

OBSERVER

Vol. 99 No. 12 November 20, 1991

Page 1	Are Humans Changing Their Environment Too Much? [Gene L. Likens] Caleb Frazier
Page 2	Planned Parenthood President Calls for Action Bard Students Asked to “Zap the Gag Rule” Michael Poirier Is There a Gender Imbalance at Bard? Greg Giaccio Coalition for Choice Sponsors Rally
Page 3	Veni, vidi, vici: Latin/Greek Intensive Planned
Page 4	A Short Lived, but Loved, Laugh with “Line” Jena C. Breton Passions Run Low in Slyly Funny “Playing With Fire” Matthew Gilman
Page 5	The Future of Custodial Services at Bard College Oliver te Boekhorst, Chairperson of the Student Life Committee The Beer Column
Page 6	Lithuania Overpowers U.S. Matt Apple Fencers Not Foiling Around Matt Apple Personals and Classifieds
Page 7	Inferences are Important Play Critic Criticized Matt J. Lee Book Reviewer Reviewed Tatiana Prowell Open Letter Lettered Tom Regner I’ll Give You What For! EphenGlennColter
Page 8	Calendar

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--Oscar Wilde

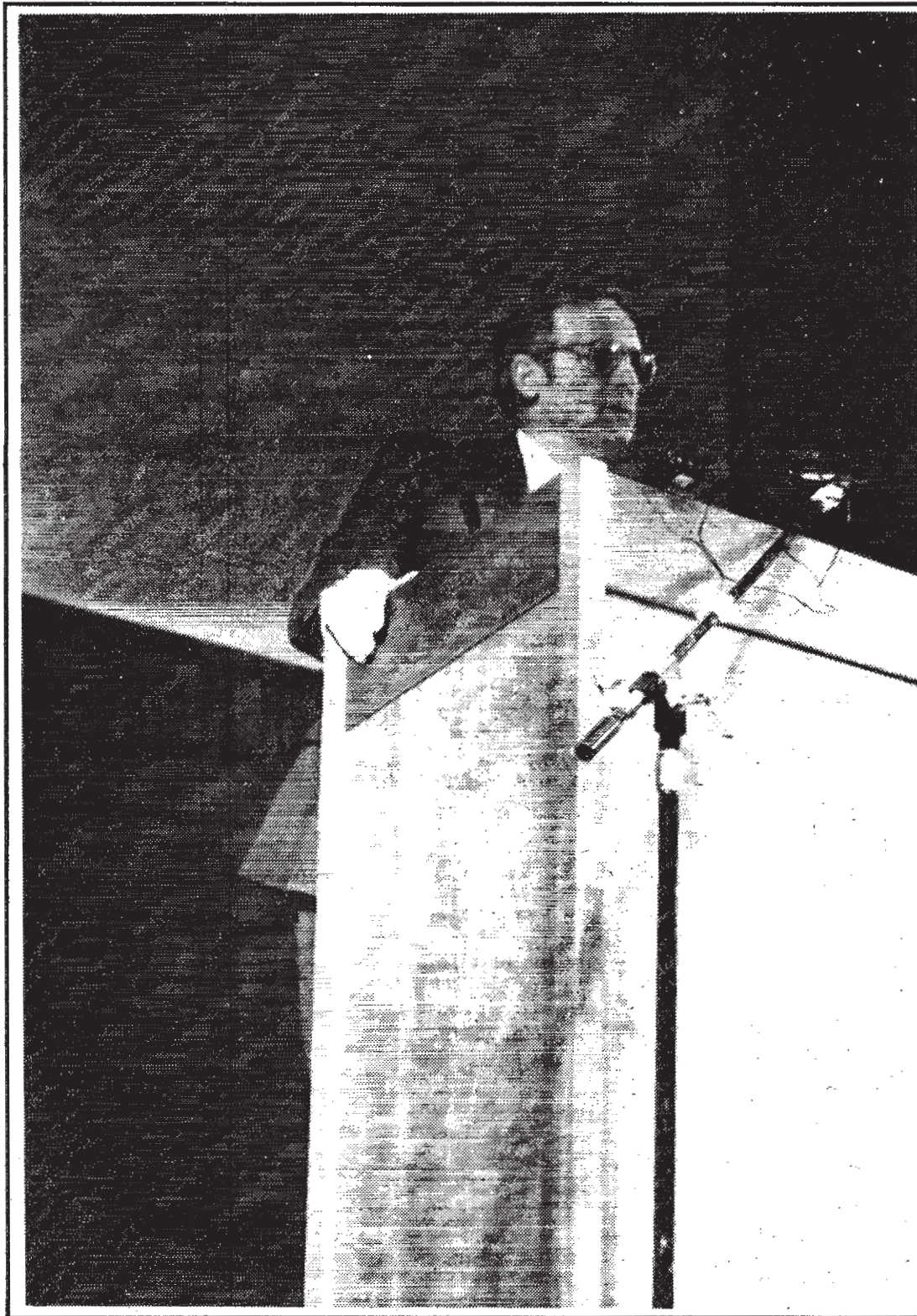
Volume 99, Number 12

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

November 20, 1991

Are humans changing their environment too much?

by Caleb Frazier



The latest speaker in the 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

Inside

Sexism...

