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Distinguished Scientist Heinz Fraenkel-Conrat

Last Saturday afternoon, molecular biologist Heinz Fraenkel-Conrat delivered the final installment of the Distinguished Scientist Lectures for 1993. Professor emeritus of the University of California at Berkeley, Fraenkel-Conrat's distinctions include the first California Scientist of the Year Award and membership in the National Academy of Science.

Entitled "A Scientist Looks Back," Fraenkel-Conrat's talk described some of the interesting circumstances and peculiar experiences surrounding some of his scientific achievements. His recollections painted a portrait of the bio-chemical scientific community of fifty years ago.

Born in Germany and educated in England, Fraenkel-Conrat left his research position at the American Rockefeller Institute in 1937 after only one year because, "my conclusions did not fit with everyone else's." He then traveled to Brazil to join his family who had fled to South America to flee Nazi repression in Germany. There he worked with his brother in law to study poisonous snake venoms and the production of vaccines.

In those days, what are now known as "molecular biologists" were entitled "protein chemists." Analyzing various neurotoxic venoms, Fraenkel-Conrat discovered that the poison was not a steroid as previously expected, but a protein. Work was also done to break down the venom, which was revealed to be a combination of two proteins. "What we thought was pure was actually two very different components," said Fraenkel-Conrat.

His investigation of snake venom at the level of proteins set the stage for his next work at the Institute of Experimental Biology at the University of California, Berkeley. (Fraenkel-Conrat would remain a professor at Berkeley until his retirement.) Research foundations attached to public universities were just beginning in those times before World War II.

In 1942, at the Federal Department of Agriculture laboratory, Fraenkel-Conrat commented that he and his colleagues had "visions of applied research." He raised the question of how much a scientist is allowed to pursue research which may not have an apparent utility. Working with chicken feathers and insulin, they investigated how modification of proteins would result in a loss of biological activity.

It was here that he found the self-confessed "high point" of his studies: he met his future wife, who was first described to him as intelligent but difficult to get along with. Some of Fraenkel-Conrat's most famous achievements have concerned his experiments with viruses. The tobacco mosaic virus (TMV), in particular, was the subject of much scrutiny and discovery at Berkeley.

continued on page 3
The holiday spirit

Gift Ideas for friends, family and others

*WARNING: This is an editorial, not an article.*

What, only seventeen shopping days left until Christmas? You still have not gotten something for everyone? Well, relax! The Mall has extended their hours for the holidays, so (providing you have a means of transportation) there is still plenty of opportunity to make purchases.

What do you do if you don't know what to buy? Well, relax! Here's some simple, inexpensive suggestions:

For Grandmothers: Something hand-crafted (they really like anything you've made yourself; no matter how useless or bizarre) or something home-baked (they might not eat it themselves, but they'll enjoy sharing it with their friends).

For Grandfathers: Books, tools, models of old cars, pipes, tobacco, golf or fishing gear (they may be aging, but they're still men and they still like to have a good time).

For Mothers: Gardening books, something you've made yourself; or fishing gear (they might not eat it themselves, but they'll really know that the gift wasn't meant to be a gag). For Lovers: Whatever apparel or tools that you think will make for warm and exciting nights together. For People You Do Not Know: Anything small (they'll be overwhelmed that you thought of them no matter what you get). For Me: How about a note to the editor for a change? Thanks and Merry Christmas!

The Center for Curatorial Arts Gallery will have the following hours during intercession:

**Wednesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays**
1:00-4:00 pm

**Saturdays and Sundays**
1:00-5:00 pm

(Reg. Hours until Sun., December 19th)

* Galleries will be closed Monday, December 20th through Friday, January 7th*

NEED? Sell me your refrigerator! Looking to buy one of those nifty-baby fridges. Will pay handsomely. Call x7265 or leave note Box #815.

B.R.A.V.E. A student run rape and associated violence hotline. Information, support, referrals. Office Hours: Sun. & Mon. 9-11 pm located in Tewksbury room #87 ext. 552 and 553. Counselor may be reached 24 hours a day by calling security at ext. 440.

Do you need someone to look after your baby, feed your cat/dog, shovel snow in your driveway, organize your computer files, wash your car, cook for guests or edit your memoirs? Second half of December & all January I'm here to do all this & more. Call Zoltan at (914) 752-7518 or 341-9448.


I am seeking a place to stay in the N.Y.C. area during January while I work as a bicycle messenger. I'm a cool guy and more importantly I'll pay rent. Andy Costell 752-7097.

I am seeking any paraphernalia related to the world-famous TV actress, Beatrice Arthur: Any responses should be directed to my mailbox, Eric Taylor.

Saturday night at the Rock Party in the Student Center somebody walked off with my silver Zippo. It's enscrolled/enscribed and has a big-time sentimental value. No questions asked; I'll give you a reward for return. Please, it's important to me. Contact Kat Box 794 or 752-7259. Please P.S.: If you lost a black umbrella contact me.

The hosts of 2 Hours of Intense Whiplash would like to publicly thank the following people for making our party possible: Albert and Audio Co-op, the BF, WXBC, Sears, Ingrid, Andy, Matt, Joy, Tanessa, Kate, Gwendolyn, Mary, Noah, and anybody else who has ever helped. We'd also like to thank Security for their help in getting rid of a few pests. And a big FUCK YOU is in order to the two guys who warned their money back. Go back to your boring Bard parties, you losers, and leave the real rock music to those who can appreciate it. Look for our show next semester on WXBC. Until then, Anti-Party On!

Ann: All Rocky Horror Fan! Anyone interested in organizing and/or performing at a showing (next semester) of Rocky Horror, please let me know NOW! x7700.

Female Cat Found! Young, very affectionate with black & white and pink flea collar. 20-30 pounds of weight. Very GOOD WITH KIDS. If she belongs to you, or you want her call for information 752-7110.

We want you to live with us. We have a beautiful house in Tivoli w/ porch & a lawn & a TV & everything you could want. No smoking in the house, though (we just quit). Reasonable rent, heat's included. Please call us at 577-3022.

Will you be living off-campus in Jan.? Would you like a friendly, furry companion? DO you want to make some easy $$? Do you respect the feline psyche? If you answered "yes" to the above questions, please drop me a note.

Do you need a place to stay between this semester and intercession? Or, do you need a job during this time? Stay at my apartment for FREE and watch my cats, or, watch my cats and I'll pay you. Call (518) 537-5055 or leave a note in box 751.

Do you need a place to stay during this time? Or, do you need a job during this time? Stay at my apartment for FREE and watch my cats, or, watch my cats and I'll pay you. Call (518) 537-5055 or leave a note in box 438.

SELF DEFENSE WORKSHOP FOR WOMEN Saturday, December 11, 9:30-11:30am @ Stevenson Gym. To sign up call x54 (by 12/9/93 — Participation is limited to 25). Participants should wear comfortable clothing (pants suggested) and sneakers. Sponsored by: BRAVE and the Women's Center.

Horseback Riding lessons in Tivoli, N.Y. Indoor ring. $20/half hour. Call Jorge at 757-4400 or Michelle at 203-845-0869.

