

OBSERVER

Vol. 100 No. 23 April 14, 1993

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The BARD

OBSERVER

VOLUME 100 ★ NUMBER 23

BARD COLLEGE ★ ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON ★ NY 12504

APRIL 14 ★ 1993

"Either I've been missing something or nothing's been going on."
—Karen Elizabeth Gordon

Australian-born writer Peter Carey, author of award-winning works such as *The Fat Man in History* and *The Tax Inspector*, will give a reading here at Bard on this Friday, April 6th, at 3:30 pm in Manor. We had the opportunity to interview Mr. Carey by phone earlier this week.



Shawn Taylor
Staff Writer

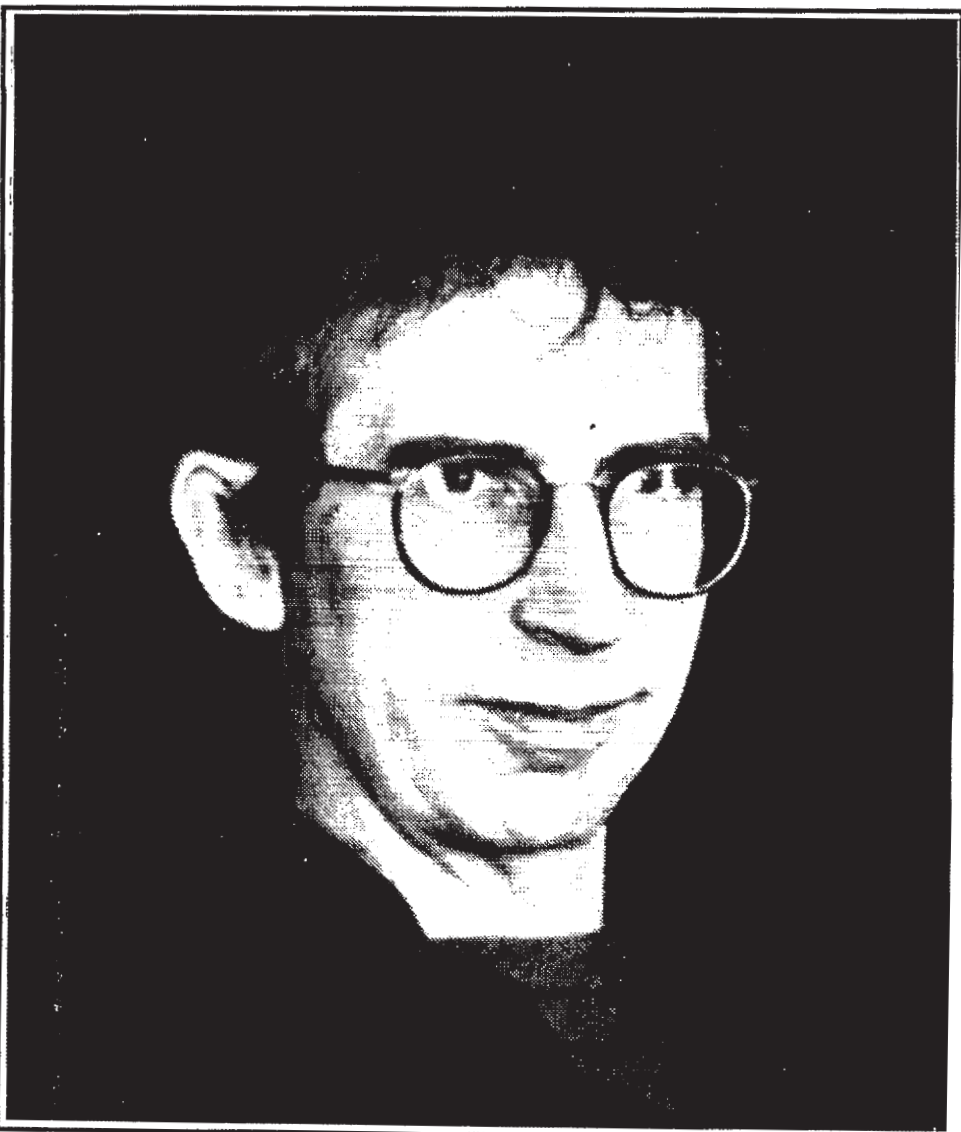
Observer: How long have you been writing?
Peter Carey: Well, I guess since around 1963, let's say thirty years. I mean, for a long time no one would have agreed with me when I said that I was a writer, but it was clear to me.

Obsvr: What, when, and how did you first get published?

Carey: Of course there are several stages, and some I'm a little unclear of myself. I had a story published about 1968, I had a section of a novel published in a collection around that same time, but my first collection of short stories were not published until 1973, which is about ten years after I began writing. And I think if you talk to a lot of writers, most of us take about ten years before we become published; I think that's one of the great tests of anyone who is setting out on a sort of life of writing, is to be able to survive emotionally, and of course financially, over those ten years.

Obsvr: What made that appeal to you, to try to last out those ten years to succeed as a writer?

Carey: Well, it's not much of an appealing thought, that one should have to go ten years, and of course I didn't think that I was going



Peter Carey

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Award winning Australian author to speak at Bard

to have to wait that long. Between 1964 and 1970 I wrote 4 or even 5 novels, depending on how you want to count, and with each one of those novels I thought I was successful, going to be published, totally original and so on, so what kept me going was that I went from novel to novel, and each time as I realized that maybe that particular novel would not or should not get published, I was already working on another novel, which was much better, and so I didn't want the previous one published, and so forth. So I never got too depressed, it didn't feel like it was taking ten years.

Obsvr: Do you ever wish people could go back and read your unpublished work, which was never appreciated, or would you just as soon keep it under wraps?

Carey: For a long time I had those manuscripts in my desk, and every now and then I'd take them out with the hope they'd some-

how gotten better, which of course they hadn't.... I was actually very lucky, in that I wasn't published before I was ready to be published, which does happen to people. A couple of those earlier books were nearly published, two or three of them. I think now how lucky I was not to have been published, until the collection of my short stories, called "The Fat Man in History," emerged in 1974. Because then it was sort of like I'd come from nowhere, when of course I hadn't come from nowhere, I'd been laboring away for years.

