As of two days ago, the coffee shop has become completely non-smoking. The decision, according to Peter Belenchia, director of the Wood Company dining services at Bard, was made just over a week ago due to complaints from non-smokers that had gone "out of control." Apparently, for quite some time, many students and faculty have been complaining that because of the smoky atmosphere of the coffee shop, they would not be coming back. On occasion, there were as many as four complaints in the same day.

A New York State law requires all places selling and serving food to provide a non-smoking section for their patrons. This was attempted at the coffee shop, but some smoking students were still sitting in the areas explicitly marked non-smoking. Says Belenchia, who is himself a smoker, "students feel it's their coffee shop, not like a restaurant where they obey rules." He and coffee shop manager Mark Toussaint (another smoker), both insist this is "a customer service decision." They also feel that it is a serious health issue—"a smoke-free environment is better for all." They also have the backing of the administration, including Dean Jefferson Huang, who enthusiastically proclaimed, "I'm in favor of the new all non-smoking policy!"

Students who smoke, however, are angered by this development, and have posted a petition in the coffee shop itself protesting the decision. One student remarked, "there are more of us than them [non-smokers], therefore, we should be able to smoke here if we want to." A non-smoker, on the other hand, was quite pleased and said that she would spend the entire day there in commemoration of the decision, commenting that due to an allergy to cigarette smoke she could never go there before. The petitioners, as of Monday evening, had collected eighty-eight signatures. When asked if the petition would cause them to reverse their decision, Belenchia and Toussaint both agreed that "at least fifty percent of the student body would have to sign in order to instigate a change." If there are more complaints that people are not allowed to smoke, the coffee shop will still remain non-smoking, but Wood employees would talk to the College itself about installing some sort of smoke removal system. Since currently there is no such ventilation system, "all non-smoking seemed the best way to go."

Smoking will continue to be permitted in the "paranoids" of Kline Commons, and a makeshift "smoking lounge" had been set up between the glass doors of the coffee shop last Monday evening so that smokers would have a place to smoke without standing outside in the cold. So far, there have been no sightings of students still smoking within the coffee shop itself. Belenchia feels that any student opposition to the decision can be taken like tax increases, "you yell about it for awhile, but then you get used to it." He feels that soon everyone will be comfortable with the decision.
According to Kim Squillace, Director of Safety and Security, Security officers responded to a fire in the main lounge of Tewksbury two weeks ago. Fire alarms went off at 1:15 in the morning of Monday, February 14, and despite a history of false alarms, the residents evacuated the building. By the time Security arrived, smoke had filled the lounge and was spreading through the first floor.

"It was a scary situation," commented Squillace. "The smoke was unbelievable." She said that officers could only see each other's feet as they fought the fire. Every water extinguisher on the first and second floor was emptied before the situation was contained.

Apparently, a wooden wire spool, large enough to serve as a table, was ignited in the fireplace. While the blaze did not leave the confines of the brick fireplace, Squillace affirmed that "this might have developed into a very serious problem." She requested that anyone who has any information as to how the fire was started to please contact Security. Unless information is brought forward, the residents of Tewksbury may be charged for replenishing the fire extinguishers, as well as for any other damages that may have been incurred.

A more recent incident involving theft was reported last Tuesday. A student had a pair of $400 skis stolen from outside of her room in Bourne. At the time of the theft, a local pizza establishment was delivering flyers to each room in the dormitory. Security questioned the delivery person, who denied involvement in the incident.

Squillace said that the incident was turned over to the state police due to the known fact that outsiders were in the dorm. "It seems coincidental," commented Squillace. "But I have told the restaurant that they are not permitted to send people into the dorms. In the future, they have to form their flyers over to us if they want them to be distributed."

Security also is asking for information regarding an automobile collision behind the Milton Avery Theater. On the evening of Friday, February 18th, a BMW had fronted a seriously damaged by an unidentified vehicle. The car had been borrowed by a Bard student, and Squillace said that the "very distraught" student might be held accountable for the damages if no new facts arise.

