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"You are ensnared in a conspiracy to maintain white supremacy under the fraudulent posture of the "classics,"" spoke Dr. Leonard Jeffries, a professor at City College in New York City, before a packed Olm Auditorium Tuesday evening. Anationallyknown and controversial figure, Jeffries' lecture on "A Curriculum of Inclusion" was sponsored by the Bard Students Educating Against Racism organization. His appearance was not without protest from some members of the Bard community and the presentation ended on a sour note.

Jeffries gained notoriety through his work on a multicultur al curriculum for New York State and for his alleged anti-Semitic and homophobic statements. Members of the Jewish Students Organization and B.A.G.E.L. handed out literature that reported these past controversies and protested Jeffries visit. Jeffries addressed these charges in his lecture while delivering his main points about the "misinformation you have been subjected to at the altar of white supremacy."

"You are being crippled at Bard, at Harvard... you are trapped beneath the blinders of rich, white, property owners which will not allow you to look at the significance of Africa, Asia or the Native Americans," argued Jeffries. His style of education calls for a "pluralism/duality" that acknowledges both sides of history and not merely the European perspective. "Europeans have falsified the history."

Jeffries pointed out a variety of "myths and lies" about natural history which surrounds his premise that "Africa was the origin of humankind." The conservative system of education preaches that Greece was the cradle of civilization and the fountainhead of all civilized thought from science to democracy to philosophy. Jeffries, instead, turns to Egypt as the birthplace of culture since African civilization had been thriving thousands of years before the Greeks, and many Greek thinkers were in fact educated in Egypt.

To Jeffries, the European tradition is one of war-like survival against the harsh ecology of the north, the "ice men." The people of the "sun-belt," such as Africa and Asia, experienced a much more refined degree of civilization because of a gentler environment.

Islam are all based on African foundations according to Jeffries as he pointed out the "stolen legacy, the diffusion of African culture." "Lincoln had nothing to do with emancipation," he contended, instead naming Sojourner Truth and Harriet Tubman as the true freedom fighters. Even the Statue of Liberty has been misconstrued as a monument for immigrants arriving in America when, in fact, it was conceived of by an ardently abolitionist Frenchman.

"Africa has been the mother and father of humanity but how are you going to deal with that with the way you have been educated," he continued, backing up his statements with various literature, implying, "the material is in the books." Even the maps we use have to be redrawn as Jeffries exhibited a map which represented the continents in their true size and without Europe in the middle. "If you put Europe at the center, then you miss the rest of the world."

Educated at Columbia and Lafayette, Jeffries commented that, "I am not proud of my own education where I was given a re­tarded view, a negative understanding of my own past." Jeffries argues that there is no reason why minorities in America should have to "worship the slave-master, founding father bastards" who are idolized in our schools.

Jeffries pushed for students to teach themselves about other cultures and reject the "pa­
THE BARD OBSERVER

November 11, 1992

News

Buildings and Grounds van taken for a ride

Thefts at Bard affect not only students but administration as well

Students aren’t the only ones being victimized in the latest series of thefts at Bard College.

On Thursday between 12:30 and 1:00 p.m., a Buildings and Grounds technician reported that his van, parked outside Tremblay and Wolff dormitories, was missing. Notifying the Dutchess County Police Department on Thursday afternoon, B & G workers searched the rest of Thursday and all day Friday for the absent vehicle to no avail.

Monday morning the Columbia County Police Department discovered the errant van safe and sound in a parking lot of a shopping center in the city of Hudson. Apparently, the van had only been used “for transportation purposes,” as Physical Plant Director Dick Griffiths put it. All the tools were left in the van, and the ladder which had been attached to the roof was even placed inside the back of the van for safety reasons. There are no suspects at this time.

A Buildings and Grounds worker was the victim of another theft. A B & G employee presently working on the new outdoor lighting system outside Tevksbury dorm reported that his prescription glasses had been stolen from the front seat of his van. Resorting to a pair of prescription sunglasses, which were dangerous to wear at night, the worker put up signs in Tevksbury asking for the return of his glasses. A student returned the glasses in their case on Tuesday, having found them “on the ground.”

“I simply will not tolerate theft,” said Griffiths, who is responsible for the present lock system at Bard, adding that during his employment at the College, he has dismissed five workers from his department for thievery. Griffiths was very distressed about the recent rash of burglaries at student dorm rooms, saying, “There has been much more theft than usual, but we’re working very diligently on disabling the master key system. According to Griffiths, it may be months before all the locks are changed, and the College may require outside help from local locksmiths. Griffiths is presently looking into new lock systems for the student dorms, saying that the College is working very closely with the local authorities to curb crime at Bard.

As for the perpetrators of the recent thefts, Griffiths said bluntly, “If I knew who they were, I’d prosecute them.”

BRAVE officers’ training program

Braze will offer a training program for students interested in becoming either peer support counselors or peer educators. Counseling staff at the BRAVE Hotline and provide crisis support, information and advocacy to survivors of rape, sexual assault, incest, battering and harassment.

Educators develop and conduct a wide variety of programs aimed at informing and sensitizing the BARD community about gender violence issues.

Among the topics to be covered during the training program will be the myths and facts surrounding sexual assault, listening and peer counseling skills, medical and legal information and more.

The week-long training is scheduled for the last week in January; on-campus lodging and meals will be provided during the training period.

Applications and a complete job description are available at the BRAVE TEBKSBURY OFFICE, Room 67 and the BRAVE Program Director’s Office in Albee Annex Basement 163, or by calling 555-357.

Completed applications are due 1/23/92. For more information call 758-7557 or 758-7551 or write Box 261.

Classifieds & personals

Ring found in Library, 1st floor. Kellogg. Please contact Reader’s Services Office in the Library.

Greeks & Clubs

Raise a cool $1,000.00 in just one week! Plus $1000 for the member who calls! And a free headphone radio just for calling 1-800-932-0528, Ext. 65.

I need a SUBLET for Dec-Jan! Male Senior is looking for decent accommodations to spend Christmas break and intercession. Easy person to live with. Contact Chris at Box 1117.

Are you anAppState FILMS REGULAR? If you are, I want to talk to you, student or professor. It’s for my Project. Contact Chris at Box 1117.

Interested in anonymous correspondence on campus? Light frothy letters on a regular basis, more mail than your box is currently seeing? Write to Box 810—I will reply.

Is anybody driving to Boston for Thanksgiving? I need to get there. Will help w/gas, tolls, and driving. Call Kat. 758-6605/2736.

“Captain America” — At last. How refreshing to find a woman who matters. Answer via person’s week-long mailing address. We’re working very quite sexual. Together our brood will fade from blue, to black, to passion. Respond via personals to “The Jester.”

“Your case is starting to turn. I see you and handled so much for your benefit. Help! — M&M dude

“Hey, Min. Curious female. Sounds like me. I’m sexy, brunette, open to ideas, respond via personals to M.

“Bela—Let us revel in our despair, for our long-remembered by reflection and happen to find your spectacle quite sexual. Together our brood will fade from blue, to black, to passion. Respond via personals to “The Jester.”

“Flower in my life. I know who they were, I’d respond via personal to “The Jester.”

Love Malla.

We’re working very quite sexual. Together our brood will fade from blue, to black, to passion. Respond via personals to “The Jester.”

“Your case is starting to turn. I see you are not far.” — M&M dude

“Hey, Min. Curious female. Sounds like me. I’m sexy, brunette, open to ideas, respond via personals to M.

“Bela—Let us revel in our despair, for our long-remembered by reflection and happen to find your spectacle quite sexual. Together our brood will fade from blue, to black, to passion. Respond via personals to “The Jester.”

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Love Malla.
THE BARD OBSERVER
November 11, 1992

Features

The man behind the door
An interview with Jonathan Kahn

I trod down a short squeaky hallway. The last black door on the left was my destination: Aspinwall 209.

There, surrounded by shelves of books, he sat calmly waiting in that tiny little enclave. His only companions were four cartoon figures sitting in the window behind him. He was wearing a gray tweed coat, a sweater vest, red tie, white shirt and slacks, the usual professor’s uniform. I sat down and we chatted for around a quarter of an hour. Who was this man? None other than Jonathan Kahn.

