Bard signs contract with Servicemaster

by Greg Giacono
Editor-in-Chief

On Wednesday, November 27, Bard College signed a contract to put Servicemaster in charge of Bard's custodial services. As of December 14, all of Bard's custodians will work for Servicemaster. "They want everyone to come with them," said John Muir, head of the Service Employees International Union Local 200-D, explaining that all of Bard's current custodial staff will transfer to Servicemaster and will still have jobs.

"All the same benefits are in place; we just have to make sure they match up," said Muir, further explaining that the most difficult benefit to transfer will be the pension plan.

"The pension plan [that Bard employees have] is only offered to non-profit educational institutions," according to John Muir. "That's the biggest problem we've got." However, Muir added that Servicemaster was willing "to honor the agreement as closely as possible."

Another problem with the benefit package is that the college was able to offer things that Servicemaster cannot. For instance, employees of Bard College receive a substantial discount on tuition if they send their children here. As of a union meeting on December 7, John Muir was not sure that all of the benefits received through the college would transfer, although he said he would try to see that they did.

At the meeting, most employees were concerned that this transfer would put their job or benefit security in jeopardy. The transition from Bard College to Servicemaster could be made more difficult by the fact that it is being conducted in the middle of a payroll cycle and at a time when employees are using their vacation time for the holidays. Workers' concerns are compounded by the fact that the Director of Human Resources at Bard, John Secco, re-signed two days after the subcontract was signed on and won't be able to answer employees' questions. However, Muir seemed to think that the employees would be able to keep at least 95% of their benefit package, if not more.

Another result of the subcontract is that the union that Build...
Kinyatti joins faculty
Kenyan former prisoner of conscience will teach at Bard

by Michael Poirier
News Editor

Next semester Bard's Political Studies department will welcome Maina wa Kinyatti, a former prisoner of conscience from Kenya, to teach two courses as a visiting professor. Professor Kinyatti served as a teacher in his own country until he was arrested for his political beliefs and spent the next eight years in prison. Having been released from jail in 1988, he will be teaching courses on modern South Africa and on the history of the Mau Mau movement in Kenya. Asked why he decided to teach a semester at Bard College, Kinyatti replied: "When I visited I found that I liked the place, with its scenery and atmosphere. I was also told that the students are very serious about their studies-I like that too."

Kinyatti was a Professor of History at Kenyatta University from January 1975 until his arrest in October of 1982. Previously he had served as an Assistant Professor of History in the Black Studies Department of the City College of New York, and received his degrees in education and history from the University of Maine and Michigan State University. He has written three books and has also published numerous articles centering around the theme of the human rights struggle in Africa.

It is a very serious crime in Kenya to pursue academic research without official permission, which is one of the many methods, of his books, research files and his typewriter in their search for "seditious" material. He was told to report to branch police headquarters where he was arrested, stripped of his clothing, and interrogated for the next three days without food, water or contact with his wife. He refused to sign the fabricated statements forced upon him and was brought to trial in October.

The hearing was what Kinyatti described as a "kangaroo court" in which the main piece of evidence against him was a forged document. Sentenced to jail for the next six years, he had to survive under miserable prison conditions where food and clothing were dreadfully inadequate, the rooms were without beds and full of lice, and prisoners were usually denied medical care. Because of the publicity surrounding his case, Kinyatti felt that he was "privileged" compared to other prisoners who were still tortured and sentenced to solitary confinement. He saw men in other cells go insane from their imprisonment, but said, "since I could not betray my conscience I had to be jailed. I was jailed for my political beliefs; for my thoughts; for trying to write the history of the Mau Mau movement."

Kinyatti was released on October 17, 1988, after which he was constantly followed and threatened by the police. He was nearly arrested again on March 10, 1989 after being unable to secure another teaching job in his own country. He walked for two days to Tanzania, escaping his country illegally and received a visa to come to the United States. Immediately after his defection, his wife was fired from her university job and remains in Kenya under strict government supervision.

Since his release, Kinyatti has devoted his work to revealing the injustices and human rights abuses in Kenya. There are more than 1,000 political prisoners kept secretly in different prisons across the country. The government still has the authority to abduct people without charging them with a crime, and torture is extremely common with beatings, intimidation, starvation, and humiliation forced upon every prisoner.

Kinyatti is determined to "expose what is going on in Kenya," and views his time at Bard College as another way to spread his message. As he commented, "when this country is so conservative, I look forward to sharing my experiences at a more liberal intellectual environment-I hope to learn as much from my students as I can teach them."

House cleaning continued

Chair, Oliver Te Boekhorst in a recent Observer. Te Boekhorst thought they were superior to International Service Systems in their "quality of services, employee rights, benefits and access to custodians." It is customary procedure for Servicemaster executives to do at least one day of work with their lower-level employees, such as serving food or cleaning locker rooms. John Muir said that Servicemaster will "drive a hard bargain, but they'll be straight with us."

Servicemaster will save money by bringing in their own cleaning supplies and equipment and changing procedure to make them more efficient. Muir said that they could probably save $30,000 just by changing the payroll structure.

Do your civic duty

At the Student Forum on December 11, elections will be held for four seats-two Planning Committee seats and two Student Life Committee seats-and the Entertainment Committee. Anyone interested in running for these positions should attend the December 11 Forum in Kline Commons at 7pm.

There will be a campus-wide election held on December 12 and 13 for the Student Life Committee Chair and Treasurer to the Student Association. Anyone interested in running for either of these positions must submit a typed 1-2 page statement of purpose to Erin Law, Secretary of the Student Association, by Wednesday, December 13 through campus mail or in person. Late submissions will not be accepted.

