Are humans changing their environment too much?

by Caleb Frazier

The latest speaker in the Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series was the ecologist Gene E. Likens, who gave a lecture Saturday on human-accelerated environmental change. Likens holds faculty positions at Yale University, Cornell and Rutgers and is also the Director of the Institute of Ecosystem Studies. He is best known, however, for his discovery of acid rain in North America. He began his lecture by commenting that human-effects on our ecosystem "affect not only our welfare but our survival as well." His lecture was structured so as to address individually the eight components which combine to create a change in our environment: rapid human population growth, global climate change, stratospheric ozone depletion, massive land-use change, toxification of biosphere, invasion of exotic species, widespread loss of biotic diversity.

Rapid Human Population Growth
Likens began by noting that "the human population has increased by about three billion people since [he] was born." He went on to say that in another thirty-five to fifty years the population is expected to double or even triple. This... continued on page 3
Planned Parenthood President calls for action

Bard students asked to "Zap the gag rule"

by Michael Poirer

Monday evening, November 10, Alexander C. Sanger, president and chief executive officer of Planned Parenthood of New York City, spoke about "The Incredible Shrinking Woman's Right to Choose" upon invitation from the Bard Coalition For Choice. Having previously spoken at other colleges, including Smith and Vassar, as well as at regional Planned Parenthood groups, he urged his audience to contact politicians to prevent President Bush from vetoing federal legislation which would overturn the "gag rule.

The "gag rule" forces federally funded planning clinic counselors to ask about abortion, to say that "abortion is not an appropri

"We have been relying on the courts to protect our rights but now what do we do about David Souter and Clarence Thomas?"

--Alex Sanger, Pres. of NYC Planned Parenthood

Is there a gender imbalance at Bard?

by Greg Giacco

The college is currently being investigated by the EEOC (Equal Employment Opportunities Commission) for charges of gender discrimination regarding Professor Carol Nackenoff's tenure decision. Recent correspondence in the Observer concerning charges of sexual discrimination seems to indicate that Bard College might not be a comfortable place for women faculty. These charges compelled Dean Stuart Levine to compile a set of statistics to show just what the gender balance is at Bard. When Leon Botstein became president in 1974, there were 80 professors, 20 of whom were female. Currently, Bard has 135 professors, not counting visiting or temporary faculty, 48 of whom are female. That means that 36% of our faculty is female. According to a recent Carnegie Foundation report, women make up 51% of the college instructors nation wide.

When asked about this imbalance, Levine said, "It takes a while to do it [rectify the imbalance]. It is simply not easy to accomplish." The statistics seem to show that there has been an effort to correct the gender imbalance. In the last five years, 27 people have been hired to fill tenure track positions (i.e. eventually be eligible for tenure), 19 of whom were women. However, Bard has a better record of tenureing women than the national average. According to the Carnegie report, only 13% of the full professors nationwide are women, a 3% increase since 1974. At Bard, however, 19% of the tenured faculty are women, compared to 9% when Leon Botstein first arrived.

"Statistics are only part of the story," said Professor Nackenoff. She said that the EEOC hearing will take into account personal testimony as well as statistical data.

Chaplain Bruce Chilton said that he has heard anecdotal evidence of a kind of unconscious sexism at Bard. As a divisional chair, he encountered more complaints from women in regard to being taken seriously, getting along with other members of the faculty, and coordinating their careers with their families leading him to believe that "women at Bard experience a period of adjustment that men don't.

Professor Nackenoff said that she had heard a women faculty member use the term "boys' club" to describe Bard. However, most professors questioned did not seem to think that Bard is any worse than other institutions, it is only less apparent at larger universities.

Chemistry professor Simeen Satar said that she had no personal experience feeling uncomfortable as a woman among the faculty here. She also said that she was happy with the number of female students in the science division, a field usually dominated by men in other institutions.

