

OBSERVER

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THE BARD

THE OBSERVER

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& Sports Weekly

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*Where fraternities are not allowed,
Communism flourishes.*
—Barry Goldwater

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February 12, 1992

A funny thing happened on the way to the forum...

by Mike Poirier
News Editor

Last night, after nearly an hour of deliberation, the Student Forum passed the budget for the spring semester without any significant changes to the original draft. After limited debate, the Jewish Students Organization received \$150 from the Emergency Fund while an attempt to take money away from the *Observer* and Skydiving club was summarily withdrawn. By the close of the meeting the Forum also passed a resolution calling upon the college administration to raise the student activities fee by \$20 per year for two years in addition to a raise in the fee proportionate to the annual tuition raise.

The J.S.O. opened the budget debate by introducing an amendment that would transfer the \$150 as an addition to the \$350 they had already been allocated because they had already scheduled speakers for the up-coming semester and would be left without funding to continue their regular activities. The two speakers were co-sponsored by the Literature and Sociology departments.

"We have already committed a comparatively token sum to bring these speakers...we need the extra money if we are to continue our Friday night rituals because we have to buy bread, wine and candles," J.S.O. member, Joshua

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What they got:

Club	Request	Received
A.A.S.O.	\$445.30	\$445.30
Amnesty International	\$915	\$500
Audio Co-op	\$4,303.81	*
A.W.E. (Air Water Earth)	\$1,092	\$300
BELAGA	\$6,025	\$2,100
B.B.S.O.	\$4,520.45	\$2,500
<i>Bard Papers</i>	\$2,735	*
Billiards Club	\$842.40	\$170
C.O.G.	\$3,511.56	\$1,200
Club Art	\$1,675	\$400
Coalition For Choice	\$5,984.94	\$2,300
Cornucopia Music	\$2,884.20	*
Dance	\$750	\$250
Earth Day Coalition	\$1,350	\$150
E.M.S.	\$565	\$565
Entertainment Committee	\$18,050	\$12,000
Film committee	\$12,800	\$11,300
<i>Hodos</i>	\$575.29	\$300
Interest in World Sports	\$722.50	\$200
International Relations Club	\$731	\$500
J.S.O.	\$2,800	\$2,100
Jazz Club	\$3,000	\$400
J.S.O.	\$870	\$350 + \$150
Sister City Project	\$430	\$250
L.A.S.O.	\$4,950	\$2,100
Model United Nations	\$3,586	\$1,500
Muslim Association	\$210	\$210
<i>The Observer</i>	\$5,782.96	\$3,000
Outing Club	\$313	\$315
Printmaking Club	\$350	\$200
Psychology Club	\$390	\$350
Recording Studio	\$1,250	\$750
Religion Club	\$300	\$150
Scottish Country Dancing	\$383	\$100
Skydiving Club	\$995	\$600
S.M.O.G.	\$2,242	*
"Soviet" Studies Club	\$1,450	\$900
S.P.S.	\$785	\$300
<i>Split Eye</i>	\$785	\$300
Trek	\$221.65	\$175
Women's Center	\$4,110	\$2,100
WXBC	\$4,747	\$3,000**
Y.C.I.	\$700	\$300
Y.S.A.	\$2,775	\$400

*referred to other funds

**received \$2000 from the laundry fund

Budget forum continued

continued from page 1
Farber, explained.

Opposition to the amendment rose from those who felt that the J.S.O. should apply for the money through the regular Emergency Fund application process. David Rolfe argued that, "This is not a true emergency and it should be up to the Planning Committee, not the Student Forum to determine what money should go out in case of the event of an actual emergency."

Speakers commented upon how the Bard Black Students Organization was authorized to receive \$2,500 from the Emergency Fund

at last semester's budget meeting, and that the JSO were asking for significantly less especially considering all of the work that they put in.

Planning Committee chairperson Christine Gobbo was also opposed to the amendment, "Not because I am against the JSO because I feel that it (the precedent of the BBSO) is a dangerous one to follow...they could apply for the money later."

Four other clubs have already applied for money from the Emergency Fund according to Gobbo. The Photography Club, Anthropology Club, and the for-

mative Chess Club did not get their budget requests in on time and were asking for about \$1000, \$700 and \$300 respectively. *Hodos*, the annual literary magazine which received \$300 in the regular budget, also requested more money because they shall need more to be able to actually print their publication. After the J.S.O. transfer, \$2,250 remains in the Emergency Fund.

Ultimately, the amendment was passed with only minor opposition. A question was raised concerning the priorities of the Planning Committee if the JSO, a very out-going and supportive organization, were allocated only half as much money as the more individualized Skydiving Club. Gobbo replied that, after considerable debate, the Planning Com-

mittee was impressed by the Skydiving Club which, "unlike many other clubs, show[ed] a lot of initiative with two fund-raisers last year and three planned for this semester."

Charles Williams of the Coalition for Choice then introduced an amendment which would take \$950 away from the *Observer* and \$300 away from the Skydiving Club. The resulting \$1250 would be split between the Bard Bisexual Lesbian and Gay Association, the Women's Center, and the Coalition itself. His primary reasons for the transfer were that the *Observer* is "a crappy paper...producing only a few pages a week" and a shrug of the shoulders concerning the Skydiving Club.

Gobbo commented that the

Observer, for the past few semesters, has had their budget repeatedly cut and are operating upon a skeleton budget.

"If any more money is taken out we will no longer have a school paper," she remarked.

Treasurer Matt J. Lee then commented that for all of the *Observer's* imperfections, it is still an important feature of the campus. As he commented: "We all hate it [the *Observer*] but we all read it...any club that needs money that badly should do a little work and the raise the money yourself." After only two speakers, the amendment was promptly withdrawn, with Rolf stating, "On April 5 we are spending our money to go to Washington D.C. to support Roe vs. Wade...we are

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Security cautions women

by Gregory Giaccio
Editor-in-Chief

For the last week, a man driving a beige or tan Chevy Citation has been offering rides to at least three female students on Annandale Road. According to Director of Security, Bob Boyce, there are also rumors that some students may have accepted rides from this man.

"That disturbs me. We don't know who this person is or what

his intentions are," said Boyce.

Witnesses have described the man as being blonde haired and blue eyed, sort of heavy and in his early twenties. His car has New York license plates C9C-353. Boyce said that his intentions were to "caution female students." He would also like anyone who has seen or talked to this man to report it to security. Boyce would especially like to know if he is seen on campus since Security has no jurisdiction over Annandale Road.

Student Life Chair resigns

by Gregory Giaccio
Editor-in-Chief

Oliver Te Boekhorst announced his resignation as Student Life Committee Chairperson after serving for one year.

"I've learned a lot from it and it's been a lot of fun, but it's time to be concentrating on academics and

other things," said Te Boekhorst.

Oliver resigned due to an overabundance of other activities. Besides playing saxophone in his own Dixieland band, playing soccer and being a Peer Counselor, this Flying Dutchman has several work study jobs.

Te Boekhorst's reorganized the Student Life Committee drastically, making it a student-only committee. Under his command, the Student Life Committee was

far more active than in previous years. Te Boekhorst helped secure the pool room for the students as well as a T.V. lounge, which will be ready in the near future. Te Boekhorst was also instrumental in reorganizing room draw procedures make it more fair.

As of yet, no students have announced their candidacy to fill Te Boekhorst's shoes.

Attention:

This semester the Entertainment Committee will not be putting up flyers to advertise our shows. Instead we will advertise in the *Observer*, and on a glass-enclosed bulletin board that will be hung outside the coffee-shop. Please refer to these sources for all upcoming Entertainment Committee events.

Upcoming concerts

Fri. Feb 28 in Kline: THE POSSE NFX (A Black History Month Celebration)

Sat. Mar 7 in the Student Center: SEBADOAH

Sat Mar. 14 in the Olin Auditorium: THE DAVID MURRAY OCTET*

*-Tickets for this event will go on sale Mon. Feb. 17. The cost of admission is \$2.50 for students and \$5.00 for faculty and staff. This event will be reserved seating. Send your money (cash is fine) to Brad Richman or Rob Brunner through Campus Mail. Thank you, B&R.

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Students Lacking Immunizations

A reminder that there is a free immunization clinic coming up on Wednesday, Feb. 19 from 1:00 to 4:00pm at the Wilcox Memorial Town Hall. All students attending this clinic must bring their documentation to the Health Service upon their return. A van will be available at 12:30 behind Kline.