Fresh off the market, Bard’s new pre-law advisor is originally from Cambridge, Massachusetts. He was well on his way to a doctorate in American History at Cornell in 1985, after completing his undergraduate work at Yale University, when he suddenly had a change of heart. This personal revelation led him from Cornell to Berkeley and a law degree instead. After finishing his degree at Berkeley, Mr. Kahn worked for a law firm in Washington, D.C. that had a sub-specialty in desegregation cases. Interestingly enough, this same law firm represented the segregated school districts of Paladit County (the area where Little Rock, Arkansas is situated) a few years back.

After about two years with the firm, Kahn decided to re-enter the world of academia and resumed his graduate studies at Cornell in 1990. Two years later, Kahn completed his original major and received a degree in American History. He arrived at Bard this fall.

When asked how he liked Bard so far, Professor Kahn replied, “It’s been a fairly smooth transition for me. I like the small classes and the students I’ve met...I’ve found the faculty to be a pretty congenial bunch, as well.” As far as courses are concerned this semester, he is teaching American Political Thought and The Constitution and the State in America. Both courses involve areas of great interest to Kahn, the second allowing him to draw on his professional legal background.

“Both courses give the student a good background in certain aspects of American political thought and history,” said Kahn. Kahn was also one of the professors that took part in Kline’s group discussions after the presidential and vice-presidential debates. Concerning Clinton’s victory, Kahn remarked, “It was definitely a transitional election. We’ll see if Clinton can hold the gains he’s made. The next big thing is to see who makes up his cabinet.”

What about Kahn’s hobbies? He admitted that he has no particular “hobbyish passions,” but mentioned that he finds films rather fascinating in terms of the way they represent popular culture. “They’re the kind of things I’d like to work into my classes more.” Kahn also mentioned that he has been mulling over the idea of a joint sociology/political science class with Amy Ansell (another new face among the Bard Faculty this year) where political movies and novels would be integrated into the course material.

Before the interview ended, I questioned him about the copy of Foghorn Leghorn perched confidently on his window sill. His appreciated reply: “I am a big Warner Brother’s fan, at least of the originals. Bugs Bunny was an ironist. He had a biting perception, and the cartoons themselves were full of social satire, kind of like muppets in the '70s. The quality of the animation and dialogue was unbelievable as well, unlike what you’ll see today for the most part. As I said, I like popular culture.”

Dead Goat Notes

All opinions in this column are solely those of the author, Greg Giacco, and represent no one else on the staff of the Bard Observer. All other opinions will be tossed.

I would like to congratulate a courageous man who stood up against the two-party system as a brave independent candidate. He didn’t capture a single state, he didn’t have a single delegate, he didn’t have a well-known vice-presidential candidate, and he didn’t even have any snazzy television specials, but I voted for him. Unfortunately, it wasn’t enough. That candidate was me.

Yes, I ran against the system and lost. I would like to graciously thank all of the people who voted for me. But enough of this patting myself on the back. Let’s get down to whose fault it is that I lost. I un-graciously blame the media, of course. Those liberal bastards gave all the press to that hick from Arkansas and didn’t cover me at all. Not one bit. Unlike George Bush, I can prove this media bias because there are no mentions of me even in articles about media bias.

So now my future employment prospects are poor. I have been thinking about going into the grandchild business just like my fellow loser from the Republican party. There are plenty of old folks out there who are lonely and need company and would be willing to pay top dollar for a nice grandkid so they can tell him about World War I or whatever. For once, Of Course! has hit upon a scheme that really would help people out of the recession; at least it would help me. Hmmmm, it must have been Baker’s idea... I also thought that I might go into the book business like Ross Perot. After all, he got a best seller merely writing down his own silly political opinions. I’ve been doing that long before Ross made his first million. Dang it, I can even make ’em sound nice and folksy if I want to. But to put a twist on it and sell even more copies, I thought that I might combine the Ross Perot deal with an idea from Madonna’s latest book. That’s right, nude pictures of Madonna interspersed with my pseudo-political ramblings! I would have put pictures of myself, but I want this book to sell.

As for the next administration, I want to help make this a smooth transition. Al Gore has already picked up on Dan Quayle’s moral crusade against pop culture. We’ll see about World War I or whatever. For once, I’d really like to work into my classes more.”

I also thought that I might go into the book business like Ross Perot. After all, he got a best seller merely writing down his own silly political opinions. I’ve been doing that long before Ross made his first million. Dang it, I can even make ’em sound nice and folksy if I want to. But to put a twist on it and sell even more copies, I thought that I might combine the Ross Perot deal with an idea from Madonna’s latest book. That’s right, nude pictures of Madonna interspersed with my pseudo-political ramblings! I would have put pictures of myself, but I want this book to sell.

As for the next administration, I want to help make this a smooth transition. Al Gore has already picked up on Dan Quayle’s moral crusade against pop culture by marrying into the PMRC. However, I also want to see Al Gore jokes slide right into the niche created for Dan Quayle jokes. Here’s my first contribution: “What are the harmful side effects of smoking pot and listening to too much rock music? You become a Democratic nominee for president.” Alright, this may not be such a smooth transition. What do you want from me after Bush stole my Bozo and Ozone joke? I want to throw all of my weight behind Billy Clinton and his administration, as if he doesn’t have enough weight already. If he runs this country like he ran his campaign, we’ll have to hook the White House up to a bus. But seriously, now that Hillary is the First Lady, I am filling for divorce from my parents. I expect that they will pay alimony in the form of my Bard tuition and that I will never call or write them. Come to think of it, we’re practically divorced now.

I don’t have many regrets about my campaign. I stick by my decision to make “My Opponent Is A Bleeding Heart Sissy Pinko” my campaign slogan, but I do regret not using “Hopelessly Liberal” instead. It just rolls off the tongue so much more easily.
Features

Person of the Week

At odds with the common notions of Asian-American music and culture, Fred Ho is redefining the way people see themselves. On his recent visit to Bard, he provided a musical and verbal snapshot of the Invisible Asians who make up 4% of our nation’s population—who service both the white man’s intellectual establishment and ghetto free market, but whose own culture plays no significant role in mainstream life. Having immersed himself in the traditional, immigrant musical culture of Asian-Americans, he now endeavors to create a continuum combining these folk forms with the influences of jazz, which Ho calls American classical music. It is possible in each note he plays on his baritone saxophone, or with each line that he reads of oral histories, for one to hear the sound of crashing pillars.

At Bard Hall, he demonstrated the virtuosity of his musicianship with his improved jazz reinterpretations of Japanese hole-bush bushi songs. His quick pieces have a nimble pulse; his repeated notes, an elastic bounce. The trick to good improvisation is to maintain the continuity of the piece and balance the sounds with the silences. His work admirably achieves this balance.

His statements after his Bard performance, however, struck dissonant chords which his music had avoided. His arguments against the celebration of Columbus Day returned to an issue not terribly welcome to Bard students. Nonetheless, it is interesting that Ho speaks on behalf of the indigenous peoples of our nation who were relegated to reservations by the dominant class much as the new minorities are relegated to the inner-cities. America’s climate of expectation has left many cultures limited instrument to play, Ho responded that it was the only instrument his school had available for him to practice on.

As a graduate of Harvard University, Fred Ho is presently a

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 Highlights of local and national news

In Albany, this past Friday 50 devoted Animal Rights Activists protested against the Rodeo being held at the Kiskokacker Arena, asserting that rodeo animals are terribly mistreated. Rodeo spokesman denies all such charges and said that there is absolutely no evidence of any cruelty towards the animals. Over ten thousand tickets were sold for the rodeo.

Meanwhile, on Saturday, New York State’s chief of the Court of Appeals, Sol Wachteler, was arrested by the FBI on charges of sexual harassment and extortion (filed by a former lover). Wachteler, who has been married 41 years and has 4 children, stands to lose his position, as well as his previously favorable reputation, if convicted. He is currently being held in a hospital psychiatric ward until his bail hearing.