What the numbers say:

- Women professors currently at Bard: 36% (48)
- Tenured female professors at Bard: 19% (10)
- Tenured female professors at Bard in 1974: 9% (4)
- Professors granted tenure at Bard since 1974: 28
- Women denied tenure at Bard by president: 3
- Men denied tenure at Bard by president: 9

Statistics courtesy of Stuart Levine and Carnegie Foundation

Coalition sponsors rally

The Bard College Coalition for Choice today announces a rally. The rally, in opposition to the nomination of Michael Kavanagh to district court, will be held at the Ulster County Courthouse Saturday, November 23 at 2:00 p.m. Kavanagh has been nominated by Senator Al D'Amato to serve as judge in the Northern District of New York State.

The Bard College Coalition for Choice strongly opposes this nomination. Kavanagh's prosecution record as Ulster County District Attorney demonstrates a disturbing tendency to ignore the claims of minorities, women, and homosexuals in cases of police brutality, rape, and other violence. Not only does he ignore these claims but by making statements like, "If rape is inevitable, relax and enjoy it." and referring to a victim as a "fag," he proves his incredible ignorance and intolerance.

Coalition member Renee Cramer, a sophomore political studies major from South Dakota says, "This nomination is just another example of the current administration's attempt to extend control of the federal judiciary.

Other groups against the Kavanagh nomination are the Ulster County NAACP, Ulster County NOW, New Paltz Concerned Parents, Mid-Hudson Action League Parents Association, and the Ulster County Rainbow Coalition.

Another Coalition, Sally Mohrman, a freshman from Johnson, Vermont sees this nomination as, "a threat to women's reproductive freedom and to the basic civil right of equality before the law regardless of race, gender, or sexual preference."

This rally will be co-sponsored by the New Yorkers for Judicial Integrity and Justice.
AIDS lecture

On Sunday, November 24 at 3:00pm in Olin 102, Elena Schelsky-Fitch will give a lecture entitled "When AIDS Comes Home." Schelsky-Fitch, who is a nurse case manager at the Children's Hospital AIDS Program in Newark, New Jersey, will speak about her experiences with children and families affected by AIDS. She will also address psychological issues and social stigmas surrounding the epidemic.
A short lived, but loved, laugh with "Line"

by Jean C. Breton

"Line", a play written by Israel Horovitz and directed by Bard student Sarah L. Smith, was performed at the Bard Theatre on November 16-18th. It was a humorous play about competing for first place in a line. It also delved into the personalities of the characters who were waiting in line.

The play centered around five people, all of whom were waiting in line for different reasons. Fleming (played by Matthew ICEW Gillman) was presumably there for a baseball game, as he had brought chips and beer, and was singing "Take me out to the ballgame." Stephen (played by Aaron English) was a Mozart lover who had been insulted by his family and was in line just to be first for one last time. Molly (played by Jamie Zolemeyer) was a sluttish married woman who wound up having sex with everyone in the line merely to distract the others and end up in first place. Earl Sheehy played Dolan, who spoke to whomever was behind him on the tactics of waiting in line and getting to be first. Finally, there was Arnall (played by Merry Fleming), Molly's husband, who had come to watch a movie, and ended up contemplating his miserable marriage while watching his wife sex with strangers.

All in all the play was funny because of the way the characters interacted. Early in the play, Stephen offers his wallet to Fleming, asking if he would like to read it. Stephen's monologue about how nice it would be "if everyone would just pass their wallets around" so that everyone would be acquainted with each other and no one would be a stranger was amusing in itself. It progressed to him reading his wallet to Fleming and singing business cards, etc. which was darn funny, but soon elevated to hilarious status as Stephen, not having been introduced to Fleming, called him by his name. "How do you know my name?!" Fleming cries out as each newcomer addresses him. Stephen claimed to have read his wallet which Fleming had never given him. Fleming then whirled across the stage in frustration with his name printed clearly across the back of his t-shirt, causing the audience to break into whoops and howls of unrestrained hilarity.

There were many funny segments in this play. Like when Stephen decides the line is facing the wrong way and steps back to first on the other side after everyone falls for his trick. All in all, it was most enjoyable. The play was fresh and interesting, being made up entirely of underclass-students. The set consisted of nothing but a piece of tape placed on the floor to represent the line's start; thus there was nothing to distract the audience from the characters and the action of the play.