Obsvr: Most of your work seems to have some basis in reality, but more so in the fantastic. How much do you take from real life, and where do you draw the boundary between reality and fantasy in your work?

Carey: Actually, when the novel is finished, the things I tend to be most pleased with are actually the characters. That these people, who I've never met and never heard

of, now exist on the page, seems quite magical. But when I begin work I'm much more likely to be thinking about an idea, not about the characters or even about the real world at all. I begin by thinking about things suggested by the real world... that's what I start with, but then I have to think about how it might happen, to imagine the people or forces that might be involved.

Obsvr: How do you know when a piece is finished?

Carey: I don't know how I know... I suppose I eventually just say, "That's it." I mean, of course it's more complicated... I have an editor who has a lot of input, and my wife, who is an extraordinarily good reader, has a lot of input, so that's two people who I really listen to. And when it's published, and then of course there's the publicity trail where you have to go out and talk about it all over

continued on next page

Carey continued

continued from front page
the place, after that you know it's really finished...

Obsvr: How much of your characters are based on people you know?

Carey: Mostly I feel that the characters are created by the sort of contradictory forces within the story... In some ways the characters are made by the resolution of conflicting drives or actions, but of course nothing's that simple, a lot of characters come out of parts of myself, or someone I saw. There's really no simple answer...

Obsvr: The setting of Australia seems to be an important factor in your writing...

Carey: Well, it is of immense importance to me. One of the exciting things about being a writer from a culture that's still so young is that you still have the power to sort of invent your country, and that's

something that American writers now probably feel left out of. When a culture is as young as the Australian culture is now, that's a very exciting thing. I think almost everything I do is in some way framed by the question of what does it really mean to be an Australian, and that's not something you'll find in every country. I mean if you're French or English or Chinese you'll probably feel that your country is already well and truly invented.

Obsvr: Are you concerned with this identity more for yourself or for Australian readers, or more in terms of the perception of other countries and their readers?

Carey: I've really never much, until now anyway, thought of other countries, I've always written pretty much for an Australian reader. I have to make that decision now, living in the United States, since most of the people I spend my time

with aren't Australian. But when I sit down at my computer, the reader I'm imagining and the concerns I'm imagining are Australian...

Obsvr: With the importance of Australia in your writing, what made you move to the U.S.A.?

Carey: Well, there's always so many reasons... My wife and I used to house-swap with friends from New York City, which we enjoyed, and I was offered a job at NYU, and found myself inclined to accept it. And then also I was in the perhaps enviable position of becoming quite famous in Australia, and although one thinks that that's what every writer really wants, living with it isn't always so easy. So although I obviously miss Australia, in many

ways it's also easy to be just a regular nobody getting about their business. And of course it's good to go somewhere where your ideas are shaken up a little bit, it's very nice to go somewhere alien, so that walking down the street every day you have to ask, "why is this or that thing the way it is?" and I find that very stimulating. There's lots more to it, but that will do...

Obsvr: What advice would you offer to aspiring writers?

Carey: There's really only two things to say, I mean actually only one really important thing to say, which is, to write, all the time. There's nothing more important than doing that. The next most important thing is to read; after that,

nothing really matters much. You might have to do that a long time, but one thing I don't think I find much different from when I was starting out, it was almost impossible for an Australian writer to make a living writing. I didn't expect to get rich from it... It's important to remember that the people who actually make a living from writing are in the minority...

Obsvr: What will you be reading when you come to Bard?

Carey: Well, as is usually the case unless I'm someplace where I've been reading before, I'll read from *The Tax Inspector*.

Obsvr: We'll be looking forward to it.

Classifieds & personals

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Forsale: I have to sell my computer! It's an IBM PS2/30, with a monochrome display, and I'll throw in the printer as well. Asking \$500, but we can haggle. Interested? Box 1165.

The Queer van Dyke Show. The sounds of lavender. Music by Gay, Lesbian + Bisexual artists (and those who we wish were) with a splash of alternative. More music than you can shake a stick at! Try us! Fridays 4-6pm on W*BC, 540 AM.

Gorgeous, designer shi-shi ski jacket. Parents paid \$600—what suckers. Will sell for \$100 or best offer. Must see it to believe it. Box 990.

\$REWARD\$!!! I lost a dark blue hooded zip-up sweatshirt with white thermal lining. It has sentimental value—my name is Melaine Oster is written inside. Please let me know if you've found it—box 1049. Thanks a lot.

WANTED! Summer sublet—either studio apt. or a 1 bedroom from June-August. For 2 responsible, trustworthy students. Write box 1145.

REWARD for my lost ring! It has a moonstone setting with small silver drops coming out from it like a starburst. It has extreme sentimental value to me and I miss it like crazy so if anyone finds it or has it, please please

please return it to box 753 or call 752-7586.

Lanky lunar ladies in lingerie lull listeners lyrically: Kat's late-night semi-nude radio show. Wed. nights 12-2 or as late as I can keep it up (or off). Anything you want to hear; anything I want to say (or wear). W*BC 540 am Ext. 374. "We've got the bodies for radio!" Special guests welcome regularly [Love/sex to be discussed this week.]

Hey, Martha, turn up the radio, I think they're naked.

VT—I've missed you, so... I'm waiting breathlessly for round two. How about some group sex, darling? Be creative, I have faith in you. In the meantime, warm weather is here, it's getting green & I'm getting frisky. Waiting for that first spring rainstorm (and that box #!) Yours, Violet

Mortified, Matt missed mangling his mom & meandered melancholy and morose. With the Price Chopper Medicard Crew to the Po-town Drny's. What did Gala have? An injured borg? Nay, an established sense of well-being. Shoot not the sword at my head! Undertake the seas to quest for fun fun!

Listen Friday 8-10 and win big, big, big!!! (add additional "!"s as necessary). One lucky caller each week could win two, I said, two free tickets to our final show on May 21st. You'd get to meet the DJs, say crude and obnoxious stuff on the air and enjoy gratuitous beverages. All you have to do is guess the mystery song, and you win!! 2 Hours of Intense Whiplash. Totally Madonna-free Radio™.

