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Ah, yes! I wrote thee 'Purple Cow'—
I'm sorry, now, I wrote it.
But I can tell you anyhow,
I'll kill you if you quote it!

—Gelett Burgess

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Passing the buck

"Firing Line" debates the federal deficit at Bard

A banner reading 'National Debt
4,000,000,000,000' dominated the stage as
"Firing Line," the political debate program
on PBS, was taped live before a standing-room
only audience at Ohlin Auditorium yesterday
afternoon. Featuring
prestigious professors, economists, commenta-
tors and politicians from
around the nation, the
debate was hosted by
William F. Buckley Jr., the reactionary
regular host of "Firing Line," captained the
team of four panelists supporting the reso-
lution that lowering the national debt should
be of major importance over the next four
years. In his opening address, Buckley stated
that for every one dollar raised in tax revenue,
$1.59 is spent by the government, and that
something must be done to "contain the
beast of government spending." His team
predicts a complete collapse of the economy
when the burden of the deficit becomes too
much as the result of "spend-thrift" govern-
ment. A staunch foe of tax increases, Buckley
insisted that raising taxes would not solve
the problem of the deficit and promised that
his team would prove (in the course of the
debate) how necessary it is to reduce the
deficit.

Dean of M.I.T.'s Sloan School of Manage-
ment, Lester Thurow, captained the oppo-
sition team which argued that there are many
pressing issues to take precedence over re-
ducing the deficit in our current political
and economic situation. "People care more
about healthy economy than the invisible
and irrelevant budget," commented Thurow.
He and his fellow panelists believe that de-
veloping the infrastructure of our economy
must be the government's top priority before
any sensible reduction of the deficit can oc-
cur. Drastic measures, such as cuts in social
programs or tax reductions, would only
weaken the already weak economy, while
careful investment could lead the country
out of its recession and thereby reduce the
deficit.

Clive Crook, chief economics editor for The
Economist, spoke on behalf of Buckley with a
British perspective that warned, "Eventually
the burden of debt catches up with you and
results in a total break-down." In 1976, the
United Kingdom suffered an economic col-
lapse beneath a tremendous deficit, and
Crook foresees a similar tragedy in the U.S.'s
future. His opponent, Robert Kuttner, a
co-editor of The American Prospect, countered
that Margaret Thatcher's response "of tightening
everyone's belt ultimately accomplished
nothing" given that the British economy has
not improved to any great degree.

"There is no correlation between growth
rate and the deficit," continued Kuttner, who
continued on page 2
insisted that simply trying to cut the budget is not a viable solution to our economic slump. "We have to get the economy back on track, even if we must borrow more, and invest that money wisely."

Senator Warren Rudman (R-New Hampshire), a staunch political foe of the federal deficit, co-authored the Gramm-Rudman deficit reduction law. Rudman pointed out that the $200 billion paid on merely the interest to the national debt is half of the entire revenue collected from federal income tax. 'A responsible government does not spend half of its revenue on interest,' he insisted while stating that the 'American people would be more willing to pay taxes if they knew the money was going towards investment and not more consumption.'

A professor of economics at Northwestern University and former president of the American Economic Association, Robert Eisner, opposed Rudman’s philosophy of "no gain without pain" by stating that there should be no "pain without gain." Eisner claimed that the deficit allows the economy to survive and prosper as he urged his opponents to "look at both sides of the balance sheet...we need the assets (raised from borrowing money) to foster the growth that will someday alleviate the deficit."

The fourth panelist siding with Buckley stated from the start that "no country ever became great or remained great because of the money it owes." Predicting dire consequences for America's economic future, he stated that you "can't spend money out of an empty pocket, and this country is being run into the ground." His opponent was David Levy, vice-chairman of the Levy Institute, who explained that "America is in a controlled depression." His forecast is that the country's economy will take on upward swing, but reducing the deficit will be "an impossible venture until at least the last '90s."

"Therefore, deficit reduction, while critical for the future, should not be a priority at this time." Rudman in turn accused Levy of practicing "the check is in the mail economics" because "you can't be sure that a surge will come later to save the economy." He also decried Rudman by claiming that it managed to curtail "discretionary spending," but he was unable to hold Congress' "entitlement spending" in check. The issue of entitlements was bandied between the debaters with the Buckley contingent arguing that social spending must be totally redrawn and the Levy faction continuing to argue that entitlements should be reformed completely.

At one point, Throow defended President-Elect Clinton's proposed policy of raising the taxes of Americans who earn more than $200,000, a plan which Buckley dismissed as "a pure exhibition of praying upon the rich." Throow proclaimed, "Bill, you and I don't pay our fair share of America's bills!" When Buckley spoke of how he hoped to grow the economy out of the way, Eisner went on to confront Buckley with the statement: "You don't care about the deficit—you just want to get spending down."

As Levy summarized his colleagues' arguments: "With the potential for rehabilitating the infrastructure a few years down the road, reducing the deficit is an inappropriate measure at this time." The other side questioned the belief that the solution to "a problem of too much debt is to add more debt." Through lowering the wasteful spending of bureaucracy and social programs immediately, the imminent collapse can be averted. "We're not creating a growth," said one panelist. "We're merely pushing towards falling without a cushion."

