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Filled to capacity

Housing is tight, but under control

With fourteen students moving into the completed basement of Oberholzer, the dust is finally starting to settle concerning the housing condition at Bard College. As Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life, Gladys Watson, commented, "It's been a unique year, and now things are coming together."

Since the Language and Thinking Program, on-campus housing has been a strenuous situation for some students. Some first-year students have moved three or four times in the last five weeks; fourteen others were assigned to temporary housing for eight days in Alumni Residence Hall study rooms, Tewksbury lounge, and Red Hook while their permanent rooms were being constructed in Oberholzer. At the moment the College is using all of its eight hundred nine beds; this number will go up to eight hundred twenty-one when Oberholzer is finished.

Currently only eleven students remain on the waiting list for on-campus housing and Watson characterized these students as "people who contacted my office over the summer requesting housing who never went through the room draw process." Watson gave a variety of reasons for this housing crunch, which included the recession and the fact that many more seniors lived off-campus last year.

"We want to accommodate everyone," stated Watson. "But in trying to meet everyone's needs we end up running out of space." While total enrollment at Bard College is at its regular level of one thousand to one thousand and ten students, more people want to live on-campus. Since November of 1990, when Watson became Assistant Dean of Students, typically between two hundred and two hundred twenty-five students lived off-campus. This year that number is closer to one hundred seventy.

Approximately half of last year's graduating class lived off-campus, which left less than one hundred empty rooms at the end of the '91-92 year. Due to the economic recession, many students cannot afford to live in apartments and would prefer single rooms on-campus to having multiple house-mates. Scholarship students especially have a difficult time paying for off-campus apartments, and Watson reported that a number of students who have been living off-campus now want to move back on because of financial difficulties. "As things become available, we will house students," said Watson. "What makes it difficult is that I don't have a crystal ball to predict how soon rooms will become available."

"I'm happy to say that we really did house everyone from last year's Room Draw," Watson continued, concerning the seventy-nine students left without rooms last May. Less rooms than usual opened up over the summer, and financial ultimatums

continued on page 2
Room Draw this year there are room vacancies in the Spring semester (due to graduates and students not returning.) We might be full for the Fall semester, but some rooms are always left empty by springtime. It's so unpredictable; we can't build new housing as a knee-jerk reaction.

"The College has a commitment to academics first, and I think we need to retain their room assignments. "It's not something the College likes to do," commented Watson. "And if we do, we give fair warning...times are tough."

Concerning the upcoming Room Draw this spring, Watson predicted that "just like every year" there will be another waiting list for students who will not receive an immediate room assignment. When asked if Bard is planning to build any more dormitories, she responded, "Every year there are room vacancies in the Spring semester (due to graduates and students not returning.) We might be full for the Fall semester, but some rooms are always left empty by springtime. It's so unpredictable; we can't build new housing as a knee-jerk reaction."

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The correct spelling is "indigenous" (according to Webster's New World Dictionary Second College Edition).

"Alright.

Who really cares about the so-called English aristocracy?"

Andy Wing is god.

Heidi, I just wuv holding your muffins.

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Not many students at Bard realize that a small garden exists at the south end of Ravine Road. When asked about the garden, located near Bleucher, even Ravine residents were puzzled as to its origins. One student replied: "A garden outside of Bleucher? I don't know. I don't think I've ever seen it."

Another student, a resident of Tremblay, replied a little more creatively: "I think it is from some L+T project. Kline takes some herbs and flowers. It is possible for any interested vegan, vegetarian, or health-conscious other to become involved in this project."

In the past, students on probation were asked to help out with the community garden. Other students, however, are more than welcome to join in the gardening project. The community garden is tended by anyone who wants to take food or pick flowers. A simple job such as weeding gives any Bard student the right to the contents of the garden.

A sign regarding this no-longer-so-mysterious garden is posted on the third floor of the Rose Lab Building. Interested students should contact Laurie via extension 465 or 468. Students are encouraged to leave their names and numbers.

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Art is an issue that has dogged at the heels of philosophers since the beginning of time. Eventually, one of them scraped it off his heels and wrote something about it to get the whole issue settled. That philosopher was Aristotle who thought that he had gotten somewhere when he said "Art imitates life." However, he also said, "For if you happen to have seen the original, the pleasure will be due not to the imitation as such, but to the execution, the coloring or some such other cause," which explains nothing except perhaps why certain distinguished members of our philosophy department still attend conferences to decide whether or not ventriloquism is an art. So, as you can see, Alexander the Great, Aristotle's most famous student, was probably right when he told Aristotle to "imitate life until you're blue in the face. I'm going to conquer Egypt and pick up some babs."

When I first came to Bard I was excited about art. I thought that this campus would get me more cultured than a six-pack of yogurt. Then I brought my parents to the Edith C. Blum Art Institute when they came to visit. They appreciated the Blum as much as any group of gibbons would appreciate the collected works of James Joyce. Eventually, the security guard got so fed up with them touching ancient tapestries and paintings that he shot my step-father in the knee. He claimed that he was just "cleaning his gun."

