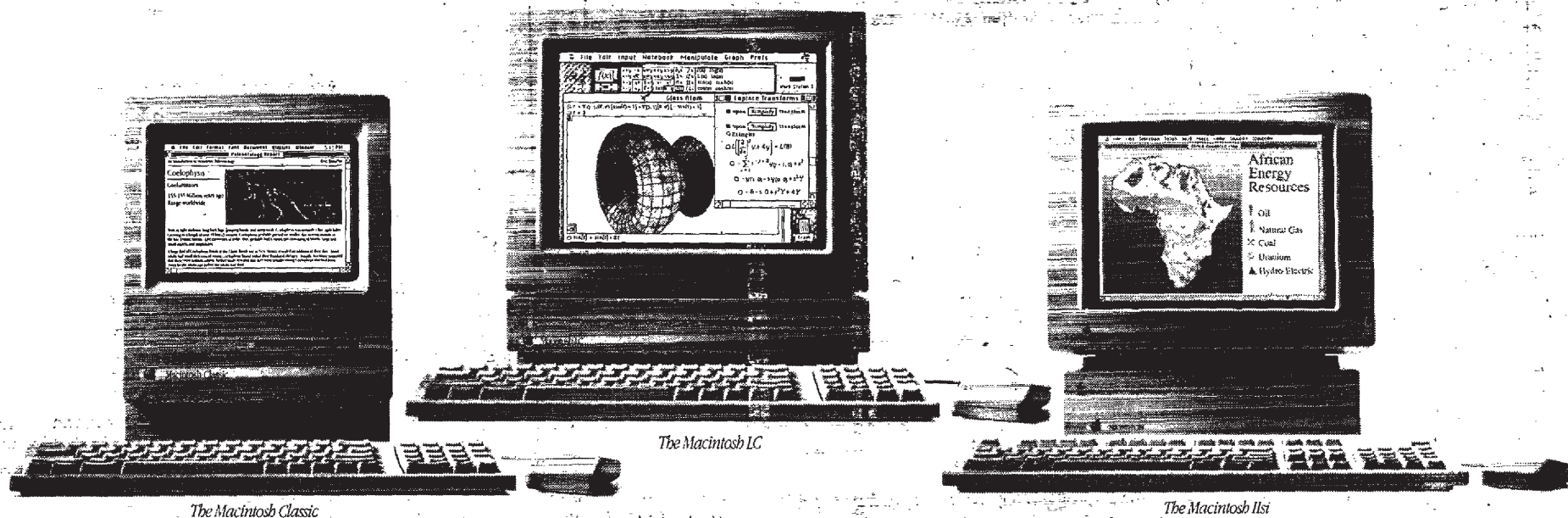
### Poem for the Week

by Blake Schulman

#### LIFE PRAYER

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Jah O Jah  
Living in LIght  
LOVE of l ife  
Eliminate Strife

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# Mountains in our backyard

by Jody Apap

If Sunday on the croquet court isn't your cup of tea, how about Saturday in the woods? After all, woods is the Hudson Valley's middle name.

Straight to the facts: "wood \ wud \ n. [ME wode, fr. OE wudu, wudu; akin to OHG witu wood, Olr fid tree] (bef. 12c) 1 a: a dense growth of trees usu. greater in extent than a grove and smaller than a forest—often used in pl. but sin. or pl. in constr. b: WOODLAND..."

For starters, I could go on for hours about the beautiful sites to be seen along the trails through the woods around Bard, but I think these woods are accessible enough to not need a hard sell.

But I'll give 'em one anyway. The trails at Bard extend well past the heavily traveled routes to the stream and waterfalls. Paths loop up and down the ravines (these ravines, incidentally, are not nearly as bug infested and do not shake during the spring) to the river and back again. Winding past the dump, through the enchanted forest, alongside a archaeological dig, around a few crumbling remnants of stone houses, and even to the railroad tracks and Cruger Island, these trails offer ever so much more than the mall and ever so much less than Central Park.

However, this article is primarily about the trails and vistas that are available on the other side of the river, specifically the trails around North/South Lake State Campground in the Catskill Mountains.