If you have any questions, please drop a note to Erin Law in campus mail, or call 798-0043.
Ahmed Abdalla argues for democracy

by Michael Poirier
News Editor

Tuesday afternoon, December 3, Ahmed Abdalla, an Egyptian political scientist, lectured at Bard on whether or not democracy could work in the Middle East. Sponsored by the International Academy Program in International Education, Abdalla's lecture contrasted the nature of new democracies arising in the Middle East with those arising in Eastern Europe.

Abdalla described many similarities between the two regions and their political histories. Both had endured authoritarian governments throughout virtually all of their existences and the people were not truly represented by their numerous communist regimes.<br />

"The party of the few became the party of the people," explained Abdalla, as the un-representative representation of the communist leaders did little to serve the needs of their people. The economies of both regions suffered from socialist practices since the economy was controlled completely by the government; "one-man economics," according to Abdalla, left the general populace impoverished and unsatisfied.

On the other hand, Abdalla pointed out many differences between the Arab nations and the newly recreated European countries. The Eastern European nations had been trying to fight Soviet control for decades and at last succeeded when Mother Russia succumbed to her own internal problems. However, the Middle East, after throwing off the influence of French and British imperialists, found that their best political ally in the international scene was the Soviet Union. As Abdalla commented: "Those who help us are our friends, whether they be a devil or a bastard. An angel is no good if it tries to kill us."

Abdalla introduced his idea that "in the struggle for democratization, the Middle East comes first." In Europe, individualistic efforts over the last three decades could not overthrow the Soviet regimes. In contrast, many Arab states, beginning with Egypt and Tunisia in 1976, have moved to a multiparty system. These early reforms stemmed from fact that the people in power recognized the need to preserve their power by taking democratic chances to relieve political tension. Leaders in the Middle East were more flexible than the European authoritarians and this paved the way for democratic reforms. Abdalla stated that "democratization does not mean that the forces are no longer in power. They are still there, but now have to legitimize their authority with the people."

"New generations are not to secure new democracies," Abdalla states reflecting upon the necessity for slow and gradual changes if democracy is to succeed. "In the Middle East we are more realistic than the Europeans, we struggle for gradual changes and solidity those reforms. We know that things will remain difficult and sour for a long time...you can't expect speedy results or you risk disappointment."

Obstacles to democracy that Abdalla outlined were the Arab-Israeli tension, very nearly similar to ethnic strife in Eastern Europe, and the need to solve social problems such as poverty before reforms can be completely achieved. He warned that trying to change the political scene without "keeping the people in bread and butter" was "a recipe for failure" that would only pave the way for new communist regimes.

Another important fear in the Middle East about democracy that Abdalla discussed was the belief that "democratization means Americanization. People will come to hate democracy if it proves to be American." He explained that democracy is a universal recognition of basic freedoms and was not the cultural capital of one country such as our own. New democracies are not destined to become "America's back-yard," since they have their own unique cultures and political influences.

A thousand words for every picture

by Jeana C. Breton
staff writer

Famed photographer Emmet Gowin gave a lecture last Monday in the Olin art history room. Nearly 75 people attended. Mr. Gowin appeared to be a charming and emotional man who had a story to tell with every picture shown in the slide presentation, and who nearly cried while reminiscing about things of particular concern to him. His explanation was merely, "When you go to say something you don't know what will connect with you a certain way."

Mr. Gowin had a lot of interesting things to say. First, he addressed the issue of how he got interested in photography (which he remembered recently during interviews for the Metropolitan Museum of Art). He said that when he was young, he was sitting watching a movie and decided that he wanted to express how it made him feel because he was touched deeply by the fact that a series of images had the power to move someone in that manner.

Then later on in life a friend showed him a family album in which a man and woman were sitting together smiling while the man's hand was placed boldly on the woman's chest. Mr. Gowin said that the friend admitted to being ashamed of the picture, but that he thought it was a treasure and emphasized the essential importance of learning from the body: "There was absolute wisdom passing through this man's hand."

The whole point seemed to be that photography is not only an art medium, but a means of expressing emotion and wisdom. The photographer himself said that "photographs capture feeling—an indication that feeling was in possession of the individual." There was, however, a time when Mr. Gowin said that he would have been surprised if anyone had told him that it was permissible to go out and arrange things for his pictures. Fredrick Sanger, well-known for his warped sense of reality, changed his mind, and to illustrate how much he had been inspired by Mr. Sanger's work, Mr. Gowin played a tape of an interview in which Mr. Sanger remarked, "You can't make photos the way way art is made—you're at the mercy of what you find, however, inventing and finding are the same thing."

After playing the tape and having shown several works by other photographers and artists, Mr. Gowin finally got to his own work. This consisted mostly of obscure photographs of people he had known throughout his life, each picture possessing, as promised, its own emotion and mood. One of these photos pictures continued on page 4

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Lack of argument sparks conference

by Anne Miller
staff writer

During the Winter Intersession, a conference will be held January 23 and 24 called "The End of Argument: A Crisis for American Education and Democracy." The subject of the conference is an interesting one, addressing the issue of whether American schools and colleges today have failed to teach their students to "argue well"; that is, are students being formed into citizens who are unable thoughtfully to disagree about social issues that may affect their own lives? Does the classroom disenfranchise students, addressing them in a language that may be alien to them, in its formality of vocabulary and abstraction of language, resulting in a lack of confidence? If so, this lack of confidence may lead to inhibiting students from participating in class, resulting in students not learning to argue effectively. This inability can lead to drastic future problems, to schools socializing interests and motives.