...page 2

Play reviews...

...page 4

Custodians...

...page 5

Lithuanian B-ball...

...page 6

Gene E. Likens, Distinguished Scientist speaker, discussed the dangers of human accelerated environmental change.

Planned Parenthood President calls for action Bard students asked to "Zap the gag rule"

by Michael Poirier

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, if asked about abortion, to say that "abortion is not an appropriate method of family planning."

"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**

Clinics that do not comply with this law could lose federal sup-

port. Sanger represented the Planned Parenthood position, stating that this "gag rule" denies

freedom of speech.

One of the goals of his lecture was to motivate Bard students to

get in touch with politicians such as Bush, and Senators D'Amato and Moynihan. A bill has passed by both houses of Congress that would overturn the "gag rule." Bush has vetoed it but a margin of nine to fourteen senators is all that is needed to override the veto. As Sanger commented: "For all you political science majors, let me spare you the trouble—all politicians want is to be re-elected; they are not qualified to do anything else...we have more supporters."

Sanger explained that most countries that have had legalized abortion for decades have lower pregnancy and abortion rates than

we do in the United States. "We have been relying on the courts to protect our rights but now, what do we do about David Souter and Clarence Thomas," he argued, reinforcing his request for activism that would fight the probability that Roe vs. Wade will be overturned. He also responded to a question concerning the accusations that Planned Parenthood is merely an "abortion mill" by revealing that they helped two and a half million patients with contraceptive assistance, as opposed to assistance with a hundred and twenty thousand abortions last year.

Is there a gender imbalance at Bard?

by Greg Giaccio

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, not counting visiting or temporary faculty, 20 of whom were female. Currently, Bard has 135 professors, not counting 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 nationwide.

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, 37 people have been hired to fill tenure track positions (i.e. eventually be eligible for tenure), and 19 of them were women.

However, Bard has a better record of tenuring 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 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 Sattar said that she had no personal experience feeling uncom-

fortable 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)

--nationwide: 51%

Tenured female professors at Bard: 19% (10)

--nationwide: 13%

Tenured female professors at Bard in 1974: 9% (4)

--nationwide for 1974: 10%

Professors granted tenure at Bard since 1974: 28

--denied: 14

Women denied tenure at Bard by president: 3

Men denied tenure at Bard by president: 9

Women who resigned from Bard between 1974-88: 10

Men who resigned from Bard between 1974-88: 7

Statistics courtesy of Stuart Levine and Carnegie Foundation

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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 attempts 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 Latino Parents Association, and the Ulster County Rainbow Coalition.

Another Coalition, Sally Mehrrens, 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.

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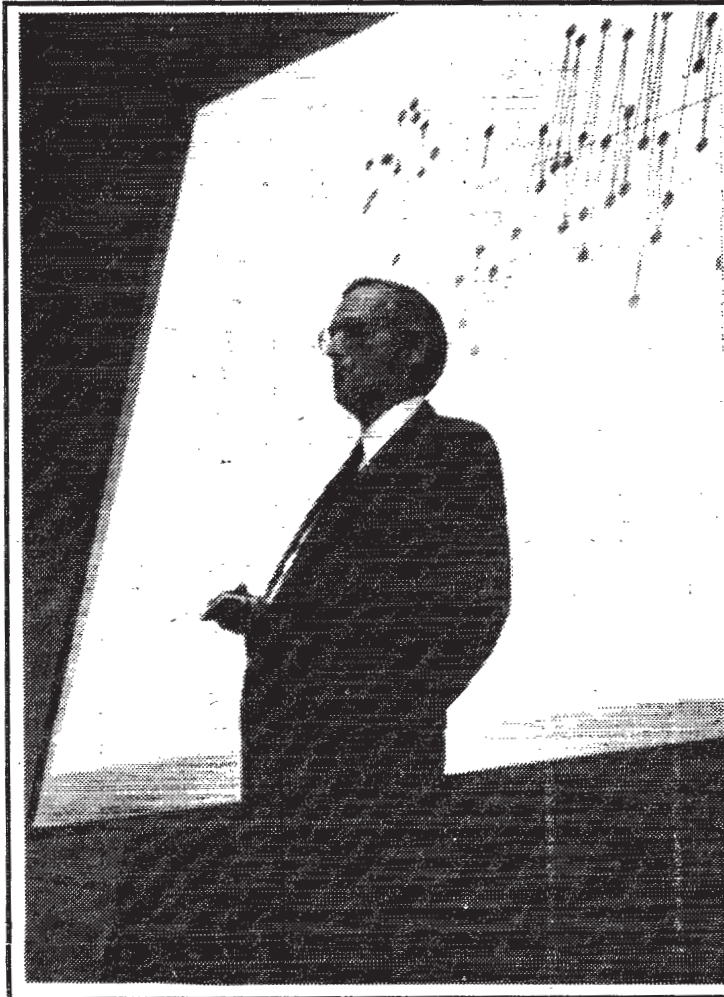
Distinguished scientist lecture continued

