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Calendar
Annandale will be ours

by Tanya Panin

Bard College is planning to purchase the hamlet of Annandale-on-Hudson for $650,000 within 60 days with the aid of alumni funding and support. According to Director of Special Projects Susan Van Kleck, negotiations to purchase the town from Historic Hudson Valley, which also owns Montgomery Place, began in the spring of 1990.

The college's main interest is in the Annandale Hotel, which was originally built in the 1800's as a private residence. The hotel eventually added a restaurant and bar, called Adolf's Pub, which many Bard students frequented. The hotel closed down two years ago, and Historic Hudson Valley left it empty with the hope of developing it, possibly as a bed and breakfast.

At that point, the Board of Trustees requested a lease on the hotel to continue the tradition of using it as an entertainment center, but Historic Hudson Valley refused. Discussion then ceased until the college began to consider purchasing Annandale.

According to Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou, Bard attempted to find an individual to take over the Annandale Hotel and to re-establish Adolf's Pub, but the Board of Trustees eventually decided against using the building as a money-making enterprise.

The Board considered many other uses for the hotel, including converting it into art studios, recording studios, or music practice rooms. The college tentatively decided that art studios would require the simplest and most economical renovations of the building, as opposed to practice rooms and recording studios, which would require maintenance of acoustics. Papadimitriou added that the main problem involved in practice rooms is the control of room temperature to keep pianos in tune. "Art studios merely require basic plumbing, heat, and electricity, and seem to be the easiest thing to do," he said.

The college also plans to use the buildings in the town, which are primarily residential, for faculty housing. However, one of these buildings has life tenancy, which entitles the owner to live in the house until his or her death. Two buildings are already rented as housing for faculty or Bard Center Fellows. Another building, which needs much renovation, may be used for music practice rooms.

Bookstore storage room raided of photo materials

by Tom Hickerson

Sometime during the evening of Sunday, February 17 someone broke into the storage room beneath the Security office, which is used by the bookstore to store supplies. Though Scott Chandler, the bookstore manager, found nothing missing at first glance, closer inspection revealed that all the photography paper intended for the rest of the semester was gone. Beer mugs and notebooks were also taken from the storage area.

Security officers discovered the break-in at 7:00 Monday morning. The lock had been situated so that it appeared secure, but after some scrutiny it proved to be broken.

"The situation [of storage] down there is temporary," said Chandler. "The area would have been a lot more secure if it wasn't temporary." The bookstore will be making some changes in its storage arrangements in the near future.

The order of Kodak photo paper that was taken from the storage room was supposed to last the rest of the semester, said Chandler. Now, since the photography department might be changing brands of paper next fall, no new shipments will be ordered unless students request it specifically. If the request is made, the order will take a couple of weeks to arrive at Bard.

Security director Bob Boyce said that this was the second successful break-in to the storage room since last fall. Boyce added, due to the noise from parties and bands, it is hard for Security to hear if someone is breaking into the room downstairs. Boyce will suggest installing an alarm in the room, but due to the "temporary nature" of the storage area, it is doubtful that it will be installed.

Annandale will soon add to the plethora of Bard buildings. The hours of debate that evening helped me at least to begin to resolve these questions in my mind. But there was one question no one asked: What is the United States' proper role in world affairs? What are the legitimate interests of the United States, and what constitute legitimate means of defending those interests? How can situations such as the one we are in be avoided?

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Have rubles, will travel

by Angela Alexander

Beginning in fall of 1991, six to eight Bard students will spend the fall semester at The Leningrad Pedagogical Institute and an equal number of students from LPI will attend Bard the following spring.

The original impetus for the exchange is attributed by President Leon Botstein to contact between Bard History Professor Gennady Shkliarevsky and Soviet educators when Shkliarevsky went to the Soviet Union to present a paper at the International Conference on Twentieth Century Russia in April 1990. Botstein explained that following the decentralization of authority over educational institutions, the universities have become anxious to "establish formal legal relationships to the West which can be protected" against changes in political climate.

He also noted that the Soviet desire to continue previous plans to exchange students with the West was also a strong influence.

The student exchange program will be directed to Te Boekhorst. If the proposal to place locks on all the dormitories behind the neoclassic Kazan Cathedral, LPI is with walking distance of such major attractions as the Hermitage, the Pushkin museum, and concert halls.

The written agreement states that Bard students wishing to remain and study beyond the end of the semester may make individual financial arrangements with the host university. In order to qualify for the exchange, Bard students must have completed the equivalent of two years study of Russian language. The program is not limited to students concentrating in Soviet studies, but is open to all interested Bard students who qualify.

The student exchange program, will soon be visiting Leningrad.

Car thief apprehended through students' help

by Christie Searing

Two Bard students helped apprehend a juvenile who appeared to be breaking into a car early Sunday morning February 17th. Security director Bob Boyce "applauded" the effort, saying this sort of student/Safety cooperation is just what Bard needs.

Car theft on campus has been a problem since the semester began, but Security, despite increased patrols, had been able to do little. This past incident, however, was an exception. "We won one," Boyce said, calling the students' actions, in cooperation with Security, "perfect."

According to Boyce, two Bard students, whom Boyce did not name, were walking across Tewksbury field around 3:00 AM Sunday morning when they spotted a group of people huddled around a car in the Alumni parking lot. As the students approached, the group scattered. One person stayed behind, concealing himself in a parked car, while the others drove away in a white car, leaving the lights out.

One student detailed the person in the car, while the other contacted Security. At that moment the Bard shuttle was passing, and the students were able to contact Security via its two-way radio.

The suspect was then arrested by Dutchess County police. Because the suspect is a juvenile, his identity will remain anonymous, Boyce explained.

The case will go through the Dutchess County criminal justice system.
Local banks unaffected by recession

by Greg Glaccio

Recent talk about recessions and S&L bailouts need not concern people with accounts in local banks. Both Key Bank and the First National Bank of Rhinebeck have reported steady profits in the last year.

