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Ground is breaking all over

Library addition unearths chaos

by Matt Apple

The softball players have to go to Tivoli. The soccer players have to go to Rhinebeck. The students get a new library (eventually). The librarians just get headaches.

"When students hear that the new library will have a computerized catalog, they think 'Great! Everything's automatic!' But they don't know where all that information comes from," said an exhausted Linda Crow. As the cataloging librarian, Crow is responsible for keeping track of all the bibliographical information of the approximately 180,000 volumes in the Kellogg-Hoffman Library. With the aid of her one assistant, Crow uses two personal computers to transfer all books presently in the Dewey Decimal system into the Library of Congress system. The computers in the basement of the Kellogg Library send information directly to the largest database in the country in Dublin, Ohio, called the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC). But that doesn't decrease Crow's workload by any means.

"All the information we send to OCLC will be used by a computer systems expert, who we will have to hire, to set up a database here. The problem is any books that are currently in the Dewey Decimal system of classification will not be listed in the computer catalog," Crow said. "There's absolutely no chance that we'll have everything done when the addition is officially open in 1994. We'll be lucky if we finish by spring of '95."

With the increasing work schedule and time limit, Crow believes about ten to twelve work-study students will be hired to help catalog books, which is ten to twelve more students than are presently helping the catalogers. Crow and her assistant will have to take extra time to train the students to use the computers.

"Most other college libraries changed to the Library of Congress in the '70s and are already using computer catalogues. We're about fourteen years behind them."

In addition, the library still lacks a head librarian. David Tipple, head librarian last year, left to return to school. The associate librarians have already interviewed four candidates for the position, and expect to hire a full-time librarian soon. The library is also instituting late fines this year. The fines are two dollars per day, per book, up to seventy-five dollars maximum per book. "I regret having to do this," said Jane Hryshko, associate librarian, "but we just can't afford to lose any more books. Students can renew books by bringing the books back before the due date."
Nackenoff
by Kristan Hutchinson

The denial of tenure to Professor Carol Nackenoff was based upon the quality of the manuscript she submitted as part of her file. Now the central question is whether the manuscript was fairly judged.

The chosen outside evaluator, Ira Katznelson, judged the manuscript to be an excellent and important work in the field. [His evaluation letter is printed in full, and continued on page 10, along with an abstract of the manuscript.]

President Leon Botstein’s judgment of the manuscript’s quality was not based on the laudatory letter from Katznelson, but from his own reading. With other faculty. Botstein didn’t have the manuscript’s quality in mind, but Botstein was not as well qualified to judge the manuscript as the scholar whose judgment he overruled.

The president is making a decision outside the realm of his expertise, academically speaking.

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Locking it all up
by

The administration and security are considering a proposal to put locks on main entrances to dorms in an effort to improve campus safety. Under the current plan, Tewksbury, Robbins, the Alumni and Ravine Dorms, and possibly the Ravines would be the first affected.

The proposal would have front doors locked from approximately midnight to 6 a.m. with all residents possessing a master key. According to Dean of Students, Shelley Morgan, if the plan was implemented, it is uncertain whether there will be one master key for all dorms, or if each dorm will have a different main lock.

Another question which remains unanswered is whether all Bardians or only residents would possess a master key.

"There has even been talk of stationing someone at the doors to these dorms," said Boyce, although Morgan points out that this would be unnecessary should the school decide upon using one master key for all dorms. This plan is not an attempt to deprive students of having visitors, stressed Boyce, but rather to improve the quality of safety in the dorms.

"Obviously safety is our biggest concern," said Morgan, "and the best thing is not always the most convenient."

The reasons for the targeting of these dorms are pragmatic. "You have to consider the cost factor of making the keys, will it work, and what will the students think of it," explained Boyce. Although Tewksbury and Robbins have been locked at times in the past, security has encountered problems of doors being propped open with fire extinguishers and students finding the arrangement too inconvenient. For such reasons, these dorms will be an exception to determine if the project is worthy of expanding campus-wide.

Morgan stresses that no decisions have been made yet. Currently security, the administration, B & G, the Student Life Committee, and the peer counselors are involved in deliberations, but nothing definite will occur until the student body as a whole has given the chance to evaluate the plan. Morgan intends to gather opinions through peer counselors, the Student Life Committee, informal polls, and a forum meeting before making any further arrangements. At this point, Morgan is not speculating about the cost of such a comprehensive plan and upon whom the burden of expense would fall. If the plan is received by the student body, Morgan anticipates implementation sometime during the fall semester.

"A lot of responsibility for safety falls on the students themselves not to expose themselves to situations where danger might be involved," said Boyce. He mentioned using the "buddy system" and sticking to lit paths as obvious precautions for students to take. "I don’t want to instill a state of paranoia (by suggesting these precautions)," he insisted, "but there are always people intent on committing crimes." To end all incidents on campus would require having officers stationed around the clock in every building and on every campus. The cost will be approximately $40,000 for a plan which is both inconceivable and objectionable: "We don’t want this place to be a police state."

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Call for budgets
Everyone wishing to receive Student Convocation Funds must send an itemized budget to Christine Gobbo, no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, Sep. 12 through campus mail or bring the budget to Albie 306. Clubs requesting funds should observe the following set of rules:

- All clubs must submit a statement of purpose which outlines the goals of the club. This should include the allotment amount received last semester, and an itemized list of how that money was used. An approximate list of membership (or number of members) must be included in the budget request; by this, we mean a core group, as well as the approximate number of people that your club reaches on campus.

- Please do not pad your budget. When clubs do this, the committee has a difficult time deciding what is really needed. If a budget seems padded, it may count against your club.