Just outside of Catskill, repairs on the Rip Van Winkle bridge are almost finished. According to the executive director of Bridge Authority, construction work should end this December— one year ahead of schedule. According to contract, the construction firm stands to earn $1,000 per day that the bridge is completed before October 1993. The total repair costs, however, will not exceed $15 million.

In Boston, on Thursday a group of scorned Malaysian tourists was sent home after being held in jail for two weeks because their leader was accused of smuggling illegal aliens into the country. The charges were dropped, but a great number of Boston residents were very angry about the situation because of the inhumane.

In New Orleans, a recount has been called for concerning the election for governor. Nationwide, U.S. residents remember and mourn those who died during the Vietnam Conflict as Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall survives into its 10th Anniversary.

Also, Food Lion Inc., after being charged of several health violations by an explicit ABC news report, filed a law suit against ABC, claiming that the accusations were false. The company’s stocks have dropped dramatically, and once faithful customers refuse to purchase its products. So far, no apology has come from the television station.

Upcoming Local Events:

BARD STATISTICS

- Woods Food Service ranked 15th of 20 worst college food services (according to Princeton Review’s book The Student Access Guide to the Best Colleges).

- No copies of Madonna’s book Sex were left available when Bard’s Bookstore placed its order.

- Bard’s Coalition has distributed condoms and safe sex pamphlets to Red Hook High School Students for three consecutive years.

- Until this year, 245 active members (not including visitors) maintained the prestige of the Edith C. Blum Art Institute (number taken from donors list given in the 1990/91 annual report of the Bard Center).

- 54% of applicants are accepted to attend Bard and out of these 75% graduate (according to U.S. News & World Report’s “America’s Best Colleges” Sept. 28, 1992).
I couldn’t find my bottle opener, I haven’t got any cash flow to speak of, and I am having some serious emotional problems which have to do with these two beautiful women I know that both want me to give them all I’ve got. So it has been a generally intense and miserable week; it’s raining as I write this column, and I am really depressed. But I am of the school that believes that no event or potential creation is entirely negative or positive (also called the ‘shades of grey’ philosophy), and so perhaps the greatest of these problems (obviously the loss of the bottle opener, the rumor that I am Dean Stuart Levine is entirely unfounded), have helped to prove your being. For I have been accosted with growing frequency by those who are aware of my true identity too, the rumor that I am Dean Stuart Levine is entirely unfounded and chaste for my lack of awareness about the true attitude towards beer upon this campus. I tried to make beer consummator of you all, and I have been rebuffed once too many times. I give up. You win. I’ll do a cheap beer column. But I still won’t stoop as low as Carlton, and I still insist upon getting bottled beer in order to avoid the ‘flaky’ taste of cans.

Really, this isn’t as bad of an idea as one might think. Even if only you drink to get drunk and aren’t willing to spend as much money on beer as those of us who get our beer free anyway, there is still a wide variety of cheap and cheerful varieties which can be had for a relatively low price. And even though many beer drinkers, myself included, tend to think of the mega-breweries (Coors, Budweiser, etc.) as too mainstream and Republican to take seriously, I have swallowed my pride on behalf of the greater community’s need and have found some of their ‘evil’ beers as well. But I know, from the abundance of bottles left around the Student Center after Halloween night, that at least some of you already drink this stuff. Hell, I’ve gone to buy beer with some of you and watched you come home with these beers, these are not your usual obscure and fancy beer column brews. Hence, some of you have the experience which I do not and may disagree with my opinions even more strongly than usual this time. If this be the case, feel free to send me mail (box 761) to this effect, but no bombs, please. So I have before me two mainstream beers, Ballantine and Miller Genuine Draft, both of which have caps that can be twisted off, so I don’t have to grippe about my bottle opener anymore, and a six of either one will only set you back $3.99 at BevWay.

Ballantine Triple X Ale is self-styled as ‘America’s Largest Selling Ale.’ This is because of high quality or even, for the most part, the fact that it is one of the cheapest mass-produced ales in the American market. If Ballantine truly is ‘America’s Largest Selling Ale,’ it earns this position by default. America doesn’t really make ales on a large scale at all, and most ales consumed in this country are imported. But do know that Ballantine has been popular since my childhood because I used to have a bootleg collection, and I loved Ballantine caps more than any other part of my collection for the rebuses on the underside of each cap. I never found a duplicate, and I never managed to figure out more than a couple of the dozens of rebuses in my possession, but I loved it, and still love, the idea of the rebus under the bootleg. Anyone who drinks a couple of beers should have even less luck and, in fact, be fun trying to decipher them. The shortened bottle, the absence of a neck and even the teatattle on the outside of the cap all lend an aesthetic bonus to this beer which is the main reason my friend drinks it. They don’t drink it for the taste, I hope—Ballantine has virtually no head at all, has been popular since my childhood, and will only set you back $3.99 at BevWay.

Now this was a real surprise—Miller’s Genuine Draft beer, made with their patented Cold Filtered process (the beer is cooled before straining out the impurities, and most the bubbles are left over after the brewing process, as opposed to being filtered while the beer is still being prepared and heated like most beers), is really good. I mean Really Good, at least when you consider the expectations and previous (mis)conceptions about this brew. Yes, the color is exactly that of warmups, which is a real turn off, and the head is white and not terribly persistent. It is, after all, an ordinary beer. But the taste is strong and solid, sharp and a little bit sweet; the beer holds its carbonation for a good while, and the aftertaste is both filling and fulfilling. This stuff is at least two times as good as the Ballantine, and even if it loses something in keg or can form, you can actually find this beer at parties on campus, and people may be willing to give you some of theirs because, after all, it’s just a Miller, albeit a good one.

Keep these responses pouring in, folks, and I’ll be in a better mood next week for a more funny and entertaining column as you have come to expect of me. I’ll be soliciting outside the bookstore this week, come hell or high water, which may not be so unrealistic to expect—can’t we at least get some snow if it is going to be cold and precipitate?

Love always,
Budds Cors

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Beverage way
Supermarket of beer and soda
812 9 miles North Park Red Hook Taos House
- Michelob Dry: $2.99/12pk
- Stech’s: $16.99/12pk
- Busch Longnecks: $9.99/case

continued on page 10
See, here I was, reading the Observer. A week ago today by the time you read this, I could honestly say that several things I saw there upset me:

1: (page 6) More Self-Important Blather™ by the Coalition.

2: (page 5) "There ain't enough room in this here town for the both of us."

3: (page 6) "I hope you find me because I can't (because I'm too damned stupid)."

4: (page 7) More puking about Leonard Peltier.

Okay. Actually, I wasn't upset. I was sick.

1: I don't care who wrote the article. What I want to know is why the Coalition for Choice can't so much as fart (in mutually supportive unisons, I'm sure) without being applauded for doing so much to make the world a better place? I agree that the pro-choice position is the only sensible one, but this particular pro-choice option seems to have of their influence in the world....No one really cares if Dutchess County tries to "stop" you from voting, 250 Bard students. Go ahead and change the world. Sue someone. Get your mommies after them. Just get out of my face. Sure I'm pro-choice. Pro-the-choice not to have to listen to you telling me what my obligations are. Pro-the-choice to wallow in apathy. Pro-the-choice to blow away (with my Constitutionally Sanctioned Firearm™) some of the indigenous wildlife which is so abundant on this campus. 2: "You know, you're right. Fuck off. So what do you want, a group hug? Shall we all open up about our feelings? Fuck off. We feed off of negative emotions. They power our hatred. We like it that way."

3: Okay. Have an identity crisis. Share it with everyone. But don't accuse me of the same thing. You can't know, me especially if you don't have the balls to know yourself. What is inexcusable, however, is the bullshit social expert persona you assume. Everybody's got problems. Learn to deal with your own and stop assuming our problems are like yours. Fuck off - we love Bard. It's a Bastard™. Go away and wallow in your self-pitying anti-identity. You won't be spoiling my good time.