Economics Institute holds banking lecture

by Jeana C. Breton
staff writer

On Friday February 7th, the Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College sponsored a lecture by Charles W. Calomiris entitled "Lessons from Historical Banking Crises for Current Banking Reform." Mr. Calomiris, a visiting associate professor of finance at the Wharton School of Business of the University of Pennsylvania, attempted to illustrate the history of banking effectiveness by examining the experience of deposit insurance. He began by outlining the four questions he would attempt to answer:

1. What were the reasons deposit insurance was conceived?
2. Were there other alternatives and were these better or worse?

3. What do we learn from the success and failures of the way insurance systems were run?

4. How can these lessons be used currently?

According to Mr. Calomiris, deposit insurance came about because of a social problem called banking panics. A panic is defined as a sudden widespread contraction of the entire banking system that often occurs after an economic peak. In other words, there is a sudden demand for withdrawals. Several such panics took place between the years 1814 and 1914. This epidemic occurred in the United States. This, according to Mr. Calomiris, was probably because, unlike most other countries, the U.S. did not want to create a nation wide branch banking system. Instead, we had separate commercial banks, usually having only one

office each, which formed a lobby to avert problems, such as panics, by creating deposit insurance.

Branching therefore, was the most likely alternative to deposit insurance. Mr. Calomiris stated, "I'm a big fan of branch banking, but I'm also a political realist." According to him, branching would have meant fewer banks which were better diversified to coordinate themselves to develop a rapid response to a crisis. Banks have been able to regulate themselves to prevent free riding because of compatibility incentives. Joint action, however, is very important; if one bank is in trouble the others must come to its aid thereby endangering those banks as well.

Unlimited liability and protection against fraud were successes of branching, but a nationwide system probably would have been

a failure, according to Mr. Calomiris. He believes that geographic coexistence was such a plus for branching that it would have been difficult to have as great a benefit on a large scale. In addition, Calomiris explained, "incentives are not quite as strong when run by the government." When banks are state supervised but not state insured, bank managers lack personal incentive and abuse of the system becomes more apparent. With insurance, however, the smaller bank size would result in higher capital/deposit ratios. Although this means significant growth, it also resulted in higher failure rates if something went wrong with the economy. With branching, assets were higher and "lower failure rates kept the system from collapsing in some very great shocks."

Mr. Calomiris believes that the

current deposit insurance system has old flaws that must be removed without diminishing the system's good points. A social problem, however, cannot be solved easily and must be approached from a practical point of view. Excess risk taking is real, regulations must be enforced, and government regulation by itself is not the answer.

In addition to his teaching responsibilities at Wharton, Mr. Calomiris is also a faculty research fellow of the National Bureau of Economic Research, and a consultant to the World Bank and the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Recycle!

(It'll make you feel good)

Sprechen Sie Deutsch, bitte!

by Jeana C. Breton
staff writer

For the next four months Bard professor Franz Kempf will be conducting the Spring 1992 German Immersion Program of nineteen students with what he calls "The habit forming conceptual approach" to teaching. The program is offered every other year and, for practical reasons, no more than twenty students are ever accepted. All of the students will be making an attempt "to achieve a high degree of proficiency in the shortest possible time." The course consists of an entire semester of fifteen class hours per week before going to Germany for one month of twenty class hours per week in the summer. In only five months, the students will cover two years worth of German through class activity, almost constant out of class studying, language lab work, and tutoring.

As described in the course curriculum, "students are plunged into daily intensive usage of German with practice in all four language skills (speaking, listening-comprehension, reading, writing)" along with a fifth that Professor Kempf deems highly important—cultural proficiency. In



This is a map of Germany, if you're in Immersion, you knew that.

his words: "Adult learners learn best when they understand the concept underlying what they are practicing." Therefore, while learning the vocabulary through drills and creative assignments (the class has already covered two poems and performed skits based on information learned in the language lab), the students will also

be introduced to several aspects of Germany's culture.

Professor Kempf admitted that the demands put on the students are definitely high (most are taking no more than 1 other course due to how much dedication this one requires), but he is pleased to say that most will continue to study the language after returning

from Germany. Professor Kempf also predicts that by the end of the trip, students will be thinking and dreaming in German and most will probably remain in Europe for the rest of the summer.

In June, the students will travel to Heidelberg, Germany to study at Collegium Palatinum for 4 weeks. All classes there will be held completely in German, and will be a continuation of the learning done here at Bard as well as an enhancement opportunity for the students' "facility with the language." The accommodations will either be family homes or dorms, guaranteeing that the immersion students will have plenty of contact with Germans of all ages in the University town. In addition, students will visit museums and attend theatre productions and music concerts.

The only drawback of a short term intensive program such as this, according to Professor Kempf, "is the possibility of the students losing the knowledge as quickly as it was gained." There are, however, means to prevent this such as repetition, review, and reinforcement. Professor Kempf said that he pays close attention to how well the students are learning, and feels that "it is also very important to introduce not just the language, but the subtleties and complexities of the culture as

well" so that the students may gain true appreciation. Professor Kempf also said that the students may also gain a better understanding of their own culture by looking at it from another perspective.

Professor Kempf is not from Germany, but Switzerland, and said that German opens up new horizons as does any language. He said also that his students have had little or no previous experience with German and come to the immersion program to learn quickly because they want to read German literature and philosophy. Many students want to read Kafka, Goethe, Nietzsche and Kant in the original. The German Immersion program has been a success since its inception in 1988, and this year's program looks to be no different.

LSD Fast Facts: Lysergic acid diethylamide

- **ACTS:** within 30-60 minutes.
- **EFFECTS:** last 8-10 hours, can recur.
- **PHYSICAL response:** dilated pupils, elevated temperature and blood pressure, increased salivation.
- **PSYCHOLOGICAL response:** "Good" or "bad" trip characterized by hallucinations, enhanced sensory experiences. Depression can follow.
- **COSTS:** between \$2 and \$5 per "hit."
- **DOSE:** .03 to .05 milligrams.

Those who have argued the case for tenuring Carol Nackenoff wish to congratulate her for two accomplishments.

The board of the Oxford University Press has contracted for the early publication of her monograph on the ideology of Horatio Alger's works. And Swarthmore College has offered her a position in its department of Political Science, with promotion to the rank of Associate Professor. It is gratifying when institutions of recognized excellence acknowledge the quality of a teacher and scholar whose contribution to our own community has been outstanding.

Committee for the Support of Professor Nackenoff

Queer+ A Deeper Shade of Pink

by Ephen Glenn Colter

Some time ago a visitor saw me at a party and called me "Blood." That same night a first year student called me "Brother." I was a stranger to both these obvious white-minded boys trying to be savvy (embarrassed members of the patriarchy one day, later part of the Dead-White-Men canon of literature no doubt. But that's another story). So not to rule out the possibility of real distant family relation, I gave them an ambivalent look. What they were obviously struggling with was the term "African American male." I don't hear anyone coming up to a stranger of a darker complexion to refer to her as "Sister." If you rock that particular boat with certain women of color they'll rock your world! Well, I didn't just get off the boat either, so I just segued away, suddenly aware of two men of color to my far left, greeting each other coolly, "Hey, man/Yeah, hey man."

There aren't many of us in college, or in this (red)neck of the woods, I know, but give us a little more respect than the stereotypical. This campus isn't visually as diverse as many of us are used to. To "talk that talk" so insensitively is a disrespect to us all and a disservice to your own ethnicity, like throwing out the baby (an awareness of our difference) with the bathwater (the whitewash willing to believe that since there is no scientific race there is no socio-economic ism).

February is Black History Month. The Bard Black Student Organization (who has more than once been mistaken for the Black Center recently! Revealing shade if I ever saw it) will be offering a number of celebratory events germane to self-reflection and refraction. (Bard's long vacation doesn't give the campus the opportunity to recognize Martin Luther King Day in January, but it's good to remember that connectedness) I suggest to one and all to sit in on a few of the following classes if

you're not already taking advantage of the rare opportunity at Bard. Unfortunately next semester is really a bit of a mystery since most of these professors are not certain to return and continue the positive reinforcement their presence is creating:

Professor Achebe's African Literature course "The Image of Africa in the West,"

Professor Armstead's history course "The Broken Vessel,"

Professor Boyce's African Dance course (has a lot of folks in the most exquisite pleasures of pain,

Professor Kinyatti's Political Studies courses "Modern South Africa" and "African Resistance to Colonialism: The Mau-Mau Movement,"

Professor Ledgister's First-year seminar course,

Professor (Leo) Smith's Music course "Jazz Ensemble."