However, my step-father will probably get to keep his other knee as they have closed the Edith C. Blum Art Institute. I took an impromptu survey of some students and asked them what the loss of this art institute meant to them. Four of them responded by asking where the Blum was, two of them asked if they could still hold parties outside and the rest ignored me and went back to watching the Simpsons. Then I realized, it was these students who had discovered what art was meant to be. When are we closer to imitating life than when we are watching television? I know that most of us have had more passionate discussions over whether or not to watch "Wheel of Fortune" than whether or not we should go to an exhibition of Michelangelo's work or Raphael's. And if that isn't evidence enough on why television is more artistic than traditional art, then explain why most people think of Michelangelo and Raphael as Ninja Turtles.

The best thing about television, and I mean real television and not "Masterpiece Theater" or shows that make you think, is that it is completely self-supported. While other artists sponge off the National Endowment for the Arts, or apply for grants so that they can turn them down in order to protest the NEA, television artists earn their money. You never hear Doug Llewellyn from the "People's Court" whining about art for art's sake. He knows the real money is in getting people to yell at each other in a court-like atmosphere.
Save $5 and the environment at the same time

As of September 1st, 1992, New York State residents are required by law to do some sort of recycling. To what extent citizens are expected to recycle is not clear, but according to the most recent Solid Waste Management Plan: "The State's goal is to reduce/recycle 50% of solid waste generated in New York State by 1997." This means we will be seeing a lot more of what some consider to be very annoying recycling bins, but it also means that steps are being taken to reduce environmental deterioration.

The first step seems to be for everyone to realize that garbage is not just garbage. One should think of it as discarded resources; what may no longer be of any use to you may be of great value to someone else. Last semester at Bard an art student's senior project consisted of sculptures created out of 'found objects.' This is a great example of REUSE. REUSE is the first step in reducing the amount of trash that must be put into potentially hazardous landfills.

Other examples include: buying rechargeable batteries, donating old clothes to charities, saving plastic bags to be used for other things, avoiding disposable razors, using both sides of a piece of paper (and keeping campus mail for sending notes to friends), keeping microwaveable dishes, using empty jars for storage containers, etc. And, recycle what cannot be reused.

In the words of START, a group designed to educate the public and promote recycling through state and local government, "Remember! Whatever we put in our soil, air and water always comes back to us." You certainly would not want toxins in your morning coffee. Some will say the environment's condition is not as bad as all that; it may not be yet, but there's no reason why it should ever be that way. That's why recycling is so important.

Many more things can be recycled than most think. Everything from apple skins to wooden popsicle sticks can be recycled. Food scraps can be used as compost. Most plastics can now be melted down to make new things. It's not just cans and bottles anymore, kiddies! Still, some of us cannot even manage to put our empty beer bottles in any of the recycling cans. That probably will not change anytime soon, but fortunately there are still the precious few who collect bottles and cans after parties and return them for laundry money (or to buy more beer).

Goat marches on

The fact is that modern artists aren't well-known, well-liked, or well-paid while television stars are. There are many advantages to television that traditional forms of art just don't have. For instance, they will never beam the Metropolitan Museum of Art directly into your house for free like they do with "Beverly Hills 90210." There are very few exhibitions of bikini-clad women in art museums while you can see one every night on "Evening Magazine."

The last refutation of modern art lies in the library. Actually, it is the library. Has anyone noticed that the new wing looks like a high school cafeteria on the outside? Not to mention that the Hoffman wing of the library is done in a classical style (i.e. it has columns) while the Kellogg wing is a different style altogether. Maybe the architect is trying to show us the development of Western building styles in one single building. I can't wait until they get the gothic cathedral wing finished. My advice to anyone who might someday gain control of a small university and have to expand its library is this: pick an architectural style and stick with it.

So, as Alexander the Great would say if he were alive today, "It's time to stop watching Western culture slide down the tubes and time to see what's on T.V."

Test your awareness of household hazardous material

True False

1. ☐  ☐ Bleach, when mixed with ammonia or ammonia products, creates a poison gas.
2. ☐  ☐ Batteries do not create a pollution problem when disposed of in the trash.
3. ☐  ☐ The signal word DANGER must appear on the label of all substances which are extremely flammable, corrosive, or highly toxic.
4. ☐  ☐ Gasoline is toxic, so skin contact and inhalation of fumes should be avoided.
5. ☐  ☐ Used motor oil contains cancer-causing substances and should never be poured on the ground or in the water.
6. ☐  ☐ All pesticides on the market have been tested for their ability to cause cancer and have been found to be safe.

Answers

1. True; 2. False, batteries contain heavy metals which are harmful to the environment and humans. Automotive batteries also contain sulfuric acid which is corrosive and explosive;
3. True; 4. True; 5. True;
6. False, authorities believe that 79%-84% of pesticides have not been adequately tested for their ability to cause cancer.
In recognition of the fading light of the Berlin Wall's collapse and in celebration of the freedom which we, as Bard Students, enjoy every day while we're here and don't have to live with the 'rents, this week's beers of choice were two of the lighter German beers; Paulaner's from the West and St. Pauli Girl from the East. Paulaner's Premium Leicht Bier is made in Munich; I had never tasted it before last Friday, but it looked so lonely on the shelf I just had to take it home with me. The other, St. Pauli Girl, bought and brewed in Bremerhaven, Germany, is common enough that you might find a couple of bottles in someone's personal collection (as opposed to communal fridge, one of those off-campus houses where everyone usually shares everything they've got. St. Pauli Girl is expected to be especially plentiful on campus this weekend, as it is on sale at BevWay (see advertisement for details). Maybe we'll see some at Cruger Village when I scout out there this Friday!

