

OBSERVER

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The
BARD

OBSERVER

VOLUME 101 ★ NUMBER 3

BARD COLLEGE ★ ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON ★ NY 12504

SEPTEMBER 8 ★ 1993

"I like to make a fool of myself."

—Chevy Chase

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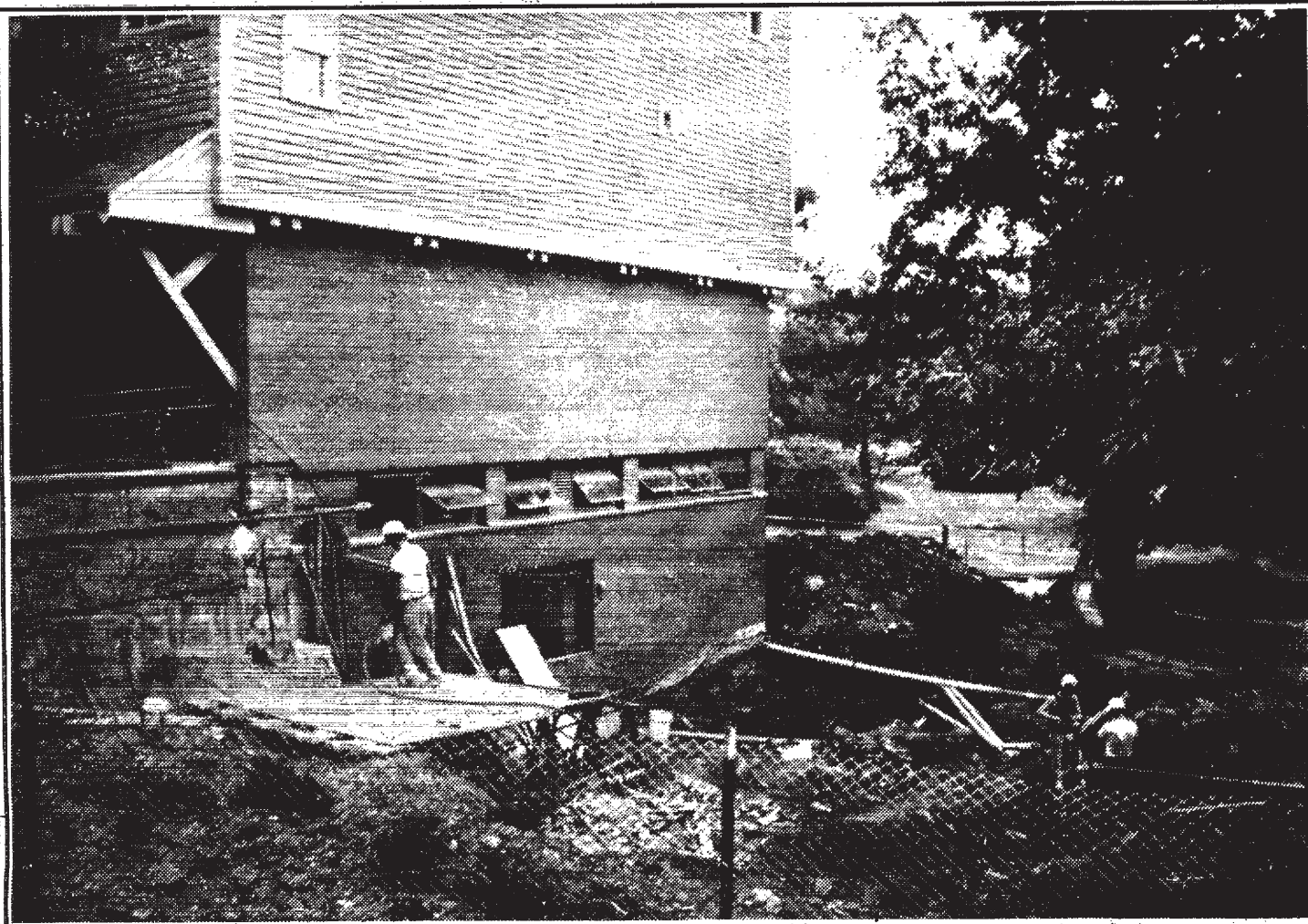
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Exclusive interview with Dave Sim

Discussing the growing comic book industry from the inside out



Right now, the addition to the Computer Center is just a big hole, but just wait until Thanksgiving!

Just the beginning

Henderson addition to compute Bard's technological future

Residents of Stone Row, Albee Annex and South Hall will be awoken every morning at 7 for the entire fall 1993 semester for a very important reason: space.

"There is not a lot of room in this building," explained Bonnie Gilman, Director of the Henderson Computer Resources Center. "A lot of people are cramped."

Donated by the Henderson family, the new Henderson Computer Center addition will essentially consolidate the two computer centers on campus, the Henderson Computer Resources Center and the administrative Computer Center, under one roof. Currently located in the Buildings & Grounds red barn, the Computer Center is responsible for keeping the financial and academic records of Bard students. The Henderson Computer Resources Center houses a computer class-

room for computer science, psychology and a variety of other courses, office space for the staff of the Center, and a computer lab with computers for use by the Bard College community.

According to Michael Lewis, Director of Computer Education, the Henderson Computer Center addition is a complementary move to the networking of all major buildings on Bard campus, starting with Olin, Proctor, Buildings and Grounds, Ludlow, the Henderson Computer Resources Center, Albee Annex, Hegeman and Rose. The addition would also create a second computer classroom designed specifically for multimedia purposes, or what Lewis called the "growing availability of additional resources information."

"For example," Lewis said, "if a professor wanted to have a coursepack for his class, he could access any relevant files in the Library or the Levy Institute and create his own coursepack. It would essentially create an

interconnected web of information on campus."

New York State laws required the original Henderson Computer Resources Center expansion two years ago to "flip-flop" the first and second floors, putting the computer classroom on the first floor instead of the second as originally intended, for handicapped access. The addition will give the Henderson Computer Resources Center an elevator, which, in hindsight, would have eliminated the need for the flip-flop.

The addition is just the beginning of the workload for the staff of the Henderson Computer Resources Center. While Gilman's staff finishes the completion of the Stevenson Library's computer system, Gilman herself is also overseeing the re-vamping of Bard's entire administrative computing system, a project undertaken by Michael Tompkins of the Computer

continued on page 4

Matthew
Apple
Editor-in-
Chief

A hands-on person

Kim Squillace takes the reins as Acting Security Director

"I'm a real hands-on person; I enjoy doing things," said the new Acting Director of Safety and Security, Kim Squillace, in an interview Tuesday morning. Squillace began working at Bard last spring as the Assistant Director and has

taken over for the last Director, Bob Boyce, who retired over the summer.

Squillace comes to Bard after a fourteen-year career in the Security industry. In the late 70's and early 80's, she worked part-time as the first woman police officer in the town of Fishkill. She also worked at IBM where she was involved in the security outfit before transferring into customer-oriented work.

"With the down-sizing at IBM, I started to look into other jobs," explained Squillace. "I decided to return to Security since that was such an integral part of my life for so many years. That is what brought me to Bard."

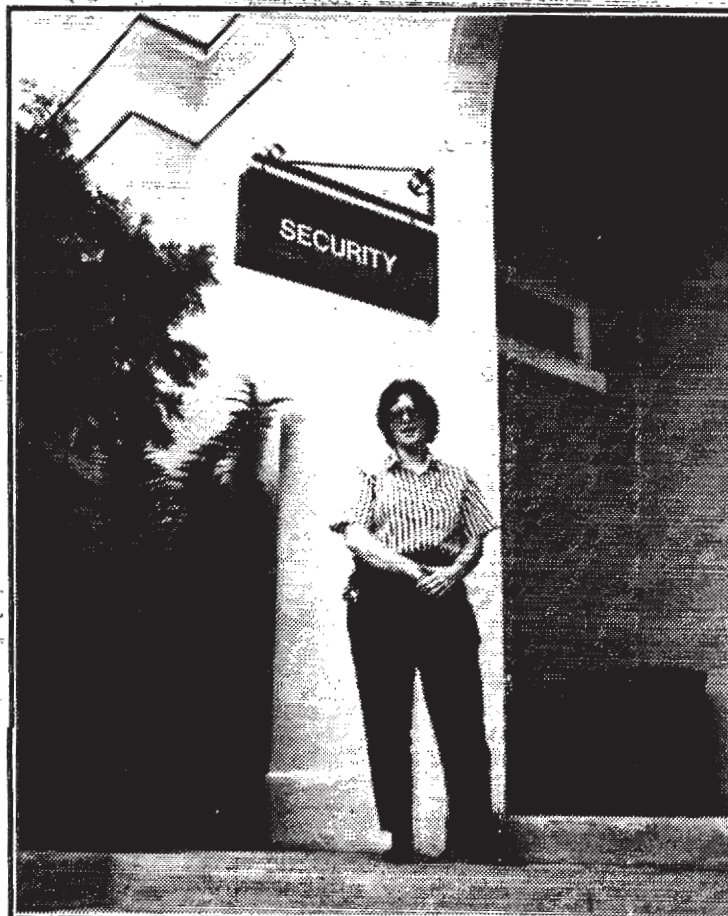
Commenting on the role of Security on campus, Squillace said, "We are very service-oriented. We are looking forward to helping in any way that we can."

One of the things Squillace is planning to focus on this year is the parking situation on campus. In the interest of campus safety and appearance, Security is going to be very strict on cars illegally parked on the grass next to roads. Squillace said that "Buildings and Grounds spent a lot of money fixing up the grounds; and even though it might not look like grass now, it will be grass later. There is also the danger to pedestrians when improperly parked cars obstruct the view of moving vehicles."