continued from page 1

population increase will undoubtedly affect the availability of our world's resources. "95% of the population increase is in the developing countries," those countries who do not enjoy the resources that we as Americans enjoy. In fact, the U.S., having only five percent of the world's population, consumes about 25 percent of the world's resources. According to Likens, this presents a problem of resource security that will undoubtedly emerge as the world's population increases.

Global Climate Change -The combustion of fossil fuels emits carbon dioxide into the air, causing global warming. The United States is the leading CO₂ emitter in the world, emitting five metric tons of carbon dioxide per person every year. There is a continuing controversy regarding whether or not global warming is taking place. However, Likens says there is one thing that cannot be debated and that is "that carbon dioxide increases in the atmosphere cause an increase in global temperature." The controversy, Likens went on, is only in regard to how this warming is affecting our climate. Because it's difficult to find long-term temperature trends, ecologists have been studying the temperature of water on which data is available. From studies of the Hudson's temperature it appears that the river has been getting warmer since 1940, but Likens claims that the data is still quite puzzling.

To reduce the CO₂ in our atmo-



sphere, Likens claims that we can do many inexpensive things. The energy efficiency of buildings is an especially easy problem that we can take care of. Likens pointed to the buildings on college campuses as being some of the prime offenders.

Stratospheric Ozone Depletion - "There's good ozone and bad

ozone," Likens said. "A large concentration of ozone 30 kilometers above us is good ozone; a large concentration of ozone around us is bad ozone." Unfortunately, the Hudson Valley is characteristic of the latter condition. This bad ozone causes the reduction of agricultural crops nationwide and cost the U.S. 5

billion dollars in crop losses last year.

Likens went on to talk about the ozone hole over Antarctica and the beginnings of one over the Arctic. "We knew about ozone depletion for twenty years, but not until 1987 when a hole emerged, did we take it seriously," Likens said. Likens expressed concern over the fact that it takes a disaster for people to begin to worry.

Massive Land-Use Change- Likens went on to discuss the problem of altering forests and wetlands. "53 million acres a year are turned into desert," Likens exclaimed, "and 790 thousand acres a year in the U.S. are turned into urban areas." Likens worried about the erosion of soil and the damage these changes are causing.

Toxification of Biosphere -Likens then turned to the threat of acid rain. Acid rain, Likens said, is the direct result of the combustion of fossil fuels which emit sulphur into the atmosphere. Likens pointed to the effects of acid rain by comparing a slide of a healthy, normal fish to that of an emaciated, infertile one.

Last year the U.S. initiated the Clean Air Act. Likens said that this is a step in the right direction,

but it alone is not enough. The current Clean Air Act will allow 3 to 4 times as much sulphur to be emitted than is safe.

Invasion of Exotic Species- The introduction of foreign species into our environment is harmful. This, Likens claimed, renders the native species vulnerable to predators which they are not equipped to deal with.

Widespread Loss of Biotic Diversity -"Each day ten species are exterminated due to the destruction of the tropical rain forest," Likens said. But this does not happen only in the rain forest; loss of species happens world-wide. "In the United States alone," Likens went on, "the number of endangered species has increased dramatically since 1970." Likens claimed that we don't know the role these species play and now will never be able to.

Likens concluded on a positive note, however, calling for a linkage between science and government, and suggesting that the nineties be a decade of concern and action in order to change these trends. "We have to get busy. If we use our intellect to change these trends, we can make the 90's a decade we can be proud of."

