Subcontracting blues
Custodians' future muddied by subcontracting plans

by Greg Giacco

The rumors that 13 out of 38 of the custodians currently working for Buildings and Grounds would be laid off by November 1 are false. The latest development in Bard's search for a subcontractor is the decision of the Trustees to give Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou the green light to sign a contract.

"We're no further along in choosing one [contractor] or the other than before the Trustees' meeting," said John Secco, Director of the Human Resources at Bard.

Even President Bobststein had to answer questions about the subcontractors on Parent's Day. He pointed out that Bard could stand to save a lot of money by hiring a subcontractor—money which would not have to be taken out of financial aid or academic programs. He also pointed out that the food service and the bookstore are run by subcontractors and they have done so with efficiency and without displacing employees.

Employees held a meeting with students to discuss their concerns over the potential subcontractor in Albee Social on October 24.

"We feel it's a union busting thing because it looks like," said Bob Ferguson, shop steward for Local 200-D of the Service Employees International Union—the union that Bard's custodians belong to.

"No one's coming in here with a broom to sweep anyone out...that's also contractual," said John Secco. "This is not a bulldozer attack on anyone or anything." According to Secco, the new company will have to accept the collective bargaining agreement that is currently in force. Secco also added that if any layoffs took place, they would take place only after the company had time to analyze the situation at Bard—at least a few months.

"I can tell you for an absolute certainty that while the changes [a subcontractor would make] might involve a loss in staff, there was no number near 13," said Secco. Secco said that he could not be certain about any changes in the staff since the two bidders, Servicemaster and International Service Systems, have not even submitted a rough draft of a contract yet.

Both sides feel that the college has been poorly managing its cleaning service. Secco hopes that the subcontractor will solve this problem. "We're having trouble keeping up as it is now," said Bob Ferguson.

As for benefits, John Secco said, "My job is to make sure that there's no significant changes in benefits." Employees and students expect continued on page 2

IN Inside

Leon conducts page 4
Coach eats cheese page 5
Switchers not squatters: Latest forum changes room draw policy

by michael poirier

The Student Forum meeting last Wednesday night passed a resolution which specifically prevents students who have been switched into a room from squatting that room the next academic year. Excluding those who have been switched for medical reasons, people will only be able to squat the rooms which they claimed through the standard room draw procedure.

The resolution was passed with a roughly two-thirds majority, and would be instituted after the next room draw. The need for such a resolution was explained by upperclassmen who felt cheated that a bureaucratic switch could circumspect the privileges of seniority. Ideally, the best rooms would go to the upperclassmen who are satisfied with their drawn rooms and wish to squat them. Those who have already been switched into their rooms will not be subject to the new resolution.

The revised search committee resolution, which allows the Student Forum to elect student representatives to faculty and administration hiring committees, passed unanimously. The original version had been judged to be too vague and ineffective. The new resolution specifically states that the Student Forum can elect two representatives for a single search committee, and that special attention will be paid to any need for student representatives from a certain background. For example, a Jewish student would be elected to assist in the search for a Jewish chaplain. The office of the Dean of Students was given the authority to appoint additional student representatives to a committee if necessary. The representatives will have the right to vote, and it is the responsibility of the Forum to supply representatives to the committee on time.

If school is not in session, two members of the Student Life Committee would be delegated to serve as representatives.

The Educational Policies Committee stated that there are 1025 students attending Bard this semester, and that 965 are expected to attend Bard next semester. For the first time in college history 200 seniors will be graduating, and next year, 340 new students are expected to matriculate first-year students and transfers. Concerning the library and their new overdue policies, it was revealed that 1300 library books, taken out by the faculty, are overdue, some of them since the 1970’s. In addition, The Treasurer, Matt Lee, chaired the meeting and stated that any organization needing a check should contact him on Thursday so that they can receive their money by Friday.

A report was also given by the student representatives who attended the Board of Trustees’ meeting last weekend. Along with the tenure and house-cleaning situations, the Board discussed the imminent establishment of a museum devoted to the decorative arts, which will open in New York City with the assistance of the Bard center. Reportedly, Bard was in competition with other schools and art institutes to oversee the project.