Squillace stated that B+G has added some spaces to the South Hall lot while attempting to level the unpaved lots on campus. "There should be enough parking space for everyone," she affirmed.

"We're trying to keep the site looking nice, and keep everyone safe."

Another area that Squillace intends



to focus upon is cars speeding on campus. "Speeding was something that should have been, but wasn't, enforced in the past," said Squillace. There are posted speed limits signs on campus, and Security is going to be on the look-out for cars travelling over 15 mph.

"Security officers aren't going to race and follow someone they observe speeding," Squillace said. "It's fairly obvious when someone is going over 15 mph. The officers will

accordingly."

All students should also make sure that their car is registered with Security. If not, Squillace explained that the fines and towing charges on their vehicle could reach well over \$100.

Squillace did point out that Security does much more than give out parking tickets. Most of the Security officers are trained in CPR and first aid to act as first responders in the event Bard E.M.S. is not available. Security is also responsible for securing the entire campus on a daily basis to protect people and their property; this role includes the locking of all dormitories at 10pm.

"Since we are locking up the dorms, we are more aware of what's going on," said Squillace. She reported that Security has been acting upon a lot of noise complaints this year, particularly at Manor and Robbins. "We do enforce all regulations and we do check IDs to make sure that the people who are on the property belong here," she affirmed.

"We're trying to keep everyone safe."

—Kim Squillace

visually get their license plate number and, depending on the safety hazard they cause, they will be fined

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Classifieds & personals

Help Wanted! Children's Entertainment Agency Now Hiring local talented, reliable & energetic people. Excellent pay. Must have a car. (914) 758-6084.

people should contact Lisa Kereszi (7053) for photography, or Malia Du Mont (7581) for writing or layout & design.

For Sale: 1989 Kawasaki EX500—only 3,000 miles, great condition, saddle bags. Must sell. Please call Judy at ext. 435 or 758-5286.

Introductory Yoga Class will take place on Thursday nights, 6 to 7:30 pm in Olin, room 202, starting September 16. The course is open to students, faculty, staff and their families. There will be eight sessions, and the fee is \$20. Instruction will be by Prof. Ben Vromen. Meet Ben on Thursday, September 9th at 6pm in Olin 202 for a brief informational talk and Q&A, followed by registration till 7, or contact Prof. Vromen through Campus Mail.

Former Faces of Bard Writer Presents: CHRIS MEINCK

No Photo available at this time
Chris is a saint. He would never, ever do anything wrong. He wouldn't even hurt a fly! His only flaw is his inability to coordinate his clothing properly, although he takes great pride in his outfits; especially his Indigo sneakers. He has a good sense of humor and sits at the coolest, and loudest, table in Kline. His friends say: "Chris, you're a freak!" Chris knows this, and is proud! If you care to learn more about Chris, contact the Observer via the personals.

I need a miracle! Friendly guy needs two tickets for the dead at the garden in NYC for Saturday night (that's right Saturday night) September 18. If you can help, drop me a line at Box 549, or call ext. 343. Me llamo Dan Stafford.

Writers & Photographers needed to work on the Bard Annual Sketchbook staff! Interested

"I did not forget..."

Omi god my ego's too big! I'm enormous - CRASH! - So, so! Buddy Hackett n' Nutty Buddy n' the female zombie with the congo drum all walk into a whore house with two leprechauns and mother superior and say... "O I wish I had a bike!" --Injured borg in a bikini tied up in a boat

Editor-in-Chief Person Sir: The next time you say "we're going to go four more pages," I'll know it's time to RUN AWAY!

—Your Number One

Noah says hi to everybody!

Hey, Kat, you forgot it's your turn this week!

2 Hours of Intense Whiplash sucks!

Get Well Monica! --From Your Friendly Press People

Hey, man, fuck you, we don't suck. We know who you are—you're DEAD! Got it, pal? DEAD!

Help me, Mommy, I'm lost.

Coming soon to Bard Radio—"The Queer Van Dyke Show"—music by Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay artists and those we wish were. More Madonna than you can shake a phallic cucumber at.

How do you make soy water? You just add soy water and squeeeeeeeze it!

Listen up, all you freshmen headbangers who have been so fucking bored over L & T: 2 Hours of Intense Whiplash will soon be here to save your life! Only on Bard Radio, WXBC, 540 am. Turn it up or shut up.

Submissions now accepted for the fall editions of the

Bard Journal of Social Sciences

Send all submission to Zoltan Bruckner or Gabor Bognar through Campus Mail.

Curing your ills

Marsha Davis, new Director of Bard's Health Service, discusses Bard's health

Marsha Davis is the amiable new Director of Bard's Health Service. She has been with Bard for five years as a full-time nurse practitioner, which began with what she calls her "commitment to women's health."

Sean O'Neill
Features
Editor

This fall Davis hopes to start a Health and Counseling Student Advisory Committee. She describes this as a "liaison between students and faculty members and the health and counseling services" similar to those found at other college campuses.

"We're really committed to diversity on this project," says Davis. "We want students of color to apply; we want gay and lesbian students to apply. I do not want anyone to feel left out in the cold, if they believe that health and counseling is an important issue to them."

L&T visits

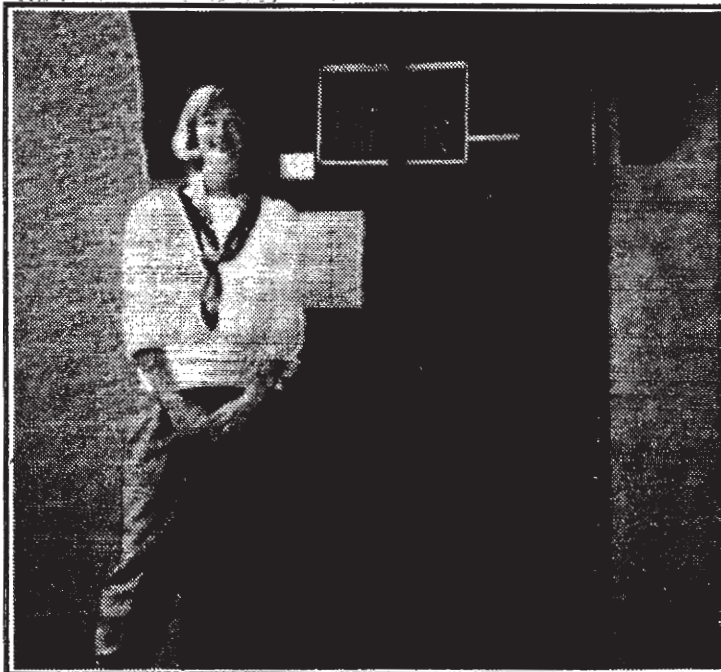
Davis joined Jeff Huang and Bonnie Marcus this summer in visiting freshmen dorms to discuss safer sex, birth control and intimacy.

"Our point," says Davis, "was that talk and communication actually facilitate the closeness... because when you share something of yourself that's really vulnerable, and you find that you're not rejected - that the person accepts and hears that - that's how intimacy is really expanded."

Davis asserts that sexually transmitted disease awareness has improved dramatically on campus in her time here. "Five years ago," she says, "'condom' was like a word from a foreign language." She attributes the change to more frankness at Bard about these issues, as well as to Bard's information programs.

"The condom demonstration always gets a lot of laughs," she says, but she was glad Jeff Huang took part and had a sense of humor. "It makes a statement that men should be involved in those decisions with their partner, since it's not just a women's issue."

"Bard's perspective is that all information is good... We try not to



tell you what to do. That is your decision." Davis says that "people have to make their own choices, and some people make unsafe choices, which is regrettable." Because Bard respects the maturity of students to make their own decisions, she finds it "a really great place to do health education."

Up in smoke

Has Davis encountered any downsides in her work at Bard?

She points to cigarette smoking, "which is probably the biggest health hazard on the campus," she says. Last spring's smoking cessation program in a Kline committee room did not attract much interest, despite an approach to the issue as "not something that just students do." Davis herself was once a smoker, as were other Bard staff members, like college vice-president Dimitri Papadimitriou. Although no students attended the program, Davis does not consider this a signal student disinterest in such programs. One of her aims is to invent more creative ways for implementing smoking cessation.

Davis says that students are, on average, at a physical peak in their college years, and that much of what she encounters at Health Services in terms of illness is related to lifestyle habits. "Either stress, or eating bizarre diets or smoking." She jokes that students can eat well

because extreme fluctuations disrupt the body's natural rhythms.

Services

Back in 1968, the health service was a simple first-aid station, open twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, with fifteen registered nurses on staff. There were a number of beds, and Kline Commons workers brought meals to students in the infirmary. Students who needed prescriptions that the dispensary could not supply could charge purchases at a Red Hook drug store on their student identification cards.

Now, with the increasing costs of health care, and the introduction of Bard's Emergency Medical Services, hours are limited.

Some students have expressed concern over the availability of gynecological exams because the appointment times may be limited now that Davis has added administrative duties. Such exams can include requests for birth control or for pregnancy tests, as well as for concerns about illness. Although, in recent years, such exams were available three mornings a week, they are now only available twice a week. Davis says that Planned Parenthood of Red Hook is excellent, inexpensive and a good backup if scheduling appointments should become difficult. Students, however, are responsible for their own transportation.

Davis hopes that anyone who has a complaint with Health Services will

come and talk to her. "Whether it is a clinical diagnosis or the way they were treated," she says, "I don't want students to think that if they've seen us and we've said that it's a cold they have, and they think it's something more serious [for example], that then they can't come back. They can and should."

If a student has any medical problem when health services is open, but is not walking on crutches or does not have a 102 degree fever, etc., then they should walk to Health Services. Davis commented that Security gets frequently abused as a taxi service. "Students tell me how far away we are, but if we were at a big university, this would be like next door... But if you are really feverish or you have an injury, Security would not hesitate to take you."