H. So this is it? I don't know how I'm going to manage this place without out you, but you will always be in my heart and on my mind. Too sappy? I don't care; I'm a "little princess." Say hi to the "animals" for me. Love, H.
It's a shame Allan Bloom died before seeing a dozen Bard students perform a play by Aristophanes in the original Greek last Monday. He might have rethought his book, The Closing of the American Mind. For this was the spirit of the liberal arts at its finest.

I may have been the only person who came with some hesitation, in the audience of almost eighty people. I had planned to sit patiently and watch my friends until I could decently leave. But I was a fool. I should have had no reason to doubt. Indeed, the most salient things about the production were its lively humor and charm. The actors mercifully abstained from recitation, and their pronunciation must have been pretty good, since the head of the Latin Institute in Manhattan laughed throughout its duration.

This adaptation of the first part of "The Frogs" benefited from two charismatic leads, and an amazing Chorus. Mr. Phuc Tran as Dionysus was careful to grasp the comic elements of his part, but not to grasp them so tightly that he would have strangled them. A good thing, too, since this Dionysus was "the god of the theater." Ms. Kelly Mesqele delivered her lines energetically as Xanthias, speaking so proudly at times that one almost believed that she had just coined some of the Greek phrases herself. And Time magazine was right. The Chorus of Frogs was a very welcome part of the play, hopping up and down in green get-ups, shouting poetic frog-noises in Greek. They appeared later, transformed into angelic-looking rockers. Prof. Lisa Raphael led the raucous bunch. And Prof. Chris Callanan (Producer, Director, and Heracles) was delightful, both in character and in his revealing costume.

The Frogs was first produced in 405 B.C., when it won first prize in the ancient Greek equivalent of the Tony Awards. Everyone knows that people don't write plays entitled with names like "Frogs" anymore. We are advanced artists, now. We make motion pictures with titles like "Fried Green Tomatoes" and "Mystic Pizza." Yet one could argue that a few millennia from now students will not be performing either "Fried Green Tomatoes" or "Mystic Pizza" in the ancient English.

The Frogs is a satire, and satire as we know it is "anger laughing at its own futility." (Yes, that was pretentious, but just as Friedrich Nietzsche abolished conventional notions of morality, so, too, has Bard abolished conventional notions of pretentiousness.) And the performers of the play caught the satiric spirit in a superb fashion. Again, the names of those other student-actors are Jake MacPhail, Clinton Adams, John Hawxworth, Tim Krause, Alex London, Donna Meyer, Rachel Pearsall, Dean Barker, and Jeff Verkouwle. (With guest star Sean Callahan). Driven with masterly nonchalance, these young men and women disbelievingly persist in their aspirations to restore the Greek language to immortal fame.

And now for the Big Question. Why do these students study Greek? For outsiders, it has more novelty than utility, but for classicalists, it is their art, just as Mr. Leon Botstein does not live for college administration, but lives instead for his art of classical music, so also is it that these students do not live for "more useful" subjects, but for practicing their art of classical language. It's their thing, so to speak. And, fortunately for all concerned, they do their thing well.
THE BARD OBSERVER

December 8, 1993

Another View
unbored love

by Sean O’Neill

It is intermission at the Bard Music Department’s last open concert of the semester at Blum. Luis Garcia-Renart is outside, talking desperately to Nadine, who is visibly upset.

“I don’t understand, Nadine. You’ve spent the last two weeks creating this piece. You were so proud about it when you told me you wanted to play it. What’s changed?”

“I wrote it for someone. Someone I cared about. Someone I thought cared about me. I’m sorry, Luis. Don’t make me play it. Please. This all hurts too much.”

“Oh, Nadine,” he says.

“It’s time to start the second half,” Luis says a violinist.

“Thank you,” he says. “Nadine, I am not going to make you perform, but I think you should know that such a lovely piece written by such a lovely young lady deserves to be heard.”

He puts her on the back and walks in to introduce the performers. She walks on the path to the front of the hall, underneath the windows. The music begins, and she starts to cry.

Minh rushes up to her.

“I don’t want to talk to you,” hisses Nadine. “What are you doing here? Why aren’t you with your new friend Colby?”

“You have to listen to me,” says Minh, in a hushed voice. “It’s all been a terrible misunderstanding.”

“You can say that again. I thought I were my friend. And I thought he_ honestly liked me. You two made me look like such a fool.”

“Colby and I are not interested in each other. You never told him that you had decided you liked him. He saw you and me, and he was jealous. He wanted to hurt you back.”

“Well, the both of you certainly did. Was it good for you, Minh?”

“Colby and I didn’t even kiss or hug, let alone sleep together. I’m your friend. Nadine. Can’t you understand?”

“With friends like you, I can’t wait to meet my enemies.”

“Maybe now you know how Colby felt when he saw you making out with Basil.”

“We weren’t making out, Minh! He was upset over killing that stupid cat. I was trying to comfort him.”

“Was it good for you, Nadine?”

“I told you, it was innocent. Totally innocent!”

“And I’m telling you that it is the same with me and Colby.”

Silence, except for the music.

“Nadine, you have to play the song you wrote.”

“How do you know about it?”

“Luis told me. Please, you’ve figured out your feelings. You have a right to let the rest of the world know. Nadine, that’s why French is your friend. You’re a strong woman. And that’s not a joke.”

Nadine looks at her intently and then hugs her.

“I’m so sorry about what I said. Minh, you’re the best friend in the whole world. You’re the only real friend I have.”

“That’s not true. You have many friends, Nadine, and they’ve all come to hear you play the piano, and they’re waiting inside.”

“Is Colby in there?”

“Yes.”

Nadine hesitates. But then she follows him inside.

Garcia-Renart stands up, a few minutes later, before the crowd.

“There’s been a change in the order, tonight. I would like to introduce now Miss Nadine Sosfeld, who will play an original composition.”

Nadine steps forward to the piano, sits down, swirls her head, shakes her hands, and hops up and down on the stool. The crowd laughs at her familiar ritual.

“This song, I wrote it for someone who has taught me what it means to be in love. This is for Colby Sprague.

The crowd lets out several half-mocking “ooohs,” and the people sitting next to the washed Colby hit him on the head with their rolled up programs, lightly beating him.

She lifts her hands, the crowd quiets, and she begins.

The piece is long and intricate, and she builds a steady bass rhythm with her left hand as the fingers of her right hand gracefully strike their keys with seeming abstraction. A conversation between the low and the high notes develops. At first, one interrupts the other. Later, the two melodies meld together into one. Nadine ends her piece with a flourish.

The crowd gives resounding applause.

Nadine looks at the crowd, and the many familiar faces. She sees Colby clapping the hands.

After the two other performances, many people walk up and congratulate Nadine. She feels quiet and calm, very unlike herself, taking the hugs with thanks. She is surprised to see Basil.

“A fine performance,” he says with a weak smile. He leaves the hall.

Colby walks up and hugs her.

“Did you really like it?” she asks.