- When listing speakers or performers that your club wishes to bring to campus, please include the person’s name, who they are, and what they will perform, as well as their fee. Be as specific as possible. For example, we would like to see Amber Hollibaugh, activist and sex educator...$600, rather than various speakers...$400.

- Xenox costs, transportation costs, entertainment costs for speakers, bands, etc. must be included in the budget.

- Budgets should be signed (with the telephone number) of at least one responsible club member. Clubs should also identify who they wish to use the Xerox machine in the library: limited to two people per club.

- All clubs must submit seven (7) copies of their budget.

The Planning Committee will set aside a few thousand dollars (apart from the emergency fund) until after the budgets are decided. Clubs who didn’t receive funds they feel they absolutely need will be asked to attend a meeting of the Planning Committee and club heads to decide jointly how to allocate those remaining funds.

All club heads should schedule a personal interview with the planning committee. This allows all questions to be asked so that we are clear of the club’s intentions for the semester. Club heads will meet with the Planning Committee on Sunday Sept. 14 between 6:00p.m. and 10:00p.m. on the third floor of Aspinwall. A meeting should be requested by either sending a note through campus mail to Christine Gobbo or by calling her at #758-3285.

For anyone with questions, we will have an open meeting Tuesday at 7:00p.m. in the Albie lounge. Please attend if there is anything you have a question about, or if you will be starting a new club.
Why Bard?

by Mike McGregor
and Walter Swen

Did everyone here get rejected from Vassar? That seems to be a common myth, and for some, Bard has come to be known as a "second choice" school. There is some truth behind this belief. Many students are here because they didn't get accepted to, or didn't receive a very good financial aid package from, their first-choice school. This might lead the casual observer to believe that many students here would prefer to be somewhere else. In reality, almost all of the students that the Observer spoke to were very glad to be here, regardless of the circumstances which brought them here, and for many others, Bard was their first choice.

Why Bard? When faced with this question, Bard students in typical Bard style, give a wide variety of answers. These answers range from the intellectual to the simplistic, from the humorous to the serious, from the non-sensical to the practical. The most common answer refers to the emphasis on the humanities, the atmosphere of intellectual freedom, and economic advantages. Many students chose Bard entirely for the reason that they had a special feeling about the school, while an equal number chose Bard because they were able to benefit from some significant form of financial aid, especially the Excellence and Equal Cost program (ECC). Others chose Bard because they thought it offered a more interesting or unique approach to education. Scattered throughout the Bard community are a large number of transfer students. They often come to Bard as refugees from other schools. One student, Morty, transferred because he was tired of "sitting in a class of 700 students and having no idea what the professor looked like." Other transfers cited the absence of an overbearingly administrative "big brother" and the lack of fraternities and sororities as contributing to their decision to come to Bard.

Many of math and science majors echoed the thoughts of one student who said, "I can get a lot of attention as a math major at Bard that I wouldn't get at a school with a huge math department." The mountain of literature that is circulated concerning colleges also plays a part in the decision making process. One student, citing the Underground College Guide, said that she was attracted by the mention of the "cat to chick ratio" at Bard. Another student was enthralled at a college fair when she spotted The Scarecrow from the Wizard of Oz on the cover of a Bard pamphlet.

Anote said that she felt that "the quest for knowledge was at its purest form" at Bard and that "learning was the ultimate goal." Another student was much less analytical. Her reply--"I just liked it here, so I came."--is symbolic of the attitude of many Bard students. Often they are unable to verbalize their feelings about the school and what it was that attracted them to it. Most of the students attribute their coming here to a visit and a gut reaction.

L&T innovates again

by Erin Kupferman

The 1991 Bard College Language and Thinking Workshop was innovative. For the first time, it was divided into three major topics--those being communities, fencing, and silence; human sexuality; and cultures and values. There was a big focus on redefining "argument," to make it more of a deliberation than a struggle. And it was also, for the first time, a "substance-free workshop." So was the program any more notable than in past years? Associate Director of the Writing and Thinking Department, Teresa Vilardi, believes so.

"This was one of the most successful summers. There was an excellent group of students. The faculty was highly motivated. The students found it intellectually challenging while having the unique opportunity to learn about the college and build community." In asking people about L&T, the word "transition" was used by all. It is a preparation for college both academically and socially. Josh Farber said, "I was into college...I knew how to learn on the college level. And L&T also gives students a chance to be themselves, to get to know fellow classmates, the school, and the surroundings. It gives people a chance to discover their own thoughts and help them to develop writing skills not so much academically, but instinctively."

And what of the grade-free system? Are students comfortable with the idea of crit sheets rather than regular grades? "It was really important that it was ungraded; unconsciously you let yourself go, and a lot of really good creativity and thought occurs when people let themselves go," said Meri Pritchett. However, Devin McDonough disagrees. He believes that it was a biased grading system because those who would have otherwise worked chose to do absolutely nothing with no real consequences. He does feel, though, that "those who did take it seriously got a lot out of it."

And of the classes themselves? "Our group focused on the difference between the visual and the written text. It was an incredible class. We came up with theories that television is only brainwashing because people refuse to teach each other to interpret it like they would poetry and novels," said Farber. Pritchett mentioned that she regretted that she was in one of the classes that tended toward a list of class structure instead of spontaneity. She believes that, after two weeks, her group had exhausted all possibilities and was disappointed that they didn't go "exploring."

But what of the "substance-free" policy? Paul Connolly, Director of the Program believes that in an "academic program with an orientation context, it helps to have certain restraints, some limits on the excess." But were there restraints? "It's contradictory to say it's a substance-free program if it's not regulated. I'm not saying it should or shouldn't be substance-free, but it's very interesting that such a claim is made," said Pritchett. And what purpose does the claim serve? "It's understandable that substances are illegal to us anyway. Why would one more person telling us 'not to' make us do it less?" remarked Farber.