When Health Services is closed, and a student needs help, they should call Security at 460, which will get them in contact with Bard's Emergency Medical Service. Davis considers EMS to be "a fantastic group of students who take their calls very seriously and are well trained."

In her five years here, Davis has seen what she calls a shift in campus attitudes. "Now you can still be an artist and creative and not be self-destructive," she says. The campus view of the world is not as gloomy or nihilistic as it once was, she says, which may be because of a national shift away from "eighties greed."

Health Services can be reached at ext. 433, 758-7433. Appointments preferred.

Call For Budgets!

Any clubs wishing to obtain student convocation funds for this semester, must submit a budget proposal to Jeff Rhyne (Box 1133) or Jason Foulkes (Box 798)

by 5pm THIS

Friday, September 10th

*Club Head(s) must also sign up for a meeting with the Planning Committee. Meetings will take place 10am-2pm & 7-9pm this Saturday, Sept. 11th. List for Meeting Times will be found outside the first Committee Room in Kline.

Questions regarding how to write a budget or how to form a new club can be directed to Jeff @ ext.306 or Jason @ ext.344

Budget Forum!

Wed. Sept. 15th @ 8pm in Kline

Resolutions are due to Malia Du Mont no later than Sunday, Sept. 12th

Woody Allen's *Manhattan Murder Mystery*

"still knows how to make us laugh"

Woody Allen's latest release, *Manhattan Murder Mystery*, finds him at an interesting crossroads in his career. In the last few years, Allen has focused on darker, more serious films such as *September*, *Another Woman* and

Crimes and Misdemeanors, films not completely lacking in humor, but highly different in tone than the more comical *Broadway Danny Rose* or even *Zelig*. Last year's *Husbands and Wives*, released at the height of his highly publicized battle with former co-star and lover Mia Farrow, was a difficult film to evaluate on the basis of its own merits. Although Allen consistently downplays the autobiographical aspects of his work, watching *Husbands and Wives* was a rather voyeuristic experience, as it deals largely with the disintegration of the relationship between Allen and Farrow.

It is interesting, then, that Allen's next film, also originally intended for Farrow, should be as close to a light, romantic farce as anything the director has done in many years. One has to wonder if he was not aware of the fact that many people would question another moody morality play from a man whose own moral character has been under public scrutiny for over a year. Whatever the reason, this is certainly a welcome departure, as *Manhattan Murder Mystery* is funnier and more entertaining than

any Allen film in recent memory. The story of a publisher and his wife (Allen with Diane Keaton filling in for Mia Farrow), *Manhattan Murder Mystery* opens as Keaton and Allen arrive home from an evening on the town and meet their neighbors, an elderly man and woman, in the hall of their apartment building. They go inside their apartment and talk for awhile, and when they arrive home the next night, they discover that the wife has died. The plot develops as Keaton's character becomes increasingly convinced that her neighbor murdered his wife. She sees herself as the detective and actively pursues the "case" by sneaking into her neighbor's apartment and snooping through his things, much to the horror of her husband. Keaton's certainty that something is amiss grows after she thinks she sees the murder victim on a transit bus.

Reviving old comic chemistry

The film, however, is more than the solving of a mystery. It is also about staying adventurous as one grows older. Keaton employs the help of a recently divorced friend (Alan Alda) who has always been attracted to her. Early in the film she asks Allen if he still finds her attractive, and she considers opening her own restaurant. In general, one gets the impression that

Keaton is searching for a way to reorganize her life now that her son is grown, and she and her husband are older.

For much of the film, Allen attributes Keaton's obsession with the death of their neighbor to madness or a mid-life crisis, yet eventually he joins her in her attempt to solve the mystery, and this results in some of the funniest scenes in any of Allen's films.

More than just a mystery

Joining with Alda and a glamorous writer who works with Allen (Angelica Huston), Keaton and Allen begin to remind one of Nick and Nora from the old *Thin Man* movies.

The film offers excellent performances from all four of the principal actors, with Allen and Keaton reviving the comic chemistry that made their films of the 70's so memorable. Keaton is so comfortable and charming in her role that it is hard to see how Farrow could possibly have been such a good choice. Alda is also strong and Huston is highly effective as the woman who eventually solves the mystery.

Though not likely to be looked on as one of Allen's "major" works, *Manhattan Murder Mystery* is consistently entertaining and light enough to allow one to enjoy it for what it is, a comic showcase for four great actors. One can only wonder what his next film will be like, but, for now, we can enjoy the work of a man who in spite of all that has happened in his personal life, still knows how to make us laugh.

Hands on continued

continued from page 2
Squillace said that this measure is in response to numerous student complaints about strangers on campus. "I hope that the students don't take it as we're hassling them, but it's something we need to do to find out who's who on campus for their own protection."

Squillace said that the student body can be a great help to Security when it comes to prevention and observation. "Security is everyone's busi-

ness," she stated. "This is a big campus, and everyone out there has eyes and ears." Squillace urged students to contact Security whenever they see something suspicious or unusual. "Let us check it out," she explained. "Let us determine what's going on." "We have a responsibility to every student, staff and faculty member in the sense where they should feel safe on campus," said Squillace.

Outside of Bard Safety and Security, Squillace's many interests in-

clude gardening, her two Labrador retrievers and her love of cooking (she ran a restaurant for a number of years). She also used to drive a Harley Davidson 1200 motorcycle and describes herself as an "avid motorcycle person."

"My reception's been great, the students have been very friendly and helpful," she said. "I really enjoy working here. I intend to get out of the office a lot more, meet more students and patrol the campus myself." ☐

Madame the Gypsy Queen's Weekly Horoscope

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): It won't be your work, rather your personal life, which will seem so terribly stressful to you this week. You will be overwhelmed by the tendency of your friends to annoy and frustrate you.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May 20): Little is known about why you will have so many bad hair days this coming week, but it is speculated that the more stress that is laid upon you, the more you look like Medusa.

Gemini (May 21-Jun. 21): Madame the all knowing foresees many new and exciting encounters with strangers for you, particularly at Grand Union or Jamesway.

Cancer (Jun. 22-Jul. 21): Fate may have its way with you, but you can't have your way all the time, even if you are making a lot of money.

Leo (Jul. 22-Aug. 22): Just when you think that romance is heating up and money is cooling down, you'll find otherwise—and to your liking!

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Although last year's search for intimate clothing and personal toys was unfruitful, perhaps this year you will find happiness and a good dance partner...

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): If yesterday's news wasn't good, then tomorrow's news could be worse. So take a nap.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): Don't go around stinging people this week or you bust your ass, or worse yet, someone else's.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Of all the things that could go wrong—who would have ever guessed it would be speed bumps??!

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't let other people push you around, after all, you're just as good as any other schmuck.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Any attempt at drowning your worries with alcohol may be foiled by state troopers who have nothing better to do than harass you.

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Your first instinct will be to eat baklava, but then you won't because you'll suddenly feel like having ice cream.



The Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

FALL 1993

LEVY INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES

Tuesday, September 14, 1993
8:00 p.m. Lecture

"RECESSION IN 1994?"

S Jay Levy, Chairman of the Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College, will be discussing the probability of another economic downturn in 1994.

Part of a free lecture series -- everyone is welcome.
For information contact the Institute at (914) 758-7448.

Sports of sorts

Let's call it a "period of transition"

Well folks, this is another of several sports columns with very little actual raw sportage to report. This is the in-between, waiting period in the exciting world of Bard college athletic competition, and all we have to

Matt Gilman
Sports Editor

tell you about are our hopes and dreams for the future. A future paved with gold, which our cleats will muck up and make all dull and then we'll have to polish it again. Perhaps now you understand my view of this week in sports.

Actually, the men's varsity soccer team saw some action, going up against Dutchess Community college this weekend. The team triumphed, thanks to the golden toe of Tor Loney. He led the Blazers with one goal and one assist. That assist was nailed home

by Ben Gooley, which proved to be the edge, as Bard topped DCC by a score of 2-1. The regular season opens for the men today, the eighth of September, at the King's College. They won't be playing royalty, however; they'll be competing against old arch-rivals Hunter College.

In addition to men's soccer, the rest of the fall-pack of sports open their seasons this coming week. Women's soccer plays three games in the next seven days: two home matches (to be played at the Rhinebeck Fairgrounds) against SUNY New Paltz on the 9th, and University of Bridgeport on the 11th, and one away game at Dominican College on Monday the 13th. These games will be a real test for

the women's team, particularly due to their still-truncated roster. The lack of depth could prove to

interested in playing, please contact coach Joel Tomson IMMEDIATELY!! I'm sure he'll be thrilled to hear from you.

This Saturday sees the start of the new cross country season, as well as the women's varsity volleyball season. The Runners will be chugging along at the Lebanon Valley invitational, and the volleyballers will be at home in our own Stevenson Gym, hosting a three-team tournament. The matches begin at noon, so why not come out and cheer them on? What, you got something better to do?

Bard tennis plays its first match on Sunday at the New Jersey Institute of Technology, and rumor has it that, due to the high seed drop-off rate at the US Open this year, Open-goers will head over to the Garden State to

see some REAL tennis action. So, be prepared; Bard servers-and-volleyers, for a large turnout.

In intramural news, in case you missed the captains' meeting for intramural tennis or 3-on-3 basketball, you can still be a captain. Pick up a roster sheet from Kris Hall and turn it in by Thursday, September 9th. Then you're in like Flynn.

