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Posters reignite sexual harassment issues

This case is officially still confidential and therefore the Observer is withholding any names which would identify the particular case or people involved. However, because of the many people involved and the complexities of the story, we are assigning them pseudonyms.

The character list is:

Student bringing up case — Jane
Her current boyfriend — Rick
Student accused in case — Jim — Ed.

by Kristan Hutchison

Posters accusing the administration of unfairly handling a recent sexual harassment case were put up before midnight on Monday May 6. By noon the next day the posters had been pulled down at the request of Dean of Students Shelley Morgan.

The posters, which included confidential documents from a sexual harassment case brought before the Student Judiciary Board in February, were put up in the post office, Old Gym pool room, coffee shop, and library. Allegations were made in the posters that President Leon Botstein had watered down the punishment of the accused student, Jim, because Jim’s father helped in fund-raising efforts for the college.

Though the names of individuals involved in the case were crossed out, the posters were taken down because, according to Morgan, they breached confidentiality. “The whole purpose of the [judiciary] process was to honor a person’s privacy,” she said; “The privacy of both parties was going to be maintained, but it was clear from reading the posters that anyone would know who it was about.” Morgan objected to the fact that a photo of Jim’s father was reproduced along with the other documents. She felt this would identify Jim as well as unfairly involving his family. According to Rick, Morgan said she will check with a lawyer on Wednesday and put the posters back up if the lawyer says they are legal.

Rick and Jane, who put up the posters, said that they checked first with a lawyer, and had him examine each document to ensure that it was within their rights to post them. According to Rick, the posters were not meant to pinpoint any particular individual. “The focus here is mainly on the administration rather than on any individual,” said Rick. After the posters were taken down, they put a set of the documents in reserve in the library.

Reasons behind the posters

Jane and Rick feel the continual modifications of the punishment by the administration, the repeated exceptions to the restrictions of social probation, and the allowance of technical violations of the probation show a lack of concern on the part of the administration.

The administration feels that Jim was sufficiently punished, considering he has no further record of violent activity in the last three years, has chosen a course of study away from Bard next year, and that the “spirit of the restrictions” was upheld.

Case history

Jane and Rick put up the posters to bring attention to their complaints with the administrations handling of the case. Their first complaints were that on February 28 President Botstein heard an appeal from Jim and modified the decision given by the Student Judiciary Board on February 13. In any S.J.B. or Grievance Committee case, Botstein acts as the court of appeals. Botstein modified the probation to allow Jim to use the library, post office, play in his band on campus three times a semester, and to view some senior projects and performances. The posters alleged that Botstein was swayed by a connection with Jim’s father as a friend and fellow fund-raiser.

The actual fund-raising event featured on the poster was a benefit on November 8, three months after the S.J.B. case, Jim’s father donated the use of the college whose fund-raising needs and records deal with amounts in the hundreds of thousands and millions would be motivated by the relatively small donations of any parent who, like many parents, gives money to the college,

“Social Events: [Jim] may play at three social events this semester under the condition that the event is alcohol-free. That is, a registered social event or where, in the Dean of Students’ judgement, alcohol is not likely to be present.

Senior Projects: [Jim] is allowed to view the work of [his] peers provided they contact the Dean of Students Office 24 hours prior to the event, in writing, and request [his] presence. [He] may not attend the openings of Senior Art Projects, since other opportunities exist within a week to continue on page 2
Sexual Harassment
continued from page 1

view the work."

"It is hard to trust the administra-
tion when they put in writing that they will do one thing and
in two weeks later turn around and
do something else," said Jane via
Rick, who was actually speaking
on the phone at the time.

Jane is distressed that she has
reported seeing Jim in violation of
the probation several times but
the administration has not taken
further action against him. Jim is
restricted to parking in the Kline
lot, but both Jane and Rick re-
ported to Security several in-
stances in which they saw his car
parked elsewhere. Most recently,
on April 11 Jim was seen at SMOG
by Jane and several witnesses.
SMOG is one of the places from
which Jim is expressly banned.

In response, Morgan sent Jim a
note on April 12 stating "Since it
appears that you do not under-
stand the spirit of the restriction,
let me underscore the point that
any further infractions will result
in your suspension from the col-
lege."

An unusual case
The administration feels that the
case is far more complex than
most.

The posters refer to the incident
as rape, though Jim was only
charged with sexual harassment
in February. According to Jane,
the discrepancy exists because she
did not remember being raped
when she first pressed charges.
The original incident took place
2 and 1/2 years ago during the
August Language and Thinking
period. Jane's testimony and a let-
ter from Jim to Jane about the
incident are both in agreement
that during a walk he pulled her
hair, pulled her to the ground,
twisted her arm, pressed against
her, and rolled over her. Jane be-
teamed up and Jim walked away.
Both Jane and Jim forgot the event
quickly afterward.

In fall 1990 Jane began to have
flashbacks and sent Jim an article
Rick wrote about the incident (See
"Rape" in The Observer November
23, 1990 Copies available). Such
memory suppression of a trau-
matic incident is normal accord-
ing to I Never Called It Rape, the
book which is required reading
by the Sexual Harassment Board.

In March, after the S.J.B. trial
ended, Jane had another flashback
of the incident in which she re-
membered being forced to per-
form oral intercourse. However,
when Jane brought Jim before the
S.J.B. on charges of sexual violence
in February 1991 she had not yet
remembered the penetration and
therefore, for all official and judi-
cial purposes, the incident was
not rape.

Since that time, Jim's official
record has remained clear of vio-
ant activity. The administration
feels that the punishment given
and its enforcement fit the crime
as it was understood at the time of
the trial.

In a memo from Botstein to
Morgan, Botstein says, "The spirit
of the restrictions must be upheld,
but not within the framework of
an effort to search for technical
violations."