"Education should be something students should be passionate about...what we are trying to do is bring back the human voice." --Kiera Van Gelder

Education should be something students should be passionate about. "What are we trying to do is bring back the human voice," said Kiera Van Gelder, who, along with Rebecca Burt, will be attending this event in order to give a speech and discuss their views on this issue; this will be a stimulating part of the conference because it will offer the different angle from student's perspectives. Both of them feel that even here at Bard, they are unable to express their views fully and to argue effectively due to the differences in the level of language which filter people into separate fields; both feel dissatisfied about what is being asked of them.

Among the speakers will be Elizabeth Fox-Converse, Director of Women's Studies, and Eleanor Raul, Professor of History at Emory College, author of Within the Plantation Household: Black and White Women of the Old South and Feminism Without Illusions: a Critique of Individualism. Another well known speaker who will be attending is Robert J. Fogelin, who teaches philosophy at Dartmouth College, who is author of Understanding Arguments: an Introduction to Informal Logic. Thanks.

Paul Comesty, organizer of the conference and colleges representing student's arguing due to their own fear of disagreement and to ignorance in their powerful hierarchy. Because of this, many people today have a sense of reality that is socially oriented--arguing due to their own fear of intolerance. "Its goal is to discuss also how classrooms can improve in order to open themselves to thoughtful discussions so that students do not end up ready to preserve the present state of artificial and pre-established interests and motives. "Education should be something students should be passionate about...what we are trying to do is bring back the human voice," said Kiera Van Gelder, who, along with Rebecca Burt, will be attending this event in order to give a speech and discuss their views on this issue; this will be a stimulating part of the conference because it will offer the different angle from student's perspectives. Both of them feel that even here at Bard, they are unable to express their views fully and to argue effectively due to the differences in the level of language which filter people into separate fields; both feel dissatisfied about what is being asked of them.

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Another View
Queer+ Not to My Knowledge

by Ephes Glenn Colter

December 11, 1991
The Bard Observer

Racism is Non-perishable, and Justice Clarence Thomas is not for all. Not one of these "men" is black. The problem is not with HIV as such but with the mainstream fronts that are AIDS-related symptoms, and not one of them is behind the scenes. They are behind the times, confronting common knowledge with "Not to my knowledge."

Not I, not any of us, and certainly none of "them" has any reason to feel safe about sex or comfortable with the present pre- tense and nonsense of HIV. If you care to wait until it is your problem, personally, if you care to stand up for your political rights when you are confined to a wheel chair, so be it. But remember, if not you then someone you love is affected, or a friend of a friend of a friend: third person position. Will you smear the roses? A rose by any other name is still a rose. Even if on a grave. This is not Imaginary America, this is the Real World, the difference being that people in the Real World are dis- eased by the HIV virus, while Imaginary America is more uneasy with computer viruses. Soon it will cut both ways. Soon we will have to be more concerned with losing lives than forgetting to "save" on our computer and losing data.

We have to do our homework here. First before someone we love needs us to be there now-without forgetting that there is a number of people who do not care to know who could use our support, or feel safe about sex. Individuals and families, in the volunteer food distribution center, or a joining buddy-system program just to listen to someone invisible and voiceless, or just holding out condoms and bleach kits. We are in need of more healthcare workers, more cultural workers, more creative artists, more advocates, more ac- tivists, and fewer destructive artists.

When we leave Bard the not that we can "decide" to take HIV seriously, along with finding a job to pay back those loans or writing a "+0000 for those who have already failed a dear friend, and I am learning to keep my hands in my pockets, not to let go. NOT! This campus is not im- mune. Women and women, women and men, men and men are loving each other and are moving on to love others. These are brothers and sisters, mothers and fathers, and/or children of all ages, shapes, and sizes. Bi or bisexual we all draw up the ethical contract involved with "two" most intimate form of communication known to human being; sex. AIDS in the nineties needs consciousness raising but more importantly, sensitivity training-just like the anger and passion of activism. We all need to talk about HIV just because so many know who could use our support.

There is more than enough work to do: networking and mentoring, caretaking and caregiving. We have to do our homework here. Now before someone we love needs us to be there now-without forgetting that there is a number of people who do not care to know who could use our support, or feel safe about sex. Individuals and families, in the volunteer food distribution center, or a joining buddy-system program just to listen to someone invisible and voiceless, or just holding out condoms and bleach kits. We are in need of more healthcare workers, more cultural workers, more creative artists, more advocates, more ac- tivists, and fewer destructive artists.

We do not need a moment of silence for all who have died. PLWAs (people living with HIV disease) are passive alibies for all to distance ourselves and our resources: Silence = Death. For us, the Personal is Political, for Helms Art is Decency for Dukkhe.

We are in the realm of the 90s, and better sooner than (too) later we have to talk about AIDS and HIV in the same breath, think about drugs and HIV in the same unsatisfied craving (the roses some people are stopping to smell are "pop- pies"). Conditions and Clean Needles and Dental Dams.

The mantra whispered in the city is "Sex, Bis, Meth, Coke, and Crack" and here on campus the familiar mantra is "sexism, racism, classism, and homophobia." You are not a "bad" person because you need a "hit" to get you through the weekend rather than a "cup" of coffee to get you through the morning. You are not a "slut" or "promiscuous" because you are (and you are) having sex. Think of yourself as "sexually generous," because some people just want to give, or think of yourself as "mentally unrepresive," because all of us are looking for a new drug. The PC thing to deny the sexual activity happening on this campus is ridiculous and misleading, obscuring the fact that safe sex is not yet universal. The spread of HIV will end tomorrow, if the entire world ceased sex and vice...HAI you say, and so do I. There should be no judgmental about having sex or with whom you are having sex, regardless of their health status.