How mom and dad saw Bard

Parents’ Day activities show typical aspects of daily student life

by michael poirier

Saturday, October 26, was Parents’ Day at Bard College. The guardians of every student were invited to attend a full agenda of activities, detailing academics at Bard and “new initiatives.” With activities ranging from lunch at Kline to attendance at simulated class, parents were kept busy throughout the day when they weren’t being escorted around the campus by their offspring.

The special classes that parents attended were an hour long and represented a variety of disciplines. Sociology, history, physical science, philosophy, English, and music seminars were offered and well attended. These classes were conducted as if actual professors such as Garry Hagber and Burt Brody. Commented one parent, “I was truly interested to see how classes really are here; it almost makes me want to go back to college myself.”

Many parents ate lunch at Kline. After mealtime there were discussions about Fall Semester Academics with Karen Greenberg and Stuart Levine, followed by a panel talk led by Shelly Morgan concerning student life. At the student discussion, dormitory life was examined, and Gladys Watson mentioned that “the honeymoon was over,” referring to the ways that relationships between roommates and initial acquaintances can become strained now that the semester is half-finished. Parents were urged to call any office of the college with their concerns and maintain a positive relationship between family and college.

President Leon Botstein concluded the day with a speech that detailed his concerns about what students should learn while in college. He described the need to educate young members of democracy who are daring to question and challenge popular opinions. Relating to the tenure situation, Botstein claimed that he took “great pride in the intelligent dissent at this college...it proves a sense of respect and involvement.” He also described the house-cleaning shift as “a necessary efficiency that has to do with real economics,” and said that Bard’s recent placement as the fifth most expensive school in the nation is misleading, because some schools lie about their cost and the top two dozen schools cost within a few thousand dollars of each other.

If you care...

- Get involved with the CAMPUS OUTREACH GROUP

For information about the volunteer programs available, contact Teri Tomaszkiewicz, Ludlow 310, or read this week’s personals.
Features

Botstein leads Chamber Orchestra Mozart, Beethoven, and Wagner featured

by Anne Miller

On Friday, October 4, at eight o'clock in Olin, Leon Botstein conducted the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra. The program consisted of Beethoven's "Overture to the Creatures of Prometheus," Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat," and Richard Wilson as a soloist on the piano. Jacob Druckman's "Nor Spell Nor Charm," and Richard Wagner's "Symphony in C Major, WWV 29." With his hair greased back, Leon proceeded to explain to the audience the history behind the pieces the orchestra was going to play. Leon admitted that Beethoven's "Overture to the Creatures of Prometheus" is one of his weaker operas; he was written unevenly though he attempted to achieve a delicacy and brightness. He went on to explain that the second piece on the program, Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat," was written in the last year of his life. It was a symbolic preparation for death in his last year. This particular concerto is unusual because all three movements are uniform; his work usually contains sharp contrasts. Leon interrupted his explanation of the program by stating his opinion that one should not perform music if one has never written any music. "This does not necessarily make them good," he said, regarding this opinion, "but it gives them empathy." This was the introduction to the third piece, written by Druckman. It is a work written in the memory of a distinguished artist, Jan DeGaetani. This was the last time, we, the audience, would ever hear this performed again, according to Botstein. We were told that we should feel damned lucky.

Finally, Leon moved on to the last selection, Wagner's "Symphony in C Major, WWV 29." Leon believes that Wagner's master works are his best; Wagner found new ways of using repetition in order to hold the audiences' interest. The concert itself got underway at eight o'clock. Beethoven's "Overture to the Creatures of Prometheus" had a smooth sound start - elegant and drawn out. It then rose to become busy and exciting. It moved from one sound to the next rapidly. The sound jumped from high-pitched and quick to low-pitched and slow. The piece ended strongly.