The administration sees pur-
pose of the probation as means to
separate the two parties, not as
punishment. So long as Jim re-
mains a student, the college feels
obligated to allow him access to
an education.

Said Botstein, "The lesson that
has failed to be learned here is to
learn individuals that membersh-
ips in a community requires the
willingness to compromise, to
restrain the visceral desire for re-
venge, and to focus on how, when
something bad or evil is done, to
ensure that not only the victim is
protected and no longer subject to
threat, but that the perpetrator
will learn a lesson for the future.
This is why in any criminal justice
system, criminals are taught and
returned to society."

The administration also be-
lieves that Jane and Rick are over-
stepping their rights in putting
up posters. Botstein said, "The act
of putting up posters and the al-
legation of a more severe form of
punishment and the placing of
his father's picture is repugnant, in
violation of one of the prin-
ciples of any academic commu-
nity which is telling the truth, is
an act of harassment in itself. It is
an act of people who believe
in being judges in their own cause."

Organizing for change
Rick also said they object to the
lack of consistency by the admin-
istration on issues of sexual ha-
rassment, the lack of respect for
the S.J.B., the lack of an avenue
within the administration to bring
complaints against the adminis-
tration, and the lack of counselors
specifically trained in first re-
ponse to rape victims.

Jane and Rick are attempting to
organize student protest of the
court's procedure for handling
such cases. Accompanying the
posters were cards addressed to
Jane's box for students wishing
to register their solidarity with her
cause. As of Tuesday evening she
had received over 30 cards back,
including responses from profes-
sors.

They plan to organize a student
forum about the case. They are
continued on page 3

New teachers soon to grace Bard's campus

by Tom Hickerson

As the school year comes to an end, students registering for new classes will discover a host of new names added to the list of faculty for next semester.

"Once again, we have been ex-
tremely busy in the...hiring pro-
cess," said Dean Stuart Levine
about the new teachers arriving
next fall. "Once again, the level
and excellence of the people we
are attracting...is extremely good."

The new teachers that are hired
for next year are grouped into three
categories; tenure-track professors,
visiting professors and professors
hired by the Bard Center.

Maria Assunta Nicoletti, one of
the new language professors, has
been teaching at Vassar since 1983.
She will be coming to Bard as a
half-time professor next fall for
the teaching of both elementary
and intensive Italian—the latter
course she describes as "high
paced, for people who are very
interested or have had many lan-
guages." When she visited Bard,
her noted that the foreign lan-
guage department was "so kind
and welcoming...I was surprised
[at all] the different nationalities
grouped together...such a warm
and nice atmosphere."

Another professor in the litera-
ture and languages department is
Malgorzata Oleszkiewicz. She
will be coming to Bard as an assis-
tant professor in Spanish language
and literature. Born in Poland and
having lived in Peru, Oleszkiewicz
will be teaching courses in Latin
American theater and short sto-
ries. She described Bard as giving
her "a good impression in every
way...I was very impressed with
the environment and the nature
of the place."

The three professors brought by
the Bard Center are Troy Duster,
Vitaly Korotich and Robert
Gutmann. Duster, the current di-
rector of the Institute for the Study
of Social Change at the University
of California, Berkeley, will be
teaching two courses for the fall
semesters. Vitaly Korotich is the
editor of Ogonyok, a liberal Soviet
weekly magazine which generates
about 3.5 million copies a year. He
was appointed to the job by
Mikhail Gorbachev in 1986. At
Bard, he will be teaching a course
dealing with the end of Soviet
socialism.

Robert Gutmann, another mu-
sic historian, will be teaching a
course of Wagner next semester.

A graduate from New York Uni-
versity, Gutmann has had "great
success" with his book on Wagner
and is currently working on a book
about Mozart. He describes the
course he will be teaching as "a
panorama of Wagner in a aesthetic
and historical context. I look for-
ward enormously to getting back
into the classroom."

Gutmann continued. "[My visit to
Bard] was all very positive and I hope it con-
tinues that way."
Rethinking democracy

by Greg Giaccio

"Democracy is a kind of problematic term today," said feminist author Zillah Eisenstein to a crowd that packed in Olin 107 on the last day of April. She lectured for an hour and a half on the current Supreme Court's gradual move towards privatization and neo-conservatism and why democracy should be re-theorized with the pregnant woman of color at its base.

"Democracy is being re-theorized for us," Eisenstein said. The term is constantly being re-thought. It's only since the Reagan administration has it been re-theorized towards a privatized state, which is not conductive to what Eisenstein calls an "affirmative action state" where minorities are guaranteed rights. Eisenstein thinks that the reproductive rights movement can re-focus democracy today.

Eisenstein reviewed recent Supreme Court decisions that were instrumental in bringing about the shift towards neo-conservatism. These court decisions reject statistical evidence of discrimination and ask that each discrimination case be proved on an individual basis. They also made a distinction between racial harassment and discrimination and decided that the former was permissible to a point.

Another court ruling allowed gender-based discrimination so long as it was not a deciding factor in employment decisions. These decisions have all helped to deny affirmative action and to make discrimination an individual problem, not a class or racial problem, according to Eisenstein.

Eisenstein also commented on the Webster decision which amended the Roe vs. Wade ruling. This decision basically said that an individual has a right to an abortion, but that the state does not have to provide it. It asserts that the state's interests lie in childbirth, not abortions.

This brought up Eisenstein's main thesis, which was that the pregnant woman of color should be the basis for re-structuring democracy. She argued that neo-conservatives were trying to move democracy toward individual rights, which destroy the notion of class and race. Their philosophy is "as close to fascism as one can move without becoming fascist." By starting with a specific part of the society in mind, i.e. the pregnant woman of color, all the rights protected, according to Eisenstein.