“Yes,” he says. “I loved it.”

“I’m sorry about not being more aware of your feelings.”

“Same here.”

“You were incredible,” says Minh, interrupting. “I was sitting there next to tone-deaf James Beale and even he knew it was good.”

“Thanks, Minh,” says Nadine. “This might sound crazy, but I want both of you to visit me over intercession.”

An uncomfortable pause.

“What’s the matter? You don’t like Delaware?”

“No, it’s not that,” says Colby. “But I was angry, and I wanted to get as far away from Bard as possible, so I signed up on a program with Professor Greene to do it.”

“How far away is ‘as far away as possible’?” asks Nadine.

“Tibet. Professor Greene is researching the Yeti, the Abominable Snowman, and I’ve agreed to work with her.”

“Tibet? For how long?”

“Probably until next September,” he says. “Unless we find the furball sooner.”

“But I thought, I thought . . .”

“I know, but I’ll return. It’ll work out for the best. Remember, separation makes the heart grow fonder. I love you, Nadine.”

“How can you say you love me, if you don’t get out of this stupid mess?”

“I’m sorry, Nadine. It hurts me, too. But, it’s too late to get out.”

“At least I will visit you, Nadine,” says Minh.

“Minh is going to go to France this summer,” says Colby. “Maybe you could do some travelling, too. Even when the money’s tight, things can be arranged. They transferred my scholarship.”

“Come back to my room, Colby,” says Nadine. “This is all too much. There’s too much that still needs to be said.”

Sure, Nadine. And the three walk off into the night and an uncertain future with only hope, love, and a song to sustain them. A sentimental ending. It must be unbored love.

Nefarious Necromancy

Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21): Why do birds suddenly appear, everywhere you are near? This week everyone will smile at you when you walk down the street; even animals will be happy to see you. Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19): Get in touch with your creative side this week; try using it on your papers and bibliographies, or just in bed with your lover. Do things you’ve only fantasized. Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18): Do you feel like a load has been lifted of your shoulders? Try doing a tango or a cha-cha, see how much lighter your heart and soul have become.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20): Call someone you love long distance, or write them a letter. Do it. Taurus (Apr.20-May20): Like the new look, take it a step further, take it all a step further; don’t let your fear of the precipice keep you from leaping into your life feet first.

Gemini (May21-Jun.21): Are you torn about a big decision? Weigh both sides of the issue carefully. Don’t just flip a coin and think about what the consequences of your actions will be.

Cancer (Jun.21-Jul.22): Don’t leave behind everything you care about on a whim, and don’t expect too much from a virtual stranger. Wait till the mood swings stop before burning any bridges.

Leo (Jul.23-Aug.22): “What a wonderful world” Look around; sure the beginning of winter is stark and cold but there is great beauty in a single snowflake. Watch the wheel of life turn.

Virgo (Aug.23-Sept.22): You know when you bite into a nectarine, and the juice runs down your chin and you catch it with the side of your hand and lick your fingers? Well, this weeks love life will be like that if you’re daring.

Libra (Sep.23-Oct.22): “Here’s wishing you the bluest skies” Concentrate on the problem area of your life and change them. “I know that better things are on their way.” Look for them.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.21): You little lust puppy—don’t I warn you about being careful? Don’t neglect other aspects of your life. Don’t forget finals and don’t ignore the emotional needs of your partner.
Dead Goat Notes

The following column does not necessarily represent the opinions of the Observer staff. It does, however, represent their good taste, high intelligence and dynamic wit.

This is my final column. It is sort of difficult to write. It's kind of like trying to have a pithy statement prepared for your deathbed so that people will remark on how profound your last words were. And then your last words usually end up being something like "Dr. Kervrokian, your hill is much too high eyaagghh..."

I remembered why I came to Bard three and a half years ago. I picked Bard because my guidance counselor said it was too liberal and loosely structured for me. I never once regretted that decision. I had already been accepted early into the University of Miami (please hold down the applause) and my over-paid guidance counselor told me not to expect any better. So I fished around for a while looking for a school that I thought was better than Miami. Just about every school was the same. Boring catalogs, boring classes, boring modern and well-funded facilities, boring numbers and files that sometimes pretended to be students. I knew Bard was different because it had the only form letter that was signed in real ink by a real Director of Admissions. Many people don't know this but the Director of Admissions at Vassar is just a fictional person whose name was chosen because the printer already had a rubber stamp made out with that signature on it.

But I digress. Now I am about to leave this fair campus. I've learned so much here. I learned that Adolf Hitler was a vegetarian. I learned that my guidance counselor in high school was wrong when he said that Latin was a useless language and that I ought to take Spanish. Considering all that I have learned, I have decided instead to leave you with a bit of advice.

First, lighten up. No ideology is so important that it is above ridicule. For you first year students, keep up the good work. Remember that only wussies are afraid to mix drugs and alcohol. You want to be cool, don't you?

Over the past four years I've heard a lot of complaints from the female half of the campus about the male half of the campus. My advice to the females attending Bard is this: As a precaution against sexual harassment throw all of your potential male friends just to see how far you can trust them. Many people will try to tell you differently but men are just pigs. You can trust a man to be a man. Be afraid of men, be very afraid.

As for the male half of the campus, I advise you to be gay, be very gay. Always remember don't tug on Superman's cape. Don't spit into the wind. Don't pull the mask on the old Lone Ranger. Finally, above all else, don't mess around with Jim. He has VD.

My advice to the faculty is blow off classes, your students do. Oh, and would it really kill you to have students attend faculty meetings? Judging from the attendance at Student Forum meetings you really won't have a problem with overcrowding. As for the regular attendees and the Central Committee of the Student Forum, learn Robert's Rules of Order. Robert's Rules have been used for centuries in parliamentary debate in every major legislative body including Congress. Proper enforcement of Robert's Rules guarantees everybody's right to speak unless you're too dumb to understand Robert's Rules in which case whatever you want to say can't be that important anyway.

For the administration, unlock the doors already. You didn't like being locked out of Ludlow a few years back, did you? Any type of farewell statement would be incomplete without a prediction of some kind. I predict that we all grow up to be miserable failures.

Good-bye Bard.

In which we glance beneath the tinsel

Shameless Filler!

Sincerely,
Santa

Dear Yolanda,  
Mark the naughty and nice incidents during the year in my book in invisible ink. However, thank you for the nice eraser...