4: Idiotic is such an option. I see a Leonard Peltier Defense Committee. But Lenny gets three square meals a day. Do you really think the people with the power to free him give a shit about you? Do you think you're just the coolest, most self-sacrificing human rights activist(s) around? If you really want to protect Leonard Peltier, I want to see you at the prison passing out condoms to his fellow inmates. I'd say there are a few people in this country who have it worse off than Lenny. How about them homeless? You can bet Leonard Peltier's a lot warmer in the winter than they are. Besides which, there's something offensive about a group of predominantly middle-class white youths going around saying these things. I know multiculturalism is a big trend among you guilt-ridden white folks, but I resent your pretension of identifying yourselves so closely with oppressed peoples. Peoples, not nations, as I'd like to point out to those of you who think they can change the world by vomiting forthiane globules of subliterate honk and hollin' Hellin Kay's letters to the Observer. If you think our government is out to get you, go to another country and work for change. Bon voyage, ashediful! If you had real commitment, you'd be out blowing up buildings and killing people. Real commitment is single-minded and all-consuming, not this pussy, waltz-down-the-street, "let's-not-lower ourselves-to-their-level" activism. Really committed people aren't afraid of lowering themselves - they just want to make sure they do it before it's done to them.

I notice a preoccupation among Bard students with congratulating themselves for being so goddamn liberal and righteous. Think? Fucking think? I'm so sick of hearing the same tired assumptions about what's right and correct and morally acceptable. If I believe that a fetus is a human life and I believe that murder is bad, then who the fuck are you to tell me I'm wrong? Should you sit idly by when confronted with injustice? Pro-lifers see injustice, and they don't sit idly by.

Get the point? I didn't think you would.

Never mind. It's probably better if you keep your mind closed - you might get something in it if you're not careful.

"Oh, like, we're gonna change the world, y'know? Pass me that bong, man." As a "loving" fan with solid, "old-fashioned" nipples pointed out, among the boycotting of various and oppressive products (leather, meat, dairy products, ivory) I don't see any of you crying about the oppression and injustice promoted by the drug lords whose pot you may even now be preparing to smoke. You want to change the government? Great! But don't forget to save a piece for your pill-popping, dope-sucking pals down the hall.

Deal with it - our generation won't have the power to change shit until we're older, and the previous generation is dead. That's the way the world works. But be patient. Wait a few years...and our children will tell us exactly how outdated and shortsighted our ideas have been all along.

Another View

Another slice of Duff

by Duffy Erickson

The last drink was over a year ago, lied Duff to himself. Well, nearly - there had been the bottle of cheap chardonnay he had guzzled down to avoid returning to the bowling alley and inviting the beauty with the peculiar laugh home with him. That wasn't so long ago. But otherwise he was overweight American tourists whose satisfaction. Now that he didn't drink there was nothing to act as balm for it and so he was occasionally cruel. She seemed willing to pay this price for his sobriety. She was saving his life; occasionally, he reminded her of that. The rest of the time, he wished he were sober.

Drunkin, in the shadow of San Marco, with an entire day, thousands of lire and as much wine as he pleased before him. From the hosing of the pavements, the absurd crack of the Italian soldiers' boots on the stones as they saluted their flag, ran it up the pole, to the arrival of the musicians, tuning their violins, squeezing their accordions, telling stories of dirty stories to one another, to the arrival of the first pair of overweight American tourists whose first action in the shadow of San Marco was to look at the menu and screw up the midday swirl of languages when the cafes were full, one on each side of the piazza: French, German, Italian, English, a swatch of Russian and a few gathered words about Gorbatchev mingled with the sounds of the two bands (each with identical instrumentation) on either side of the gallery playing different Corsinaw ballads at the same time, to the late afternoon when papas whisked through for a quick espresso on their way to Mussolini's train station and the long grey commute home, to the thousands of beautiful birds flying counter-clockwise around the aqueduct, prepping to roost, and the indistinct Autumn chillness of Thomas Mann's novella and the old gramps dusting a last grapple, prepping to stumble quietly home, touching the walls of the hidden churches for luck and support as they navigated the troubled, tiny streets of Venice past mid-night.

He was home, now. (to be continued)

There ain't enough room on this here campus for the both of us...

The beginning part of this article was run last week but was cut due to space restrictions.

The remainder of this article appears this week - ed.

I wonder if there really is room here for all of us, and if there's not, what then? When is high noon at Bard going to come down, and who will be left when it passes? Or will it pass quietly, no one willing to stand up and say what they believe - and I don't mean active for noble causes believe, i.e., I believe in this person's right...no, I'm talking about belief in things a little closer to home, like believing that you are lonely. Or that no one cares. Or that none of it matters. That it doesn't matter if you cut yourself or burn yourself or drink yourself sick. That the way people treat each other on this campus is pathetic, and growing worse as we sit by and do nothing. I'm all for noble causes, but what good are you going to do anyone else if you can't keep your own life together? I see no one willing to risk the stigma of going against the majority, or at least what they perceive as the majority. Fear of not being cool enough or mellow enough to keep their mouths shut about it all, fear of the embarrassment of having their problems exposed. Fear of looking like you're basically what doesn't understand the status quo that everyone else seems satisfied with. I see these things taking control of too many people on this campus.

Look at me - I'm not even signing my name to this. It seems like we're building toward a big breakdown here, something angry and confrontational. Or maybe that's all wrong, maybe it will blow over soon, or maybe I just need to get off campus for a while. Or worse, maybe it is building, but when it comes it'll be something like the Ludlow "takeover," a lot of big talk and a lot of bigger bullshit, with nothing really accomplished and no two people left with the same story. I wonder what it'll be when it happens and how bad will it be. And if it happened when I was gone, and then I came back, would I even know the difference? And how many of you really care? Wonder. Maybe everyone really does care, just not enough to stop and write it down to say so, but then, what does that say about us all?
On Friday and Saturday, November 6th and 7th, more than 150 secondary and college teachers from the eastern United States and Canada gathered at Bard College for a conference, "Ten Years of Writing and Thinking."

The event, which this year replaces Bard's traditional January Conference for educators, looked toward the future as well as at the past of Bard's Institute for Writing and Thinking.

Throughout the conference's two days, over 70 alumnae of previous workshops and conferences who have used the Institute's methods in the classroom made presentations, led experimental workshops, and demonstrated classroom practices to their colleagues. Teresa Vilardi, associate director of the Institute and organizer of the conference, reflected, "What we are saying here is that teaching writing in new ways and using writing to learn in several subjects has changed the culture of the classroom. These changes are reflected in more collaborative learning, encouraging students to become more active learners, and putting the student, not the teacher, at the center of their own learning."

The Institute for Writing and Thinking, directed by Paul Connolly, was founded as a professional development institute offering writing workshops for secondary and college teachers from all disciplines, both at Bard and on-site at schools and colleges across the country. It emphasizes the role of written language in all learning. The Institute's work has also inspired the creation of programs like those at Minot State University in Minot, North Dakota, and at Kuskokwim Community College in Bethel, Alaska.

In addition, the Institute was instrumental in the founding of the Northwest Writing Institute in 1986.

On Saturday, November 7th, after the teachers ate lunch, they were presented with an address by Leon Botstein, President of Bard College, entitled "Retrospect and Prospect: Writing and Thinking." This speech dealt with such issues as how the Institute came into being, its present state, and what its hopes for the future of the Institute are.

Botstein acknowledged the fact that the Institute was the work of many people and it came about as a result of the frustration of teachers in the late '70s. The fact that there was an enormous amount of student passivity in learning was the cause of the frustration—not the myth that there was a lack of preparation on the students' part. Botstein did remark, though, that he understands this passivity; he considers himself a poor teacher for simply lecturing instead of opening up the discussion to the students and encouraging participation.

When Botstein recognized that there was little motivation in the freshmen he encountered at Bard, he decided, "I didn't know what to do." Even though he was told by several of his colleagues not to worry about a school that he would someday leave, Botstein felt the need to turn the situation around. A self-confessed snob and elitist, he thought: "Any place that I am must be good." With this feeling, the first thing on the agenda was to improve the school and its focus was to get a better program, and then to attract better students.

At this point, Botstein decided to attend a conference called "The Authority of the Teacher," which was held by Peter Elbow of the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Encouraged by what Elbow had to say, Botstein presented him with the idea of a three-week "boot camp" for freshmen which would prepare them for college. As the amateur, Botstein allowed for the incorporation of Elbow's ideas—and for the utilization of his colleague. He would now considered the founder of Bard's nationally recognized Freshman Workshop in Language and Thinking.