Fantastic journey

Peter Carey's *The Tax Collector*

From light irony to the darkest dark humor, from country music to gelignite explosions, Peter Carey's *The Tax Inspector* is a fantastic journey into the strange world of Catchprice Motors, a failing General Motors dealership located in a suburb of Sydney, Australia.

The family business is presided over by Granny Catchprice, the alternately senile and cunning matriarch with a fascination for explosives. Granny keeps watch over the books and the extended Catchprice family, most of whom live in the area behind the car dealership itself. The family includes daughter Cathy and her husband, both of whom are hopeful Country musicians; Cathy's brother Mort (who gets "sexual shiverings" at the sight of attractive young men), and his two sons Benny (an unwashed punker addicted to succeeding in the family business and listening to self-help tapes) and Vishnabarnu (Vish for short), who left the family business to join (you guessed it) the Hare Krishnas, but who returns to aid brother Benny in a time of need.

For the Catchprice's business is not a setting of familial bliss; far from it. The Catchprices have

fallen on hard times and hard debts (they owe the General Motors Acceptance Corporation \$567,000), and Granny fears for the worst. On top of this, the dealership is soon to become the subject of a Tax audit.

How the beautiful (and pregnant) Maria Takis, a tax inspector assigned to the Catchprice case, becomes enmeshed in the family dealings as well as in the dark, hidden secrets of the Catchprice's past is the story at the heart of the novel, and how it unfolds will draw you in and ultimately amaze you. All of this takes place in a scathing postmodern vision of industrial Australia that will leave you gasping for air; Carey hurls us into a sensual metropolis of Australian anti-heroines, chemical pollutants and plot twists. But the real appeal of the book is not simply Carey's vivid description or his deeply original characters, it is instead the way we are gradually drawn into the initially innocent whirl of events, but then are plot-twisted and headspun through the increasing shock of secrets revealed, and ultimately thrown headlong into the apocalyptic ending.

The Tax Inspector is a funny and exciting, if dark, reading experience, and if you like stories that end with a bang, this is definitely the book for you.



Students respond to the Curriculum Proposal

The following article is a summary of the thirteen page report compiled by the Educational Policies Commission which detailed the results of their three day poll of the student body concerning the proposed new curriculum.

A total of 314 usable votes were received. Of these 163 were female, 141 men and 10 did not specify a gender. First-year students had the highest turn-out, comprising 30% of the total balloting as did Social Sciences division students. Only 14% (44) of those polled had actually read the commission's report in full while 55% (174) had read the EPC's summary printed in *Observer*. Seventy-three of the respondents had not read anything related to the report. Ninety-five students polled had attended the Forum concerning the proposal and 65% had discussed it with the faculty.

Forty-nine percent opposed shortening L&T to two weeks, while 38% favored that proposal. 148 students (47%) were in favor of adding a more analytical component whereas 37% were against that addition. One person commented, "L&T was awesome; however, if it more closely approximated real college writing it might have been more helpful." Another countered, "L&T shouldn't be changed to fit Bard's curriculum—Bard's curriculum should take a hint from L&T workshops!"

When asked to rank their L&T experience on a scale from 1 to 7 (1 being "dismal" and 7 "awesome"), the average came to 4.51. Most comments pointed out L&T's orientating, supportive and community building elements. Many students brought up the social aspects of L&T and wondered if the Bard faculty realized that it was not primarily academic (and then wondered if Bard faculty wanted it to be more so).

The EPC feels that the Programs were the least understood part of the proposal and admits that the responses seem a bit contradic-

tory. 155 (49%) said that they liked the general idea of programs while 107 (34%) disagreed. 159 said that they would take advantage of the program system to create their own program. While 49% believed that it would break down "rigid departmental structures"; 125 (40%) did not feel that programs would break the structure down, or did not welcome the breakdown. Quite a few students wondered why this change couldn't be accomplished "by teachers changing their attitudes."

One hundred and twenty five (40%) felt that cross/multi/inter disciplinary studies are not stigmatized at Bard. 112 respondents argued that those studies are stigmatized. Of that 36%, 38% thought programs would help the situation. When asked if they agreed with the statement, "Programs will make academic life better for multi-disciplinary and non-traditional majors," 182 (58%) agreed and 87 (28%) did not. 145 (46%) students felt that programs would affect traditional majors and of those, 123 (85%) thought the effect would be negative.

One hundred and sixty-four students (52%) thought that programs would result in more bureaucracy. One student wrote that she thought the idea of programs was "interesting", but that it would be a "practical nightmare." Another wrote, "Excessive and gratuitous infrastructure will not improve the quality of education at Bard." 106 students, (34%) did not agree that programs would cause undue red tape.

Students opposed to the Programs also worried about getting into graduate school; "fear of Hampshire" as one student described it.

Judging the four rubrics from best to worst by designating them 1 through 4, average student responses were highest for Contemporary Issues (1.99), and

lowest for Ancient Worlds (2.94). When asked if they liked the idea of College Courses, a resounding "no" was announced by 198 students (63%). Concerning the proposed schedule of the Courses (fall semester courses for the first and second year, spring for the third and fourth), 191 students did not approve. One wrote, "It's not the schedule that's scary; it's the idea that there are things we are supposed to know."

After ranking their freshman seminar experiences on the 1 to 7 scale, the average response for the fall semester was 3.34 compared to 4.13 for the spring semester.

71 (27%) felt that Bard addressed their needs for such an education. A further 171 (64%) did not believe that the proposed curriculum would improve multi-cultural education, while 68 (25%) thought it would.

One hundred and forty-two respondents (45%) liked the ideas of a finals week while only 25% approved of the proposed changes in reading week. 236 (75%) were specifically against the idea of eliminating Reading week.

The final section of the survey asked students to pick three things out of a list of twelve that they wanted to see improved at Bard.

The votes were: Student Center 136, Minority Representation on Faculty 120, Access to Places Off-Campus 104, Advising 72, Health and Counseling Services 64, Freshman Seminar and Curriculum tied at 61, Quality of Professors 50, Security 45, Bookstore 38, Quality of Students 33 and the Registrar's Office 18. Students were quick to note that their concerns with services such as Security and

the Health Center lie in the lack of staff and funding, not on the quality of people already there. Given a chance to write in their own suggestions, tuition costs and "potholes" were mentioned in addition to requesting a greater quantity of professors, rather than improved quality.