There were angry tones and occasional disappointment. There was even some play on emotion as characters spoke of their lives outside the line. And, no one was left a loser in last, or even in second place, because in the end, each character has a piece of the line with which he or she may choose his or her own line and befirst. The audience gets to laugh all through the play from beginning to end. It was a short lived play (as it was only performed for 3 days), but an amusing one that brought comedy briefly into the lives of whomever had chance to see it, before thrust back into the cold dark chaos of reality, where all that awaits us is glumness, torture, and anguish.

Passions run low in slyly funny "Playing with Fire"

by Matthew Gillman

"Playing With Fire", the first of the two plays performed this past weekend at the Bard Theatre, is a gentle satire of polite society and a strong comedy of manners. Written by August Strindberg, the play takes place during a short span of time before breakfast in the home of a somewhat well-to-do man, who shares living space with his son and his son's wife. The main focus of the play is the conflict caused when a young man, a friend of the couple, becomes enamored of the wife.

That is the main focus of the play, but it is not what the play is about. The play itself is actually a deceptively wise comedy which examines the polite games that well-off members of society were forced into near the turn of the century. The young couple are exceedingly charming and careful about what they say to and about their young friend. The husband, Newt, played extremely well by Earl Sheehy, is an artist who can't seem to sell any of his paintings. His father has agreed to let him and his wife, Kersten, live with him in his grand house and gardens. Kersten is exquisitely polite and proper, and Newt enjoys being slightly improper merely to rile her. The young man, Axel, is also most polite and friendly, but seems to have some passion in him. Whatever passions the men in the play seem to have, the "outrigger" for their passions is the cousin who stays in the house with them, Adelle. Adelle is very sure of herself and of everyone else in the house, and sets no reason to try to change anything.

When it is revealed that Axel and Kersten have "feelings" for each other, neither of them seem quite sure how to respond. The emotions the characters feel are quite beyond them. Kersten reacts neutrally, quelling her pain it civilly, and without anger: without emotion. He has nothing to fear and he knows it. When he offers to "withdraw" provided that Axel marries Kersten, Axel visibly hesitates, and later literally runs from the house in terror. Newt is satisfied with himself for understanding the empty passion of the young man, but all the while he ignores Kersten's sobbing and pain. It is beyond him. When it comes down to it, the men who claim to love Kersten simply don't care.

The piece itself was visually pleasing and extremely well directed. Karen Fernandez, directing in partial fulfillment of her Senior Project, did wonders with the limited space provided and made use of the stage space extremely well. Nancy Jones played Kersten with just the right balance of poiselessness and need for emotion. Jason McKay did exceptionally well in a double role, both as Axel and as Newt's father. Meredith Clines played Adelle skillfully with strong savviness and sharpness of wit, and there was a very strong debut performance by Robin Jacobs as Newt's nosy, suspicious mother. Although not overpowering, "Playing With Fire" was well done all around, and made for a most enjoyable performance.
Another View

The future of custodial services at Bard College

By Olivier te Boekhorst, Chairperson of the Student Life Committee

In the week of November 4, the Student Life Committee met with the representatives of both Bard's custodial services,ISS (Institutional Service Systems), and Servicemaster, to consider the future of custodial services at Bard College. The Student Life Committee is concerned about the quality of cleaning provided by both companies and the cost of maintaining the current custodial staff. They are considering alternative options for custodial services.

The Student Life Committee is concerned about the quality of cleaning provided by both companies. They are considering alternative options for custodial services, including subcontracting with Servicemaster,ISS, or third-party services. The Committee is interested in finding a solution that ensures the cleanliness of the college and maintains the current custodial staff.

The beer column

Well, Phantom left Vienna early as expected. I think that he went to Amsterdam. My mind is kind of in a haze—same place it's been for years. Right now, I'm wrapping up my side trip to Poland. A pal of mine lives here now (Why? I can't imagine), so I came to visit for a few days.