With love,
Santa

Dear Dwayne,  
I know you have doubts about my existence, but please do not address your complaints to the Student Forum.  
Occasum, North Pole  
Whoops (there it is), Santa

Dear Sarah & Gunsmore,  
No, the number of gifts given is not determined by the amount of space under the tree, so I suggest you two cancel your secret trip to Rockefeller Plaza.  
Yours Truly,
Santa

Dear Steven,  
Don't worry about the fact that your apartment complex only has fake fireplaces in the living rooms. The doorman and I are good friends.  
Jolly,
Santa

Dear Sam and Patrice,  
Sorry, I don't do weddings. Besides, you're young, yet. Live a little. Let me measure you, there is life after sixth grade, so don't try to cram it all into a few short years.  
Love,
Santa

Dear Christina,  
I'm sorry, but I do not have the facilities to issue a quarterly naughty report. But let me say, you have little to worry about.  
Merry Christmas,
Santa

Dear Samantha,  
Thank you so much for the wonderful homemade cookies you left for me last year. They were indeed delicious, and I am pleased you wrote to ask me what kind of snack I would like this year. Well, all things considered, since yours is one of the last hundred homes I visit, I think Santa would be extra-special happy (and generous) if you left him a six pack.  
Ho Ho Ho!
Santa

by Matt Gilman
For the common good of both faculty and students

by Renee Cramer

As chair of the Educational Policies Committee, and also as a radical political actor committed to change through direct action, negotiation, and conversation, I must respond to the letter written by a group of students to the Executive Committee, regarding student access to faculty meetings.

Let me begin by pointing out a fallacy in their letter. The letter states, "The Student Forum has always been open to members of the faculty and administration." This must be qualified. Faculty and administration are indeed able to attend a student Forum, however, at any time during the meeting. An officer of the Student Forum may ask that the faculty or administrator present leave. A vote of the Student Forum can remove any non-member present at the Forum.

This is exactly the same process by the faculty at the meeting when the group of students in question was asked to leave. Those students who base their "right" to attend faculty meetings on an imagined "right" of faculty to attend student forums are simply wrong. There is no such right, of the student body has a vote in the Forum. There is no democratic structure and the products of consensus. I will speak to a real problem in Bard's student government—lack of student power.

These students blame this lack of power on representative democracy, "we do not have decision presented by anyone—administration, faculty, or even an individual student." I do not see the problem as one of structural democracy—but, rather one of a lack of legitimacy given the student body's decisions by faculty and, primarily, by the administration.

Let me explain. Bard's student government is neither a pure representative democracy nor a direct participatory democracy. Every member of the student body has a vote in the Forum. The elected members of student government are not "representatives"—they do not cast votes in place of students in any issue. In representative democracy, citizens vote for other citizens, to whom they surrender their right to vote on other issues. This is not the model upon which Bard's government is built. However, because there are students elected to committees, and those committees voice student concerns and make decisions on behalf of the student body, we cannot call the student association a completely direct democracy. Yet I do not feel that the committees system adequately silences any portion of the student body. Note: ANY student can attend, speak, and vote at every Forum. ANY student can serve on, or form new committees.

Any student can call for the removal ("impeachment") of any elected "representative"/committee member. By choosing not to attend forums, an individual is choosing not to participate directly in Bard Student Government. EVERY STUDENT (theoretically) has the power to effect change.

The problem is not, immediately, with the structure of our democracy—it is with what happens after we have participated, voted, and voiced our opinions. Sometimes we are not listened to. It is then that we MUST mobilize. Here is an example. The Educational Policies Committee, in conjunction with the entire student body, and a large portion of the faculty, has had great luck in getting things changed and in mobilizing students. Our fight against the proposed curriculum, which asked for the direct participation of the entire community and received an overwhelming 43% response rate, resulted in an entirely new faculty committee—one which is listening to student opinion. However, we might be coming against a stronger force in the faculty and administration—one that might require a direct action on the part of concerned students. The Forum recently passed a resolution requesting that the faculty change their handbook, to allow students to submit anonymous letters and testimony in leisure and re-hiring decisions. The majority of the faculty is overwhelmingly opposed to this change, but we are committed to having students' voices heard.

Our efforts on the curriculum stayed within "conventional" bounds—a poll was taken, a Forum held, a report filed, and argument offered. Our efforts on behalf on an anonymity policy might need to leave the bounds of conversion. This would not be because our student government failed—it would be because we were not listened to. The problem is not our form of democracy, it may lie in the collective answer to the question, "how far are we willing to take things in order to ensure that the faculty and administration respect our democratic structure and the products of our labor?" I have participated politically and in my communities in numerous ways. I have voted, written letters, brought food to people who took over campus buildings, written press releases, risked arrest in civil disobedience, registered people to vote, and picketed. They are all forms of direct participation. I view the Bard student Forum as one more place to directly participate in day to day life at Bard. It is a place to begin talking, as a community, about what we need to do to make Bard "OURS." The students write, "The faculty meeting is one setting in which decisions affecting students are made." I argue that the Forum is another setting in which decisions affecting students are made—and these decisions are made BY STUDENTS. I believe that we can accomplish more by attacking forums, and by being willing to put ourselves on the line, in unconventional ways (yes, taking over buildings, student strikes, and sit-ins for the really important stuff!) than we can by demanding a presence at a faculty meeting.

I agree that we need a "new structure for decision making," that a middle ground must be established. This cannot, however, take the place of pre-existing separate spaces for faculty and students. I reject a student need to attend faculty meetings. However, this rejection does not mean I am not interested in contributing to the solution of the problems raised. What else can be done? Setting up another student government committee is not going to help, but we should make every attempt to radicalize the existing structure. I'm in favor of getting rid of the cumbersome parliamentary rules we use to structure Forums; I'm in favor of getting rid of voting on substantive issues, and working to create consensus. I also believe that when we are listened, we should demand attention—in creative, new, powerful ways. These are all possibilities. We are in a small enough, well-informed, and creative enough community to come together as a whole for a truly participatory experience.

I am going to be here over January, and will be back in February, still as chair of the EPC. If any of this has made sense to anyone, particularly those who wrote the letter to the executive committee, please let me know. As voting members of a 1000 person strong coalition, we do have power. I invite responses, and I invite participation. What can we do?
One student's response to Renee's letter

by Gabriel Miller

Let me begin by saying that I find it unfortunate that I have not had a chance to speak with Renee as of this writing and the deadline to the Observer. Had we had the chance to speak before her letter was published, I could have told her that I agree with the best of her letter whole heartedly. Renee writes that the problem is not the nature of the Student Forum and that the participation in the Forum is an important way of participating politically in general. I couldn't agree more. Additionally, I want to thank Renee for the support she has expressed for the discussions on increasing student participation in decision-making at Bard.

Unfortunately, it seems that Renee misinterpreted one sentence in the letter to the Executive Committee. The bulk of Renee's article is a defense and explanation of the Student Forum and a call for radical participation in the Forum and in other ways on campus and in the world. Renee road our sentence, "We students desire participation, we do not want to be represented by anyone -- administration, faculty or even an individual student." Renee thought that this statement was a criticism of the nature of the student government. On the contrary! A sentence in that same letter to the Executive Committee which Renee did not discuss describes the Student Forum as "possessing appreciable elements of design..." That probably should have been clearer, but what it means, basically is that we really like the Forum, we really like the forum. What we don't like is the fact that its decisions are not binding in any way, shape or form. The sentence which Renee singled out is not a criticism of the student forum, but rather it means that we will not be appeased by a single student member or even two on the committees and bodies where the decisions are made. Therein lies the misunderstanding.