Christa believes that a substance free L&T is a good thing: "substance abuse decreased this year while the diversity of the students increased. Plus, in having it substance-free, those who want to use or drink will, and those who don't won't feel as pressured."

Peer Counselor Erin Law disagrees, "I understand that the school has liabilities, but it's not my job to be a police officer, and I personally think that denying makes people want something more."

Lily Halsted, a psychology professor at Bard for the first time this year, believes that all in all, the program was incredibly useful: "It encourages a great deal of writing with openness and comfort and great thought. It is also socially useful as the class understood each other and listened to each other. We all ended up as friends."
by Caleb Frazier

If you happened to be wandering through Tewksbury sometime during the three weeks of L&T, you may have encountered an older man slipping out of one of the rooms. He may have been clad in only a pair of boxers, with a towel over his shoulder and a bar of soap in his hand.

If you asked someone who

Everybody was stealing each other's food out of the fridge—his food never got touched.

Power, he's got power.

—Student in Tewksbury

didn't know—"Jesus, who the hell is that maniac?"—you'd be told that he was some loopy old guy trying to relive his college past, and that he'd been swilling beer and chasing young women around campus. But if you asked someone in Tewksbury, they might size you up, decide if you were worth telling, then with an air of superiority say, "That...is my dean, Stuart Levine."

"A lot of people were very skeptical," Levine said of his stay. "They didn't know whether I could pull it off...but I think the students enjoyed me being there, and the bottom line is that I liked it. I liked the dormitory. I liked living with young people; it was very enjoyable."

I sat with Stuart Levine on a beaten-up old couch outside of Stone Row. There was an empty six pack from the night before abandoned nearby. Rumor among students was that Levine's stay in Tewksbury was part of a bet with Leon Botstein. (One can imagine the two sitting around a card table, down to the last Stogie with a half empty can of Schlitz. "Hey Leon, if you win; I'll stay in Tewks; if I win, you eat in Kline for a week.")

However, Levine says that he had his own reasons for living in Tewksbury. "The first reason was because I never lived in a dormitory at college. I lived at home with my parents. The second was because it was something new to do, something new and interesting to add something to my life. And the third reason is that I went into the dormitory with the idea somewhere in the back of my mind to check this out, to see if college students' behavior is as bad as is commonly believed.

"I can say with a sense that people who put this bad rap on college students simply don't know. They're simply out of touch with the lives of college students. There was not a lot of anything other than what seemed like perfectly normal young men's behavior. Even the degree that I saw people drinking a can of beer was perfectly normal behavior."

"He rocked!" said one of Levine's neighbors. "He's sexy too!" Sexy? "Yeah, he had nice boxers." Boxers? "He walked around in his boxers."

"He had a lot of power, but he wielded it only for the forces of good," another neighbor adds.

"Another funny thing is that his food never got touched. Everybody was stealing each other's food out of the fridge—his food never got touched. Power, he's got power."

"I came back after a weekend," Levine said, "and my bed was made with clean sheets and new towels, and I said to a student, 'Isn't it nice that the maids come in and clean your room?" Yeah, the maids' service in students' rooms is impeccable."

When asked if he'd do it again, Levine responded enthusiastically, "I would do it again, next year, maybe I'll bring Leon with me."
Another View

Welcome to no-holds-Bard, occasional penal colony, rehab center, child-proof container, set in the province far but not too far from the City.

Those foulgiving in-comming first-year students are h-o-e-r! I've only heard rumors, gossip, bitching & bragging, flattery & friction, but I'm sure I let me say how glad I am to see so many familiar faces, so many people of color, the honey-children of last year, the molasses and apple butter of experience. Here are so many new faces and renewed faces. So far that "Old Bard vs. New (and Improved) Bard" shit and let's all enjoy and make time while we're here.

As much as you complain about Kline, it is really the main source of social networking. Without lunch and dinner, and a lot of other time we're not supposed to be doing (or not supposed to be doing), you slowly learn to see the familiar faces, so many people of color, the honey-children of last year, the molasses and apple butter of experience (however required). There are so many new faces and renewed faces. So far that "Old Bard vs. New (and Improved) Bard" shit and let's all enjoy and make time while we're here.

The past is similar to the present. Drugs & alcohol are available upon request, so is attitude & attention, and friends & frisnips if that's your thing. (There's a lot going on and off campus: by and for students, good, bad and indifferent.) Don't worry—As the saying goes: I feel it too, I just don't feel it with you.

Bard students have lost around these days, they have lost their minds and taken time off - have lost their will and taken a semester off - have lost their hearts and taken the year off - have lost hope and simply jumped headlong into the next. It's a necessary evil. It is a mountain not a mole hill. And the mountain will not come to Mohammed.

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Europa Europa: The tale of two wars
by Laurie Curry and Peter M. Boriskin

From Anschluss and Crystalnacht, to Appenweier and the Blitzkrieg, this film is a tidal wave of emotion and adventure, that carries you back to occupied Europe, circa 1938.

Polish writer-director, Agnieszka Holland, portrays the whirlwind tale of Solomon Perels’ life. He illustrates the persecution of Jews in Nazi-occupied lands during World War II.

Into the lions’ den goes the lamb. Solomon finds himself anything but strictly Jewish. Hiding his Jewish heritage, he poses as a Russian youth pioneer and a “pure-German” schoolboy to survive.

In love with a German girl, he must weigh his Judaism against his sexual urges, because his circumcised penis may betray his identity. It is a war of heart and mind.

This film breaks from the traditional “mold” of World War II movies by giving a very close-up and personal view of the war through the eyes of this confused Jewish teen.