The moderator of the debate was Michael Kingsley, editor of The New Republic and co-host of CNN's "Crossfire." He remarked upon how liberals and conservatives have reversed their opinions of the deficit over the last twelve years, alternately reluctantly in favor and vehemently opposed. "The deficit debate is back where it was in 1980," Kingsley concluded. "The only problem is that now the numbers are incredibly larger."

Cable and committees

Student Forum holds elections and one resolution

Last Wednesday evening, the final Student Forum of 1992 was conducted, proceeding with a resolution concerning cable on campus. TCI had placed Bard on the "undesirable list" because of rampant piracy and wire cutting. Since no formal process existed to reprimand cable thieves, TCI pulled out until some kind of deterrent were established. The resolution, which easily passed, stipulated that all cases involving cable vandalism etc. would be referred to the Student Judiciary Board to mete out verdicts and punishments. Lee commented that TCI is planning to arrange meetings with the administration to restore cable "hopefully" by next semester.

Roy Isakson was nominated for the one seat on the Student Life Committee and received the position by default. Closer elections were held concerning two Planning Committee seats and the alternate position on the SJB. Three of the five nominees for the Planning Committee spoke of paying more attention to smaller clubs and bringing "equality" to the budget allocation process. After a tight vote, Monirul Hoque and incumbent Jeff Rhine were elected. As Rhine said in his speech, "You have to be level-headed, fair and pragmatic...I want to continue the job I have been doing."

Four people ran for the alternate SJB seat and senior Gabe Wardell was elected in another close election because of his "fascination with the training process...I wish I could have been more involved from the start." The Educational Policies Committee finally filled its semester-long vacancy for the Arts Division seat when Chair Reme Craner asked if there were "any moderated art students in the room." and Kate McCumber-Golding accepted the nomination.

Elections for the Entertainment Committee were originally planned for last Wednesday's Forum; but since it was neglected to be added as an agenda item at least 24 hours in advance as per the Constitution, the Entertainment Committee election shall be part of the campus-wide elections held on Thursday and Friday. The election for Secretary shall also be conducted at that time. The offices of Treasurer and Student Life Chair were won by, respectively, Lee and former Secretary Sally Mehrens respectively.
Opinion Survey

Let us know what you’d like to see next semester

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
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<td>Should the Observer have a poetry corner?</td>
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Please circle yes or no for each question and return survey via campus mail A.S.A.P.

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Features
December 9 1992

Dead Goat Notes

The opinions in this column do not represent the Observer staff. If you don't like it, then kick Greg upstarts by voting for him as Student Association Secretary. After all, he does make a mean cup of coffee.

I get a lot of mail from my readers. Most of it is unprintable or contains threats on my life. However, every now and then, my adoring fans ask me for advice on their lives. I could really care less about their piddling existence, but this week, since I'm short of material, I figured I'd answer some reader mail. Of course, this infringes on the creative rights of National Lampoon, Dear Abby and David Letterman, but my lawyers can beat up their lawyers.

Dear Greg: There's a girl in my philosophy class who I really like. However, I'm too afraid to talk to her because I have a Platonic view of the universe and she has a more Aristotelian one. What should I do? Sincerely, Lost In Platonic Love.

Dear Lost: Whenever I like a girl, I just follow her around a lot. I park my car outside her home and just sit there for hours. Sometimes I'll call her up and listen to her talk while I don't say anything until she hangs up in disgust. I'll cut out lots of pictures of her and paste them up in part of my room like a shrine with candles burning next to it. Maybe that will work for you.

Dear Greg: I live in Tewksbury, where the residents have to pay for damage done to soda machines, fire extinguishers, etc. I'm sick of having to clean up after and pay for these vandalism. What should I do? Cordially, A Guy With No Coke Or Means Of Extinguishing Fires.

Dear Vandalorius and Fire-prone: your problem is analogous to that of the Kenyan rhinoceros several years ago. Not only did they have no vending machines or fire extinguishers, they also had a poaching problem. Luckily, the government of Kenya was sensitive to their plight and passed a shoot-on-sight law which allowed Kenyan equivalent of the Fish and Wildlife Commission to kill poachers on sight. The Student Association has likewise passed a similar policy on vandals, Visigoths or any other Germanic barbarian horde. Happy hunting!

Dear Greg: I'm a small, flaky, liberal college in upstate New York. I also have to live up here while my wife works and my kids go to school in New York City. I miss them terribly. If that wasn't bad enough the students at my college make fun of the way I dress and run things around here. What should I do? Sincerely, Feelin' Crappy at College.

Dear Crappy: Our college president was in a similar situation so he took the idea of a small, flaky, liberal college in upstate New York. Instead of putting up signs to writing letters denouncing my country, my college, my religion and my parents, the world hadn't changed at all. Do you think that maybe the rest of the world doesn't care what a few of my friends and I think about them? I'm solidarity with oppressed peoples everywhere, Kimmy.