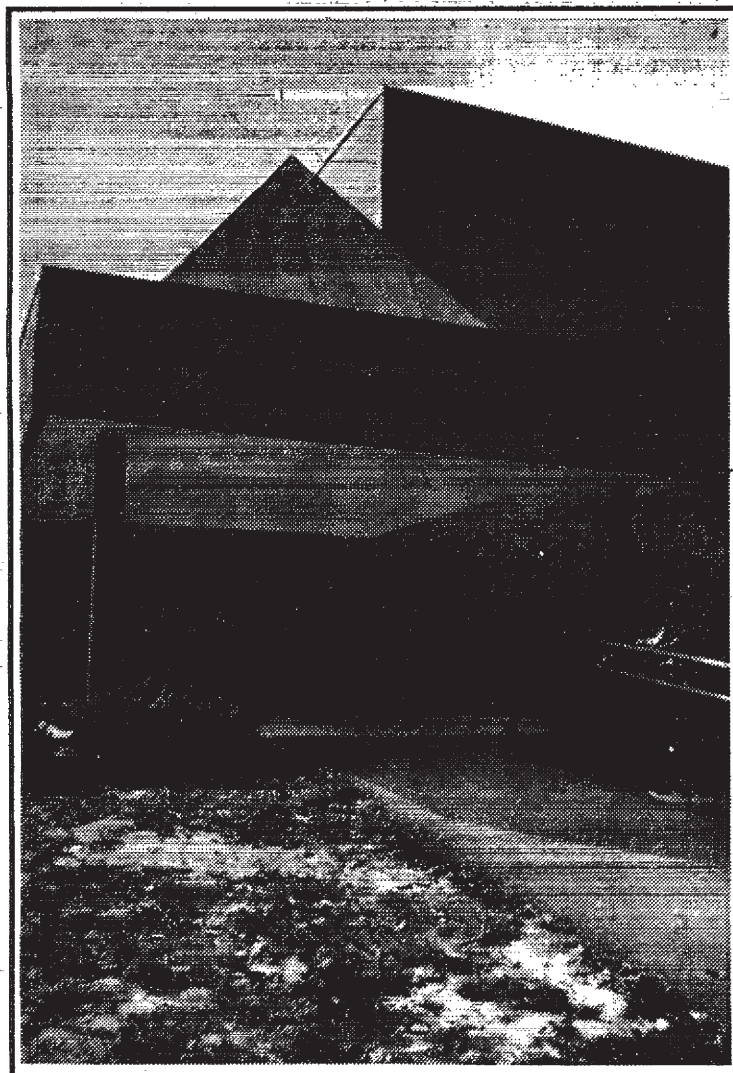
Don't forget about the fun activities happening today and every day over at Stevenson. There's aerobics, Fitness to Florida (no joke, now, a big wet one right on the lips from Joel Tomson if you manage to make it to Key West come semester's end!), and the swim club. Also starting up soon, and featured on this page in the weeks to follow, club sports such as fencing, cycling, ultimate frisbee and cricket!

Stay tuned, kids. The games will be played this weekend, and I'll be back next week to report on the whole mishegas.



be Bard's downfall, and this goes for the women's varsity soccer team as well. If you are at all

high seed drop-off rate at the US Open this year, Open-goers will head over to the Garden State to



Women's Varsity Soccer Games

Thurs. Sept. 9th vs. SUNY New Paltz
 Sat. Sept. 11th vs. University of Bridgeport
 @ Rhinebeck Fairgrounds
 Mon. Sept. 13th vs. Dominican College
 @ Dominican College

For Times, or to Play, Contact: Joel Tomson @ the gym

Be a captain!
 for Intramural
 Tennis or
 Intramural 3-on-3
 Basketball

Get rosters from Kris Hall at the gym

Women's Varsity
 Volleyball Tournament

This SATURDAY!

Noon

at the Stevenson Gymnasium

This SATURDAY!

Women's Varsity
 Volleyball Tournament

The aardva

The pros and cons of comic book publishing acco

For many years the business of publishing comic books was the domain of large companies such

Shawn Taylor
Art
Connoisseur

as DC (Batman and Superman) and Marvel (the X-Men, Spider Man). In the late sixties, there was a flood of "underground comics," coming mostly out of San Francisco, which focused mainly on the lifestyles and drug subculture of the time. These books were produced independently, but were not really seen as belonging with other comics due to their unusually solid basis in reality. It was not until the late seventies that books such as The

Flaming Carrot and Cerebus the Aardvark appeared. These were books much more comparable in nature to what everyone was used to, and yet they were being produced by their creators, not by large companies.

Since then, the debate about comics has grown as more people in different walks of life have become attracted to the medium, and more publicity is given to the creative talents behind the popular books. Many feel that the large companies still produce the best books, and that independent books are artsy and dull, while many others feel that independent books are the only quality books available, and that the big companies are pushing mass-produced garbage.

At the same time, speculation

on the value of comics is an increasingly popular and profitable side of the industry, a fact which some consider a blessing to comics, providing more opportunities to put new work out, while others consider it a curse, insuring that everyone who wants to make a buck will be trying to put out a comic book. In this debate, the exact rights that artists and writers have concerning their creations has been the subject of much controversy. How much say the artist deserves concerning their creations is dependent on how you view the comic book itself: either as a work of art or as a product to be sold.

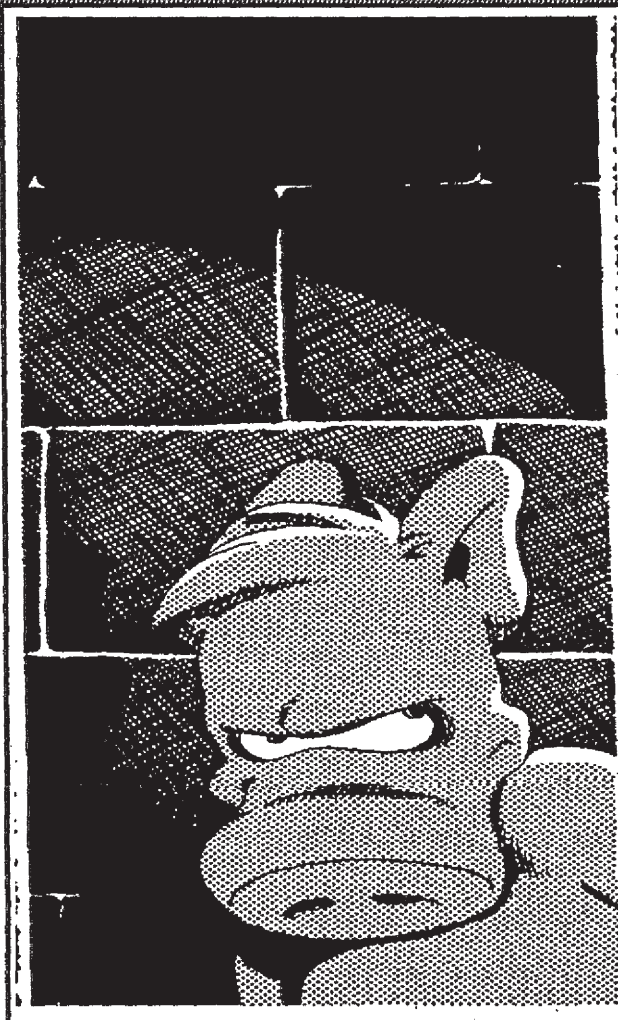
Canadian artist Dave Sim began self-publishing in the late seventies. His book *Cerebus the Aardvark* is nearing its 200th issue, and with the ever increasing number of independent projects coming out, Sim himself has become a self-appointed champion of creator-owned comics. He and other like-minded artists in the comics field have started a comics' defense group which is trying to give artists control over their work and what is done with it. We caught up with Dave Sim in The Comic Company comic shop in Atlanta, Georgia, where he graciously consented to an interview. Also present at the interview was Bob Burden, creator and self-publisher of the comic book, *The Flaming Carrot*.

Observer: As one of the founders of the independent comics industry, do you have anything insightful to say about how this all got started, where it's going, anything like that?

Sim: Well, I think the comic book field is dividing into people who are doing it because they love comic books—they love the medium—and the other people who just smell a dollar, because there's no question that comics are becoming more lucrative.

I think over the next year or two we're going to see dozens of made-for-hire superhero comic companies starting up, and I think all of them will last about six months to a year; they'll get the first issue recognition and the whole speculation side, but unless they stick with it, maintain quality and have good people doing it, which is getting more and more impossible all the time... If you look at Image [a comic company started by comics artists who had left other companies after creative disputes, now producing many of the biggest selling comics around-ed.], their strength is really Todd McFarlane. Everyone else is pretty much off schedule, just sort of using Image as a career thing, stepping stone, or just enjoying being the Image guys. McFarlane has a stronger reputation because he actually writes and draws the books, and he stays on schedule...