Mozart's "Piano Concerto No. 27 in B-flat" used melodic string pieces complemented and balanced the horns. The strings and horns then blended together as the piano quietly interrupted. As the piano took on solos and proceeded to mingle with the rest of the orchestra, it created a marvelous mixture of sound - an airy and rhythmic murmur compounded with the ominously rising rumble. Jacob Druckman came forth from the audience to talk about "Nor Spell Nor Charm." He was not confident that the audience would enjoy the piece. He justified his worry by explaining that the beginning of the piece is the beginning of the piece, the end is the end, but the middle is unexplained. Hmmmm... Well, he was right. The piece sounded as if it were meant to be played as Halloween music; it was tense, dark, strange, and bothersome. There was a definite lack of coherence. Although it was interesting with the lead and fall of sound, it seemed never-ending.

Wagner's "Symphony in C Major, WWV 29" was a strong contrast with "Nor Spell Nor Charm." It was strong, powerful, and tightly pulled together. The lighter part erupted into a full-bodied crescendo. All of the instruments flowed with each other, creating an invigorating and glorious musical pattern. This was by far the liveliest piece on the program.

Although some selections were not as strong as the others, all four pieces complemented and balanced one another. It was a brave attempt for the orchestra to perform these pieces, seeing as Leon, reading. Good opportunity for late night study students. Meditation. The job will include basic office duties, and no tail? How much? How much is that cat pelt in the window? The one with no head and no tail? How much is that cat pelt in the window? I do hope that it's for sale.

Attention Biology Faculty: There is evidence that your students are making PCB and skinning cats. Stop them before it's too late.

To the members of the Prom Zoo, may I please, have please a copy of your tape? Apply to the girl in green. Box 1303.

Oh where, oh where could our cat pelt have gone, oh where, oh where could it be? With its head cut off and its guts cut out, where, oh where could it be?

K8, where, oh where, could your story be? Tell us that and you may see Gus again.

Hey you drunken slobs what tape-danced on the pool table did it again and we'll kick your ass.

To the "hungry bumper" car owner from the Nightwalkers of Annandale, fuck off. Thank you.

Classifieds and Personsals

For sale: Telephone with answering machine and lots of nifty features. Almost new. Asking $50.00. Call Jason at 758-1209.

Host my jacket last week. Color: Khaki and blue. Make: Skylandia. If you found it please call 758-7262 or ext. 354; ask for Gabor.


Job Opportunity: The Journal of the History of Sexuality and Professor John Foult have a position open for a work study student. The job will include basic office work (typing, filing), and proofreading. Good opportunity for someone interested in publishing. Wordperfect 5.0 or 5.1 experience preferred. Flexible hours (6-10 per week). Call Susan Rogers at 758-7941.

Recording Artist Ed Hammel will be appearing at Milano's Cafe, Rt. 199 Pine Plains, N.Y. on Nov. 1st, Friday evening 10PM. A sort of belated Halloween Bash. Mr. Hammel's band of music has been described as nothing short of "Aggressive Folk Rock!" Having toured the folk circuit nationwide he has drawn much acclaim and attention, particularly on the West Coast. Be there.

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October 30, 1991 The Bard Observer

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Bard Response to Rape and Associated Violence Education

October 30, 1991 The Bard Observer

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Host my jacket last week. Color: Khaki and blue. Make: Skylandia. If you found it please call 758-7262 or ext. 354; ask for Gabor.

For sale: 2 IBM Selective type-writers. Ideal for typing those graduate school applications. Mark Twain wrote Huckleberry Finn on a typewriter, why shouldn't you use one? Only asking $300 each. Call the Observer at 758-6772.


Job Opportunity: The Journal of the History of Sexuality and Professor John Foult have a position open for a work study student. The job will include basic office work (typing, filing), and proofreading. Good opportunity for someone interested in publishing. Wordperfect 5.0 or 5.1 experience preferred. Flexible hours (6-10 per week). Call Susan Rogers at 758-7941.