Dear Kimmy: Of course the world is paying rapt attention to what you and your friends think. Have you tried putting a bedsheet sign outside of Clinton with a couple of effigies next to it? That's sure to stop global injustice.
According to The New Yorker, the brothers say "You want to keep the machine below 'Pork.'" Beyond their computer, the brothers have also authored over 150 papers and 12 books on number theory and mathematical physics. They built their supercomputer out of renewed curiosity for Pi. Pi is about 3.14 — the number of times that a circle's diameter will fit around a circle. Everyone thinks that Pi never repeats; everyone except the Chudnovsky brothers. They have used their computer to endlessly divide and redivide Pi to an almost infinite number of digits — two billion digits thus far (double the world record) and no other machine in the world has beaten it, yet.

Why should Bard students care? Because Pi is part of their lives. The double helix of DNA revolves around Pi; the waves of music from a concert in Bard Hall reverberate in Pi; the colors of art in the Froster Art Center strike the eye in spectra rippling at Pi intervals; Pi occurs naturally in the tables of death, in the mechanics of a car engine and in a rainbow.

The first eight million digits in Pi, mapped as a fractal landscape in a Chudnovsky program, lay out the Himalayas. If these two gentlemen can find a pattern in Pi, they will be opening up a new field of science which may find the hidden God in nature.

When Gregory (one of the brothers) went to the hospital for a CAT scan of his kidneys, they took the data and processed it in their own supercomputer. Gregory then wrote some imagery software, and after only a few weeks, their machine produced one of the most spectacular color simulations of the human torso ever seen.

The Chudnovskys have received a Doctor of Science honoris causa from Bard College, among numerous other prestigious awards, but they are currently unemployed. Gregory is incapable of getting a pregnancy. Although smoking is not considered a direct cause of SIDS, mothers and expectant mothers are now advised to quit smoking now until the child is beyond infancy.
Almost Ready
New Wing of Library Will Open Next Semester

You have all heard it before. Many of you have even been the ones to complain about it—the current Bard Library is inefficient! There is not enough room for all of the books, the equipment is out of date, the photo copiers are not being used or are broken and until this semester’s addition of a computer terminal, there was no way of locating books except by flipping your way through the old-fashioned card catalog. This is one time, however, where the complaints were heard, and with the help of the almost miraculous fundraising of college President Botstein, the construction for an addition to the current library began.

The construction site may have been foreboding to some, but when finally completed, it will mean a bigger library, more apt and studious atmosphere and the new look for the college as a whole; but more importantly, it means not the foreboding to some, but a1mstraciousfundraisingofrol­

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Another View

Proposals for the Entertainment Committee

As members of the Entertainment Committee, we would be dedicated to bringing the greatest number and greatest variety of bands to Bard as possible. We all have extensive experience in music, both in theory and practice. Albert and Miguel have played in bands both at Bard and elsewhere. Ned has done a considerable amount of work in college radio both here and at home in Boston. Ned and Miguel are familiar with the local scenes in Boston and D.C. We feel that this experience is valuable to the work that the E.C. does. We also believe, however, that the autonomy of the E.C. is one of its biggest drawbacks. We plan to introduce a suggestion box, or some similar measure, to ensure that student input is involved in the choice of bands. Albert and Miguel have been trained as interns in the E.C. for the past few months. They are familiar with the responsibilities entailed in dealing with managers, contracting bands, and sound equipment, as well as the set up and clean up of shows.

We intend to contract bands including, but not exclusive, to rock, funk and jazz. We are committed to seeing a variety of musical styles represented on Bard campus. Our interests include rap, ska, industrial, and electronic music. A remarkable similarity has occurred in the past few months. They are familiar with the responsibilities entailed in dealing with managers, contracting bands, and sound equipment, as well as the set up and clean up of shows.

We are interested in running the head of the Entertainment Committee. We believe that Bard students listen to all types of music, and the Entertainment Committee’s goal is to reflect this diversity. We want to get bands that everyone can enjoy, and more bands that people can dance to. We want to vary the music style including such genres as ska, jazz and international music styles. We are always open to ideas and suggestions and we want to keep a close dialogue with the students of Bard.

There are some bands we are considering bringing to Bard such as the New York Citizens (a ska group) and Sweet Smoke and the Rock (a vocal ensemble women’s group). We are also considering the possibility of having Henry Rollins speak at Bard.

We are willing to work hard, because we want to try to contribute something to the Bard community; we are willing to work with people.

Jason Peck
Anne Miller

We, Jason Peck and Anne Miller, are interested in running for the head of the Entertainment Committee. We believe that Bard Students listen to all types of music, and the Entertainment Committee’s goal is to reflect this diversity. We want to get bands that everyone can enjoy, and more bands that people can dance to. We want to vary the music style including such genres as ska, jazz and international music styles. We are always open to ideas and suggestions and we want to keep a close dialogue with the students of Bard.