The new format is totally 'kind,' which is long; and there is no reason to keep a secret on anything. There's no need to make people wait, as this beer doesn't actually taste bad; just very light and weak. Considering the high price, it's really only worth it if your parents still support you. The St. Pauli Girl is also pretty generic, but you can tell the difference between the two by the fact that the second one gets a bad rating.

Columbus: 500 years of resistance-genocide is not heroic!

By Hellin Kay

"Why abolish Columbus Day?" many people ask. All the Columbus 'discovered' the Americas - he was a great seaman - he is our country's hero! Well, to straighten a few things out (as well as answer the question)...
The Americas were here long before Columbus even thought of sailing to the West Indies. They had been inhabited by Indigenous cultures for hundreds of years. Cultures which did not want nor need to be 'discovered'. To come onto a land that has been and still is occupied is called an invasion, not a discovery. Yes, he may have been a great seaman, even though he was lost, but we won't mention that will we...), but that is no excuse for the cultural genocide the man is responsible for.

Upon arriving on the island of Hispaniola, in 1492, Columbus proceeded to write (in a letter to Lord Raphael Sanchez) of the people he encountered:

"...They are very single and honest and exceedingly liberal with all they have...they exhibit great love toward all others in preference to themselves..." Columbus responded to this kindness and generosity by the following statement, also found in the letter: "...Should your majesties command it, all inhabitants could be taken away to Castile [Spain], or made slaves on the island. With 50 men we could subjugate them all and make do

pause for bong hits), and the color is pale, but yellower than Paulaner. This beer is still pretty light, but the taste is sharper and more bitter, with a pleasant, full taste that lingers on the lips and in back of the mouth. This beer is also related to infamous 'dry' genre of beers, which just means that the beer is so crisp and light your tongue feels dry when you swallow a mouthful. It's supposed to be an enjoyable feeling. There's a well-stacked redhead fraulein on the label carrying eight full pewter mugs of beer who reminds me of a girl who once threatened to kill me if I didn't stop calling her. Except she kept offering me hemlock, not beer.

-Budds Core

p.s.- As we were going to press, I noticed something interesting: both beers have the same Paul in them, which could start another round of that "Paul is Dead" brainwash (ask your parents about that one, kiddies). If anyone tries to find some cosmic significance in a random coincidence, believe me, folks, this bull$%^ isn't worth it. You can find proof of anything if you look hard enough. I know some idiot will get his/her self all excited, though, so you're welcome to believe what you will as long as you keep my name out of it - the surviving members of the Beatles can still afford some damn good security systems (especially now that Michael Jackson has started hugging them about Lennon's skull). I don't even know anyone named Paul, and I didn't know he was in any other groups before Wings. I swear.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beer</th>
<th>Paulaner's</th>
<th>St. Pauli Girl</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Type</td>
<td>Leicht</td>
<td>Light</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ratings</td>
<td>★★★</td>
<td>★★★★</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comments</td>
<td>good, but not worth the $</td>
<td>dry and crisp - well liked</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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- Stroh's $11.99/case of 30
- Foster's $4.99/6pk (bottles)
- St. Pauli Girl $4.59/6pk
- Pepsi $3.99/12pk

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A page of unedited observations by guest writers

THE BARD OBSERVER
SEPTTEMBER 16, 1992

Another View

The Man on the Street Beer Col (pat. pending)
Another View

Why Recycle?...Because you care!

Images of Beautiful nature.
Shown through the door -
while empty bins
block my way.
With garbage in my own home
how can I go out!

500 years of genocide
continued...

by Chad Kleitoch
Admissions Counselor

It is the beginning of another year at Bard
and from one of those people who stays
year round I want to welcome back the
returning students, faculty and of course
our new students. It’s the end of summer
and the fields of wild flowers are in full
bloom, the forests are lush and green and
the falls are cool and full of life. It’s really
wonderful being outside and having the
wilderness as part of our campus environ­
ment.

What isn’t so wonderful is watching the
grounds of our campus become increas­
ingly littered. It is very surprising to see all
this litter, especially after remembering
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ment.

One type of litter that stands out above
all others is the cigarette butt. Many people
throw cigarette butts away without regard
for where they land. Cigarette butts can
be dangerous to wildlife and can even
start fires in dry conditions. It is important
to dispose of cigarette butts properly.

Another type of litter that is prevalent on
campus is plastic bottles. These bottles
are not biodegradable and can take
years to decompose. It is important to
recycle plastic bottles to reduce
environmental impact.

By taking small steps, we can make a
positive impact on our environment.
Recycling, reducing waste, and properly
disposing of litter are all ways we can
contribute to a cleaner, healthier world.

Let’s work together to create a cleaner,
more sustainable future.

