

OBSERVER

Vol. 102 No. 18 March 5, 1993

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The BARD

OBSERVER

VOLUME 100 ★ NUMBER 18

BARD COLLEGE ★ ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON ★ NY 12504

MARCH 5 ★ 1993

"It is a good thing for an uneducated man to read books of quotations."

—Winston Churchill

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Last Saturday afternoon, Dr. Harold M. Weintraub gave the first Distinguished Scientist lecture of the semester in Olin Auditorium. Dr. Weintraub's lecture was titled, "Genes and Differentiation: How Does an Organism Develop From an Egg?"

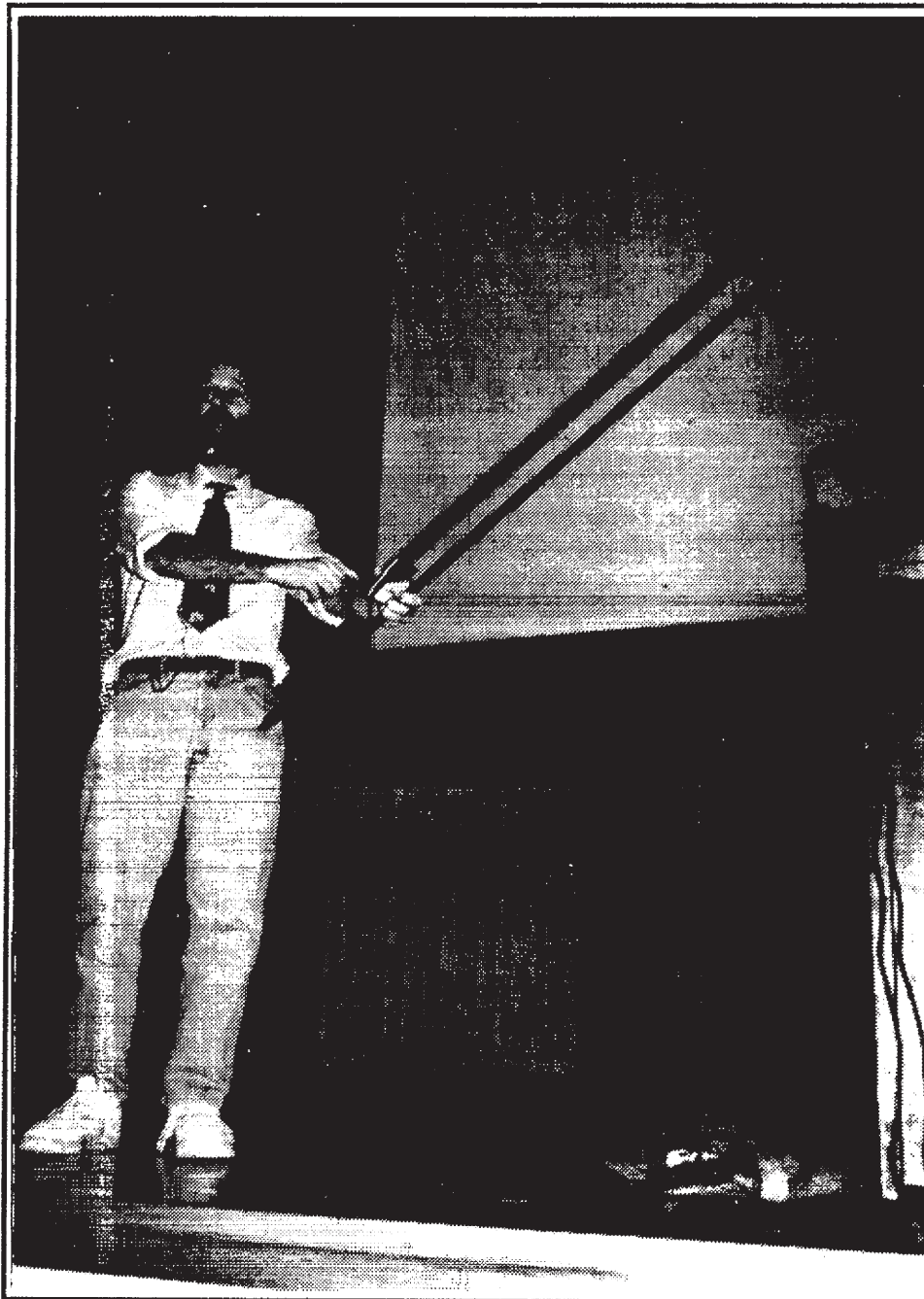


Daniel Kurnik
Staff
Writer

Dressed in blue jeans and sneaker (also a shirt and tie), Dr. Weintraub walked on stage to begin his lecture with a quick introduction to the workings of genes and DNA. He explained how DNA is made of base pairs structured in a double helix, and how it is transcribed in the form of RNA. He showed how genes are identified by either antibodies or hybridization of RNA, and how genes could "talk" to each other by sending and receiving hormones. As he talked, he referred to slides flashing on the screen overhead to make his points.

With that much outlined, Dr. Weintraub paused to describe an earlier experiment—"Which," he admitted, "I unfortunately did not perform"—in which the nucleus of a frog cell had been put into a frog egg, whose nucleus had been removed, and the recipient egg had then followed the directions of the nucleus of the first cell, and eventually developed into an adult frog. This much earlier experiment (it was apparently first done in the 1950s) showed that all cells in the body have basically the same genetic material, but develop into very different structures (brain, eyes, liver, etc.). This experiment has served as the focus of Dr. Weintraub's current work.

All of that led up to his main point: that it is gene expression that determines what cells will become, and that changing gene expression will change the cell itself. But this is not just an interesting theory: it's reality. Dr. Weintraub has actually found a master



Making muscle from fat

Dr. Harold Weintraub discusses genetics and cell differentiation

gene called *MyoD* which can turn various cells into muscle cells. Brain cells, fat cells, pigmentation cells—all of these can be turned into muscle cells when *MyoD* is expressed in them.

MyoD will only turn cells into muscle cells; it cannot turn them into other kinds of cells, and it cannot turn the newly created muscle cells back into what they once were. But presumably, there are other genes out there, waiting to be discovered, that will do the same thing to create other kinds of cells. The eventual possibilities could be fantastic. Imagine turning excess fat cells into muscle cells, or growing extra brain cells. These

ideas are slowly moving a little closer to becoming reality, and not just science fiction.

Dr. Weintraub went on to illustrate exactly how *MyoD*'s protein worked—how it activated muscle-specific proteins in a cell, and how it bound itself to all the other genes which make a muscle cell a muscle cell—while fielding questions from the audience. One of these questions, "How is *MyoD* activated?" led him into the other main point of his talk. His answer was based upon an interesting idea based on a cellular coordinate system.

Dr. Weintraub's theory of a cellular coordinate system is based on the idea that in the unfertilized egg, every point within the egg is unique, because of gradients of RNA established by surrounding cells. These points can be marked with coordinates (for example, point P might be at location a,b,c in that egg) and each point is in its own unique chemical microenvironment. After fertilization and cell division, cells at point a,b,c still retain the unique chemical microenvironment, and thus express only certain genes. In other words, the mother (or at least the maternal cells surrounding the egg) determines the geography of the egg, and the ultimate layout of

continued on page 6

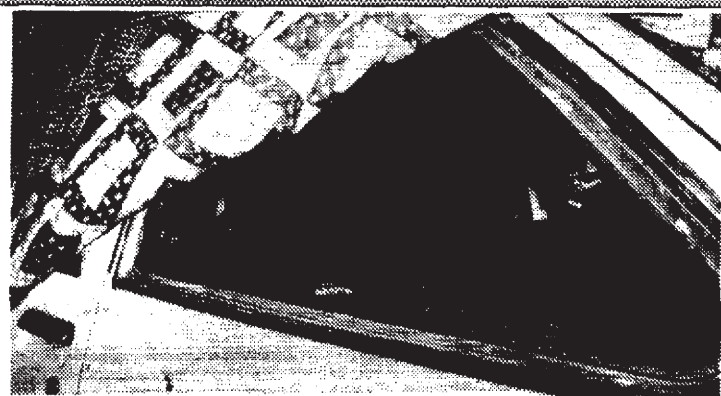
Broken windows

Car vandalism plagues Bard

In the month of February, no less than nine automobiles parked on the Bard campus had at least one of their

News Editor

windows smashed in by vandals. With the exception of one incident this past weekend, nothing was stolen from the vandalized.



Director of Security Bob Boyce remarked that, "This just seems to be maliciousness; there is no reason for the vandalism except that [the perpetrators] want to break windows."

Boyce commented that this rash of vandalism "doesn't sound like something common to more than one or two people." He suspects that it is the work of people riding by in a car of their own, and break in the windows with some sort of blunt instrument since no projectiles have been found in the vandalized vehicles. The incidents have occurred all over campus, and Boyce stated that Security has "no way of knowing" whether it was done by residents or people from off-campus. Each of the incidents occurred under cover of darkness, either late at night or early in the morning.

The vandalism has not been restricted to student vehicles. One faculty car had its window smashed, while another student's car had its windows smashed on two different occasions. The lack of theft along-

side the vandalism is puzzling; in one incident cash was actually left untouched on the console. The one exception to this trend was last week-end where a car parked at Cruger Village was broken into and the owner's skiing equipment was stolen.

Boyce urges students and other members of the community to contact Security if they see or hear anything out of the ordinary. "Let us check it out," he stressed, and further reinforced the importance of taking down the license plates of suspicious vehicles. "I'd like students to get more involved so we can do our job."