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Jason Peck
Anne Miller
continued on page 7

Proposals for Mr. Secretary

Greg Glacico’s proposal for Secretary of the Student Association

When I heard that there was a thankless job that required lots of arduous work open to any student this semester I said, “Sign me up!” I would like to be your Secretary.

Are You Qualified? You bet. I am the only student this semester to propose and pass any legislation through the student government who was not a member of the Central Committee. I actually do have working knowledge of Robert’s Rules of Order and our Student Constitution. In fact, I am a member of a committee to add an amendment to our Student Constitution.

What other experience do you have? Well, most people know me from my work at the Bard Observer, of which I was Editor-in-Chief last year. I still write for them and handle circulation. However, if I am elected, I will erase any and all work for the Observer.

Unlike most politicians (and most journalists) I really will keep this campaign promise. I could say that it was a result of some political philosophy, but really, it’s just plain-old-vanilla-Bard-student-type-laziness. Other than my work on the Observer I am a member of the Library Committee and Trex, a club that has been described as Bard College’s Skull and Bones Society.

continued on page 7

The Beer Column

A strange thing happened to us while we were in Germany for the Oktoberfest. We wandered into a bar, and, out of respect for the German tradition, immediately set about honoring the spirit of Oktoberfest. Eight days later, we wandered out and couldn’t remember what city we were in. We stood looking around blantly, noting the remarkable similarity between Germany’s landscape and the Hudson Valley, and wondered if all this was merely a beer-induced hallucination. Were we dreaming we were Germans going to a small Eastern U.S. college, or were we pathetic North Americans desperately wishing we were of Northern European stock? Were we really at the Oktoberfest, having the times of our lives, or were we really hung up in a loft on the lower east side, getting really drunk on German beer and pretending we were in Germany?

Were we butterflies dreaming we were people or were we people dreaming we were butterflies?

As we pondered these existential questions, out of the corner of our eyes we spotted a rather large, stein-waving Bavarian bearing down upon us. He gesticulated wildly, spewing beer foam everywhere, as he said in a muddled guttural voice, “SCHHCHHZZZARRGHGHHBCH Bier CHHHHHCHELCH Bier.” After a few minutes, we convinced him that we understood the barest necessities of German: wurst, bier and Frauen. Apparently our friend felt language should be no barrier to drinking, as he carried us off to the nearest party central and said repeatedly, “Trink! Trink!”

Needless to say, we do not have happy memories of the occasion. We did get to try several German beers, and although it is (sadly) no longer Oktoberfest, and since this is the last beer column of the two of us may be writing, we wanted to share our opinions on some fine German beers. We should make a note here of the important difference between beer; lager and ale, and as soon as we look them up, we’ll tell you (HINT: we suspect is has something to do with the amount of hops versus barley, the more grains producing a fuller-bodied ale or lager. But don’t take our word for it.)

In the meantime: Beck’s Dark is the German equivalent of Budweiser, except it is actually drinkable. While not the best of brews, even the most mediocre German beer beats the pants off of the name brand American beers. The problem with Beck’s Dark is that it’s exactly like the Beck’s Pils, only the color of Coke-cola, which may or may not be a coincidence. In Germany, beer costs less than Coke in order to encourage Germans to buy the home product. Maybe Beck’s Dark looks like Coke to trick the natives into thinking they’re getting (sorta) American beverages. Just a thought.

In the North, Dortmund Actien Brauerei produces a beer unimaginatively called DAB. DAB has a nicely malty smell, and although it’s a bit bitter, it has a pleasant aftertaste. This is definitely a dark beer, darkness having little to do with actual color. DAB is a fine, full-bodied beer, which we heartily recommend if you like these qualities in a beer.

Wurzburger Hofbrau is similar to the DAB, except it has less aftertaste and less body. However, Wurzburger is a Bavarian beer, and, while still quite good, we have no desire to drink it again for a long time. After the tenth or eleventh litre, you get kind of sick of it (guessed which beer our buddy was actually drinking?)

Before we depart for the Christmas and New Year’s festivities (yes!), we should mention that chanced upon a copy of Budds Cors’ last will and testament, in which he stated that he had primed a mysterious entity known only as “Chris” to take over the Beer Column. Since Chris is a such a rare name at Bard, we should have no problem finding him (or her. Who knows? Women are drinkers, too!)

Welp, that’s it from me and Ed, and we thank you for your support.

The Beer Column

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Beck’s Dark</th>
<th>DAB Traditional dark</th>
<th>Wurzburger Bavarian dark</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Beverage way

- Coke (classic and diet) $1.99/6pk
- Miller (cans) $10.99/12
- American Beer $8.99/12
- Elephant malt liquor $4.49/6pk
- Busch Natural Light $3.99/12 case

A page of unedited observations from guest writers
Europa, Europa, again

by Zoltan Bruckner

After the long peace of our childhood, when crises were interpreted according to definitions in the "Cold War Dictionary", history seems to be back to "business as usual". And this means trouble, grand scale. This is especially true to the "New Europe", East, West and Central.

Despite all our enthusiasm about a better future of that long-divided continent, outlooks are mixed (at the best). The "elite" countries of Western Europe are struggling to endorse a closer monetary and political union, and the East is about to sink into a political and military quagmire unprecedented since the end of World War II.