Safe sex is safe/sane/sober/consensual sex regardless of either health's status. Just because you don't discuss it doesn't mean that your partner is not a PLWA. The proper precautions should always be maintained as non-negotiable and un- dispensable. That the "oral" contact with the devil is at constant risk. You can't trust anyone -especially yourself. And God knows an AIDS test is not reliable. There is such a thing as the "windshield"孕期. The Devil's Advocate. Do you say "the devil made me do it," "I didn't know I was having sex" "God明知 doing it," "the devil made me do it"? "God明知 doing it," "the devil made me do it"? "God明知 doing it," "the devil made me do it"? "God明知 doing it," "the devil made me do it"?

If no one knows, who's to blame? Who can point a finger and who can give the finger? I've already failed a dear friend, and I am learning to keep my hands in my pockets, digging for resources, recourse, and recol. I don't need a moment of silence to perpetuate SILENCE=DEATH. I need to speak to that pain. On Sunday I did not take a moment of silence to grieve, mourn, or feel sorry for myself. There's not a moment's rest until HIV/AIDS is cured. I got a moment's peace-screaming my outrage/terror, voicing a visceral response to irresponsibility. I have to get it out and get on with my life, and the lives of others still needing to be saved or salvaged from the fences and pains, cuts and bruises, of HIV.

Recycle, it's fun
I ran up to the speaker’s platform. I had but two weapons to use, both came at the recommendation of THE GOOD BOOK. They received the Great Star Award for efficiency against the anti-ZZYX’s. Unfortunately, I had left the Hole-Puncher of Doom in my other vest pocket. This left me with only one other plan.

There are certain words that act like loyalty tests. For example, if a demon says “God” he will suffer pain worse than the famed 17 tortures of Ariphaster’s Tomb. There is but one Word of Power in the SPANDEXian religion, and I had to hope the anti-ZZYX did not know it. “Hey anti-ZZYX,” I shouted, “say Quok.” “Quok.” “Quok.” “Quok.”

I finished the ritual; “Thank you,” I said. Suddenly he realized his mistake. For the Word of Power, when used under the proper ritual, will bring a smile to the face and a spring to the step to all aligned with SPANDEX. Those neutral will feel anything from apathy to annoyance to the Holy Ritual. But those actively opposed to SPANDEX cannot take part in it. It creates an internal contradiction. Most anti-SPANDEXers are educated enough to avoid this trap, but isolated in this universe the anti-ZZYX did not have the skills to sidestep it. The contradiction, after I said the magic words Reducto Ad Absurdum, caused him to wink out of existence.

Suddenly the scene shifted. I was sitting outside of my tent. A note fell from the sky. Reading it, I learned that I was not in an alternative universe after all. SPANDEX sabotaged the ZZYXmobile intentionally, knowing full well the anti-ZZYX would jump at this opportunity to draw me into his “reality.” Both SPANDEX and the anti-SPANDEX had signed a pact agreeing to face each other on the battlefield of the final conflict. The anti-SPANDEX was given the right to choose the time of the battle—hence my abduction at what seemed to be a weak moment. I was distracted by the problem at hand—the debate between evolution and creationism—and the anti-SPANDEX thought that I would be too disoriented to remember the Word of Power.

In exchange for calling the right to choose the time of the battle, SPANDEX received the right to grant me an ally: FRESCA. Our meeting was not accidental. SPANDEX personally recruited a loyal follower from the 16th century. She personally volunteered to go through another life (with a very stupid name) in order to help fight the good fight.

The note continued, “If the good is to triumph, who must lose? SPANDEX lives in more than the hearts and minds of his followers. TOTSA P.S. Look up.”

I looked up, and saw an aquarium the size of New Jersey descend upon the area. Inside I saw SPANDEX swimming around. The Second Coming was happening. In one of the most impressive miracles ever in the history of holy literature, he remained the size of a goldfish, yet could be seen from anywhere around his watery throne. More over, the Sacred Aquarium, although actually centered on the point of power in Annandale, could actually be seen from anywhere in the world. No matter where one was, it appeared as though SPANDEX was right there with you...and who is to say that He wasn’t.

Under his beneficent rule, the world experienced true peace and joy like it never had before. It was truly World Without Unhappiness. I have come up with the most elegant and beautiful way of expressing the euphoria that was this time, but unfortunately the Alternative Page is not big enough to contain it. Just let it be said that if you truly seek out SPANDEX, if you call out for him in the spirit of joy needed to get his attention, then He will answer, and no description of this utopia will be needed, you will understand internally. GRIF-HO!

THE END-

The Beer Column

Finn: We’re not quite sure whether or not this is the last issue this semester, but we don’t know what we would do if it was, so we’ll just plow along through another fun-filled, mega-stupendous, kids-of-all-ages page of the best observations made by drunk people anywhere, namely, U.S. Yup. We’re drunk. Or at least I am. Phantom’s still in England but he’s probably drunk, or was drunk. Anyway, if you remember (and if you do, please tell me, ‘cause I don’t), I left England last week, both because the beer was mediocre and because Phantom was being a pain. And it was England. But I’m back in America again, and about to be couriered Point of Light & 642 for my in depth work on Alcohol consumption. So, of course, I’m in Boston, studying a great American Brewery—Sam Adams.