There is also "Modern History of East Africa," a course offered by visiting Professor Shevchuck of St. Petersburg, "Women and Development in Africa and Latin America" offered by Professor Brown, and "Other Ways of Thinking: The Ongoing Discussion of So-Called 'Primitive Mind' and 'Primitive Thought,'" offered by Professor Bick. And even if you weren't at the lecture last week I should hope that you are aware of the administration's move to offer African American Studies to the literature department. The candidate, Professor Mark Sanders, is an African American man with a higher education nonetheless "down" with the community because he doesn't seem to have forgotten to lift as he climbs.

African American experience can be appreciated as 24/7 rather than "appropriate" if you aspire to be something more than a 4-year-rebel on the 5-year-plan. Start with a few of the intelligent representations BBSO is sponsoring this month. Yes, there is a cure for Jungle Fever, but No, we're not going to teach you about your own culture just because we

know it as well-if not better-than our own. It, not you. We'll show you ours because we've seen yours (and it has seen better days) We're too busy learning more about our own. We have a life. Physician, heal thyself.

(When fairer folks have to share how "intimidated" they are with certain persons of color and complexion, implicitly they are asking these persons to meet them more than halfway; explicitly this fear is racism...I just as soon leave them up the creek without a paddle.)

Balck, female, single, or "Other," whatever box you might check, ex, slacs or darken may identify you these days, but does it define you in the collection of victims? does it collaborate your testimony? or is it just an alibi?

Personally, I darken my response with a deeper shade of pink, my signature color. I refuse to tone it down but rather, tune it up to par and spar with such boxes in a boxing ring; to take the edge off, to one day get off the defensive and hang up my gloves; I'd like to find out what is the "other," what is the "difference," what is "unstated," by stepping out of bounds, coloring outside the lines of my coloring book. I'd like to know why I am so quiet and provincial in my box when minority children scramble for box lunches, when some people tell other people to come out of the closet and these other people stare over the four walls of Pandora's box, when the homeless begin fighting over cardboard boxes, when the government boxes up my concerns and places them outside the door.

Whatever I do these do days is conscious decision to make my color visible. "Guy" is the first thing you see, but not the first thing you think about when you unfold my box. The first thing I assume you sense is that other G-word I pronounce "queer." My color isn't just a Black "Thang" or a White "thingy," gray matter or gray area. This epiphany of melanin endures the constant criticism of being a glow-in-the-dark thing or a made-in-the-shade thing, an extreme thing, to define itself in fine-tuned "questioning". It is still a spectacle in the spec-

trum. It's queer, but if you've ever cared to notice brown is not part of the rainbow. Take a closer look and see for yourself, understand why I say "black" rather than "brown," why we all still see red and close our eyes wanting to sea green.

Despite the aftertaste of blood in the air, in the sounds of blackness there are many voices. Some sing their sentiments ad impressions in gospel choir, echoing the smiles, similies, and grimaces of field and work songs. Many are gasping and coughing for aire to breathe when the smoke of fire and brimstone has cleared. Others are just loud and clear. Some are raspy and hoarse, older and wiser, whispers and sighs for the undivided attention of the Brothers and the Sisters of the diaspora. There are great orators and poets in the sound of our voices, gifted with knowing when to speak there mind and when to listen to our heart; when the dark is light enough. And there is the silent rage, the sustained hum that coarses through our veins and spurts like blood, our history, our heritage, and our heir apparent.

I am one of many, a young man of color in the shadows with the angry black man, the son of a bitch, the bad-assed nigger, Uncle Tom and Kountakinte, trying to watch my step; a youngman of color standing in the wings with the angry black woman, the white man's bastard, the all-purpose mother, Sister Thomson and Ms. Thing, trying not to go color blind at the thought of their femininities; all of us domesticated slaves to the chain of events.

I am not in jail with our men, on welfare with our women, at risk with our children. I do not have mouths to feed drugs to numb my hate, guns to point a finger into the deepest recesses of racism. I am not yet as well-read as our scholars, not yet as well-aware as our activists, not yet as well-intentioned as our peacemakers. But I am yet and still an African American male, not the man of the year -the flavor of the month -or the cause of the day. I simply have a shade in the unisex colors of blackness, a say in the sounds of blackness. Now I just have to hear myself think

GUERRILLA GIRLS — CONSCIENCE OF THE ARTWORLD

In the jungle that is the artworld, there is an internationally renowned group known as the Guerilla Girls who bring media-assassin tactics against the lions, tigers and bears of the art scene: sexism, racism, and discrimination. At 7pm on Wednesday, February 19, two Guerilla Girls will come to lecture in Olin Auditorium with slides, video, and discussion about racial and gender inequity within

the artworld and how these issues in the world at large affect women. To protect their anonymity, (and somewhat indicative of their wit) the Guerilla Girls don little mindresses and huge hairy gorilla heads for public events. This lecture is sponsored by the Gender Studies Program, the Coalition for Choice, BBLAGA, the Women's Center, the Art Club, and the Art Department.

Bard Response to Rape and Associated Violence Education

**The BRAVE education group will meet
Thursday, Feb. 13 at 7 pm in Kline.
Organization Meeting--All Welcome**

Questions? contact box 946

The Sunshine Column part one

I went to pick up my mail today. As I was passing the pool table, I observed two fellow Bardies examining the entertainment committee's budget. Since I was oblivious to everything, as usual, I failed to perceive the significance of the event that I had just witnessed. Mere seconds later, I opened my mailbox expecting to see an oversized mail slip. Instead, I discovered a similar slip of paper, but this one imploring me to protest the planned appearance of the Ramones. I was informed, thanks to the slip of paper, that the band was to be paid seven thousand dollars, a full three quarters of the committee's ten thousand dollar budget. Obviously, I was not dealing with a math major. The paper asked me to return it to Christine Gobbo, signed in protest. I considered for a moment my thoughts on the Ramones. Probably, I thought, a typical Bard event, drink beer until the band sounds good. Not to say that I don't like the Ramones. I've enjoyed the Ramones (albeit in small doses) for years. I'd consider them a five or six beer band, as opposed to, say

"Snack Chunk," which is understood to be a three-six-pack affair. Anyway, back to the slip of paper. I decided to sign the paper because, if nothing else, we here at Bard really need something else to protest. I turned to return the paper to the campus mail slot when I discovered a notice from Christine Gobbo, the intended recipient of the protest. The posted notice informed me that it was not Ms. Gobbo whom had distributed the protest slips, but indeed another individual. The notice begged me to get all the facts before making my decision. Not wanting to be uninformed in my opinion-making, I decided to hold off until I knew what was up. I returned to the room with the pool table and only then did I notice the budget posted on the wall. In addition to the Ramones, I found a whole catalog of events planned by the committee. Upon closer examination, I recognized several things. First was that admission to the Ramones event would be collected and returned to the general fund. The second was that every event listed was a hardcore/

alternative/sub-techno-pop event.

The first idea was actually pretty good. I personally would gladly pay a nominal admission and invite the general public at a higher admission for the opportunity to see a known act at my very own, dear college. I'm sure that it would be a good time, even with the Ramones. This brings me to a second, more important point. Bard is allegedly a bastion of free thought, of tolerance for diverse tastes. Why is it, then, that the only acceptable style of music available to the entertainment committee is this hardcore/alternative stuff. For the amount of money being paid to the Ramones, I am sure that a few or even ONE band that does not rely on heavy distortion could possibly be booked once a semester. Isn't this fair? Don't the people who consistently stay away from the usual student center events at least deserve one chance a semester to see a band that they really like? I find it unbelievable that such acts as the Zen Tricksters, Roomful of Blues, Blues Traveller, the Spin Doctors or even Max

Creek can't play here. The money is clearly available. Hell, if we're going to have to pay admission anyway, the committee should try to book Phish, they did play at Vassar two years past. If these options are too outrageous, at least try to get Chuck Brown back again. After all, we ALL paid the cover charge to attend this school. A wide variety of music should exist at Bard.