Just for darites sake, I will respond to a few of the finer points. Renee says that there is a "faliacy in their letter." Actually there is not a fallacy in the letter, or at least the sentence she points out contains no fallacy and this should be obvious considering that Renee goes on to say that the sentence needs to be qualified. I invite any relevant qualifications but that is different from them being any mistake made. Renee points out that students can kick faculty out of their meeting too. Renee writes "This is exactly the same process used by the faculty at the meeting when the group of students in question was asked to leave." Actually, it is not the same process. The Student Forum is open, but as Renee says, students can vote to eject a non-student. The Faculty Committee, as Leon stated, has never had an open door policy.

Renee talks a lot about rights. She writes "students who base their 'right' to attend faculty meeting on an imagined "right" to attend student forum are simply wrong..." I am not sure exactly why she is putting "right" in quotes considering that we did not use the word, but I did imply the concept. I think the Faculty Committee should put an end to its closed door policy because I think it would be the best thing for everyone. Of course faculty could still ask students to leave the room for any good reason, the most likely being to protect the privacy of individuals. This is how the Student Forum stands on the issue, so there is a qualitative difference, this must be understood.

Finally, let me reiterate that the bulk of Renee's letter is based on a misunderstanding of the letter to the Executive Committee. None of the many students who have participated in discussions about increasing student power have suggested "Setting up another student government" committee as she suggests. That is simply not the idea. Had Renee attended any of these discussions, which I hope she still will, she would have heard many people praising the participatory nature of the Forum and its excellent potential as a location for doing something to improve Bard.

Finally, I want to reiterate the respect and appreciation I have always felt for the faculty. Renee seems to think that trying to attend a faculty meeting is disrespectful. As one professor pointed out, attending a faculty meeting shows interest in Bard and our education, this interest seems to me to be an expression of respect for the mission of the faculty.

THE BARD OBSERVER

December 8, 1993

Behind the Closed Doors of Faculty Meetings

By Matt Apple

We are writing to request that faculty meetings be open to student attendance. The following is one of several reasons we believe students should like to attend faculty meetings: students possess appreciable elements of fidelity. This policy is unfair. At the very least, students should be able to attend faculty meetings to promote a better understanding of the issues we are facing.

We believe that students should have the opportunity to learn about the issues that affect our lives on campus. Faculty meetings are a place where important decisions are made, and students should have the right to be present and participate in these discussions. We also believe that faculty meetings should be open to the public, as they are in many other universities.

We are writing this letter in an effort to bring these issues to the attention of the faculty and administration. We believe that faculty meetings should be open to student attendance, and hope that the faculty will consider our request.

Sincerely,

Apples

Intercession Housing

by Matt Apple

I'd like to take a moment to summarize the housing policy for those staying over January Intercession:

Any student staying at Bard during January must stay in Oberholzer. He or she must remove all desired belongings from his or her permanent room before leaving for Christmas break. Storage will be locked during January, and the student may not return to their room until January 8.

This leaves two options. A) The student must have a car. B) The student's parents must drive to Bard and pick up the student and the belongings. Once again, Bard is discriminating against those who don't have a car or whose parents are unable to pick them up. This becomes more complicated if a student has a room change request fulfilled for next semester, he or she must remove all belongings before leaving for Christmas. And this will happen during Finals Week.

This policy is unfair. At the very least, students who are staying over January should be allowed access to storage. I don't know how this affects international students who have nowhere to go, but for those of us who have no car and can't afford a U-Haul truck, this is a big problem, one that I think Bard should solve.

*More Elections*

Statements of Purpose

to become Student Life Committee Chair or Entertainment Committee

due to Malia DuMont

by Thurs. Dec. 9 at Midnight

*Elections for these positions will take place outside the post office next Tues. 9am-12noon, 1-5pm and Wed. 10am-12noon*
Eastwood and Costner in A Perfect World

Is the screen big enough for both of them?

Well, in a perfect world, this would have been a better movie, to be perfectly honest. But since it isn’t a perfect world, and we must take what we can get, let’s have a closer look at this recently released drama which stars Kevin Costner and Clint Eastwood as representatives of different sides of the law.

The plot of the movie starts out straightforward enough. The year is 1963. Costner is an escaped convict who takes an eight year old boy hostage as he flies from the Texas Rangers, who are being led in the chase by Clint Eastwood. The viewpoint of the story shifts back and forth between the hunter and the hunted, and we see the activities that each engaged in during their respective parts of the search. This shifting between the two sides is perhaps the film’s single biggest shortcoming, for it creates a real sense of disjointedness that rules over the “good-guy” segments of the film. Eastwood’s character is potentially much more interesting than Costner’s, but it’s devoted to comedy relief thrown in just when it seems like the movie is going places.

The scenes with Eastwood and the rangers are for the most part dull and predictable, with some bad attempts at comedy relief thrown in. The result is that you have one half of the best films to come out in a long time, and one half of a seriously avoidable one.

In contrast to Costner’s character, who is frequently portrayed as unconvincing, Costner operates with frightening confidence, but in the end, he’s the one who will bring down the bad-guy, not the man he’s the one who will bring down the villain, he’s the one everybody idolizes, but at the same time we can tell she doesn’t have a clue what’s going on. This could have been a very interesting contrast to Costner’s character, who moves through the whole film with a sense of confidence, but among the aforementioned film, Eastwood’s scenes are all done straightforward enough. The result is that the film is devoted to comedy relief thrown in just when it seems like the movie is going places.

In my opinion the struggle and the ways they relate to each other are complicated and well-planned, and the performances of the two actors are excellent. Beyond this, the scene and the variety of backgrounds as they move among small towns and rural areas is beautifully done. If the movie had been just Costner and the boy, it would undoubtedly have been one of the best films of the year; as it is, you’ll probably find yourself tapping your foot through almost one half of the film, waiting for it to get back to the good part.

Student Art Show

A stirring in Procter

These works are learning: developing along with the students’ e- r-expanding intellect. A refreshing contrast to the kind of stagnant art “sprung full-grown from Zeus’ head” that is frequently produced by those jaded, money-grubbing, professional artists. In the opinion of the struggle and the process from new born and beyond is what art is all about. Looking around at Bard student accomplishments I would hypothesize that some artists are nurturing fetuses and others are teaching coders, but this inconsistency of ability does not detract from the show, rather adds to its unadulterated honesty.

“The show seems to say: This is what Bard art students can do at every level of competence.”

The variety of mediums and modes of expression underscores the range of ideas and abilities in the art department. Once again there is a willingness to experiment: among the more traditional paintings on canvas, there are unconventional card box vacuum cleaners and mosaic-style leaf “paintings”. The times when the show is at its weakest are when pieces reveal a student’s desire to “run before they can crawl.” An artist who doesn’t understand basic techniques behind visual communication cannot help but have difficulty communicating complex ideas. However, even this naive enthusiasm is preferable to the kind of lazy smugness seen in most galleries these days, because at least there is a passion to communicate.