In this season (winter) S.A. produces a winter beer, called, amazingly enough, Winter Lager. Personally, I think that the Winter Lager is my last favorite of the six different varieties that S.A. makes. This does not make it bad, but it is a bit tiresome. The flavor is really the sticker to me. It’s too smokey in taste and too lingering in aftertaste to be a prime contender for Finnegan’s favorite brew. This was a real disappointment, too, because the color is about the most appetizing that I’ve seen and the smell is very good. But the extreme complexity and depth of flavor in this beer is about too much for me. All who consider themselves any good with beer should try some, but with a back-up (like a sink) in case you don’t like it. That wasn’t really nice to say, but I’m just not in the mood for niceties. Hit it, Phantom.

Ph: If you’ve read our other issues, you know something about the English pub/brewing system, specifically, that certain brewers make beer for certain pubs. Youngs is a London based brewer that produces rather intriguingly flavored Lagers and Ales. I tried the Lagers that they sell and was not impressed, in fact, I hated them, so I moved on to the Ale, a big improvement. Compared to Bass or Whitbread, the Youngs Ale is slightly lighter and not quite as bitter. It’s got the same sort of unique taste as the beers Youngs makes, but it’s less dominant making the Ale drinkable. I wish that I could say more about the flavor, but in all honesty, the only adjective that comes to mind is “indescribable,” and I suppose that doesn’t help very much.

Anyway, I called Finnegan up to tell him about the Ale, and I told him, “you should try some, because it’s a very nice beer, not to over-hype it, but it’s just a bit too subtle to hype it.” He told me that he would, except for the fact that it’s 12 bucks a six pack, and he could get two sizes of his favorite beer for that price. I was unable to find fault with his logic; I just thought about bringing him home a bottle, but my luggage is heavy enough already, and Finnegan should get out more anyway. So, if you’re ever in London, try a pint of Youngs Ale, however, while in the U.S. there are better bargains to be found...almost anywhere.

As a final note, I just recently got a letter from the nice people at Bev-Way (I have my mail forwarded, you have a problem with that?). They told me that my favorite beer, John Courage, is going on sale this week. If you haven’t tried Courage yet, you may want to try it. The key to the recipe is the hops; it’s a London,try a pint of Youngs Ale, however, while in the U.S. there are better bargains to be found...almost anywhere.
Today, the worldwide adoration of, and interest in Bellamy's novel shows a terribly limited six-figure readership that, by today's standards, is staggeringly low. But the main concept here is not simply that Bellamy's book was not read by many, but that the idea of social equality found in the novel was not taken seriously at the time. It is worth noting that Bellamy's ideas were widely discussed during his lifetime, and even today, his ideas continue to be studied and debated. The fact that Bellamy's ideas were so widely discussed suggests that the idea of social equality was not as far-fetched as it might seem today. It is also worth noting that Bellamy's ideas were not the only ones of their time. Many other authors, both in the United States and abroad, were advocating for social equality and the idea of a better society. However, it is clear that Bellamy's ideas were the most widely discussed and the most widely read. This suggests that his ideas had a profound impact on the intellectual and cultural landscape of the time. In the end, Bellamy's ideas were not the only ones of their time, but they were the most widely discussed and the most widely read. This suggests that his ideas had a profound impact on the intellectual and cultural landscape of the time.
A Celebration of the 65th Birthday of Meyer Kupferman
Svetlana Gorokhovich, pianist

by Anne Miller
Staff Writer

In celebration of composer Meyer Kupferman's 65th birthday, Bard hosted a concert featuring his works, performed by the celebrated pianist Svetlana Gorokhovich, this past Friday, November 22 at 8 p.m. in the F.W. Olin Auditorium.

Svetlana Gorokhovich has performed in solo recitals and chamber music concerts throughout the Soviet Union, Italy, and in the United States, including appearances in the sixth Judah Cahn Festival Arts Series, the Concert of Russian Stars at Lincoln Center's Alice Tully Hall, and at Merkin Concert hall and CAMI Hall. She has won numerous awards, including First Prize in the 1982 Russian National Music Competition, and the Best Accompanistes Prize in the 1986 competition.

Meyer Kupferman studied music in New York at the High School of Music at Queens College, but is entirely self-taught as a composer. Also an accomplished clarinettist, he is performed widely as a clarinetist as well as in many performances of classical music. He has been a resident of the Hudson Valley for a number of years, and his works have been performed frequently in the region, including two symphonies played by the Hudson Valley Philharmonic. Since 1951 he has taught composition and chamber music at Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York.

The evening's program kicked off with Mozart's Fantasie in C Minor, Op. 57, Beethoven's "Apasionata," and Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Corelli, Op. 42. The second half of the concert featured three of Kupferman's works: Red Sonata (world premiere), Snow (world premiere), and Sonata Occulta.

The first three pieces performed all contained a common feature; each of them had a rising and a falling, a cycle that began as delicate and light and moved to forceful and erupting. Mozart's Fantasie in C Minor slowly crept out of its fragile beginning, exploding into electric trills and scales. A sequence was created, going from a quiet, serene state, to one filled with bursting emotion. Beethoven's Sonata in F minor, Op. 57, "Apasionata," began on an opposite point from Mozart's quiet stage with unexpected and shocking bursts of energy. The second part of this selection remained slow, repetitive, drawn out, and quite monotonous. The forceful beat once again rose, becoming tense, quickly moving and forgetting itself.