President John Van Wormer of First National Bank of Rhinebeck said that First Rhinebeck saw a 19% increase in profits (approximately $1,903,000) as well as a 19% increase in total assets for the last twenty years. This success is apparently due to their dedication. "The Bard and the media, and energy policy alternatives. Future activities in which SAWA plans to participate include a conference in Chicago from March 1-3 and a protest in Kingston on March 16. Organized by the National Network of Campuses Against the War, the first conference will address issues of the draft, the media, and energy crisis solutions. This conference is primarily an educational activity, and SAWA hopes to have enough interest to get a bus for transporting Bard students. The activity in Kingston is an anti-war rally which is still being organized. More information about SAWA is available from Box 1105 or Box 594.

War protest continued from page 1

the State Capitol building, singing songs, carrying posters, and chanting slogans such as "New world order, same old shit," and "George Bush is lying. Thousands are dying." Upon their arrival at the Capitol, the marchers formed a circle around the building and had a moment of silence for those who have been killed in the Gulf War.

Following the march, a Gulf War Memorial Wall was presented, folk musicians sang songs of protest, and speakers educated and rallied the people to action. Speakers from Bard, SITRIN, a high school, the NAACP, Veterans for Peace, the Puerto Rican Solidarity Committee, the Emergency Committee to Stop the War protest, and other organizations led chants, provided facts, and offered support and suggestions for the activists. Recurring themes included energy efficiency demands and proposals, the organization of peace efforts at home, media bias and censorship, racism, domestic concerns, and the U.S. intervention policy.

At the conclusion of the speeches, the crowd marched to the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception for a teach-in and the viewing of an unexecuted video from Iraq filmed by Ramsey Clark, which the major media had refused to show. Approximately 200 Bard students, organized by the Student Action Against the War (SAAW), participated in the protest, and Bard students Murphy Goldfarb and Chris Elliott spoke to the crowd. Goldfarb explained, "I want Bard students to know that what we are requesting is a cease-fire and peace talks."

Marina Sitrin, a student who helped to organize the demonstration, said, "I think it went very well. It's important that people protest this war, and we plan to continue with such actions, drawing as many people as we can. After all, that's one way to end the war: get out and (show that you) oppose it."

Anastasia Christman, another organizer, was also pleased with the protest. "I think the people who went got very involved in the media. The energy was really impressive, and everyone seemed dedicated to the effort. I would've liked to have seen more peeps, but that's their choice. If people agree with the war, that's their decision, but I think that some of those people who say they're against the war should think about doing something about it."

Chris Casey of the Social Justice Center commended Bard students for their dedication. "The Bard and Vassar students were a major thrust of the entire success of the program," he said.

Following the protest, approximately 7 representatives from SAAW attended the National Student and Youth Campaign for Peace in the Middle East Conference in Washington D.C. during the weekend of February 22. The conference was primarily an educational series for activists to network and to organize a national day of action. On March 9, there will be a regional teach-in held at Bard with over 10 schools participating in the development of educational workshops. The workshops will cover the history of the Middle Eastern region, draft counseling, the media, U.S. intervention policy, and energy policy alternatives.
Bard theft

There are many varieties and gradations of thievery. Here a few Bard-specific types are defined.

Delinquency: Often associated with first-year students and timid students living off-campus. This type of theft includes stacks of paper cups from Kline or one extremely old National Geographic without a cover, and those students who come from the gym with their plastic bottles and fill them with orange juice "so that they don't have to keep getting up to refill their glasses."

Noble Thievery: Involves a Robin Hood moral premise. This crime is usually committed by club heads and political activists. The typical loot is stacks of paper for photocopying flyers and handouts. The seasonal thief will also make a key in the metal shop to unlock the door to the faculty photon machine.

Accidental Thievery: Often provides thievery with their start. Akin to the woman who shot her husband by accident while she was cleaning the gun (and only had to reload twice). These ripe criminals accidentally walk out of the bookstore with a book in their hands, are wrenched with guilt upon discovering it, and feel too humiliated to return it.

Last Resort Thievery: Perhaps the least innocent on the Bard campus. Long lines when class begins in five minutes and I.D. cards who jump out of your pocket on the walk to the bookstore usually necessitate this crime. Its perpetrators can be heard saying, "Hey, man, I had no choice!"

Premeditated Mafia-RELATED COMMODORE RAID: Can be seen in its beginning stages as four-course cocktail parties in the Ravines with "food and spirits provided by Kline Common's staff." In its purest form, this encompasses students who got all of their books for this semester free and can often be seen extracting up to 3 loaves of bread from their leash in the post-lunch period. These students have perfected the art to such a high degree that they offer security suggestions on the Grapevine Board just so it will continue to be a challenge.

by Rebekah Klein

"Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth; whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever my hypsos inveigle unearthing past before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my hypsos get such an upper hand on me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from despairing of this world, and by way of instigation stepping into the streets, and methodically knocking students' hats off - then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can."

—Herman Melville, Moby Dick

Sea Education Association (SEA) is offering undergraduates the opportunity to study away from their home school on the open sea. During the twelve-week Semester At Sea program, six are spent in classroom study and the remaining six in large research vessels, the SSV Westward and SSV Corwith Cramer. Students travel on these vessels through the waters of the North Atlantic, the Caribbean Sea, and the Gulf of Mexico, stopping briefly at the islands of Martinique, Jamaica, Bermuda, and Newfoundland.