Boyce described an incident last Wednesday when Security was able to respond to student information. "We were reported that someone was acting strange around Kline Commons at two o'clock in the morning," Boyce said. "We found the individual and, since he was not a member of the Bard Community,

we told him to get off campus." When the individual was later discovered trying to get into a dormitory, the sheriff's department was notified, and the person was taken away.

"That's the kind of thing I like to see," commented Boyce. "Let us know if something strange is going on so that we can take care of it."

With the possibility of more snowfall this week-end, Boyce remarked upon the need for students to park their cars legally around campus. "We have towed at least two dozen cars in the last two storms," he explained. "They were illegally parked, and we tried to get in touch with the owners, but a lot of vehicles on campus are not registered." There is a \$35 charge if Security has to tow your car to the nearest legal parking space, and this difficulty makes the already arduous plowing situation on campus even more problematic.

Playing with fire

Arsonist strikes South Hall

On Saturday, February 20th, residents of South Hall received a slight scare when postcards on a resident's door were set on fire, absurdly enough in broad daylight.

Staff Writer

According to security reports and accounts from

South Hall peer counselors, at approximately 12:30 PM, an unknown party set fire to some postcards and a note that were put up on a female resident's door. The resident, who was inside her room, apparently

opened the door to go outside when the fire was still burning. When she saw that her door was on fire, she immediately went to get the fire extinguisher and yelled for help. A nearby neighbor subsequently responded and put out the fire before the fire extinguisher was brought. The smoke from the extinguished flames then set off the fire alarm, whereupon security responded.

No witnesses or suspects have been found as of yet, and there was no apparent motive behind this incident. The consensus in the dorm was that it was "just some people being stupid."

In response to that, Bob Boyce, Head of Security says, "I under-

stand people wanting to act stupid sometimes, but they shouldn't be dangerously stupid." The rather superficial outcome of this incident may make the whole matter seem trivial, but the flames from the postcards did transfer onto the door, and without early detection, the results could have been a lot worse.

Bob Boyce reminds people that this incident is still technically considered arson, and it is a felony by law. Any person caught in this or similar acts on campus would be brought before the school administration, whereupon they may recommend the case be forwarded to the Student Judiciary Board or the local police department.

Student Life report

SLC starts semester with ambitious agenda

The first Student Life Committee meeting of the semester was held on Thursday, February 25th

Staff Writer

and was chaired by Sally Mehrrens. Four new members attended the meeting. Mehrrens started the

Committee's long list of proposed reforms and changes of Bard student life with a proposal to reconsider the space now called the "club room" in the old gym. Mehrrens had been approached by the Billiards Club which desired to put a new, unvandalized pool table in the space of the club room. The SLC decided that, pending the Billiard Club's receipt of money from the laundry fund for the new table, the Committee would propose the following resolution at the upcoming Student Forum: the club room will be used by the Billiards Club and as a meeting space for other clubs subject to specific guidelines about who can enter the room and when.

The second request considered at the meeting was a change in Bard's policy of single sex doubles. The Committee debated the pros and cons of doubles shared by both sexes and decided to consult on the issue with residence hall Dean Gladys Watson.

The SLC members will conduct an annual light check so it can inform Buildings and Grounds about broken lights and particularly dark areas on campus.

Members were reminded of the new guidelines concerning hanging signs on campus and were encouraged to remind clubs to take down signs after the advertised events have already occurred.

A general discussion ensued about what Committee members agreed is a problem with Student Services on campus. The Committee will be meeting with representatives of the Career, Health and Counseling Services to ascertain what problems exist and what the

student body needs more of. Sesame Lee called the Committee's attention to the fact that the campus lacks a real counseling service for learning disabled students. She will take up the issue with Dean of Studies Karen Greenberg. Another related issue is an investigation into the Peer Tutor program. Students have expressed concern that there is no publicity on campus for this program.

Malia Du Mont will be responsible for expediting the publishing and distribution of a student phone directory.

Damnath DeTissera stressed his continuing desire for Electronic Mail to connect the Bard Campus to the outside world. He will speak to both Jim Brudvig and Jeff Huang about the attainment of this service for Bard students.

Laurie Curry discussed what measures would be necessary to implement a student book exchange starting the fall 1993 semester. She suggested that the SLC ask professors to make a list of necessary books for the next semester which would be available during registration. The details of this project will be another objective of the Committee.

The arrival of cable to Bard has been delayed again, and the SLC will check into the reasons why.

Sesame Lee expressed concern for the current problem of icy sidewalks on campus. The SLC will contact B&G about the matter.

The final proposal was Walter Swett's. He suggested that the SLC look into the possibility of throwing a Spring Fest which would involve bands and a day free of classes. The Committee enthusiastically agreed on the idea, but decided that holding Spring Fest on registration day would be the most feasible option. The SLC will work in conjunction with the Dean of Students office to make this vision a reality.

The members of the Student Life Committee are Sally Mehrrens (Chair), Sesame Lee, Malia Du Mont, Walter Swett, Damnath DeTissera and Laurie Curry.

One flu over the cuckoo's nest

Why an apple a day doesn't always keep the doctor away

Over the past couple of weeks, Bard has been plagued by the not-so-wonderful flu season. I should know; I had it myself, complete with all of the dreadful symptoms: cough, runny nose, high fever, upset stomach, aches, pains, lack of energy, etc. Anyone who is experiencing it or has had it knows: It is not a pretty sight, and it is a darn awful thing to have to go through!

The worst thing is that there is no way of escaping it. If one Bard student catches a bug, you can be pretty certain that the bug is going to be passed on to a dozen or more other students who will pass it on to others. No matter how many apples you eat, it is bound to get around to you sooner or later. Speaking of food, nearly every one eats in Kline right? Well, not even sneeze guards are going

to keep the germs off for very long. Someone coughing while reaching for a glass could contaminate the entire crate of glasses. Ever think of that? The thought sure does not make eating in the cafeteria any more pleasant.

But, who wants to eat when you are lying in bed with a temperature of one hundred and three degrees and feeling like it is colder in your room, under a sweater and three blankets, than it is outside during a snowstorm? Meanwhile, there is just no way of getting over it except to rest and wait, which is not easy when you have classes, work, etc.

You can go to Health Services, but the best they will be able to do is take your temperature, listen to your breathing, and send you off with some medicine that will most likely make you drowsy before it

starts alleviating any of your illness, and the advice to "drink lots of liquids."

Health Services, however, says that there really haven't been that

many students coming in with flu symptoms, but rather a lot with upper respiratory—or cold symptoms. One nurse said she "wouldn't call it an epidemic, but rather pretty much what we expect to see this time of year." She also offered the advice that, to avoid spreading colds around, students should wash their hands frequently and cover their mouths when they cough or sneeze. Sounds like something mom would say, but it is sound advice nonetheless.

Since the beginning of the semester three hundred and thirty students have been to Health Services for one reason or another; one hundred and thirty-eight of these went in because of upper respiratory problems. Most would rather stay home, but feel just a tiny bit better knowing what is wrong with them. The easiest way, according to *The Doctors Book of Home Remedies*, to determine if you have a cold or a flu is to examine your symptoms. If it is the flu

you will most likely have fever, severe headache, fatigue, aches and severe coughing. If it is a cold you will most likely experience a runny nose, sore throat and a mild to moderate hacking cough. If it is the flu, *Home Remedies* says: Stay Home! The flu "is a very infectious disease that spreads like wild fire."

Also, there is no way to cure the flu or the common cold, but there are ways to combat most of the symptoms. First and foremost—drink lots of liquids; juices are the best option, but avoid orange juice and grapefruit juice if you are feeling nauseous. You can also pat yourself with a cold, wet cloth or take a luke-warm bath to reduce fever. To reduce aches and pains, take two aspirin or Tylenol, Ibuprofen, etc. every four to six hours. To relieve a sore or scratchy throat, gargle with salt water as often as possible. Most importantly, however, REST! This is the only way your body will be able to use its own recovery processes.

Jeanne C. Breton
Features
Editor



Distinguished Guest Lecture Series

"Does Central Banking Intervention Increase Volatility of Foreign Exchange Rates?"

This past Friday afternoon at four o'clock at the Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, Kathryn M. Dominguez, discussed her paper, "Does Central Bank Intervention Increase the Volatility of Foreign Exchange Rates?" Dominguez is a Professor of Economics at the J.F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University and NBER. Educated at Vassar and Yale, she has written extensively on foreign exchange.

Banks call intervention anything that involves currency, sales, or purchases in foreign exchange programs. Dominguez believes that people hold three different views about central bank intervention: one group believes that it is dangerous, that it

can actually increase volatility; another group is quite optimistic; and still others believe that it is inconsequential. Though intervention is officially supposed to be anonymous, traders can figure out when central banks are in the market early on.

Dominguez made the distinction between non-sterilized and sterilized banking. Non-sterilized banking is an open market which can affect the exchange rate, whereas sterilized banking keeps the monetary base unchanged. Two theories exist as to why sterilized banking has an effect on exchange rates. One is that in changing assets, they ask for returns. The other is the signaling approach—if you believe the central bank has more information than the market, it ought to affect rates.

Dominguez's abstract in her paper reads as follows: Since the abandonment of the Bretton Woods system of fixed exchange

rates in the early 1970s, exchange rates have displayed a surprisingly high degree of time-conditional volatility. The volatility can be explained statistically using autoregressive conditional heteroscedasticity models, but there remains the question of the economic source of this volatility. Central bank intervention policy may provide part of the explanation. Previous work has shown that central banks have relied heavily on intervention policy to influence the level of exchange rates, and that these operations have, at times, been effective. The results from GARCH (1,1), AGARCH (1,1), and EGARCH (1,1) models of the dollar and Mark rate over the period 1985 to 1991 indicate that publicly known Fed and Bundesbank intervention generally decreased volatility over the period. Further, results indicate that intervention need not be publicly known for it to influence the conditional variance of ex-

change rates. Secret intervention by both the Fed and the Bundesbank generally increased exchange rate volatility over the period.