North/South Lake is located on South Mountain, which is, as you look across the river from Bard, the

third major peak to the north of Kingston.

The area is referred to as the North Lake area, which is in the northeastern Catskill trails, and I would advise obtaining a map or a book of the area. Maps and books are on sale in the campus bookstore, and in many other stores in the Hudson Valley as well. There are many "brands" of maps and any one would definitely suffice for the day hiker.

I suggest getting a hold of a map before venturing over, not for safety's sake (these specific trails are so well marked and in such relatively settled areas that anyone who could get lost probably couldn't read a map anyway), but because actually getting to the entrance of the trail and then knowing where it goes is basically impossible without the aid of a map.

As you can see on our handy dandy little map here that there are several trails to choose from. The trails are marked with brightly colored metal disks attached to trees along the path. The trails are distinguished from each other by color: red (R), yellow (Y), and blue (B).

To get right to the meat of the matter, I would unquestionably suggest the escarpment trail (ES on the map) if you're looking for breathtaking views of the Hudson Valley. And I mean, we're talking the VALLEY. The Berkshire Mountains seem a stone's throw away (a mere 60 to 100 miles distant), Bard is visible with some effort, and Albany and Poughkeepsie are definitely within sight on a clear day.

It's a given that if you're from the Rockies or the Grand Canyon this may seem kind of tame. However, if

you grew up with a wonderful view of the huge tenements across the river, then this will be a delight.

Not much can be said to do the vistas justice, but if you've seen any of Frederick Church's paintings, well...they give you an idea.

If either you don't really go for heights or still have energy and daylight after tackling the escarpment trail, the Kaaterskill Falls Trail (KF) is amazing. Kaaterskill Falls drops 260 feet, and the .4 mile hike to the base of it is wonderful if boulder hopping or fallen tree climbing is your act.

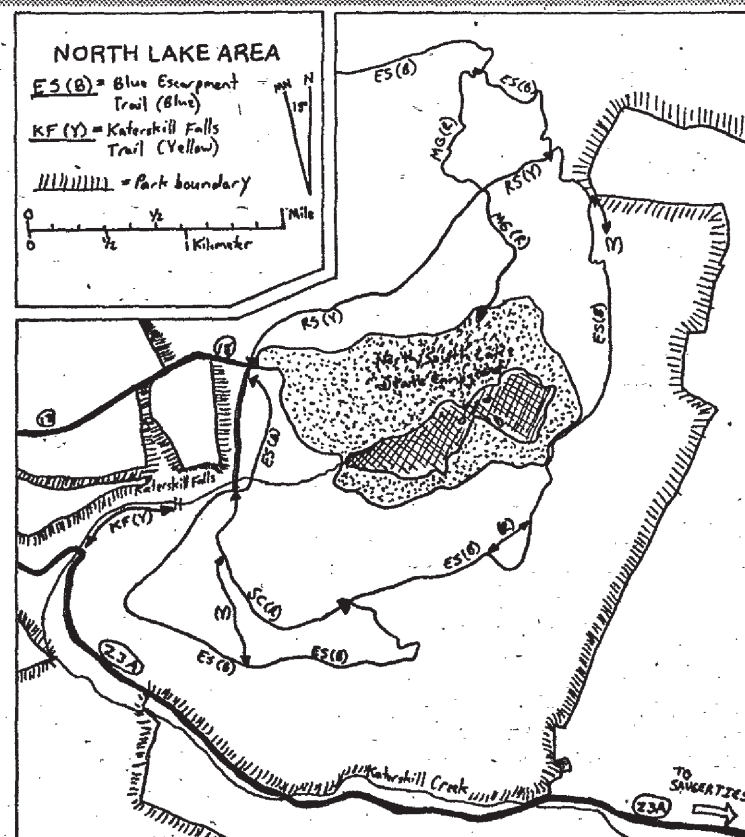
If you're looking to get away from things, I guarantee that these trails are effectively light years away.

Hiking novices should not fear journeying into the mountains without the aid of expert hikers. However, it is mandatory that you hike with at least one other person in case of accident or injury.