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Branaugh's *Dead Again* is alive and well

by Gabriel Wardell

Following Director-Actor Kenneth Branagh's skillful adaptation of Shakespeare's *Henry V* (which rivaled mentor Laurence Olivier's equally impressive directorial film debut) comes *Dead Again*, a gem which confirms that Branagh is indeed a major talent whose courage and versatility are beyond reproach.

*Dead Again* is an ambitious film which intertwines a contemporary mystery involving a paranoid amnesiac and a 1940's murder done to period noir standards. Through the techniques of hypnagogically induced flashbacks and dreams, the black and white story is woven successfully into the present to reincarnate the intensely lethal romance of Roman and Margaret Strauss into their modern counterparts "Grace" and private investigator, Mike Church. Both couples in the respective episodes are played with conviction by the chameleon-like couple of Branagh and Emma Thompson. As the events in the present begin more closely to mimic those of the past, fate promises to rekindle the fatal relationship which Roman, on the dawn of his execution, declares "far from over."

Though apparently grimnicky and suspiciously convenient, *Dead Again* withstands any such scrutiny due to its self-awareness that it exists exclusively within the realm of cinema. Laden with irony, plot twists, and coincidence, Scott Frank’s script creates an ideal movie-scape, the perfect atmosphere in which a suspenseful mystery can unfold. Furthermore, by acknowledging itself as a movie, *Dead Again* grants itself the liberty of self-conditioning. For example, as reconstructed subjective memories are transformed into objective stylized glances at a period film noir, Branagh explores deceptive qualities of cinema, showing how film influences memory perception.

As a director, Branagh is not afraid to experiment. More often than not, his gambles yield a hearty return. He handles the intricate complexities of a challenging script with a skill and exuberance much like that of a young Orson Welles. Such comparisons to Welles (though admittedly tiresome) are actually invited. Mike Church’s visit to the aged and decrepit journalist, Gray Baker, played by Andy Garcia is clearly influenced by the scene from *Citizen Kane* in which the reporter Thompson visits Jedediah Leland (Joseph Cotten) also in a rest home, also suffering from tobacco withdrawl, and also determined to burn a smoke from his curious interviewer. Shadows of Hitchcock ominously loom over the film as well. From the Gothic mansion, complete with an overbearing maid to compete with a young wife, the product of a whirlwind romance, a la Rebecca, teases of a mother/son relationship similar to that of the disturbed Norman Bates, it is clear that the master’s influence is present.

Surprisingly, Branagh never allows himself to become overshadowed by these titans. Because he consciously contrives his allusions, his direction remains always controlled. By inviting comparisons to such great directors as Welles and Hitchcock, Branagh reinforces the themes of reincarnation which drive this film. By resurrecting the styles of legendary directors, Branagh continues to thrust ghosts from the past into the present. While paying homage to his obvious influences, he demands that his own style be recognized and he challenges his audience to accept his work not only by contemporary standards, but against works which have survived the test of time. Whether *Dead Again* will survive such a test remains to be seen. Nevertheless, it embodies aesthetic criteria which define good cinema. Branagh’s competent ability to control the difficult technical and theoretical issues of history and memory, of illusion and reality, and their integral relationship to cinema, make *Dead Again* a rare treat not to be overlooked.

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A Field Trip away from disco and heavy metal

by Greg Giacco

Field Trip seems intent on misleading the public into thinking that they are a heavy metal band. Their latest album, "Round (Like a Record)", is a cover of Dead or Alive's disco hit. This version has none of the synthesized smoothness of the original dance version. It has the "grunge factor" that many people are looking towards for solace in this era of smooth technopop.

Other tracks have similar attempts at rebelliousness, but none match the "in your face" rock-and-roll of Guns N' Roses or Faith No More, and they certainly don't come close to the metal sounds of Metallicas or Testament. One song, "Ugly", is the boundary of puerility and might even cross the line. However, tracks like "Second Cousin", a song about hillbilly marriage, do have that spark of shock and silliness which can be found in many Faith No More and GNR tunes.