I thank Ms. Gobbo for imploring me to examine the facts before making my decision. Upon examining these very facts, I found that the program for this semester was decidedly one sided in favor of the fans of a specific genre of music. This is surprising for such a liberal school as Bard. With this information in hand, the idea of protest seemed to transcend the Ramones issue. This, forced me to protest a general trend by focusing on a single event, but what the hell, this is Bard.

Love, sunshine.

P.S. To the entertainment committee: Do we really need "the next Nirvana" to play here?

The Beer Column

By Finnigan and Phantom

Ok- here's a trick question. Where was Budweiser first made?

Answer: Czechoslovakia.

And why do we bring this up? Because we're savoring a bottle brought back by hand from Eastern Europe by the Phantom. Needless to say, it's 1,000 times better than the American Bud. Another question- where can you get one? Answer: Consult your travel agent. However for those of you who don't want to cross huge oceans to get your beer, you might have slightly better luck finding Anchor Steam beer and Anchor Liberty ale from San Francisco.

Phantom: You know, after finishing one bottle of the beer, it's lacking something. It lacks a kick. And you expect one for the price. I'd give it a mere 1 as my rating. I mean, let's be reasonable, \$8.29 is way too much to spend for a mediocre beer.

Finnigan: Look, you go out to a bar and you pay two bucks a bottle for good beer, at home the least that you could do is pay 1.25. It's not like it's bad beer, the Anchor is quite good, but in a larger, less specific context.

Phantom: You're missing my point; Anchor isn't bad, but it's nothing special- I'd be just as satisfied with Bud Dry, and you'd get twice as much for the price.

Finnigan: Yeah, and I guess that you'd get almost as drunk too; Look, Anchor is

better beer. I am personally much happier drinking Anchor than I would be drinking Bud. Anchor may seem mediocre, but it's got this relative crispness and a mossy though clean flavor and aftertaste (like mountain water- you can sort of taste all those micro-organisms, but not really). Anchor is one of the few beers where the initial flavor and the aftertaste are the same.

Phantom: Well put. I'll usually take quality over quantity but I'm not going to drink Asti Spumante (an Italian sparkling wine with a very sweet taste and a lifting finish) and pay for Dom Perignon (simply the best Champagne in the World). You know, we could do a champagne column too...

Finnigan: Let's move on. The Anchor ale is just as good- at least according to me- and the only difference between the two is the slight sweetness of the Ale. To balance that, the finish and aftertaste is slightly harsher. The two factors combine to separate the flavors by worlds.

Phantom: What disturbs me is that the ale is lighter than the beer. The beer is amber, like a dark Red Killians, while the ale is pale but opaque- kind of like the garlic butter sauce at Kline.

Finnigan: That's not fair, it'll gross everyone out. Play nice- though the beer is darker than the ale, it is decidedly different. The flavor is the real key- and though it is unfamiliar, it could be worth a try

Phantom: I'll conclude by saying that the flavor is quite different and more interesting than the regular beer. The aftertaste is however too sharp and more bitter than

most. Whether it's American Bud or Czech Budvar, your money could be better spent on something else.

Da Beerss:	Anchor Beer	Anchor Ale
Finnigan	1.5	2.5
Phantom	1	2

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Twenty Years of the People's Film Front

by Gregory Giaccio
Editor In Chief

1992 is the anniversary of many things, but perhaps most importantly, it is the 20th anniversary of Bard's avant-garde film department's first graduating class. This anniversary is being celebrated by a showing of Bard Senior Project films in the Anthology Film Archives in New York City. This exhibit of 29 films was curated by Adolfas Mekas and Randy Cashmere (Class of '80).

Bard's film department is a little different from that at most colleges, according to Professor Adolfas Mekas. "We are still maintaining that tradition of avant-garde cinema while most of them...became film schools creating people for the industry....We are fully integrated into Bard College, into liberal arts. Also, not being a film school, we stressing the aesthetics of cinema more than the practice."

However, Bard's film department was not always fully integrated. There was time when the



These Bard film majors may also have their works exhibited some day. Probably at a public court hearing.

admission of a film department into the rest of the liberal arts curriculum caused quite a stir. The department started in 1971, but it was not clear that it would last so long. Two years later, the Faculty Senate evaluated the department and found it "too expensive." Mekas said that this was a "convenient excuse" for the faculty, especially some of the senior faculty who felt that cinema didn't belong in a university.

The film department would have died an early death had it not been for the students supporting it. At the Senate vote, students took down the names of the faculty members who voted against the film department. This was the beginning of the Peoples' Film Front.

"We were quite entrenched in the old building where the printing shop is now [Central Services]....We had our own flag

and we considered ourselves outcasts."

Dr. Kline, president at the time, overruled the Faculty senate which was the first time such a thing had been done. "Many senior faculty never forgave Dr. Kline for that," said Mekas. Mekas credits Dr. Kline and the students who appealed to him for the existence of Bard's current film department.

Getting respect is no longer a problem for the film department. "We have people transferring from all over the world. Our

popularity is our own worst enemy," said Mekas.

However, such a reputation is not unwarranted. Although not a film school, 95% of Bard's Film graduates go on to a career in film or a Master's degree in film. "No other school can boast that record, not even a film school." Mekas feels that Bard film grads are getting the jobs because of their versatility; they are trained in all areas of cinema while other schools just train their students in cinematography or in other specialized craft.

Students have gone on to work with some of the leaders in film. You may have even seen their work without realizing it. For instance, Andy Aaron, Class of '76, has done sound effects for *Godfather 3*, *Cape Fear* and the *Empire Strikes Back*. Mark Street, another Bard Graduate, has had his films shown in the Museum of Modern Art in New York.

The work of these two students, and many others, will be shown in the Anthology Film Archives at 8pm on february 13-15. The Archives are located on 32 Avenue in New York City. Tickets are \$6.00, \$5.00 for students. For additional information call the Archives at (212) 505-5181.

Died Pretty's Hollow Promise

by Michael Poirier
News Editor

Died Pretty: Doughboy Hollow (Beggars Banquet)

"Doughboy Hollow" is the fourth album by the Australian quintet, Died Pretty. Very nearly an acoustic, folksy kind of pop band, Died Pretty is obviously musically talented but what they have in natural ability - they lack in listening excitement. The strength of this album is that it might not put you to sleep right away, yet its weakness is that it will not wake you up either.

Reminiscent of the Ocean Blue (but not as melodic), Died Pretty weaves their own deep instrumental texture combining nit-picking guitars, subdued drums, and a whining organ. Somewhere in there, the album sleeve says that there is a bass playing but it is hardly discernable. The lyricist seems satisfied to drone the cli-

ched cycle of boy meets girl, boy loses same while the singing itself challenges neither the listener or the singer's own vocal chords. Heavily accented, his words seem less like poetry than forced, verbal constipation. The songs themselves are easy to sing along to, however they fail to really motivate one to really want to.

Musically, the muted instrumentation is intricate while bland and self-defeating. Virtually every song meanders past the four minute mark; each tune mingling into the next, confusing the line between ballads and radio singles. There is a noticeable lack of a single memorable song - a regrettable absence of something suitable for radio airplay. Instead the dense, repetitive melodies and typical lyrical cynicism combine with subtle folk overtones to create Doughboy Hollow as the epitome of the might-as-well-be-acoustic pop album.

Producer Hugh Jones almost brings Died Pretty to the same

catchy levels of pure pop aestheticism he achieved with Edie Brickell and the Kitchens of Distinction. Almost. This band deserves a measure of respect but it is doubtful that they will even equal the modest commercial success they enjoyed on the other side of the Pacific. This album is painless pop, with the soft taste of a clean band aid.

With songs such as the disparagingly long-winded "The Love Song" or the lazy wheeze of "Out in the Rain", Died Pretty makes one think of goldfish swimming around in a teapot. They are nice to look at for about three minutes and then you want to turn the stove on, just to see what happens. Unfortunately, Died Pretty's idea of turning up the heat merely creates a lukewarm, and ultimately futile attempt, to actually rock and roll.

Classifieds and Personals

For sale:

A Casio SK-1 in very good condition w/ 10 sound settings, auto rthm, memory, and sampling. Everything works. \$25

Also: 1 pair o ladies white figure skates. Size 8, only been used twice. No marks and very good condition. \$15. If interested call 758-5149 after 6 pm.