Rachmaninoff's Variations on a Theme by Corelli, Op. 42, did not seem as original sounding as the previous two, although it definitely did sparkle with life. It moved from dark and oppressive to loud and intense back to slow and relaxed, surrounded by little spasmodic spurs. The variations could be heard as each was more defined from the previous one; more developed and strengthened.

All three of these selections made a marked distinction between loud and soft, bold and delicate. They also played on creating cycles among these differences, which unfortunately became a boring trend by the third selection, even though all three were quite beautiful.

As the aforementioned selections followed a particular pattern, so did Kupferman's selections; they all used broken and fragmented tunes melded with repeated, intense sections. Red Sonata was broken and fragmented, using drops of notes and placing them just so. A repeated rhythm emerged, with another mixed along with it; one continuously interrupting the other. A flavorful, intense music arose, backed by picked together variations. As with the previous selections, they created a slight cycle of calmness to the point of explosion.

Snow, which implies softness, just about delivered that expected wondrous sort; it was light and delicate. But it was unfortunately interrupted by sour, clashing and fragmented notes which did not seem to blend, creating a disruptive tone.

Sonata Occulta was quite similar to that of Red Sonata, which was quite disappointing. Another disappointing factor about this piece was its lack of any real coherence, its monotony, and its seemingly never-ending rambling. Its highly repetitive ending, its restarts being an additional irritating factor.

But with these minor exceptions, the other two sets of selections as a whole were well chosen because they did fit two certain patterns, even though these models did grow and dull rather quickly. Snow, a world premiere, was one of the most original sounding selections, and Meyer Kupferman should be commended.

As for the pianist, Svetlana Gorokhovich, she played flawlessly and gave an impeccably performed performance. Even throughout the demanding, energy-filled job of going back and forth from quiet and serene to loud and explosive, she maintained her poise and composure. A job well done.
Blazers shut down Vassar
Alford, Snyder lead charge with over twenty points apiece

by Matt Apple
Sports Editor

The men's varsity basketball team scored fifty-four points in the second half of last Tuesday's game to pull away with the victory by four points. Leading the scoring for the Blazers was Dave Snyder with twenty-five points, eighteen of them coming in the big second half. Sean Alford added twenty-four points, twelve a half, helped by ten foul shot opportunities. All five Bard starters ended up scoring double-digits as Bard defeated Vassar for the first time in well over a decade, 94 to 90.

Trouble for Bard surfaced once again, however, when the time came to travel to Yeshiva University. Forced to leave Sean Alford at Bard to work on a term paper, the Blazers fought to stay close during the first half. Despite

Dave Snyder's twenty-eight points, Bard stayed behind the Macabees by four points. Leading the scorers for the Macabees was Snyder with twenty-five points, fifteen of them coming in the big second half. Sean Alford, Snyder lead charge with over twenty points apiece

Sean Alford shoots off-balance against Maritime; he missed, but he did take out the opposing player when he fell down. All right Sean!

a minute left in the game, Bard had a chance to tie, but a turnover allowed Yeshiva to win it at the foul line.

Sean returned to the lineup against New York Maritime in Bard's home opener last Saturday. In front of a dismally small home crowd (perhaps fifty people, tops), Maritime took advantage of a sluggish Blazer first half to take the lead 47-36.

At the start of the second half, the Blazers spent six minutes with an impressive 14-1 run to tie at fifty-six with ten minutes left in the game. Maritime answered with its own 14-1 run to regain a huge lead. Still, trailing 70-57 with less than five minutes left, another Blazer rally brought them to within five. With under a minute remaining, Maritime made its foul shots to come away with a 78-68 victory, dropping the Blazers to 0-2 in the IAC, 2-4 overall.

Entropy vows chaos will triumph
by Matt Apple
Sports Editor

Stevenson Gymnasium was a battleground last Wednesday night, as the remaining four volleyball teams fought for the two final spots next Thursday (of course, this being Bard intramurals, there were only four teams to begin with, but I digress).

Sounds of "We're number four! We're number four!" and bodies hitting the wooden floor echoed throughout the vast arena during the bloody matches. One exhausted volleyball payer paid tribute to the brutal determinations of players exhibited when he gurgled, "These guys are animals," before collapsing in a pool of red; trainers estimated he'd be out at least three weeks.

Although Spooge had lost to Dirty Dogs, 15-2, 15-2, they stayed on to watch Fly Slamma Jamma crush the team with the longest name and to laugh hysterically at Entropy Girl's antics (not Entropy Girl herself, but the team). Perplexed (and annoyed) team members of Entropy Girl and the Genetically Challenged approached Spooge after the game, demanding to know what they thought was so funny. The answer Entropy Girl got sent them reeling and gasping for breath.

Apparently, because Fly Slamma Jamma had played with non-roster women, and they needed at least two women on the court at all times, they had automatically forfeited before the game even started. Entropy Girl, without ever winning a match during the season, won the right to play Dirty Dogs in the final. Since this is the last issue of the Observer this semester, and I will not be able to cover the final game, I instead opted to "pull a Dewey" and "predict" the outcome. Entropy Girl's members had varying opinions about their inevitable violent confrontation this Thursday, most of them due to Entropy Girl's extremely irregular group dynamics.

Kloe, ever the polite senior who drove us home Wednesday morning at 4, said, "I hope we have a good game, and I dedicate all my serves to Fiona, while J.C. declared, "I dedicate my serves to myself, thank you very much," and had no further comment.