Concerning the new regulations which restrict parking at the South Hall lot to non-resident vehicles, Squillace stated that Security was not encountering any serious problems from the residents. "The biggest problem has been with faculty members, who have their own lots near the Computer Center," she commented. She promised that in the Spring, Buildings and Grounds will install "better signs" to identify designated parking areas. In the meantime, Squillace urges anyone who has any questions about where to park to drop by the Security office.

Squillace also commented on the various cars which have been abandoned around campus. "Anyone who wants to get rid of their car should come to see me," she said. Through an arrangement with a local garage, automobiles which students no longer wish to towed off-campus free of charge.

"I appreciate any input from students," concluded Squillace. "I hope someone can feel free to stop by and offer suggestions. I like to think that part of Security's job is to help improve the qualities of student life."
Shards of atoms, embers of the Big Bang

Distinguished Scientist Leon Lederman

"One of the earliest standard models of physics was Fire, Earth, Air and Water. We tried that in the lab and all we got was hot, bubbling mud," joked Nobel Laureate physicist Leon Lederman last Saturday. As part of Bard College's Distinguished Scientist Lecture series, Lederman's talk was a lively discussion on "The Innerness of Outer Space: Connection, History and Progress Report."

In 1983, Lederman won the Nobel Prize for the discovery of the B-quark, and five years later shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with Melvin Schwartz. For 20 years he was the director of the Fermilab in Chicago, supervising the TEVATRON, and is currently a professor at the Illinois Institute of Technology. Outside of the physics laboratory, Lederman is involved in education reform, and serves as the science advisor to the governor of Illinois.

Lederman's lecture opened with a reference to the dawn of Western science in Ancient Greece, and continued up to modern-day connection between particle physics and early universe astrophysics. Lederman explained how, in 400 BC, Democritus first postulated "atoms" as the elementary pieces of nature—too small to be seen or broken into smaller pieces. Even then, physics has been driven to identify the fundamental "atoms" by cutting deeper and deeper into elements, atoms and even nucleons.

A question asked by the Greeks is still awaiting a solution: "How does the Universe work?" Lederman summarized the progress of science as striving towards these goals, with each new breakthrough introducing new questions.

From the discovery of the electron and nucleus of atoms in the 1900's, particle physics has been busy "sharpening Democritus' knife." After World War II, utilizing new technology and massive funding, the minute pieces inside atoms began to be dismembered.

The innovation of particle accelerators allowed physicists to dig deeper. By shooting a particle, energizing it with electricity and guiding it by magnets, the nucleus Nobel Laureate Leon Lederman busy explaining the universe of an atom can be targeted. When the two collide, physicists analyze and identify the incredibly short-lived pieces that are broken off.

The energy of the directed particle is measured according to electron volts (eV's). "You have to expend more energy to slice deeper, or to cut larger atoms," explained Lederman. A million eV's are required just to reach the nucleus, a billion to disturb the protons and neutrons within a nucleus, and another 100 billion to find the quarks within those protons and neutrons.

Despite early media reports, Lederman insisted that "we never never smash atoms" when he described the two varieties of particle accelerators. Linear accelerators ("West Cost") launch a particle in a straight line, and energize it with multiple electric gaps along its path. The TEVATRON, at Fermilab in Chicago, is a synchrotron which directs the particle in a circle and energizes it at one gap in its 6.3 km radius. (Lederman even humorously proposed that Stonehenge was a prototype accelerator.) The world record is 1 trillion eV at TEVATRON; the now discontinued Superconducting Super Collider was designed to produce 40 trillion eV.

Within the last twenty years, physicists have used accelerators to develop the Standard Model. The Standard Model identifies the four fundamental forces of nature: Gravity, Electromagnetism, the Weak force (which produces radioactive decay) and the Strong force (which holds together the components of the nucleus.) Furthermore, the Standard Model supports the "Quantum Field Theory Exhibiting Group Symmetry," that these forces are transmitted by particles.