Observer: What's going on now is similar to the early eighties, when there were a lot of independently produced books flooding



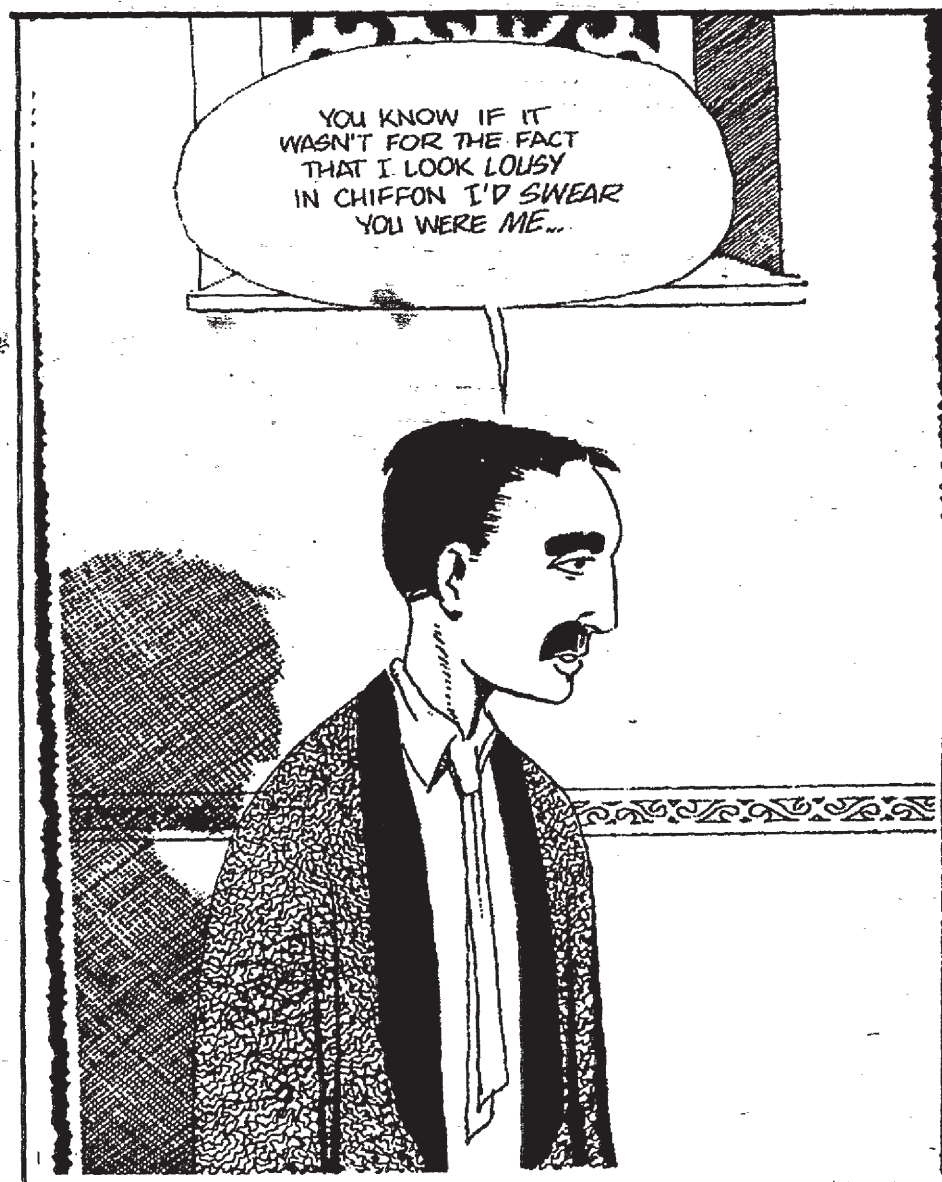
Cerebus the aardvark

the market which would last maybe two issues and then disappear...

Sim: Yeah, I think the biggest thing that most people miss is that the real strength of the comic book field, the things that endure, are usually creation and creator together: Bob Burden's *Flaming Carrot*, Todd McFarlane's *Spawn*, Dave Sim's *Cerebus*. But the prevailing opinion to this day in the field is that companies produce comic books, where companies are really just a means of getting a comic book out to its intended audience. If you have a really good character, but the guy who created it doesn't maintain it, then it sort of vanishes.

If you look at the history, everything seems to point in the same direction, which is one of the reasons I think self-publishing is getting stronger all the time. Because that does allow a creator to stick with his creation. He does

continued on page 7



The inimitable Lord Julius, a Cerebus character based on Groucho Marx.

speaks

ng to Dave Sim, creator of *Cerebus the Aardvark*

not have the company in the way the creator is able to do what he wants, to make the decisions about what's right for his book. When the creator is making the decision, usually he's more in tune with the audience than someone like an editor or someone in an office looking at a spreadsheet.

Burden: It's a lot like the movie industry in the twenties, when everyone suddenly started their own movie company. Out of the blue, it was a frontier. Comics are a frontier medium now, as opposed to something that's very closed off like TV, paperback books...

Observer: But didn't that really start in the early eighties, with the first big wave of independent books?

Sim: I think that was more the mid eighties...

Burden: Yeah, a lot of people saw it and said, hey, I could make some money at this...

Observer: It also seemed like a lot was being done by people who really did love comics as a medium, but maybe shouldn't have been trying to produce them themselves...

Sim: It was also a merging of the fan interest with the collector-speculation market. There were a lot of people buying up copies of the number one issue of black and white comics thinking it might be the next *Cerebus* or the next *Ninja Turtles*, and not realizing that the success of the *Turtles* and of *Cerebus* had more to do with bringing the book out and creating an audience. And these new people weren't especially interested in building an audience; they just wanted the big payoff, to take the money and move on to something else. But there was... well, when the comic field changes its mind, it changes its mind simultaneously.

Every comic dealer decided simultaneously that black and white

comics were the kiss of death, which hurt everyone, *Cerebus*, the *Carrot*, everyone. And it has taken about seven years, which is the cycle that just about everything

years there. Now what you're seeing is people gradually cutting up that distance finer and finer. The *Image* books are halfway between *Cerebus* and mainstream, and

more adult oriented comics? They seem to fall somewhere in between...

Sim: A lot of it is DC's attempt to figure out what it was that they should have done with Alan Moore, because they lost Alan Moore, they just pissed him off and he went away. The problem that companies face, and *Vertigo* is a good example of what the companies face, the overall problem, is if they promote the creator, they say, "hey, we've got so and so," but they don't have that creator signed to an exclusive contract. Or even if they do have him signed he's only going to stay

there for so long, then he's going to get an offer from somewhere else, or he's going to go off on his own. And they're caught between a rock and a hard place, because if they promote the creator and the creator goes away, then essentially

what they've told everyone is that the strength of the company doesn't exist anymore. So you end up with the situation where the companies are promoting the characters—you know—this is our big character or whatever—and *Vertigo* is an attempt to build a comic book line around the individual creators.

Observer: The problem being that eventually those creators will want to quit, but by then their work will be such a staple, the companies won't know where to go without them.

Sim: Another problem is that some things are just a finite story, so if you have a story that begins here and ends there, are you going to keep it in print after that point, and if you are, then how do you keep the guy there and working. But where DC has Neil Gaiman and names like that, right now *Marvel* doesn't have anybody.

This is the first time in comics history that the biggest names are not at DC and *Marvel*. They've become more like the farm team, where people go to build up a name, and then they go to *Image*,

continued on page 11

"[I]n the comic book field...people who want to buy something for two bucks and turn around three months later and sell it for a hundred are really the ones that we have built the comic book environment on."

—Dave Sim

seems to take—about seven years—for a large percentage of the retailers to begin to think: well, maybe black and white comics weren't the problem, maybe just *BAD* black and white comics were the problem. As color books get worse, you start standing out more, as big companies try to fill a hundred, couple hundred titles and each issue gets worse and worse everytime it comes out. It does make the material where people really work to improve it, and have built that audience, they really stand out.

Observer: It seems like a big difference now is that a lot of recent independent stuff really resembles the mainstream more. You'd never find something like *Cerebus* or *Love and Rockets* coming out of *Marvel* or *DC*, but with some of the new stuff you have more similarity, like with *Image*...

Sim: Well that's been a gradual process as well; at the time *Cerebus* came out, it was certainly closer to the mainstream than any of the undergrounds. *Cerebus* was sort of on the fifty yard line between underground and mainstream. They even called them "ground level comics" for a few

soon something will come along that's halfway between *Image* and mainstream.

Observer: What do you think of *DC's Vertigo* effort [an offshoot of the *DC* company which produces

THE WOODSTOCK JEWISH CONGREGATION

led by Rabbi Jonathan Kligler, Bard Jewish Chaplain
invites you to join us for

ROSH HASHANAH

Wed., Sept. 15 7:00p.m.

Thurs., Sept. 16 10:00a.m.

Fri., Sept. 17 10:00a.m.

(special children's service, Thurs. 9/16 @ 3pm; Tashlich, Thurs. 9/16 @ 4:30p.m.)

YOM KIPPUR

KOL NIDRE Fri., Sept. 24 7:00p.m.

Sat., Sept. 25 10:00a.m.

CLOSING Sat., Sept. 25 6:00p.m.

(followed by a communal break-fast; bring a veggie dish to share)

For More Information: Call 246-1671

If you need a ride: Contact the JSO: Billy Yeskel 752-7222 or Rebekah Klein 752-7216
Directions: Cross the river and get on Rt. 28 West. Take Rt. 375 to Woodstock. Turn right (east) on Rt. 212 an go 4 miles. You'll see our giant tent on the right. Services are in the tent, so dress for the weather!

Statements of purpose for representatives to the Board of Trustees

Ephen Glenn Colter

The work I accomplished last year for the Bard community as a Representative to the Board of Trustees—such as asking for more faculty-student interaction resulting in the Presidential Conversations of last spring, such as enlightening the complex crisis of the curriculum debates resulting in the demand for a Multi-disciplinary and Ethnic Studies Major (MDES)—was successful because interested students worked together to make other students more aware of the opportunities and possibilities of Bard. Sasha Gorman and I accomplished many things that we all take for granted here at Bard. I believe much more can—and should—be done, through the continued efforts of the multicultural democracy. Now, this year, while I'm still a Bard student, before I leave and become an Alumnus (before we're all ushered through our four-year careers) I want to make sure that the fruits of all our personal and political frustrations persevere and blossom like the library has this summer. The library took time, the project began before I arrived and involved many people I will never meet, and we should all be grateful, but in a few years most students will simply take the labyrinth of the library for granted, as it should be, because they will have other things to worry

about that we can't imagine.