Veni, vidi, vici: Latin/Greek Intensive planned

The Classics Department is again offering the Latin and Greek Intensive program over the January Intersession. The intensive approach, based on the methods used at the Latin/Greek Institute in New York City, gives students the opportunity to learn a semester's worth of 1st year Latin or Greek in only three weeks.

Classes will meet five times a week, three hours a day. Many of last year's students found the intensive approach to be an effective way to learn these languages. One student, Ephen Colter, said, "It'll make a man out of you."

Professor Romm, who will be teaching the Latin section along with Professor Keller, said, "There is simply no better way to learn an ancient language, than to do it intensively...That way you don't have time to forget anything over a break or a holiday."

It is not too late to enroll in either section, and interested students should contact either Professor Romm (ext. 397) or Professor Callanan (ext. 279). The final registration deadline is December 11th. *The author of this article has participated in this program in the past -ed.*

AIDS lecture

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

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A short lived, but loved, laugh with "Line"

by Jeana 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 Gilman) was presumably there for a baseball game, as he had brought chips and beer, and was singing "Take me out to the ball game." 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 Zelemeyer) 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. Ean 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 Grissom), Molly's husband, who had come to watch a movie, and ended up contemplating his miserable marriage while watching his wife have 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 whirls 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 create his or her own line and be first. 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 chasm of reality, where all that awaits us is gloom, torture, and anguish.

Passions run low in slyly funny "Playing with Fire"

by Matthew Gilman

"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 politeness 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 Ean Sheehy, is an artist who can't seem to sell any of his paintings. His father has agreed to let he 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 "outlet" 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 sees no reason to try to change anything. On the contrary, she carries on private and not-so-private affairs with Newt, Newt's father, and even, it seems, with Axel.

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 when she sees Newt and Adelle kissing in the garden. Axel asks quite casually if Kersten would tell him if she ever kisses Axel.

The only thing resembling emotion that the characters understand is passion. The passion they feel for somehow going beyond the manners expected of them. For Axel, it is his youth, for Newt his taunts and attempts to rile his wife. For Kersten, perhaps the most feeling of the characters, it is the hope of some existence of emotion which grips her. This attempt to feel is signaled throughout the play by the word "fire". When Kersten and Axel finally confront Newt with their "love", he tries to be sensible and insists that the three of them discuss 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 spacing extremely well. Nancy Jones played Kersten with just the right balance of politeness and need for emotion. Jason McKay did exceptionally well in a double role, both as Axel and as Newt's father. Meredith Charles played Adelle skillfully with strong savvy 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.

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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 the two companies Bard is considering hiring to take over the custodial services at Bard. After meeting with representatives of both International Service Systems and Servicemaster (ISS), and after doing some independent research, the Student Life Committee was unanimous in making the following recommendation to the Vice President on the future of housecleaning services at Bard College: the Student Life Committee strongly urged Bard College to ask Servicemaster to take over the management of our housecleaning services, while allowing the current Bard College employees to remain part of the College staff.

The Student Life Committee considered five areas of concern in making this decision: quality of cleaning, employee rights and benefits, student access to custodians and equipment, security, and savings for the College.

Obviously quality of cleaning was our foremost concern. An informal poll of the Peer Counselors showed that 10 residence halls are perceived to be in need of improvement where cleaning is concerned. We realize that it is impossible for us to tell which company would clean better once at Bard, (although we are confident either company would improve the cleanliness at Bard) but from our conversations with their representatives, and with Chuck Crimmons, (who has visited several other campuses serviced by both companies) we made the following observations: 1) Servicemaster seemed to provide better training and other support systems for its employees than ISS, 2) Servicemaster is clearly more experienced in cleaning college campuses, and 3) at other colleges Servicemaster seemed to do a better job than ISS.

The Student Life Committee considered each

company's attitude towards their employees because we feel that this attitude will be reflected in the cleanliness of our environment. We found that Servicemaster was clearly more employee-oriented than ISS. Although both companies recognize the local union and have had extensive dealings with unions throughout the United States, we felt that ISS was merely conforming to the letter of the law, while Servicemaster was more genuinely concerned with its employees. Another very important factor in our decision were the methods in which both companies were to provide savings in labor costs for the college. Both companies indicated that they felt Bard was overstaffed, but Servicemaster planned to cut labor costs through attrition, while ISS intended to lay off workers after an initial trial period, in addition to attrition. ISS was not able to promise us that quality workers would not be laid-off for financial reasons, while Servicemaster indicated no one would be laid-off at all.