LITTER

An oodles & oodles of doodles in class production. Eco 103

A page of unedited observations from guest writers
Black Center exhibits controversial art

Photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe and music banned by the Nazis

Two special exhibitions organized in conjunction with this summer's Music Festival were on display at the Black Center through September 13th. These two exhibits: "Controversial Images: Photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe" and "Degenerate Music: The 1938 'Enrartete Musik' Exhibition" were shown along with the Center's permanent collection: "Passions and Cultures: Selected Works from the Rivendell Collection, 1937-1939." All of the shows demonstrate the willingness of today's artists who aren't afraid to make statements about the present and past.

Robert Mapplethorpe's work became a center of public controversy in 1989, when Congressional debates over funding of National Endowment for the Arts coincided with a large traveling exhibition, "Robert Mapplethorpe: The Perfect Moment," supported by a grant from the Endowment. Mapplethorpe's photographs challenge the social and moral standards of both the audience and the artist, himself, functioning almost as a dare. Mapplethorpe's work may be shocking and disturbing to some but often leaves viewers strangely interested in his work.

In such photographs as, "Self Portrait" 1980, Mapplethorpe presents himself looking "feminine," yet not quite in a fashion that one could term transvestism. This subtlety is the quality which lends the power to Mapplethorpe's work. His "Self Portrait" 1978 shows Mapplethorpe with a whip up his anus. While it is quite easy at first to feel offended and to turn away, viewers often admit that there is a definite element of attraction, as strange as it might be. Even the expression on his face seems to say, 'If you don't like what you see, then leave!' These are two different self-portraits, yet both are dependent upon an element of surprise.

Other works which may seem disquieting are those in which Mapplethorpe openly displays breasts and penises. "Man in Polyester Suit" 1980 at first seems to be an ordinary photograph of a man pictured from the chest down, but on second glance, there is much more to be viewed. An insidious portion of the picture suddenly jumps out—that of a fake penis, which slightly resembles an elephant trunk. It is not so much the penis itself that is shocking, but rather the fanciful quality of it that is the ingenious manner in which Mapplethorpe intends to shock us. "Lisa Lyon" 1982 portrays a woman pinching each of her nipples. Here again, what is surprising is not the action, but what we would not expect to see: the soft quality of the photograph and her questioning expression.

"Breasts" 1987 is actually not shocking at all, compared to the other works and is in fact quite interesting in its own right. The angle from which the photograph was taken creates a realistic image of the breasts' roundness and fullness, drawing the audience to them more out of curiosity than sexual arousal.

Yet Mapplethorpe does not base his photography solely on what he might consider unusual or unrealistic to the general public. His collection also contains more classical works. "Tulips" 1977, for example, are simply two photographs of tulips—nothing outrageous or shocking. The images possess a beautiful, surreal duality resulting from the flowers' stillness and spontaneity. "Lily" 1988 also proves to us that there is more to Mapplethorpe's work than just the element of surprise. This particular piece is similar to Georgia O'Keefe's works, but with the remarkable distinction of a feeling of texture.

The "Degenerate Music: The 1938 'Enrartete Musik' Exhibition" is vastly different from Mapplethorpe's selected works. This exhibit is a bit more of a history lesson than an actual art show; large plaques give written explanations about the "cleaning up" of "Musical Bolshevism" which began in Nazi Germany and spread throughout Europe. It is an exhibit exploring the political background and cultural consequences of the "Degenerate Music" exhibition held during the 1938 Reichsmusiktag at the Dusseldorf Palace of the Arts. This exhibition sought to expose the decay and degeneracy introduced into modern music by the "foreign racial rhythms" of jazz and atonality of avant-garde composition, associated with the Nazis with "Bolshevism" and Judaism.

The plaques begin with the work of spiritual forebears such as Richard Wagner, who felt so threatened by the success of such Jewish composers as Felix Mendelssohn that he wrote essays condemning Jewish music. Each plaque gives a detailed account of the history of the time frame, accompanied by state­ments from the period's advocates. In addition to these plaques, there is a small room which contains audio recordings of twenty-one different examples of German music and anecdotes from those affected by the Germans and the Jews. Finally, a short video, which the Nazis filmed to portray Jewish and African music as primitive and barbaric, was provided as a third form of media to help illustrate the horrors of the Nazis attacked the Jews and others.

This entire exhibit demonstrated the importance of understanding both the present and the past. Not only did the Nazis try to annul the entire race, they also tried to destroy all cultural memory accompanying the period. The Black Center's exhibits sought to reconstruct both this erased history and to return historical authenticity to art.
Students of all musical preferences know St. Booty as Bard's social salvation. This ten-member band features the sounds of horns, keyboards, guitars, bass, drums, vocalists and has a tendency to take you back to the 1970's and shows like Dance Fever. Even those who scorn the '70s cannot resist this band, though.

St. Booty was formed in 1990 as a selection of "the best musicians from all Bard bands," according to original member Rob Brunner. Their backgrounds varied, but they all had in common a love of 1970's music and the desire to "make the masses sweat."

The result: an original sound with strains of funk, disco, and hip-hop, and a band that has made quite a name for itself in a very short time.

St. Booty began by playing at college parties for Bard and Vassar. Soon after, the band was booking shows in well-known New York City clubs, including Wetlands and Space at Chase. J.R. Taylor, a New York Press music reviewer, called the band "brilliant" and said that they have "managed to design an absolutely impeccable and visionary sound."