Zillah Eisenstein has written on this topic in several journals. She is the chairperson of the political science department at Ithaca College, where she also teaches. She has written several books on feminist issues including "The Female Body and the Law," which won the American Political Science Association Award for Best Book on Women and Politics for 1988.

Phabulous Phish Phture

by Kristie Starr

Recently a band known as Phish played at the Chance Theater in Poughkeepsie. At the show, a student demanded that the answer to the meaning of life, the universe and everything...is not her story. This is the story of other Bard students who went to the show.

Drew by three times I got back to my beloved dorm on Thursday night, I was still stunned by what I had witnessed. Phish always has a surprise or two up its/their collective sleeve, but this gig was shockingly different.

The first surprise was their choice of opening numbers. In the past we have witnessed some truly grand openings and have come to expect from them the usual suspects: "Mug" and "Wade" which opened this show, did not quite fulfill my expectations. It was a bit of a let down and a bit of a hide set filler. But isn't a strong enough tone to start the concert, to judge from the somewhat lukewarm crowd reaction, nor is it one that is quite out of the band's reach (though this particular tune for whatever reason)

This threatened to cast a bit of a pall over the evening, but instead of letting it get the best of them, they played a psychedelic set that was a true set changer. The band got a true sound from the audience on their way to this point and from there on out, the band got the audience on their feet.

The second surprise came in the form of the set list. Hardly one of the tunes are out of place or out of the band's reach (though this particular tune for whatever reason)

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Another

Judge rules in favor of child abuser

To Those Who Oppose Child Abuse:

May 1, 1991 was a day that Justice was dealt a mortal blow. This story needs some background information:

A single mother of four was pitted against the legal system and the bureaucratic roadblocks of two state Social Service Agencies in her attempt to protect her children from their father. The two oldest girls and their mother were abused verbally, emotionally, and physically while the parents were married. When she finally got the courage to leave and file for divorce she thought her troubles were over. Little did she know that her nightmare was just waiting for a more opportune moment.

The father had no interest in the two oldest girls. After all, they were "only" adoptive daughters. So he signed away all rights for visitation. The third child was his, so could not tell his mother that his father was from one of his visitation trips with bruises was voiced many times and more than protect her children.

She was trying to feed her family and pay a Lawyer on Public Assistance—an impossible task. Made her Lawyer quit. You see, she was another statistic. She had been dependent on her husband for support, and had no skills which would enable her to support her family. So she was trying to feed her family and pay a Lawyer on Public Assistance—an impossible task.

Shortly after this the boy was returned from one of his visitation trips with bruises that the father explained were from the boy falling. It was unfortunate that Daniel could not tell his mother that his father was beating him—he was too young to talk. She turned to doctors and emergency rooms, all of whom filed the necessary reports with the Social Service agencies in Alabama and in Kentucky. Neither Agency did a thorough investigation. You see, Daniel's father is a city Policeman in Alabama and the Agencies investigating the repeated reports were blinded by his badge.

The Judge in the case was also blinded by the badge. He could not contain his prejudice. Remarks about the mother's financial straits and her personal life were made in the courtroom by the Judge. His contempt for people on public assistance was voiced many times and more than once he informed concerned individuals what his ruling would be on different aspects of the case before hearing any evidence.

Many months went by. Daniel was now able to talk and told his mother of repeated beatings. The medical people involved filed reports and the agencies refused to move. The last straw came when Daniel returned home with the report that "daddy pooped on my head and peed in my face" because he did not make it to the bathroom, and still the Social Service Agency did nothing. Daniel was taken from Kentucky for his safety by his Aunt and Uncle in the middle of the night. Social Services threatened to arrest Daniel's Mother if she did not disclose his whereabouts. The mother then filed the state. Someone had to protect her children.

She found refuge in Orange County, New York. A Family Court Judge found her temporary custody while an investigation was conducted by Social Services. At the hearing the father was found guilty of multiple counts of child abuse and three counts of sexual abuse. The mother and children were overjoyed—after many years someone was finally helping them.

Armed with the NYS convictions and obtaining a new Lawyer with funds borrowed from friends and family, they returned to do battle.

On May 1 the hearing was held in the McCracken County Courthouse. Four hours of detailed testimony examined the findings of the NYS investigation. At the hearing there were tapes of phone conversations that showed the father offered to pay to have the mother arrested on drug charges or to kill her. The Judge—the same biased judge—issued his ruling. The mother was found in contempt of court for not turning Daniel over to his father and sentenced her to 6 months in jail, and awarded custody of the children to the father.

It is hard to believe. However, the story is true. The mother is my sister, Mrs. Vickie McGowan. I was the Uncle that brought them to New York. The Children are my Nieces and Nephews. Without a public outcry against such a miscarriage of justice the children will be returned to their father soon. Please help us by writing to Judge Graves, c/o McCracken County Courthouse, Paducah, KY 42001, protesting another hearing before a different Judge.

With hope that your help will be forthcoming,

David W. Stacey
Assistant Director of Financial Aid

A page of unedited observations from guest writers
The War on Drugs and Bard
by Keith Joseph

Beth Frumkin, Bard’s alcohol and drug czar, has been here for two years thanks to a grant from the U.S. government. The grant runs out in September, when Bard has the option to re-hire or retire Beth Frumkin. If they choose to re-hire, of course our tuition money would be paying her salary.

Beth Frumkin has no overhead. I.B.M. doesn’t have to pay for a storefront or house and fix it for free. This doesn’t like it for any reason. He also includes a one-year on-site service contract. He also includes a one-year on-site service for most system he sells; I.B.M. does not include this kind of warranty.

The real question is how Bolden charges so little. When asked, Bolden responded, “I have no overhead. I custom order the parts for each system, from major distributors. I don’t have to pay for a storefront or salespeople.”