Some of the most powerful scenes were Solomon’s exploits in the ghettos of Lodz, Poland; a Hitler-Youth’s science class on ‘how to detect a Jew’, a Jewish cemetery reduced to rubble, and Solomon’s riveting dream sequences.

As his world fell apart, only a few, ‘lucky’ survivors were left to tell this tale. This exceptional account “never forgets” so the Holocaust shall be “never again.” Two thumbs up.

“Europa, Europa” is showing evenings at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck. Showtimes are September 6-12, Monday-Thursday at 7:00 and 10:00, Friday and Saturday at 7:00 and 9:30, and Sunday at 7:00 and 9:15. Showings from September 16-19, Monday-Thursday will be at 9:00.

Reginato: A glutton’s paradise
by Tatiana Prowell

Unless you have a penchant for pan pipe playing in a can and I-saw-the-sunset landscape paintings, then you will find yourself at Reginato Ristorante for the food.

The food is abundant and delicious, leaving you (or me, anyway) full even before the entree arrives. The meal begins with hot, fresh bread made on the premises served with a vegetable platter and dip and a carafe of ice water.

A variety of appetizers is available, although I would recommend skipping them unless you are feeling especially gluttonous. Should you opt for a dinner—two dollars more—rather than an a la carte meal, you will get either soup or salad, as well as a plate of fruit for dessert. It’s definitely worth the extra two dollars for the salad alone. The salads are fresh green, crisp red onions, and plum tomatoes with a cup of your favorite dressing on the side. Both the House and Creamy Italian are especially good.

Along with the salad also comes a bowl of exquisite basil-oil-vinegar marinated vegetables. The quality of soups-of-the-day vary, but the lentil soup is always terrific.

Following your soup or salad, you will be served a frosted glass of lemon sorbet to cleanse the palate, and shortly after, your entree, which you no longer have any desire to eat, will arrive.

Every main course I’ve ever tried has been delicious, but, as a meat, the Spinach Tortellini in meat sauce and all of the chicken dishes are reputed to be excellent.

If you would like to have wine with your dinner, a wine list, including several moderately-priced Italian specialties, is available. The bar also offers cocktails, liquors, and beer.

When the management thinks you’ve had enough (and it will show), the waiter or waitress will bring a glass platter piled with fruit and shaved ice.

If you are sure you can do better than this, come to the writers’ meeting Monday at 8:30 p.m. on the Third Floor of Aspinwall.

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Teaching the environment – gently

by Jonathan Miller

People are starting to get a little burnt-out on the subject of the environment. The pollution is still occurring, many of the simple things we can do to save the earth are turning out to be a pain in the butt, and the initial rush of shock over the sad state of the planet is fading. Burn-out is a very bad thing, especially when it creates the “pro-business, anti-environmental backlash that’s coming as we speak. How can we avoid this? Last chance to see by Douglas Adams and Mark Carwardine has arrived, with a new, more subtle approach to spurning interest in the environment.

Douglas Adams is the semi-leg- endary author of the Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy, the wildly successful trilogy-plus-one series of meandering, science-fiction comedies. These books revealed a number of things: the earth was custom-built for white mice, the second-worst poetry in the world was written by aliens, and the answer to the question of life, the universe, and everything is actually Forty-two. It also revealed that science-fiction could be hilarious without being as deadeningly cynical as the works of Kurt Vonnegut.

In past years, when people took a break from worrying about the environment, many worried about Douglas Adams fading away. For years, the various versions of Hitchhiker’s were his only published work. Adams’ career seemed to consist solely of rewriting Hitchhiker’s for the stage, the screen, and the printed page. Not only were the books being recycled, they were getting less funny, as well. The third book in the series, Life, the Universe and Everything didn’t come any closer near the hysterical heights of the first two, despite having a near-brilliant plot encoded in its back- wards, mixed-up, writers block suffering structure. After he offered a pair of vaguely amusing books about somebody named Dick Gently, the question fronted itself. Could Douglas Adams still be funny?

The answer, of course, is yes. Last Chance to See is a brilliantly funny book, a real-life travelogue of a BBC-funded trip that Adams took with a free-lance zoologist named Mark Carwardine in search of rare and endangered species around the world. They visit the Komodo Dragon of Indonesia, the mountain gorilla of Zaire, and Kakapo parrot of New Zealand, with Adams poking merciless fun at everything in sight along the way. In a world where “face-500” stands for grim seriousness and ominous dread, Douglas Adams has written a genuinely funny book without ever once trivializing the subject.

Remarkably large sections of the book are about the animals at all. It is perhaps the third world with Carwardine, Adams, a master of ironic frustration, encountered bungling that approached surrealistic levels. The narrative, managed as a journey, third-world air-travel, post-colonial government, and modern living in general get skewered re- petitiously. What had been a third-world air-travel, post-colonial government, and modern living in general get skewered repetitiously. Adams succeeds in making you care about endangered animals without blabbering you with the severity of their plight. Nearly hilarious what a land-headed blood-thirsty carnivores humans have been for centuries, he leaves the reader with poignant feelings and hope for the animals’ survival, instead of resenting guilt for being members of our race. The lack of enforced silence brings the reader to care about the loss of these animals, even ones as completely “un-panda-lish” as the Komodo dragon. Causing the modern consumer to care (the guilt-test of words) about what members of the present is a magnificent feat indeed.

Last Chance to See by Douglas Adams and Mark Carwardine is published by Harmony books © 1991 and is available in the bookstore.

Wilderness sculpture

by Chris Nevins

When I first saw the figures in the field, it was from far away, so much that the figures in the distance were barely discernable, creating the feeling of illusion or mirage. As I approached, each shape began to take on definite form. Nine abstract, yet distinct, figures circumscribed a central tenth figure that rotated with the wind.