Prior to 1985, there were very few interventions. The Reagan view was to let the market be the market, to stay out. Then, after 1985, the U.S. decided to intervene once again, devaluing the dollar until it became more stable in 1987.

There is no way to verify why intervention is a secret: all economists know that the central bank has more information than the market. The Spot exchange rate was influenced by information because the Fed knew the monetary policy. The daily change in exchange rates is unpredictable. Is intervention one of the explanations? Intervention occurs when the central bank sees things that they do not like; however, although volatility has a negative impact on exchange rates, secret

intervention to reduce the volatility only makes it worse.

There is some evidence that intervention had an effect on exchange rates rather than the other way around. Secret intervention has an effect on volatility because it is not secret; it increases volatility and is stabilizing. With secret intervention, it is less clear how the market will react, and because it is more ambiguous, there is more volatility.

Staff
Writer

Ménage à
Trois

Contact:
Ephen Glenn Colter

Half-hearted handouts

A brief look at the Bard Student Handbook

The Bard College Handbook is distributed to new students every year, and is available for perspective students to peruse. It is the most prominent summary of the physical aspects of Bard as well as student life. The question, however, is whether or not the descriptions are accurate.

Students who have been here awhile clearly remember the imaginary ping pong table supposedly available for student recreation in the Student Center, which is actually just a broken down Old Gym. Many people are probably still wondering what ever happened to the proposed television lounge, which was never anything but a locked room that contained lots of broken televisions. The room can now be used by clubs for meetings, but that is not told in the handbook.

Something that is told in the handbook (p.30) is that cable television can be made available (in Tewksbury, Sands, and all Ravines) by making arrangements with the Physical Plant Office. It is true that cable was once available at Bard, but it would be more truthful to say that cable television is no longer available at Bard. The reason? According to the cable company, they can no longer offer their services to Bard campus because of continuous abuse to the system.

The handbook also says that "College buildings are continually being retro-fitted with equipment, and structural changes are being made to reduce the amount of en-

ergy wasted and to enhance conservation of energy. It is the policy of the College to keep building temperatures at 65 degrees Fahrenheit. Variations below or above this temperature should be reported to the Physical Plant Office." (page 35). This very well may be true, but why then are the majority of dormitories on campus without insulation? Why hasn't the Physical Plant sent people over to Stone Row to continually retro-fit the dormitory with equipment, and make the

a constant temperature of 80 degrees or better?

The Student Life Committee was to coordinate with Service Master a policy regarding posters and their removal. This was, of course, after a proposal to enforce the removal of post-dated signs was voted down at a Student Government meeting last semester.

By now, everyone should have realized that there is, and probably always will be, a big problem of misrepresentation at Bard. For instance, the Bard College Student Handbook constantly refers to the Physical Plant when nearly every community member at Bard refers to it as Building and Grounds, or more appropriately B+G.

There will always be differences in the way people see things, but perspective students should be aware that a tour of Bard is nothing like actually living at Bard. Current students, who are not satisfied with Bard, could consider a transfer, but it is most probable that things are honestly not much different anywhere else. The administration

structural changes needed to reduce the amount of energy wasted and to enhance conservation of energy? And why is it that Manor and Manor Annex seem to be set at should consider allowing students to join in on the production of next year's student handbook, and everyone should always make an effort to see past propaganda.



News in Brief

The explosion at the World Trade Center was confirmed to be a bomb, but officials still do not know who planted the bomb or even what type of bomb was used.

Meanwhile, a different type of violence occurred on Sunday as the controversial question of religious freedom took violent form in Waco, Texas. A long shoot-out took place when federal agents attempted to enter a cult's compound and arrested the leader Vernon Howell (alias David Koresh) for possession of weapons and explosives. Six people were killed (4 agents and 2 cult members) and several others were wounded. Both sides say the other fired first.

Closer to home, or rather Bard, IBM plans to lay off permanently a total of 6,000 people currently working in Kingston, Poughkeepsie and Fishkill starting Wednesday. The only consolation being offered by the Kingston firm is advice on how to deal with the stress of being unemployed. "1- Don't blame yourself. 2- Get enough food and sleep, but don't drink. 3- Turn to loved ones. 4- Use your skills to find another job even if it means relocation." In addition, *The Daily Freeman* is offering free "Employment Wanted" classifieds for the month of March.

Also in Poughkeepsie, residents will now be fined for false fire alarms. This will include malicious false alarms, alarm malfunctions and accidental alarms. The reason for the fine, which will start at \$75 for the fourth

needless call in 180 days and raise to \$200 for the eighth, is that false alarms cost time and money that could be used to fight real fires. Alarms due to smoke, weather, cooking, fallen power lines, shower steam, gas odors, water leaks and heat build up will not be fined.

In Tivoli, a question similar to that posed at Bard's first Forum meeting arose when petitions were submitted for the position of Mayor. At Bard, the question was whether or not the proposed budget could be seriously considered when most clubs had submitted unconstitutional budgets; to solve the dilemma the student constitution was waived. In Tivoli, one of the three candidates was not informed that he was required to have fifty, instead of the original twenty-five, signatures on his petition due to an increase in the town's population. Although he did not have the required amount of signatures on his submitted petition, James Carr will still be on the ballot because neither Lorraine Reid or John Carmody (the other two candidates) have challenged his petition.

Coming soon to the Hudson Valley Mall in Kingston: German and French for fun! Beginning March tenth native speakers will be offering four sessions on how to communicate in French and German. The sessions will be held in the Community Room in the mall. Registration fee is \$30 per language. German will take place from 5 to 6pm on March 10, 12, 24, and 26th. French will take place on the same dates from 6 to 7pm. Pick up a registration form at the mall, or call (914) 758-4137 for more information.

Jeana C. Breton
Features Editor

bard statistics

- * More than 138 Bard students have suffered upper respiratory illness symptoms since the beginning of the spring 1993 semester
- * During the month of February there have been no less than nine (9) cars which had at least one window smashed.
- * Last weekend, the movies *The Crying Game* and *Army of Darkness* grossed \$5.2 and \$4.4 million respectively, of which the *Observer* donated 0.0000014%.

★ Star Travel

Joan L. Howe
Manager

914 876-1500 / 758-6808

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Dead Goat Notes

The Observer staff is not responsible for the opinions in this column. However, no one knows exactly what they were doing at the World Trade Center with a box of high explosives.

Not unlike every budget forum in the history of Bard College, there was some controversy at the last meeting. Some people complained that the Student Association Constitution had so many loopholes cut into it that it looked like a doily. Others complained that their clubs didn't receive enough money while clubs like the Jack-O-Lantern Making Society received enough to fill the Old Gym with pumpkins, which is their goal. Still others complained that the shameless looting of the emergency fund brought pillaging back into style, after it had gone out with the Goths and Vandals in ancient Rome.

Much like Rush Limbaugh, I am also overweight and know the way that things ought to be. Although, I am less overweight than Rush and therefore must confine myself to the space that my bulk occupies, that being Bard college, rather than the space that his bulk occupies, that being AM radio.

"The whole problem with student government," I say in my whiny old man voice, "is that there is no committee to enforce the rules."

Yes, our federal government has many agencies to enforce its rules, so why not the student government? Right now the treasurer of the student association could take all the funds and fly off to Tahiti. In fact, he has been flying off to the South Pacific rather frequently, hasn't he? There is nothing we could do about it except whine. Not that Bard students aren't good at whining. That's how I make my livelihood and hope to break into the AM radio market like Rush. But still, we ought to have some way to punish Bard's evildoers other than whining.

First of all, I propose we throw them in Bard Jail. We could use the Club Space in the Old Gym. This is a fine alternative since there is no provision in the Student Association Constitution regarding cruel and unusual punishment like there is in the U.S. Constitution.

Secondly we need an enforcement branch of the student government. We could call it

the Student Un-Bardian Activities Committee. And since a recent task force in Albany stated that campus security forces should be allowed to carry weapons, while Bard students are prohibited from carrying weapons, we would have no problems getting lots of friendly cooperation.

Now, the Student Un-Bardian Activities Committee would have to be familiar with all the silly little rules and regulations our bickering student body has passed over the years. This would mean that they could beat anyone of us senseless for saying the F-word instead for First Year Student. We could also get tossed in Bard Jail for saying Student Center instead of Old Gym (yes,

this is an actual resolution passed at about the same time as the First Year Student one.) A face-full of Mace and we would never again have to worry about the problem of club budgets being submitted with less than the requisite amount of five members.

I've always been a big law and order fan. I watch "Cops" every day and I have most of the "Dragnet" episodes on tape. Of course, this means that I would be the logical decision for chairperson. Besides, I'm the only student at

Bard that's conservative enough to believe in my constitutional right to bear arms, especially the kind that go through bullet-proof vests and fire walls of lead in just a few minutes.

My handpicked staff of elite officers would gladly rid this campus of drug-smokers, club-meetings-at-the-same-time-as-the-forum-schedulers, "Freshman" utterers, supply side economists, etc.. Sure, we might have to deal with the occasional lawsuit when a gun is accidentally fired into the foot of someone who said "Meet me at the Student Center" when we very well know it is the Old Gym.

We might even be able to replace campus security since most of the students know who did what around here and security doesn't. For instance, I know who has master keys, who writes "Quitze" everywhere, and I have a few leads on the World Trade Center thing. Bob Boyce can't even figure out who is going to steal his computer this Saturday between the hours of 2:00 and 3:00 a.m.