Jeffrey Bolden indicates. that the systems that Bolden offers this system for student discount they include. The I.B.M. systems, new and used, at reduced rates. The I.B.M. PS/2 Model 55 SX (W61) is priced at $1,595. The I.B.M. PS/2 Model 30286 (T31) is priced at $1,649; Bolden offers this system for almost half the price and the ones he offers are of a higher quality, more memory and speed. Bolden will come and install your system for you, and is also including a 30-day no-questions-asked return policy if the customer doesn’t like it for any reason. He also includes a one-year on-site service contract. He also includes a one-year on-site service for most system he sells; I.B.M. does not include this kind of warranty.

This means that if your computer breaks, a service technician will come to your dorm or house and fix it for free. “I can beat any of the prices listed in that ad, or in any store in the area,” Bolden remarks, “with better components, and a better warranty, or I’ll contribute $100 to the system the person does buy.”

The real question is how Bolden charges so little. When asked, Bolden responded, “I have no overhead. I custom order the parts for each system, from major distributors. I don’t have to pay for a storefront or salespeople.”

If you are interested in purchasing an I.B.M. computer or a used Macintosh, contact Bonnie Gilman at ext 496 or Jeff Bolden through box 551 or 756-2990.
Student art shows keep coming...

by Tatiana Prowell

Dominic East

"if irony is taking something and using it the opposite way, then I guess these paintings are ironic," explained Dominic East about his senior project. East's show, which combines several art media, explores the redundancy of statements such as "I love you," and "I'm sorry."

East began his project by painting letters from an old girlfriend. During this time, the project's meaning lost its assumed sentimentality and moved to a more universal consideration of language and meaning. East explained, "Here I am, and this is what I have to say. I guess my show stresses the "here I am," but it's less self-indulgent than it appears."

East's show is filled with subtle symbolism. The puzzle pieces represent the fragments which one takes away from any experience. The squares which were stapled one after another stress the redundancy of cliches and obsessive gestures. And the blank panels are a response of silence or emptiness.

"Repeating things over and over subverts their meaning," East explained. This, combined with the influence of photography and cinematography on the show, led him to use only two photographs and a few meaningless statements for the foundation of his show. "After all, it's not about the people; it's what it means to say these things," he commented.

East expressed disappointment with the show only in that it marks the end of a meaningful project and entrance into "THE REAL WORLD." Beyond that, he commented, "If people are willing to give you some of their time, then it's good. If they give you a second look, whether they like it or not, that's enough."

After graduation, East plans to "be happy." For those who would like to be in on his secret, it includes "moving to San Francisco and starting again."}

David Blacklow

Senior David Blacklow's art show, which recently opened in Olin, is entitled WHAT ARE THESE OBJECTS? He considered this a question both for himself and for his audience.

Blacklow's project was composed of a selection of his wood and metal sculptures which he called "intentionally ambiguous." As a double major in psychology and art, Blacklow was interested in how people assign meaning to abstract material objects. This show coincided with his study in which subjects found symbols and geometric figures in pictures.

Blacklow's time spent as a carpenter during the summers had significant effects on his project, especially on the wood sculptures, which included an intricate chair. Despite this, he put more time into the metal sculptures, and they were the more meaningful part of the show.

Overall, Blacklow was pleased with his opening. He enjoyed showing his work in Olin, which he found more condensed and more appropriate for his medium than the walls of Proctor. Furthermore, he was pleased with the responses of his audience, which were generally positive.

"I wanted people to pick up the pieces and ask, 'What is this?' or speculate, which is what happened," he explained. "It was so interesting to see how someone would come in and say, 'This is obviously an elephant,' when I made the piece ambiguous on purpose."

Following graduation, Blacklow plans to go back to work as a carpenter and to continue doing art. He commented, "I really don't mind the idea of being out of school," and is looking forward to exploring other art mediums outside of the classroom setting. In the long-term, Blacklow may return to school for an MFA or teach art or psychology on a high school level.

Popper does it with James Brown

"I did it with James Brown had a huge effect on my senior project," claims Nancy Popper, "second only to Lauren Reese's Devil Wagon in God's Country and dedication to his bicycle." What does this mean? Who knows.

Popper, who did her first painting of the year at the end of fall semester, says that her project explored miscommunication between figures. The figures were painted in oil, surrounded by thick, white acrylic paint, with some figures interacting and others not even noticing one another.

The series featured a procession of individuals walking passively towards death. These passive figures with their Picasso/cartoon influences could almost approach tragic absurdity except for the emotion of the pieces. Explained Popper, "This really is an expressionistic work. The frozen faces and gestures are symbols for emotions...and the image of mortality."

Popper felt that the pieces told their own story and was glad that few people asked for an explanation of the show. "I wanted ideas and feelings to be suggested through gesture," she commented.

Popper felt fortunate to have her studio in Woods because she received a lot of input from photography students and professors. In fact, one film professor even came to look at her work and make comments. "Since I encountered a lot of different opinions, I could choose who to listen to," she explained.

After graduation, Popper plans to "move somewhere, plant a garden, and find a big enough space to make 12X12 paintings." In the long-run, Popper's aspirations include attending graduate school, and why? "Because then I can become a professor and take sabbaticals!"
Entertainment

Student filmmakers emerge from the deep

by Russ Murray, film major

Right now, there is a group of seniors in Preston Film Center anxiously awaiting a phone call from their labs. The message that they are waiting for is an invitation from the labs to come down to NYC to pick up their final prints and spend even more money on their projects. [Author's Note: The previous sentence contained a subliminal message to Dimitri. Give the Film Department more money.]

That phone call signals the start of the Annual Bard Senior Film Show! The entire Bard community is invited to come and sit in the dark for a really long time while we show you the work all of us have slaved over for the whole year. Afterwards, you can see how, and gratulate the filmmakers in the ball, shake their hands, declare that they made a great film, and comment how it is a shame that Dimitri doesn’t give the department more money or space. Then you get to leave, and as you walk out the door, you will turn to your companion and quietly whisper, “I couldn’t make a better film.”