Athel Pugger reverently added, "St. Thomas Aquinas said, 'Man does not live by bread alone; some times he has to eat a ball.'" Raging Bull took his shoe off, and pounded it on the floor, yelling, "We will bury you!" as ZZYXZ calmly replied, "Say quok. As for Entropy Girl herself, she merely said, "Well, see."

Thus my completely unbiased prediction for next Thursday's ultimate test of volleyball sovereignty: Entropy Girl and the Genetically Challenged will cause as much chaos as is humanly possible while dodging volleyballs, and the Dirty Dogs will avoid slanderous outcries of "He's too tall - that's cheating!" and attempt to dominate the net, which shouldn't be too tough. Remember, true believers, this match will be fun to watch, and best of all, like all the other games, admission's free. So, come on down and watch the next contestants in the life-or-death struggle for the sacred black t-shirts and a picture in the Stevenson Gymnasium "wall of fame". It's gonna be a doozy!"
Thumbs up, thumbs down

Thumbs up to ServiceMaster for hiring all of the custodians who work for Bard. They should be more efficient and save us money in the long run.

Thumbs down to Bard College for not keeping the employees informed about their job and benefit status. These people are understandably concerned with the future of their jobs, and the current management at Bard has done nothing to reassure them.

Thumbs up to Oliver Te Boekhorst and the rest of the Student Life Committee who did a lot of work and research on the subcontracting controversy.

Thumbs down to the new course catalog. There was a better selection in pre-Glasnost Russian restaurants.

Thumbs up to the fact that this is last Observer of the semester. No more sleepless Tuesday nights for at least five weeks.

Thumbs down to the Bard Athletic Department's $5 dinner special. The Fencing Team only judged, but I am a Senior; that should not bother me; I am leaving. It does bother me, and when I go out, I will carry with me, and will express to others, the regret that my school lost so many good professors, and that my experiences are lost to future students.

Too many revolutions in Political Science
by Fred Baker

Now, I do not want to be the one accused of bringing up the Nackenoff issue again, but in light of both personal experience and the course catalogue, I feel that the issue of firing and rehiring ought to be examined in a different context. I am a political science major. I am a Senior. Those are my qualifications for what I am about to say:

Bard has no Political Science/Studies department. Some of you may have been fooled into thinking that this is actually not the case. "Look at the course listing," they will say. "There are nine classes." Yes, there are, but it is not the classes that I am addressing. Only one of the four professors has been at Bard more than a petty three semesters. And we all know who she is, and what has happened to her. But that is not even the whole story. Another of the Political Science professors is new for this year, and a third, with Carol Nackenoff, also leaving at the end of this term, leaving Bard with only one Professor that students have any real knowledge of. "But wait!" cry some. "There are professors in other departments that teach cross-over classes." And yes, that is also true, but to reach to other departments to find stability is akin to admitting that Political Science is no more than a flavor anthropology, economics, or psychology. And if this sounds reasonable to you, apply the principle to your own discipline. What happens when photography majors are forced to look to the film department to find stability and balance?

I am a Senior. I say so on my canary card. I have taken the bulk of my classes in the green pages, yet none of my moderation professors will be present for my Senior Project. My advisor has left, and the professor that I might have chosen for my primary project advisor is also leaving. I have had 12 professors within the green pages; five are gone, one is visiting, and probably will happen to other departments, other divisions, other years. I will refrain from saying that this policy is one of bad judgment, but I will say that this cannot help but damage relations with potential professors and future alumni.

I am a Senior; this should not bother me; I am leaving. It does bother me, and when I go out, I will carry with me, and will express to others, the regret that my school lost so many good professors, and that my experiences are lost to future students.
Letters

EPC to students

Dear Editor:

As the semester comes to a close, the EPC would like to be sure all the Observer readers are aware of two important initiatives in the works which would have an impact on academic life here at Bard.

The one of particular importance to the student body is the work of the Presidential Commission on the Curriculum. This Commission, consisting of 13 professors appointed by President Bobst, has been charged with the task of attempting to redesign the curriculum in such a way as to make Bard the best it can be. The proposal the Commission is presently considering involves the elimination of the broad divisional requirements, currently consisting of two classes in each of the four divisions, and the two-semester freshman seminar requirement. Essentially, this amounts to an elimination of a requirement entailing eight courses, as the two-course requirement applies only in the three divisions in which the student is not majoring.

The Commission is proposing to replace these eight courses with a “core curriculum.” Each semester, with the exception of first semester senior year, every student would be required to select two “core” courses. There would be several courses offered each semester from which to choose, and they would be of an interdisciplinary nature. The Commission is particularly interested in having each one taught by two professors in conjunction with one another, each approaching the subject from a different academic discipline.

Additionally, the Commission is considering having campus-wide presentations of the work done in the seminars, to take place during a week similar to Reading week, but which would probably occur later in the semester.

Because of the vastness of the senior project, there would be no core requirement in the first semester of the senior year. Thus, seniors would have more time to devote to their projects at that time. Furthermore, work on the senior project would be expected to be begun in the second semester of the junior year. However, seniors might be required to finish their projects by spring break the following semester.

This new deadline would be instituted in order to give seniors the opportunity to become involved with other courses, and to end their time at Bard with a broader educational experience.

In designing this proposal, the Commission is attempting to counteract the fact that many students, adjusting to college life and classes, might not have been as comfortable in a discussion session or have been prepared for the vast amounts of reading requirements. Later on, however, many regret they did not apply themselves in seminars, as they find that the materials studied would have been useful to them in later classes. Thus, the Commission hopes that this new system will alleviate these problems, while also increasing the interdisciplinary nature of a Bard education.