Greg Giaclo

Featured Columnist

"Enough about you, let's talk about me."

by Oscar Figueroa and Elise Kanda

I never realized how strongly attached I was to the shallow things in life until one darling encounter at Bard. What are the shallow things in life you may ask? Simple. They are absolute necessities no civilized breeder or Miss Thing would even think of prancing through life without. From the most fabulous in clothes to checking out

Jeff Stryker's mammoth hose to the cutest shoes to the latest in 151 booze, it's all so incredibly important. Don't get me wrong, I'm no air-snapping fashion queen (well, maybe just a little), it just so happens that I can enjoy flipping through Harper's Bazaar as well as drool over Taylor Branch's *Parting the Waters*.

Therefore I was pleasantly surprised to walk through the Kline coffee shop one day and stumble upon a group of fellow students discussing the gut-wrenching complexities of the Spring designer collections in the new issues of Vogue and Harper's Bazaar.

You see, attending an "enlightened" and "liberal" institution like Bard, that's crammed with progressive ideas for social change, leaves little time to indulge in a chat about fashion or other superficialities. Therefore while sitting back and enjoying a cigarette with my other closet sybarites, I felt my veins charge with adrenaline, I felt rejuvenated! For perhaps an hour or two, our talk would whisk us away from rural Annandale-on-Hudson and into the flashiest nightclub in Manhattan where

shallowness reigns supreme!

And what exactly did I find? Well, for starters we all agreed that Karl Lagerfeld deserves a round of applause for Chanel's spring collection. Speaking of Chanel, the label's line of cosmetics received mixed reviews. I felt that the entire line was overpriced and the liquid base make-up had a funny metallic odor. "Not so!" claimed a

devout Nicole DeJesus, "It's simply the best and besides," girlishly adding, "it smells like flowers." When the topic of conversation veered over to the new Mossimo belts, an exuberant Joe Delph couldn't rave enough about them. Candidly adding, "during my last bathroom encounter at the Badlands, all I could remember was THAT belt!" If a belt can generate THAT much pleasure, shouldn't everyone go out and buy one?

Besides the heated argument over whether or not Madonna should get a face lift, and the new Absolut currant-flavored vodka, we enjoyed a relaxing escape from reality. Basking in the illusion of a house music soundtracked oasis, I was truly grateful for the shallow things in life. "Some day," I thought, "there will be house parties every night and a pair of high heels on every living thing on campus." But that day would have to wait, for my euphoric visions of an over-stylized world were suddenly shattered when an over-zealous male stood at the center of the coffee shop and announced, "Keg party at Albee!!!"

What are the shallow things in life?

Madame the Gypsy Queen's Weekly Horoscopes

Aries (March 21-Apr. 19) Triumphant news! You must never surrender. Even colloquialisms won't bring you what you want.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20) Madame and you share earthly qualities. You must realize that happiness is derived from the juice of a coconut.

Gemini (May 21-June 21) Get your sign tattooed on your arm. Then you can freak out your parents and/or guardian. And siblings!

Cancer (June 22-July 22) Anyone would cherish your time, energy and money. But beware: anyone who desires money also desires time because time is money.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22) Your situation calls for profit and perseverance. Any fringe benefits should be spent on relatives.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Good Luck. Madame knows you need it. After all, your lack of sexual prowess separates you from the rest.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) The gypsy queen wishes you artsy delight and times of glee. Don't steal kisses from small furry animals.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21) Zap! Beware of your temper and passions. Anyone in your way will regret it.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) Good Luck. You are what you believe. And remember, it is better to look good than to feel good—and you look marvelous!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) Elevated models ride crazy horses. In other words, if you are wearing elevator shoes you should step lightly.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Do not let your spirit or body get trapped. Time after time you will look your best.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20) Out of the frying pan into another. Need Madame say more? Your predicament is caused by your inability to resolve your desire for your mother!

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Shameless Filler!

When I was in fifth grade, I was put into a program for "gifted" students. Recently, they tracked me down and asked me to send them a brief summary of my educational and professional progress. Here's my reply:

I apologize for the tardiness of this reply. The past weeks have proved very hectic for myself and my colleagues; we have finally finished the first complete issue of the Bard Linguistic Philosophy Journal, and it goes to print within the month. As Managing Editor of the journal and co-author of two articles, the last four months have been a trial. And tomorrow I leave for Arizona to shoot my small role in *Over Easy Street*, the next motion picture by Joel and Ethan Coen. So I have a few hours in which to run off a quick note about what has happened in my life in the last few years.

Middle school and the first two years of high school were an unremarkable period of my life in terms of education. Everybody has a stormy adolescence. Towards the end of my sophomore year, though, I began going without sleep for periods of three days at a time, concentrating only on my drama projects. I stopped drinking fluids of any kind, except for bottled mineral water and diner coffee. I was heading for a severe mental breakdown. Only through the help of my brilliant therapist, Harry P. Dunne, Jr., and the devotion of Duncan, my lover, saw me through the depression, the manic fits, and the self-flagellation. My acting in the school productions became the most important part of my life. Without my family knowing, I stopped attending classes, began working nights in the Zippo Lighter Fluid Bottling Plant in Croton, New York, and returned to school in time for rehearsal. It stands as the most miserable part of my life.

After my triumphant performance as the title role in Aristophanes' *Lysistrata* (performed in the classical men-as-women style), I left Stamford, vowing never to return. Duncan had joined the Peace Corps and was off for Guadalajara. I had lost my last friend to drugs, my mother had become an AmWay salesperson, and my car broke down. I was off to Los Angeles to pursue a career as a waiter, acting when I couldn't find work to bolster my income. I was lucky enough to win the lottery once every three weeks or so, so I did not need to compromise my ambitions. Meanwhile, I pursued my hobby of collecting biblical artifacts and got my GED. Then, in late September 1989, a restaurant agent from New York city spotted me and offered me a part-time Maitre'd position at the Trattoria

Dell-Arte restaurant in the City. It was my big break. The New York Times even ran a short article (October 7, 1992, Living Section, p. 11 col.3). My job was wonderful and exciting. There I met Leon Botstein, president of Bard College, who was dining with Peter Schickele and John Tutorro. The latter introduced me to the Coen brothers, who have used me in small parts in their films *Miller's Crossing* and *Barton Fink*. Mr. Botstein convinced me that it was in my best interest to attend Bard College, ushering in his new restaurant management program, which he hoped to run in cooperation with the Culinary Institute of America in Hyde Park. I was reluctant, but agreed when he offered full scholarship and guaranteed fellowship. He also left a 25% tip.

The next year, after the now famous "Amtrak Incident" (which I am feign to bring up again after all the undue media

attention it earned me), I arrived at Bard, and became renowned for offering free intimacy workshops and palm readings which were eerily accurate. I donated my several hundred biblical fragments to the Kellogg Library, and decided to pursue acting as a hobby again. This detracted from my studies as a restaurateur, and I soon found myself spending

more and more time discussing my ideas about linguistic philosophy with newly hired professor Garry Hagberg. He and I designed a course of study involving the latter philosophy of Wittgenstein, the unrecognized genius of J.L. Austin, and the more well-known works of Rorty, Grice, and Ayer, to name but a few. Despite threats of disownership and death from Mr. Botstein, I have since abandoned the restaurant studies department for philosophy and the Linguistic Quarterly. Now I am engaged in my senior project, a study of the success of language in the form of metaphor, with a particular emphasis on the way that humor works in language.

My on-campus activities include my work as troubleshooter at the Henderson Computer Resources Center, suicide hotline operator, columnist for *The Bard Observer*, head shiner for the Bard Campus Freemason Brotherhood, and love slave to several sexually confused young men and women. In between semesters, I tour the country giving lectures on mental health and how to recognize it, practice fly fishing (I have only caught four flies so far), and doing freelance accountancy. I hope to pursue my philosophy studies through the graduate level. When I receive my doctorate, I hope to become a fireman.

In which our host gooses a ghost from the past

by Matt Gilman

Classifieds & personals

Cruise Ship Employment Now hiring students. \$300/\$900 wkly. Summer/Full Time. Tour guides, Gift Shop Sales, Deck Hands, Bartenders, Casino Dealers, Etc. World travel - Caribbean, Alaska, Europe, Hawaii. No Experience Necessary. Call 1-602-680-0323 Ext. 23.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE—DO NOT CALL THE ABOVE NUMBER. The *Bard Observer* has investigated the above "cruise ship" job placement and found it to be a telephone scam. We are still running their classified (since we already billed them) so as to not let them know we're on to them. Federal authorities have already been notified.

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GOING TO GRAD SCHOOL SALE: EVERYTHING MUST GO! Refrigerator, bar size, \$50. Fisher turntable, Onkyo amp and speakers, \$100 (will sell individually too.) Armstrong flute, great tone \$75 (played very rarely by a little old lady who had asthma.) Full set of recorders, soprano to bass, valuable, asking \$200 (a steal!). Computer, very early model, w/2 ext drives, disks, some manuals, \$50. TV, b/w, medium sized, \$20. Underwood manual typewriter, free. And FAITHFUL CAR, very reliable Dodge Aires small station wagon, with almost no rust after 9 winters in upstate NY, many new parts, and an engine that will last forever: for \$500 or best offer, it's yours when I leave on April 1. Call Tildy Bayar, 758-2789.

Lost: 1 pair of prescription glasses. I recently lost my glasses on Saturday evening at

the "James Brown/Stevie Wonder" party. They are the same style as those worn by "Malcolm X" or "Clark Kent." There is a reward to the finder of these here glasses. Please contact Mark at 752-7597 or box 475.