Last year I had a lot to learn, as a junior I finally established a "working relationship" with a number of the members of the Board (and I came to a cordial "understanding" with a few others). In the very last meeting I was happy to see that an African American woman and Alumna was voted to be a member of the Board. I have come to realize that there are urgent issues and concerns that can be particularly addressed by students and cannot wait until "later", not next month, next semester, nor next year. I believe student initiated ideas and action should be represented to the Board of Trustees, to President Botsstein—to the faculty, administration, and B&G. I would like to continue as a critical representative because, well, I sincerely like Bard, I like my senior class, and it's reassuring to see the new and improved energy of the first-year class. I think I've done a good job I want to serve the student interests further. I am committed to leaving Bard at the end of the year—by leaving it a better place for future Bard students than I found it three years ago during L&T. In the interest of our "community" of what we as students accomplish together, I would like to be a representative to the Board of Trustees for 1993-94.

Sasha Gorman

Two years ago, prior to my election to the Board of Trustees, the relationship between the Board of Trustees and its student representatives was shallow. Student representatives functioned, for the most part, as a mouthpiece with which to reassure the trustees that their annual donations were all that was required of them, in order to insure a smoothly functioning campus. Representatives gave a brief overview of campus life but did not specifically address the true problems of the students.

In the past year I have worked diligently to change the relationship between the student representatives and the trustees. I felt that, ideally, the position should be used as a way for students to bring serious concerns to the people that wield a significant level of influence at Bard, in a manner which would forgo the normal beauracracy that hinders so much that is productive on campus. In the first meeting I spoke about two things: first, about campus safety, which is increasingly becoming a serious concern for students, and secondly, about the need for a real student center, central on campus and with facilities enough to properly handle a college our size. The response from the trustees was extremely positive and a lively dialogue about campus ranging from dormitory life to the multi-cultural experience at Bard ensued. From that meeting 1.5 million dollars was slated for our new student center. It was in that

first meeting we were told that the trustees had been given a clear, concise student perspective of Bard that they had not previously possessed. Because the concerns of the Board of Trustees had been aroused, we felt that in further meetings we could address more controversial topics. These included subjects such as the curriculum change (which was addressed in the third meeting), and the multi-ethnic studies major (which was discussed in the fourth meeting).

I feel that a new relationship between the Board of Trustees and the students has been formed, and as a student representative for the coming year I will improve this relationship further. I will establish a more interactive relationship between the student representatives to the board and the student community. This interaction would be achieved through quarterly meetings held shortly before each board meeting in order to establish a focus of student concerns and possible board/student solutions to these problems. This worked well last semester, but on a limited scale between club heads and the student representatives, a wider variety of topics could be discussed and presented to the board so that these issues may be manipulated to the best interests of the students of Bard College. It is with these foundations and goals that I hope that you will vote for me for Student Representative to the Board of Trustees.

Josh Ledwell

My name is Josh Ledwell, and I would like to be elected as a student representative to the Board of Trustees. I am a sophomore majoring in political studies. I am very interested in student government: last year I attended every Student Forum and this year I am a member of the Planning Committee. If elected, I would vigorously encourage the trustees to continue spending their money on Bard. Specifically, I would promote expansion of campus housing to help relieve the current crunch and support the construction of a new Student Center, which I think our school desperately needs. I will continue to attend all Forum meetings in order to stay aware of student concerns which the trustees might be able to help with.

Thank you for your consideration.

This semester's forum meetings:

Wednesday, September 15

Wednesday, October 4

Wednesday, November 10

Wednesday, December 8

All Forums will be
at 8pm in Kline

EMERGENCY

All SJB Members &
Alternates—

Please contact
Kapil Gupta this
evening at 752-
7201

Elections

for 2 student representatives to the Bard
Board of Trustees will be held:

This Thursday (10-12 & 3-5)

&

Friday (10-12 & 2-5)

at the Post Office.

Stop By & Vote!

Dead Goat Notes

The Observer staff, as usual, will deny all knowledge of this column's existence should you attempt to read it. The following column bears no direct basis in reality. For now.

John Carter looked furtively up from his shallow ditch. He could see a faint light highlighting the outline of the steel bars of Cell 206, Floor Two, in the Tewksbury cell-block. His breathing was shallow as his body tensed for the final dash towards the cell of the one he called The Master.

John knew Tewksbury cell-block as well as any of the guards at St. Stephen's Educational Facility, if not better. He had made the run to The Master's cell many times in the hours between 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. He knew where all of the access points were. Some were made by fellow prisoners, some had always been there. Some were frequently

patrolled, some were ignored. John knew this and used it to his advantage. By day, St. Stephen's was a place of academic oppression and rigorous mental labor in the ugly edifice known only as "The Library." But at night, St. Stephen's belonged to the daring and the cunning, the students who dared defy the locks and safeguards of the Wardens.

John had decided to make his initial assault on the North Doors. These doors were nearly always locked, even during the hours which they were supposed to be open. However, occasionally a resourceful and cunning student would manage to wedge it open for the other prisoners. Even if this door was locked, John knew that he could quietly slip in through the windows to the lounge which had been vandalized years ago and remained unnoticed even by the vigilant eyes of Security.

The doors were locked, but due to years of neglect the handle fell off of the door when John tried it and clanged to the ground. John silently thanked God for the fact that the dreaded Security only

had two to three officers patrolling a 600-acre campus.

As silent as a cat and with the quickness of thought, John stealthily approached the ajar window. It's sill was caked with mud from the frequent use it received. Although it would take a long time, John decided to try the southern access rather than dirty his jeans on the window sill. After all, it had taken three years to get them that grungy.

John circumnavigated Tewksbury cell-block like a shadow. This was due to the fact that all St. Stephen's prisoners wore only black. Finally, after an seeming eternity of walking, John approached the Southern Access. He was glad to see that the door was still wedged open with a bike rack. Even if had not been, the lock mechanism had been destroyed in the Anti-lock riots of '96. As The Master said, "The lock to hold us

in has not yet been made."

John crept through the door and slid past Checkpoint Charlie with its security agent slumped against his machine gun in blissful slumber. He was no problem now, but if The Master wanted to order a pizza, he would surely wake up and demand a bribe. John would remember to order an extra calzone for him.

The passage from here to The Master was clear and safe sailing. John saw a dark figure creeping through the moonlight carrying a computer from a faculty office and some other loot from prisoner's rooms and the storage area. John paused for a moment to look at the moon, silently wondering to himself when he would be free again. What additional measures would have to be taken to make this police state a secure environment once again as the Master said it was? What could they do solve these problems?

"The answers don't lie in the moon. They don't lie in locks. They lie only in our hearts."

It was the voice of the Master. John turned to it, and climbed up the stairs.



Featured Columnist

Shameless Filler!

Since time immemorial, it seems, I've been working through the summers here at the Henderson Computer Resources Center. And this affords me a few benefits over those who might spend their summers elsewhere. For example: no fine, deep tan, just a pasty white glow from the months-long exposure to fluorescent bulbs. I also got a rare first-glimpse at the new freshman class, and they're just fine. You should get to know them soon.

Perhaps the most interesting thing I noticed over this August was the early jump on the new students that Lynda tried to get. Lynda, as you might need to be reminded, is the tri-weekly alternate news publication put out by Jen Horenstein and others. Last semester Lynda attempted to challenge the vast readership of this fair publication, forgetting about two key things: one, there's not much going on here, and two, nobody really cares all that much. That's how I can get away with this weekly column.

About ten days into L&T, signs for a Lynda writers' meeting for the "L&T Issue" went up. The signs offered little information about Lynda itself, except that it's "The Alternate Publication," and that (among other things) it wasn't "The Observer." Fine, no argument there. Problem is, very few freshmen had at that point any idea what the Observer was, and whether an alternative to it was a good, bad or irrelevant thing. Or, for that matter, whether the Observer was a good, bad, or irrelevant thing.

Well, the truth seeker that I am, I'm gonna compare all the key elements of both these fine publications, and let the ordinary student decide for her or him self. Read and compare:

QUALITY OF PUBLICATION: Well, the Observer has that ink that comes off on your fingers, so there's one point for the photocopied Lynda. But then there's that dangerous staple...

ARTICLES: The words "The," "an," and "a" were seen in abundance throughout both publications.

PICTURES: The Observer carries big, flashy black and white photos which are, by and large, irrelevant to the stories they accompany. Lynda has cool illustrations of insects.

DISTRIBUTION: The Observer can be found every Wednesday, abandoned on the tables in the Post Office. Lynda can be found every so often on a table in Kline, watched over like a hawk by Jen Horenstein, who will glower at you if you have even the slightest connection to the Observer.

FEATURES: Some cutesy articles about a band coming to Bard can be found in the Observer. Ditto in Lynda. And I do mean "ditto". Heh, heh, that shot was too easy.

COLUMNS: The Observer has two: Shameless Filler and Dead Goat Notes.

Lynda also has two: the left column and the right column.

DIVERSIONS: Lynda has a cool, but irregularly printed crossword puzzle. I wanted to print my own crosswords in the Observer, but there aren't too many people here who know how to figure out cryptic crosswords, and explaining them would take a page or two. In the meantime, there are the silly Observer Personals, which don't amount to much...

OPINION: The Observer has interesting Editorials on all aspects of Bard life, at least one per

issue. Many people have seen these as poorly-disguised expressions of irritable, abrasive, unpopular thought which show the superior mindset of the "Observer inner circle." Lynda has no Editorials as of yet. Damned if ya do...

READERS' RESPONSE: The Observer has a letters column, but only Lynda invites you to "Write your own fucking news here."

Whew! Quite a dizzying comparison. Here's my final thoughts on the matter. If you want to make the quality of on-campus news reporting better, then join the fight! Become a writer of one or both of these fine journals. If you just want to read, hey, they're both free. Enjoy.

In which we put on our dancin' boots and do the Bard rags rag

by Matt Gilman

WXBC

Bard Radio....Join the Adventure!