"Second Cousin" may be a humorous song, but it does show some of the band's country roots. No, this isn't a banjo picking, shit kickin', country album, but there are definite country overtones. These overtones show up in the whiny drawl in lead singer, Jim Galbraith's voice, and the guitar-oriented sound on such songs as "Nothing Better To Do" and "Come Along."

Overall, the album is characteristic of the return to rock after the trip through technopop. Other alternative bands, such as Soul Asylum, are trying to take the same road. But I will give Field Trip credit for being one of the better bands in this genre.
Another View

Joel knows blue cheese

by Joel Tomson

(Edward's Note: I am in his never ending quest for the ultimate blue cheese dressing, our tasting reporter found himself in the Pacific Northwest.)

As I gazed out of my plane window and caught my first glimpse of Mount Rainier, I knew it was an omen of things to come. It reminded me of the pined high creek salad at the Seafood Pavilion drenched with what I will call "blue cheese" dressing.

My first stop, Seattle, was a tantalizing whirlwind of king crab, gin and tonics, and, of course, salad with blue cheese dressing - eaten atop the world famous Space Needle. Although the dressing was mediocre, the view was spectacular. The restaurant can still rate three stars on the Tomson Scale of Blue Cheese Restaurants.

After a close-up and rather humbling view of Mr. Rainier, my driver headed inland over the Cascade Mountains. I should, perhaps, take a few lines to talk about my driver and tour guide (I promised him his name would appear in my column). Gary Federick is rather personable with a good thumb-nail knowledge of his area, although his driving skills are not the greatest in the world. Still, he managed to give me a tour of small towns with quaint names like Hoquiam, Snohomish, Yakima, Fukanawa, and Cre Ehn.

It was in the old and rather run-down town of Cre Ehn that I found a restaurant which rates my rarely given Crumbled Cheese Award. In Mama Vallone's restaurant you will find excellent Italian cuisine and salads with to-die-for blue cheese dressing. They make their dressing in - believe it or not - an old converted shack located behind the restaurant. Imported cheese and extra virgin olive oil go into a dressing that glides down the throat and sends you to heaven. Finally, the crowing glory of Mama Vallone's is her special recipe cheesecake made with - you guessed it - a hint of blue cheese. Another specialty dessert of the house worth nothing to share chocolate mousse made with a special ingredient (real moose fat) found only in a little town called Roslyn, just a few short miles away.

After a refreshing night at Bobbi's Bed & Breakfast, fortified by the specialty of the house, her breakfast casserole, my guide and I headed south to what is known to natives as "the Gorge." Actually, it is the Columbia River. We stopped at dam after dam and watched the fish struggle upstream, by the time I reached Portland visions of poached salmon filled my mind... ...And my stomach at a place called Rone's. It was a good thing the salmon was excellent since the blue cheese was a disappointment. A rather bland atmosphere, too-thick matzo ball soup and weak gin and tonics could not save the more than excellent desserts offered by this bistro.

My final night in the Pacific Northwest was spent at a bar called VQ. The prime rib is superb, the blue cheese dressing above average. But if you expect a quiet dinner in a calm atmosphere this is not the place to be. Tall ceilings and bare brick walls amplify the sound, and if the table next to you is having a good time, be sure to bring your ear plugs!

The Beer Column

Before we start this week's Beer Column, we'd like to make a final recommendation about Spaten. NEVER drink more than six. Especially on a weekday. It's too killer, we were wasted. But then again, we did drink 9 a piece, in under an hour. And Spaten is 6.6% alcohol.

But this week, to prove our dedication to you and to show that we never learn, we're again trying three beers. We also thought that we'd present a combination of our ongoing quest for the best, rather than a discussion. Your letters so far have been good, tell us what you think of this.

Proof of our ongoing quest to bring you beers from strange and exotic places; our first is from that popular vacation hideaway - Albany, NY! And the beer is appropriately named Albany Amber. We weren't expecting much, and were first surprised by the positively dark color and even more surprised by the taste. It's a good solid beer, with a hint of that Old World sweetness. And it's really not very expensive (roughly six a 6) when compared to similar quality beers that have a bigger name. Overall, it's a high quality Amber beer, no weird foreign aftertaste, nothing pretentious (they couldn't be, they're from Albany, they have nothing to be pretentious about). A good American beer.