The typical sea semester covers over 2,000 nautical miles (roughly 2,500 land miles). Courses offered include oceanography, biology, physical and marine science, and maritime history, literature and politics. Students of all majors are welcome to apply and the credit gained from the semester at sea is transferrable to Bard. The program was the brainchild of Corwith Cramer, a man frustrated with the rebellious, anti-establishment attitudes of students in the late sixties. He thought students could greatly benefit from a change of scenery and from living on the sea, where everyone pulls their own weight in a tightly structured environment. Without cooperating in that system, you wouldn't eat and you wouldn't be in danger. The chief attraction of the experience has, in fact, become the emphasis on cooperation.

Since its founding in 1971, over 2,600 students from 250 schools have participated in the program. SEA's student selection process consists of two major parts: a review of the student's academic record, and an interview. The interview is the most important aspect, as SEA needs to see if you are the type of person who could fit in with a small group of people living in cramped quarters for six weeks.

Each year approximately ten cruises are offered in the program. The cost is nearly $8,000 for tuition, room and board. Scholarship aid is available.

Each vessel sails with a staff of ten and up to 25 students. Students who participate in SEA can apply the hours they spend at sea toward the time requirement necessary in order to obtain a United States Coast Guard license. Under the current director, Rafe Parker, SEA has been divided into three programs: Semester at Sea, the Maritime Semester, and Sea Experience. He describes all of them as involving "the challenge and excitement of being involved with a small group of people who are working toward a common goal: mastering the art of sailing and coming to grips with the mystery and beauty of the ocean."

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Sail the seas for oceans of credit

They caught red-handed.

They were the worst ever for theft. He attributes this increase to the increased student enrollment and the fact that the security system was broken. His primary concerns are the loss of trust involved with theft and the malicious theft of such items as paper cups, and especially damaging to the needs of the student body as a whole.

"I know you can't stop a determined thief, and I don't care to play continued on page 10

Features

WHAT IS THIS?!? Kleptomania at Bard

The Sea Experience division is a graduate level marine science program for science teachers from all over the country. Forty-eight people have graduated from this program. The graduates say that their experiences have given them more credibility in their curriculum.

On board each vessel there is a specific daily schedule. Each day, the water temperature is taken and there is a water sampling to check for salinity, oxygen, and phosphate concentrations. Every student continues to work on an individual science project under the guidance of a chief staff scientist and three assistant staff scientists. They make use of the Sven...
Another View

E.P.C. update

by Gavin Milczarek, Chairman

The student Educational Policies Committee would like to inform the Bard Community of recent committee actions and upcoming events. Opinions in need of expression on the following, or other educational matters, should find their way to any E.P.C. member, or directly to the faculty.

The Executive Committee has agreed, in principle, to encourage the E.P.C.'s request for college-wide student/faculty cooperation in planning the contents of the course list. Meetings of this nature also provide an excellent forum for communication of student and faculty announcements and concerns. Hence, successful gatherings have already taken place in a number of departments, and efforts are currently underway to hold meetings in Physics and Social Studies. Further information or arrangements can be made through divisional E.P.C. representatives (a list of whom are included with this article).

Starting Monday, March 4th, the E.P.C. will hold an "office hour" every Monday from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Student Government Office (upstairs, Old Gym, ext. 197). This office hour is intended to provide a timely and efficient means of keeping students informed of Committee on Vacancies business (two E.P.C. and four Faculty Senate members vote to recommend table (delay), or disapprove of hiring requests made by the Divisions of the College), and Faculty Senate matters of interest to students (two non-voting E.P.C. members attend the F.S.). The office hour is also intended to provide "a regularly scheduled pair of rational, albeit functioning, ears" for feedback on educational and curricular policies and procedures.

A proposal to drop divisional distribution requirements (40 credits outside one's major division including a course imparting quantitative skills would still be required) has recently emerged from the Faculty Senate. What do you think?

Natural Science & Mathematics
Phuoc Huynh (758-1230)
Melissa Cahoon (758-3667)

Chairman: Gavin Milczarek (ext. 341, ext. 233)

Faculty Senate/ C.O.V. Representatives
Melissa Cahoon, Noah Coleman

Note: No phone calls after 9 p.m. please (unless you're on the Election Committee)

Comments and letters pertaining to the faculty being evaluated should be addressed to the appropriate divisional evaluator. Your comments are greatly welcomed by the Committee, which needs them by Mid-March.

Finally, the E.P.C.'s "Library Book Liberation Week" has been at least moderately effective in that the library staff have reported the return of at least one book. For those unscrupulous souls who still harbor missing library books, please remember:

See Phyllis and Dean go to the library.
See Phyllis and Dean steal library books.
Don't be Phyllisians.

E.P.C./ Student Evaluators

Social Studies
Katrani Anwar (758-1491)
Noah Coleman (758-3146)

Language & Literature
Andrea Stein (ext. 314)
Vacant Pending Election

Arts
Bill Dochand (758-1376)
Emily Smith (758-2192)

by Matthew Schickel

The Bard Radio Station is still coming, and should be on the air in 3-4 weeks. The transmit­ters have been ordered, and as soon as they are hooked up, we will set up the studio, and that's that.

Our trumpets now sound for the DJs. If you have vocal urges, please let us know. All we ask is your name, your box number, the time you'd like your show (we're planning on starting with the hours 5pm-6am), and a detailed description of your show. If this last part is tricky, just imagine what you'd like everyone to see in the program guide. Also please say whether you're willing to be a Substitute DJ.

EVALUATORS

Laura Battle - Rehiring
James Sullivan - Senior

ARTS EVALUATORS
Laura Battle Jean Churchill L. Garcia-Benart (alt.)

SS EVALUATORS

Nikolet Haist - Rehiring
Carol Nackenof - Tenure
Gennady Shkliarevsky - Rehiring
Mario Bick - Senior

by Ephraim Glenn Colter

February being Black History/Month, one and all should address outstanding issues concerning People of Color (And yes, you're right, you too are a Person of Color literally - but figuratively?):

Hair. This is not a Black thing, if you'd like, think of it as a White thingy. I could hover over the topic of hirsute, and why some men have to just as much trouble as any vulgar racist think of having their hair done (I have this friend who SWEARS her eyes are blue and not gray. A lot of my friends even quibble over blue and blue eyes! Be glad you can see the damn color while starting so much in the mirror!!). We should be glad we have hair, if you have it, and that we're not thatching our roots over with a few long stringy tendrils which could just as well be mole hairs.