After taking the college and New York club scene by storm, St. Booty was also chosen out of 300 bands to play at New York University's Independent Music Festival. The band members decided to set their sights on international successes and responded to a contest announcement for the World College Pop Festival to be held in Japan. After submitting a demo tape and a press kit, St. Booty was informed on July 23 that it had been selected as the one band which would represent the United States in Tokyo this fall.

Eight countries will send bands to the Sumitomo One '92 World College Pop Festival in November. The event will take place in Yoyogi National Stadium from November 11-16 and will be broadcast on Chiba TV and TV Saitama. It is not yet known if the festival will be broadcast in the United States.

In the meantime, St. Booty will be getting back to its roots. They will play at the Marquee in New York on September 30th and again in New York on October 24th at the Space at Chase. The band will also play here on October 3rd for Back to Bard Day.

All of the band members are excited by their upcoming trip to Tokyo, and although they have not yet attempted to sign with any record companies, they feel optimistic. Band members Jodi Cornish and Rob Brunner explained, "This probably will determine where we'll go afterwards. It [a record contract] is not something you can pursue, really; it must come after you."

We need you...
...to play Women's Volleyball. If you're interested in joining the team, call Kris Hall at ext. 530 a.s.a.p.
Hello, children. Hello. Welcome to this week's sports column. Let's begin, shall we?

Once upon a time in a realm far away, known as Po-town, there was a college. And this college had many very fast people. They were so fast, and so happy that they were fast, that they banded together and all wore the same outfit, and very far, friendly competition. Why all wore the same outfit, and very far, friendly competition. Why was so proud of the team that came to this week's sports. Let's begin, shall we?

**SPORTS SCHEDULE**

**Mens Soccer**
Saturday 19th at Dominican College
Monday 21st at Bloomfield College

**Women's Soccer**
Wednesday 16th at Nyack College
Saturday 19th at Montclair State College

**Women's Tennis**
Wednesday 16th at Sarah Lawrence
Saturday 19th at Albert Magnus College

**Women's Volleyball**
Saturday 19th at Vassar Tournament

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**Sports Lowdown**

---

**Sports 'n Such**

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**Shameless Filler!**

Folks, let me tell you about the hierarchical system we have here at the Observer. Matthew Apple, as you know, is the Editor-In-Chief. He works hard, and gets very little praise or recognition. He takes a lot of shit, and gets a lot of headaches. He stays up beyond three a.m., in some cases, on Tuesday night, so that this rag can be carted off to the publishers in Hudson. He works hard, but in the real scheme of things, he is just a figurehead.

Michael Poirier is the News editor, and the Managing editor. He does his job with complete self-assurance, competence, and, something rarely seen in the news biz, grace. He’s a real achiever, a whiz with a glue roller, and he can always be counted on to meet deadlines. He is one of the key reasons this paper is in your hot little hands right now. But, when the chips are down, he’s not the linchpin that holds the whole operation together, and is just dispensable as Mr. Apple.

Jean C. Breton is a tough-minded woman, who attacks the job of Features editor with all the passion she has in her. You sometimes think she’s gonna bust, but she gets the job done, and expertly so.

But for all her tenacity and experience, she’s as valuable to the production of this rag as the next Editor; that is, expendable.

Greg Giacolo was probably (even though nobody but those close to the Observer staff know) the most effective and hard-working Observer editor we’ve had in years. He always had a mind or an eye on the job, even while asleep. Someday, mark my words, this man will become a CEO somewhere. In any case, he poured his heart and soul into the paper last semester, and he still can’t provide the one service that all the high-caste salaried and true hierarchical giant of the Observer must do every week. Tattiana Powell, our Arts editor, is a gem, simply put.

Me, I’m a sports editor. I have no say, I only brown nose.

So who is it that holds all the cards? Without whom this paper would be nothing, no one nowhere? Well, the answer is simple, and frighteningly simple. It changes, you see, from Tuesday to Tuesday. It’s the struggle. The hangover. The one person who, at 2 a.m., finds himself or herself in the Observer office for whatever reason, and has ingested enough caffeine during the day to be (somehow) a little chipper and self-sacrificing. Sometimes it’s Matt Apple. Sometimes it’s Jean. Sometimes it’s me. It’s the driver: the person who actually sits down in the front seat of the Observermobile and turns it on, then drives 25 minutes north of Bard into the wilds of downtown Hudson, then 25 minutes back. The driver is usually accompanied in his perilous journey by the other editors, but in the end, the rest are lumped against each other in the back seat, moaning, the driver is alone in his epic jaunt. It’s a true test of strength and will to fight the fatigue and frustration that accompany this ride. And with only the tiny sound of local radio to accompany him or her, a blast of college air from the open window the only way to shake out the cobwebs of a drowsy mind. It’s a tough job, fit perhaps for the likes of Evel Knievel or OJ Simpson or Hula Hogan, but not the poor, unfortunate Observer Funky who happens to have a driver’s license. However, without such a trip, the Observer would not exist. It’s this person who holds the entire operation together; this person who deserves our praise, yes, even our worship.