One last piece of advice: hiking trails such as these, and most trails for that matter, will take much longer than expected. A normal walking rate for an adult is three to four miles an hour on the road, but on mountain trails ONE mile an hour is a good pace. Don't overestimate, because you won't finish what you expect to do.

Okay, enough of the "daddy knows best" tripe (it is important information nonetheless). My honest advice is to definitely get out and see what is around. There is something about the vistas, the waterfalls, the bugs, the leaves, the mushrooms, the rocks, the trees, etc. that is unquestionably spiritual, in whatever sense you interpret the word spiritual.

Enjoy.



## This Week in Sports

Thursday 10/18  
Women's Varsity Tennis vs New Paltz HOME 4:00 pm

Saturday 10/20  
Women's Varsity Tennis NIAA Dist 31 Championships HOME 9:00 am  
Men's Varsity Soccer vs Centenary HOME 2:00 pm  
Women's Varsity Volleyball at Williams College 10:00 am  
Women's Varsity Soccer at King's College 10:30 am  
Men's and Women's Varsity X-Country at Albany noon

Tuesday 10/23  
Men's Varsity Soccer at Bloomfield College 3:00 pm  
Women's Varsity Soccer at Manhattanville College 3:00 pm  
Women's Varsity Volleyball at St. Thomas Aquinas 6:00 pm

Wednesday 10/24  
Men's Varsity X-Country vs Columbia Greene HOME 3:30 pm

Thursday 10/25  
Women's Varsity Soccer vs Marymount College HOME 3:00 pm  
Women's Varsity Volleyball vs Dominican HOME 7:00 pm

## Your trash

continued from page 3

full-spectrum recycling and hired Top Job as a middleman to do the work more efficiently. The Recycling/Environmental Club still exists, but it now concerns itself with more general environmental issues and action. At the end of last year, the group organized several Earth Day activities, including guest speakers and petitions against styrofoam in the coffee shop. For the upcoming school year, the group is anticipating more speakers, films, awareness activities, and

petitioning for a more extensive selection of recycled and biodegradable products in the bookstore.

While they are now simultaneously protesting labels stating that a product is "recycled," though it may only contain 2% recycled material, and searching for a focus, Poitras explained that the members will determine the club. "We have no limits," she said. "We are planning for more awareness and motivational work, but we definitely welcome new members and new ideas at any point."

The group meets at 6 PM on Monday in Kline Commons, and they have a bulletin board in Hegeman which displays articles and club updates.

Poitras reminds students, faculty, and staff not to see recycling as a solution in itself and stop there. "Don't forget the other issues of reducing and reusing; recycling alone is not enough. At the grocery store, don't get paper or plastic; bring your own cloth bags. The key is to reduce solid waste."

Any further questions about recycling can be directed to Jennifer Poitras either through campus mail or at club meetings, or to Dick Griffiths at B&G.

## Alumni

continued from page 4

uted to human nature, but I hope the [intensity of the] college experience hasn't diminished."

Susan Davis was "completely shocked" with the new physical environment of the college. "[The old buildings] are beautiful... although I understand the need for expansion, somehow the new architecture doesn't fit in," she said.

Also commenting on the campus was Jennifer Feilen '87. "Seeing the Stevenson Gym made me very jealous... it seems each generation of Bard students has something new on campus and misses out on later additions."

Colin Hayle '85 remembers President Botstein's speech for his graduation ceremony. "It began with a long quote from Kafka... how it seems that it may be impossible to change the world, but it's a small group of con-

cerned activists will do just that... Bard was always characterized by this disembodied liberal sentiment which is essential to such an evolution."

Jennifer Lupo '88, a new member of the Board of Governors to the Alumni/ae Association, encapsulates the sentiments of the alumni encountered on October 13. "One never really leaves Bard," she said. "At times it's necessary to come back to Bard to get rejuvenated and electrified to be able to carry on with 'the real world.'"

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## Give me space

Parking spaces on the Bard campus have always been hard to come by, but with ingenuity they have been found. Now "creative parking" is quickly answered with a ticket under the windshield. Certainly the rules which are laid down by security should be followed to preserve order and ensure our safety, but the rules should be reasonable.