In between vodka boutons, something that they do very well in Poland, comes the beer, which is something that they don't do very well. It is used as a kind of cushion for the vodka. I find it kind of humorous that the big beer in Krakow is Krakus, which probably means beer of place near Krakow if it's made in Lyowiec or something). Those wacky Poles. They even have, among the other 250+ political parties, a Polish Beer Lover's Party.

Anyway, Krakus is a strong beer, with a very strange taste. The color is a little dark, really a gold-amber, and there is no smell.

He knew that I was out (anyone?) drinking last night—what else would I be doing? They do have this great beer here, Royal Brand. It's a light colored beer with a flavor that's not particularly strong, but very distinctive and pleasant. The aftertaste is quite mild. Overall, it's a really easy beer to drink, which is probably why it's the perfect beer for any college that wants so much right now.

Beverage way supermarket of beer and soda

Budweiser

Royal Brand

Krakus

Phantom

Finnegan

Brand

12 pack

6 pack

6 pack

3 pack

2 bottles

12 pack

6 pack

6 pack

6 pack

$5.99

$12.99

$12.99

$19.99

$7.99

$7.99

A page of unedited observations from guest writers
Lithuania overpowers U.S.

in basketball

by Matt Apple

An unusually large crowd turned out last Wednesday night at the Stevenson Gymnasium to see if the prediction was true: would the Lithuanian All-Stars "...wipe the floor..." with the NAIA All-Stars? The fans quickly found out that would not be the case, as the All-Stars jumped ahead quickly, the only Bard player on the team, Sean Alford, scoring the first basket of the game. The All-Stars retained a slim margin of 1-point for the majority of the first half, though early in the game both teams were plagued by ball handling problems and were extremely disorganized. Even a tremendous slam by Vaidas Jurgilas, bringing a loud shout from the Lithuanian fans and a flag-waving student, was missed a chance with five minutes left to increase their lead on a technical foul, making only one out of four shots, and the National team's eight in the two matches. The men's fencing team started the second half like they began the game, taking back the lead with a fantastic play. On a fast break, Rason Jacobs attempted to make a layup and was pushed to the floor by one of the Nationals as he shot the ball. Ryan Oliver, running right behind Jacobs, grabbed the ball and took it to the basket and jammed it home, bringing the home crowd to its feet. With the addition of a foul shot, the three-point play gave the All-Stars their lead of the game, 43-41.

The Nationals finally got into action and showed the crowd why three of their members deserved to be on the 1988 Olympic Gold Medal basketball team. Within a minute after the All-Stars recaptured the lead, the Nationals took the lead 31 to 30 with a three-point shot, the Nationals ended the half with a tenacious lead of 40 to 37.

The All-Stars started the second half with Adolphas Mekas, failing to boost the Nationals, whose travelling penalties and missed field goals left them behind 23 to 18. With the half with a tremendous slam by Vaidas Jurgilas, bringing a loud shout from the Lithuanian fans and a flag-waving student, was missed a chance with five minutes left to increase their lead on a technical foul, making only one out of four shots, and the National team's eight in the two matches. The men's fencing team started the second half like they began the game, taking back the lead with a fantastic play. On a fast break, Rason Jacobs attempted to make a layup and was pushed to the floor by one of the Nationals as he shot the ball. Ryan Oliver, running right behind Jacobs, grabbed the ball and took it to the basket and jammed it home, bringing the home crowd to its feet. With the addition of a foul shot, the three-point play gave the All-Stars their lead of the game, 43-41.

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Inferences are important

Dear Editor,

One day during 1983, my wife and I were sitting at a lunch counter in Richmond, Virginia. While we were there, several customers came, ordered, ate, and went. But a black woman who sat a few stools away from us was not served, despite her efforts to get the attention of the waitress. Eventually, the woman left the drugstore, and we saw her waiting outside for a bus.

My wife and I drew the inference that racism was at work in the scene that we witnessed. We could not demonstrate that the racism we postulated was a "fact," because we were in no position to judge the precise motives of the waiters. But the conclusion we came to was more than an opinion, because it constituted a shared, comprehensive, and compelling explanation of what we saw, not just a possible way of looking at things.