Taken overall, the show is not technically accomplished per se, but the evidence of a joy in creating and a curiosity in technique make for exciting, raw energy. It’s definitely worth witnessing for oneself so stop by Procter! If the passion and potential of these student artists is nurtured, encouraged, and blended with a few more years of formal schooling, I have no doubt that many of them will blow away cobwebs and yield fresh blooms to the art world, or anywhere for that matter.
Injuries, defeats and one brilliant victory

Well, as the sun sinks slowly in the west and we begin to pack up and cackle a fond farewell to our fair college for one soul-reading month, carrying with us the joys, pains and residual wussiness of another semester, like a shot out of the blue, here’s this week’s sports.

Men’s basketball is trying to pull itself together after losing their starting point guard and key player Ray Gable. Gable went down with a knee injury early in the Blazer’s loss to US Merchant Marine Academy (40-93) one week ago on November 29th. Gable’s injury has sidelined him for the rest of the semester, and his progress will be evaluated in January to determine when he can rejoin the team.

This leaves the men with no true starting point guard. The shaky season has become shakier due to his loss, but the Blazers are showing a lot of poise and drive despite their difficulties. Bard has yet to mark up a win, losing to Yeshiva University 45-95 on December 2nd and most recently Lehman College 76-96. Despite this, Bard played fiercely against Lehman, featuring stellar performances by lucky Purdon and Jamel Kendrick, each with 17 points, and a career-high 24 points by Ron Reese. The Blazers next face Mount Saint Vincent College on Wednesday.

FENCING

The men’s fencing team took their first win of the season when they faced City College of New York last Wednesday at CCNY. The match consisted of nine bouts in each of three weapon-types, combining the victories from each to determine the winner. In Sabre, Bard was defeated 2-7 with victories by Ben Epstein and Stephen Stephens. However, Bard turned the tide in foil, falling the CCNY fencers 7-2. Kapil Gupta and Todd Heftner took all three of their bouts, and Cliff Clark contributed one victory to the cause as well. The match all came down to epee, with an unusual competitor making the difference in the weapons class and the match. Shawn Taylor won all three of his bouts, and Jim Puljanowski won one of his. But Angela Jancitis, one of the few women fencers who compete in the epee weapons class, joined the men’s team and took one bout to give the team the edge. The final score for epee was 5-4 in favor of Bard, and Bard won the match by a total score of 14-13.

The reason there are so few female epee fencers is because, until recently, women were only trained in the foil weapon class.

The women’s team still competes only in foil. The women’s team is competing without their captain and last week’s female athlete of the week, Amy Pfeifer, who is out until February with a non-fencing-related shoulder injury. Bard also faced CCNY, and fought a nearly-even match. Nicole Grimes went 3-0 on the day, as did Sarah Granett. However, the women lost to CCNY by a score of 7-5. This brings the women’s record to 0-1. For the season to 1-3.

SQUASH

The men’s squash team face two opponents on Wednesday, December 1 at Fordham. Despite some impressive performances, Bard lost to both Columbia and Fordham by a team score of 3-6.

Fahad Azizuddin defeated Hisfordham opponent 15-4, 15-7, 15-18, 13-15, 15-7, and Amer Latif defeated ex-Bardinian Farrukh Khan 18-14, 8-15, 15-8, 15-7. Shehzad Hameed went 6-2 against both colleges, improving his personal season match record to 8-1 overall. He is Bard’s MALE ATHLETE OF THE WEEK. He was described as “playing fiercely in all matches, and [he] is a Pakistani Rap-Master” (joining the ranks of long-time Anglo rap-master Terrence Dewsnup).

Later in the week, Bard faced Stevens, hearing of the Bard threat and not being able to counter with their own Rap-Master, pulled out of the event, which Bard won by forfeit. Unfortunately, Hamilton showed and defeated Bard 2-7. Amer Latif sent down his opponent by a score of 15-10, 15-6, 15-8, and Shehzad Hameed tore apart Hamilton’s Rap-Master Wanna-be Shap Wainwright 15-13, 15-13, 17-16. Just goes to show you, Shap is no name for a Rap Master.

LASTLY

There will be a fun ‘n’ exciting FREE THROW CHALLENGE this Thursday evening in the Stevens-son Gymnasium. Come at 6:30pm to throw a large orange ball repeatedly at a round, netted metal hoop. The best of ten shots wins fabulous prizes and campus-wide renown. Win, and students will speak about you in hushed, solemn tones for weeks to come!

YOGA IN JANUARY

Erin Schulman will be teaching Mon. evenings.
6:30-8:00pm
$3/class
If interested, contact 758-7530

HATHA YOGA CLASSES

For: Students, Faculty/Staff & Community Members
Mondays
Feb. 7th thru April 18th
6:30-8:00pm
10 weeks: $20
Call Kris Hall ext. 530 to sign up
Physical Breathing Postures
Exercises Meditation
taught by Erin Schuman, M.A.
by Sean O'Neill

This Observer reprints the letter of the petition drive that requests permission for any student to attend full-faculty meetings, one of the many expressions by students of dissatisfaction with how things are on this campus that we all have read and heard this semester. I am not associated with these "activists," but I do have some thoughts on campus politics. And, although President Botstein's letter (over on the other page) does not mention these concerns, I believe his message encouraging change is very hopeful and bold.

Perhaps there is a correlation between student dissatisfaction with the atmosphere at Bard and attempts by students to bring influence to bear on professors to improve it. Far too many "thoughtful and pernicious students" are defecting from Bard (a.k.a. Nocad College) in even larger numbers than most years. The Administration has been drawing in larger numbers of "more dedicated" students with what amounts to buying them off with aid taken from full-valuation paying, but supposedly "less dedicated," students. But the "innovative" programs have reached the critical point. Just as the professors claim the right to hold majority votes on all decisions here by arguing that their association with their students is longer than that of the students, professors have a responsibility by the same logic to actively set the tone of the campus for those of us who live here.

Classroom environments that permit the shallow, egotistical, "screw-you" mentality to dominate will defend any plans to further bolster enrollment with students truly interested in a shared enterprise of learning. Those with responsibility cannot just financially bribe students to stay, or pay people to "counsel" them through touchy times. They must work to defeat the nulaise. They should rethink workload expectations; they should cease divorcing their classrooms jobs from their largely unexercised extracurricular duties; they should manurely comply with policies (such as turning in grades and spring course selections on time) instead of griping about the resultant chaos that occurs. I believe that the process of reviewing student "profiles" will reveal that "students who do well at Bard" have been fortunate enough to meet the professors who do work to create an encouraging atmosphere. Last Monday's production of an ancient Greek drama had large numbers of students jealous of the talents of the classics department, had a cast of smiling and energetic students applying their knowledge in a humorous way, and had active support by several professors (two of whom participated and many of whom came to watch). Students do have enjoyable relationships with many of their professors, but not with those who have a "hands-off" attitude once they commute home after classes.

At a recent student forum, students issued a protest vote against the existing practice of allowing a professor under review for tenure to see the names of the students who testify along with their testimony. Faculty reviews are interesting affairs, since professors can always out-vote the student participants on the review committees, as they can do on the hiring committees. Additionally, professors sitting on these committees evaluate the "quality" of any given student who submits a certain comment on a professor by asking other professors about the student. If a student harshly criticizes a professor who's up for review, let's say, the professor will evaluate whether they're success- ful academically, with the option of looking through the student's files, to see if they are being spiteful and unfair.