The Student Life Committee was relieved to hear that neither ISS nor Servicemaster were planning to employ 'gang' or 'team' cleaning techniques at Bard. We felt that this would have greatly harmed the 'family atmosphere' in our residence halls. Servicemaster was more sensitive to this problem than ISS, and stressed that it tries to create a "feeling of ownership and loyalty" in its workers for the buildings they clean and that it would assign workers to specific buildings, like Bard does now. Although ISS stated this as well, it did not seem averse to combining 2-3 workers to work on a building, or buildings, together.

We were also pleased to hear that both companies planned to maintain all present services to students (use of equipment, access to custodial closets, etc.) and that security policies (unlocking of rooms) of the college would also remain unchanged. However, an area of great concern for the committee was ISS's comment that it would charge not only an

hourly wage, but also benefits and a profit margin for cleaning up after student events, should more such events take place than the college had estimated in the contract. The Student Life Committee would like to reinforce the principle that students clean up after themselves, but stresses that some cleaning cannot be done by students (for lack of equipment or other reasons), and that it would be unfair to charge us more than the present fee, which is high enough.

Finally, the Student Life Committee considered the savings to the college provided by both companies. Unfortunately we were not given any dollar amounts to work with, but we were able to make some general observations. Both companies are planning to save costs by providing better equipment, better chemicals and better training for their employees. Both companies will increase the productivity of their employees through these three methods, which will allow them to cut staff and labor costs. What concerned the Student Life Committee was that Servicemaster indicated that its savings would come equally from all areas, while ISS said its savings would come primarily from cutting labor costs. We understand that ISS will provide greater short term savings for Bard, but if these savings come from drastically cutting staff, we feel that labor unrest and resulting decreased morale will be detrimental to the level of cleanliness at Bard. After a few years Servicemaster can provide the same savings.

In summary, we feel that in the areas of quality of services, employee rights and benefits, and access to custodians, Servicemaster will outperform ISS, while in the area of security they are equals, and in the area of savings ISS surpasses Servicemaster only in the short run, with the risk of potential labor unrest due to their methods. In view of this potential labor unrest, we strongly recommend that Bard College keeps the current workers on its pay-

roll and opt for co-employment of the housecleaning staff. (This would mean that all the current benefits of the custodians would stay the same, that the local union (200D) would not be split into B&G workers vs. Servicemaster employees, and that Bard College would control hiring and firing of workers. Servicemaster would only provide a manager. - OtB) Servicemaster has extensive experience in this field, and offers purely management services as a regular part of their program. Of Servicemaster's institutional customers, 95-96 percent maintain their employees while Servicemaster provides only a manager and support services to increase savings. This is obviously the best option, for three reasons: 1) the current employees support this option, 2) savings will remain the same, and 3) Servicemaster's experience should ease any concerns about liability and organizational problems. These problems can obviously be worked out.

We feel it is important to stress once again that there is strong student support for the position of the current custodians, and that we feel that it is possible for their wages, benefits, and working environment to improve through Bard's choice to subcontract the housecleaning services. This support is not based on altruism alone, for employee morale is directly reflected in the cleanliness of our residence halls. The Student Life Committee is convinced that Servicemaster's performance at Bard would surpass that of International Service Systems and greatly improve the cleanliness of our campus, and it has urged the college to allow Servicemaster to do what it does best, which is managing custodial services, rather than employing custodial workers.

Should anybody have any further questions on this issue, please do not hesitate to contact the Student Life Committee Chair, Olivier te Boekhorst, at 758-1463 or Box 6.

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 bouts, 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 (it's made in Lywiec 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.

(or maybe my senses are dead 'cause of the vodka) But the taste is really different. Kinda like a wheat beer, kinda like a summer beer, kinda like when they weren't making this beer they were refining gasoline. It makes for an OK taste, but not great. It is a lot better with Polish food than it is alone. Another major contributor to the strangeness is the very bitter aftertaste. It hangs around for a long, long, time. Unless you are eating Polish food, something else that I did far too much of. Which brings me to my next point—when do I leave? Phantom?

The phone rang at 11:00 AM. I answered. It was Finnegan— who else would it be? Doesn't he realize by now that I sleep 'til one? Maybe he just has no concept of time zoning. What was he saying? Something about some crack-pot beer? How does he expect me to comprehend him at this hour.

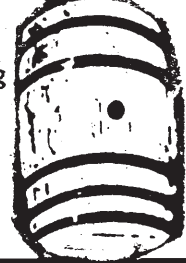
He knew that I was out (anyone?) drinking last night—what else would I be doing? They do have this great beer here, Royal Brand. It's a light colored beer with a flavor that's not particularly strong, but very distinctive and pleasant. The aftertaste is also quite mild. Overall, it's a really easy beer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

go— what a pity! "yeah.. good-bye Fin, thanks for calling, see you in London." I need some more sleep.