The whim to touch the hair of People of Color without permission is fascist. Nor should one EVER snatch the hat, cap, or headwrap of a Person of Color - no matter how friendly - and even if you are another Person of Color. You're just asking for attitude and verbal abuse. Colds are considered sacred...and finally, I get to the point.

Why are we so touchy about folks who have hair? Do we want to stay trapped in the contemporary facade of having to look perfect, feel good, know all? There are many kinds of doesn't exist. Unless we relax we may never sense the foot of her bed and under the bed. In a way the mystical of African American hair. And hair. And hair!

Restrictions of your show. If this last part is tricky, just imagine what you'd like everyone to see in the program guide. Also please say whether you're willing to be a Substitute DJ.

It should be stressed that if you're given a show, you have to come. If you miss a show without a prior notice, you'll be dropped. In other words, only ask to be a DJ if you really want to be.

As yet, we have no library, so it will be bringing-your-own-music.

The goal of WXBC is to bring everything to the campus and airwaves that isn't already there. Music, talk, comedy, noise, etc. Unfortunately, the campus can't hook itself up every dorm; South Hall and Sands will have to wait, probably until next semester (but no later). This is purely for financial reasons, and it's a bummer.

If you have questions, address them to me. Al Heidetz is the program director, so address all DJ stuff to him.

March 1, 1991
The Bard Observer

LAND L EVALUATIONS
Benjamin LaFarge - Senior

I LAND L EVALUATORS
Fred Grab Mark Lambert
William Wilson (alt.)

NS & EVALUATIONS
Ethan Bloch - Tenure
William Maple - Senior

NS & EVALUATIONS
Matthew Duddy
Mark Halsey
Hilton Weiss (alt.)

SS EVALUATIONS
Nikolet Haist - Rehiring
Carol Nackenof - Tenure
Gennady Shkliarevsky - Rehiring
Mario Bick - Senior

SS EVALUATORS
Maria Bick
Daniel Berthold-Bond
Richard Gordon (alt.)

WXBC REPORT

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Poem of the Week
by Jonathan Manitsky

These ladies (too close to touch/ I chained by my own passions) smile with natural lips, while shadowed fingertips stroke my heart. Lone stares fall softly, breezes carry bodies around my ankles. Out open windows, these ladies by walled ears, land at 11 Montgomery Street • 914-876-5151

by Tatiana Prowell

On March 13, 1991, the second conference in the "ARTS FOR EVERYONE: Accessibility and Cultural Institutions" series will offer new perspectives to long-time concerns. The program, which is a three-conference series, seeks to address and to find solutions for the problem of inaccessibility of cultural institutions to those with special needs.

"The arts are a right, not a privilege... No citizen should be deprived of the beauty and insights into the human experience that only the arts can impart," stated the National Council on the Arts in 1973. While it has taken cultural institutions some time either to come to the same conclusion or to act upon it, changes are finally taking place. Marc Acita of the Edith C. Blum Art Institute expressed optimism about the selection of Bard as host to the program: "I feel (and I hope that this is another instance where the Blum Gallery is forging a path which others will follow.)"

The selection of Bard's Blum Gallery as host to two of the three conferences was a two-part decision. The New York State Council for the Arts ''recognized Bard as an active cultural institution," explained Acita. Furthermore, those individuals involved with the Gallery, as part of a cultural institution, felt a need to become more aware of the issue of ease of accessibility. In order to receive state and federal funding, the Blum Gallery must also meet certain accessibility regulations, which will be addressed in the conferences.

The Blum Gallery has already made some changes which it hopes will facilitate visitation by those in wheelchairs or with other special needs. The wall labels now are printed in 18 point type, a large type size which is easiest to read. While individuals in wheelchairs must still go around the building to enter, it is now possible for wheelchairs to gain access to the Gallery. However, the upper level of the gallery is still inaccessible, as it is reached by stairs.

In addition, the Gallery has recently made changes such that wheelchairs can be maneuvered into the restrooms. And finally, the Gallery is constantly attempting to make its exhibits comprehensible to everyone, despite his or her background in art.

The first of the three conferences dealt with "Historical Perspectives of Accessibility" and took place at Bard on December 5th. It was led by Dave Park, Chief of Special Programs at the National Park Service, and Eric White, Coordinator of Access at Old Sturbridge Village. The presentations included slides and videos, information about accessibility laws and how accessibility benefits everyone, and solutions from Old Sturbridge Village, including how to make a site accessible without disturbing its historical content.

The second conference, also to be held at Bard, will take place on March 13, 1991. It is entitled "Accessibility and Art," and featured by Pearl Rosen, Special Education Coordinator at Queens Museum, Richard Manley, Director of the Westchester County Office for the Disabled, and Jean Stewart, author of The Body's Memory.

Their respective focuses will be the "Please Touch" program, sensitivity awareness in accessibility, and the writing of one woman's personal experience with this hindrance. The cost of attending the conference is $45, which includes 2 meals and materials necessary for the program. The registration deadline is March 8, 1991.

The last of the three conferences will be held at the New York State Museum in Albany on May 15, 1991. It will address "Program Accessibility and Funding," including training for museum education, enhancing existing programs, and expanding the idea of accessibility beyond just adding a ramp.

This conference will be led by six individuals. Among them are Paula Terry of the National Endowment for the Arts and Claudia Hanlon, Coordinator of Disabled Visitors Services at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The cost is also $45, and this fee must be received by May 10, 1991.