Chris Meinck! Chris Meinck Chris Meinck Chris Meinck. Chris-tow-fer Meinck! Chris Chris. Meinck Meinck Meinck. Bog, Sharon's Boy. The Freak from Fairfield. The Wea—sel. Chris—ah say—Christopher Meinck. Just so there's no doubt of mistaken identity. CHRISTOPHER FUCKING MEINCK. (actually I wouldn't mind hearing about the preparations for that...)

Anyone interested in playing Advanced Squad Leader, a tactical WW2 simulation, please contact box 571.

Want to learn how to play piano? I give lessons. Contact Aina at ext. 355 or box 312.

I don't like all those people slaggin' her for breaking up the Beatles. Hey, lay off the Beatles, buddy! Don't buddy me, buddy. Will you be my wahoo? Mine is out tickling my fancy.

June—why a snake? Thanks for the letter; I'll write back soon. Take care! Love Always Your Sister, Jeana.

Jolean, Thanks for writing. Sorry about the broken lollipop. I miss you! Love Always Your Sister, Jeana.

If anybody has any black lights that I can borrow please contact box 470.

I feel hurt Steph. You put in ads for Luis & Kelvin but not for me. Blerg.

Hey, Sarah Hacker. A week late, I know, but your name is now in the newspaper. Won't your parents be proud?

The Queer Van Dyke Show. Sounds of lavender—music by lesbian, gay and bisexual artists (and those we wish were). With a splash of alternative. Friday 4-6pm, WXBC 540am.

Front page story continued

continued from front page
the body plan. And it is the geography of the egg that determines which genes are expressed at any given point, and thus what the cells will become.

And on this point, Dr. Weintraub ended his talk, inviting questions from the audience. The audience, which was composed primarily of non-Bard students, asked him many questions—whether *MyoD* could work for all sorts of cells, what other kinds of cells he had experimented with, and what some

of the implications of his work were. The last question that was put to Dr. Weintraub asked whether the success of his work meant that there was "the possibility of a 'Brave New World'." Dr. Weintraub played down that idea ("If you voted for Clinton, maybe"), saying that while "certainly for disease, I think it's [changing genes] something that we should be doing, [but] for making people better... I think that is a political question." "Thank you," he added a moment later, as the audience broke into applause.

A page of unedited observations from guest writers

Am I racist?

by S. Martin

Karaoke has come to Bard! A lot of people are paying lip service to what they want to hear, be heard, and be repeated. "I am not racist" Well for all of you so quick to draw such a frustrating cliché, you're probably right. You're just a pain in the ass. So go over to 'ole Shady Acres across the road and have a nice stiff drink of denial on me. Use your fake ID. Usually I prefer people to be upfront and tell me that I am inferior to them so I don't have to waste my time hoping for the best. Now back to Bard reality.

I am tired of having to deal with black people who get nervous when white people want to communicate, identify and congregate with their community. If you gotta be all up in our business 24/7...YOU HAVE A PROBLEM. But more importantly, you are making yourself our problem. And we have enough of them. We don't need to be worrying about hurting anyone's feelings by asking them to give us our space as we define it. It's either jungle fever, cultural overdose, or paranoid schizophrenia ANYWAY.

I am tired of being feared as a hostile threat because I need my space with my people. I'm tired of the uppity white person look from low-down ignorant black people who don't have a fuckin clue—and don't want one. What am I talking about? I'm saying that most black people want to enjoy the comfort and politics of white people without having to confront their personal position of being black. Like it or not. For better or for worse. Till death do us part. And they usually can't take it when a white person points out their racism, assuming they get brown points for just trying. Check please. Reality check.

...And those private little reckonings you just had go to show Y-O-U why I get tired of ignorant an insensitive people getting in my face and telling me they are not racist (or that I am racist). Actions should speak louder than words. I should know, being an activist. And if I meet one more passive-aggressive at Bard I think I'll loose my goddamn mind. I am so sick of the hierarchy of oppression bullshit that I want to vomit. And I wanna know something. Don't black people think that white people talk to each other on this campus? I mean really. Don't you think we talk about our color complexes? Don't you think we discuss who the racist assholes are? Don't you think we try to avoid their diarrhea

or that we insert those warm soothing enemas into their classes just so we can get through them before they shit on us? Don't you think we are smart enough to realize the real perpetrators in our classrooms are the very same students who have the nerve to smile and say "Was that racist?" with the same ease and air of "Who farted?"

...If you as a black person—or as an African-American, or as a whatever fancy language-enabling thing you want to call yourself these days—are not interested in our issues as European Americans, then just GET OUTTA OUR WAY! If you want dinner conversation tune into BET in between your MTV and VH1. Don't be polite and pretend you are helping when you are really not helping at all, but hedging to the status quo.

You are afraid of white people like me because you know I'm one of the Honkeys Black People Love to Hate (and lust after). You know I will do what has to be done WITHOUT Y-O-U. Do I make myself clear? Clear, not invisible, because you do not have a choice about having to watch us fight anymore. So don't do anything for me. Nothing. Nada. Do it for yourself or not at all. Don't do me any fuckin favors—don't come to this speaker or tolerate that discussion, don't show your face here or write your name there. Stay home. Sit down. Settle your constitution while I fight for our rights stated in the Constitution. Don't do the right thing because you have a warped idea of what is right for me or saw some film by a little fuckin misogynist. It is not wrong, it's just that you are not doing it for me and the people I love.

This kind of honesty terrifies black people but it is comforting to humanity...If you are not fighting racism because it's demise would make you able to live with yourself, you are not fighting shit. You are full of it. And if you expect me to be grateful and get excited for the "little things" in life, like your momma did when you finally shit in the pot, forget it.

So, for the umpteenth time, Is there racism at Bard? What a fuckin stupid question. You see those professors showing off their latest oppressed prodigy?! Are you blind?...I want more than just the memory of a famous white name like Beethoven dropped in the slop jar. I want folks to know that he was a white man in order to understand that he was a musical genius.

...I want black people to stop trying to impress me with how hip and "nonracist" they are. And I want them to realize the significance of their fear and anger when they realized I'm not impressed or fooled. I want folks to get their shit together and own it. Freud can tell you about some shit. I want the people—black, white and otherwise—who don't have time to for me and my perspective, my cultural criticism, my shared experience—and anyone else for that matter—to shut-the-fuck up and get outta my face. Ignore me. It is as easy as ignoring sexism, classism, regionalism, nationalism and fascism. It is as easy as not bussing your tray and assuming "someone else" will do your dirty work. It is as easy as justifying stealing from the bookstore, stealing from dorms, or stealing deKline's sound system. Easy as a piece of the American pie.

I am tired of having to be nice to black people. Fuck your feelings and fuck you too. Because I know what is said behind closed doors when nobody of color is looking. Your "real" friends tell me. Y-O-U tell me by the way you continue to act in my presence. So if you don't like being called—or rather identified as—a black American,

stop acting and thinking like one. The next step is to work on the rest of 'em. 'Cause if you haven't realized that being black in America is just like being a recovering alcoholic, a life-long process, then you ain't learned shit.

None of the above statements reflect actual opinions I may have. Doesn't the reversal of color shed a new light on Ephen's arguments, however? I was born with the skin I wear, I did not earn it through racism or activism, and I cannot be held responsible for the actions of other people of my race. I have not committed their crimes.

The above is written entirely in Ephen's words, except for the inversion of colors. I left out the parts concerning Black History Month and the parts which did not lend themselves to this experiment. I also left out the end, feeling I would have to invent racial slurs in order to paraphrase Ephen's.

To all those people of color who agree with Ephen, I have a request. Come walk with me in the sun when you have given up your hate; we shall look at our shadows together, and I guarantee that you shall see no difference in shade.

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Peacebomb plays Poughkeepsie

Bard graduate's band gets their Chance

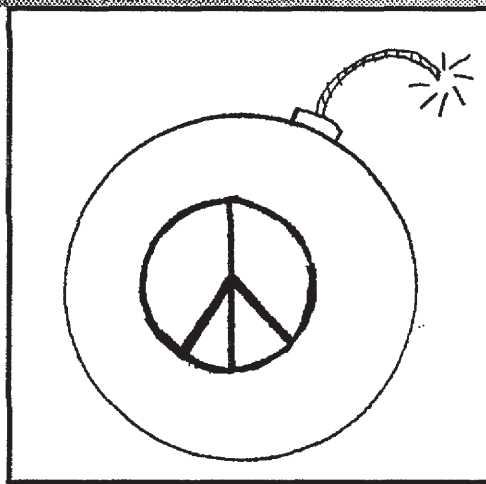
"As the second millenium of waiting for judgement fast draws to a close, the time calls out for a new music to sing its passing. A music that has digested all that came before it and is still hungry. A music that has re-invented itself so completely that it is fresh and buoyant enough to keep our heads bobbing above the rising stagnant tide of human history. A music that speaks, and yet somehow remains poised above the abyss of post-modern paradox: it is time for a band called PEACEBOMB."

Staff
Writer

This excerpt is from the informational packet I received when I agreed to review a concert last Friday night. The show was a triple bill of local bands including La Vista Hotheads the Bandits, and

PEACEBOMB. Being unfamiliar with the music, knowing only that the guitarist for PEACEBOMB, Dan McBride, was a 1988 graduate of Bard, and reading a flyer like that, I was—to say the least—unsure of what to expect. When I talked to McBride before the concert, I was impressed with his eloquence and intelligence. Equally as conversant on the local music scene and local musicians as he is on musical terminology and the business aspect of being in a band, McBride displayed a variety of interests and a sense of responsibility to his craft.