As we continued our search across the globe, we stopped at Saranac Lake (we ran outa gas). Funny thing is, they make beer in Saranac, too. So we, in our self-destructive dedication to you, were forced to drink some (as though you didn't already jump out the window with the stuff).

Our second beer is Saranac Lager. I already bought a case. It's a bit more gearl and mellow than most light beers, and its after-taste, while not noteworthy, makes it easy going down. Well, somehow we didn't get past NY state, and maybe it's not surprising. But it's also not surprising that all 3 beers have similarities in taste. Anyway, we're now closer to the airport, so next week, who knows where we'll be?

For the beer fan, there is an ongoing quest to bring you beers from strange and exotic places; this week we were in Saranac Lake and Albany. For the beer fan, there is an ongoing quest for the best.

RATING SYSTEM BASED ON NUMBER OF SIX PACKS, BETWEEN 1 AND 4, THAT FINNEGAN AND PHANTOM WOULD BUY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beer</th>
<th>Albany Amber</th>
<th>Saranac Lager</th>
<th>Montauk Light</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Phantom</td>
<td>2.5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Finnegan</td>
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Saranac & Montauk Lager

Cafe Night:

AGGRESSIVE FOLK ROCK. YEAH!

Ed Hammel
Fri. Nov. 1
10PM

Show Bard I.D.
No Cover

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Beverage way

12 oz. cases $1.99 -6 pack

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Natural Light $1.69 -6 pk.

Corona or Pacifico $4.99 -6 pack

Hoslon Golden 12 oz. cans or bottles $12.99 -case

Bartles & Jaymes $2.79 -4 pack

Proof of sale this week is Pacifico Clara. This is one of the greatest Lagers in the World. I already bought a case. Say more? Niaah.

A page of unedited observations from guest writers.
Soccer woes come to close, volleyball on a journey to tourney

by Matt Apple

The Bard men's soccer team got their 1-12 record the old-fashioned way: they earned it. With the loss of two key starters, Coach Joel Tomson was forced to field players who had never played intercollegiate soccer before. "We've suffered a lot of problems this year," Tomson affirmed. "I've got nothing against them [young players], and I appreciate their willingness to play, but they aren't extremely skillful or fast yet." Adding to that, the more experienced players failed to attend practices and even games in several cases. When they did show, the veterans played as individuals, not as a team. "The better players have to stop thinking they can do it themselves," said Tomson. "We can't win on individual talent. Sometimes you have to sacrifice individuality for team unity." Tomson was pleased by the Blazer's performance against Bloomfield College last week; although they lost 4-0, they played like a team. This Saturday's game against the King's College team will be Tomson's last game as interim-coach, a decision made before the season began. "They're just not getting the time they need from me…I've just got too much going on," Tomson said. The King's College ranked in the top ten in the NAIA National Ranking, but for Tomson, if the Blazer play like a team, it will be a win in his book.

With an overall record of 12 wins and 9 losses, the women's volleyball team is the only Blazer team with a winning record, a record that they take into Thursday's match against NY Poly Tech of Farmingdale. As a result of defeating St. Thomas Aquinas College, the first time in the history of Bard College a varsity team has defeated STAC in any sport, Bard has been crowned co-champions of the CACC and won a second seed berth in the upcoming tournament at Bard.

Tournament play will be divided into two "pools" of teams, each team playing against all the others in its pool. The top two teams in each pool will qualify for the semi-finals, and the final two teams will play a best-of-five match to determine who will play the University of New England and November 9th for a spot in the NAIA Nationals in Hays, Kansas, during the first week of December. Coach Kris Hall expects the Blazers to play very competitively and anticipates a final match against Nyack, who narrowly defeated the Blazers earlier in the year.