"Forces communicate by exchanging these particles," explained Lederman. Physics has identified three generations of four particles each. Within each generation are two quarks, one massive lepton and a neutrino. The varieties of quarks are up, down, strange, charm, top (or truth), and bottom (beauty). There is also the lepton group includes electrons and neutrinos. T-quarks and tau neutrinos are yet to be observed, while Lederman said there is "strong indirect evidence" of their existence. "You see a tau-neutrino, dial 911," he offered.

However precise, the Standard Model is considered by many to be too complicated, and unreliable at extremely high levels of energy. "It still won't fit on a tee-shirt," remarked Lederman. Therefore, physics is searching for "unification"—single particles and equations that would essentially explain the entire universe.

Einstein was unable to unify gravity and electromagnetism, while later scientists have been able to link the weak force to electromagnetism. This is where Lederman brings cosmology into his lecture. Physicists theorize that the big bang happened roughly 15 billion years ago, and they suspect that the division of forces and particles from pure energy into mass occurred only a few seconds after the primordial explosion. Meanwhile, our expanding universe has only three possible futures: infinite expansion, collapse or asymptotic decrease in velocity.

As Lederman insisted, "We can't model the universe without knowledge of particles and forces. We need bigger accelerators to go back further in time." A theory shared by cosmology and particle physics is that of the mysterious Higgs things. These proposed fields, sensitive to temperature, would introduce further complexity to the elementary particles and forces as the universe cools.

Lederman's analogy was that of a flashlight behind a shower curtain. Each Higgs thing obscures the clear light with multiple layers of translucent curtains. One of the plans of the SSC was to try to materialize a Higgs field, and thereby give greater insights into the inside of particles and into the birth and future of the universe. This topic is the subject of Lederman's latest book, which he blames an editor fortitulo The God Particle.

Lederman did not try to hide his disappointment that Congress ceased funding the SSC after two supportive administrations. "The project was 20% completed," he commented. "It was a dumb thing to do." He predicted a pause of at least a decade before the inner space/outer space connection can be more fully researched.

In his introductory lecture, Bard professor Matthew Deady opined that the "SSC was our upper limit. I think it would have been the last big machine we would have built." He continued, "Maybe if we use more brain power and less machine power, we could find another way to figure these things out."

On a lighter note, Lederman offered humorous anecdotes throughout his talk, not the least of which was his characterization of the professional science process. He likened a pig leading a farmer to truffles with the relationship between those who theorize and those who do the hard work of experimenting. Before the unflinching pig can devour the succulent truffle, the farmer "snatches it away and publishes it."

(Thanks to Pref. Eddy for proofreading this article ed.)
Malia Du Mont is a first semester senior from Edinburg, Ohio. She is double majoring in International Relations and Chinese. She is currently working on two senior projects one dealing with "FDRC's Foreign Policy Toward China," and the other a translation of two short stories by Liu Heng. Bard was Malia's first choice of colleges and that's why she came here; because it's beautiful and I like the area. Also, it has a small, comfortable environment. I like knowing my professors. Some of the professors here, she says, have changed her life.

She likes Bard still because she is "able to come here and get things done," if something is important to her, she feels she can make a difference. Part of this ability comes from her involvement with student government and specific campus clubs. Malia is currently the Secretary of the Central Committee, was the head of the International Relations club for two years, and has recently taken an editorial position on the Journal of Social Sciences. She is also the Peer Counselor in charge of South Hall.

Malia took her position in Student Government because she felt "it needs good people to make it work...I'm very organized...always thinking two weeks ahead...willing to go beyond the call of duty." Since her only major problem with Bard is the disorganization ("Chaos really, really disturbs me") and the disregard for the students' need for services, she also likes being in a position that allows her to communicate with the campus as a whole, and to bring up "student life stuff." She likes her job as peer counselor because she enjoys "meeting and becoming close to a lot of people," and because she has direct contact with the administration as well as well with buildings and Grounds which gives her a sense of authority.