Professor John Fout in his article two weeks ago carefully explained how judgments concerning sexism are matters of inference. Unless such inferences are given their due recognition in public discourse, our society will continually find victims of delusions of superiority, black, female, poor, or whatever. Some of your correspondents do not appear to appreciate the power and the responsibilities inherent in the inferences we draw.

Yours sincerely,

Bruce Chilton

Play critic criticized

Dear Editor,

It was with great disappointment that I read Ms. Breton's review of "Aunt Jan and Lemon" in your newspaper dated November 13, 1991. The Bard Theatre certainly had no reason to expect such a distasteful review from the same person who showed her skill in reviewing "Sights and Sounds of the Mute, Deaf, and Invisible" (Oct. 30, 1991). While certainly Ms. Breton has the right to any and all opinions she may have, I would just like to clarify some of the information and refute some of the points she brought up in her article.

From the beginning of her article, those of us who saw the play realized that Ms. Breton missed the point. The play was NOT about misconceptions and the play was most certainly NOT about the Nazis. Yes, the play did contain references to the Nazis, and the Nazis were used as a single example, but to say that the play was about the Nazis was extremely misleading to those who had not attended any of the performances. Had Ms. Breton realized that the play was not supposed to be about lemon's views of the Nazis, perhaps her conceptual image of the production would have been different. There is simply no "Nazi theme" to the play, as Mr. Breton might lead one to believe.

There also appears to be some confusion over the "friends" whom Jan introduces to Lemon in her nightly talks. These people only exist in Lemon's memory; whether they in existence is unknown. The play is only hard to understand if one is unable to capture the explosive mentalities of both Mrs. Lemon and Mr. Lemon. It is unfortunate that Ms. Renner received poor marks for her role as Mrs. Lemon. Her continually changing role (as friend, lover, relative, confidante, etc.) had Ms. Breton run the gamut of emotions; her ability to act is certainly beyond a doubt. It also unfortunate that Ms. DiNatale received high praises for "always raising her voice at the significant part of the script." I am unaware of Ms. Renner's theatrical background, but her logic seems to be that if you talk loud when something important happens, you're a good actress. This line of reasoning is an insult to both Ms. DiNatale and the grease.

Finally, on some technical notes, I regret that Ms. Breton was annoyed by the length of the play without an intermission. Has our MTV society become so attention-span deficient that we can no longer wait more than 12 and a half minutes without becoming bored? The play was written that way by Wallace Shawn and was performed as it was written. The play was a significant prop as it was used continuously in a variety of active sequences. By disregarding it, an injustice is done to the play itself.

I look forward to Ms. Breton's next review and hope that it is more on par with her "Man" review than her current one. I believe that sometimes a reviewer must act as a detective, look at what is on the surface, and base a critique on what is seen or heard.

Sincerely,

Matt J. Lee

Book Reviewer reviewed

Dear Editor,

I was disturbed by several aspects of Jonathan Miller's latest book review on The Mambo Kings Play Songs of Love. The opening line, "...as white people haven't been able to write for shit" would be offensive if it were not so incorrect. Miller goes on to reduce modern literature to three white authors versus three non-white authors. Still more cavalierly, he says that Caucasian writers "turn out...plots, malignantly (fly) work while the rest of the world is busy producing masterpiece fiction." Oh, and his conclusion is that because of these Miller/Lemon's memory; pects of Jonathan Miller's latest letter to the Bard community.

Sincerely,

Matt J. Lee

Open letter lettered

Dear Editor,

After extracting last week's Bard Observer from my box, and reading (with great interest) President Bernstein's aptly titled article, I stumbled upon a contribution significantly titled, "Another open letter to the Bard community."

Since the metaphor piece adapted to its purpose was originally penned by myself, I thought I'd take the opportunity to comment on its topic, gossipping, as well as on "KL" and her rather eager use of generalizations. Here (with apologies to Rousseau) is what I have to say.

The first person who invented a label to apply to other people, and found someone stupid enough to believe the label and pass careless judgments by it, created gossip. And also racists, existists, lawyers, and a T.V. show called "Studs."