Adding to Europe's troubles, the new American president-elect is about to become another self-proclaimed "domestic president". Here is one reason to worry for Americans who say that "we should mind our own business": most great American Presidents of the 20th century with a strong domestic agenda ended up as shapers of the world at large (think of FDR, Truman or LBJ). This also comes to some relief for anxious Central and Eastern Europeans (including Germany), who feel that in the ideological void of the pre-Bolshevik era their democratically elected leaders are re-inventing nationalism in order to say in power.

This brings us to the point that is permanently abused by the American media: the "outburst of nationalism in East-Central Europe". Nationalism in Czechoslovakia (especially Slovakia), Hungary, Rumania, not to mention Serbia and Croatia, has not been a time Bomb ticking silently under the blanket of "Community internationalism". It has been consciously re-invented by the newly democratically elected governments. Why is this distinction important? Because the need to introduce the neo-nationalist ideology that invents new foes along the borders was prompted by the lack of tangible progress for the average person within those borders.

The reappearance of Neo-Nazi vandalism in and around Germany is just another "grass-roots" version of what democratically elected Serbian and Croatian governments are doing with real weapons. In this context there is absolutely no guarantee that the war in the Balkans will be an isolated "incident". Since there are no clear ethnic boundaries at state borders, minor clashes along the borders of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania or the Ukraine can easily turn into a real war.

Austria, a neutral country, must sense some of this when asking for membership in the Western European Union, the military alliance of the EC. Germany is being forced to introduce some more restrictive anti-refugee legislation in order to chill down right-wing pressure at home. Since there is no direct military threat to France or Britain, these countries leave the pains of finding a solution to Germany, which it hardly needs.

But linking up the tanks on the EEC's borders is no solution. Neither should the United States wait until half of Europe turns into another "Somalia". The resurgence of nationalism can be halted by a more generous credit-policy combined with rigorous conditions set by the IMF, careful monitoring of the economies of these countries, preventive diplomacy and further encouragement for investment, investment, investment.

At present, the region seems to defy the rule that "democracies don't go to war with each other". It is prosperity, not only for an elite, but for the masses, that shields people from the ravages of neo-nationalism. Without that, another "iron curtain" will "descend across the continent". And weren't we all happy when the Berlin Wall came down? What were we happy about?

Can computers find cash?

In general, Bard students are a highly unique, individualized lot. If there is one thing which manages to unite the majority of us, however, it is our insatiable thirst for financial aid. The Bard Financial Aid Office should be commended in their efforts to meet this desire/necessity, but it often times happens that even their contributions fall short of the proverbial mark and Bard students are left to acquire additional aid through their own ingenuity.

Many of you, in employing that self-same ingenuity, have probably experimented with scholarship search compa nies. You know the ones: you send them a check or money order for $45, $50, or $100, and they will send you a personalized list of all the unclaimed scholarship funds you qualify for. (If you are unfamiliar with this concept, check out the information boards in Kline.) It sounds like the perfect solution but reality proves otherwise. For the most part, these services take your already exhausted funds (and it has been noted of late that these services tend to concentrate on poor families, recognizing in them an increased desire for aid) and send you an obvious list of loans and scholarships, aid you were already aware of or could very easily have discovered in the proper offices on campus. In addition, despite their guarantee of a list tailored to fit, the majority of aid you were presented with probably didn't fit at all.

My point is this: don't waste your time. If you are desperately seeking aid and have considered such services as a possible solution, don't bother, they are a waste of your already limited monetary funds. More importantly, the Bard Financial Aid Office is now offering an alternative - and a more effective alternative - to such services. And the clincher is this: the search is free!

If you can drag yourself over to B&G, the Financial Aid Office will introduce you to their recently acquired College Aid Sources for Higher Education, or CASHE, system. By supplying their computer with personalized information - your major, job experience, parents' job experience, etc. - you will receive a list of a available aid which you do - yes, you really do - qualify for.

From this list, you can determine which sources you would like to pursue and send a letter (and self-addressed, stamped envelope) requesting additional information. The whole process costs you the price of the postage and the system is far more effective than scholarship services you pander to through the mail. You have nothing to lose and financial security to gain, so why don't you give it a chance?

Amber R. Boehm

Love dem potholes

I just thought I would write a little note regarding something that has been bothering me lately, POTHOLES! Am I the only person whose car is being ruined by these monstrous holes in the parking lots? Last week I brought my car in to a garage for a tank in a part known as the "sending unit". The mechanic was baffled as to how this could have occurred. He told me this was rare. He said I had to be extra careful driving over "rough terrain" to fix this hap­pen. I told him he should drive around and, its better than 4-wheeling! So now I m car-less and will owe the mechanic ver $200 to get this sending unit replaced.

Bard is costing my family enough money, I think I should be allowed to live here without potholes in the parking lots. But then again I should consider myself lucky just to have a room, right?