Informational meeting for returning and prospective dj's.

Thursday, September 9

7pm Albee Lounge

UnBard Love

More Make-Believe from Sean O'Neill

"While his eyes were roaming the pages of *Islands in the Stream*, his lips were sucking on the wart on his forearm. He performed both motions intently, and I knew from that glimpse, that snatch of his existence, that I was in love with him. I was compelled to stare and admire. His lips were slightly open and wet, forming more of a grin than a frown. His head bobbed slightly with each passage he read. His hazel eyes darted with a secret knowledge. His eyebrows arched as if they had been painted on his dark forehead. He was beautiful. He was mine."

"What the hell do you think you are doing?" shouts Nadine as she stands in her doorway. "I go to the bathroom for one minute, and you waltz into my room like an idiot and start reading my stuff. Give me that. It's private."

"Is this a diary or a story?" asks Jacky Bellafuco, holding the notebook aloft in her loft. He had a habit of walking into rooms uninvited.

"It's none of your damned business, that's what it is." She prods him with her toothbrush.

He throws the notebook on the floor. "Okay, okay," he says. "I'm leaving."

"Bastard," says Nadine. She felt violated. "Men!" She slams the door. She puts on her *Ministry* CD. She begins to burn her lipstick to release the tension crawling up her neck.

* * * * *

Basil Rodinger returns to his new room, a converted-closet in Robbins House. "I just say your old roommate, the cartoonist, with the most beautiful girl in the world."

"Now that's a thought worth savoring," says Colby Sprague.

"Colby," he says. "Love is like sex. It has its up's and down's, and its in's and out's."

"Oh, shut up," says Sprague.

"You're right," he continues. "All sex isn't about love. You know, I want a stylized girl. Most girls turn me off."

"This statement coming from the guy who wants to be known as 'Sticky B' Rodinger."

"I want to be so in love that I'm afraid to kiss," says Rodinger. "The body outraces the mind, you know. With Betsy, it was eighteen days between our first kiss and the heavier stuff."

"You mathematicians have to use numbers for everything," says Sprague. "All you talk about is the number of flowers, the

cost, the time of night, the number of kisses, the room number. . ."

"I want to implore a girl for love. Do you know what that means?"

"Basil, why don't you lie down?"

"I want to have a garden and crush flower petals once a year to give her a fragrance. I'll call it Adgir. This is my dream, Colby, right next to becoming a philanthropist."

"After Bard, the freshmen will be tipping you for the pizzas you'll be delivering from Broadway Pizza, Basil. So forget about women, fragrance, and philanthropy."

"It's all in the eyes, you know. Walk into the ISO party, see the girl of your dreams, make eye-contact and hold it, hold her in your gaze and she cannot let go. The whites of her eyes."

"The Eyes have it," says Sprague.

"This is serious, Colby. I think I'll write some poetry."

"I am serious. Stick to graph theory, Sticky B."

"I promise you, this is a matter of personal honor and integrity. I will have the girl of my dreams."

"What? She's here at Bard! Why?"

"Destiny. Romance isn't dead yet, and neither am I."

The telephone rings. Sprague answers. "It's for you," he says. "It's your girlfriend

from Nebraska."

"Betsy!" Rodinger yells happily into the phone. "I, uh, was just thinking about you." Sprague rolls his eyes.

Although Rodinger's mother lives in Manhattan, or "the City" as she calls it, Basil himself was raised in Nebraska by his grandparents. So he has old ways, elderly habits. When he reads a book, he licks his fingers before turning each page, just like his grandma and grandpa. When he is intoxicated, which is often and understandable considering what his major is, he would vomit and walk, vomit and walk, leaving a retched trail behind him.

"Are you alright?" Sprague would ask. "Yeah . . ." Blah . . . Spit.

Down the hall, Sprague now hears the ungentle strains of Ice T's *Body Count* "Cop Killer" coming from his room and Rodinger's stereo. A black day with bad rock. The sounds of machine-gun fire always soothes Sprague's roommate. He has a cigarette outside and waits for the Days of Our Lives Traumas to untangle themselves.

"I wonder if Basil was lying when he said he had a jam session in his basement with *Red Hot Chili Peppers* after their concert in Grand Rapids?" Sprague says to the sky. He puffs out a ring of smoke.

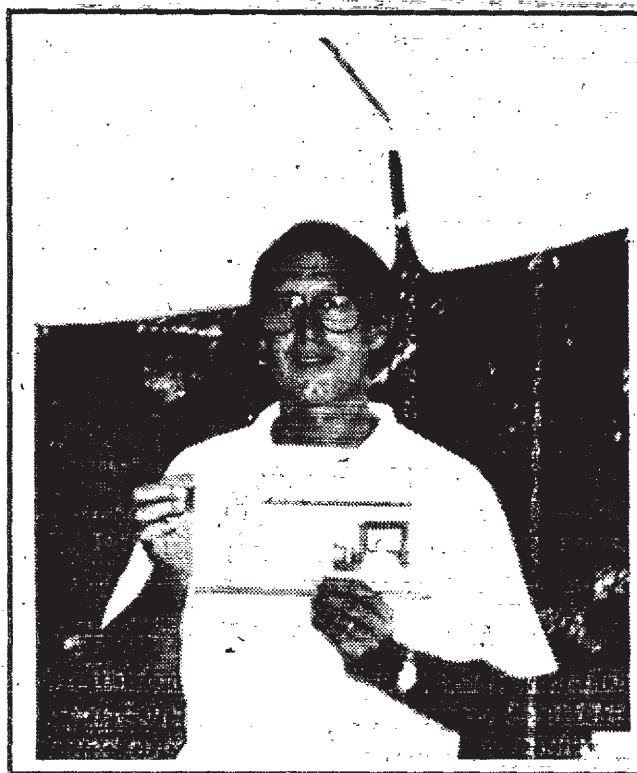
How not to Chase your dreams

by Jeana C. Breton

Bard Alumnus Chevy Chase was last seen on campus in 1989 when he delivered the commencement speech at graduation. Before and since then, he has been the legendary literature major. Why? The reason seems to lie within the ever growing popularity of his name. The name, however, does not make the man — the man who's made dozens of humorous movies over the years, as well as once hosting (while wearing a Bard baseball cap) *Saturday Night Live*. There are very few who can say that they never chanced to see a movie in which Chevy Chase starred. Although his years at Bard reportedly did not go all that smoothly, he was able to make something of his life after Bard. It is all this, and more, that makes Chase's the ultimate "Cinderella" story for Bard students new and old.

These days Chase can be seen every night, nearly everywhere. What's he up to? Like, anyone really has to ask! Chase premiered *The Chevy Chase Show* last night on FOX. For weeks it's been hyped up with the slogan "he's still not ready for prime time, but" you can see him on late-night. Not to mention the recent Doritos commercial. The question remains, however, how long will it last?

One could call Chase the Ross Perot of late night. The show is produced at the Chevy Chase Theater in Hollywood; this almost instantly gives one the impression that Chase "bought" is slot. This is not meant to be an entirely negative observation. After all, Perot had his own particular charm and several



although not a large majority, of loyal "fans."

Chase has fans too — enough to cheer and laugh, at all the appropriate spots, during his first show. And, at least one who watched the entire show despite its apparent lack of uniqueness. Simply put, the show was too full of what everyone has come to expect of late night television shows: weak humor, short and underdeveloped interviews, and

an excess of musical interludes. How could this "famous" man not know that we of the late-night audience were more than ready for something new?

All that aside, Chase's first show was not an entire flop. He did have two very well known actresses as guests. These were Goldie Hawn and Whoopi Goldberg. Hawn, who co-starred with Chase in *Foul Play*, admitted that she almost wore (on Chase's show) the same outfit she wore on Goldberg's late-night talk show; she changed at the last minute into shorts. Other than kissing Chase on the lips a few times, Hawn did not really do much to spruce up the act. Oh, except that she brought her 17 year old son to watch. He was sitting conveniently in the front row so that the camera could focus on him while the band played "Happy Birthday," and so that he could be presented with two cakes - the first of which was dropped upside down at his feet by Chase. One can only presume it was really his birthday. In any case, the kid looked pretty darned embarrassed.

To wish Chase luck, Goldberg presented

him with a gift and a warning. The gift was the pair of black heels that she danced in on the night of her first late-night show. The warning was that: "people will do terrible things to you." Her point, to borrow an overused cliché, was that "the show must go on." The audience, who may or may not be grateful for this, must have been even more amazed that Goldberg declared that she was sick of people mistaking her for Hawn. Bringing Hawn back on stage, Goldberg exclaimed, see everybody "I'm the colored one...she's the Caucasian one..."

Well, Chase said that: "I love to make a fool of myself." Hopefully, this is true because having a late-night talk show may make the biggest fool out of Chase yet. Tonight's guests: Jason Priestly, Beverly D'Angelo, and The Enchantress - his favorite 50's "doo-op" group.

The deKline Cafe
will be opening in the
coffee shop on:
Friday,
Sept. 17th

To apply for a position as
counter worker or specialty
cook, ask for an application at
the coffee shop. Interviews will
be held next week.

The aardvark continued

continued from page 7
 or form their own company. And the companies really have no way to stop this. They can try promoting individual books or characters, but if it's one guy who's making this character good, and he leaves, then people will realize that the book is not inherently good, it's the artists who make it that way. At this point, even the hottest character can't survive a really bad version being done—that's really asking for it.

Observer: It seems like a lot of the time, being treated well or paid well by a company is taken to mean that you're being well represented...

Sim: Which is really not the case. Often you're not even being paid well, maybe ten percent. Which is great if ten percent is a million dollars, but that still means that someone else is getting the nine million, and that, well, to me that sucks.