But, hey, the event is still special. For us, it means the end of our work at Bard and the end to all of the stupid, annoying questions that people ask. What is your film about? Will we get to see it? How much does it cost to make a film?

They cost a lot. Usually around two or three grand does it, but hey, it is still only a fraction of Dimitri’s salary.

For the answers to the first and second questions, you have to come to the show. It is tentatively scheduled for May 16, 17, and 18. The exact details are still being worked out. You will be informed. There will be such an advertising blitz that people won’t come just out of spite.

Come anyway. It’s free. That’s three days of filmic bliss for less than the cost of anything, so don’t miss it!

Now, in order to raise the curiosity level, here is a brief synopsis (more or less in the words of the filmmakers themselves) of the films to be shown:

**Michael Allison**

_Erich and Motion._ This is a film about performance. He watched them... she danced... he gets mystical, etc. Lots of passion, a love story.

**Brian Glaser**

_The Faz Project._ This film is composed of educational film footage and original camerawork, roughly in three main sections. The first explores the historical and mythological origins of the Faz; the second instructs children how to construct their own Poszes, and the third examines possible implications of the Faz in popular culture.

**Matt Kregar**

_Shadow Tracking._ A film about two friends living in a small rural town. I can already hear the banjo music. It is one friend’s 18th birthday, and she feels it is time for something to happen. An allegorical comedy about how people try to impose the fantasy of film onto their own experience.

_This film is Tatiana Prowell’s first film appearance._

**Russ Murray**

_Cut Away._ A romance without the romance. Aggressive and cynical. “See this film with someone you hate,” says Rex Reed. This film is Tatiana Prowell’s first starring role.

**Neil Kotey**

_Cash and Bonds._ A film noir. A mystery done in the tradition of “Alfred Hitchcock Presents...” The film has guns, double crossings, a handsome FBI agent, and Tatiana Prowell headlining the cast. Is it Hitchcockian? Is it Wellesian? Is it live or is it Memorex?

**Lee Montgomery**

_El Bandito._ One man’s personal view about religion, possession, and iconography. Lee states, “Tatiana Prowell might be in the scene with George Bush.”

**Ross Shain**


**Robin Sheridan**

_Passage._ A happy little tale about a young man who runs from his life to find happiness at the bottom of a lake. If I don’t finish this film by graduation I’ll be the story of my life.

### French class brings enthusiasm to play

by Jim Frank

After a semester of preparation, the students of Intensive French presented Eugene Ionesco’s _La Cantatrice Chauve_ as part of the French Day festivities on May 4. The play was preceded by student presentations, a picnic lunch behind Kline Commons, and a pickup soccer game.

Professor Pascale-Anne Brault, who produced and directed the play, chose it because “I thought that the Bald Soprano would familiarize the students with contemporary trends in French theatre.”

To give each student a part, most roles were divided between two actors. “A formal problem was that I had sixteen students for 6 roles, thus each character had a shadow,” commented Brault. While not acting, the second set of actors provided forgotten lines during long speeches.

Though memory gaps were frequent, the play was performed very well, drawing much laughter, both from humor in the text and the comic behavior of the actors. “They threw themselves into the production with great enthusiasm, improvising when necessary, sneaking in gestures and expressions that I had not thought they would dare,” Brault revealed.

Another hindrance was the lack of a set and props. These limitations added a sort of charm to the production, though, which was overall very impressive.

“I am extremely pleased about the performance. We were all anxious, but it turned out much better than I had hoped,” said Brault. The students’ performances will count as a part of their final grades.

### Dale Mariquita!

by L. Polb and K. Hutchison

Spanish dance is meant to be an expression of life, and Mariquita Flores had over 70 years to perfect her performance at Bard two weeks ago. Only four feet tall, she filled the space with her energy and enthusiasm.

Flores has been dancing flamenco since age 14, and the practice shows as she executes staccato and precise dance steps with the ease and grace of walking. She no longer needs to concentrate on her feet, and the audience misses the energy and tension which is created when a performer has turned all their attention to the execution of the dance. Instead, Flores turned her attention to the audience, laughing and talking while her feet performed almost as an afterthought.

The six dancers shared the qualities of traditional Spanish dance, such as fast footwork and slow graceful arm movements, but differed in rhythm. In the second half, Bard student Enrique Lopez accompanied Flores on guitar, enhancing the dance with the interaction and camaraderie between them.

The students in the audience were awed by the strength and precision of this 76 year old woman. “It took my breath away... all the drama she put into the dancing,” said Ann Steinke, flamenco student. “She made me feel lazy and motivated and inspired by the same token.”
Softball season coming to a close

by Matt Apple

As the regular softball season began winding down this week, competition stiffened for the top spots in each league.

Gonna Get Our Butts Kicked finally did lose a game, 9-7 to the Stoolies, placing both teams in a 3-1 tie for second in the Annandale League.

Ground Zero, I Did It With James Brown, and Cunning Linguists kept their perfect records at the top of their respective leagues, as four teams, the Andes, Wig Hat On Your Head, the Screaming Kostabis and Margaret and the Meatbaggers Banging Back, ended their perfect 0-3 records by finally winning a game.

The last games of the softball season will be played Wednesday through Saturday, Saturday being the make-up day for Monday's rainout. Playoffs will begin next Monday, the 13th. The top team of each league, plus four teams with the next best records, will be in the playoffs. So if your team isn't top dog in the league, you may still make it (it ain't over 'til it's over).