One College, Two Visions
Faculty hiring committees have an out, quite unlike that of Bard's Admissions staff. Profes- sors look for a different outlook from candidates than the type advertised by students. A student professor will never have the same chance of coming to Bard as a student who resists the "Ivy League mentality." I believe we should be examining the "profiles" of our professors, not for fancy credentials, but for commitment to student-life. Yes, an active stance on student-life "has not been a tradition at Bard." But it will be best become one if our professors recognize that "teaching and learning" are enhanced outside as well as inside the classroom.

The split in outlooks at Bard regarding faculty faculty of the future population points to an noteworthy schism in campus politics. Should Bard become classical a school aloud with "rigorous thought," as in the Harvard mold, or liberate liberal arts school, with continued practice in "creativity," in its own mold? Both are interested in influenc- ing campus politics should write out their recommendations on how the curriculum should be altered, on what kind of professors should teach what topics, on what kind of students should be brought here, and on what kind of people should replace administration officials when they retire. And they should attend student forums, ("powerless" though such forums may be), to hear opinions voiced outside their own circle of friends.

What going on?

I first heard about full-faculty meetings in October of last year, and I remember thinking that the idea of all our professors assembling, or "deciding the fate of our college was very interesting. Apparently, students years ago could sit in on these meetings, but the interest ultimately died out - perhaps because the meetings are not mysterious, just monotonous. Only an elected student RFC member, however, has had constant access. Ironically, the major- ity of professors frequently fail to attend on their own.

I asked Dean Levine whether I could go to one of these meetings as an Observer staff member. The Dean did not deny the request but said that of an observer should become the new head of the Arts Division. Clearly, the professors made decisions affecting us, and the Observer should be about respecting each other.

The Future of Bard

Ultimately, Bard programs should encompass an ideal of what America is all about, since the "cult of excellence" has become a part of its leadership. The America I imagine is not of a place where each individual speaks and works only with people who share similar physical characteristics and financial backgrounds, or identical principles of moral behavior, all attempting to become closer alike.

The American/Bardian I idealize thinks that their life will improve by becoming something new instead of settling for something old. She or he does not get into Bard because of who their parents are, or to learn how to become their parents. They are admitted because of their individual merit and aspirations to become a dream of an ideal future, and have mutual respect for each other.

You laugh. But here's my point: Does Bard today actively promote those values? Are the professors and administrators, and we students, truly willing to put in the effort required? Enjoy the holidays. And let's begin anew next semester.

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Our next issue will be February 9, 1994.
A letter from Leon

To the Editor:
Now that the faculty has permitted — with some exceptions — an observer from the student press to be present at the faculty meetings, I think it is appropriate whenever a report is written that special care be taken to be reasonably accurate. I thought that would be the case in the last issue of the Observer was very well done, with one small exception. In the description of my report to the faculty there appears to have been some misunderstanding as to what was being discussed. I announced to the faculty that the administration was re-thinking in a fundamental way its student-life policies and staffing. The reason for this review is our awareness that aspects of student life require more attention in the areas of health and advising. Much of the emphasis in our concerns has been placed on the freshman year. The result of this review will be some staff additions and also the moving of one of the senior student-life staff members to an on-campus residence.

Furthermore, a review of dormitory facilities and conditions has begun in anticipation of a program to improve and modernize dormitory conditions. There may be, as well, some new dormitory construction.

This review runs directly parallel to the plan for a new student center.

With respect to attrition, given the College's admissions procedures, we are in the process of finding out whether there is some consistency in the profile of students who do well at the College and those who do not. That profile might be of interest to the admissions office in terms of its assessment as to whether Bard is the right place for any given student candidate. At the present time we do not have any clearly documented picture of the retention patterns after the first and second years.

I made the point to the faculty that this kind of attention to student life has not been a tradition at Bard. There was a time when there was only one person in the dean of students office, and when the notion of more staff and a greater adult presence in the dormitories and on campus would have been considered quite unlike Bard and at odds with the conditions with the presumption of adulthood on which the College operates with respect to its attitudes towards students. I also made the point that this heightened concern on the part of the administration was not, in actuality, in conflict with respect for the adulthood of students but rather a recognition of the changing times in terms of the environments from which students come and, most of all, a recognition of the dramatically more diverse student body now attending the College. In the "old days" the overwhelming majority of students came either from New York City or the immediate New York area and then, in diminishing numbers, from the Northeast and mid-Atlantic states. We now have students from all over the country and all over the world. Twenty years ago fewer than 25 percent of the students received financial aid, thereby limiting the diversity of the student body in terms of economic background. Now close to 70 percent receive financial aid. These factors and many others demand that we think through how we approach the professional support of student life in a manner that enhances the effective presence of the primary purpose of the College: teaching and learning.

This process of review is being conducted by Shelley Morgan. I trust that she will involve extensive consultation with representatives of the student body. The simple message is that we think we can do things better, and we hope to learn from what we have done and have not done, all in the interest of doing a better job.

Thank you very much.

Cordially,
Leon Botstein
President

Dear President Botstein:
Thank you for taking the time to respond to my article and for clearing up, for me and our readers, my misunderstandings regarding the last full faculty meeting. I assure you that I will do my best to be more clear from now on. I am also pleased that you are taking action concerning the conditions of dormitories. I would personally and personally be very interested in receiving more information, regarding the review of dorm facilities and plans for a new student center, as these plans progress.

Sincerely,
Jean C. Breton
Editor-in-Chief

Complaints

Musing through the Observer, I think it is high time I vented my spleen. There have been a lot of disgusting things about this paper that have bothered me all semester, and in the face of a dead computer and too many deadlines it seems the perfect time to brocure through and offer commentary. First of all, does Madame the Nefarious Necromantic Gypsy Queen have it in for me, or what? My horoscope is always awful, and lately even more so. I know things are not always light and happiness, and seeing it in print is no help. Especially today’s horoscope, which told me my taripples to start climbing trees. I don't have time to climb trees. I can barely find both shoes in the morning, let alone do a taripple on my back. Dare I even ask for more in. Please, offer a better outlook for me. I beg you.

The calendar. Sometimes things are better off on this back page (this is kind of understatement). For example, it said that the last Distinctly Different Lecture was held at the Bard Theater at 8pm. This week it states two different times for the Italian Table. And I would like to know where we would lug our little sandwiches to eat French and Chinese tables — they are a bit expressive of racial stereotypes, don't you think?