Tom Regner

I'll Give You What For!

Quote by Ephraim Glenn Corder

I'm on my way out of Klone, past Arvive, a friend reaches out to me, takes my hand, I say What? she says she has to talk to me, I say What? she says two of her friends talked to her last week and said they had it bad that she should get checked for it so she got checked and she had it (I'm thinking What the fuck?) and then she says she's telling everyone she's been intimate with to get checked (me) It comes out an uncreative What? She says, Headline at Bard? You bet your sweet naiveté! Thanks to all those die-hards who demanded and let it go out till the sun hour for such a worthy cause Saturday night Albert, Ian, AN103 LABO, Jen, Soren, everyone who donated especially everyone who contributed more than a dollar every organization who is still gathering ten dollar donations AND TO Pam who stayed out all night and treated me to breakfast at the 93 Diner.
BARD COLLEGE: NOV. 21-NOV. 27, 1991

WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION

French Film:
François Truffaut's *The Soft Skin* (1964) will be shown on video in Olin 301 on Thursday, November 21 at 6:00 PM.

MAC Fair/IBM Funday:
Apple Corp. and Businessland, Inc. will hold a Mac Fair in the College and Committee Rooms of Kline Commons on Tuesday, November 19th between 11:00 AM and 2:00 PM. IBM will hold an IBM Funday in the College and Committee Rooms between the same hours in the same place on Thursday, November 21.

Levy Lecture:
Restructuring the Financial Structure for Economic Growth: a conference of The Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, will take place November 21-22 at Blithewood. Faculty, Students & Staff are invited to attend. Pre-registration is necessary. For more information and registration, call ext. 448.

Dance Theatre IV:
Dance Theatre IV will be held on November 22, 23, 24 and 25 at 8:00 PM in the dance studio, Avery Arts Center on Rhinecliff Road. Senior and faculty work will be shown. No reservations necessary.

Piano Concert:
Pianist Svetlana Gorokhovich will perform a 65th birthday tribute to composer Meyer Kupferman. Three works by Kupferman, including two world premieres, and works by Mozart, Beethoven and Rachmaninoff. 8:00PM at Olin Auditorium.

New Germany Lecture:
Frank Mangelsdorf, journalist and political correspondent from the former GDR, will lecture on *The Wall of the Mind: The Situation in the Five New States. The German Democratic Republic before the Turning Point* and in the fall of 1989. Wednesday, December 4, 7:30 PM, Olin 205.

Town Poetry Room:
Olin Room 101 will be open on Mondays from 3 to 5 PM and on Thursdays from 7 to 9 PM. Anyone who would like to listen to recordings of poetry/reading is welcome.

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

New Blues Show:
"THE ODYSSEY and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image," which opened at Blum on October 6 will run until March 1, 1992. Services for Christian Students:
Sundays:
8:30 am: Eucharist Service, Bard Chapel
9:00 am: Van to St. John's Episcopal Church and St. Christopher's Catholic Church (most in Kline parking lot)
6:00 PM: Chapel Service

Thursdays:
7:00 pm: Singing and Worship
7:30 pm: Bible Study/Prayer Group (both in Bard Chapel Basement)

Thursday:
9:30 pm: Women's Bible Study/Prayer Group (Cruger Village, Stephens 101)

Transportation Schedule:
Friday: Rhinecliff: Meet at Kline at 8:00 pm for the 9:11 pm train

Poughkeepsie: Meet at Kline at 6:00 pm for the 7:15 pm train

Saturday: Hudson Valley Mall: Meet at Kline at 5:45 pm, returns at 9:05 pm

Sunday: Rhinecliff: Meet the 5:52, 7:17 and 10:21 pm trains

Poughkeepsie: Meet the 7:43 pm train

Church: 9:45 am to 12 noon (St. John's)

Train Schedule will change soon; please confirm the times you wish to leave with the Dean of Students office or B & G.

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

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### CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Nov. 21 to Nov. 27, 1991

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*The Odyssey and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image. At BLUM through March 1, 1992.*