While the Blum Gallery primarily expects people involved with other small art galleries from Westchester to Albany to attend these conferences, hopefully other interested artists, educators, and individuals will also attend. The Blum Gallery has invited Bard administrators to the conferences, and Acita explained, "I see that many buildings and areas (at Bard) are not accessible to individuals in wheelchairs or individuals with other special needs. I feel that the Blum Gallery becomes aware of these problems more readily because we deal with people nationally and internationally. Our hope is that the administrators will accept our invitation to attend these conferences and make use of this information to improve the widely-used facilities on campus and give them a more friendly, accessible atmosphere."

Further information about these conferences and similar programs can be obtained by calling the Blum Gallery at 758-7441 or by contacting the N.Y. State Museum of Albany at (518) 456-2147.
The History of Luminous Motion
goes nowhere

by Jonathan Miller

Go to the bookstores these days, and you'll find countless new novels by new authors with reviews on the back praising the book as the greatest work of fiction ever to come forth. Scott Bradfield's new novel, The History of Luminous Motion, is the latest in this series.

Luminous Motion is the story of Phillip, a boy whose mother decided to chuck the entire housewife lifestyle and take her son with her on the road. Making their way across the country, living in motels, meeting strangers in bars and shackling up with them for a few weeks at a time, Phillip grows up alienated from the American dream of home and patriotism in the suburbs, and from just about everything else as well.

Settled down in a suburban home life, Phillip is completely detached from any sense of right or wrong. When his parents offer him a puppy, he dreams of murdering it. When he begins robbing houses, he uses a shopping cart, and stops off at the Burger King on the way home. When his father finally returns after years of absence, Phillip decides to kill him too. There's shock, horror, and trauma here, but this is as far removed from high school confidential tabloidia as one can get. Bradfield consciously strives to create an atmosphere of total boredom and alienation in which neither the characters nor the reader can work up much interest.

Bradfield drives his character insane, gives him delusions of grandeur, leaving most of what he narrates suspect; when we find out at the end exactly how old Phillip is, we can no longer trust his stories of casually robbing houses and nightly getting ideas on whiskey and grass. Bradfield doesn't care much; the actual events of the book aren't his main concern.

What Bradfield is interested in is the barreled structure, philosophy, and masochistic poeticness that he has poured into the book. It is in Robert Coover's Gerald's Party, all of the conversations are vague philosophy; there's barely a word of believable dialogue. The book is almost certainly autobiographical, because the self-absorption is such that everything within that narrator's cold, fishy scope is seen through filters of inhuman detachment and there is nothing outside that scope. A clear influence on Bradfield is another minimalist epic—litterateur Raymond Carver. However, unlike Carver, who merely sulks, Bradfield gets down and venemous.

One of the questions philosophers bat around from time to time is, What is the role of art in society? Is "Art" supposed to uplift society or reflect it? In this post-post-post-post modern age that brings us art that simply copies what other artists did (and inextensionally ugly art of rusted metal and barbed wire), the question jumps up more and more.

It's a self-defeating question as well. Obviously, if art did nothing but "uplift" society, we'd end up with museums full of the smiley-faced, cherub cheeked illusionism that Chair­man Mao liked so much. If art was supposed to reflect society and do nothing else, Michaelangelo would have been carving statues of toothless, starving, pox-marked peasantry and diseased, tyrannical landowners.

Bradfield's The History of Luminous Motion is a clear example of going too far towards one extreme. Accessibility is not a crime; history reminds me of nothing so much as Lou Reed's "Metal Machine Music," an un­doubtedly great work of art that is unlis­tenable to 99.9% of the population.

It's not that Bradfield has nothing to say. A steady subplot runs through the book that is a reflection on art itself. Throughout the novel, we see the steady surrender of the concrete for the abstract. In the way that Phillip's girlfriend, a pretentious Marxist, wants to see, in the way his wealthy friend Rodney despises objects, preferring stocks; bonds, and money market accounts, centrally in the way Phillip describes the philosophical end of his and his mother's journey, Bradfield allures his characters from the solidity of existence into the realm of thought.

Phillip rebels strongly against the suburban placelandscape he is placed in, and Bradfield makes a real statement about ourselves in that Phillip's rebellion consists of drugging himself into insensibility.

Bradfield's failing is not that he writes about alienated kids. There are brilliant works on the subject and you don't have to go as far back as The Catcher in the Rye to find them. Nor is his problem excessive experimenta­tion. The fault in The History of Luminous Motion is that Bradfield pursues his characters' apathy, passivity, and alienation so thoroughly that it spreads to the reader. Like in Bret Easton Ellis' 1987 snoozer, The Rules of Attraction, the author's self-absorption and sense of apathy are so complete that we, as the readers, don't care enough about the characters to work our way through the book. The interest level falls below that which is required to decode Bradfield's literary tropes.

Bradfield brilliantly demonstrates the great stumbling block for contemporary writing: literature cannot live by subtext alone. Bradfield has many wonderful workings behind the curtains, but next-to-nothing in front.

King Ralph is dead...
Long live King Ralph

by Matthew J. Lee and David Draper

Matt

You can just imagine what the producers must have been on when they came up with the concept for King Ralph. The idea is that the entire royal family in England dies, and they need to find an heir to the throne. The closest heir is a lounge lizard in Las Vegas (played by John Goodman). King Ralph then revolves around the humor which is involved in the un­couth, unsophisticated, unroyal manner of Ralph (including, of course, a love interest).

I'm not saying that this is a bad movie; just that it could have accom­plished so much more than what it actually achieved. The movie runs out of steam quickly after we are all made aware that it is one joke movie. It becomes embarrassingly painful to watch King Ralph make a fool of himself in front of foreign dignitaries. The movie just becomes too predict­able and even the sub-plot (that another Member of Parliament wants King Ralph disgraced so that he can be crowned king) is not surprising.