Interested in volunteering during your Spring Break? If so, please stop by Ludlow 310 and see Teri. Plans are to help build low income housing with Habitat for Humanity.

Volunteer babysitters are needed on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:00 am until Noon at the Community Action Agency in Red hook so local men and women can take classes to get their GED. If you are interested please contact Stephanie Dopson through Campus Mail.

Single silver vibratoe seeks warm receptive cavity to initiate meaningful vibrations through dialogue and song. Answer to Ms. Ultra Smooth, WXBC 540 AM Thurs. Night 6-7:00. This week's special guest: Gloria Steinam, "Is Feminism dead or is it just your batteries?" Listen and let Ms. Ultra Smooth liberate you.

If you are interested in subletting your apartment or house to graduate students this summer, please stop by the MFA Office in Sottery Hall tp provide a description.

Dave: My score is so low it's not fit to print. The \$4 has been very consoling. -Missy

P.S. You came in second after Jeff.

Friday is my birthday and Fred ruined it by not bringing in the fotos. Incentive stick time, FRED!

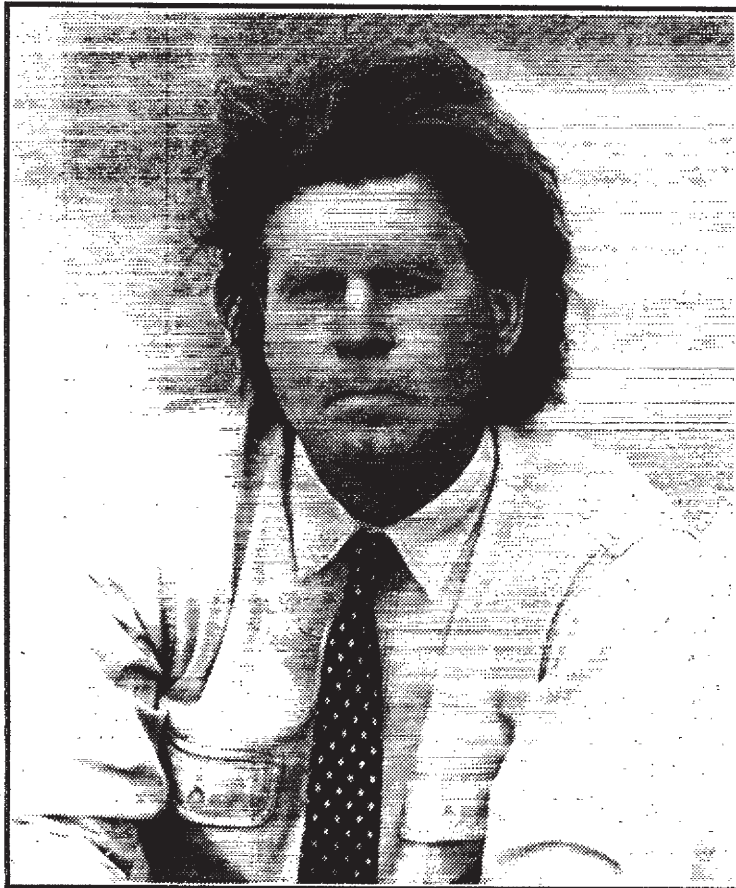
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The Almanac Branch breaks the rules

by Jonathan Miller
book reviewer

It's not often that you read a book that really breaks the rules. Bradford Morrow's new novel, *The Almanac Branch*, does so without anybody noticing. The first rule is: Write what you know. If you're a man, avoid a woman's first person narrative as much as possible. The second rule is that you preserve your hero's illusions—sensitive misunderstood protagonists are portrayed from their view of themselves—you certainly don't ever show them as the snotty or unpleasant people they may be. The third rule is not a rule at all but a vague tendency among men and women writers that men will tend to write about events and the people who get wrapped up in them, whereas women will write about people and the events they get wrapped up in.

Morrow casually breaks all three. His heroine, Grace Bush, has had it rough. Attacked by migraines and beset by hallucinations, her family moved out to a place unlikely named Shelter Island, allegedly to tend to her head. There, she is raped by one brother, shown pornography by the other, abandoned by her mother who runs off with the Hispanic me-



Bradford Morrow, author of *The Almanac Branch*, is also the editor of *Conjunctions*, a literary magazine published by Bard.

chanic cum sculptor next door, and starves for attention from her father. Already we can see the pattern—the sensitive, traumatized poet and her struggles in life. Grace's first-person narration (and Morrow does an admirable

job of producing a believable woman's point of view) is so self-absorbed that the first half of the book has a turgid quality, until we're almost sick of her misery and childhood reminiscences. It's not until Grace reaches adulthood,

when Morrow steps out of her narration that comprises the first half of the book, that it starts picking up interest. Seeing Grace from the outside sets our perceptions of her in a whole new light. Her stubborn distance from others, her self-destructive behavior, and weepy self-pity are hinted at in her own narrative, but become clear in the outside view. It is when Grace leaves childhood and is unable to depend on her parents that we start becoming interested in the character.

This book talks about the loss of magic in the world, how the illusions of television prolong the periods where you expect to click a finger and have everything be alright again. Grace's migraines produce wondrous hallucinations, causing her agony, yet infusing her with magic. When she has a short, angst-ridden relationship with a man named Li Zhang, it causes her sorrow, yet introduces her to the exotic quality of a non-Caucasian lover. The book of short stories that he leaves her offers her clues to her neuroses, cryptically juxtaposing her own difficulties with the fictional problems in the short stories. Morrow shows a Burroughsian streak in his taste for vague conspiracies orbiting around his semi-aware characters.

For thrills, chills and spills, *The Almanac Branch* will never come

close to even such moderate fare as Maugham's *The Razor's Edge*. The electric imagination that played hide-and-seek with the readers in Morrow's last novel *Come Sunday* is sadly diluted here, and we miss it. There is no shortage of books about people who have traumatic childhoods and later suffer because of them; coming from Morrow, this lack of imagination is a let-down. The writing is a little too self-conscious literarily; too busy filling out prescribed amounts of characterization and childhood reminiscence to put together the electrifying book that *The Almanac Branch* could have been.

Still, the author pokes steadily at concepts we've taken for granted in modern literature. Swooping in tone from the expanse of a generation long dynastic novel to the minute detail of a short story, Morrow shows that he knows his James Michener and his Raymond Carver equally well, and can play each off the other to strong effect. A solid second novel, *The Almanac Branch* queries intensely into both literary abstracts and realities of a young girl's life.

(*The Almanac Branch* by Bradford Morrow is published by The Linden Press and is available in the bookstore for \$18.95)

Matthew Sweet's new album: could have been worse

by David "ZZYZX" Steinberg
Bard Graduate

Matthew Sweet: Girlfriend
I didn't want to like this album. The cover almost screamed that this was going to be a techno-pop album. Even the title brought up

images of the Pebbles song - not exactly my favorite song in the world. However, Sweet said that he had left his synth days behind and the liner notes backed him up; all songs have just guitars, bass, and drums.

I still didn't trust him...until I played the disc.

From the opening song, this album proves itself to be a pop al-

bum - in the best sense of the world. While Sweet's lyrics appear trite when written down, they are a lot more convincing when he sings them. He frequently overdubs his voice upon itself to create Byrds-esque harmonies - an effect especially suited for his songs. Also worthy of mention is Robert Quine's amazing guitar playing. The introduction to

"Girlfriend" might be the most exciting thirty seconds that you are liable to see on MTV.

This is not a groundbreaking record; in fact, many of the songs sound familiar. Nor is it likely to become a classic or a must-have. There are some bad songs ("Does She Talk" sounds like bad frat rock) and, for some odd reason, a pause of 47 seconds in the middle

of the album (I'd think that this was a mistake of sorts, but there's another one of about 20 seconds.) But, if what you want is a good pop album, you can spend your money a lot worse than this.