While I'm here I might as well complain about Annandale Road (now that I'm a walker). Why are there no sidewalks on such a dangerous road? Am I the only one who fears being seriously maimed by an oncoming vehicle as I walk to class? I always thought our safety should be a priority. I've notice there isn't even any "slow down" or "people crossing" signs. It is a state road so Bard wouldn't even have to pay for them?

Amlin Butler

Giacco's proposal cont.

What do you consider your duties as Secretary? I consider any government official, from our student government to our federal government, to be a servant of the people. As secretary, it will be my job to let you know about when meetings will take place and what will happen there. It is also my job to keep track of all legislation and make that wealth of knowledge available to you. With me as secretary nothing will stand in the way of your participation in our student government, except maybe a really bad tornado.
**Arts & Entertainment**

**THE BARD OBSERVER**

**December 9, 1992**

**8 Arts & Entertainment**

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**Electronic evening in Bard Hall**

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**Pushing the limits of art**

The Amazing Hubie performs at deKline

Last Wednesday night at 11:30 pm in deKline Cafe, performance artist The Amazing Hubie made his Bard debut. A freshman theatre major, Hubie has spent several years perfecting his art, and until recently only performed for small groups of friends, or friends of friends, but mostly never strangers. Hubie saw his deKline performance as a convenient way to segue into public performances, open to everyone but without the direct confrontation of a large venue, as the deKline audience is "still mostly people I know." When asked to talk about the nature of his art, Hubie grew pensive, thoughtful. "A lot of people use the term 'performance art' as a joke, to mean that what they're talking about is actually something pretentious or just stupid. But that shows they really don't know anything about it." While Hubie admits that some so-called performance art can be "a load of crap," he would like the general public to see this artform for what it really is. "The performance artist is in a position to absorb his audience, their pleasures, their ups and downs, to take it all in." Then, having absorbed all that, the artist finds a way to give it all back in a new form, allowing viewers to see things about themselves and the world from a perspective they might never have found otherwise. That, above all, is the stated nature of Hubie's craft. "At the same time I concentrate on the beauty of humanity as well as its smallness, its insignificance."

When asked about his influences, Hubie said that life-long idols have included Eugene Ionesco and Steve Martin, and in his performances he draws on the works of Kafka, Lloyd, and Dantu. When asked about future performances, Hubie was optimistic but noncomittal, saying, "The public performance took a lot out of me, but it was also fulfilling." He claimed to have no definite plans for future public appearances, but is considering a repeat of his deKline performance sometime late next semester, combining some of the same material with some of his new work which is now in progress.

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OUTSHINED

Blazers are under-sized and under-staffed

Once again, the week in Bard sports is highlighted by the less than stellar performance of the Bard Blazer basketball team. The Blazer season record fell to 0-5 this week as the Blazer lost each of their three games. The Gymnasium. Once again, Bard players were forced to spend an inordinate amount of minutes on the floor. They were left getting substitutions which kept five subs on the starting five and the starting five on the floor. This is especially true in light of the fact that Bard players are often much bigger than their opponents. They are able to give 40 quality minutes. This is especially true in light of the fact that Bard players are able to give 40 quality minutes. There is only one solution: find more quality players in the ranks of the Bard student body. They are, after all, watching the game, so why aren't they playing?

SPORTS SCHEDULE

Varsity Basketball
Friday, December 11th at NY Maritime

Men's Fencing
Saturday, December 12th vs. Hunter College & Boston College

Women's Fencing
Saturday, December 12th vs. Hunter College & Boston College

We're looking for one good man (or woman) who wants to be the Observer's next Photo Editor. No photo major required, just a willingness to take lots of photos with a really funny camera. And, hey! You even get an office key of your very own!

Simply drop a note in campus mail to the Observer or call 758-0772.

Shameless Filler!

Self-knowledge is a painful thing, at first. Until recently, there were things which I would have never thought myself capable of. And then, I realized that it is an indivisible part of me. Something which tears down every assumption I made about my character in one sweeping motion. Scary, and sad. But within a few weeks, I had accepted this new facet of myself, thanks to the help and understanding of my friends. But I needed to tell my family as well. So, this Thanksgiving, after the turkey was eaten and the desserts were being served, I revealed my new self to my loving family.

I asked for, and consumed, a cup of coffee. It's been a long time in coming, but I am now a confirmed java-joe. I can't help it, I enjoy the stuff now. Why this is so earth shattering is due to my behavior in the past. Whenever my friends would order iced coffee, I would become insufferable. I'd wrinkle my nose, curl my lip, roll my eyes and lose my lunch. Especially if the barista was giving me the dark brown stuff, that I didn't think was made for me. The idea of coffee as a drink to enjoy was beyond me, as beyond me as enjoying cigarettes. How could anyone savor that bitter, sickening liquid? Ah, me, and now I take a cupper, most mornings along with my eggs and grits. I'll give you a minute to savor the irony, folks.