For all Security's comforting words at the beginning of the semester about not "liking" to give tickets and not being "out to get" the students, they zealously do their duty. Students have been ticketed when stopping for only 15 minutes. At 1:00 AM, tickets have been placed on cars in otherwise empty staff lots. We all appreciate the efforts of Security to keep fire lanes open, but strict enforcement of some rules closes off the lanes of reason.

Security has all registered campus vehicles on computer, but they have never counted exactly how many parking spaces are available. Even if all the campus lots were counted, that would not take into account the fact that spaces at Blithewood, Blum, Proctor, and other out of the way places are of little use to students going to class in Olin.

The most useful lots are clearly those beside Kline and near Olin. A security officer said that there are always empty spaces there when she checks, but I wonder what hours she's on duty. At 10:05 AM on a Tuesday morning, the Olin lot is packed and students resort to parking precariously along the drive. I've often been late to class because I had to search further for a space. The Kline lot also pushes its limit at peak meal times.

Admittedly, some of the problem is sheer laziness on the part of students who don't feel like walking more than a block from their car door to the classroom door. But security should not cast the first stone, since they have reserved parking a mere six steps from their office. Bard staff, faculty, and administrators seem to have the same weakness, though.

Students often have little time in their stressful schedules of classes, study, and work to walk across campus. Now, as the weather turns to winter, they will evade the snow, sleet, and general outdoors with even greater determination. Those who now bicycle will begin to drive and all who drive will park as close to shelter as possible.

There are several large and convenient lots that are reserved for faculty and staff. During the week that is understandable, but employees of the college go home at 5:00 PM and don't return until morning, and are usually not here at all on weekends. Over the weekend those lots are completely empty. Students are the only ones to stick it out all night and through the weekend. In all fairness, students should be able to use the staff spaces after working hours.

In the long term, Buildings and Grounds should consider expanding the parking facilities in areas of frequent use. In the meantime, Security should look beyond the rules to the reality of the parking situation and give warnings instead of tickets when the student is reasonably, though illegally parked.

**Generations who have not experienced war directly are more likely to embark on one of their own. Remind us of what it is like. Were you drafted? Did you enlist? Did you resist the draft? The Bard Observer invites personal accounts from readers who have had experiences with past military mobilizations.**

### Send submissions to:

The Bard Observer, Bard College, Annandale, NY 12504

Please include your name, address, phone number, and affiliation with the college (if any).

## TO PARTY OR NOT TO PARTY

### REFLECTIONS FROM A VETERAN

by Jody Apap

"Bard's changing!" "Too many preppies and conservatives!" "Too many hippie wannabes!"

"This party sucks!" "This band sucks!" "This music sucks!"

"Jesus! I remember the Halloween that the campus drank 13 kegs!" "Campus is dull now!"

"Leon's changing Bard into a frickin' Ivy League school!"

Bard's changing. Oh really? What a surprise. Bard is continually faced with the fact that the incoming students will be different from the last generation. So what?

"Bard won't be liberal enough for me to find myself."

You mean Bard will expect you to work harder to get a degree, won't let you drive your Isuzu Trooper across Blithewood lawn, and won't openly condone heroin use? Sounds rough.

Any way, some people are distressed about the dilemma that Bard's social scene is less than adequate. Have the incoming freshmen been subjected to a few too many "JUST SAY NO!!!!!!" grocery bags? Is the fear of AIDS forcing people to keep sober enough to say no? Or do they believe that the brain doesn't go well with a side order of bacon and oat bran toast?

Something is lacking from most campus-wide Bard parties that was here just a few years ago; there just aren't many diehard parties left. There aren't huge throngs of people getting wild and crazy.

I mean, think about it, what makes a good party different from a bad one? As long as there are refreshments (key word, properly disguised to fool the authorities), dance music and a place to dance, odds are that a good party is in the making.

However, eight kegs won't necessarily make the party happen. The party energy cannot be entirely created by alcohol and drugs.

The energy can only be created by everyone involved - if I can get into an idealistic/peace/love/happiness mode for a second - you've gotta act like you're having fun, get a little crazy, act a little stupid, jump around, scream, fall down, take off your clothes - you know, whatever seems like fun at the moment that will entertain others as well as yourself. Then again, maybe it won't.