So, you see, Garry, that’s why I keep nodding off in class today...
An acronym by any other name...

by Matt Gilman

First of all, let me say that I like the new name for BBLAG. I think the change was far overdue, myself, because of the touchy subject of how one should have pronounced the old acronym. Should one ignore the double-B at the start of it, and merely sound like someone whose pork sandwich has disagreed with him, as in "Blah-ga," or should the double-B effect be added to the first half-syllable so one sounds like an extra-terrestrial with a stutter, "B-bla-ga"? I don't know, but it seems to me that any group which decides to go under an acronymous title ought to take the time to make it more enlightening and informative or at least entertaining and wry.

That's why BAGLE, a slightly skewed form of the traditional bread classic (which, roughly translated into French, becomes BAGUETTE) suits me just fine. It's easy to pronounce, and if the folks behind it are as deviously clever as I think I am, they can use it to their decided advantage. For instance, say the good folks at BAGLE were to delve into a discussion of the exploration of sexual bondage? Why, then, that would be BAGLE with locks. A member of the organization who has done some outstanding work for the cause is lauded at a meeting; this would be a toasted BAGLE. Half a BAGLE, eating a BAGLE, a BAGLE with cream cheese, a dozen BAGLEs; the possibilities are endless. Of course, this is also fodder for off-color jokes. But then, which direction this takes all depends on whether BAGLE decides to beat the jokesters to the punch. I don't think it could hurt.

In any case, it's obvious that what I said above, call it Gilman's Law for Acronyms, is in dire need of proof so far at Bard. A quick look through this year's new and improved Student Handbook shows that we have a dirge of ISOs and MUNs and B1950s which do little to enlighten the casual reader of the purpose of these groups. All the groups on campus serve a purpose, and I admire what they do. But couldn't we jazz up those initials a little, like BAGLE did? First of all, what's a MUN anyway? And how many people would be interested in finding out, simply from the letters? Wouldn't the next batch of Young Fresh Fellows be bashing down the doors to find out how to get involved in the Facsimile of the United Nations, if for no other reason than it was a fun? And while the Bard Outing Club has not used its acronym at all, perhaps it should consider advertising as the Geographical Explorer and Trekkers Alson for Outdoor Sojourns and Trips (GET LOST)?

O'con, club heads! Get on the ball! Get in step with BAGLE, BRAVE and SMACES! Renewed interest in a club's name reflects interest in the club itself. This has been a public service message from the Bard Association for Suggestive Titles, Acronyms, Representatives, and Dilemmas.

What, me write?

by Matthew Apple

Every day (well, almost every day), someone comes up to me and says, "I'd like to write something for the Observer." To which I respond, "Go right ahead. I'd be delighted. Write whatever you want. No problem. Put it in, campus mail addressed to the Bard Observer; I'll print it."

So what have I received exactly zero submissions for actual articles or other items from these "I want to write" people? Well, I'll count the emails/letters/articles/whatnot, two issues ago, when the policy stating that I'm writing this little vignette; (Naturally, that's one of the reasons I'm writing this little vignette;)

I've been thinking about this dilemma for quite some time now - oh, about a day - basically, since I have lots of blank space to fill. (Naturally, that's one of the reasons I'm writing this little vignette;)

I'm embarrassed from whence they flitted). This is my point, and I'll try to make it as brief as possible. We need writers. Not just writers who have articles assigned to them (although that would be indeed a blessing from the heavens), but writers of whatever can be classified as a creative work. This includes short stories, poems, and even a couple of things for Anything Else you can possibly think of.

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I'm embarrassed from whence they flitted). This is my point, and I'll try to make it as brief as possible. We need writers. Not just writers who have articles assigned to them (although that would be indeed a blessing from the heavens), but writers of whatever can be classified as a creative work. This includes short stories, poems, and lengthy novels (I don't care if it's a thousand pages long; well, run it in installments, just like during the Victorian Age), graffiti, doodles (see page 6), complete and utter nonsense (a subject about which most of us here at the Observer think we're experts), or anything else you can possibly think of.

Maybe you're shy, afraid of seeing your name in print attached to a work you think might be laughed at by the Bard community. First of all, who gives a flying fig if Bard students laugh at some-
Letters

Racism at Bard
Dear Observer,

The Bard community generally considers itself to be liberal and open-minded. However, there is a large amount of racial ignorance among its residents. This ignorance does not manifest itself as blatant hatred or bigotry. But the lack of basic awareness makes it apparent that much work must be done to educate Bard.

A quick glance at Bard will show a vast sea of whiteness. The overreaching numbers contribute to the limited understanding of the other cultures at Bard. The voices of minority groups are drowned out, and sometimes ignored, by other interests that seem to prefer the same, old celebration of white America. There are students at Bard who bring with them rich cultures that existed long before people closed their minds to dream the American dream. An exposure to these cultures will further Bard’s development as a place of true learning.

At the academic level, Bard can certainly use more professors from diverse backgrounds. Talented minds that have experienced more than reading a book should be sought so that they may share their knowledge with the Bard community. They would also be qualified to teach classes that address the issues faced by minority groups.

The education should extend beyond academics, though. Bard has the resources to bring speakers and artists that will expose students to ideas previously unknown. Ignorance can easily be solved. But an effort must first be made. There are organizations on campus leading the drive to educate Bard students about diversity and tolerance. Learn of the great diversity right here at Bard.

Sincerely,
Andrew Yoon

Zuni frog caused Hurricane Andrew

Dear Editor,

My Zuni frog rain-bringing stone fetish, which I misplaced, showed up the week before Hurricane Andrew broke loose and hit with its terrible devastation.