The EPC, thus far, has met with some distress among students who are not happy with this proposal. They are concerned about the limiting of opportunities to take other courses which they had the chance to take under the existing divisional requirements, about the limiting of course offerings which would result from so many professors teaching core courses, about the elimination of the possibility of “getting requirements out of the way” during the first years of college, and about the “public presentations” involved, among other things. In response to these concerns, the Commission has attempted to devise its own proposal. One thought we had was simply to keep the distributional requirements, but to make freshmen seminar “boring.” This would give students the chance to experiment with more classes their first year, while also responding to the concern that freshmen may not get as much out of seminar as they might later on. Freshman seminar might be required as a prerequisite for certain courses, however, and there might be a requirement that it be taken before moderation. Thus, essentially, students would be taking it sophomore year. We have also been considering several other ideas which we would like to bring to the attention of the student body for feedback at the forums on December 11.

The second proposal we would like to bring to your attention is the establishment of a Master in Teaching (MAT) program. If the vote of the full faculty is affirmative, Bard would like to begin the program in the summer of 1993, so it is important to consider what the impact of the program would be on undergraduate education and on existing college facilities, library resources, administrative personnel, and teaching faculty.

Campus facilities will likely not be impacted, as the 50-60 graduate students will be non-residents, and MAT classes are likely to be held in late afternoon or evening when seminar rooms are more readily available. In addition, the already planned conversion of Seymour to academic space will not be affected by the increases in academic activity brought about by the MAT. The need for additional undergraduate housing may be met by increasing capacity in the current master plan.

There will be no need to develop an education library here at Bard, because cooperative agreements with other colleges will provide that resource base. This will permit Bard to invest library development resources connected with the MAT in books and periodicals for the graduate program areas contained in the MAT, rather than in pedagogy. Increases are planned in books and journals necessary for graduate education in biology, mathematics, social studies, English and Spanish.

There will be little administrative change wrought by the MAT program which will impact undergraduate education. Current plans call for the hiring of a Dean of Graduate Studies to coordinate all of the graduate programs of the College and of an Assistant and support staff for him or her. The academic oversight of the MAT will reside with a Graduate Committee. It is expected that one faculty member from each discipline included in the MAT will serve on the Graduate Committee.

In terms of faculty, each department which is included in the MAT program will need to review its own strengths and weaknesses in order determine “What is the complement of faculty needed, and in what areas, to offer five graduate courses within a 15-month period and to supervise approximately 10 graduate theses over this same period?” It is envisioned that faculty will be added to those areas of the curriculum deemed in need of expansion so that the MAT can be accomplished not by adjunct faculty but new tenure track additions to existing divisions.

Clearly, the MAT program will have an impact on undergraduate life and education. Even more directly, however, the Bard experience will be altered greatly by a networking of the curriculum for undergraduates such as that being considered by the Presidential Commission. If you have any thoughts on any of these matters, please contact a member of the EPC.

We need your input in order best to represent your concerns. Also, please try to come to the forum meeting on December 11 in order to hear about the other curricular changes we have been discussing and to make your voice heard.

Sincerely,
Melissa Cahoon (Chair), Andrea J. Stein, Amy O’Hara, Shanaz Padmaee, Jeff Golden, Elizabeth Mead, Andrea Breth, Margaret Loftis, Mary Carol DeZutter.

Headline news

Dear Editor:

Last week I submitted an advertisement to run as a display ad in the Observer. The heading for the ad-copy I submitted stated “BRAVE OFFERS TRAINING PROGRAM” (not “Have you got what it takes to be a BRAVE counselor?”).

Since when does the newspaper change advertising copy without the express permission of the advertiser? As a result of this unauthorized change the Observer created an image in gross contrast to what the BRAVE program is all about. Involvement with BRAVE is not based on competition as suggested by your headline.

We encourage anyone interested in BRAVE to join us.

Sincerely,
Joan Unger
Program Director/ BRAVE

We'll Be Back

So long until our next issue

Feb. 5, 1992
Weekly Community Information

Registration Information:
Registration will take place on Wednesday, December 11. No classes are scheduled for that day. Anyone who would like to listen to recordings of poetry/reading is welcome.

Model U.N.:
Students interested in the Model United Nations should attend a meeting on Thursday, November 12 at 6:00 PM in Olin 205.

SUNY New Paltz Play:
Moments...an evening with Bill W. will be presented on Saturday, December 14 at 7:00 PM in the Old Main Theatre of the SUNY New Paltz Campus. For more information, call 331-9331. $7.00 contribution at the door, sponsored by the Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Council of Ulster County.

Cocaphony Is Here:
The magazine is available in the post office. Deadline for submission to the Spring 1992 issue will be March 2.

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/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 Blum Show:
"THE ODYSSEY and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image," which opened on Blum on October 6 will be running until March 1, 1992.

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

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

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 1001 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: Dec. 12 to Dec. 18, 1991

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<th>THURSDAY</th>
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<td>Model U.N. Meeting</td>
<td>Calendar Deadline</td>
<td>Worship Service (See Above For More Information and other services)</td>
<td>French Table College Room</td>
<td>Coalition for Choice meeting</td>
<td>LASO meeting Committee Room</td>
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<td>7:00 pm</td>
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<td>BBLAGA meeting Olin 203</td>
<td>Observer deadline for outside submission</td>
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<td>International Relations Club Kline Commons</td>
<td>Jewish Students Organization, Shabbat Services Bard Hall</td>
<td>8:30 pm</td>
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The Odyssey and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image. At Blum through March 1, 1991.