But as my old man says, it takes energy to make energy.

It's a given that since the beginning of time seniors have considered the freshman class lamer than themselves, and have claimed that "they didn't drink nearly as much as we did." Sounds like the seniors are suffering from a pre-middle-age complex - reminiscing about near-herculean feats of youth. I guess its unavoidable, as the memory does tend to go after three (maybe 4 or 5) years of heavy drinking.

All I can rationally say is that referring to less-than-overindulgent drinkers as "light-weights," or "lame," is stupid; and that calling parties "alcoholics," or "wastes," is not anyone's right. People who are going to drink are going to drink and people who aren't, aren't.

In some way, both these parties (sorry) must respect the rights of others to some extent: drunks shouldn't break things, drunks shouldn't be too noisy, but at the same time, this is college and steam needs to be released now and then, even if it isn't quiet hours.

## Mental reunification

Two weeks ago a border which had defined the lives of millions of people was erased. It disappeared magically from the maps and we all sighed and thought, "now the world is whole again." But still I am stuck with the terminology east and west Germany, because the real border was in my mind.

Political borders are creations of the human imagination. There is no natural delineation in the land to tell travelers they have crossed from one country to another. Signs are put up, customs stations built, and border patrols established. Without these the traveler and the geography would flow without notice from one "country" to another.

And perhaps our perceptions would too. We look across these mental walls we have built and think "foreign," "other," and sometimes "enemy." We are mentally trapped on our own side of the imaginary lines we've drawn. If we could wipe them from our minds we could see each other as individual humans struggling through some common experiences of life.

These walls are not natural; they are manmade, and as the Germans showed us, what people put up they can also take down. What we need now is more basic than political reunification, it is a mental reunification.

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Editorial policy is determined by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the editorial board. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the Editorial Board and not necessarily of the Observer staff.

Letters to the Editor must not exceed 300 words and must be signed legibly. All articles, cartoons, and photographs that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the front desk of the library by noon Friday a week before the publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles (except those intended for the *Another View* page) for style and length.

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## Math professors respond to EPC coverage

To the editors:

The article "EPC and Department Solve Math Problem" (October 5) accurately reflected that a revision of the lower college mathematics courses is one of the major goals of the Mathematics Department for this year. Unfortunately, the article could lead to misinterpretation.

Many of the statements represented opinions of individuals, and should be thought of as such. The experience

of the undersigned faculty who were at the EPC meeting, based on the knowledge of many college curricula, is that most schools do not "concentrate [the calculus sequence] into just three semesters." Student opinions given in the article about the adequacy of this sequence in meeting the needs of various constituencies (scientists, liberal arts majors,...) represent only a part of what we have taken into account. Courses and sequences are always developed with the active participation of faculty and students who have a stake in the content of the courses. The redesigning of the lower college level mathematics courses has been no

exception.

Finally, the headline was misleading, though clever. As the article stated, "Surprisingly, the math department had already been discussing possible changes since last semester." We regarded the EPC meeting as a useful forum for furthering student involvement in this ongoing process, not as the solution of a problem. Ethan Bloch remains an active participant in these discussions, through electronic mail, and we expect significant progress throughout the year.

Matthew Deady, Peter Dolan, Mark Halsey

## A plea for Spandex's return

Editor:

Spandex, oh Spandex, wherefore art thou, Spandex? It was heartless. It was cruel. How could you leave me hanging there like that? I must find out what happens next. BRING BACK SPANDEX! I need Spandex. It's like coffee in the morning. It's like one of the best things about the *Bard Observer*. Please. Do it for your readers. Do it to satisfy your own curiosity about Spandex. Just do it....

Wendy Voelkle

Editor's note: Spandex Part 4 appears in this week's *Another View* page. Happy reading.