Because my little frog had been neglected, various goddesses who never would have felt its presence before sent it to me. And I have been giving it added love and attention.

After the hurricane hit, I was filled with a mixture of feelings. The first of which was that, perhaps, too much love after not having been returned on time in the first place.

And then there was the calendar... Once the bane of existence, plagued by too many words and not enough information, the calendar was in past incarnations simply the bottom of the paper. But no more. My hat comes off to you, Roy, for a useful thing that I would read even if I had no interest in what was happening on campus and in the local area.

Though it has glitches and its holes, this issue is by far the best-written and the best-atuned to the needs of the community of any I've read. And I should know. Keep 'em coming.

Jason Van Driessche
Managing Editor Emeritus

Observer is good news

To the Editor (that’s you, Matt):

I read the Observer on the way home from the post office today. Completely absorbed in the paper, I nearly became a hood ornament on a B&G van two or three times between main campus and Manor. It was that good!

Mike Poirier’s front-page story on the housing crunch was actually good reading — not simply informative, but a pleasure to spend a few minutes on. That is a rare mark of distinction for any paper. The piece about the damage to Drew Yoon’s car was the sort of community service that is part of what makes the Observer an indispensable part of life at Bard. The story on Blum’s closing was news to me, and it is not often that I read about something in the Observer before I hear about it elsewhere. The sports page was actually entertaining — and this coming from someone who has no clue who won the last World Series. (A point of pride. Rah for Shameless Filler!) And Matt, you have my admiration for a thoughtful, well-written editorial with real teeth.

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Andy Wing

The Bard Observer

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Lita Basarn
Managing/News Editor
Michael Poirier
Features Editor
Jeanne C. Breton
Arts Editor
Andy Boekhorst
Photo Editor
Mark Gilman
Production Manager
Roy Inoue

Bah, Humbug and Baloney

Dear Editor,

I am less and less impressed by political conventions which probably have been, for a long time, little more than pep rallies and a time to create a shopping list of goodies which may or may not be able to be fulfilled. Perhaps the best candidates at giving promises gets to be President Claus.

Andy Wing

September 16, 1992

Happy, happy campers

Dear Editor,

I was impressed with what happy campers the Bushes, Quayes et al were at the podium together at the convention, in comparison to the Democrats who neither seemed together or very happy.

What they showed was that one thing they know how to do is live in the present.

The hell with the 3 trillion dollar national debt which has been built during the Reagan/Bush years; 25% of which is owed to the Japanese, and what it will seemingly do to future generations of Americans.

They can always threaten to blow Tokyo with the bomb if the Japanese try to collect.

Andy Wing
CALENDAR
PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE
SEPTEMBER 16 TO 23 ± 1992

What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16**

- **Goods Galore—Buy South American Jewelry on the patio of Kline today,** get some now!!
- **Ultimate Frisbee—You don't know some serious until you try this.** Every weekday 4:30/5ish at Tewsks Field. Everyone is welcome.
- **Distinguished Scientist Summer Research.** Hear your Bard friends present their research projects. **Robert Cutler** (mathematics),** Frederik Foore** (computer science), **Rajiv Jayawardhane** (electronics), **Daniel Rosenzweig** (chemistry), & **Rebecca Smith** (DNA replication) will give a short presentation and answer questions at Hegeman 102, 5p.
- **C.O.G.** This is your chance for community service: Columbia County Youth Project, Literacy, Tutoring, Books on Tape. The Campus Outreach Group will hold a meeting in the President's Room in Kline. Look for their yellow posters for times.
- **B.B.S.O.** is discussing The Budget & holding elections in the Committee Room at Kline, 6:30p.
- **A Tale of Late Chrysanthemums.** Watch this black and white, 1939 film by the Japanese Director Mizoguchi—if you have only seen Kurosawa, you haven't seen Japanese cinema. Another film in the Three Japanese Directors screenings. 7p at the Preston Screening Room.
- **Student Forum.** This affects you—student forum meets tonight to discuss The Budget. Elect new members to the Student Judiciary Board & the Education Policy Committee; vote for a constitutional change. 8p at Kline—Don't miss it! Committee Room at Kline, noon to 2p.

**THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17**

- **Nostalgic for Grandma & Grandpa?** Look like them with vintage clothing selling today in front of Kline.
- **Ethnocentric?** Come and speak French at the well-what-else, French Table in the Committee Room at Kline, noon to 2p.
- **A.A.S.O.** The Asian-American Students Organization is having their introductory meeting—meet exciting people! eat culinary cuisines. 6:30p in the Kline College Room.
- **BAGLE.** Biggies, Activists, Gays, Lesbians, etc. will be holding their elections in the T.V. Lounge in the Student Center, 7:00p. Be involved!
- **Cacophony** is looking for interested women to work for the 3rd issue of Bard's women's magazine. In the Women's Center, upstairs in the Student Center. Look for their posters for the time.
- **Alcoholics Anonymous.** They'll meet every Thursday at 7:30p in Aspinwall 302.
- **Bard Papers are back!!!** Ready your submissions—see them in person at 7:30p in the College Room in Kline.
- **Nicaragua.** Hear Sister-City organizer Tullio Browning speak about Nicaragua in the Olin Art History Room, 8p. Brought to you by the Mid-Hudson/Larraynsaga Sister-City Project.
- **Life Drawing Sessions.** Pain, Draw, or Sculpt every Thursday and Tuesday in Proctor Studio, 7-9. Everyone Welcome.
- **Listen to New Horizons.** WMHT FM 89.1 broadcasts the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra's 1991-2 series. Conducted by our Leon Botstein, this program features Deren & Alexander Hammid's A Rite for Camera (Maya Deren) & by the Contemporary Music Ensemble presents Prof. Norman Austin of the University of Arizona in the Olin Auditorium, 7:00p.

**FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18**

- **Denim Deluge.** Need the official uniform of Bard? Levi's and Tweed Jackets are on sale today in front of Kline.
- **Take a Break from Bard—England, Greece, Western Europe, & others...** Check out Beaver College's Center for Education Abroad. Get information in the Kline Committee Room, 4-5p.
- **Sorry, we have no Sanga... but we have Adnamon.** See Pedro's Labyrinth of Passion in our Film Committee. Hear it in Spanish, see it in English, at 7 & 8p in the Student Center. stay for the band!!!
- **Sonics Groove-U-tions.** Wind out this no-sleeper night with Grffiti Fish & Meddling Kids right after the movie in the Old Gym. It's BYOB folks.
- **WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

- **Music to make your Tongue Bleed.** Mazza Chunka, Population 606, & Brutally Familiar from West LA, CA & East(CD) will blow out this Saturday night. 10:30p in the Student Center—they are asking for $1 donation, don't forget it.
- **SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 20**

- **Mimiqui.** Seven New York painters are exhibiting their works in Proctor. Come to the opening reception in Proctor at 5p—everyone is invited!
- **Cat-Skill Sunset.** The Outing Club will take you North Lake for an afternoon of swimming, hiking, & BBQ. As the sun is setting, you'll take a trip into the Catskills. 6:30p at the College Room in Kline.
- **Classical Sunday.** WMHT FM 88.7 broadcasts the Hudson Valley Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra's 1991-2 series. Leon Botstein conducts the music of Chopin, Peter Schickele, George Tsontakis, and Nells Gade, with soloists Bianca Ulibar, piano. 4-6p, WMHT FM 88.1 & WHV 88.7.
- **Marilyn has a scratch... The Film Committee presents Billy Wilder's Seven Year Itch starring, who-else-but, Marilyn Monroe. See her image on the screen at 7 & 9 in The Old Gym.
- **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14**

- **Blue Jeans—Owen of these, and you'll never have to do laundry again! Get more jeans in the patio of Kline today.**
- **BR.AVE.** Bard Response to Rape and Associated Violence, Education meets today in the President's Room, 5p.
- **Come to the Bar—Ballet classes by the Dance faculty & Yas Goldmans.** 6-7p in the Main Studio of the Bard Theatre. Everyone is welcome.
- **Abortions Rights.** Coalition for Choice will meet in the College Room in Kline, 6p.
- **Students for Multicultural Education and Awareness** will hold elections & discussing activities for this semester. 6p in the Committee Room in Kline.
- **Leonard Peltier Defense Committee.** Be active, be aware. Meet to plan defense efforts in the Kline Committee Room, 6-7p.
- **Spectator and Spectacle:** Helen in Homor & Sappho. How does a female and male writer present Helen? The Freshman Seminar Series presents Prof. Marvin S. Press of the University of Arizona in the Olin Auditorium, 7:00p.
- **Fencing Club.** Coach Hope Kocen will teach 8 sessions to Bard students, faculty, & staff. There is a $20 fee to students, $45 for all others. 7-8:30p in the Stevenson Gym. Every Monday until November 7.
- **Red Dust.** More from the Feminist Theory and Film class... see this film at 7p in the Preston Screening Room.

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22**

- **Daughters of the Dust** will be presented by the B.B.S.O. Be on the lookout for posters about this video.
- **AIDS Committee meeting.** Upcoming Event: Bard AIDS Walk in the Kline Committee Room, 12:30p. All are encouraged to join & attend.
- **Rest your Ears.** Silent Film Fest—If you think all silent films are fast-garney-comedies, then you should see what silent films really are. See this fantastic line-up: The Silent Madame Beudet (Garnim Dulak), Mempho (Olmis Karsmoint), Sherlock Jr. (Buster Keaton), U Chien Andalou (Luis Buñuel & Salvador Dalí), Meshes in the Smoke (Thea Dener & Alexander Hammid). A Study in Choreography for Camera (Maya Deren), Ritual in Transfigured Time (Maya Deren). 7p in the Preston Screening Room. See note; see them all!!!

**SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23**

- **They're Back—Buy South American Jewelry on the patio of Kline today.** If you missed them last week...
- **I.S.O.** the International Students Organization will meet in the President's & College Room in Kline, 5p.
- **B.B.S.O.** will be discussing their activities for the semester in the Committee Room in Kline, 6:30p. Be there!
- **Ugotta.** This is an must-see 1953 film by the Japanese Director Mizoguchi. More in the Three Japanese Directors Screenings. Absolutely see this at 7p at the Preston Screening Room.