Though the Institute does prepare freshmen for writing by teaching them what language is—"that it is more about the business of life, and not just that of literature—Botstein admits that the program does not fully serve the purpose he intended. He wished for the philosophical teaching of language, which was lost as things moved in a literary direction under Elbow's influence. Even though Botstein's concept was not appreciated, he did admit that the program does not serve the human impact was remarkable from the start.

What the Institute has tried to do is understand the lack of motivation in students and see what has made education decline. Botstein has several hopes for the future of the Institute. It would like to see the use of language revised, so that students are able to talk about things such as politics and ethics—not just their understanding of literature—in order to make them feel comfortable as writers who can communicate on many levels. He also hopes that it helps them become better skilled in oral argument, as students today are "phenomenally inarticulate and thoughtless". He wants to cultivate the eye and ear connection through a greater understanding of the visual and musical means, as well, which he believes to be as important as the cognitive matter. Furthermore, he'd like to double the present efforts in science. Botstein concluded that the Institute at Bard has been an enormous success so far, and he looks optimistically toward its future, particularly over the next ten years.

The Language and Thinking Conference was wrapped up with a plenary entitled "The Future of Writing and Thinking." The three conference members running it discussed how the program has helped their teaching and understanding of students. In a day and age of high school teachers who think of their job as simply writing at the chalkboard and mindlessly lecturing students, it is comforting to know that there are educators who are interested in opening minds and seeing their students learn and grow as individuals.

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**Healing Hurts**

A new film by a Bard Alumnus

Healing Hurts, a new feature film by Bard Alumnus Jim Chambers '81, will have a special Hudson Valley screening this Thursday, November 12 at 11 pm, at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck. Chambers will be available to answer questions after the screening and admission is $3, free to students and members of the Bard community.

Healing Hurts is the story of a woman with twenty-something artists living in an abandoned church in rural America, watching the world go by from their isolated home. Their insular existence is abruptly interrupted and forever changed by the visit of three outsiders. Covering a five-day period in the characters' lives, the film focuses on the dreams of this small group as they try to figure out the meaning of "I versus you," and "self versus family."

In his directorial debut, Chambers rejected what he described as the traditional "leading man/leading lady syndrome," in exchange for an ensemble structure with seven characters of equal importance. Chambers himself is one of the actors, and he wrote the screen play while co-producing the film with another Bardian, Hal Hisey '84. Other actors include Griffin O'Neal (The Escape Artist), Vondie Curtis Hall (Die Hard II, The Mambo Kings), Rosalée Mayeux (The Lannemoyer Man) and Maya MacLaughlin (The Premie Murders).

Chambers has worked as a dancer, choreographer and actor in theater and dance companies in New York and Los Angeles. He has been a College Trustee at Bard since 1990. He and Hisey are currently finishing their second project together, a documentary of the Los Angeles riots entitled 112th and Central: Through the Eyes of the Children.
The Bard Observer

November 11, 1992

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Arts & Entertainment

Ensembles Concert '92

A preview of Bard's first student ensembles presentation

On November 16th something different will be happening at Bard Hall—a concert of the many different ensembles of the Music Department. Music from the Renaissance to the present from the familiar to the unknown, from the traditional to the unusual and from the "classical" to the improvisational will be heard on this night.

Distinct from other performances of the Music Department, the emphasis of this concert is on large ensembles such as the Madrigals, the Honey Stung Jazz Sextet and the String Ensemble, just to name a few. Also, all of the groups are led, coached and/or conducted by our own full-time and adjunct faculty.

Credit for the idea must largely be given to Professor Joan Tower, Chair of the Music Department, who has encouraged the creation of student ensembles over the past three semesters. During this time, newly-found inspiration has rekindled the dedication and enrollment of existing groups and recruitment of new ones. The result is a diverse offering of music from a wide range of musical traditions.

Perhaps an unusual combination of instruments, the Wind/Brass Ensemble is composed of three clarinets, a flute, a trumpet and a double bass (not exactly wind or brass, but a contra-bassoon is hard to come by on a campus of this size). They will be playing music of two composers of the 17th and 18th centuries: Christian Ecke's "Canzona" and the first movement from Karl Ditters von Dittersdorf's "Drei Partiten." Professor Wadada Leo Smith will help to balance the Eurocentrism with his African Rhythm Ensemble, which will perform in the style of traditional African drumming. The famous "Honey Stung Jazz Sextet" will also perform, and odds have it that they will put a fresh twist on any "standard" piece that comes their way.

If you like choral music, that's great, but even if you don't, you will have the opportunity to hear it at its best when the Madrigals sing two motets by the 20th century French composer Francis Poulenc. To top it off, Madrigals' director Megan Hasle has indicated that harmonious music from the Renaissance will be likely to accompany the Poulenc.

All of this erudite music is fine, but there comes a time when we all need some spontaneity in our lives. The Improvisation Ensemble may be just the thing to provide a whimsical journey for your ear. Professor Richard Teitelbaum leads this group, and if you have ever had the pleasure of hearing his muse, you know that a good time will be had by all.

The last group for this spectacular evening of ensemble music is one that needs no introduction (except for a drum roll), a fireworks display and an entry in the Who's Who of Traditional American Musical Forms: The Dixie Cup! That's right. With a slide of the trombone and a kick of the drum (not to mention a slap of the bass), this ensemble will sweep its way into your Cajun heart. Real Dixie music for real Dixie people!

Closing, a step to the more serious side is in order. The importance of this Ensembles Concert is that these groups have allowed students to experience something which in past years was scarcely available at Bard—the opportunity to be one member of a larger musical whole. Even a year ago, one often heard students longing for the days when they could take part in the orchestras and ensembles at their high schools and summer camps. While Bard has yet to see an all-student orchestra, the Ensembles Concert at 8:00 p.m. on the evening of Monday, November 16th, is a strong step in the right direction. Everyone is welcome.

What's up at Upstate?

Reviews of Cabeza de Vaca and Gas Food Lodging

If any of you out there read this review column regularly, you may wonder why I always review what is playing at Upstate Films and never anything from mainstream theaters. To be frank, the oozy, pustules of predictable celluloid hash being passed off as cinema on the mass market today are enough to make a die-hard movie lover ill. That's why I've been staying away from the mainstream cinema lately, but if anyone gets anything worthwhile, please let me know. I'm not just looking for art films; I'm looking for what's good and entertaining, and right now, that means small theaters like Upstate (somebody please prove me wrong). I just can't enjoy a film once again a cinematic extravaganza on a giant screen with artificially-but-tered popcorn in a huge room where my feet stick to the floor... anything good, anything, tell me and I'll go). But I digress.

This week at Upstate, there are two films to choose from. First is Cabeza de Vaca, a 1992 Mexican film about the life of a shipwrecked Spaniard (de Vaca was a real person, and the movie is based on his book Naufragios) in the 1500s. The film offers the same time views of man's self-discovery and the discoveries he makes about his own culture after adopting another. de Vaca, the treasurer of a Spanish expedition that presumably to exploit a recently-discovered land, is shipwrecked, found by natives and sold as a slave to the local with doctor/medicine man. The rituals of the sorcerer awaken de Vaca's own hidden talent, that of healing the sick or injured in the spiritual realm. After developing a bond with the native culture, de Vaca must deal with being found by his own people, who do not appreciate his new perspective.