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Phantom	3	
Finnegan		1

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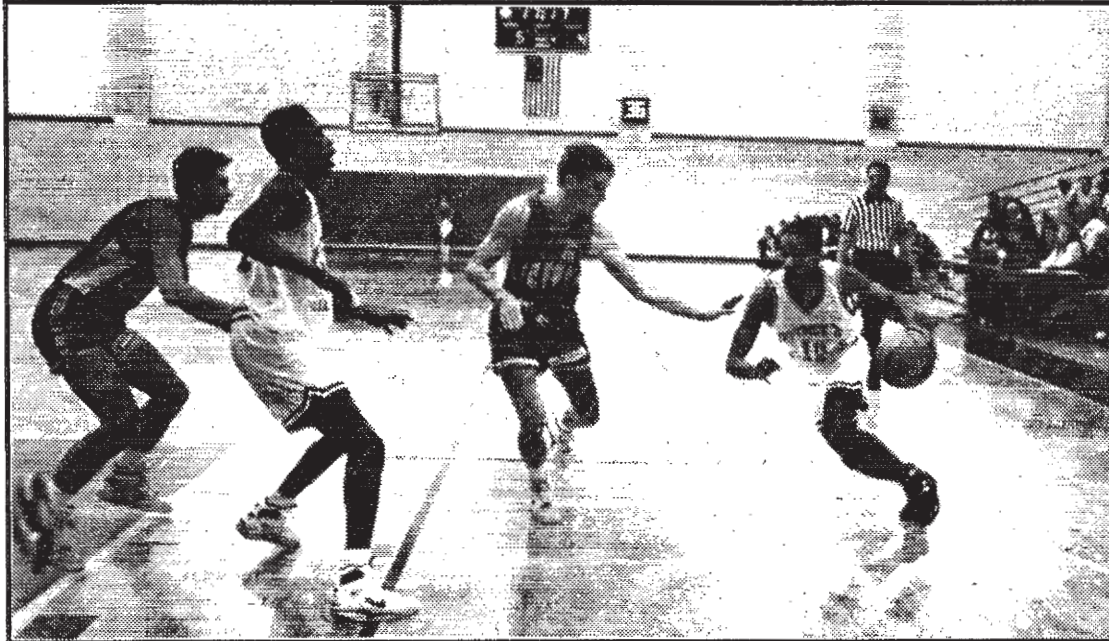
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Lithuania overpowers U.S.

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 Nationals "...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, although 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, standing cheer from one Adolphas Mekas, failed to boost the Nationals, whose travelling penalties and missed field goals left them behind 23 to 18. With five minutes left, the All-Stars missed a chance with five minutes left to increase their lead on a technical foul, making only one out of four shots, and the Nation-



Rason Jacobs, #10, drives for the hoop past Dainius Staugaitis, #5.

als seized the opportunity. Taking the lead 31 to 30 with a three-point shot, the Nationals ended the half with a tenuous lead of 40 to 37.

The All-Stars 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 on the way 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 last 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 48-46 on two foul shots, courtesy of a flying tackle by Oliver, and then tacked on a three-pointer. With their proud fans waving little yellow, green and red flags at every point, the Lithuanian Nationals took the steam out of the All-Stars, utilizing 8-point and 5-point runs to increase their lead to 83-65 with five minutes left in the game.

The All-Stars tried to make a late comeback with under two minutes in the game, gaining momentum from a plethora of Nationals' fouls, which forced four of the Nationals' five starting players to leave the game. Despite the auspices of the strong, intermittent chant "We want Sean!" from typically irreverent Bard students, the All-Stars' comeback was too little, too late, as they could get no closer than 87-84 and lost by a closer-than-expected final score of 90 to 84. High-scorers for the game, with 19 points each, were Vaidas Jurgilas and Aurimas Palshys of the Nationals, 15 of Palshys' points coming on three-pointers. Top scorers for the All-Stars were Mark Benson and Ryan Oliver with 14 points each.

Photo by Howard Dratch

Fencers not foiling around

by Matt Apple

The women's varsity fencing team began their second year as a varsity sport in their matches against Vassar, CCNY and Haverford last Saturday. Vassar and CCNY proved too much for the Blazers, as they defeated Bard 12-4 and 11-4 respectively. Angela Jancius and Jen Shirk combined for five wins out of their

team's eight in the two matches. Haverford barely managed to turn away the Blazers, 10-6, despite playing with only three out of the four minimum players. For Bard, Angela captured three more bouts, including one forfeit, to account for half her team's victories. The women's fencing team won't play their next matches until February 8th, when they travel to Vassar again.