Now that I've done tearing the movie apart, is there any reason to see the movie? Well, John Goodman certainly does an admirable job in a tough part, portraying Ralph's con­fusion at being the King of England, and not a longer lounge lizard, very well. Some of the jokes in the movie are extremely funny, and Peter O'Toole does an excellent portrayal of what else, an Englishman. The first 45 minutes of the movie are fun and enjoyable to watch. Afterward, however, expect a slowdown in the movie and the number of laughs.

I recommend this movie for those who enjoy John Goodman's style of humor and for those who don't mind leaps of logic in their movies and just want a good time. I was just disappointed in the fact that the movie could have been done with the same humor and made funnier, smarter, and more human.

Dave

The success of King Ralph rests largely on the shoulders of John Goodman, the likable star of ABC's freakishly popular "Roseanne." It's hand not to like Goodman, and the film benefits greatly because of it.

Goodman plays Ralph Jones, a shady Las Vegas lounge singer who, after a surprisingly well­-thought-out accident, becomes the most likely successor to the throne of England. Jones, of course, makes the usual mistakes because of his "Yan­kee" upbringing, but shocks everybody by performing well under pressure.

The film, while predictable, does give its outlandish premise some considera­tion. John Hurt, as a tough part, portraying Ralph's con­fusion at being the King of England, and not a longer lounge lizard, very well. Some of the jokes in the movie are extremely funny, and Peter O'Toole does an excellent portrayal of what else, an Englishman. The first 45 minutes of the movie are fun and enjoyable to watch. Afterward, however, expect a slowdown in the movie and the number of laughs.

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King Ralph may not be high litera­ture, but it is an amusing little comedy that actually delivers on its premise, where so many other films these days fail flat.

King Ralph is dead...
The Point After

by Noah Samton

Since I joined the Bard basketball team my freshman year we have won twenty-four times and lost seventy-six. That is less than one win for every three losses. At times the frustration level of trying to be a Bard athlete is roughly equivalent to that of a person attempting to thread a needle with their eyes closed.

This frustration manifests itself in the apathy (yes, there’s that word again) which Bard students bring to sports. Of the class which graduated this spring, only four people have used up their entire four years of eligibility in a single sport. Not altogether surprising when you consider Bard teams’ penchant for losing. How many times can you put on a uniform with pride, positive your team will lose by twenty points? But then perhaps one win to every three losses isn’t really all that bad, is it? Look at the wins. This year, after a narrow two point victory, one of Bard’s players said of the other team, “Those were the extra, extra bad bears.” Later on in the season Bard lost to the same team by fifteen points, extra, extra bad news bears? “We won four games by beating two teams raising the question, who really is the bears.” Later on in the season Bard was ranked 38th, losing. How many times can you put it? Look at the wins. This year, after three losses isn’t really all that bad, is it? Consider Bard teams’ penchant for apathy (yes, there’s that word again) which led to the same team by fifteen points.

The Stevenson Cup On the weekend of March 15-17, the annual second Stevenson Cup Squash Tournament will be held. There will be all levels for all ages open for students, faculty, staff & family and community members. All entrants are guaranteed a minimum of two matches. There will be a $5 entrance fee for students and $10 for all others. The fee will include a t-shirt and refreshments. Entry forms are available at the front desk of the Gym. Contact Kris Hall at x30 for more info.

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Bard Impressive at Squash Nationals

The Bard squash team, led by coach and former professional Dan Paris, proved his stripes by scoring a victory at the Rochester National Intercollegiate Squash Raquetto Association & Fred's squad for its inaugural season. The team was ranked 38th going into the tournament, and with the victory will most likely move up for the beginning of next season.

On the first day of the two day tournament, the Blazers were first matched up against Lehigh of Pennsylvania. And to the surprise of tournament officials, the virgin Bard team came away with a decisive 6-3 win. Bard, for a moment in time, was undefeated in the history of the national tournament.

Bard’s bubble was burst later that day when the team met up with perennial powerhouse Columbia University. Columbia dealt the relatively inexperienced Blair team a heavy blow, 9-0. Only number 9 seed Jitesh Ladwa won a game.

Sunday was a new day for the team as they were assigned Steven’s Tech. Although Steven’s beat Bard 8-1, the match proved the intensity of the Bard team. Eighth seed Amir Latif was down 2 games to nil, when his opponent accidentally hit him in the mouth with his racket. Latif caught fire and came back to win the match 3-2. After the day was done, the wound required seven stitches.

In the final match for the Blazers it was St. Lawrence. Determined to end the season on a positive note, the Blazers fought hard. Unfortunately they came up losers by a narrow 5-4 margin. Bard dropped matches at the top five seeds, but were helped out by the lower seeds with victories at the final four positions.

Bard’s squash success is owed to coach Paris, who brought his talent and patience to mold a team of inexperienced players into a competitive squad. With the win over Lehigh, Bard should expect to move up in the national rankings. Some outstanding squash was played by the Blazers. Most impressive were efforts turned in by Bennett Lieberman, Roger Paul, Christian Hahn, Amir Latif, and Jitesh Ladwa. Goodbye to seniors Bennett Lieberman, Roger Paul, and Matt Phillips.
You asked for a computer that's real college material.

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The ideal computer for college needs certain things. Like a mouse, to make it easy to use. Preloaded software, that'll let you create impressive papers with graphics and spreadsheets. And great tools, like a notepad, calendar and cardfile. It should also be expandable, so it can grow with your needs.