If I started just a month ago, when I decided to put in an all-nighter for a midterm project. I slumped into DeKline that early a.m., seeking refreshment and revival. Everybody's pal, Shawn Taylor was manning the counter, so I told him of my plan to stay up all night. He gave me his sympathy, and offered me a special deluxe extra-strong cup of coffee. I agreed only after I found that they were out of most sodas. I decided I'd choke it down in the name of waketeness. The flavor of the night was Irish Cream, and I downed enough milk and sugar to assure its smooth passage down my gullet. I couldn't believe it! I enjoyed the smooth sweetness and delicate creaminess. It might have been the early hour, the daunt of work ahead, or the loud music, but I forgot myself and actually enjoyed the stuff. The night passed quickly enough, the caffeine kicking in just at the right time, and much work was accomplished.

I suppose I should have seen it coming. I did, and still do, enjoy coffee flavored candies and ice cream. Hot drinks are most pleasurable, and nothing can compare to that all-natural caffeine buzz while writing a twelve-pager at three in the morning. In the past, I'd rely on soda for my blink-preventative. I liked to call it "Dad's a paper, and don't I country cool!" So, I suppose the shift towards the vares of Juan Valdez was inevitable. But that doesn't mean I can't stoop to a little finger-pointing. Like my old scrummy chum, Earl Sheehy, who developed his love for coffee because he knew he'd have to drink caffeine at college if he wanted to fit in better. Those late-night trips to Michael's diner always made me aware of how much of an outsider I was. He'd always get a cup or two, I'd settle for a milkshake or some fries. It's hard to be the outsider. Never underestimate the effect of peer pressure on first-time users, family, and friends. Then there were the folks I lived with this past summer. Two of them were vegetarians, so, okay, I swore off meat. Trouble is, I began to like the food. Especially Ed Stoulburg's red bean, no-holds-barred Chili. The stuff made my eyes water and my nose bleed. Damn good stuff. Once I had embraced Ed's chilli, Ganit's black bean soup, and Josie's leftovers, I got caught in a cycle. It came to the point where there was no way I couldn't have "no" to any bean. I mean, even I read Tales of the Beanworld on a daily basis. So, now I'm a coffee drinker. Not a problem one, mind you. I still require lots of cream and sugar. But I down it. You bet your grounds. I'm a part of the coffee generation. A mover and a shaker. Well, since I don't drink decaf, I'm mostly a shaker.

Shameless Filler!

by Matt Gilman
Being heard at Bard

by Matt Gilman

Recently, a guy stood in front of a microphone for almost an hour without saying anything. An attentive audience gathered before him, prepared to listen to whatever it was he had in mind. He said nothing. "Wow, that's art," someone said, actually expressing nothing by saying nothing. "Wow, that's art," someone else said, actually expressing nothing by saying nothing.

That was enough for me. Yes, our college environment has enough interesting and diverse minds to fill a small-sized seminar, and they're all bustling at the seams with things to say. And, if you look around long enough, you'll find someone to talk to. It could be academic, club-oriented, drama-oriented, historic, philosophical, spiritual, thought-provoking, overly critical, or simply weird. But trust me, someone will want to hear what you've got in mind. "Classes help take care of a lot of these ideas."

After all, that's what college is for; if you haven't been inventive and original in a class before, I suppose you're having a bad experience at Bard. Friends and dorm folks are usually willing to hear your idle chit-chat and silly ideas. Campus clubs foster the ideas of similarly-minded people to try and benefit from them. This is great stuff, but I don't always fit into neat little categories like this.

For a long time, the Bard Observer was the haven for ideas and commentary from any student willing to put pen to paper to the campus at large. For better or for worse, that rule has changed. The Another View page is sadly, less packed than it once was, and high weediness has lost its foothold. I'm one of the lucky ones; I happen to have a weekly outlet for whatever ridiculous thoughts I need to share with you. My filler has been getting good and bad responses all semester long, both solicited and unsolicited. That's the way it should be, huh? I'd like it (uh-huh, uh-huh), because the things I write are supposed to be read, not liked. Just wanna be heard. And I reckon there are plenty of you out there who want to be heard as well. An unfortunate dearth of campus publications has made it even more difficult to write for the sake of writing. But we have inexpensive folks, aren't we? There are other ways to be heard. And I know you have something to say, so why not be the one to find a way to say it well? I recall a mini-this, produced by James Patch, which was placed on all the tables in Kane last year if it wasn't pretty, but it was effective. "You read it, didn't you?"

So, in the interest of being heard, why not try these ways of getting through. The Observer is looking for weekly entertainment of any kind (we are above, why not try some). You could start your own anachronistic post-road-emergency. You could read original thought or one of the several coffeehouses which appear throughout the semester. Hey, why not just mosey on over to the Observer and ask people to show up? You could just photocopy your babblings and distribute them at lunch. You could play with your magic voice gobblers—oops, sorry about that. And, hey, soapboxes are cheap at Grand Union.

Person of the week cont.

continued from page 6

permanent job at any American institution of higher learning because he is crippled by an auto-immune disorder of the muscles. His brother David refuses to leave his brother alone; Gregory's muscular weakness and difficulty in breathing make him very dependent.