And now it's time for our Game of the Week----

SPS & EK brought their wireless 0-3 record into last Tuesday's game against the People's Film Front Softball Liberation Army's 1-2 record (the one win was a forfeit). SPS & E jumped ahead in the top of the first, scoring the maximum of 10 runs an inning. After holding the Army scoreless in their half of the inning, SPS got another chance to rack up the runs. As the opposing team rooted for them to score the max number runs again in the second (so they could bat again), SPS did just that...

...Only to be informed at the end of the second they had automatically lost the game. As was mentioned in the Observer last week, and also in notices to each team captain, each team is required to have at least one male or female player on the field at all times. As SPS had all men, and since they could only use players listed on their roster, they were forced to forfeit.

The People's Film Front Softball Liberation Army rumbled away with yet another crushing victory, raising their record to 2-2, although they only got the opposing team out twice in the entire game.

Blazers set record in tennis

by Matt Apple

The Blazers finished the men's tennis season with two come-from-behind wins over Western Connecticut University and Albertus Magnus College.

Against Western Connecticut, key wins came from Henri Ringel, who rallied to beat Chad Smith 4/6, 6/3, 7/6 (7-3), and from the doubles match of Noah Samton and Isaac Halpern against Chris Schulz and Andy Vonsounguang. Samton-Halpern fought a close battle, taking the match with identical scores in the last two sets 4/6, 7/5, 7/5.

Chris Lennen was up one set and ahead 3-1 in his second for the Blazers, but suffered a pulled muscle. He played the rest of the match in pain, eventually losing 6/3, 3/6, 2/6.

Bard took their 5-4 victory, but only four players, into their last game versus Albertus Magnus. Automatically starting with a 0-3 score, Bard won three of four singles matches and the two doubles matches to come away with a 5-4 win. By ending their season at 10 wins and 2 losses, the Blazers set the all-time season record for wins by a Bard tennis team. How about that—a winning Bard team!}

SOFTBALL RESULTS

WEEK OF APRIL 29

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<tr>
<th>Team 1</th>
<th>Team 2</th>
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<td>Bang Bang d. Fiddle Heads</td>
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<tr>
<td>the Cunning Linguists d. the Andes</td>
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<td>10-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>Solzarte-Neuf Annee</td>
<td>Boutique d. Bard Emissions</td>
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<td>Senseless Datum d. (Please God) Don't Let Them Hit It To Me</td>
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<td>Ground Zero d. Take It Out It Hurts</td>
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<td>P.F.F.S.L.A. d. SPS a &amp; E</td>
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<td>Grand Funk Enema d. Mostly Uncoordinated Nerds</td>
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<td>Wig Hat on Your Head d. the Screaming Kotis</td>
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League standings as of 5/7

Hudson League

- Cunting Linguists: 4-0
- Solzarte-Neuf Annee: 4-0
- Last Temptation of Brutus: 4-0
- Grand Funk Enema: 3-1
- My Little Pony: 3-1

Catskill League

- The Pithers: 4-1
- Wig Hat: 3-2
- Grand Funk Enema: 2-3
- Fiddle Heads: 0-3

Annandale League

- The Observer: 4-0
- Margin: 3-3
- The Screaming Kotis: 0-4

CATS

VS. WESTERN CONNECTICU T

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VS. ALBERTUS MAGNUS COLLEGE

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TENNIS RESULTS

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Dean Sproat is more than a bargain

by Kristan Hutchison and Jason Van Driechen

If the college is really trying to save money by firing Assistant Dean of the College Elaine Sproat, it needs a quick lesson in math. Sproat works sixty hours a week, including weekends, on a forty hour a week salary. In the name of fiscal responsibility, the college plans to replace her with a part-time faculty member, who will work just twenty hours a week on a twenty-hour a week salary. To save twenty hours of salary they will lose forty hours of work. That is no savings.

But the real loss is far greater than that. Even if the college were to save a significant amount of money by cutting Sproat, the loss of both her services as an administrator and her dedication and warmth as a person are too much for students, and for the community as a whole, to have to accept.

Sproat is one of the few administrators whom students feel they can approach. She is always willing to listen, and to help if she can. Her door does not have an “Enter Without Knocking” sign as does Leon’s, but it is a far more welcoming door for people with academic problems or plans.

Understandably, the college has limited funds in this recessionary period, but it should look elsewhere to make cuts. Dimmiti has delayed hiring a new assistant. Perhaps he could put it off permanently.

Buildings and Grounds has already taken some budget cuts, and is also not replacing a vacancy in the housekeeping staff. It is difficult to keep the campus looking nice with fewer staff, but Bard is in a place for learning, not for show. Perhaps we could mow the grass a little less often.

The faculty have gotten regular yearly raises, but perhaps the five percent raise proposed for this year could be delayed or reduced a little.

In hard times, everyone should make a small sacrifice. It is not fair to ask Sproat to bear the entire burden.

We are ending the year as we began it, forced to bid goodbye to one of our favorite Deans because of the priorities set by those on high. When Bosten declared that student services are less important than faculty compensation and financial aid, he ignored that Bard is an undergraduate college, supposedly dedicated above all to undergraduate education.

Dean Sproat certainly has that dedication. The services she provides are an essential part of any undergraduate education - just ask anyone who has made it through a tough class with the help of a peer tutor. And even if the administration intends to keep peer tutors (and all the other programs Sproat coordinates) going under a part-time person, it is highly unlikely they will find anyone as dedicated and as hardworking as Sproat.

If anyone had asked the students, we would have kept Steve Nelson. We want to keep Elaine Sproat too. If the administration wants to save money, there are certainly better ways.

 interviews by Kristan Hutchison
 photos by Katrina Koenigs

Where would you find money to help the college through its budget crisis?

Michael Stimac
Sophomore economics major
found in sun at lunch

“I’d investigate Leon’s use of helicopters to fly to Boston. That is a bit excessive... with the economic situation worsening, as it obviously was, why did they build the Black Center when students would really rather have a steady source of financial aid. I’d like to check on Leon’s utilities usage too, since he is never home.”