EPC Suggestions

The EPC concluded their report with a list of suggestions, after keeping in mind two things that made them uncomfortable about making such statements. They did not claim to be speaking for the student body, since many students have already taken the opportunity to express their own opinions. They did not presume to know what the faculty should teach, or exactly what we should learn. They made only the suggestions "which became clear through the vote."

They requested the L&T not be shortened while stating that it needs to be examined carefully in terms of what it is trying to accomplish in that time. "If it is to be prepare people for academic life at Bard, more Bard faculty should teach it, and stronger analytic elements should be introduced."

The EPC endorsed Programs

based upon the support offered in the polling. To alleviate the confusion, they hoped that "some more coherent statements will be made about exactly what they are, and how Programs will be implemented. Then discussion should be reopened."

On the other hand, they refused to endorse the College Courses. Citing the obvious problems with Freshman Seminar, the EPC felt that the Courses would be extremely problematic. The student body seemed to state that "breadth is good" but "requirements are bad." Some sort of core course, reworked along the lines of Freshman Seminar and the rubrics, might be used as a core curriculum. They did support the Q requirement but commented that, "students have made it very clear that they came to Bard for academic freedom, and do not support excessive requirements."

The EPC further reinforced the need for a new Student Center to facilitate faculty/student interaction and "to bring clubs together under the same roof." Off-campus access was also brought up as "access to the City and Woodstock, etc. brings alive a whole new world." The commitment to hiring qualified minority and women faculty members was doubly recognized by the EPC as a very high priority of the student body.

Two other student suggestions cited by the EPC included having the Senior Project due in January of the senior year. This would allow students to begin working in the spring of their junior year, over the summer and then present their project the following January to leave the spring semester open. Another idea was to change the Major Conference system. Instead of the fall semester of their junior year, students would conference in the following spring thereby using it as a concrete preparation for their Project. "Perhaps even a written project proposal could come out of the major conference, instead of a paper on an unrelated topic."

Finally, the EPC did not support the elimination of Reading Week. Their counterproposal was to make it a four-day weekend and still incorporate the idea of a finals week, or a penultimate week. For more information and statistics about the survey, interested parties should contact the EPC chair Renée Cramer.

If it's a drag
for them,
it's a drag
for us.

There did not seem to be any statistical tie between adjunct faculty and seminar experience. Students who had Classics professors their first freshman seminar reported a more enriching experience. Some students used this fact to point out that teachers teach best that which they know best. One woman wrote, "My worry is that professors won't be equipped for teaching these courses—if it's a drag for them, it's a drag for us."

Bard students showed a consistent dislike of requirements as only the Q requirement got their approval (with 57% in favor and 40% opposed). 123 favored a studio art requirement and 167 did not. The three primary reservations were lack of time to take such classes, the fear that they would be graded on "talent" (or lack thereof), and finally that it would be impossible to get into such a class unless more faculty were hired. 151 (48%) rejected the laboratory requirement for the same reasons, substituting aptitude for talent. 161 did not favor a language requirement as 178 (57%) also did not approve of a computer science requirement.

Asked if multi-cultural education was important to them, 267 answered yes (85%). Of those, only

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Acre by acre

Preserving the rainforest

Since Earth Week is coming up soon (April 19th-23rd), it seems like a good time to recognize our interconnections with the other living things on the planet, even those living great distances away from yourself.

Guest Writer

There are many wonderful opportunities to make positive changes in the world around you. For instance: The rainforests of this world are disappearing at an alarming rate. With them are disappearing numerous unique species of plants and animals (some perhaps yet unknown to humans), and the ways of life of many indigenous peoples. Many United States cattle and oil companies exploit the cheap rainforest land in the debt-ridden countries of Central and South America, destroying those lands in the process. Once the land is cleared for range lands or oil fields, the land's potential fertility is lost rather quickly, topsoil eroding away due to the lack of plant life to hold it in place. Once the resources on the degraded, destroyed rainforest lands are used up, and a wasteland is left,

quite possibly remaining infertile for centuries. All these stories may sound very familiar. But the rainforests seem so far away from our comprehension, as do the gargantuan problems they (and the earth as a whole) face. What can someone in New York, for example, do to help?



The Rainforest Action Network is an organization based in San Francisco, California that addresses the myriad movements and forces threatening the existence of the rainforests. One of their major programs includes mass protection of rainforest lands in order to preserve them from en-

croaching destruction. A.W.E. (Air, Water, Earth—Bard's environmental club) is sponsoring a Rainforest protection drive during Earth Week, raising money to contribute to the Rainforest Action Network's protection and preservation of rainforest land in the Pastaza province in Ecuador's Oriente. These lands and the indigenous peoples living there (including the Quichua, Achuar and Shiwiar nations), are threatened with mass destruction by the practices of American and British oil companies. Rainforest lands are cleared for access roads pipelines, crude oil and dangerous levels of heavy metals, are discharged.

Contributions will help to protect the land rights of above-mentioned nations, including legalized, clear demarcation of their territory, and shared rights to the resources mined from the area. Hopefully, with further efforts, the destructive practices of the oil companies in these areas can be stopped. Members of A.W.E. will be there to accept any contributions in Kline during Earth Week. Please support your fellow humans and fellow organisms sharing the planet—and have fun celebrating the Earth!!

News in Brief

After three and a half years, Ruben Perez is finally going to trial in Edinberg, Texas. Perez is charged with the involuntary manslaughter of twenty-one students, who were killed when Perez's

Jeana C. Breton
Features Editor

truck hit their school bus on September 21st of 1989. According to Police reports, Perez's failure to halt at a stop sign caused the fatal accident. Perez himself suffered major injuries and spent seven weeks in psychiatric care; some say he has suffered enough for his mistake. Others feel Perez should take full responsibility for the children's deaths because he obviously broke a very important traffic law. Responsibility may include accepting a two to ten year prison sentence for each child who died. Jury selection for the trial began yesterday and it is not certain how long the proceedings will take.