A Fragmanwy butterfly mounted high above the ground and a three-dimensional flower/cluster of dividing cells are two of the sculptures that help to compose the outer ring.

Three abstract representations of humans provide another portion of the circle. One seems to portray a toilet dancer captured in mid-post; another figure leaps and is suspended in the air, holding a set of metal chimes, and a third form shoots from the ground with arms outstretched, reaching upwards, possessing no feet or legs to anchor it to the ground.

Along with other figures from the outer ring, the central piece seems to be a beacon, projecting messages in every direction as it rotates. But to attempt to describe the figures too fully would cheapen both the structures and the idea which gave birth to them. The ring is located in a secluded field, which I recently learned is in close proximity to an Indian archaeological site. Though hidden, it is easily accessible, the most direct route being the path in back of Stevenson Gymnasium near SMOG and the junkyard, but please do not try to find the field with your directions. Rather, wait until you stumble upon it by accident in a trek through the woods so that you can experience the same thrill of discovery.

Savoy sing-a-long

by Tatiana Prowell

On Saturday, September 7, the Savoy restaurant located across from Bard on 9g featured two of Bard’s very own professors, Jonathan Golodner and Rory Makem. While many rowdy students know “Rory” from the Student Center and Cafe DeKline for his drink-along songs, Golodner, a charismatic pianist, is a little less familiar to the students.

The key to the performance was crowd participation. Golodner pounded out requests ranging from the themes for “Peanuts” and “Married with children” to “Mack the Knife” and “Mr. Bojangles.” Although the flyer advertising the event called Golodner’s playing “a lively, musical, and relaxed meal. The audience was alert and involved, and Golodner’s energetic playing refused to blend into the background. Those who have seen Makem play before know that he also depends upon audience participation, in fact, he stops songs dead to give instruction when participants can’t seem to get clapping parts and choruses right. Makem played primarily Irish folk songs, including requests for “Finnegans Wake” and the “Pogues’ “Dirty Old Town,” as well as “Walzing Matilda.” As usual, his performance contained a few rambunctious drinking songs, the most well-known to Bardians being “I’m a rambler, I’m a gambler,” as Bard students have dubbed it.

Although the Savoy is a restaurant/bar, it was heavy on the bar that night. Cheerful Bardians raised their beers to one another and belted out: “We’ll knock the millennium over and roll ’em in the cloak. The comet’s half-cut, and so are we.” Don’t despair if that last line means nothing to you. I don’t know what it means either, said Makem, and it appeared that most didn’t care.

The event was cozy, with a turn-out of only about sixty, and the restaurant/bar hopes to continue attracting Bard students. Golodner will be playing every Thursday night, along with other Bard talent. Golodner plans to play with Lee Smith and Enrique Lopez in the near future, but is also seeking other Bardians interested in performing at the Savoy. Comedians, musicians of any sort, and other performers who would like more information should contact Golodner through Campus Mail. Anyone planning to drink should be prepared to show a picture ID confirming legal age.
by Matt Apple

"It's a crock of shit. That's what it is," security officer Richard Staats said, watching the on-going library construction tear up the remnants of Bard's soccer field. [Students] have played on this field as long as I been here, and I been here twenty-two years. The dumb fools could have added on [to the library] somewheres else. Now they're building another field behind the gym over there, but Bard College don't care how they spend their money.

Standing on the pitcher's mound, Staats recalled the man in whose memory Bard alumni affectionately dubbed the softball field "Starky Stadium". "Dick Starky, I remember him," Staats cracked. "He was Director of Security for a while. Left about eight years ago. Hell of a nice guy." But as to why the field was named after Starky, Staats could only say, "I honestly don't know. I know Starky played with them Bard alumni once in a while, but I don't know where Starky Stadium came from."

Pursuing the curious mystery of Starky Stadium, this writer attended the most recent Sunday softball game in the hopes of enlightenment (and generous refreshments). Questioning various Bard alumni, one revealed all their information came from the same source, a man named Art. Art Carlson, southpaw from the class of '79, remembered Dick Starky: "He was our Baccalaureate speaker." And why was the field named after him? "He was a great guy.

All questions aside, the alumni decided (more or less) to continue playing their weekly games at the opposite end of the field from Starky Stadium, a field where "a pop fly to center is a homer."

"It's shame what they're doing to our field," lamented John Jacobs, who hit his first homerun in countless ages at the "new" field. "That fence out there [enclosing the work area] is terrible."

In the end, it all boils down to which is more important, the library or the playing field. "I know you need the library," Richard Staats admitted, "but they could've built it further back from the field. Most of those ar- chitects don't know their ass from their armpits anyway."

"And you can print that," he added, a twinkle in his eye. "I don't know what you kids are gonna do. Waste of goddam money."

Obituary:

Starky Stadium, Kline Commons Field. Age: 30-years.

The last game played in Starky Stadium was on Sunday, August 25, 1991. The softball players continued as long as they dared, then bided goodbye to Starky Stadium as the darkening dusk enveloped the field. A softball, passed around and signed by all present, is required to be presently worth ten dollars. With any luck, it may wind up years from now in a display case in Stevenson Gymnasium as tribute to the old field, or it may eventually be worth a million dollars (which one is more likely, you decide).

No Bard pep?

by L. Curry

Right about now, Mudville held its annual Fall Sports Assembly. Theoretically, if the football stadium could be filled that night, the team would grant its way through Homecoming, Districts, States, Allegheny Valley, Appalachian League (and so on and so on...)

Every student was required to attend.