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IBM Corporation 1991
Annandale is a real bargain
by Greg Giacio
For sale: One town. Quiet, country area with waterfront property. Adjacent to schools and other public facilities. Good neighborhood. Includes pump with broken handle. Asking nine million dollars or best offer.
Many people are criticizing the current drive to buy Annandale. They think that we have better things to spend the money on. They clearly have not thought out the benefits of owning this valuable piece of real estate. I proudly present, from my office in Norristown, Pennsylvania:

TOP TEN REASONS WHY BARD SHOULD BUY ANNANDALE:
10. Makes good buffer zone against imperialist invasion from Red Hook.
9. We can raise the speed limits to whatever the hell we want.
8. It will keep the Japanese from buying it.
7. We can re-name it "Graeceland" and fleece stupid Elvis devotees.
6. We can rip the asphalt out of our section of 9G and use it to pave Ravine Road.
5. It makes the ideal site for a new theme park: Leonland!
4. We could mortgage the property to the teeth and use the money to build a suitable library.
3. The fenced-in triangle is a good spot to raise our own livestock.
2. It will greatly facilitate the initiation of phase two in our plan for WORLD DOMINATION.
1. We can officially change the name so we don't have to write "-on-Hudson" on every single envelope.

Stolen goods
continued from page 4

police games, but I want these students to realize that they are only participating in it if their government calls on them to do so.

This war, the first in my memory, has closed that option off for me. The circumstances leading up to the war in the Gulf persuaded me that war is often the expression of a deliberate policy, not the product of forces beyond our control. Now that the war has started, its awesome destructiveness has convinced me that I must not participate in war or the preparation for war. I object to war as a matter of conscience.

I know that participation is a highly idealistic one, and in many ways an unrealistic one as well. I realize that, in many ways, my stance is very naive, for countries and people will continue to fight regardless of what I happen to think. But this is the only course of action I can in good conscience follow.

I also know that because of my refusal to support the war, many people will question my patriotism and my loyalty. I am no flag waving patriot, nor am I loyal to you, the President of the United States, but I will defend those values, freedoms and rights that the flag represents, and I am loyal to the ideals this country has so often espoused during my lifetime, but has so seldom achieved.

I am willing to defend my country, its ideals, and its people against any threat, be it a military invasion, an attack on free speech, or destruction of its wilderness. I am willing and ready to put up a nonviolent defense wherever and whenever I can, directing whatever resources I possess towards productive, not destructive change. I am willing to risk my life for my country; for someone I love, for a cause or an idea in which I believe, but I am not willing to kill.

I don't think we should be involved in the Middle East, but by now that is a moot point. I don't know how we are getting out of this. I don't know if I can be a part of the solution. All I know is I will not kill. I will not be a part of the violence that is at the root of this problem.

Sincerely,
Jason Van Driesche

The Bard Observer is now distributed on Wednesdays.
Don't you feel special?

Seriously, we decided to come out a day earlier so we could cover news more quickly. Enjoy.
Letters

After the Election

To whom it may concern,
I’m writing this letter because of the recent elections held for the position of Student Life Committee Chair. While I do not have any questions concerning the conduct of the elections themselves, I do have questions concerning the postelection procedures.

1) Why was there no formal announcement of the winner? This I believe led to some confusion to who had won. Many people weren’t aware of the winner’s identity. The only notification that I was aware of was a small poster on the front door of the commons. This poster was placed among other posters and announcements and was not very conspicuous. The only reason I noticed was because somebody pointed it out to me.

2) How come the participants in the election were not personally notified of the results? I know of one participant who was not informed of the election results until two days after the results were in. This statement teaches back to question one. A formal announcement might have informed him, however wouldn’t protocol indicate that the participants be informed before the community at large?

3) Why weren’t the voting statistics made public? Though some of the statistics are only interesting for trivia junkies and Jeopardy contestants, some are quite useful. I’m sure that the candidates as well as their supporters are curious as to how close the election was. Being able to directly ascertain who received X number of votes, and how they were tabulated would show the public that the election was held in an honest and transparent manner.

Do not take that last statement as an accusation. I’m sure that the people who conducted the elections did so to the best of their ability. These are just some questions to which I would like to find some answers.

Sincerely,
Russ Murray

Lock or No Lock

To the editor:
Lately, perhaps somewhat as a result of the assault on campus last semester, there’s been a proposal “in the air” to put front door locks on all the dorms on campus to which every off-campus student would have a master key. I talked to a security staff member and a PC about the proposal in the Albue Social one night. It’s from the former (I don’t know his name) that I got the above sketch of the idea.

If this proposal prevented any incidents on campus, it would be worth it.

However, I don’t think it is the most effective way to stop theft and assault and rape from happening, and there are everyday emotional downsides to it, too, that I’ll get into in a minute.

Many of the people I’ve talked to have feared that the majority of the aggressors involved in campus “incidents” are students so this policy of front door locks would obviously not stop these people, who would all have the key. So perhaps we’re only trying to prevent a small portion of the problem, which is certainly worth the effort anyway.

Even so, the front door locks will not serve the purpose. Bard students will let anyone in who’s standing outside, and in the summer, as well as spring and fall, we will prop the doors open in an attempt to create some circulation in the sometimes sweltering dorms.

Bard students, those who are called on to implement this policy, may also jury-rig the locks so our visiting friends can come in and out, or break them altogether in frustration. Fortunately or unfortunately, we’re an independent and resourceful lot. So I’m not too sure of the effectiveness of this prevention method.

Moreover, we will forget our keys. The security staff member I talked to pointed out that he had to remember his key to get into his house at night, and I’m not saying this forgetfulness is a good trait, but we will forget our keys.

Right now when those of us who lock our doors forget our door keys, we hang out in someone else’s room until security arrives, or crawl in a window, or break in. When some of us forget our door keys, on North Campus, in the middle of the night after walking back from the dark room, or the library or the computer center, we better hope the inhabitants of the few accessible rooms from the first floor are awake, or willing to let us in, or are there at all. With the phone to reach security inside the locked doors, and ourselves outside, keylons, we hope we are not in imminent danger or threatened as we trudge back to Cruger Village to beg someone for their key or their time or to call security.