The calendar is not the only example of careless editing. Many articles contain some sentences that really need to be cleaned up. Perhaps if the editor were to actually do some editorial work... And this, the editor's response to my biggest problem with the Observer. Excuse me, that's editor-in-chief. She has a lot of opinions expressed throughout the week and why she disagrees with much of what she says, she does have the right to speak. However, she should really do so at the expense of the paper's editing needs. And her opinions...well, let's start with the most recent issue. She complains about the dorms. I liked the Ravines. So they sway a bit — so what? And so her room is a bit drafty — so is my house. Yeah, there are a lot of old buildings here and may be money is distributed in a beyond-questionable manner at times, but really, it's not THAT bad. She complains a lot, actually, about how we "kids" here at Bard aren't nice to each other, and lately about drugs and alcohol here. Look, this isn't Southern Methodist University. This is Bard, and while drugs and alcohol may cause problems for some students they do not for many others, and besides, we don't need someone watching over us. Bard is probably a lot cleaner that used to be, but that is not the point. In my opinion, I think, is that part of Bard is freedom on our part do to what we choose, to some extent. Generally, what we do to ourselves is our business. The recent alcohol article said Bard may never be immune to the problems of drugs and alcohol use here. I know problems develop at times, and I know how sad it can be to see a friend over-frequently strung out on something nasty, but I still think we should have the right to make our own decisions on this. So what if "underage" students drink at Bard parties? Or if people get high? Do not moralize or preach at us. We do not want to hear it. If you want a nice clean school where people are consistently helpful and friendly (as we at Bard are so awful that every year a brand new health services counselor would make us out to be), try a different school. Mount St. Mary's, perhaps. Maybe most of us aren't at Bard for Christian values. And many of us are nice people without big smiles and drug-free lives. More about the recent alcohol article. Yes, perhaps drunkenness / drinking does contribute to less-than-safe sex, but a lot of sexual irresponsibility takes place sober too. If the Health Service is concerned about STD's involving drinking, why don't they come available for Bard students? And elsewhere on campus? For off-campus students without cars, getting condoms could be a problem. Health Services may have them, but they are not open in the evenings. Does do/drink stock them? Do PC's have them? Condoms should, perhaps, be more available on campus, and how about more of those huge yellow sex safe posters? The ones that mention birth control? Also, I have drifted from my original intent. Ah, the joys of wander­ ing thought. And no, it's not due to drugs but why must I justify or explain myself?

Julia Magnnesson

More...

Dear Ms. Magnnesson:
Thank you for making some very good points. I'm sorry that you feel your horoscope has been unfair to you as of late; the horoscopes have been written by three different people this semester who have alternated weeks so it is difficult to predict how they are going to turn out. We do not have it out for you, and I hope this week's predictions favor you.

The Calendar: I'm sorry there have been mistakes, but that entire page is a paid ad adantly, and by the administration is not a member of my staff that puts it together but someone hired by Shelley Morgan — complaints about the Calendar should be directed to her. The two times for the Italian Table are correct; 5-6p is table time, and 6-7p is conversation time. Also, the comments under the French and Chinese

Happy Holidays to All!
**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8**

- **Walk For Health.** Sponsored by Bard's Athletic department. Meet in front of Ludlow, 8:15a. Walk lasts for 45 minutes, wear comfortable footwear.

- **Table Française.** Berets and Baguettes required. Kline Committee Room, 5:30-7p.

- **Chinese Table.** Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.

- **A.W.E. Meeting.** Every Wednesday. Albee Social, 7p.


- **Student Forum.** Please, please, please, please attend. Elections are happening. Possible school song. Kline Committee Room, 8p.

**THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9**

- **Song Exchange.** Come learn traditional folk songs or teach the ones you know. Musical Instruments optional. Albee Social, 3p. Meets every Thursday.

- **Tavola Italiana, Kline President's Room, 5:45p.** All Welcome; join us for conversation at 6:30p.

- **Der Deutsche Stammtisch-dinnerstags.** 18Uhr. Kline-College room.

- **Bisexuals, Activists, Gays, Lesbians, Et al. B.A.G.L.E. will meet this Thursday Albee Social, 6:30p. All interested are welcome.

- **Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting.** Thursday nights, 7:30p.

- **Bard’s Christian Fellowship at the Bard Chapel, 9:30p.** Everyone is welcome; Christian or not.

**FRIDAY, DECEMBER 10**


**SATURDAY, DECEMBER 11**

- **Poughkeepsie Gallery Mall trip.** Do some holiday shopping in the "City of Sin." Meet behind Kline at 8p.

- **Fuente Ovejuna.** A play by Lope de Vega, directed by Erin Baker Mee. Scene Shop Theatre, 8p. Runs every evening through December 14.

**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 12**

- **Anyone for cricket?** Cricket, lovely cricket—every Sunday. Inside or near Stevenson Gym, 3:30p. Contact Damsooth (752-7348) or Shehreyar (752-7273) for more information.

- **Holy Eucharist at Church of St. John the Evangelist, 10a.**

- **The Dance and the Players.** Special photography opening reception by Bard Senior Brad Richman. Stevenson Gym, 2-4p.

- **Special Carol Service.** This will take the place of evening worship tonight. Bard Chapel, 6p.

- **Fuente Ovejuna.** A play by Lope de Vega, directed by Erin Baker Mee. Scene Shop Theatre, matinee at 3p, evening performance at 8p.

- **Movies! "To Have and Have Not," Directed by Howard Hawks. Starring Bogie and Bacall (1944-drama) Old Gym, 7p and 9p.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 13**

- **Body Image Support Group** for students dealing with issues of weight, appearance and body image. Come to talk or listen. Upstairs in the Student Center, 7-8p.

- **Da Capo Chamber Players.** Free concert will feature works by Pulitzer-winning Shulamit Ran, Haydn, Vivaldi, Debussy and two works by Da Capo members. Olin Auditorium, 8p.

- **Peer Tutors in the Stevenson Library, Room 402, 40-Noon, and 8-10p and every night except Friday and Saturday:** 8-10p.

**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14**

- **Townhll Poetry Room.** Come listen to Bard's record library of poets and authors. Olin 101, 6-9p.

**WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 15**

- **Walk For Health.** Sponsored by Bard's Athletic department. Meet in front of Ludlow, 8:15a. Walk lasts for 45 minutes, wear comfortable footwear.

- **Table Française.** Berets and Baguettes required. Kline Committee Room, 5:30-7p.

- **Chinese Table.** Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.

- **Bard Films.** Each semester's Senior Project films are a real treat. See what the next generation of Avant Garde Film is up to right here at Bard. Preston Cinema 7p.

- **A.W.E. Meeting.** Every Wednesday. Albee Social, 7p.

**TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE**

**WEDNESDAY:** Grand Union Runs: Leave at 6p, return at 7p.

**FRIDAY:** Rhinecliff: Leave at 4:30p for the 4:53p train; leave at 5:30 for the 6:21p train; leave at 7p for the 7:45p train. Poughkeepsie: Leave at 5:30 for the 6:19p train; leave at 5:45p for the 6:29p train; leave at 6p for the 7:45p train.

**SATURDAY:** Rhinecliff Train Station, Rhinebeck, and Red Hook: Leave at 10a, return at 2p.

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

**Other Transportation:** Poughkeepsie Galleria trip 12/10, leave at 5p, pick up at mall 9p.

Meet all vans or busses in the parking lot behind Kline Commons.