The Fall Assembly was sponsored by the Student Council and your friendly cheerleaders. Somewhere after the cheerleaders' choreographed disco dance and the human snake races, we were supposed to generate a passionate hoopla. "Mudville Pride!" "Go team!" and "Kill 'em!" were appropriate chants, verified before hand by the administration. The soccer, football, cross country, volleyball, tennis and swimming people were pulled from the stands. We lined up on the out of bounds lines for the basketball court. We grinned uncomfortably at the lecherous student body who blamed us for this absurd institution of school spirit.

The assembly ended with a contest. Who donned the craziest combination of Mudville's hues? Who looked most like a bulldog? (Our mascot). And, finally, a treat to satiate us until kickoff - a farewell.

"We're the ones who REALLY CARE!" (formation: heart.) "And we hope to see YOU there!" (pointed fingers)

"Annette! (cartwheel) "Betsy!"

(split, etc., etc.

The Fall Sports Assembly is a real piece of Americana, sort of like Rydell High jackets and greasers felt mascot costumes. I have sensed, in my small time, forces.

"Sign up for a fall sport!" they pleaded.

"You're outta Mudville, now. I thought myself.

B a r d I n t r a m u r a l s get underway this coming Monday, the 16th. Ultimate Frisbee, Team Tennis and 4 on 4 Outdoor Volleyball are being offered, as well as Yoga, Karate, Swimming, and Squad instruction. Call Kris Hall at ext. 530 for more information.

Corrections

The soccer teams' home field for most home games will not be Dietz Stadium, as printed last week, but the Rhinebeck High School soccer field. There is a $2 admission charge to the Dietz Stadium games. A spectator bus leaves for the doubleheader Wed. at 5:45 and 6:15.

And finally - the proper spelling of the last name of the men's soccer coach is T-O-M-S-O-N, not Thomson, or Tompson or any variety in between. Coach Tomson says he is far too important a college official to have his name constantly misspelled.
Honesty is bookstore's best policy

by Jennifer Horenstein

A costly new security system was installed in the Bard Bookstore after end-of-the-year fiscal reports revealed the bookstore suffered $20,000 lost in merchandise. But as of last Friday the $6,000 system was removed. The decision to remove the system was made recently by new manager Carol Van Danburgh, who feels that "a security system isn't what the Bard community needs. There is a shoplifting problem, but a security system isn't the solution." The bulky Dual Corridor Security System, which was situated at the entrance of the bookstore, was removed before returning students arrived in anticipation of the back to school bookstore class of book and supply buying.

Van Danburgh will rely on her staff and the Bard community to ensure that the bookstore does not suffer such a great inventory loss again.

"After I plugged it in, everything clicked for me."

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Secure summer for Bard

by Tatiana Proowell

Director of Security, Bob Boyce, called Bard's relatively uneventful summer "very satisfactory from our viewpoint." Aside from a car break-in reported by a student working on campus for the summer, no incidents of any significance were reported to security.

The removal of a stereo and two speakers from a car located in the Fowkisbory lot in late July could have been partially due to the car's condition, said Boyce. The back window of the car had been broken since sometime last semester, according to Boyce, and weeds had grown up around the car during several weeks during which the car was unused. "It may have looked abandoned, so someone decided to help themselves to the stereo and speakers," Boyce suggested.

In another incident that took place during L & T, a few students had a conflict at a Student Center event. According to witness, Albert Height, two Bard students jumped on stage and ignored requests that they return to the audience. A few of the band members from Leisure Mayhem pushed the students off of the stage, making them angry. Later in the evening, the band members again encountered the two who had allegedly become violent. After calling security, Height and other band members pushed one student out of the door with a microphone stand, while restraining the other student. According to Height, the student who had been forced outside took the microphone stand with him, using it to smash a window in the downstairs recording studio.

Although Boyce was uncertain as to what was used to break the window, he felt certain that a solid object must have been used to smash the steel mesh reinforced window. He found no motivation for the vandalism, as nothing was disturbed inside the room; however, Height alleges that the student, who knew the band frequently used the recording studio, broke the window in revenge.

Boyce did recall a student coming to security that same night asking for treatment of a cut on his hand. Apparently, the student said he had been cut while attempting to avoid being hit with a microphone stand. Height claims that the cut did not occur during the struggle, but rather when the angry students broke the downstairs window.

Apart from this incident, problems during L & T were minimal. Boyce partially attributes this to the college's recommendation that L & T be alcohol and substance-free. Although it was not an enforced policy, but rather a suggestion on the part of the college, "for the most part, people have respected the wishes of the college." One freshman, Chloe Potter, commented, "I think that people have been drinking, but not excessively."

Boyce believes that alcohol diminishes sound judgment; however, attempting to forbid its consumption on the Bard campus would only send it and its accompanying problems underground. He does cite the state law, which prohibits drinking under age 21, as "unrealistic" to expect the campus to be completely dry.
September 11, 1991
The Bard Observer

Nackenoff evaluation letter
continued from page 2
I did not come to this reading entirely uninitiated. Some time long ago, after Professor Nackenoff left Chicago, I read early drafts of a small number of chapters, early probes, if you like. And I had known her, and her work when she was a student in political theory with Joseph Crespsey and later when she moved into American politics through NORC training and the tutorial direction of David Greenstone. With this background and knowledge I approached the task of review with a positive predisposition; but I was not prepared to be bowled over as I have been by the combination of craft, maturity, and originality that mark Carol’s work, and especially her magisterial Culture Wars and the Battle for the Republic.

Quite simply, this is a wonderful book: imaginative in its readings, intuitive in its interpretations, lucid in its prose. In all, the volume mangles both to be rigorous and playful, no mean combination. It is certain, on publication, to win wide attention and regard—and initiate not a little amount of debate.