## Do opinions count?

To the Editor,

It hurt to see the words attributed to me on page 3 of your October 5 edition taken out of context and so crudely misinterpreted, despite the fact that Professor Rodewald instinctively pointed your reporter in the right direction (although I would not have said that "some opinions are more equal than others"). As I was explaining to my students, a clash of uninformed and unsupported opinions is not the proper response to every question. If it were, why should Bard students put so much energy and effort into their education? And is something that is just a matter of opinion an interesting topic for a seminar? However, many questions are not simply matters of opinion, ranging from the distance from the

earth to the moon and the interpretation of texts to whether people should be enslaved due to the color of their skin, whether women should be second-class citizens or whether religious minorities should be hated and oppressed. Does your reporter or her source think both sides of such issues equally respectable in our culture? Do they consider racism, sexism, and antisemitism to be mere matters of opinion? Is the boiling point of water dependent on their opinions? If they hold these views, I most certainly do not, but I am content to let Bard students, whose opinions I do value highly, decide which "attitude" they would be more "disappointed" to see represented at the college.

Yours very sincerely,  
Christopher K. Callanan

## McKibbon

continued from page 2

to survive.

McKibbon began with a few thoughts on the definition of the word "environmentalist." One of the gravest problems facing the world today, he said, is that "everyone is an environmentalist." However, it is not threats to our environment that we must focus on, said McKibbon. "We must look at problems as attacks on the planet," he stressed, "not attacks on our environment."

He then went on to address the more specific issue of global warming. The greatest danger in the problem of global warming, McKibbon said, is that we don't think of its causes as a defect in our system, since it is caused in large part by CO<sub>2</sub>, a gas previously considered harmless. But "its causes are everywhere, and its effects are everywhere," so it is a problem we cannot escape.

McKibbon went on to stress the severity of the potential impact of global warming on the planet's ecosystems by citing a few facts about the consequences of a rise in atmospheric temperature. Mean ambient temperature is expected to rise about 5°F by the year 2050, he said. This

change would cause ecological zones in the northern hemisphere to move about 300 miles to the north, so the trees that now live in this area could then only thrive somewhere in Quebec.

He added that some of these changes may already be taking place. According to a recent report on National Public Radio, McKibbon said, coral reefs around the world are dying off at a rate of 7% per year, perhaps due to rising ocean temperatures.

Returning to the root causes of the planetary crisis, McKibbon quoted the end of the Book of Job, a passage that he characterized as "nature writing at its best." In this passage, God puts Job in his proper place in the world: as a part of nature, not as its master. "Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth? / Tell me, if you have understanding," he demands of Job. McKibbon interprets this as saying that "man is not a solution to the mystery of the world; man is imbedded in the mystery of the world." But "man is turning himself into a solution," he says, and this is the root of the problem.

In order to effect a permanent solution to this problem, said McKibbon, we have to "deal with the idea that we've gone too far." We must attack

the cause of the crisis, not just its effects, by changing the basic structure of our economy and our way of life. "Our economy only works if we continue to accelerate," he said. "We've run into limits, so there's no more room to accelerate... We have to learn to respect these limits, and not try to break them."

"People tell me I'm too radical," said McKibbon. "What's happening now is too radical... This is the only realistic approach to take."

## Reunification

continued from page 2

which they hate," said Schoeller.

Overwhelming all the doubts about the future of the unified Germany and its rejoined population is a general rejoicing. "It is mainly about freedom, that you are actually allowed to travel there in a normal manner," said Mittelsten-Scheid.

Schoeller believes the reunification is part of a general trend that will culminate in a European community. She says, "Reunification of Germany is just the first step in the reunification of Europe. Just as East and West Germany reunified, Eastern and western Europe can reunify."



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### RUMMAGE SALE

Oct. 12 and 13, 19 and 20. 10 AM to 4 PM. Church of St. John the Evangelist. River Road, Barrytown.

### MUSICIANS WANTED

Musicians wanted for 30's band - tango, beguine, waltz, swing - all instruments considered, especially brass, violins, smart piano, and

Because I like to to freehang - don't quote me on that!

Nancy,  
You are a woman trapped in the body of a goddess. I desperately need to suck on your nose.

- God

Youth has a tendency to worship eccentricity. -Rev. A.B. Zuss

smooth snare. For local gigs, Bard gigs, and/or fun. Contact Pola Chapelle at 876-6116.

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### OUTIE ENVY

I have an innie. I need to meet someone who is the antithesis of my being. Contact Box 415.