The second choice for this week is Gas Food Lodging, a film about life in a three-woman family where the mother hates men. At least Shade, the youngest daughter and narrator of the film, thinks she does. We follow the events of Shade's life as she tries to understand her older sister, find a new man for her mother, and deal with her own mixed emotions towards boys. The events and issues range from touching to banal as the three women deal with racism, rejection, abortion and tampons. To make another mainstream connection, this is a slightly altered version of the movie Mermaids, but

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UPSTATE FILMS

RHNEXEBEC

GAS FOOD LODGING

LighSLEEPER "INTELLIGENT THRILLER" Fri & Sat, 7:00

Humbrous, heart-warming family comedy

CABEZA DE VACA 9:00 only - Wed & Thurs. 16th C. explorer's adventures

\smaller

8:15, Sun, 8:00, Mon-Thu, 9:00 ENCHANTED APRIL Sat, 5:00, Sun, 3:00 & 330, M-Th, 7:00
**The Bard Observer**

**Sports 'n Such**

**Shameless Filler!**

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**Sports Writer**

Bard's two women runner qualify for Nationals

After a three week hiatus due to a certain fibula fracture, I am, in fact, back to chronicing faithfully my weekly sports article, till death do us part. Before starting my triumphant return to sportswriting I would just like to thank all the people who have helped me with all the little daily tasks that have become a royal pain in the... leg. Thanks, now on with the article.

The big news this week is the performance of two Bard's outstanding female athletes, Dawn Gray and Stephanie Chastok. They are no strangers to these pages, but the performance of John Glenn vs. The Weed Wackers and the Sons of Despair, 6-2, 6-0, certainly is! The Air 17-15, 15-10 to become the early favorites to win the tournament.

**Floor Hockey:**

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<th>Tues., Nov. 17th</th>
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<tr>
<td>The Weed Wackers vs. IBH Crew</td>
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<td>The Sons of John Glenn vs. The Mother Puckers</td>
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**Volleyball:**

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<th>Wed., Nov. 11th</th>
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<td>Something in the Air vs. Souffle Potentate and her Minions of Despair</td>
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**Men's and Women's Varsity Fencing**

Saturday, November 14th at the Vassar Invitational - 9 am

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**Join the Smokeout!**

Join the Great American Smokeout on November 19th, the third Thursday of November. The American Cancer Society and St. John's College will sponsor an upbeat, good-natured event to encourage smokers to give up cigarettes for 24 hours.

According to a nationwide Gallup survey, a record number of smokers who quit for the day continued not to smoke for 1-3 days more. Gallup's nationwide survey of 1,212 women and men, age 18 and over, showed that 35.5% of the nation's smokers participated. 12.4% of the participants refrained from smoking for 24 hours. 11.7% were still not smoking 1-3 days later, nearly 1 million more than last year.

Educational information and survival kits (cigarette butts, buttons, balloons, gum, etc.) will be supplied at a table inside Kline Commons November 18-19th during lunch and dinner. A Quitter's raffle (where smokers will be invited to turn in a pack of cigarettes or smokeless tobacco for a chance to win a dinner for two at a local restaurant) and "Adopt a Smoker" certificates will also be at the information table.

Millions of smokers across the nation will take a break and try not to smoke for 24 hours. How about you? Or, if you don't smoke, adopt a smoker for the day and promise to help that friend get through the day without a cigarette.

For further information, contact the American Cancer Society at 425-2630 or Kris Halt at 759-6232, ext. 530.

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**September 9, 1992**

**Shameless Filler!**

The following columns are written in a completely ironic tone. None of what is said here should be taken as a literal statement.

If it will help, try imagining Mr. Gilman saying this out loud with a sly snarl.

Well, folks, I'm sorry, but the Shameless Filler I was prepared to write for this week will not come about after all. You can blame it all on the dubious movement we call "art."

Art is what we use to describe anything made by an artist with intention of causing an emotional response. And sometimes not. I mean, have you seen some of the things Warhol produced? What am I supposed to feel when I see a whole bunch of Coca-Cola bottles packed sixteen-deep on another? Are, hell, I took a class in the Philosophy of the Arts, and I still can't be precise when asked to define "art." Fact of the matter is, there is no set definition which allows us to determine whether something is or isn't art. I'm redirecting any queries on this topic to Garry Hagen. But be warned: he might not be the kind of person to trust with a deep question like this. I mean, the guy spent his summer preparing for and having a day-long discussion on whether or not ventriloquism is an art form. Can't you just picture that? "Lady, do you not know that the University of Rhode Island, Professor Leonard Harrington, and his sidekick Stugger?"

As a matter of fact, this past Monday, I was supposed to direct my first film. And then I was gonna let you in on the fun-filled occasion in my fun-filled column. But, alas, it was not to be. Why? Because of this vague social caste creator, "ART!" Yes, the professor, who for anonymity's sake I will merely refer to as "Adolphus," said that the little script my pal Derek Salvi and I had cooked up was not "cinematic" enough. There was too much about it which would have to be carried by trivial things like acting ability and a nice neat punch line. The script left room for neat camera movements and FOV shots and things. Of course it didn't. I've never touched video equipment in my life, God forbid I should try anything which might be challenging to me. (But don't blame Adolphus for his insistence on being obtuse and impenetrable in the name of his cozy little cinematic elitism.)

Art is to blame. Art has created a lofty standard to which any creative endeavor must either live up to or be viewed as beyond the fold. And, oh, yes, make no mistake, there is a fold here. Somewhere. There are as many things you don't know about artists and their little art world as you don't know about the Freemasons. There are secret handshakes and parties, powerful lobbyists and secret recipes for zombie punch which turns the drinker in the drooling, head-dead creature known to the world as a "patriot." It's frightening, friends and neighbors.

And what is art? Well, folks, hold onto something because I'm gonna expose it for all its bare nakedness. Art is just a word made up several decades ago by a guy named Arthur. Really. He thought it might be nice if there were something around long after his death by which he would be remembered. He happened to like pictures and things, so he and a bunch of friends went around saying "art" this and "art" that while painting and marking up walls and stuff. Sort of like back in high school, when the cool kids could create new phrases just by saying them over and over again. He was a powerful guy, this Arthur. He even convinced people in other nations to make up equivalents to the word in their native tongues so it'd seem like this Art thing's been around for centuries. But don't let them fool you! There's nothing about art that isn't a hokey hoax, and remember you heard it here first, folks. Put that in your Danno and smoke it.

Incidentally, I am now accepting applications from students who would like to major in the field of Fine Arts. Just drop me a note care of this newspaper. G'might!
Movies cont.

continued from page 8

with fewer big name stars and more heart. Like Mermaids, this film seems to search for the title of “female film,” but in doing so, it falls into the same trap as other such popular attempts: rather than showing women as powerful characters who can find individual places for themselves in the world, these films show women as really just wanting to find happiness within more traditional roles. We are shown the exploits of women who don’t do these roles at all as though it were some sort of wacky humor, and the strength we see is not the strength to overcome, but the strength to endure until the misfit woman finally figures out what her problem was and why she didn’t fit into the societal role. This usually coincides with her discovery of the man, the one whom she can trust, the one without whom she can no longer be whole. See, it wasn’t society, and it wasn’t real dissatisfaction with societal roles; she just needed to find the right person to make her comfortable in these roles. That is what these films seem to be telling us.

These issues aside, though, Gas Food Lodging is a fun movie to see, and even if it tends to be a bit cliché here and there, it has a few original things to say. It features excellent performances on all parts and better chemistry between the characters than I’ve seen anywhere else in a long time. The biggest flaw is that the movie tries too hard to be what it already effortlessly is—pushing so hard to make certain points that its own inherent beauty, of which there is plenty, becomes clouded. If you don’t like “coming of age” type movies, maybe you’ll be happier staying away, and if you’re looking for true cinematic inspiration, look elsewhere, but if you want light entertainment, Gas Food Lodging is a great way of passing a couple of hours.

Person of week cont.

continued from page 4

recording artist for Soul Note Records of Italy. He is a man of enormous erudition, bumptious at times, and passionate in a matter-of-fact way. The Asian American Students’ Organization is circulating a petition to make him an associate professor at Bard. He is willing, and the students believe he would be a great asset to the current music division. Fred Ho has many achievements to his name, including a Harvard fellowship, international acclaim for his albums and the 1988 Duke Ellington Distinguished Artist Lifetime Achievement Award. He has also championed various causes from women’s rights and workers’ unions to Asian political action, and he is, after all, the first person to compose a Chinese American ballet called Monkey Meets the Spider Spirits.