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Blazers upset Mt. St. Vincent 87-84

by Matt Apple
Sports Editor

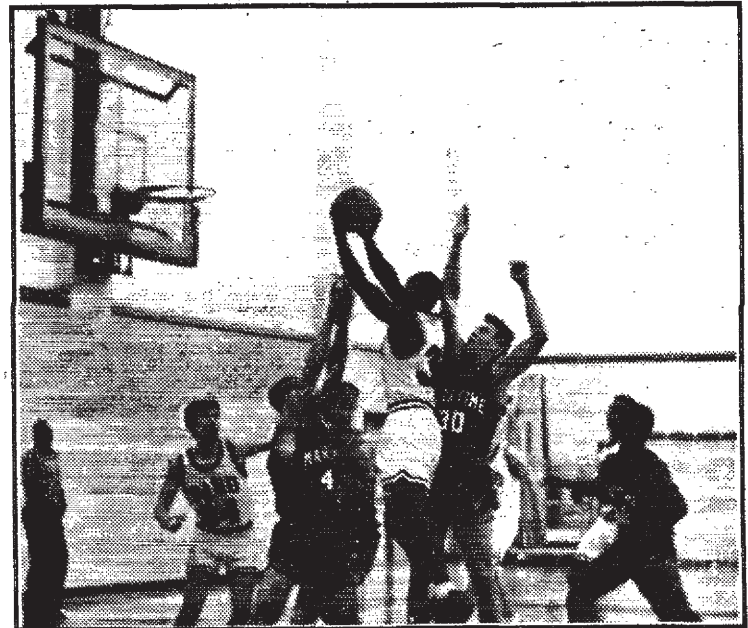
Five Blazers scored ten or more points each as Bard defeated Mount St. Vincent at Bard this past Sunday. The Blazers jumped out to an early halftime lead 45-32 over the top team in Bard's division of the NCAA Division III Independent Athletic Conference. Bard was as far ahead as nineteen points at one point before Mount

St. Vincent (13-8 overall, 4-2 IAC) had a 17-3 run, closing the gap to 78-73 with 2:47 left in the game. Bard responded with a 7-2 spurt, increasing their lead to 85-76 and sealing what Coach Bob Krausz termed, "the biggest upset in Bard basketball history." Dave Snyder led the Blazers with 24 points, twelve rebounds, six steals and two blocked shots. Gideon Low, who held IAC conference All-Star Dan Costello to 19 points the entire game, and Jamell Kendrick pitched in 13 points each. Bucky

Purdum bucketted 16 points and 11 rebounds and Sean Alford added 12 points and 11 rebounds.

By avenging their embarrassing twenty-eight point loss to Mount St. Vincent in early December, the Blazers raised their overall record to nine wins and eleven losses (2-4 IAC) to break the team record for wins in a season since playing only four-year colleges. The Blazer basketball team now has only three games left before the IAC Tournament, which begins next Wednesday, February 19th. Bard plays Steven's Tech this Wednesday the 12th at home, the NJ Institute of Technology at NJ this Saturday the 15th, and Nyack College this coming Monday the 17th at home.

In the meantime, Bard Intramurals got underway this past week. In the only indoor soccer game, the overly-enthusiastic Hey Fellas severely drubbed the highly inept Irregular Group Dynamics 18 to 1, with Michael Zieniewski scoring 7 goals and Piotr Bazylo adding 5. Matt Gilman scored the only goal of the game for IGO by kicking it in when the other team wasn't pay-



The Blazers have improved dramatically since this NY Maritime game.

ing attention; hey, ya takes what's ya kin gets. Men's basketball also got started with four games this past Thursday. Flight powered past Team Puss 45 to 19, Liquid Smoke II edged out the FL 9's 43-41, Los Caballeros won over Faculty Plus by forfeit and the Good Ole Boys narrowly beat Sir Cheese Head 28 to 25. Soccer games will

be held sometimes on Fridays, sometimes on Wednesdays and sometimes on Mondays - check with Kris Hall at ext. 530 for a complete schedule. Men's intramural basketball plays this Thursday, and women's basketball starts playing next week.

Jennifer Shirk Women's Fencing

ht: 5' 1 1/4"
wt: 103 lb.
year: sophomore
hometown: Pottstown, PA



Quote: "I was happy that I did what I did, but fencing is kind of a team sport...I don't want to take anything away from my teammates."

Jennifer, who has only fenced since last September, was a big contributor in her fencing team's first win of the season over Steven's Tech. Jen was 3-1 versus the Steven's Tech Ducks and 3-1 against a tough USMA team. Coach Konecny awarded Jen a T-shirt from the 1983 national fencing competition for her efforts. Jennifer was slightly pessimistic about her future matches, although "they're [upcoming team] not any tougher than my classes."

Monirul Hoque Men's Squash

ht: 5' 11 1/2"
wt: 159 lb.
year: sophomore
hometown: Dhaka, Bangladesh



Quote: "Always believe in what you do, and keep it consistent."

Monirul, ranked #7 on the Bard men's squash team, tallied the only Bard win against Columbia, winning in three straight games. He also was victorious against his Babson opponent, and took his USMA and Tufts opponents to four games, all in losing causes. "I never started taking it [squash] seriously until last year," said Monirul, adding that the men's squash team has improved dramatically since last year. The team may not get that far in the NISRA Nationals at Yale on February 21st, but "we'll give it a good show." Monirul and the men's squash team get a chance to show their stuff home against Skidmore this Saturday at 11am.

Rough start for men's volleyball; women fencers hit their mark

by Matt Apple
Sports Editor

The men's varsity volleyball team lost their home opener and all three of their matches at the Vassar Tournament to begin their 1992 season on a sour note. After losing to Marist, though the loss is not counted on Bard's record because Marist is a club team, the Blazers entered the Vassar Tourney this past Saturday against several tough opponents. Harvard and Baruch, the most powerful of the tournament teams, easily overpowered Bard 15-1, 15-3, 15-1, and 15-1, 15-0, 15-3, respectively. The Blazers fared a little better against Jersey City State. Led by offensive leaders Razi Abdurrahman and Eric Johnson, and setters Jody Apap and Alexei Griebisch, the Blazers forced a four-game match, losing 3-15, 6-15, 15-13, 11-15. For the tournament, Eric Johnson had 3 kills and 7 digs, while Jody Apap had 7 assists.

The men's volleyball team plays their next three games home, with Fordham Univ. on Thursday the 13th, Sacred Heart and Pratt Institute in a double duel match on Saturday the 15th, and Brooklyn College on Tuesday the 18th. Check with the Athletic Department at the Stevenson Gym for game times.

While the men's volleyball was hammered by their ivy-league foes at Vassar, the women's fencing team, also playing at Vassar, racked up their first win against Steven's Tech. After losing 11-5 to the United States Military Academy (USMA) team, the women Blazers squeaked out a 9-7 win over Steven's tech. "I had a smile glued to my face," when the day was done, Coach Hope Konecny said, pleased with the performance of her team, a team that only has one returning player from last year. For the day, Jennifer Shirk led the Blazers with 6 wins and 2 losses, winning three sets each match. Angela Jancius and Amy Bogart both had 3-5 records,



and Samara Grossman rounded out the Blazer team with a 2-6 record for the day. The next women's fencing team's match will be this Friday, the 14th, with the men's fencing team as each team squares off against its counterpart from Baruch College. The men's team has another match this week, on Wednesday the 19th at New Jersey Tech with Yeshiva.

There's no government like no government

by Greg Giaccio

It is times like these that I really envy anarchists. Times like these means times when I am listening to political commentators on Public Radio talk about the upcoming presidential election. We are no longer forced to choose between the lesser of two evils, but we are forced to contend with the evil of two lessers.

Voting used to be very easy in this country. Once upon a time issues were simple, campaign platforms were clear, and ideals were important, but you could ignore all that crap and just vote on personality and five times out of ten you'd get a pretty good president. Now none of our contenders have a personality. They don't even have silly hats or weird facial hair patterns like a bushy Grover Cleveland mustache which makes for easily recognizable cartoons. If they do have a personality they have Jerry Brown's personality, which is unfortunate, because he's only borrowing that until he gets reincarnated as Shirley McLaine.

Even our scandals are getting kind of tired. Watergate: now that was a scandal. Gary Hart: well it was kind of interesting because Donna Rice could have done better. But Bill Clinton? That doesn't even make a good commercial for the *National Enquirer*. However, the tapes which Bill's babe made of him trying to hush her up could make a good AT&T commercial. You know, one of those: "And then the phone rings, it's this married man I slept with back in '84 and he says 'This could be a big scandal, don't say anything.' So I say 'Gee, no one used to make these requests when I was using AT&T.' And he says 'You're not dealing with AT&T.' And I say 'I am now.'"