The brothers search to find if the universe is chaotic or ordered, but no students of science are benefiting from their research because no college has yet hired the men. This is probably because they are generalists and not specialists, and their interest in subjects such as Pi is not commercially sellable. Their work, however, should not go unpraised and that is why the Observer chooses Gregory and David Chudnovsky as our persons of the week. We challenge this college and others to prove they are as innovative in education as the brothers are as mathematicians, by perhaps inviting these gentlemen to speak at a Distinguished Scientists Lecture, for without encouraging the young there is no hope to promote genius.

Spelling problems

Dear Editor,

What have I done to deserve this? Within the past 12 months my name appeared in your paper 6 times, and each time it was misspelled. Have your ever spelled Leon's name Leo, or Stuart's as Stew, or Shkashevsky's as Shkasheehievsky? So, why me?

Where are the editors, the copy readers, the typists, the computer wizards, the proof readers, the energizers? Sleeping? Give me a break!

Adolias Mekas

"See Pedro Almodovar's movie of that title. It's good."

On the original copy of this letter was written "fame as it is" in red ink around the word "break"—ed.

Come together

In response to Mr. "White Stag";

I think I understand the thesis of your article, that men (and women) should get in touch with their inner selves, and learn how to use the energies and potentials with which each is supposedly endowed. What I disagree with is the manner in which you suggest we learn to live together in harmony with this understanding. I do not believe that we can all learn to live together in harmony just by encouraging us to use the energies and potentials of our inner selves, and learn how to separate our energies—sleeping? Giving me a break?"

Adolias Mekas

Follow-up to the New Warriors

Dear Editor,

I want to extend my thanks and appreciation to all the men and women who came out to hear us speak about the New Warrior movement to Bard. I want to honor all those who came out in the spirit of community; both nights had great energy. I want to especially honor the people who challenged us and made us accountable for carrying on with the message I wrote about in the Observer. By sharing your anger and your disagreements you helped to make the event happen, and I value your truth with all of some sort of anger that feels uncomfortable. As a man I own the fact that there is comfort I want to give special thanks to Bob Walsh, a man with wonder-full creativity, who made the post-ers. He and Andy Costen also because I am, as are most of us, a wounded human being. I own the fact that many men and women have been wounded by men. I own the fact that many men and women have been wounded by men. I own the fact that men and women have been wounded by men. I own the fact that the wounds create rage. I can own this truth because I am, as are most of us, a wounded human being. Never...
Men only!

To the Editor:

It is quite rare that I would engage in any form of social or political activism, but the circumstances in the New Warriors' meeting this past Friday prompt me to appeal to the Bard community. I find it disturbing that the New Warriors could hold a "Men Only" meeting at Bard not only because it seems to be in violation of Bard's nondiscrimination policies, and possibly of US Federal and New York State civil rights legislation, but because it is morally reprehensible. To make sure that I understood the intent of the New Warriors, I talked to Bruce Kuznicki, the campus coordinator of the organization about my concerns. While I noticed the disclaimer in the New Warriors' article, "Neither sex is better or more valuable than the other..." (Observer, December 2), and Bruce reassured me that no harm was meant and that the group does not advocate animosity toward women, he also said that the New Warriors' Training Weekends are always exclusively for men.

I encourage people who have feelings about whatever they are, to come to myself or to us in the future and get them heard, because even if no one else gives a shit, we do.

Again, I honor and thank all the wonderful men and women who came to our meetings. Yours were wonderful gifts, and I look forward to getting to know you in the future.

With love and service,
Bruce "White Stag" Kuznicki

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Letters

December 9, 1992

BARD'S NEW DOLL HOUSE™ (JUST IN TIME FOR THE HOLIDAYS)

Letters to the Editor and Personals or Classifieds must not exceed 500 words and must be signed legibly. All letters, 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 Towsbury 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 others. Persons are free.
Display Classifieds: $5.00 for local, $10.00 for national. Display space: contact the Ad Manager.

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.

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The Bard Observer
Annandale on Hudson, NY 12504
(914) 758-0772

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Sign effacements

Dear Editor,

This letter is simply to inform Bard students about a few unfortunate occurrences over the past few weeks. There have been several episodes of vandalism surrounding the recent SM ACES/RAC/ELE party. The rancor and disregard for the feelings and property of others cannot be ignored. I believe that the community should be aware of these strange attempts at making a point.

To begin with, SM ACES had a great deal of difficulty advertising the party. Posters went down within minutes of being hung. We understand that B&G has changed their policies regarding flyers on campus; however, we doubt that B&G has the time to follow us around removing posters. Especially those hung in the middle of the night. Screws of the flyers were not removed but effaced. It is our feeling that those responsible for the damage to the posters also defaced the multicultural studies bulletin board in the student center.

After the party, members of SM ACES arrived to clean up the student center. They discovered that some of the posters in the club space had been stolen and those remaining had been destroyed. It is this incident that affected us the most. The posters were donated by one student whose generosity has been repaid with the malicious destruction of his property.

We know that there is no way to find the culprit, however, we felt it necessary to inform the community that this kind of thing does happen.
Happy Holidays, folks!