Afterthoughts on Columbus

Dear editor,

Look, I’ve had enough of this, and I finally have to say something or I’ll explode. I know that this is one of the most opinionated and liberal colleges around, and I think that’s great, most of the time. That in itself is one of the main reasons I chose to come to Bard. But I have seen that is not the strength to overcome, but the strength to endure until the misfit woman finally figures out what her problem was and why she didn’t fit into the societal role. This usually coincides with her discovery of the man, the one whom she can trust, the one without whom she can no longer be whole. See, it wasn’t society, and it wasn’t real dissatisfaction with societal roles; she just needed to find the right person to make her comfortable in these roles. That is what these films seem to be telling us.

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Sean O’Neill continued

continued from page 3

My reasoning is that new sales is what was a sales pitch to prospective educators, remember? The conference’s themes were about what benefits the teachers had from L&T, not the students. In fact, not a single student was on hand to provide remarks or comments throughout the entire conference. Not a coincidence, this reflects the dominant attitude of the L&T program.

The Inherent value of L&T, however, ends there. None of the founding claims for the program, which President Botstein outlined in the April 20, 1981 issue of The New Yorker, or spoke about in his conference lecture, are truly fulfilled. If students had been invited to participate, it might be revealed that the growing illiteracy of college freshmen had not been nullified by the three-week program. And by the way, did any of you feel “illiterate” when you came to Bard? President Botstein thought that Bard “had struck gold!” when he first saw an entering class write about “one step in the stepping stones” of their lives. (Notably, Botstein did not take the opportunity to “freewrite” at that time, when he was also handing a piece of paper). Do these people really “discover” L&T? Isn’t it a social function, for the students and the teachers. Students can settle into college life at a far more relaxed and sane pace than perhaps anywhere else in America. And they get to play in the waterfall and listen to Opala Penn play jazz.

Ultimately, his Silver got it right. L&T is always a good and we, or the lack thereof. And that’s great. Let us leave claims of exploring the universes in language behind with the livestock for crossing the Simmieiff Bridge to Bard.

Dr. Jeffries continued

continued from front page

Dr. Jeffries noticed that the students were not keen to teach, but to make a presentation, and that real discussion must be held in seminars with his colleagues. When one student asked if the Egyptians used slaves in constructing the pyramids, Jeffries argued that the Arabs had often claimed that the Hebrews came thousands of years after the pyramids. He continued, “I don’t blame you for your ignorance, it’s not your fault.” Another student inquired if whether or not the elevation of one race over another was counter productive to the goals of multiculturalism. “Isn’t this question of who started civilization another form of racism?” Jeffries countered with the fact that the education system is misaligned and most whites have “cognitive dissonance” where they are trained to react negatively to anything new, especially related to other cultures. Once the discussion had shifted to contemporary issues of racism, particularly the Rodney King incident, the tension in the auditorium grew sour. One African American woman stated that “The Ku Klux Klan still exists in this nation because you, white America, want it to.” A voice from the crowd yelled, “Shut up!” and Jeffries reacted violently to the crassness. He demanded an apology and threatened to come down of the stage while screaming that this kind of unfriendly reaction is exactly what he expects. Jeffries then said, “Good-bye Bard,” and left the podium after thanking his supporters.
American peoples and land. A true explorer such as Columbus does not destroy other lands, he finds them. And, for that matter, there is no such thing as a true discovery of any place already extant - we might as well refuse to celebrate and respect the valiant efforts of those who "discovered" the Poles, saying that the penguins and polar bears were there first.

I do not approve of the way the Native American peoples have been treated since the first attempted colonization of America. But Columbus only provided the information which led to the idea of that destruction - he did not end up where he was expected to. The Bard Observer is to be commended for bringing up the topic of women's character (she's a "chasest") and another woman's character (she's a "whore")

"Feminist" agenda. I feel this is what you have done in your critique of harassment and why your letters have been met with such anger, and perhaps why you are afraid to reveal your identity. Your refusal to accept humiliating verbal abuse as anything more than "in bad taste" reveals your denial of the consequences of "normal high school anti" and the validity of the complaint that no derogatory or discriminatory behavior should be tolerated.

You stressed in your second letter that you were "only pointing out the tendency of some group to label anything and everything that they want as sexual harassment." What would be a group's motivation in over-exaggerating the problem of harassment? Personal advancement?

To, as you put it, "promote uniform thought and belief" so as "not allow men to even have the chance of having a 'bad thought' towards women?" These suggestions, especially because the cases in question involve high school students, are absolutely ludicrous. What could these women possibly have to gain? In fact, the publicity of the cases would likely bring more harassment and questioning of the woman's character (she's probably a tease) than if she would just be a good sport and keep her mouth shut. It seems more probable that these women are speaking out against offensive and humiliating verbal abuse that can put them at a disadvantage and be psychologically damaging. If an administration is doing nothing to stress that such behavior is, in fact, a form of harassment that is unacceptable, there is no reason why individuals should not take legal action to protect themselves. No one is suggesting a prison term for making catcalls, but there is a need to establish the fact that harassment means more than specifically touching someone - it is any action, verbal or physical, direct or implied, that discriminates, humiliates, or degrades an individual based on his or her sexuality.

But we must be careful not to focus too closely on these specific high school situations; for letting our debate center on what stages are "normal" for the typically adolescent male obscures the real problem. Harassment is a manifestation of hate and needs to be seen as such, at whatever level it occurs. Calling someone "a dirty whore" or a "dick-sucking slut" is not the same thing as just calling someone an "ashole." It draws upon a history of hate towards women in our society and perpetuates the image of women as inherently bound by their sexuality and less than human. Racist, homophobic or other abusive language should be recognized along with sexist language as destructive and extremely detrimental to the individuals to whom it is addressed. Especially if these students in question are in a state of development and confusion about their sexuality, it is crucial that their abusive actions be established as wrong. You have ignored the fact that the girls who were victimized were also at a key stage of development and the institutional approval of their status as inferior can only bring devastating results.

What is at issue here is much more serious than a few overzealous individuals creating mass-hysteria in the workplace. It is a problem of institutional based sexism that must be questioned on every level if change is ever to be brought about. Your implication that derogatory behavior can be accepted as long as it does not cross physical parameters leaves a bad taste in my mouth. Your tone towards McCumber-Golding, in fact, is addressed her as "Miss" and "my dear") is very condescending, and while this might have been intended as some kind of joke to egg on those of a "Feminist persuasion," it makes it increasingly difficult to take your argument seriously. I am not sure where you fancy yourself as "coming out" from, perhaps a closet misogynist in a land of feminazis, but perhaps you should consider the possibility that you have your own agenda in writing these letters.

Sincerely,

Amy Herzog

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Coming out, go away

To the writer of the "Coming Out" letters,

I am responding to your letters because I feel that, especially in your latest reply to Kate McCumber-Golding, you show a lack of understanding of what sexual harassment really is. You wrote that she and you do not "disagree in general" because you both feel that sexually harassing behavior is unacceptable. I'm sure you will find that most people agree on this point, even those who might engage in offensive or demeaning behavior, because they do not see their actions as destructive or feel any need to question their modes of thought.

No one is going to come forward to say that harassment is reasonable, but they will try to redefine it so as to leave the basic premises intact, to turn the blame on the victims so that they become oversensitive, uptight women with a "feminist agenda." I feel this is what you have done in your critique of harassment and why your letters have been met with such anger, and perhaps why you are afraid to reveal your identity. Your refusal to accept humiliating verbal abuse as anything more than "in bad taste" reveals your denial of the consequences of "normal high school anti" and the validity of the complaint that no derogatory or discriminatory behavior should be tolerated.

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Sincerely,

Joshua Farber, resident Devil's Advocate

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Send all submissions to the Bard Observer via Campus Mail or at our office in the basement of Jewsbury.

The Bard Observer is published every Wednesday while class is in session. Editorial policy is determined by the Editorial Board under the direction of the Editor-in-Chief. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the Editorial Board and not necessarily of the Observer staff. Letters to the Editor and Classifieds must not exceed 500 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 Observer office in the basement of Tewksbury or through Campus Mail by 5 p.m. Friday one 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. Personal is free. Display classifieds: $5.00 for local, $10.00 for national. Display ads: contact the Ad Manager.
**CALENDAR**

**PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE**

**NOVEMBER 11 TO 18, 1992**

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 11**

- *Just when you thought it was safe.* Go to the organizational meeting of the new escort service club. Find out just what they mean—go to the Committee Room in Kline at 6p. Don’t go along, bring a friend.