There’s another intangible, almost inexplicable factor in this whole thing for me. I don’t really want any door locked. I want my visiting friends to be able to come and go as they please while I’m in classes; I want tired off-campus friends to be able to crash or study in my room; I don’t want to take an alienating, frightened attitude.

Locks disempower — they’re a false sense of security and they lock out the good things — the responsibility, the mutual respect, and the friends.

So I’m still interested in safety. What can we do?

If it makes some people feel safer, as it would the PC I spoke with, to have locks on the front doors, HAVE THEM. On HALF the dorms — so students have a choice. I would pick a non-lock dorm.

How about greater security on North Campus? I lived there; it was scary. A security post (one person and a phone) could be set up in the main lounge and be accessible and watch for nefarious events out of the corner of their eyes — and residents could be warned to listen more closely to each other for safety’s sake. Open generally know who’s on my floor, but it’s a small floor. Nonetheless, there are possibilities in this direction.

Self-defense classes and the shuttle service are also much talked about and useful ideas.

Please take some of my ideas into consideration as the lock policy is discussed.

A. Caroline Hotaling

Classifieds & Personal

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FOR SALE: 1987 Toyota Tercel, silver-grey 2-door automatic, air conditioning, stereo, power steering, 24,000 miles. Call Linda Anderson, Bard Alumnae, (212) 645-5442 after 6:00 pm, $400 or reasonable offer.

FOR SALE: 93 Chevy pick-up, V8, 5-speed, black, low mileage, $850 or best offer. 758-3349 (after five).

FOR SALE: 88 Nissan Sentra, 4-speed, great car, 90,000 well-main­tained miles. AC, AM/FM cassette, $3,900. 757-3602 evenings, 679-7266 days.


Gretta: I think it’s definitely because I’m in Your Face. Nevertheless, that would be a good thing. I must say! Up! That does it, time for more hair. As I’d y’all thought I was just a caffeine friend! ...And while I’m at it (addressing the New Haven contingent I mean), many many apolo­gies to all of the other Faces I’ve Been In. It’s just me, I guess. Maybe someday I’ll Mellower. Maybe not. ... the trombonist

Sorry Ouisa, I needed the room. No offence to Iguanas. Clar "

Silly Tilly: You know I love you. Give me a call or something to tell me you’re getting these. — Not Wind Blown

Anybody here know how to fix 3000-year-old Egyptian marble statues? I and two of my friends could really use your help. Were not sleep­ing very well because of it.

Howard Phillips L. & Co.

She Being M-I met a woman like you once before! I ate her liver with a bottle of Chianti. — Hannibal the Cannibal, M.O.D.

Iguanas unite! (7:00pm, my place)

Joanna Thanes: just talk to her! — Baby-Fresh

Almost: Getting a lot of head is nothing to be ashamed of. Let down your hair a little. — Beepp
BARD COLLEGE  MARCH 2 TO 8, 1991
WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER
Brought to you by the Dean of Students

Brook House Event:
National Public Radio at Brookhouse. 10:00 PM, Saturday, March 2, live music.

Levy Lecture:
Some Dimensions of Multi-Attribute Welfare Analysis, a lecture by Dr. Esfandiar Maasoumi, will take place in the Conference Room of Blithewood at 4:00 PM on Thursday, March 7. Dr. Maasoumi is Professor of Economics at Southern Methodist University, the Editor of Econometric Reviews, a Fellow of the Journal of Econometrics, and wrote the introduction for Contributions to Econometrics. For more information, please contact the Levy at 758-7448.

Lecture on Urban Culture:
On Tuesday, March 12, Priscilla Parkhurst Ferguson will be speaking on Urban Discourse, Urban Culture: The Flaneur and the City. By looking at the flaneur as both a product and a critique of urban civilization, Professor Ferguson will raise in her talk issues such as what holds a city together, what has been the role of culture, and literature in particular, in helping create/sustain a sense of community and in resisting the immense pressures toward fragmentation. Priscilla Ferguson is Professor of French and Sociology at Columbia University. She is also Associate Director of Columbia's Institute for Research on Women and Gender. She is the author of The Battle of the Bourgeoisie: The Novel in France, 1789-1848, and Literary France: The Making of a Culture. The lecture will be in Olin 102 at 8:00 PM. It is sponsored by the Sociology Department, the Division of Languages and Literature, the Women's Studies Program and the Bard Center.

Columbia County Youth Project:
The Columbia Country Youth Project will meet on the 1st and 3rd Wednesdays of the month in the Kline Commons Committee Room at 5:00 PM. We always need new counselors for the kids, but volunteers must come regularly. The first meeting will take place on the 6th of March.

Dances, Shows and Movies:
Films are shown in the Student Center at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. 7:00 PM is non-smoking. Other events are at the times listed in the Student Center.

March 1:  Female Trouble (Movie)
March 3:  Avant-Garde Shorts (Movie)
March 5:  Confidentially Yours (Movie)
March 8:  Roger & Me (Movie)
March 9:  D. J. Dance 10:00 PM

Calendar of Events

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<td>Spanish Table Kline Commons</td>
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<td>Afternoon Arts staff meeting</td>
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<td>Columbia County Youth Project Committee Room</td>
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<td>Trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston</td>
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<td>Train Runners</td>
<td>5:15 PM for the 4:51 Train</td>
<td>6:36 PM for the 7:56 Train</td>
<td>8:00 PM for the 9:15 Train</td>
<td>6:00 PM for the 7:13 Train</td>
<td>Leave from Kline, goes to the Poughkeepsie</td>
<td>12:00 NOON</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7:43 PM</td>
<td>7:43 PM</td>
<td>7:43 PM</td>
<td>7:43 PM</td>
<td>7:43 PM</td>
<td>7:43 PM</td>
<td>Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering March 16 through March 22, 1991 due in the Dean of Student's office</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>