Also in Texas, federal authorities are still unable, or unwilling to break through David Koresh's compound's defenses in Waco. Yes, the stand-off continues even after Koresh sent officials a second threatening message. The situation began a month and a half ago when the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms attempted to raid the compound. The raid failed, and ten people were reportedly killed. To avoid further injuries, no further assault has been attempted. Koresh now calls himself Vahueh, meaning God.

Although Nathaniel White of Wallkill, New York claims he was coerced into a confession by state police, many are convinced the jury will come back with a guilty verdict. White is charged with six counts of second-degree murder. Between March 1991 and July 1992, six Hudson Valley women were brutally slain by the same man. White is presumed to be the killer because he led Middletown investigators to three of the bodies last summer, and his bloody fingerprints were found at the home of one of the victims. A verdict of guilty was reached Tuesday afternoon and sentencing could be handed down as soon as tomorrow.

In Albany, Consumers are warned to be on the look out for scanners overcharging. *PrimeTime Live*, last week, reported that many more overcharges occur than undercharges in many stores here and abroad. Although some of the excessive charges may be mistakes, consumer advocates fear that businesses are attempting to pad their profits. Shoppers are advised to watch the register carefully while cashiers are ringing up their purchases and to acknowledge any discrepancy as soon as possible.

Citizens throughout New York State are also being warned to be on the lookout for flu symptoms. A new strain of the A/Beijing Virus is still infecting people all over Dutchess, Ulster and Greene Counties. This flu virus can cause death especially if the flu results in pneumonia. Those infected are advised to seek medical care. A vaccine for the virus is in the making, but will not be available until this coming fall.

Madame the Gypsy Queen's Weekly Horoscope

- Aries** (Mar 21-Apr 19) You are terribly strong-willed and a little admission of fault on your part would assuage your friends' dismay.
- Taurus** (Apr 20-May 20) Now that you and Madame have gorged yourselves on hot fudge sundaes and mail order catalogues, perhaps we ought to look into these 5 or 6 chapters (from the classes you haven't attended) and read them.
- Gemini** (May 21-June 21) Things aren't half as bad as they seem even when they seem twice as bad as they are.
- Cancer** (June 22-July 21) Little did you know that life will be more and more relaxing this month.
- Leo** (July 22-Aug 22) Boring meetings and cryptic newsletters can only be compensated for by having LOTS of money.
- Virgo** (Aug 23-Sept 22) Goodness gracious great balls of fire! You must give up your quest for it.
- Libra** (Sept 23-Oct 23) Your ability to shun unartistic people by constantly wearing black on a spring day is annoying to people who aren't depressed.
- Scorpio** (Oct 24-Nov 21) There ain't no reason why you should hide your pride! Sock it to 'em.
- Sagittarius** (Nov 22-Dec 21) You ought to do your laundry because there is a very unattractive mud stain on those pants you're wearing.
- Capricorn** (Dec 22-Jan 19) You should be feeling better by now. That should really put some ZING into your all-too-healthy sex life.
- Aquarius** (Jan 20-Feb 18) This is the time of your life. You should tell that pus-infested nerd you call "slave" to get on its knees and beg.
- Pisces** (Feb 19-Mar 20) Money is seldom a motivator for you. Nevertheless, you'll make exceptions for large sums of it.

bard statistics

Out of the 42 students who filled out surveys before break...

- 1- 21 use drugs
- 2- 26 are members of some campus club
- 3- 29 consider themselves to be academically above average

Dead Goat Notes

This column is completely serious. Any attempts to find humor in it could result in serious injury. The Observer accepts no responsibility on behalf of the writer or the reader.

This week, I have written a Spring Ode that reveals my deepest feelings.

Spring Break means...

...Every professor making a long list of assignments for you as if you had no other classes, no other hopes, no other dreams, no other ambitions other than writing an ten page paper on *Paradise Lost*.

...Making yourself a long schedule of your free time calculated to the exact second so you can finish your assignments and then blowing them all off to watch re-runs of "The Peoples' Court" because you're at home with a television for the first time in months, and Doug Llewelyn's voice is strangely hypnotic.

...Trying to do your homework on the last day of vacation during commercials about tech schools and personal injury lawyers.

...Sending away for the free brochure about heating and appliance repair so you'll have something to fall back on in case that literature thing doesn't work out.

...Watching the "Greatest Story Ever Told" which becomes significantly less great every year, and realizing that at least Jesus had a tougher Easter Weekend than you did.

...Wondering if David Koresh will die on Good Friday and if his body will be missing from the morgue on Sunday.

...Listening your Great Aunt Edna, who becomes significantly less great every year, telling you that you've gained weight, "Did you gain weight? He looks heavier. Don't you think he looks heavier, Lou? I think he's heavier now. Do you want a piece of fruit? I made some eggplant parmesan..."

...Figuring out ways to trick your younger siblings and cousins into giving you some of the candy from their Easter baskets now that you're too old to get one.

...Wondering why you bite the neck off of your chocolate rabbit when you think of your Great Aunt Edna.

...Trying to figure out how your grandfather can memorize the entire *hagadah*, all the words to "*Hagadya*" and hide the *afikomen* when he always forgets to take his heart medication. (That one was for my Jewish readers).

...Meeting your cousin Eric who calls Rush Limbaugh that "damned socialist" and listening to his latest complaint. This year it was Al Gore's idea about making a national computer network that would do everything that Internet, a privately owned free enterprise computer system,

does. "Why socialize it? You know why? I'll tell you why. It's because the government wants to read our e-mail. They have to interfere with everything. They already have the Post Office, so our mail isn't safe. Then they came up with the FCC so no private radio broadcasts can be made, they tax and can tap your phone calls without your knowledge, and now they want our computers."

...Worrying about your cousin Eric's theories because you sent your girl/boy friend a pretty private letter and made some obscene phone calls, and now Al Gore could be reading them to Tipper to show the evil influence of rock music on America's youth.

...Meeting your cousin Daisy who is described as "sensitive" by her mother, "artsy" by your mother, "flaky" by your father and "Communist" by cousin Eric, her brother.

...Having your uncle ask you if you know anyone at Penn State because he knows you're in college but forgets which one.