SVEN IS NOT ALWAYS WHAT HE SEEMS.



BARD COLLEGE

OCTOBER 20 TO 26, 1990

# WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Brought to You By The Dean of Students

**Parent's Day:**

Saturday, October 20. Parents on campus. Many activities planned for the day. Contact Dean of the College Stuart Levine for more information.

**Minority Studies Seminar Lecture:**

Robert Farris Thompson, Department of History of Art, Yale University, on *Afro-Latin American Syncretic Religion and Sacred Societies*. Monday, October 22, Olin 201, 6:30 PM.

**The French Connection:**

Second recital in the series *A Dance to the Music of Time*, featuring harpsichordist Frederick Hammond. Wednesday, October 24, Olin Auditorium, 8 PM.

**Outing Club:**

The Outing Club will lead a Horseback riding trip on Saturday, October 20. There is a \$15 horse rental fee per person. For more information, contact Jocelyn Krebs at 758-2196.

In addition, the Outing Club is sponsoring an overnight camping trip to the western Berkshire Mountains (in Massachusetts) for the weekend of October 27 and 28. Contact Jason Van Driesche at 758-1209 ASAP for information and reservations.

**Drumming Ensemble:**

A drumming ensemble will meet to play in Bard Hall from 7 to 9 PM on Wednesday, October 24.

**Forum Meeting:**

Special Forum meeting at 8:30 PM on Thursday, October 18 in Albee Social. Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou, Dean of the College Stuart Levine, and Dean of Students Shelley Morgan will speak.

**Chinese Exhibition:**

A bus will go to Vassar College Art Gallery on Sunday, October 21 to see the exhibition *Into the Afterlife: Han and Six Dynasties Chinese Tomb Sculpture*. There will also be time to view the permanent collection. Bus leaves at 1:00 PM from the Kline Commons parking lot; back at Bard by 5:00 PM. All are welcome; no charge. For further

information, please contact Prof. Dunstan (758-3783 evenings).

**HIV Testing Information:**

Poughkeepsie: Planned Parenthood clinic by appointment only: 431-2055, free and anonymous. Tests done Tuesday and Thursday 3:00 and 4:00 PM. Two visits required for test and follow-up (for women clients of Planned Parenthood call 758-2032 for appt., free and confidential, but not anonymous, only open Tuesdays and Thursdays).

**Intervention in Alcoholism:**

*The Ethics of Intervention in Alcoholism: Jewish and Modern Perspectives-a Two Part Discussion*. On October 14: Part 1: Definitions of and Attitudes toward Alcohol Consumption. October 21: Part 2: perspectives of the Ethics of Intervention. Kline Commons Committee Room. 6:00 PM, Sundays.

**Russian Scientist Lecture:**

Prof. Anatoly Ruvinsky, head of the Institute of Cytology and Genetics, of the Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. will give a talk *The Past and Present of Soviet Genetics* at 8:00 PM in Room 102, Olin on October 22. The talk is sponsored by the Soviet Studies Club, The Science Department and the History Department.

**Archaeology Talk:**

The Anthropology Club presents two talks in the next month: October 24 - Beth Waterman on *The Archaeology and Ecology of Tivoli Bay*. 7 PM, Olin Art History Room.

**Musical Activities Group:**

M.A.G. (The Musical Activities Group) and the dance club will sponsor a workshop in Tibetan ritual by dance ethnologist Lin Lerner, PhD. Practitioners of dance, music, drama, art, art history, anthropology, religion, Asian Studies, and Literature will find this of interest. Friday, October 26, 10:00 AM, Brook House.

M.A.G. will also hold an open concert for music, performance, tape-playing, film showing, artwork-displaying... Arranges something ahead of time or just show up with something to share. Time is T.B.A. Location: Brook House. Contact Paul Winkler via campus main for

more information.

**Reading:**

Ori October 26th Jonathan Dee will read from his new novel at 4:00 PM in Olin 102.

**Model U.N. Meeting:**

A Model United Nations Meeting will take place with important discussion about the upcoming U. Penn. trip at 7:00 PM in Kline Commons' paranoids on Wed., October 24.