Her friends describe her as very concerned and "very with it" kind of person. They say she is "very alive, motivated and constantly energized -- going from one place to another helping people and getting stuff done." She says herself that she is somewhat stubborn, rather always "strong willed," and all who know her respect and admire this.

Malia's hobbies are horseback riding (which she has been doing for 11 years), playing the piano (since she was 6), singing, working out running, hiking, camping, skiing -- "I don't do it that often and I'm not really that great at it, but I like to do it anyway"), writing poetry (since she was 5 -- "don't remember why I started; it's the diary of my life") and traveling.

Traveling seems to be her favorite, although "I can't figure out; I draw energy from being in new places. She's been to Europe three times and finds seeing so many parts of the world is very interesting. "I like seeing the different cultures," she said. Again, another did not know what to say of him, except "Eric's a really nice person; he drove me to Jamestown once."

When asked to describe himself, however, Eric said only this, "I don't know." His favorite color, however, is dark green -- "olive actually," and his greatest role model is Bee Arthur from the Golden Girls. He says she is his role model because "she epitomizes dry humor -- the very essence of comedy." Eric has led a life much like any one else, but not one without a great deal of memories. According to him, his most memorable life experience occurred when he was still in first grade. It was "coming home from school and urinating in my pants because I couldn't make it to the bathroom fast enough." He says this incident sticks in his mind even today because it "was one of the most embarrassing moments I've ever experienced."

He has many interests and hopes one day to find a career that will allow him to express and experience them all. Eric's long ambition is currently "to combine my talents of art, music and literature into one project," but as far as life after Bard goes, "I don't know what he wants to do or is going to do, it frightens me."
News, plans from our Sister City

by Josie Gray and Sean O'Neill

Maria Rodriguez sits down in the shade and eyes the countryside around her village. Good rains have left the area greener than usual this February. But a thought presses upon her mind: Will there be water available for her family today?

The town of Larreynaga, population 2000, considers its water supply to be its most important resource. The existing water system depends on a single pump, which most Larreynagans gather daily to fill basins for drinking, cooking and washing. The pump is old, however, and prone to breakdowns. When a new days supply of water is unavailable, citizens must store water for days, at which point the water can become contaminated literally overnight. A community vote has indicated that the town wants to build a new well and pipeline system. The town's elected committee must find incentives to attract workers to dig the needed trenches, as they cannot afford to pay in cash.

Used clothing can be payment for the workers on the water project. Besides an abundant, equitably distributed water supply, the other pressing need for Larreynaga is clothing. Summer-weight clothes are in short supply in Larreynaga as clothing prices are exorbitant. The Bard project, in conjunction with the Rhinebeck community members, plans to run a clothing drive for this purpose. Bard can make a dramatic difference in the lives of people as Maria Rodriguez simply by donating old clothes during the drive.

Bard has a stellar record in participating in Sister City Project drives. Students in Larreynaga's elementary school will soon receive paper, pencils, notebooks, scissors and other basic supplies bought from last November's fund-raising in Kline. We were pleased to send over two hundred dollars worth of materials which are far more expensive and less available in Nicaragua.

One goal of the Project is to keep Bard informed of our ongoing activities through the Observer. It would be great if you could donate a few hours of your time to help the Project. For information, come to our meeting tomorrow, at 5:00 in a Kline meeting room.

Un abrazo,
Bard Sister Cities Project.

Straight From the Stars

Aries (March 21 - April 19): Time consuming endeavors will soon become part of your routine, but a lady (or man) with explicit tastes will help you relax.

Taurus (April 20 - May 20): Every day this week will bring you small, but rewarding gratifications; do not be afraid of what you want even if you never before realized how much you wanted it.