...Trying to find a relative who doesn't ask you about college and how the football season went.

...Sitting at the card table set up for the "Kiddies" because there won't be room for you at the adult table until Great Aunt Edna dies.

...And that's what Spring Break means to me.



Shameless Filler!

Okay, let me divert your attention here. Forget about your homework for just a second now. Gosh, that was easy. You must have done this before. I'm gonna let you in on something I've been thinking about privately for a while now. A little fantasy of mine. No, don't stop reading. I promise it's not disgustingly Freudian or overbearingly personal. Of course, I don't expect that you'll look at me the same way after having read this, but such is the price for revealing a secret desire.

Well, it's not so much a secret desire as a little pipe dream. An amusing little wish of mine. An escapist daydream I return to when my mind wanders. Fine, fine, it's a fantasy. You're lucky I'm only telling you this one. Unlike some, this fantasy is suitable for the entire family. Get off my literary back. So, this fantasy is one that I've been harboring ever since last summer. I got an apartment among the open fields of Rhinebeck (betcha didn't know there were any), and spent many an hour lazing in the warm farmlands. Grazing in the grass is a gas, baby, can you dig it?

Deep breath, here it goes. I think it would be incredibly cool to live off campus during the school year. With my meager means, I'd scarcely afford to purchase a car, so instead, I'd pick up a second-hand tractor from a farm auction. Then, every morning, bright and early, I'd speed along 9G at 10 miles per hour in my bright red, kinda rusty tractor on my way to classes. Ah, I can see it now. Freshly-picked reed placed between my pursed lips. Wind whipping through my straw hat. Always a courteous wave to the suits in their beamers trying to manouever around me on their way to the Kingston-Rhinecliff bridge. A kind, piteous smile to the Big-Blue bloods racing the opposite way towards Po-Dunk.

Finally, I'd arrive, two hours and one gas cup later, at the entrance to Bard College. Deftly avoiding the speedbumps, I'd pull into the faculty parking lot. No spots? No problem. I'd make a spot.

And then I'd stroll around campus.

Wishing everyone a good morning. They'd say, "G'morning Farmer Gilman," and I'd say "G'morning, neighbor." Or "Morning, ma'am." Or maybe just "Ayuh." I always thought there was something eternally cool about the distance farmers seemed to have when they spoke. So much more natural and hip than any beatnik. And Farmer Gilman would have that counterculture rusticity, oh, yes. A rebel without a cow.

And when my mud-coated knee-boots finally found their way into a classroom, I would positively reek of barnyard attitude. Farmer Gilman, did the phenomenon of Suburbia affect the values of fifties

middle-Americans positively or negatively?

Well, now, I caint rightly say. Course, it could send that there middle-America one way. But, then again, could send them Suburban fellers the direct other way. Ain't quite sure what ta tell ya, young feller, nossir. Uh, yes...thank you, Farmer Gilman. Twernt nothin. Oh, Farmer Gilman, next time would you leave the feedbags outside the classroom?

I'd never be too busy to give out extensive directions. I'd always have some interesting stories for the young 'uns. And, hey, weekend hayrides. Need I say more? Ah, the only way to attend college. In Osh Kosh b'Gosh overalls. Of course, this would all be an image thing. I probably wouldn't be farming when I returned home. Hens don't suit me. Nothing you haven't seen before here at Bard, people using an image as a facade for their empty, purposeless lives. But, hey, if I'm gonna be an all-out phony, I might as well be a unique phony.

The truth is, I think being called "Farmer Gilman" is one of the coolest nicknames I could have. This is only a fantasy. It'll probably never happen, mostly because I doubt if I have enough money to buy a tractor, even. But, to make this wizened old crone happy, you could call me Farmer Gilman if you wanted. My second choice is "Babe Magnet." You decide.

In which we share openly with the rest of the group

by Matt Gilman

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Take me out to the ballgame

Intramural softball starts swinging while basketball winds down

What's black and white and red all over? Certainly not the *Observer*; no, it's the Intramural Co-



Sports Editor

Rec Recreational Softball League! The overwhelming demand for a less-competitive brand of play has resulted

in there being three recreational divisions, as opposed to only one division for the more competitive athletic league.

The fifteen teams who signed up for recreational play have been divided into three five-team divisions; the black, red and white divisions, named after the Bard team colors. The teams will compete against other teams in their respective divisions. This cuts down on the actual number of games each team has to play, and prevents the season from dragging on through the graduation exercises (it'd be a shame to get that gown muddy). After all the regular season games have been played, the top three teams from each division will face each other in the post-season tournament, which will begin May 17th.

In the smaller athletic league, things are bit more simple. The six teams who dare to play for glory as well as fun, who play fair and play hard will all have a shot



Amidst a flurry of blurs and blunders, the basketball season finally ended.

at each other, vying for a position in the standings. The top four teams will then meet in the semifinals, to be played on May 18th. The regular season began on Monday (with two rain-outs, hooray), and Tuesday's games began too late to print in this week's issue (kinda like the New York Times' sports section). If you're on a team, get in touch with your captain now to find out when you're playing! If you still haven't found a team, you have until the end of THIS WEEK to be included legally on a roster. Better move your mitts!

Men's Intramural Basketball

Last Monday night, the men's intramural post season heated up with semi-final action. The four remaining teams went at it for the right to travel to...Stevenson Gym once again on Thursday Night for the final game. Liquid Smoke whacked a polyp and sent down Flight III by the score of 87-74. Da

Real Deal, who finished the regular season undefeated, continued their winning ways at the expense of Righteously Raw, Rare and Red. The final score was 51-36. And so, the two top teams during the regular season will go head to head for the Championship this Thursday Night at 7:00pm. All fans are welcome to come out and witness the carnage.

Bard Cricket!

The Bard Cricket Team traveled to Haverford College this past Sunday to face the mighty Haverford team, a team that has been playing since the turn of the century and averages over 100 runs per game. The Bard Defense took it to them, however, and allowed them only 55 runs before they were all-in. This was the lowest run total Haverford has had in a long while!