Regarding music, he cites Phish, a band with whom he grew up in Sudbury, Massachusetts, as people whom he admires and whose business sense he in some ways hopes to emulate. Though definitely a musician, McBride does not conform to the stereotype of the guitar-



ist who only wants to create, and has no interest in anything but making music. He does most of the group's publicity, and generally keeps himself involved.

It seems that PEACEBOMB'S indescribable sound grows out of their unique creative process. They do not write songs with the typical 'verse/chorus/bridge' construc-

tion, but piece together fragments that have been developing individually where they seem to blend naturally. Therefore the songs have a random quality at first, but upon further listening, the transitions become fluid. Though often compared to groups like They Might Be Giants (only heavier) or Frank Zappa, McBride states that they do not listen to much of that kind of music. It makes sense, given their music, that jazz is an influence for McBride.

Last summer PEACEBOMB embarked on a six week tour to North Carolina, Missouri, Oklahoma, Colorado and West Virginia, among other locations. McBride called it "the best time of my life, since Bard." The tour consisted of several highly successful club dates, where PEACEBOMB built up a strong following in that part of the country. McBride, who finds touring the best part of being in a band, said that the traveling was a great way of seeing the country. When the band played a club, they were made a part of the goings on in the town, rather than being outsiders in a strange place.

We talked for a while, then the concert began. The first band was La Vista Hotheads, whose amplified guitar was heavy on the whammy-bar. Their raucous style warmed up the sparsely filled nightclub, and a few people were

even dancing to their driving beat. After a short break to allow our eardrums to recover, the Bandits took the stage. Fronted by a female lead singer, and possessing a lighter style than La Vista Hotheads, the Bandits entertained the audience with their traditional/folksy music.

Finally, at midnight, PEACEBOMB debuted at the Chance. Dan McBride had been transformed from the 'ponytailed intellectual' wearing glasses to the 'savior of grunge' donning a stocking cap and untamed hair. His guitar complemented that of Joe Stote, and together they created a forceful groove. Left handed bassist Joe Cuchelo collaborated with drummer Chris Gartman to produce a pulsating rhythm evident throughout the set. Max Oleson, lead singer, reminded me of Flea if he were made frontman of the Red Hot Chili Peppers. He cavorted and flailed across the stage like someone experiencing a bad trip, yet his energy only helped his vocals. He sang alternately with clarity and agitation as he interpreted the music for the audience. Though the night was freezing, things heated up at the Chance as this Kingston based band reinforced their position at the forefront of the local music scene.

If you want to experience PEACEBOMB for yourself, look for some of their upcoming concerts. They will be at The Griffin in New Paltz Saturday, March 6 at 11pm, and at the Tinker St. Cafe in Woodstock on March 13 at 10:30.

The Crying Game and Army of Darkness

An exploration of extremes

Well, for those of you who haven't already been sucked into the cosmic swirling word-of-mouth popularity already, Neil Jordan's *The Crying Game* has finally been put out in major release. Until now, you could only see the film many are naming as the best film of '92 in those artsy, small foreign film-type places, but the *Crying Game* was just too good to keep bottled up. Neil Jordan has created a really believable drama, with a powerful plot and characters who can't be ignored. What should be ignored, however, is all the hype about the film's "Big Secret"—the "secret" that everyone babbles on about is not that big a deal, and it's too bad that so many people are overlooking the wonderful story, direction and acting to treat this like a "Gimmick" movie. This is simply the advertisement industry's attempt to find a hook, a selling point to

Movie
Reviewer

draw people into theatres, and has very little to do with the way the movie works.

The *Crying Game* is not about gimmicks; it's about life, love, fate, all that great stuff. The characters are wonderful and believable, and the acting superb, most notably that of Stephen Rea (the main character), Forrest Whitaker and Jaye Davidson. The pace is quick but relaxed, surprising but never overwhelming. The film was made on location in Ireland and London, and the setting serves greatly to enhance the mood of the film. There's not much more to say about it without summarizing the plot, except that if you like movies, the *Crying Game* is one not to miss. It does everything a movie should do, and does it well. Playing at the Kingston mall theatre.

Our second pick of the week is an extravaganza of cinematic achievement, a veritable plethora of artistic expression. Not I speak, of course, about Sam Raimi's *Army of Darkness*, the third film of the *Evil Dead* series. I myself have not seen either of the first two movies in the series,

but if they're anything like this one I'll have to rent them soon. This is the movie for all of you who stay up 'til 4 am drinking beer, eating cold pizza and watching really bizarre horror movies on cable types. The plot is thin, the characters are shallow, the scripting is just plain odd, and the special effects are gratuitously self-indulgent.

What can I say—it's wonderful. The hero, a guy with a chainsaw where his right hand used to be, is transported back in time by the power of that legendary cursed book, the *Necronomicon*. Once there, he must battle an army of the undead led by his own evil twin, and try to get back to his own time and his job in the Housewares department at S-Mart. I recommend going to see this with about twenty of your closest friends, on a night when the theatre will be crowded. Being slightly inebriated wouldn't hurt, either. A new low in cinematic achievement, does everything a bad drive-in movie should do and then some. Playing at the Kingston mall theatre. Hail to the King, Baby.

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Step by step

Volleyball steam improving with every match

The Bard coed men's volleyball team is in the midst of an outstanding season. Coach Carla Davis and her team have earned a record of 5-6 to this point and appear to be getting better all the time. Five wins is quite incredible accomplishment for a team that had only two wins all of last year.

This past Saturday, Bard played two matches at home against Mount Saint Vincent and Baruch College. In the first match, despite playing down a level, Bard handily defeated Mount Saint Vincent by scores of 15-3, 15-10, and 15-2. Mount Saint Vincent has fallen victim to the Bard team three times since the beginning of the season, each time by increasingly lopsided scores. Using Saint Vincent as a measuring stick, the team appears to be improving as the season progresses.

After defeating Mount St. Vincent, the Blazers had a record of 5-5, the best record for the volleyball team in a really long time. Bard then faced a strong Baruch team,

featuring a consistent attack which proved to be too much for Bard's blockers. (As a side-note, perhaps the most incredible part of the Baruch team was their setter, who was a dead ringer for Data, from *Star Trek: The Next Generation*!) Despite the distraction of having a celebrity look alike on the court, Bard played really well in losing 7-15, 10-15, 4-15. For the two matches, the team was led individually by freshman, Sebastian Salazar with a

Jahangir won their matches against Babson (lost 4-5) and Colgate (won 7-2).

Intramurals

Just a reminder that there will be a captain's meeting for intramural basketball on Wednesday, March 3rd, at 5:30 pm in the Stevenson Gymnasium lounge. Entries are due by the 5th of March. For further information, contact Department of Recreation and



Matt Gilman
Sports Editor



Coach Carla Davis confers with her team on strategy against Baruch College.

total of 11 kills, 5 assists and 4 blocks. Salazar leads the team in all offensive categories and is having a terrific rookie season. Team captain, junior Eric Johnson had 6 kills, 3 blocks, and 5 on the day. Senior Holly Sindelar led the team with 14 assists.

Squash

This past Sunday, the Bard squash team participated in the Nationals at Princeton. This year the Squash team has improved considerably and received some votes for the most improved team award which was eventually won by MIT. Despite some outstanding individual performances, Bard won only one of its three matches. Fourth seed Monirul Hoque, fifth seed Suleman Sobani, sixth seed Shery Hameed and eighth seed Javed

Athletics at 758-7530.

In intramural soccer Tuesday night, "Hey Fellas" shut out "Joel Smokes" 2-0, but "Chuck Roasters" beat "Hey, Fellas" soon afterward 4-2 in a high-energy game. Julianne Voss gave exceptional effort in both games for the Fellas. Next soccer encounters are Thursday night.

Food, Foulkes and fun

an interview with Volleyballer Jason Foulkes

By sheer coincidence, I happened to be travelling in the same automobile returning from

Kingston as Jason "That's All" Foulkes, one of the new stars of Bard's most successful varsity team of late, the Volleyball squad. I thought it a perfect opportunity to ask him a few questions about how he felt the season was going. I inquired if he'd mind an impromptu interview, and if he'd lend me a few bucks. The answer to both questions was, "no," so I began to pester him.

I asked him what he thought the biggest ingredient was in the team's improvement over last year. He replied, "Well, I think the biggest reason for our success was the change in coaches from Willie Davis to coach Carla Davis [no relation--ed]. Carla is a more fundamentals-oriented coach and a lot more stringent. I get along with her really well."

I asked Jason what he thought of the team's performance the previous Saturday, splitting two games against

an undermanned Mount St. Vincent team and a powerful Baruch squad. "We were never really 'in' the second game, against Baruch. The first game was a little too slow for us, a mismatch, and when we finally played Baruch, we were just overpowered. We should have done better than we did, but we never made it to that level of play. Most of our mistakes were fundamental team errors."

Indeed, Jason "Just Plain" Foulkes is very much the team player. He has a specific role as a switch-in blocker, and he does it to the best of his abilities, without complaining. When I asked him if there was a particular personal achievement of his own in a game that he remembers as pivotal or particularly exciting, nothing specific came to mind. Just playing the role he's assigned is enough for him. Finally, I asked him what he thinks the future holds for the Bard Volleyball team. "I see us coming together very nicely. I think as the season goes on we'll begin to get even more, and I look forward to our being true contenders next season. That's when it'll all come together."

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Mon. 3/8 - at Jersey City State

Fencing

Sat. 3/13 - Bard Open Invitational

Bard Biathalon

Register now for 1/2 mile swim and 3 mile run on Saturday, April 17th. Individual, co-ed and single sex teams.