The men's fencing team starts their first season as a varsity team next Friday, Dec. 6th, as a member of the Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (IAC) in the NCAA. Unlike the women's team, which only fences with the foil, the men's team is required to have players who specialize in the foil, the saber, or the epee in order for the team to be in the IAC.

Personals and classifieds

Pontiac Phoenix for sale. \$300 or best offer. Contact box 101.

Trip to NYC and back leaving Friday, November 22 at 8am returns at 6:30pm. Call Prof. Young at ext. 236. \$8 fee.

3 twin beds: \$35 for 1, \$30 for more than one. Call (518) 828-9849.

Letter Quality Printer: Diablo 630 ECS, plus many printwheels. IBM compatible and a workhorse. \$250 OBO. Call x.411 or (evenings and weekends) 246-1476.

Need holiday gifts? Handcrafted Native-American inspired silver jewelry for sale at substantial discount below retail. Call x.411 or (eves. or weekends) 246-1476.

For Sale: 1982 Toyota Corolla Tercel 4 door sedan. 5 new All-season Radial tires. Asking \$600 (negotiable). For more information call 758-1750 after 5:30pm or x.455 between 9am-5pm.

Two quiet, pet-free, non-smoking females seeking housesitting positions between Dec. 20 and Jan. 26. Dates and pay negotiable. References available upon request. Please call 758-2016 after 5pm weekdays, or anytime during weekends or drop a note to Stacey Thew.

Leaving Next Semester? If you have a quiet single on campus please contact box 423 to arrange a swap of some sort.

Hey F.D. of P. Shore: Now, now, don't get testy. Right now you are nowhere near achieving the level of inner peace that allows one to become...THREE TIMES DOPE! - the Eradicator. P.S. Loganberry beverage is the drink of evil. Onl cola beverages show the true way. That and/or Yoo-Hoo.

Fuck the dumb shit. Prof. Carol Nackenof for President. -A member of the powerless majority, Robert P. Sharkey

Up Kerry!

Sports Schedule:

Men's Basketball

Fri. & Sat. Nov. 23 & 23 New Paltz Tip-off
Tourney

Mon. Nov. 25 at Albany College of
Pharmacy 7pm

Men's Squash

Sun. Nov 24 home vs. USMA w/
Connecticut State 1pm

The Bard

Papers...

is alive and well. A 1990-92 edition is underway, and everyone is invited to submit work. All media are welcome—fiction, essays, photos, paintings, poetry and music and all other forms of serious, creative production. Please forward all material (DON'T BE SHY) to the Dean of Studies Office (Ludlow 210) by January 1, 1992.

The Bard Observer

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

Editorial policy is determined by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Editorial Board. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the editorial board and not necessarily of the *Observer* staff.

Letters to the Editor must not exceed 300 words and must be signed legibly. All articles, cartoons, and photographs that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the front desk of the library by noon Friday a week before the publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles (except those intended for the *Another View* page) for style and length.

Classifieds: Free for Bardians, \$5 for all others. Personals are free.

Display classifieds: \$5.00 for local, \$10.00 for national.

Display ads: contact the Ad Manager.

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

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 posited was a "fact," because we were in no position to judge the precise motives of the waitress. 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 its 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 Dan 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 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 simply was 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 Dan introduces to Lemon in her nightly talks. These people only exist in Lemon's memory; whether they even existed, is unknown. The play is only hard to understand if one is unable to capture the escapist mentalities of both Dan and Lemon. It is unfortunate that Ms. Renner received poor marks for her role as Dan. Her continually changing role (as friend, lover, relative, confidante, etc.) had Ms. Renner run the gamut of emotions; her ability to act is certainly beyond a doubt. It is also unfortunate that Ms. DiNatale received high praises for "always raising her voice at the significant part of the script." I am unaware as to Ms. Breton's theatrical background, but her logic seems to be that if you talk loud when something important happens, you're a good actor. This line of reasoning is an insult to both Ms. DiNatale and theatres in general.

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 devoid 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 piano 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 do more than just look at what is on the surface, and base a critique on what is seen or heard.

It is often necessary for a reviewer to put aside accepted values and watch. By delving a little deeper and doing a little extra work, reviewers do all of their readers a service. Certainly, "Aunt Dan and Lemon" was a bizarre, non-conformist, and relatively intense play. This should not, however, mean that the review should follow suit. As she suggests the play does, Ms. Breton's review leaves her readers' heads still spinning.