Cancer (June 21 - July 22): In love this week, you will surpass most of your friends, but in finance you will find yourself a bit short on time to do the things in life you enjoy. The little things in life.

Scorpio (October 23 - November 21): If you've been feeling lonely, this may be a good time to invest in a pet especially after you realize how stupid people can be.

Sagittarius (November 22 - December 21): Work, work, work - you'll have nothing to do, but work; take consolation in that you will do a great job!

Capricorn (December 22 - January 19): If you want something this week, take it. You will not be denied and may find that you enjoyed yourself more than you thought possible.

Aquarius (January 20 - February 18): Being feeling under the weather lately? Do not worry, it will soon pass and you may even receive a special gift.

Pisces (February 19 - March 20): When offered the best things in life, it is not easy to refuse, but unless it is what you want most, hold off for something better.

Another View

Shameless Filler

"Wah-hoo! Marti Dusde! Didja go?!! Didja see it?!! Yeah, man, I did too, they were fucking awesome! YES! FUCK YESSS!! Fuckin' Morphine, man, the best goddamn band here at Bard in fucking I don't know how long! Oh, man, you saw it right? You saw it?? Right?? You didn't see it? Aw, hell, man where were YOU?!! You didn't SEE IT?!!

"Calm down, calm down. Saw it, okay? I saw it despite the fact that I had a massive headache, that night, and I should have been reharing for the Rocky Horror performance the next night. I went there, from Alice Social, where people were dressed and undressing (and cross-dressing) most casually in front of a tiny television which spewed out "Science Fiction Double Features" whle I was in the lobby of the Stupid Center and found some friends to bang out with until the band was done setting up.

"My band was deemed unworthy of being called art. They wanted, I chatted, I heard squeaks and drumsbeats emanating from the still-empty Old Gym, and I waited. So many students from the Entertainment Committee would stroll through the growing mass of students and nonchalantly enter, on urgent business to do. At one point, forty minutes after the scheduled start time, food was airlifted into the gym, food for the band who were hours late and still doing their soundcheck. Soon, after, a strange guy who I had never seen before simply bypassed the intense student security at the door. He was kind of short and had a hat. I wore an eyepatch. I think I heard someone refer to him, reverently, as "Bisho." He didn't look all that religious to me.

"We waited. I thought back to the previous weekend when I called up WDST to request the Morphine song getting airplay recently, the title track from their new album. It was late Sunday, which means I got to speak to that weird lady who does the overnight show, Forward In All Directions. He plays a good selection, but his engaging banter is annoying. So his over-enthusiastic accent. He seemed less than thrilled to speak to me on the phone.

"DST: bored, unhappy. "Hi! I'd like to request a song."

"Yeah, I'm asking."

"I'd like to hear 'Cure For Pain' by Morphine!"

"You gonna go see them? Distracted, wasting time while he palls the CD. "Oh, yeah, when they come around." Suddenly the coffee kicks in. He practically grows in my ear, "THURSDAY. BE THERE. BUT WITH his accent it sounds more like "THE HEDLEY. BE THEYAH!"

Was that a command? "I, uh, will."

Click.

By this time we're being filtered into the gym slowly. My non-dancing friends and I dive for the mostly comfy chairs alongside. Hey, it's been advertised as jazz, maybe we'll have a nice coffeehouse spirit and there won't be anything ridiculous like a mood pit. There are people standing up on stage, maneuvering the instruments. At first I think it's the band, and I'm pleased that they're pretentious enough to skip the usual "entrance." One of them looks a lot like Ian Brandt. Then I realize I've misbook Bard students for musicians.

It seems an opening band has been hastily added while Morphine sits in the equipment room, digesting. The three students unveil themselves as the Annadale Trio. They never before realized the full potential of their jazz riffs that stretch into song-length jams that are heavy on the bass and light on enthusiasm. It's not impressive, but the rest of the concertgoers don't seem to care. Beer and circus. I turn to the person next to me and being a lengthy question and answer session. Every so often I realize that the music is so loud that I can't quite formulate what I want to say, and when I finally say something. I'm not sure I said the correct thing because I can't hear myself say it anyway.