**Dance Theatre III 1990:**

Dance Theatre III, 1990 will be presented on October 18 to 21 at 8:00 PM. The show will consist of works choreographed and performed by students in the Dance Studio of the Avery Arts Center. No reservations are necessary.

**Music Recital:**

Dan Sonenberg will perform a concert of original songs. Acoustic guitar and voice, Bard Hall, Friday, October 19, 7 PM.

**Environmentally Aware Concert:**

Children of the Earth, featuring the new J.B.'s (James Brown original horn section) 10:00 PM, Saturday, October 20th in the Student Center. Sponsored by the Entertainment Committee. Please bring Bard ID, as all non-Bardians will be charged \$5.

## Weekend Movies

Showings are at 7:30 PM and 9:00 PM in the Student Center.

**This Weekend:**

Friday, October 19: *Barfly*, The life of Bukowski, in celebration of Alcohol awareness week.

Sunday, October 21: *Weekend*

**Next Weekend:**

Friday, Oct 26: *Grease & Saturday Night Fever*

Sunday, Oct 28: *Tommy & Yellow Submarine*

## Calendar of Events

Saturday 20	Sunday 21	Monday 22	Tuesday 23	Wednesday 24	Thursday 25	Friday 26
<b>Morning</b> Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, & Rhinebeck  <b>5:45 — 10:30 PM</b> Trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston  <b>6:00 PM</b> Intervention in Alcoholism Kline Committee Room  <b>8:00 PM</b> Dance Theatre III Dance Studio  <b>10:00 PM</b> Children of the Earth Student Center  <b>All Day</b> Parent's Day	<b>1:00 PM</b> Bus To Vassar College Art Gallery Departs From Kline.  <b>6:00 PM</b> Intervention in Alcoholism, Kline Committee Room  <b>8:00 PM</b> Dance Theatre III Dance Studio  <b>6:00 PM</b> Ecumenical Worship Service-Chapel  <b>7:00 PM</b> Alcoholics Anonymous Aspinwall 302  <b>7:19, 8:20, &amp; 9:30 PM</b> Van meets trains at Rhinecliff station  <b>7:43 PM</b> Van meets train at Poughkeepsie station	<b>6:00 PM</b> Environmental Club Committee Room Kline Commons  <b>6:00 PM</b> French Table Committee Room Kline Commons  <b>6:30 PM</b> Minority Studies Seminar Lecture Olin 201  <b>7:00 PM</b> <i>Observer</i> Features/ Arts staff meeting Preston 127  <b>8:00 PM</b> Russian Scientist Lecture Olin Room 102	<b>6:00 PM</b> Amnesty International Olin  <b>6:00 PM</b> <i>Observer</i> News staff meeting Kline  <b>6:30 PM</b> Debate Club Kline Commons  <b>8:00 PM</b> <i>Observer</i> Photo staff meeting Albee lounge  <b>8:00 PM</b> Listening to Jazz Bring Your Records Bard Hall	<b>5:00 PM</b> Spanish Table Kline Commons  <b>7:00 PM</b> Al-Anon Aspinwall 302  <b>7:00 PM</b> Christian Meeting Bard Chapel Basement  <b>7:00 PM</b> Flute Choir Bard Chapel  <b>7:00 PM</b> Anthropology talk Olin Art History Room  <b>7:00 PM</b> Model U.N. Kline Commons Paranoids  <b>7:30 PM</b> Percussion Ensemble Bard Hall	<b>6:30 PM</b> BBLAGA Meeting Albee Social Room  <b>7:30 PM</b> Narcotics Anonymous Aspinwall 302	<b>4:51 PM, 7:36 PM, &amp; 9:11 PM</b> Bard vans to Rhinecliff train station  <b>5:00 PM</b> General deadline for submissions to <i>The Bard Observer</i>  <b>7:13 PM</b> Bard van to Poughkeepsie train station  <b>10:00 AM</b> M.A.G. Brook House  <b>7:30 &amp; 9 PM- Movies</b>  <b>12:00 NOON</b> Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering November 3 to 9, 1990 due in the <i>Dean of Student's office</i>