- *Made in America.* Go see La Historia de Todos—a video of Puerto Rico presented by Ferusian Fanny Pratam. She hosts a cable show, “The Can Openers.”

- *Student Forum.* This affects you—the Student Forum meets tonight: they’re discussing an anti-litter proposal, impeachment procedure committee, EPC-Lit. & Art Divisions, formation of an ad hoc library committee, storage space, and open discussion in the efficiency of our student government. 6p in the Kline Committee Room. Don’t miss it.

- *In search of the perfect v.i.p.* See Leo Smith & his friends perform this student jazz gig to break up the mid-week blues. So settle into a seat at the Olin Auditorium, 7p. Speak up to those sweet soul music.

- *Filling the void.* The International Relations Committee & Air, Water, Earth brings us to a lecture by Smitu Kothari—environmental activist from Delhi, India, & Visiting Faculty at Cornell. Prof. Kothari will speak on Transitional Environmentalism: A View from the Indian grassroots. Go, listen to her at 8p, in Olin 502.

- *The End of Summer.* See this 1961 movie by the great Japanese director Yasujiro Ozu. Another film in the Three Japanese Directors screenings at 7p, in the Preston Film Center.

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12**

- *Acting female.* The History Department & Gender Studies are sponsoring a lecture today—Union College Professor Fayle Dudden presents Acting Female: Woman in American Theatre, 7:30 to 9:20p. Don’t miss this chance to sit in the Olin 102. Be there.

- *Man spricht Deutsch.* Come & speak German at the, well-what else...German Table in the Committee Room, 5:30p. Bring food/trays.

- *Man Facing Southeast.* See this video directed by Argentinian filmmaker Eliseo Subiela. Professor Jerry Carlson, of the College of Staten Island, will present this video in Olin 102, 7p. Sponsored by our Spanish Department.

- *A.J.S.O.* Come & check out the Asian American Student’s Organization meeting in the President’s Room in Kline, 6:30p.


- *Oh Captain, my captain.* Go to the organizational meeting of the new Sailing Club. Experienced/not experienced? All you need is interest, just go to Smith Hall Lounge, 8:30p.

**FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 13**

- *Politics In America.* This day long seminar is hosted by Prof. James Gace. Everybody is welcome to attend: 9a-12:30p, 2:30p-4:45p in the Olin Auditorium.

- *It’s the Army, Junior.* Juniors & Sophomores—the world sans guns by stopping by the Butler Institute’s Study Abroad programs. See Ireland, New Zealand right here at the tables in Kline, 11:30a.

- *S.E.A.R.* Meet with the Students Educating Against Racism—formerly, Students for Multi-Cultural Education and Awareness. They are looking forward to an expansive membership—for the ideas & needs of the Bard Community can be addressed & represented within the context of educating against racism. Join them in the Committee Room in Kline, 6:30p. Get involved.

- *J.S.O.* The Jewish Students Organization will be meeting tonight at Bard Hall, 7p.

- *Slacker.* Missed this last year at Upstate? The Film Committee presents this film for free: See this bizarre odyssey through Austin, Texas—flow from one slacker to the next in a hilarious, long-take like your favorite K-Mart commercials. Definitely see this movie in the Old Gym, 7 & 9p. Stay for the party.

- *The Sequel.* If you had an excuse the last time, this is your chance—Experience the Dazzling of Dance with the B.A.G.L.E./SPS party tonight. Get into the daze in the Old Gym, right after the movie.

**SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 14**


- *Hey, Wait a minute.* Catch up to the Outing Club’s getaway weekend—overnight camping/hiking fest at Hunter Mountain in the Catskills around us. Meet them at 10a, behind Kline, & return Sunday-ish.

- *And Justice for All?* Our B.B.S.O. continues the Justice & Injustice Forum with guest speakers: J. Milton H. Mandox Jr.—he has been involved in these controversial cases: Tawana Brayley, Howard Beach, & the trial of Rev. Al Sharpton. The topic: Civil Rights—there such a thing for Americans of Color? Also appearing are the young men whose civil rights were suspended at Oxon College because they are young, Black, & male...read about them on the Multicultural Board in the Pool Room. Don’t miss them speak in Olin Auditorium, 7p.

**SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 15**

- *Film-a-Go-Go.* The Film Committee brings to us Otto Preminger’s Anatomy of a Murder. Jimmy Stewart stars as the defense atty.; hired to defend an army officer accused of killing his wife’s rapist. See this 1959 film one time only at 7p, in the Old Gym. Also, catch the short: Betty Boop’s Trial. No smoking at this one, folks!

**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16**

- *Just Super.* Come see/hear Joan Tower’s percussion Quintet, Leo Smith’s African Rhythm Ensemble, Richard’s Improvisation Ensemble, the Madrigal Singers, the String Ensemble, & more! Just go to the Ensembles Concert tonight at 8p, in Bard Hall—Read about the concert inside this paper.

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17**

- *Dance Club.* Is open to everybody—so go to their movement/dance workshop in the Bard Theatre, 5:30p.

- *Be Bush’s Campaign Manager.* Baker kept them from international politics, foreign policy, & diplomacy. Maybe you can, too, if you check out the International Relations Club meeting in the President’s Room in Kline at 6:30p.

- *Ring of Fire.* Memories of Fire—an evening of readings & music from regions of Latin America: Caribbean, Andes, Mexico, & Central America. The Spanish Dept. is presenting this in Bard Hall, 7:30p. Don’t miss it!

- *Film-O-Rama.* Heard of Italian Neo-Realism? See the films which started it off: Roberto Rossellini’s Paisan (1946)—six episodes about the Battle of Italy; and, Rossellini’s Rome, Open City (1945)—a group of workers & a local priest in the Rome of 1943-4, declared an “open city” by the occupying Nazis. See them both at 7p, in the Preston Film Center.

- *More Movies.* The Feminist Theory & Film class presents Alfred Hitchcock’s horror film The Birds (1963): Tippi Hedren, Rod Taylor, and the residents of a California coastal town are unaccountably attacked by deadly flocks of birds. See this film at 50p, in the Preston Film Center.

**WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18**

- *Smoke Signals.* Thursday is the Great American Smokeout—so, get ready for 24 smokeless hours. The American Cancer Society & Bard College offers educational info, survival kits, & a Quitter’s raffle: smokers turn in a pack of cigarettes for a chance to win a dinner for two. Also, find a friend to “Adopt a Smoker” — support staying off cigarettes. Get your info & kits today & tomorrow at the tables in Kline, or contact Kris Hall, 5200.

- *Tadeusz Kowalski.* The Bard Russian Studies Club & Departments of History & Economics brings us Prof. Tadeusz Kowalski, a member of the Polish Academy of Sciences. Prof. Kowalski will speak on Pains and Strains of the Transition from Planned Economy to Free Market in Eastern Europe. Be there in Olin 203, 7p.

- *It’s everybody’s party.* Talk about the apapnce tomorrow of Nompgobw Sangwane—a former South African prisoner of conscience—with Bard’s Amnesty International. You can also write letters with them in the Committee Room at Kline, 6p. Be informed.

- *Mary Frank.* The Art Department presents a lecture by artist & Avery Professor Mary Frank. She will speak about her work; in the past, the mediums have included plaster, clay, wood, metal, glass, & wax. See/Hear Prof. Frank at 8p in the Olin Auditorium.

- *Go with the flow.* The Music Dept. presents 20th century classical music: Bard grad David Soenemeng’s composition—a world premiere: Prof. Darren Hager’s “Everything Must Go”—another world premiere, & several other pieces. Hear the Encore Brass Quintet at 8p, in the Bard Chapel. It’s free, folks!

- *Sunatar and his Five Women.* The Three Japanese Directors screenings presents this film by the great Japanese director Mizoguchi. Check out this 1946 film at 7p, in the Preston Film Center.