Unfortunately, the Bard team couldn't capitalize on this opportunity. Playing tough, they scored 47 runs before they were all-out,

hearts out. The action begins Saturday at noon.

Also this weekend, the Schick Super Hoops tourney rolls into Bard. Get a three-person team together and sign up to...well, play basketball. Great prizes abound for the victors, and who couldn't use another disposable razor, hmm? Seriously, it's great fun, and you might learn something. Contact Kris Hall (ext. 530, remember?) to sign up.

And finally, for anyone at all interested in joining the Bard Ultimate Frisbee Club Team, they are now beginning to form a practice schedule for the upcoming weeks. There are several local tournaments the team is hoping to participate in, so get in touch with captain Fred Foure for all the info you'll need.

Announcements

This weekend sees the triumphant return of the great Bard Biathlon! It's too late to sign up for competition, but far from too late to come cheer on your pals as they swim and run their little

1993 Softball League Teams and Coaches

Athletic League

- The Black Sox (Ray Vilarino, Adesola Speller)
- The Heavy Drinking Sphincters (Aaron Flack, Gideon Low)
- Dirty Dogs (Steve Race)
- Ha Ya Dooin! (Simeen Sattar, Suleman Sobani)
- Sterile Technique (Rebecca Smith)
- Gym Rats (Joel Rush, Kris Hall)

Rec League, Red division

- Slut Trash (Max Hoeber, David Aschner)
- Coalition for Apathy (Chuck Beckius, Bucky Purdom)
- Them (Sally Mehrtens, Renee Cramer)
- House (Dierdre Mahoney, Anna Tamara)
- St. Tula (Gabe Wardell, Tamela Sloan)

Rec League, Black Division

- Tai Ping Rebellion (Dan Fennesey, David De Mallie)
- Steamin' Cooze (Melanie Oster, Ina Calver)
- The Big Bears (Tracy Bulkeley, India Richards)
- Venturi's Damage (Jen Anonia, Cara Graninger)
- Simon's Sluggers (Elena Erber, Ginger Shore)

Rec League, White Division

- Ether Bunnies (Jonathan Northrop, Ben Hosen)
- Yeah, But We'd Cream Your Buns in Chess (Greg Giaccio, Matt Gilman)
- Travesty (Maya Gottfried, Lisa Anomaiprasert)
- Tewksbury Jelly (Patrick Baker, Chris Wermuth)
- G. A. Express (Colin Thatcher, Steve Sommers)

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Fruitloops

by Matthew Apple's evil twin Skippy

I had a ton of work to do over Spring Break—which is why I stayed here and did none of it. Instead, I wandered around the lovely confines of the Bard Minimum Security Correctional Facility and watched the other inmates practicing in the courtyard for the upcoming intramural softball season. I casually strolled down to the swampy playing field, making sure to steer clear of the infamous Chapel Bell. For, as you all well know, Bard students should beware the hunchback of Bard, who resides in the belflower, ringing the bell at random during the night or whenever a careless Bardian strays too close (a complete documented and annotated history of this Bard legend appeared in the L & T issue of the *Observer* this past academic year). But I digress.

I passed the Chapel Bell, and the bell began to ring. At first I took no notice. Then I made the mistake of glancing at my watch. Mickey's little hand was on the twelve, and his big hand was on the five, which could only mean one thing: it was five o'clock. I counted the bell rings. One. Two. Five. No, three. I stopped in mid-thought. The bell actually rang as many times as the hour was! Unbelievable! I stayed another hour just to listen again and make sure. Yes, it was true. Six times rang the bell, six times was the hour, six times was the number of the beast.

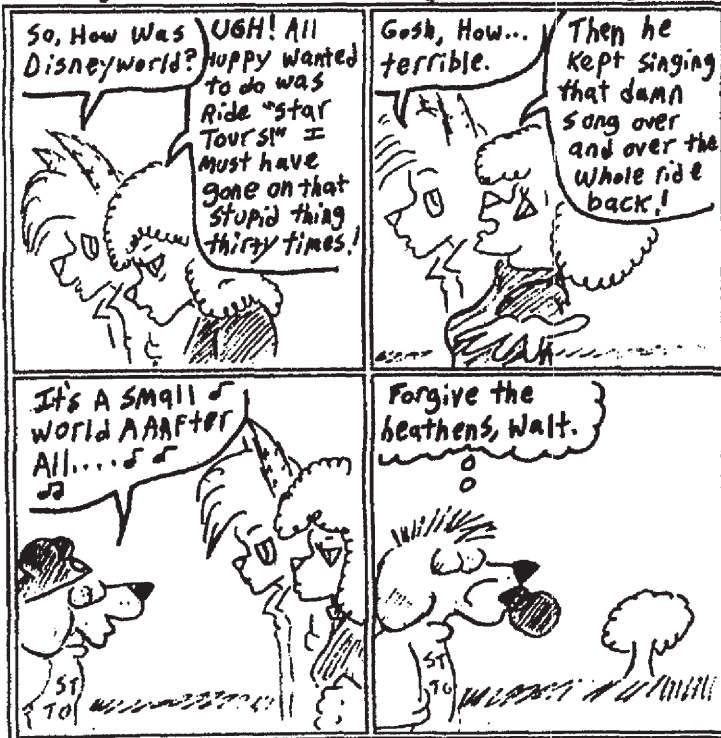
What did this mean? What did this portend for the world of Bard and beyond? Would it rain toadies and lounge lizards? Would lions sleep with antelopes? Would students be able to afford Bard tuition? Would Leon Botstein make sense? (Sorry, cheap shot, unworthy of even me.) Panic-stricken, I scurried to my dorm to consult the Oracles of the Stone Row. Even priming them with a few beers and bad whiskey revealed nothing of value to me. I cursed the oracles and the sign I was born under. That also did no good.

Stark raving mad, I blindly ran through back alleyways, howling and clutching my head in my feverish nightmare of a world turned upside-down. Somehow managing to stumble up the three flights of stairs to my room and crash through the door, I hit my stereo's "power" switch, turning on the radio. Soft, lilting sounds of popcorn, peanuts and crackerjack floated through the stale air of my room, and I felt my headache lifting, my sanity returning. Why hadn't I seen it before? The bell ringing could only signify one thing: Opening Day and a return to reality. I could finally go back to working on my farm in Iowa, raising corn and Cain without restraint.