Two women's teams finished their seasons last week. After losing to Western Connecticut, in which they won one single and one doubles match, the women's tennis team was blanked by a powerful Marist team. Despite an overall record of 2 and 7, the women's tennis team completed a strong comeback year as District 31 Champions. Women's soccer finished their season with a tough loss to Manhattanville 1-0. After this injury-laden year, the young soccer team is looking forward to rebuilding for next fall.

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Alumni for Leon
Dear Editor:

I refer to Mr. Preston's letter ("Observer", October 2, 1991) suggesting that President Botstein should resign, because of the matter of Prof. Nackenoff's tenure. This is preposterous! Prof. Nackenoff's services to Bard are legion, and he has rightly brought high repute to Bard and to him. As a long-term alumnus, very active in the Alumni/ae Association, I have known Prof. Botstein since he first came to Bard, and many other Bard presidents before him. His record has been exemplary; if he were to leave, Bard would suffer an enormous loss. In fairness to Prof. Nackenoff, I must say that I do not know her or her record. The quality of the support that she has received is impressive — but Prof. Botstein is even more so. I hope that the issue of her reappointment will soon be resolved, with a minimum of injury to her, to Prof. Botstein and to the Bard community.

Very truly yours,
Richard F. Koch '40

Andy on Thomas
Dear Editor:

If the end result of the Senate confirmation of Judge Thomas is the effect his decisions will have on us all — the human race — by making it not only administration policy but the law of the land, to take away a woman's choice to terminate a pregnancy, then it will ultimately be said that these recent hearings have failed to confront if not "lynch" that which has reached the withholding of funds for the agencies for national and, more important, world wide health control.

The tragedies of the environmental disasters and human suffering caused by the multiplicity of the billions who people the world so far transcend one man's reputation and his placement in a job for life or the credibility of Professor Hill that they make last week's "show" a pathetic and in relevant enactment of childish squabbles.

Andy Wing

Dear Mr. President:

Some of you may remember the Dear Mr. President feature we had during the Gulf war. It was supposed to last longer, but then again, so was the war. We decided to bring it back since our chief executive could use our advice and dissent on all of his choices in both war and peace time. Remember, a copy of each Observer gets sent to the White House so there is a possibility that he, or one of his aids, may read it. Of course, he may also use it to train Millie, the White House spaniel.

I'm sure that you're not worried about foreign policy right now. You seem to have been doing everything right so far. After all, communism is dead and we might as well start calling the Soviet Union "America East". However, we really need a new Evil Empire to start hating again.

The Russians might have been bad while they were there but it kept our minds off of things like global warming and keeping the liberals from trying to have even more government influence on our lives. If socialized medicine or communism is wiped out, we would have an empty space in the world. When the Chinese, Italy has a history of ripping off American tourists, and we would do well to show them how much we can boot kick their bums out of NATO and making them the new evil empire. They even have the biggest Communist party in all of Europe. However, the Pope lives in Italy, and he might be able to win God over to his side. Let's face it, "Star Wars" defense plans could do little harm against the Guy who invented stars.

You seem to have taken a tougher stance on Israel lately, but they probably won't make a good evil empire. I realize they have a few spots on their human rights' record, but they also have two overwhelming powers in their favor: 1) God and 2) the pro-Israeli lobby in Congress.

Cuba seems like a good candidate. They are still communist, so we wouldn't have to make any ideological transitions. And those guys are tough in combat, too. However, the state department doesn't officially recognize them.

We really can't be best enemies with a country that our state department thinks is just a very hard piece of ocean.

Japan would be nice because they have already declared war on our economy, and the media keeps telling us how stupid we are compared to them. But it might not be advisable to get into a cold war situation with someone who could win. We only beat them in WWII because we had the bomb. Not only do they probably have one now, but it'd be cheaper, work better and get better mileage.

How about the Chinese government? They're still commies. They have the Bomb. The PLA can sure beat the hell out of a squad full of unarmed teenagers. They can even beat us in many Olympic sports, just like the Russians used to.