Charlotte Tuomey
Sophomore art history
found in front of Kline

“Get rid of Leon’s liquor cabinet. He’s never home anyway so he doesn’t need it.”

John Bakunin
Senior physics major
found in Hegeman Lab

“I think they waste a lot of money with electricity. Like the hot water doesn’t have to be so hot. I cook ramen noodles with just hot water from the faucet. I think all the money is on campus.”

Jason Thompson
First year student history major
found in computer center

“To get some kind of state funding or federal funding... With every student paying about $20,000 a year I do wonder where all that money goes to, because there are a lot of services that could use improvement, one of them being the library.”

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The Bard Observer is published every Friday while class is in session. 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.

Classifieds: Free for Bardians, $5 for all others. Personnel ads: $5.00 for local, $10.00 for national.

Display ads: Contact the Ad Manager.

Bard College
Annandale, NY 12504
(914) 758-0772
Dear Dean Levine,

You would not know me for political activity on campus, Coalition for Choice protests, Observer put-downs, or any other such actions. During my education at Bard I have remained removed from those causes. In fact, I rarely make any public controversial statements concerning campus life. At this time, however, I feel it is necessary to speak up.

The Observer reports that Dean Elaine Sproat is to be "let go." By doing this the administration is making a grave mistake. The loss of Dean Sproat would be the greatest of travesties for Bard. She is intelligent, informed, and incredibly interested in helping the student body. Over the past two years I have worked with her in various situations (from asking about scholarships to working under her as a writing tutor). She has never been anything but supportive, kind, helpful, and effective.

I realize that the economy has forced funding cutbacks and understood that budgets must be reduced; however, this is a poor method of achieving those cuts. The students will suffer if Elaine is not rehired. After four years of Bard — watching administration officials come and go — I feel I have some small experience in judging who has been an asset to the school. Elaine Sproat is one person who has.

Please, for the sake of the school, work to find another solution. Whether you rehire Dean Sproat or not, I will not be affected, since I am graduating. But, those behind me definitely will be deprived. Please reconsider.

Sincerely,
Benjamin J. Goldberg

I have already sent a copy of this letter to Stuart, but I wanted to make sure people understand this potential loss. B.J.G.

---

Dear Editor,

The recent decision to fire Assistant Dean Elaine Sproat is as academically devastating as it is financially unjustifiable. Dean Sproat currently provides a level of student and faculty services that could not possibly be competently administered by a part-time Dean. In addition to overseeing numerous scholarship, fellowship, and tutoring programs, she teaches a Freshman Seminar Section and advises literally hundreds of students who have academic difficulties or who require information on the programs listed above.

Her personal commitment to the academic success of the students who consult her is unparalleled.

As far as "budgetary considerations" are concerned, we all recognize the fact that the College must operate within a recession-strained budget. And yet the "replacement" of Sproat's roles as a teacher, advisor, and administrator surely would require the hiring of several adjuncts and/or require cutbacks in courses offered by any part-time Professor-Dean who accepted these roles. The amount of money saved would thus seem trivial, and makes one wonder if perhaps the personal agendas of other key members of the administration are not the real reasons behind the proposed dismissal.

Dean Sproat is a dedicated, caring professional, and her contributions to the Bard Community are indispensable. I and my fellow members of the Educational Policies Committee urgently ask that Elaine, along with the high quality of services that she provides, not be abandoned for the sake of fiscal or personal expediency.

Sincerely,
Gavin J. Miliczarcz
Chairman, Educational Policies Committee

---

**Softball during the 50's**

Dear Editor,

Early in the 50's (the students held meetings to overthrow the administration because President Case felt the cohabitation in the girl's dorm was getting out of hand).

During this period, I remember one informal softball game which contained a mix of students, faculty, and President Case — with beer on the sidelines.

If it hadn't been for the beer, I might never have experienced one of the highlights of my years at Bard.

Somewhere in the muddle of the game (no scoreboards or reporting that I know of today) President Case hit a "Texas Leaguer" to centerfield where I was stationed, having already consumed a few between innings.

Somehow I had stopped thinking long enough (probably the effect of the beer) to respond to the ball. I tore towards the infield at the crack of the bat. Reaching down with aqua trim, 16" frame, Kryptonite lock bracket. I last saw it in the basement of New Cruger C on Friday, May 3.

PLEASE CALL JASON AT 758-1209 IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON ITS WHEREABOUTS.

No questions asked. I just want my bike back.

Andy Wing '85

P.S. I'd certainly never say beer and ballgames don't mix. I guess everyone has to deal with them in their own ways.

---

**Hey you!**

Do you want to see your stuff in print every week? Well, have I got a deal for you! The Observer needs writers for next year. Come back early for a training session, and we may give you some free pizza.

---

**HELP!**

My bike has disappeared, and I'm completely lost without it. It is a black Trek Antelope 800 with aqua trim, 16" frame, Kryptonite lock bracket. I last saw it in the basement of New Cruger C on Friday, May 3.

PLEASE CALL JASON AT 758-1209 IF YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION ON ITS WHEREABOUTS.

No questions asked. I just want my bike back.

I would appreciate any information leading me to the scumbucket who was so bold as to steal my grey nylon bag (which bears the word "DONNAY" and some yellow trim) from the laundry room in Stone Row, Saturday night. Please don't hesitate to turn in your roommate, friend, or ex-lover if they are the culprit. Contact Paul "The Bitter Angerer" Bixex at Box 512.

For Sale:

• One all-brown Sanyo fridge. One owner. Excellent condition — like new. $35.

• One black and white bookcase (3' X 4' X 8''). Chipped but very sturdy. Three shelves. $10.