Important Editor's disclaimer: What you have just read is the result of a warped, coffee- and comic book-addicted mind. It bears little or no semblance to an editorial and should be completely disregarded. Next week we will return to our regularly scheduled griping.

A Dog's Life

By David Draper



To be or not to be

To the Sports Editor of the *Bard Observer*:

We are writing to inform you of the existence of the WOMEN'S INTRAMURAL BASKETBALL LEAGUE. Not only were no game scores reported, but you never even mentioned the league in your sports page. Not to stir up cries of SEXISM, but could you come up with an acceptable reason why you failed to cover any of the women's basketball games? We think NOT.

Sincerely,
Kate McCumber-Goldring
Jen Anonia

I'm sorry, but you are misinformed. You might have missed the March 17th and March 24th issue of The Observer, specifically pages 9 and 13, respectively. The former, written by myself, features a description of the formation of two Women's Intramural Basketball teams from the division of Leather & Lace, the only team which signed up, and the scores from both of their regular season games. The latter, written by Andrew Costell, reports the Lace team's victory in the finals. If you request, we could send out a clipping of these articles to each of you. No apology necessary.—Sports Ed.

A grave error

Dear Editor,

I would like to bring to your attention a grave error reported in the *Bard Observer* by Anne Miller in regard to the Panel held on April 1, 1993. I, Santushi Kuruppu, am NOT from Indonesia. I merely lived there for a considerable period of time. I was born in Sri Lanka and I AM FROM SRI LANKA.

I realize that it may be hard to comprehend the distinction but please try to report the fact properly. If there is any doubt, please ask before printing.

My intention in bringing this to your attention is not to blow the mistake out of proportion. Merely, that I do not appreciate being considered something I am not. I was born in Sri Lanka and intend to remain Sri Lankan.

Thank you.
Santushi Kuruppu

The Bard Side

by Sean O'Neill

STICKBOY'S FIRST BONEA



THIS MUST HAVE BEEN WHAT REALLY HAPPENED TO PINNOCHIO.

Assisted suicide

Dear Editor,

"Assisted Suicide" is not socially harmful. In some cultures, it is not discouraged and is an accepted tradition where the aged removed themselves from the group when they felt the time was

right for them to die.

In this country, trying to stop Dr. Jack Kevorkian's activities is a repression of a justifiable expression. Because it comes in conflict with the belief systems of even the majority, is even more reason to uphold the individual's right.

In our democracy, where freedom is, perhaps our highest value, there should be an outcry everywhere of protest.

Andy Wing

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CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

APRIL 14 TO APRIL 21 ★ 1993

What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

★ WEDNESDAY. APRIL 14 ★

★ **Distinguished Guest Lecturer Series** Ronald Ehrenberg, Professor of Economics at Cornell University will give a lecture on economics. **4p, Jerome Levy Economics Institute.**

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

★ **Table Francaise:** Berets et baguettes required. **Kline's President Room 5:30-6:30p.**

★ **Lecture on tragic women.** Professor Helene Foley of Barnard College will speak on "Women as Moral Agents in Greek Tragedy." **Olin 104, 7p.** Presented by the Division of Languages and Literature.

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

★ THURSDAY. APRIL 15 ★

★ **Tavola Italiana:** Conversation **4:30-5:30p.**; Italian Table **5:30-6:30** In **Kline's Presidents' Room.**

★ **Russian Table In Kline's College Room, 5p-6:30p.**

★ **Free Film.** "The Paper Bridge," by Ruth Beckerman, is about her family's experience in Europe and the persecution that they suffered. Ruth Beckerman will be present to discuss her work. **7p in Olin 102.** Presented by the JSO.

★ **SMACES Meeting.** Sexual Minorities Aligned for Community Education and Support will meet each week **at 7:30p in the Club Room in the Old Gym.**

★ FRIDAY. APRIL 16 ★

★ **SEAR meeting.** Students for Education Against Racism meets **In the Moonroom of Olin, 5:30p.** Please come and bring your ideas and support.

★ **Student Center Movies!** Watch your favorite celluloid heroes in "Toto les Heros." **Old Gym, 7p for non-smokers and 9p for smokers.**

★ **Ethics in Medicine** will be discussed over dessert and coffee. **In the President's House, 8p.** Sign up beforehand at the Dean of Students' Office.

★ **Dance Theatre I 1993.** Watch your fellow students get creative with their feet **In the Theater, 8p.** Show runs nightly through Monday, April 19th.

★ SATURDAY. APRIL 17 ★

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

★ SUNDAY. APRIL 18 ★

★ **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.**

★ SUNDAY. APRIL 18 ★

★ **YOM HASHOAH, the Holocaust Remembrance Day Vigil.** To recall the victims of the Holocaust, to restore a sense of the individual humanity to each of that vast number, a list of their names will be read **All day in Front of Kline** To participate, contact Ian Brandt at ext. 306 or by Campus Mail.

★ **Student Center Movies!** See "Raise the Red Lantern," an excellent movie from China. **Old Gym, 7p for non-smokers and 9p for smokers.**

★ MONDAY. APRIL 19 ★

★ **Women's Center Meeting at 6p in Kline's Committee Room.** (March is Women's History Month.)

★ **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.

★ **Spanish Cinema** with English subtitles. Ven a ver peliculas en espanol todos los lunes en **Olin 309 at 7p.**

★ TUESDAY. APRIL 20 ★

★ **Vintage Clothing Sale.** Susan Gladding will sell previously worn wares. **All day outside Kline.**

★ **Christian Fellowship Meeting.** Bible study, prayer and spiritual nourishment. **In the Bard Chapel, 7:30p.**

★ **Lecture on the Holocaust.** James Young, author of *Writing and Rewriting the Holocaust*, will give a lecture on "The Landscape of Memory: Holocaust Memorials in History." **In Olin 102, 7p.**

★ WEDNESDAY. APRIL 21 ★

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

★ **Table Francaise:** Berets et baguettes required. **Kline's President Room 5:30-6:30p.**

★ **ALANOM/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)

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