Pick up entry forms from Carla Davis in Stevenson Gymnasium, ext. 529.

Is the PRESSURE

getting to you?

Blow off some steam at CHILDREN'S GAME HOURS! Childhood reversion therapy.

Good, clean fun.

Every Sunday, 2-4pm in the Stevenson Gymnasium!

Bardophobia

by Matthew Apple

Language can be a scary thing. Some people use language to convince others that they should believe a certain way; some use language to express their feelings and thoughts on certain issues; some use language to provoke discussion of touchy topics. Many students at Bard realize that language can be a very powerful tool to promote their agendas, that people do actually read the *Observer* and are affected by what they read. After all, that is one of the reasons for the *Observer's* existence—to promote discussion and conversation within the Bard community.

But what happens when a writer does not want to promote discussion? What if someone prefers to lambast any and everyone possible, insulting and degrading those perceived to be in opposition to personal beliefs? Discussion is only possible if all parties involved are capable of conducting a rational argument, drawing support for their ideas from their powers of reasoning. Falling back upon emotionally charged words and phrases inhibits debate. Attacking large groups of people promotes misguided anger and abuse, even fear of response.

It is the fear of discussion that is the most dangerous result of emotional assaults. When people are afraid that, no matter how or what they say, they will be immediately attacked and slandered, discussion ceases. Ideas and thoughts are not shared, people withdraw into their shells, separating from the rest of humanity, becoming more bitter, cynical and contemptive of any idea that isn't exactly like their own. Fear of discussion, fear of rebuttal, fear of even writing—the exact opposite of what Bard's avowed goal as a college and a community is.

Regardless of what a person writes in the *Observer*, they have every right to say what they want. They have every right to believe what they say, if that is indeed the case. These writers have my respect for signing their names to all their articles, and the students who responded to such article also have my sympathy for wishing to have their names withheld. In my opinion, their reasons for desiring to remain anonymous are not sufficient to warrant withholding names—but I do understand their reasons. At Bard, ideas that are not PC are not only repressed, they are attacked with a vengeance. The fear that the holders of non-PC opinions will be mercilessly verbally and socially abused does not speak positively about the Bard community as a whole. This kind of attitude does not unite a community, and it is an attitude that we could do without.

Smoking disappointment

Dear Editor,

I was disappointed that not a single student attended the smoking cessation presentation and discussion on Wednesday Feb. 24 at noon in the committee rooms at Kline. This presentation was sponsored jointly by Human Resources, the Athletic Department, and the Student Health Service in order to help students, staff, and faculty who have a cigarette smoking addiction. A lack of awareness about the program was not the problem because there was adequate advertising and both faculty and staff were represented.

Student cigarette smoking is the number one factor in student morbidity (illness) on this campus. Smokers are five times more likely to develop respiratory in-

fections than nonsmokers. But students know that as well as all the other health risks associated with smoking. I am going to assume that most student smokers simply do not have any desire to quit. This is tough news to someone who is dedicated to health education.

I realize that quitting smoking is a frightening idea to the smoker. We addressed that and many other issues smokers face during the presentation. I can try to help student smokers, but only if there is a little desire to be a nonsmoker. Students who have ideas as to how the Health Service can better approach this sad and deadly addiction can contact me.

Sincerely,
Marsha R. Davis F.N.P.
Student Health Service

The time to act is now

To the Bard Community,

It is with a sense of sadness that we view the recent enthusiasm of some anonymous person or persons to protest the FEC decision concerning Leo Smith by posting signs riddled with suggestive dogmatic slogans and statements taken out of context.

Clearly, these students feel that their opinions were not a factor in this decision. Unfortunately, their actions, while genuine, will do little to change the situation.

The guidelines for faculty hiring and tenure can be found in an eight page document entitled "CRITERIA FOR REAPPOINTMENT, TENURE, AND PROMOTION." This document is available to any interested students who inquire with Dean Stuart Levine. Those who bother to read it will discover the entire procedure for Faculty evaluation. Of interest to students is the section explaining *The Student Parallel Process* in which student testimony is collected by the faculty member's file for consideration by the Faculty Evaluation

Committee (FEC). Before the FEC report is reviewed by the President, the report must be approved by the Student Divisional Representatives of the EPC. The document reads, "If the representatives feel that the student viewpoint is inadequately represented they should state their position in a letter to the FEC."

The sad truth is that many students would rather protest an unpopular decision after the fact than take any necessary, preventative steps beforehand, by actively participating in the process and contributing letters of written testimony. Last semester, one seat on the EPC for the Arts Division (the division of interest to the Leo Smith decision) was vacant for over three quarters of the semester due to lack of student interest in the position!

The time to act is now.

This semester, in the Arts division alone there are three tenure decisions and three re hiring decisions at stake

TENURE

Arthur Burrows

Larry Fink
Christopher Markle

REHIRING

Amy Cheng
Arthur Gibbons
Sarah Rothenberg

Please participate in the process by submitting your letters of written testimony about the aforementioned faculty up for evaluation to an Arts Division representative to the EPC: Kate Mc Cumber-Goldring box 999 by FRIDAY MARCH 12. In addition, there are a number of decisions at stake in the other divisions. Please keep an eye open for signs requesting student input into the evaluation process as well.

If you don't take time to contribute now, you will have no recourse later.

Signed,
Gabriel Wardell &
Kate McCumber-Goldring
EPC representatives
Division of Arts

I miss SM ACES

Dear Editor,

I have had to make many adjustments upon moving to Las Cruces. Some of them have been pleasant-like adjusting to 65 degree Januarys. Others have offended me-like adjusting to border patrol checkpoints on the Interstates. However, the biggest adjustment that had to be made was dealing with intolerance.

While I was back east over winter break, two men wandered into a local restaurant wearing T-shirts that said "A.I.D.S. kills fags dead" and "Anal Inflicted Death Sentence." When a homosexual man blew them a kiss in response, he was beat up. Now I'm not so naive as to believe that this is the only time a gay bashing had occurred in this country. What has shocked me is the response that has appeared in many local papers.

Although many people have written in to the NMSU Round-Up and the Las Cruces Sun News to express indignation, there has been a strong current of people defending these actions. One person phoned up Sound Off (a feature in the Sun News) to inquire as to where he could get those T-shirts. Another really intelligent person wrote a letter to the Round-Up concluding, "Two thumbs up for the gay bashers." Don't get me wrong, I

support fully the right for these people to express these opinions; I just can't believe that they're so dumb that these are their opinions.

While thinking about this, I have been reflecting back upon my days at Bard. While Bard politics can be divisive, the degree of tolerance there is amazing. Groups like SM ACES and events like the Manage a Trois are prime examples of this. Not everyone at Bard likes them, but the debate is always along the lines of whether they are the best expense of Convocation funds, as opposed to whether they should exist. SM ACES didn't fear that Matt Apple would beat them up, they feared that his team might beat them in softball (We didn't).

What it boils down to is that I don't think a group like SM ACES could form here (New Mexico State), and believe it or not, I miss that. While I never was their biggest supporter, I always was glad that they could exist and cause no more problems than a softball rivalry. Now that I go to a school that would not sponsor the Menaige, I find that one of my beliefs has changed.

I no longer feel that groups like ACT UP and Queer Nation are useless. The problem is that they are in the wrong place. Let's face it, most Bard students are not go-

ing to have problems with another student's sexuality. However, a Kiss-In at the Village Inn (site of the gay bashing) just might open some eyes. Therefore I hereby send out an invitation to all members of BAGLE and SM ACES. Come on down to Las Cruces. The weather is perfect for an outdoor same sex smooch fest. Bring your friends and make a picnic out of it. I can see the offended responses in Sound Off now...

David "ZZYZX" Steinberg '92
Las Cruces, NM

Bulletin Board

Dear Editor,

I would like to point out an error made in the description of the Bard Student Run Bulletin Board Service (BSRBBS). The Bulletin Board number is 752-7349. For information please call Fred at 752-7336 or Neal at 752-7115.

Thank you,
Fred Foure

An apology is past due

To The Editor:

Joan Tower is one of the few people who have changed the direction on my life. I studied with her from the beginning of my sophomore year through the completion of my senior project here at Bard. I have never met a professor who invested more effort in getting to know, understand, help, and inspire both the students and the faculty she worked with on a daily basis. Under her leadership the Bard music department has experienced a meaningful transformation, as any music student will tell you.

As a member of the infamous population of Bard Graduates "living in the area for a year or two", I too am well aware of the recent controversy surrounding the rehiring of Leo Smith, and I too have read the barrage of posters attacking both my former department, and current friend.

This issue has been dealt with competently and responsibly by both Frederick Hammond, in a letter posted around the Bard campus, and Matthew Apple in the pages of the paper, and thus much of what I originally intended to say would now be repetitive. If you have not read what they have written I urge you to do so.

Though it seems clear that the allegations of the music department's backward ways, and of its chairperson's racism are already being dismissed, and accurate and honest information is being accepted in their stead, it is also clear that these allegations have done considerable damage, both to

the department, and to Joan, who after recommending the conversion to tenure track of the college's only African American male professor has been accused of ethnic discrimination and referred to as the "Ivory Tower".

One of the posters contained this alleged quote from a letter of Joan's: "Leo was born in the Mississippi Ghettos and I think he has found a treasure chest at Bard." I was privileged to examine the letter, and, strangely enough, under my eyes the quote read: "Leo loves to teach and I think that he has found a treasure chest at Bard." (The letter, incidentally, was one requesting Leo's conversion from visiting half-time status to half-time tenure asst. prof. status and is filled with insightful praise for him).