• One black and white bookcase (2' X 3' X 8''). Slightly battered. Two shelves. $5.

Call 758-3155 and leave a message, or contact Box 861 for all items.

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**CLASSIFIEDS**

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**Recycling is cool.**
Play Performance:
On Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, May 7, 8, and 9, in Old Gym. The curtain rises at 8:00 PM
and beach attire is requested, but not mandatory. Bring sunscreen – things may get a little hot.

Levy Lecture:
Sourushe Zandvakill is currently a Resident Scholar at the
Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College
and a member of the economics faculty at the University of Cincinnati. His research interests include
applied microeconomics, public finance and policy, la-
bor economics and income distribution. Much of
Zandvakill’s recent research utilizes the Luxembourg
Income Study data sets, and he has been a Visiting
Scholar at the Center for the Study of Population,
Poverty and Public Policy in Luxembourg during the
last three summers. Recent publications include A Class
of Generalized Measures of Mobility with Applica-
tions and Mobility Profiles and Time Aggregates of
Individual Incomes. The lecture is set for 4:30 PM
on Wednesday, May 8 in the Conference Room of
Blithewood.

Reading:
Philip Roth will read from his book Patrimony at 8:00
PM on Thursday, May 9 in the Olin Auditorium.

Da Capo Concert:
Da Capo Chamber Players invite you to their last
concert of the season, featuring original works and
transcriptions by student composers, as well as
Beethoven’s Trio Op. 70 No. 1 “Ghost.” With Patricia
Spencer, flute; Laura Flax, Clarinet; Sara Rothenberg,
Piano; and guest violinist Eric Wyrick. Bard Hall, May
17 at 7:30 PM.

Bard Hiking Expedition:
Ice Caves and Napanoch Point. Saturday, May 18.
The hike is 7.5 miles long with a 1,800 foot vertical
rise, and will take 6 hours. The trip departs promptly at
9:00 AM from the Old Gym in a Bard van. Reserva-
tions are necessary. For more information, or to sign
up, please contact Professor Ferguson.

Attention Residence Hall Students:
Please remove all furniture and other personal belong-
ings (including bicycles), out of the hallways, stair-
wells and lounges. Blocking these areas could impede
exiting the building in the case of an emergency.
Bicycles found in any of these areas run the risk of
having their chains cut and being removed.

Intergenerational Seminars:
Bard is offering three intergenerational seminars this
spring:
• Abrahamic Religions: Islam in Relation to Judaism
and Christianity
• Obedience to Authority: Personal Responsibility and
the Development of Morality
• Recent Issues in Eastern European Progressions
Pre-registration is necessary, and there is a $20 fee.
Call 758-7424.

Calendar of Events

Saturday 11
Morning
Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, & Rhinebeck
2:00 PM
Engineering Lecture
Hegeman 106
5:45 to 10:30 PM
Trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston

Sunday 12
2-3 PM
Writing Trauma Center™
Albee Annex 103
6:00 PM
Ecumenical Worship Service
Chapel
7:00 PM
Alcoholics Anonymous
Aspinwall 302
9-11 PM
Writing Trauma Center™
Albee Annex 103

Train Pickups:
5:15, 7:15, 10:15 PM
Rhinecliff Station
7:45 PM
Poughkeepsie Station

Monday 13
6:00 PM
Women’s Center Meeting
Student Center
6:30 PM
Environmental Club
Committee Room
Kline Commons
8:00 PM
Observer All Staff Meeting
2nd Floor Aspinwall
9-11 PM
Writing Trauma Center™
Albee Annex 103

Tuesday 14
5:30 PM
French Table
Committee Room
Kline Commons
6:30 PM
Amnesty International
Kline Commons
8:00 PM
Women Studies Lecture
Olin 102
9-11 PM
Writing Trauma Center™
Albee Annex 103

Wednesday 15
5:00 PM
Spanish Table, Kline Commons
5:30 PM
Italian Table
College Room, Kline Commons
7:00 PM
Al-Anon, Aspinwall 302
7:00 PM
Christian Meeting, Bard Chapel Basement
8:00 PM
No Exit
Student Center
9-11 PM
Writing Trauma Center™
Albee Annex 103

Thursday 16
6:30 PM
BBLAGA Meeting
Albee Social Room
7:00 PM
Narcotics Anonymous
Aspinwall 302
8:00 PM
Philip Roth reading
Olin Auditorium
9-11 PM
Writing Trauma Center™
Albee Annex 103

Friday 17
5:00 PM
General deadline for submissions to The Bard Observer
7:30 PM
Da Capo Concert
Bard Hall

Train Runs:
4:15 PM for the 4:35 Train
6:35 PM for the 7:35 Train
8:00 PM for the 9:31 Train
Leaves from Kline
Station
6:00 PM for the 7:33 Train
Leaves from Poughkeepsie
Station

Art History Lecture Rooms:
On behalf of the Art History Department Faculty, may
I ask the cooperation of all members of the faculty and
campus groups who use either Olin rooms 102 or 301
for classes or special events:
• If shades are raised or lowered, please be sure they are
kept in the tracks. The shades are getting out of shape;
as a result, the light which enters makes it difficult to
view slides.
• Please return the lectern and blackboard to the place
you found them.
• Please turn off the lectern light.

Thank You.

Funds Sought for Bangladesh:
Money will be collected this week in front of Kline
Commons to help aid the people of Bangladesh, who
recently suffered a devastating cyclone. The money
collected will be distributed to the proper authorities
for distribution.

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.

April 30:
Histoire De Femmes Olin 107 at 7:00 PM
May 10:
Planet of the Apes (Movie)
May 12:
Elephant Man (Movie)
May 14:
Manon of the Spring Olin 107 at 7:00 PM
May 17:
Willy Wonka (Movie)
May 19:
Titicut Follies (Movie)