For this book is provocative in the best sense of the term. Its central themes, as I read them, are three: The first transcends the specificities of American political culture and development. It is concerned with the knotty problem of ideology. Here Carol seeks a grounding of ideology in material reality without the usual reductionism; to the contrary, she insists that some privileged clusters of ideas that intersect with social structure and material conditions in distinctive ways come to provide mappings of social reality that are so supple that they can long survive the conditions that brought them into being. The Alger stories with a distinctive and repetitive formula resonated in just this way for reasons she identifies.

Her second large theme concerns the interplay of social change and representational discourse in late 19th and early 20th century America. The large-scale changes in the state, economy, and civil society of the Gilded Age epoch provoked new readings and interpretations, but not in any simple unmediated fashion. Professor Nackenoff is interested both in how the Alger stories’ reading of this complex moment of change at once was partial (it left out much of the strain and the negative while constructing a most positive portrait of the situation on the ground and the maneuverability of individuals to survive or transform it) and yet compelling, so much so that it became something of the dominant idiom. And understanding of this intertwining leads Professor Nackenoff to a very supple consideration both of the content of these materials and to an account of how they found a credulous audience.

Third, she is interested, in her language, in how these representations continued to shape the American imagination in the 20th century well after their time bound elements should have rendered them anachronistic. One key to her answer is that Alger was not a simple reflection of dominant class interests. Alger’s texts were one vision in a conflicted universe that for reasons she explores managed to become defining features of the ideological mainstream of American political culture in this century by achieving allegorical status.

In recent times there has been a burgeoning of work in the social sciences and history that focuses on signification. From one vantage point Professor Nackenoff’s work may so be described. But this would be a misleading portrait. For this book is genuinely innovative, ever original, in its insistence in maintaining within political-cultural studies the tension between structural conditions and representation, culture, agency. Moreover, drawing on a developing literature on the diffusion of culture and on her own careful research, Professor Nackenoff treats the extension of influence not simply as a matter of ideas but of material culture. If, in brief, cultural politics consists in large measure of stories we tell ourselves about ourselves (a definition I borrow from my New School colleague George Shulman), then surely this book is one of the best contributions I know to unpacking and understanding American political culture.

You will understand my focus on this volume, but I wish also to say that the various other pieces on such subjects as equal protection, difference, and economic dualism you sent along demonstrate considerable range in areas as diverse as jurisprudence, gender studies, and political economy. In short, I have been very impressed.

Three more words. The first is to assure you that I do not often write letters in this tone of such strong admiration. I am not given to hyperbole. The second is to predict with the publication of Culture Wars Professor Nackenoff will achieve a level of visibility she could not possibly have secured. Last, I note that she is a person who puts her bets on a small number of projects that are fully realized rather than wagering on a strategy of many smaller initiatives. Hers is a risky strategy, but one that in this case has more than paid off.

I hope this reading is helpful to your deliberations. I will be happy to amplify on these remarks should that prove helpful.

Please accept my best regards.

Sincerely,
Ina Katznelson
Levine in close quarters
by Greg Giacco

Dean of the College, Stuart Levine deserves special recognition for living in Tewksbury for the LLI period. While most administrators are accessible to student concerns, Levine got down in the trenches and experienced them. He didn’t even pick a swanky dorm like Manor, but lived in a Cinder block single in what is commonly regarded as one of the least desirable dorms on campus.

I know that Levine’s plans to go on the front lines of student life have been in the works for some time. At last year’s Observer awards dinner, I heard over Dean Levine trying to talk Vice President Papadimitrou into joining him. Papadimitrou’s only response was a look of disdain. Ahh, how often were the words of genius met with such looks? Dean Levine’s three week sojourn into the land of the lost will enable him to keep an objective view of student life, free from rumors and stereotypes.

Dean Levine announced that he plans to bring President Boschen into the trenches with him next year. I strongly encourage it. It is no secret that Boschen thinks it important for administrators to teach in order to be in close contact with the students. How much stronger the bond between student and administrator would be if the president left his nasty office and saw how the other half lives.

“Let them eat late”
by Greg Giacco

Food is the single most important concern in the lives of all communities. In the Bard community food usually becomes a pressing concern on Sunday and Monday weeks when it is not available. Last week when Kline announced that it would open at 11:30 a.m. instead of the usual, but still too late, time of 11:00 a.m. At 11:30 a.m., meals cease to be of the “Brunch” category. A near riot ensued. To avoid these Attica-esque conditions, brunch resumed its ordinary time slot the next morning.

The fault is not that of Woods Food Service. Their contract only requires them to open at 11:30 a.m. on weekends. The fault lies with that member of the administration who screwed up the negotiations. It would be a good idea to renegotiate the contract so that breakfast would be available before 11:00 a.m. But don’t take the suggestion from me, take it from the bread riots in pre-revolutionary Russia or the starving peasants in pre-revolutionary France and the countless prisoners who rioted for food.

Listening to foreign accents

Dear Editor,

In speaking to your reporter about Professor Carol Nackenoff [Observer, Sept. 4, 1991], I had said that she is very committed to the teaching vocation. Your news story quoted me as saying that she is “very committed to the teaching and educational process.” This statement is incorrect. I do not know what is appropriate journalistic practice. But if such a remark were to occur in a student paper, I would have expected the writer to double-check the source and, if the quotation turns out to be accurate, to add “sic” in parentheses indicating that the quotation, despite the poor grammar, is a faithful reproduction of the original statement.

It is probably my accent that led to the misquote. The error does not change the substance of what I said. But something more serious may be at stake. Why didn’t the bad grammar in the statement give the reporter cause for pause? By tolerating passivity towards apparently incoherent speech, do we not encourage passivity towards incoherent thought as well? I hope it is not politically incorrect at Bard to listen carefully to, reflect on, and challenge what a teacher with a foreign accent says.