Taking quotes out of context, not to mention jumbling and distorting them, is a powerful tool for propaganda sometimes more interesting and often more rousing than the truth. It works for Hollywood advertisers. It works for ultra-right wing gay bashing organizations. Perhaps the only difference is that these people tend not to act anonymously. Please don't get me wrong. I don't think I'd sign my name either if I publicly called a prominent full time professor and department head (not to mention composer already being written about in history books) racist, or anything else for that matter, without making any effort to substantiate my claims. Why taint the sweet tastes of mob mentality and misinformation with the tart and lasting aftertaste of personal responsibility?

It is sad, and ironic, that a woman who has made a resounding impact in a field dominated by men, and in doing so has experienced her share of discrimination, should be subjected unjustly to this treatment. Do we really have such a shortage of racists and sexists that we can afford to make examples out of those who are neither? In our fight against prejudice we must rely on corroborated facts and truth as our weapons. This will always by definition distinguish us from those who remain unenlightened.

I know that Joan is not taking this lightly, although I would urge her to do so, as I think this poster campaign was most likely the work of an individual, and is not representative of the feelings of the college at large. It is clearly an issue of crisis proportion when the number of professors of color on this campus is in danger of being reduced by fifty percent, and people should by all means make their feelings known. Leo's students should come forward and state their thoughts, even if they were silent during the appropriate evaluation period. If this is done responsibly, the result will be significantly more rewarding than chaos and the proliferation of ignorance.

To the person or persons behind this mess, I would only say that what you have done is clearly not commendable, and required little thought and less courage. At this point, courage could only take the form of a written (and signed) apology.

Daniel Sonnenberg '92

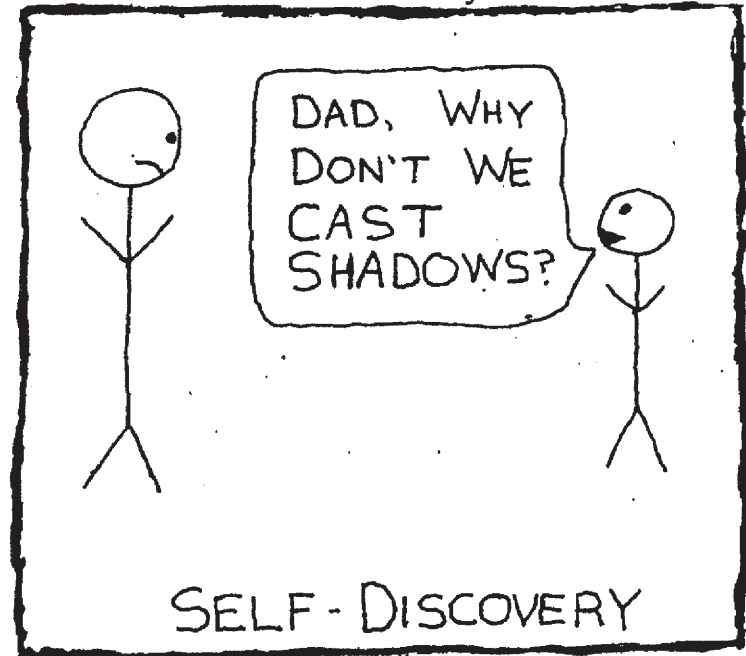
Fighting fire with fire

Dear Editor,

Ephen, you're fighting fire with fire, baby. Y-O-U are standing there with blinders on, your tunnel-vision, pointing one of your five (like W-E all have) fingers at the entire community as if you sat and interviewed everyone. Y-O-U rant and rave about racists while Y-O-U yourself talk like one. W-E want integration, not separation. Does it have to be said again that we are all part of a Human Race? Perhaps you've heard of a woman, a physical anthropologist, named Ashley Montague who wrote, "the world would be better off if the word 'race' were eliminated from our

The Bard Side

by Sean O'Neill



lexicons for it only beclouds the minds of the populace with false and invidious distinctions; it perpetrates an error and a great injustice." I completely agree with her. "Until the color of a man's skin is of no more significance that the color of his eyes, there will be war." Maybe you've heard that one, by a man of your own equal pigmentation no less, Mr. Bob Marley.

Please, all I ask is that you stop pointing your accusing finger at

me, telling me what a racist I am, simply because my parents couldn't be as generous with melanin as yours could. I am only talking for myself, and that is what you should do. Y-O-U must keep yourself open to others' views, for you can only look through your own eyes, and no one can see everything from there. We all share this planet.

See you around, brother,
Diana Rickard, fellow human.

The Bard Observer

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Michael Poirier

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Anne Miller

Typists
Jennifer Shirk
Wendy Grunseich

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 editorials which appear unsigned are those of the Editorial Board and not necessarily of the Observer staff. Any opinions which are signed do not necessarily represent the views of the Observer or its staff. Letters to the Editor and Personals or 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. Personals are free. Display ads: contact the Ad Manager.

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

A Dog's life.

By David Draper.



CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

MARCH 5 TO MARCH 10 • 1993

What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

★ FRIDAY, MARCH 5 ★

★ **Wool you, won't you?** Wool cable-knit sweaters will be sold today. **Outside Kline Commons.**

★ **Student Center Movies!** Kick back and watch the Film Committee's presentation of "Proof" Directed by Jocelyn Moorehouse. **Old Gym, 7p for non-smokers and 9p for smokers.**

★ **Financing Prosperity into the 21st century.** A conference at the Jerome Levy Institute of Bard College marking the 60th anniversary of the banking crisis of 1933. Conference started Thursday, February 4th and continues until Saturday, February 6th.

★ SATURDAY, MARCH 6 ★

★ **Coach of the Holy Sacrament.** A play by Bard Prof. William Driver and Arthur Burrows. Directed by William Driver. **8p in the Scene Shop Theatre every day until March 9.**

★ **Shuttle to New York** See the glory that is Grand Central Station. **Van leaves from behind Kline at 10p. Returns at 7p.** Limit nine people. Sign up in Dean of Students Office.

★ SUNDAY, MARCH 7 ★

★ **Slavic songs.** The Russian Studies Club will host a performance by the Middlebury Slavic Choir. **Olin Auditorium, 2p.**

★ **Learn Chapel tunes.** Spiritual fulfillment through song. **Bard Chapel at 6-7p.**

★ **Non-denominational service.** Join in worship with your fellow theists. **Bard Chapel at 7-7:30p.**

★ **Physical Evidence.** A fascinating exhibition of paintings, sculptures and photographs (and works in between) by six young New York artists, is now on view in the **Proctor Art Center.** Curator and Bard Alumna, Molly Sullivan, will host an artists' symposium at **4p in Olin 102.** Followed by a reception in Proctor. All are invited.

★ **Coach of the Holy Sacrament.** A play by Bard Prof. William Driver and Arthur Burrows. Directed by William Driver. **8p in the Scene Shop Theatre with a 3p matinee.**

★ **Student Center Movies!** See "Chan is Missing," directed by Wayne Wang. Includes News Parade of 1971 in which Nixon goes to China. **Old Gym, 7p for non-smokers and 9p for smokers.**

★ MONDAY, MARCH 8 ★

★ **Meet Robert Antoni** author of *Divina Trace* in Bradford Morrow's English 324 class. He will read from his novel-in-progress. **In Olin 101, at 11:30a.**

★ **Women's Center Meeting.** Come help get things rolling for the semester. (March is Women's History Month) **6p. in Kline's committee Room.**

★ **Observer Meeting.** Write, take pictures, draw cartoons or wear silly hats made of newspaper **at 6:30p in the basement of Tewksbury.**

★ **BAGLE Meeting.** Bisexuals, Activists, Gays, Lesbians, Et. al. will meet each week **at 7p in the Club Room in the Old Gym.**

★ **ACOA Meeting.** Adult Children of Alcoholics meets **in Red Hook, 50 South Broadway at 8p.** Contact Jeff Huang at ext. 539 in the Career Development Office for more information.

★ TUESDAY, MARCH 9 ★

★ **The Revolution** will not be a re-run. It will be live. **at 12-12:30p in Kline Commons Committee Room** when BRACE hold a discussion of Neo-Marxist modes of production.

★ **Dichterlesung.** Swiss writer Thomas Hurlimann will read from his works in German. **In Olin 102 at 7p.**

★ **Christian Fellowship meeting.** Bible study, prayer and spiritual nourishment. Meetings every Tuesday at 7:30p. **in the Bard Chapel.**

★ WEDNESDAY, MARCH 10 ★

★ **German Table in Kline's College Room 5:30p.**

★ **BAGLE Meeting.** Bisexuals, Activists, Gays, Lesbians, Et. al. will meet each week **at 7p in the Club Room in the Old Gym.**

★ **ALANON/ACOA.** An anonymous program for persons who grew up in an alcoholic family. **Third Floor of Aspinwall, 8:30-9:30p.**

SHUTTLE VAN SCHEDULE

FRIDAY:

Rhinecliff: Leave at 7:05p. for the 7:41p. train
Poughkeepsie: Leave at 6p. for the 7:18p. train

SATURDAY:

Rhinecliff, Rhinebeck, Red Hook and Tivoli: Leave at 10a., return at 2p.
Hudson Valley Mall: Leave at 5:45p., return at 10p.

SUNDAY:

Rhinecliff: Meet 6:05p, 8:15p and 10:29p trains
Poughkeepsie: Meet the 7:38 train
Church: Leave at 9:45a, return at noon. (St. John's)

Meet all Shuttles behind Kline Commons

MISSING

your meeting on the back page?

Send a neatly-typed, brief description of your club's event to the Office of the Dean of Students no later than Friday noon. We can't print what we don't get.