Admittedly, these are just the Democratic candidates, which are usually a pretty poor lot anyway. If I were a liberal, I'd vote for Gorbachev. What the heck, he's out of a job. Even a conservative should vote for Gorby; after all he was the only one who was able enough to bring about an end to the Evil Empire.

Besides, this year even the conservatives offer lousy choices. This, of course, excludes George Bush. I am a conservative; some of my best friends are conservatives, but George Bush is no conservative.

Pat Buchanan is a columnist, which immediately eliminates him from holding any public office. In fact, he doesn't even know proper journalist etiquette. A good journalist would just whine about the poor choice of candidates instead of trying to do something about it. Our job is to complain and observe and leave action for those incompetent enough to really louse it up good.

And then there's David Duke. I think he exhibits all the problems of trying to run a democracy. In a democracy, someone affiliated with a political party that we had to go all the way to Germany to put down just fifty years ago is eligible for public office. I guess he also exhibits the problem of a candidate with too much personality. Oh, the days of Grover Cleveland are over and we're a much worse country for it.

What are those silly receptacles for?

by Tatiana Prowell

I'd like to take a moment to acquaint you with your campus. Put on a dreamy face and think back to L&T or perhaps your visit as a prospective student. While parents were staring at the Ravines and trying to find nice things to say, you were noticing that there were trash cans as far as the eye could see. On closer inspection, you found that they were recycling bins for every material imaginable. "Wow!" you thought, "Bard is a really progressive school. They recycle."

I came to Bard from a high school in which I started up a recycling program, but let me tell you, it was not nearly as complete as the system here. We never recycled dryer fluff or packs of Camel Lights—never even thought of it! In fact, Bard is so efficient that we don't even need separate bins for the fluff here. We can just put it

right in with the glass, plastic, or paper. And if none of those bins are within three feet, the aluminum bin is always an option.

Sarcasm aside, I know that it would be foolish to expect everyone to recycle. Although the bins are usually just a few feet away from the trash can, or at worst, a one-minute walk, many people are too lazy to cooperate. This is really disappointing given the simplicity of such a beneficial task.

My serious gripe, however, is with the people who undermine the process. If you don't want to make the few extra steps to recycle, that's your choice. I understand that it is a fatiguing activity, and it's important to conserve your own energy. I don't make this impossible for you by removing the regular trash cans from your dorm and the coffee shop. When you walk to the glass bin, though, and drop in your

styrofoam cup and a cigarette package, you do make it impossible for those of us who would like to recycle. Either we must spend 10 minutes separating your trash into its appropriate container every time we want to recycle something, or we must put our bottles on top of a pile of dryer fluff and know that they will end up in a landfill.

It's impossible for me to gauge how many students have a sincere interest in environmental issues anymore since it doesn't take many people to ruin the effort. Those of us who are concerned can only do our part and as much of other people's as time and patience allow. If anyone has serious ideas or suggestions as to how we might improve the situation, please contact me through Campus Mail Box #1239. Will the organizer of Air Water and Earth please contact me as well.

Budget continued

continued from page 2

going to deal with it [their allocation.]"

Before the final budget was resolved, there was considerable commentary that more money was needed for every club which could only be achieved by raising the student activities fee. Last year, after a referendum that virtually 80% of the student body approved of, appealed to Vice-President Dimitri Papadimitriou to raise the fee by \$30. It was raised only \$10 and the fee has only gone up to

\$70 from the 1974 charge of \$50.

The resolution which was passed stipulated that, at the request of the student body, the administration raise the fee \$20 a year for the next two years which would bring in an additional \$40,000 for student activities. Thereafter, the fee would be raised in proportion to national inflation along the consumer price index. Concerning the possibility of actually convincing the administration to allow such an increase, Oliver de Boekhurst commented that, "Clubs should pay attention

to fund-raising to show Dimitri we're serious about getting money by getting it ourselves."

This semester is the last \$5,000 payment upon the Student Forum's debt to Buildings and Grounds and this money will also be available next semester. Last semester, according to Lee, went by "very smoothly" financially and Comptroller Chuck Crimmons felt that it was "the best year for the way funds have been used" in his experience.

No more Mr. Nice Editor.

by Greg Giaccio

I always like to compare to the *Observer* to Kline. There are many similarities. Both receive a lot of criticism from those who have never compared their other collegiate counterparts. Both have acquired an unfair reputation for being miserable. Despite their reputations, these whining, ungrateful students come to us week after week, asking for Public Service Announcements or special desserts. Why do they come to us, these institutions which are sup-

posed to be so lousy? Because week after week, day after day, we perform. When push comes to shove, they know that we will be there. We have to be there. We are necessary.

Unlike Kline, however, certain people on this campus feel that they can bleed us to death to suit their own purpose. In 1989, the *Observer* received about \$8,000 per semester from the Convocation. We lost about a thousand dollars a semester after that, and now receive \$3,000. Do the math, that adds up to about \$1000 a semes-

ter. I'd dig up the actual figures but I am writing this at 2am, Wednesday morning (to give you an idea of how dedicated I am). Without this money WE WILL FOLD. Printing costs alone are \$4200, and that's the straight shit. I already shaved all I could off the budget and am just hoping that I can raise the ad revenue to cover what we didn't receive.

If any of you wise-ass weasels have an inkling in your stupid skulls to steal more money from us, either take it all or leave us alone. It is just evil to bleed some-

thing to death, so either save us or shoot us. If you decide that the paper isn't necessary, ask yourself where you look to find the schedules to Poughkeepsie? Where do John Fout and Leon Botstein turn when they have something to say to the whole campus? Where do you look when you want to find out what really happened in the latest campus scandal? Last year we received a letter that said "you are no match for *Bardvark*." Ask yourself where is *Bardvark* now?

If you would like to respond to

this editorial, send a letter to the *Observer*. While you write that letter ask yourself where else you could express your opinion to the entire campus if not for the *Observer*. By the way, have the guts to sign your letter: we don't print anonymous trash.

I would also like to extend my thanks to Christine Gobbo and Matt J. Lee for defending the *Observer* in my absence. I would also like to thank the silent majority who support us quietly.

Interview was insensitive

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to the interview with Rajan Bery reprinted in the Feb. 5th issue of the *Observer*. Reprinting such an interview after Rajan's death was a thoughtless, insensitive act even the average cynical Bard student should have had the intelligence to avoid.

I graduated from Bard in May 1990 and knew Rajan since we were freshmen. I can't say I knew him well. But I did know him well enough to see that despite his jokes and his acts and his apparent callousness, he was, as most of us are and pretend not to be, an intensely serious, thoughtful person who wanted more than anything to be taken seriously. He was a creative, skillful musician who cared for his art. And he was a good friend.

I hope the only reason for the reprinting of the Dec. 7 interview (which was silly while he was alive, but sounds jeering after his death) is that no one at the *Observer* knew Rajan well enough to say anything worthwhile about him. Even so, it's hard to believe that the editors of the *Observer* didn't realize that silence would have been better than such a lack of tact. Every person is a mystery; rather than belittle someone's life we should respect that mystery.

Sincerely,
Charlotte Mandell '90

I have never known what to say when someone dies and it is even harder to write about it for a large audience. Luckily I have only had to do this twice, but each time I dreaded getting a letter like this one. I reprinted Rajan's interview because I felt that nothing he said about himself could be taken as offensive or damaging to his memory. I regret that what I meant to be a tribute to Rajan was taken to be an insult.—ed.

Mistakes were made

To the Editor,

We would like to take responsibility for the pink notices all students received through Campus Mail on Thursday Feb. 6. We believe that our intentions were misinterpreted and would like to rectify the situation:

1.) We would like to make 100% clear that Christine Gobbo had no knowledge of our actions. We indicate that students should respond to Chrissie only because she is in charge of the budget committee. This was our error. We should have specified that our opinion did in no way express that of any member of the Budget Committee.

2.) Our action was not intended to sabotage the Entertainment Committee. We only wanted to make the entire student body aware of figures regarding rumored Entertainment Committee plans.

3.) Although Anna McLanahan serves as co-chair of the Film Committee, the other members of the Film Committee were completely unaware of our actions and in no way did we attempt to speak for them.

4.) Furthermore, our action was not intended to deplete or otherwise effect the Entertainment Committee's budget, but rather to redirect their priorities through student support. However, we have since learned that several of the statistics we quoted were incorrect and that the Entertainment committee had alternative plans for covering the cost of the Ramones show and have expressed that the Ramones show would only occur if the Entertainment Committee received a large enough budget to allow for the proposed plans.