The only problem there is that you still favor the Chinese government, Mr. Bush. If Gorbachev had shot down a bunch of school kids and then sent the survivors to prison camps, we would have sent back all his vodka and cut off Pepsi supplies in a flash. Why, we might even have boycotted the Olympic games under a real conservative like Carter. But you, Mr. Sissy-Who- Went-To-Yale, you give Deng Xiao Peng most favored nation trading status. Maybe if he had machine-gunned a few infants you would have thrown in some agricultural subsidies too.

Well, maybe a new Evil Empire is a bad idea. After all, we read about how American kids can't find the Pacific ocean on a map, how could they find a new Evil Empire?

Unfortunately yours,
Gregory J. Giaccio

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 unsound 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 lightly. 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. Classified Ads for E-Back issues, $5 for all others. Persons are free. Display classifieds: $3.00 for local, $10.00 for national.

Display ads: contact the Ad Manager.
Math/Physics Talk:
The second Math/Physics Cookie, Tea and Talk will be held on Wednesday, October 30 at 6:00 PM in Hegeman 102. Professor Matthew Deady will give a talk about the work of Pierre-Gilles de Gennes and Richard Ernst, for which they were awarded the 1991 Nobel Prize in Physics and in Chemistry. Cookies and liquid refreshment will be served at 3:45. All are welcome.

French Film:
Les Cousins by Claude Chabrol (1958) will be shown in French with English subtitles on Thursday, October 31 at 6:00 PM in Olin 301.

French Immersion Program:
All students interested in the immersion program in French offered next semester are invited to a meeting Thursday, October 31 at 5:00 PM in Olin 301.

French Table:
Anyone interested in speaking French is invited to a French table in the College Room of Kline Commons on Wednesdays from 5:00 to 6:00 PM.

Beginning/Stroke Improvement Swim Class:
Anyone interested in registering for a free, non-credit, Beginners/Stroke Improvement Swim Class contact Carla Davis at ext. 526 (Stevenson Pool). Class size is limited to 10, and you must pre-register. The class will begin on November 4 and run through December 13, 1991, Mondays and/or Fridays, 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM.

Photography Department Lecture:
On Thursday, November 7 at 8:00 PM, Photographer Lorie Novak will speak about her work in Olin 102 (Art History Room).

German Films:
On 10/23 at 7:30 pm, Germany, Pale Mother and on 11/6 at 7:30 pm, Farewell To Yesterday. Both films are in German with English subtitles. In Olin 102.

Conference On Fighting Anti-Semitism:
On November 8-10, the Jewish Students Organization is travelling down to Philadelphia to attend a conference called "Calling it on: A National Conference Organizing against anti-semitism and racism for Jewish activists and college students." The sponsor is New Jewish Agenda, a progressive, national Jewish political organization. The cost for students is $60, which includes two meals, and we will arrange housing and transportation for you. Financial aid is available. Jews and non-Jews are invited to attend. For more information or to register, contact Rabbi Jonathan Kligler, Hopson 2.

Anthropology Lecture:
Sponsored by the Anthropology Department, Anthropology Club, and the Community, Regional, and Environmental Studies Program. Tuesday, November 12, in Olin 102 at 7:30 PM. Ecological Archaeology in Eastern New York by Dr. Robert Funk, New York State archaeologist, will include a slide presentation on prehistoric Native American sites in wetlands, caves, islands, and floodplains, using geology, paleoecology, and other biological sciences, from the perspective on cultural evolutionary ecological theory.

Tewbini Poetry Room:
Olin Room 101 will be open on Mondays from 3 to 5 P.M. and on Thursdays from 7 to 9 p.m. Anyone who would like to listen to readings of poetry is welcome.

New Campus Publication:
There is a new publication on campus called Caecophony. It is the effort of a group of women to create a forum for exhibition and discussion of women's work and ideas. Please direct all submissions and queries to campus mail box 851 by November 1.

The Weekly Community Information Newsletter is brought to you by the Dean of Students.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Oct. 31 to Nov. 6, 1991

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<th>THURSDAY</th>
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The Odyssey and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image, At BLUM through March 1, 1992.