Observer: But maintaining control, what if you really wanted to do a Cerebus cartoon? There's not really any way you can do that yourself, so how could you avoid selling off control in the process of bringing in one person to do the cartoon, another to make

plastic toys, whatever?
Sim: Well, you can't. Like with the Ninja Turtles, you do lose control. Things happen all the time that they don't want to have happen, and they basically have to spend three days a week sitting with lawyers saying, well this person's suing you, we have to sue this person, the movie company didn't ever actually pay us for the rights, now we've got to sue them...

Observer: Which all really goes unpublicized, when you've got all the hype to go on...

Sim: One big thing with comics right now is speculation, with a lot of people trying to buy up a particular comic one week at two bucks, then sell it back at four bucks the next week, sort of like with lottery tickets. Anybody can make it or whatever....

Observer: But that's like walking around with a bad check, because you can have a comic book worth a hundred bucks and go around telling everyone about it, but finding someone with a hundred bucks who wants to buy it is a different story...

Sim: Like with Superman #75,

you had people buying ten copies, and most stores were limiting sales to what they had advance orders for, so you had stores getting the book in and immediately jumping the price to fifty dollars.

Observer: So, what do you think about the whole collectability issue? Do you think it's making comics as an art form better or worse?

Sim: Well, a lot of the comics industry has been built on the investment side. I'm always surprised when people act as if the collectability and comics going up in price is something that just happened within the last few months. One of the big distinctions between comic books and science fiction is that, in the comic book field, we've always had a large and prevalent commercial

aspect.
 Science fiction has really made no progress, aside from being raw material for movies, in the last fifty years. By contrast, in the comic book field—I mean you can call it greed if you want—that's certainly as good a name for it as anything—people who want to buy something for two dollars and turn around three months later and sell it for a hundred are really the ones that we have built the comic book environment on. Cerebus could not exist until you had the business side, making sure that someone is carrying comics across the country, getting all the books to all the places. A lot of the people who put that into place were greedy people, who wanted to make a lot of money off comic books, saw a need and then filled it. Like anything else there are good aspects to it and bad aspects

to it. It does provide an opportunity for creators if they are willing to do some legwork, meet some retailers, find out how much demand there is for their work. If they can find twenty-five retailers to carry their work, they can build a career, which is not to any remote extent the same thing in science fiction. If you look at all the good things and all the bad things collectability has produced in the field, I think it's been a fair trade off. If it's made Love and Rockets possible, if it's made Yummy Fur possible. We don't dominate the field, but a place is made for us, and I think it's the height of ignorance for someone to sell 2,500 copies of their book but turn around and say they don't like the speculation side, because without speculation, we wouldn't be having this interview.

Cerebus the Aardvark is copyright Dave Sim, reproduced here by permission, and is available at finer comic shops everywhere.

Henderson cont.

continued from front page
 Center. Not to mention that the fibre optic networking of the major buildings at Bard will start this coming week.

"People always talk about what a nice little liberal arts college this is," said Gilman. "They don't realize how much is going on in computing."

As for when the Henderson Computer Resources Center addition will be completed, Gilman could only guess. "We're hoping

by January or February," said Gilman, "although, of course, we really want it done now."

Gilman also noted that Director of the Physical Plant, Richard Griffiths, who is overseeing the construction, is taking great care to ensure none of the trees surrounding the construction site are damaged, but did not know of any repercussions concerning the now-inaccessible traffic circle. Griffiths could not be reached for comment at press time.

Send all letters to the Editor to the Observer via Campus Mail or at the Observer office in the basement of Tewksbury.

The Bard Observer

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 Michael Poirier

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 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, 10¢/wd. for all others. Personals are free.
Display ads: Contact the Ad Manager.

Bard College
 Annandale on Hudson, NY 12504
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Student Life Committee report

To the Bard Community
 The Student Life Committee had their first meeting last week to discuss, among other issues, the demand card and locking of dorms. In order to further a dialogue between students and their government, the SLC has chosen to write a weekly report, to be printed in the Observer, to keep students current with our work, and to clarify policies. Last week's Observer suggested that one of the "problems" with the demand card has been that students with financial problems, independent students, and students who use work-study money to pay bills cannot put money into their card yet. In such extreme cases, students should arrange a meeting with Shelly Morgan, Dean of Students and she, on a case-by-case basis will try to get an "advance" put

on the demand account of the student. A memo sent to all students outlines many of the conflicts that may occur with the demand card. Also, Jeana Breton's article on the subject is to be commended for its thoroughness. The uses of the demand card may expand over the next few years; among the possible applications includes a method to account for the actual number of meals used so as to give students a refund for those never used. Although the system may appear cumbersome at the present, it has the potential to give students greater control of their accounts.
 As for the locking of doors, Bard College may not be Manhattan College, but students must realize that theft was a major problem last year and as some students still feel it is their right to take what they wish, administration must respond. The problem will

not solve itself. Again, the locking of the doors may bring more benefits than deterrents. Work-study positions are being researched for "receptionist" at the front of doors or a buzzer system.
 The SLC realizes that students will probably have more comments and questions about these two issues and have set Thursday, September 9 at 5:30 in the Kline Committee Room as a meeting for students to discuss any other problems and more importantly, provide input on how to make the transition smoother. The SLC also invites students to write the Committee in order for us to get a thorough understanding of the new systems. Please direct letters to Sally Mehrtens, Chair of the Student Life Committee.

Goldie H. Gider

CALENDAR

BARD

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 8 TO SEPTEMBER 15 ★ 1993

What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

★ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 8 ★

★ **Human Form.** An exhibition of contemporary paintings that depict the human figure will be on view in the **Proctor Art Center**. All are invited to take a look. The show runs until October 5.

★ THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9 ★

★ **Introductory Yoga.** Talk to Ben Vromen about learning yoga. The class is open to all students, faculty, staff and their families. There is a \$20 fee. **Olin 202, 6p.** Prof. Vromen received teacher training at the Kripalu Yoga Center in Stockbridge, MA. He has been teaching Yoga at Bard since 1985.

★ **WXBC.** Learn how to get on the Bard Radio and be a Media sensation. **Albee Lounge, 7p.** No Larry King's need apply.

★ **Bisexuals, Activists, Gays, Lesbians, Et al.** B.A.G.L.E. will meet this Thursday **Club Room in the Old Gym, 7p.** Come to the first official meeting and get involved—all interested are welcome.

★ FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 ★

★ **Budgets.** Turn those budget proposals in to Jeff Rhyne or Jason Foulkes. **No later than 5p.** Club heads must sign the appointment list to talk to the Planning Committee about their budgets.

★ **Jewish Students Organization.** A gathering led by Bard Jewish Chaplain, Rabbi Jonathan Kligler. **Bard Hall, 7:30p.** Folk dancing to follow

★ SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11 ★

★ **Distinguished Scientist Lecture.** Mathematician Benoit Mandelbrot will give a lecture entitled "From Perspective to Fractals: Relations Between Geometry, Science, and Art." Dr. Mandelbrot is a professor of mathematics from Yale and an IBM Fellow at the Thomas J. Watson Research Center. **Olin Auditorium at 3pm.**

Hey Club-heads!
Kids are out there looking to help you out. Advertise your club's events and meetings in the weekly calendar and they will come. Just drop a note with a description of the event you have planned to the Dean of Student's Office. Deadlines are Fridays, at 5pm.
It's free. It works.

★ SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 ★

★ **Morning Worship at Church of St. John the Evangelist, 10a.** See van schedule for transportation.

★ **Community Eucharist.** Bard Chapel, 7p.

★ MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 13 ★

★ **Observer Staff Meeting** Work with us or no one will ever love you. **Third Floor of Aspinwall, 8p.** And your dog will die.

★ TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 ★

★ **Recession in 1994?** S. Jay Levy, chairman of the Jerome Levy Economics institute will discuss the probability of another economic downturn. **Blithewood, 8p.**

★ **Victorian Studies Meeting.** Olin Atrium, 7p.

★ WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 ★

★ **Scottish Country Dancing.** A non-credit class for anyone wishing to learn the traditional social dances of Scotland. **Location TBA 7:30-9:30p.** Contact Carey Griffin through campus mail for more information.



Presidential Forum

The following student/faculty conversations, sponsored by President Botstein, are limited to 25 students. Sign up in the Dean of Students Office today for the following topics. Refreshments will be served. All forums to be held in the President's house.

- 1. Religion and Politics in America Today.** Tuesday, Sept. 21. 8:30-10:30p.
- 2. Should the Arts be Supported by the Government.** Wednesday, Oct. 6. 8:30-10:30p.
- 3. National Service.** Saturday, Nov. 6. Noon-2p.
- 4. Jurassic Park: Prospects and Consequences of the future of Bio-Technology.** Friday, Dec. 3. 8:30-10:30p.

SHUTTLE VAN SCHEDULE

FRIDAY:

Rhinecliff:

Leave at 4:20p. for the 4:53p. train
Leave at 5:20p. for the 5:56p. train
Leave at 7:10p. for the 7:41p. train

Poughkeepsie:

Leave at 5:30p. for the 6:18p. train
Leave at 7:45p. for the 8:30p. train
Leave at 10p. for the 10:43p. train

SATURDAY:

Rhinecliff Train Station, Rhinebeck, and Red Hook:

Leave at 10a., return at 2p.

Hudson Valley Mall: Leave at 5:45p., return at 10p.

SUNDAY:

Church: Leave at 9, return at 10:30a for St. John's (Barrytown) and St. Christopher's (Red Hook)

Rhinecliff:

Poughkeepsie:

Meet 7:15p and 9:30p trains

Meet the 6:40p, 8:40p and 10:40p train

Meet all Shuttles behind Kline Commons