Sincerely,
Sanjib Baruah

September 11, 1991
The Bard Observer

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Mom, they won’t let me run the editorials! I like—Greg.

Personal ads and classifieds are free for the Bard community. Drop them off at the library, in campus mail, or the box in Kline.

LETTERS TO

Letters and other submissions can be submitted to the Observer through campus mail, the box behind the front desk in the library, or at the office in the Tewksbury basement. All submissions must be signed.

Observe this

Dear Editor:

In his article, “Not Enough PC Talk,” Neal Broege defines “political correctness” as “a set of prefabricated opinions about what is right which limits the ability to express alternative positions.” Under this definition, Mr. Broege’s survey is itself a perfect example of political correctness. The statements prefabricated for the survey were a set of opinions about what is right. The Agree—Disagree left no room for respondents to express alternative positions. The survey does show that students do, indeed, have opinions. Whether or not those opinions are prefabricated, and to what extent that prefabrication might limit individual expression, are not addressed at all by the survey. For this research format, statements such as “I believe that my political opinions are original,” and “I always express the same political views, no matter who I am talking to,” might have produced conclusive results. The conclusions of Mr. Broege’s study, however, were drawn from his initial hypothesis and buffered with research that did not, in fact, test that hypothesis. The study must, therefore, be regarded as invalid.

Edward P. Slocomb
BARD COLLEGE: SEPTEMBER 12-18, 1991

WEAKLY
COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Humanities Endowment

Information and applications for the National Endowment for Humanities Summer Stipend are available from the Dean of the College. Deadline for submission is October 1, 1991. Each college can nominate three members of its faculty for these stipends. No more than two of these nominees may be in the early stages of their careers. That is, junior nominees specifically those holding the rank of Assistant Professor. The second category of nominee (Senior) is for those holding the rank of Associate or Full Professor. Please stop by the Dean’s office for further information.

Speaker for Peace

The International Peacemaker, The Reverend Norman Bent, will be at Pleasant Plains Presbyterian Church, Sunday, Sept. 29th, 1991. He has served as a mediator during the crisis between the government and the East Coast Miskito people. Now pastor of the Moravian Church in Managua, he is serving as an International Peacemaker for the USA Presbyterian Church as well. Norman Bent will lead worship and preach at 9:30 a.m. at the church. He will speak again at 11:00 a.m. at a public forum on the topics of Nicaragua and the need for peace in Central America. Pleasant Plains Church is located on Hollow Road- 7 miles north of Hyde Park off Route 9-G. Everyone is welcome. For more information, please call the Church at 889-4019.

Observer Meetings

There will be a meeting for writers on Monday at 6:30 p.m. in Aspinwall, third floor. Those interested in layout should meet Thursday at 7 p.m. in the basement of Fowlesbury. The deadline for outside submissions is Friday at 5:00 p.m. Turn material in to the Observer office.

Art Displays

Now showing at the Edith C. Blum Art Institute through Sep. 19th: “Censored in 1962, Celebrated in 1991: Elie Bleibutin and the New Russian Avant Garde.” It is the premier exhibit in the U.S. of this founder of alternative art education.

Join in the Dance

Take part in Scottish Country Dancing- traditional social dances of Scotland. There will be an introductory dance party in the Student Center (Old Gym) at Bard from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on Saturday, Sept. 7th. You don’t need to bring a partner, you don’t need to have experience, and you don’t have to be Scottish to enjoy the dancing... but please wear soft-soled shoes if you have them; ballet shoes or moccasins are ideal. A new class will begin on Sept. 18th and will meet from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on the first, third, and fifth Wednesdays of each month (location to be announced). For more information call:
846-6256 Marsha Kent
757-4214 Bill & Sheryl Griffith
758-8273 Samantha Miller

Madrigal Singers

Members of the Bard Community chorus are forming a madrigal group. Those interested in joining please contact Megan Hastie at Ext. 720 or Caris Peck at 758-0213. We are going to keep it a small group, so if you are interested, contact us by Sept 18th preferably. (Open to all members of the community).

Yom Kippur Services

Bard’s new rabbi, Jonathan Kliger, is also rabbi of the Woodstock Jewish congregation, 30 minutes from Bard in the town of Woodstock. The congregation is highly innovative and informal, and everyone in the Bard community is invited to participate in all events. The following is a schedule for the High Holy Days.

Yom Kippur

Tuesday, 9/17 6:30 p.m. Kol Nidre
Wednesday 9/18 10:00 a.m. Services
5:00 p.m. Book of Jonah (reading & discussion)
6:15 p.m. Neilah (closing) followed by communal break-fast.
Directions: from Kingston, take Rt. 28 to Rt. 375, which brings you to Woodstock. Go right on Rt. 212 for 4 miles. You will see the tent on the right. Services are held in the tent, so dress for the weather! For more information, call the synagogue at 246-1671 or Rabbi Kliger at 679-9784.

L’shanah Tovah- to a good, sweet year!

Introductory Yoga

This course will be taught on Thursday nights, from 6-7:30 p.m. in Olin 202, starting Sept. 12th. The fee is $20.00 for eight sessions. Instructer Ben Vromen will be available to answer questions on Sept. 5th from 6-7:00 p.m. in Olin 202.

THE WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER IS BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS-
SEPT 12-SEPT 18

THURSDAY FRIDAY SATURDAY SUNDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY
6:00 pm Yoga Olin 202 5:00 pm Observer deadline for outside submission 7:00 pm Scottish Country Dancing- Old Gym 8:30 am Worship Service Chapel 8:30 pm Observer Writers’ meeting- third floor Aspinwall 6:30 pm Yom Kippur Services (See above for schedule)