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: "...lately white people haven't been able to write for shit" would be offensive if it were not so ignorant. Miller goes on to reduce modern literature to three white authors versus three non-white authors. Still more cavalierly, he says that Caucasian writers "churn out...plotless, malignant (ly)" work while the rest of the world is busy producing masterpiece fiction. Oh, and his conclusion is that because of these Miller-proven trends, any respect one might have had at one time for Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Joyce "falls right down in the mud." This is his introductory paragraph. But there's more! Miller also confides to us that "every writer secretly envies John Dos Passos for writing a trilogy called *U.S.A.*," a fact which is likely to liberate millions of ashamed individuals worldwide.

To claim that race determines quality of writing is as ignorant and racist as the ludicrous psychological studies from a few decades ago which 'proved' intelligence a function of race. Prejudice is prejudice, regardless of which group is targeted.

The problems, given these absurd claims and the statements about Chaucer, Shakespeare, Joyce, and Dos Passos, seem to be more exaggeration and overgeneralization than anything else. I haven't lost any pride for the former three because of the work of Wideman, Fuentes, and Hurston, and I cannot imagine why reading any good modern

fiction would diminish my respect for such literary geniuses.

Unconscious denial aside, I also can say with certainty that I don't envy Dos Passos secretly for writing a trilogy entitled *U.S.A.*

It is easy to get carried away with an indiscriminate keyboard underneath your fingers.

Sincerely,
Tatiana M. Prowell

Open letter lettered

Dear Editor:

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

Since the metaphor this piece adapted to its purpose was originally penned by myself, I thought I'd take the opportunity to comment on its topic, gossip, 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, sexists, lawyers, and a T.V. show called "Studs."

Tom Regner

I'll Give You What For!

Queer+
Ephen Glenn Colter

I'm on my way out of Kline, past Arvie, 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 and 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, Headlice.

Headlice at Bard? You bet your sweet naiveté!

Thanks to all those die-hards who danced and let it all hang out till the wee hour for such a worthy cause Saturday night Albert, Ian, AN103 LASO, Jen, Sharon, everyone who donated -especially everyone who donated more than a dollar -every organization who is still gathering ten dollar donations -AND to Pam who stayed up and treated me to breakfast at the 9G diner.

BARD COLLEGE: NOV. 21-NOV. 27, 1991

WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION

French Film:

Francois 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 21-23 at Blithewood. Faculty, Students & Staff are invited free of charge. 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 Blithewood 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 on November 22 in the Olin Auditorium.

New Germany Lecture:

Frank Mangelsdorf, journalist and political correspondent from the former GDR. He 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.

Towbin 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 recordings of poetry/readings 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 Blum Show:

"THE ODYSSEY and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image," which opened at Blum on October 6 will be run-

ning until March 1, 1992.

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

Services for Christian Students:

Sundays:

8:30 am: Ecumenical Service, Bard Chapel
9:30 am: Van to St. John's Episcopal Church and St. Christopher's Catholic Church (meet in Kline parking lot)
6:00 pm: Chapel Service

Tuesdays:

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 7:13 pm train

Saturday: *Hudson Valley Mall*. Meet at Kline at 5:45 pm, returns at 10:00 pm.

Sunday: *Rhinecliff*: Meet the 5:52, 7:17 and 10:01 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.

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

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
11:00-2:00 pm IBM Funday Committee Room Kline Commons	12:00 NOON Calendar Deadline Dean of Students Office	8:00 pm Dance Theatre IV Avery Arts Center	8:30 am Worship Service Chapel (See Above For More Information and other services)	5:00 pm French Table College Room Kline Commons	6:30pm Coalition for Choice meeting President's Room Kline Commons	5:00 pm LASO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons
6:00 pm French Film Olin 301	5:00 pm Observer deadline for outside submission		8:00 pm Dance Theatre IV Avery Arts Center	3:00-5:00 pm Poetry Room Open Olin 101	7:30 pm AA Meeting Aspinwall 302	5:45 pm BBSO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons
7:00 pm BBLAGA meeting Olin 203	6:30 pm Jewish Students Organization, Shabbat Services Bard Hall			8:00 pm Dance Theatre IV Avery Arts Center		
7:00 pm International Relations Club Kline Commons	8:00 pm Dance Theatre IV Avery Arts Center			8:30 pm Observer writers' meeting Third floor Aspinwall		
7:00-9:00 pm Poetry Room Open Olin 101	8:00 pm Piano Concert Olin Auditorium					

The Odyssey and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image. At BLUM through March 1, 1991