We sincerely apologize to all concerned and advise students to look before they leap.

Love,
Anna McLanahan and Jean LaBelle

Overturn the "Gag Rule"

To the Editor:

The ultimate freedom in this age is the survival of Mankind in responsible choices which are made by all of us in awareness of the consequences of our actions.

Putting politics and belief systems aside so that the issue of the "Gag Rule" can be seen in the context on the larger issue of survival of the many, there would be no other choice than to overturn it.

The community, nation, and worldwide reality is that without every kind of education of consequences, we are committing, in my mind, unconscionable crimes

against us all and are furthering our self destruction.

It is impossible for me to comprehend how President Bush can advocate the "Gag Rule" and how anyone can justify their support for it.

It is my fervent hope and prayer that those who have not voted to overturn the "Gag Rule" will do so now and make up for much lost time in helping the world and ourselves better understand the environmental, social and economic implications of not allowing counselling on abortion to be given as a viable, although last resort, form of birth control.

Andy Wing

Politician, regulate thyself

Dear Editor:

Is it a "state of Union" to disallow the people's responsibility to their environment?

If the President were to say to me that I do not have to care about what and how I use that which comes or I bring to my home and property, I would feel that I had been robbed, disconnected from an aspect of myself.

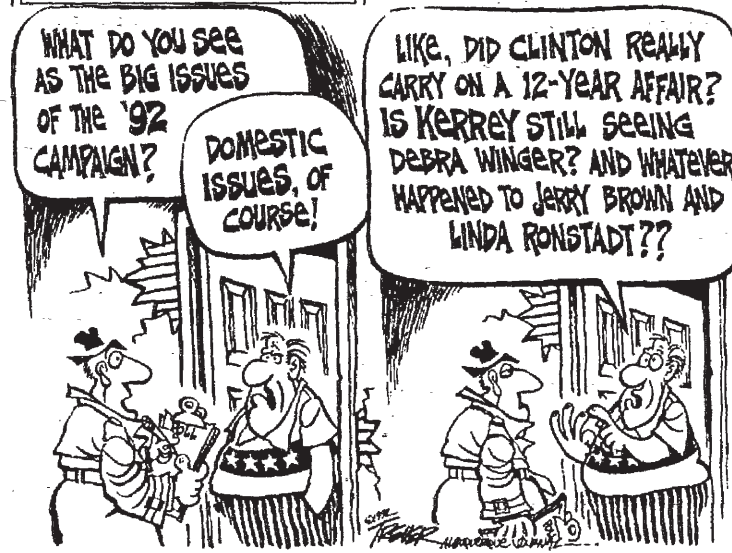
A kind of disenfranchisement would occur if I could not recycle paper, aluminum, glass and plastic, use the biodegradable laundry water on my trees and plants, compost organic yard and kitchen wastes, turn off lights and appliances not in use, use all kinds of saving methods including planning the property to retain on site the runoff from what rain we do receive, maximize the use of sun to heat my house in Winter and cool it with the off-shore breeze in Summer.

If the president said to me that I do not have to plant vegetables and shrubs and trees and should no longer live by all the regulations I have which I live by to sustain myself, oxygenate the air and preserve our resources, I would say to him that he is crazy, and worse than that, a very evil force in the world. Instead of being our steward, he wishes to create a state of disunion.

Andy Wing

**Recycle,
baby!**

The Observer welcomes any and all submissions. General deadlines are on Friday at 5:00 but we try to make room for everyone. Send your letters, personals, classifieds, cartoons, etc. through campus mail or stop by Tewksbury's basement



The Bard Observer

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Typists
Jennifer Shirk
Andrea J. Stein

The Bard Observer is published every Wednesday 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

BARD COLLEGE: FEB. 13 - FEB. 19, 1992

WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION

Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series:

Robert E. Tarjan, computer scientist and James S. McDonnell Distinguished University Professor of Computer Science at Princeton University will speak on *Data Structures* on February 12 at 2:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium.

U. S. / Soviet Relations Talk:

Prof. Neil Salzman, the author of *Reform and Revolution: The Life and Times of Raymond Robins*, Will give a talk *Colonel Robins' Search for Rapprochement Between the U.S. and Soviet Russia: A Lost Opportunity?* on Monday, February 17, in Room 204, Olin Building at 9:00 AM.

Soviet Studies Club:

A talk with Bard Students who returned from Russia. 7:00, Tuesday, Feb. 18, Olin Room 205.

German Film Showing:

Germany, Pale Mother (Deutschland, Mleiche Mutter), by Helma Sanders-Brahms will be shown on February 18 at 7:00 PM in Olin 102.

The Guerrilla Girls:

Feminists activists and self-described "conscience of the art world," will give a presentation on sexual and racial discrimination in the art world. Includes slides and videos, followed by questions and answers. On February 19 at 7:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium. Sponsored by the Gender Studies Program, Art Department, Coalition for Choice, BBLAGA, Art Club and Women's Center.

Peer Counselor Applications:

Applications for Peer Counselor positions are currently available through the Dean of Students office. Submitted applications are due in the Dean of Students office by 5:00 PM, Monday, February 24. All materials must be in by this deadline. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Gladys Watson at ext. 455.

Bard Grad. Film Show in NYC:

In celebration of 20 years of the Film Department of Bard College, Anthology Film Archives in New York will present three different programs of films made by Bard Students. The dates are: February 13, 14 and 15. All shows are at 8:00 PM. The program is still in flux, but there will be at least 30 films or more. Anthology Film Archives, 32 Second Avenue (at 2nd Street). Telephone (212) 505-5181.

Introductory Yoga:

An introductory course in Yoga will be taught on Tuesday nights, 6-7:30 PM in Olin Room 204, starting February 11. This course is open to students, faculty and staff, and their family. There will be eight sessions, and the fee is \$20.00. Classes will be taught by Ben Vromen, who received training at the Kripalu Yoga Center in Stockbridge, MA. He has been teaching at Bard since 1985. To register contact Ben Vromen through campus mail. For additional information, call evenings, 758-8497.

Classical Guitar Concert:

Coming to our Bard College Campus will be William Mathews, Classical Guitarist on February 25, Tuesday, in the Chapel at 8:00 PM.

Papier Mache:

Anyone, students or faculty members, interested contributing to the next issue of *Papier Mache*, French literary magazine, should send their submissions-- poems, short stories or essays-- to Profs. Odile Chilton or Jose Santos by February 28th. The writer's name should not appear on the work; instead, an index card with the author's name, phone number and title of the work should be attached. A vos plumes!

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

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.

Current Blum Show:

"THE ODYSSEY and Ancient Art, An Epic in Word and Image," which opened at Blum on October 6, 1991 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

Tuesdays:

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

Thursdays:

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)

CALENDAR OF EVENTS: Feb. 13 to Feb. 19, 1992

THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
6:00 pm Model U.N. Meeting	12:00 NOON Calendar Deadline Dean of Students Office	2:00 pm Scientist Lecture Series Olin Auditorium	8:30 am Worship Service Chapel (See Above For More Information and other services)	9:00 am U.S./Soviet Realtions talk Olin 204	6:30pm Coalition for Choice meeting President's Room Kline Commons	5:00 pm LASO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons
7:00 pm BBLAGA meeting Olin 203	5:00 pm Observer deadline for outside submission		7:30-10:30 pm Peer Tutors Third Floor Aspinwall	5:00 pm French Table College Room Kline Commons	7:00 pm German Film Olin 102	5:45 pm BBSO meeting Committee Room Kline Commons
7:00 pm International Relations Club Kline Commons	6:30 pm Jewish Students Organization, Shabbat Services Bard Hall			3:00-5:00 pm Poetry Room Open Olin 101	7:00 pm Soviet Studies Club Talk Olin 205	7:00 pm Guerrilla Girls Olin Auditorium
7:00-9:00 pm Poetry Room Open Olin 101				7:30-10:30 pm Peer Tutors Third Floor Aspinwall	7:30-10:30 pm Peer Tutors Third Floor Aspinwall	7:30-10:30 pm Peer Tutors Third Floor Aspinwall
7:30-10:30 pm Peer Tutors Third Floor Aspinwall				8:30 pm Observer writers' meeting Third floor Aspinwall	7:30 pm AA Meeting Aspinwall 302	

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