By this time I've got a killer headache, and the gym is filled with thick, noxious smoke. I really need to get out for a while. I walk to the door. I get out of the gym. I walk around the gym. Get a little air. Feel a little better. I get back in the gym.

The Annadale Trio is still playing their souls out, much to the dismay of me and my neighbor. She asks me if people in the front of us really don't know that they're horrible dancers, or if they're just too drunk to care. I can't answer for the life of me.

At least ninety minutes has passed since the concert was supposed to start. I make a mental note to not to attend another concert at Bard until an additional four years have passed. Then Morphine comes out, and they were very good. Yes, I went to see Morphine last Thursday.

By Matthew Gilman

5

March 2, 1994
This semester BAGLE requested $3,763.57, and we'd like to thank the Planning Committee for making us ask "Why?" The Planning Committee's budget this semester, they feel, is the most fair budget that has been produced by them for quite some time. We received $1,300, which is $500 less than we received last semester, which was about $400 less than the semester before. We applaud the Planning Committee's commendable judgement, and we have the ultimate faith in this semester's budget. In fact, we think it's even more fair than they'll admit to.

Realistically speaking, the money allotted by the Planning Committee reflects its subjective worth of a club on campus. The Menage is now a separate club from BAGLE. The Menage deserved every penny that it received, down to the amount of effort put into the Menage over the years. With the $500 cut in our budget we were angry at this evaluation of our worth, it told us that we were a club that existed primarily to throw a party (albeit, a great party) every year. Now that the Menage is independent of BAGLE, and culmination of BAGLE's efforts and purpose is still seen to have been that party, after some time, we began to think "What are we here for?"

Although on paper we have a membership of over 60 people, in actuality BAGLE consists of the officers and a handful of people who are kind enough to show up to meetings — and $1,300 seems like an awful lot for six people to spend. And how can we really expect to have more than a handful of attending members? The politics surrounding BAGLE have been so frustrating that we have the energy to keep fighting. We realized that we shouldn't be jealous of other clubs' funding; we should be jealous of their unity. Although BAGLE is serving the Lesbian, Lesbian and Bisexual community, or at least in the way that they need. To change things, that community must express their needs, but BAGLE is "too-disorganized" or "too intimidating" for people to feel that those changes can happen, or even feel comfortable enough to come to a meeting. Dialogue about BAGLE has taken place exclusively as graffiti on bathroom walls. Each semester as BAGLE elects new officers with new ideas, no matter what changes they can actually bring about, no matter how hard they work or try, people don't see BAGLE, they remember it. It's a mask that the new officers put on every semester, and people forget there are people behind that mask, and those people have a face, and something to say.

BAGLE was born as a celebration of our sexuality, but somewhere along the way we lost sight of the fact that we are people first, and then a club, not the other way around. We spend so much time trying to organize activities with big budgets that we've forgotten what we are here for: to simply celebrate our sexuality and be PROUD of it. The focus should be on people, as individuals, and because of "BAGLE" we can't do it. And until we can, we refuse to be reduced to just another source of $2 parties. We are not giving up; we, as individuals, will continue to fight for what is important to us — as can the rest of the Bard community — without the BAGLE label.

At this moment, BAGLE officially exists only on paper; we will soon fulfill our current obligations and co-sponsorship commitments, and at that point BAGLE will be terminated. We no longer have the need for weekly BAGLE meetings. The only way for a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual organization to form is to start with the community it represents. We feel that the best thing BAGLE can do is to help create a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual organization to form is to start with the community it represents. We feel that the best thing BAGLE can do is to help create a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual organization to form is to start with the community it represents. We feel that the best thing BAGLE can do is to help create a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual organization to form is to start with the community it represents. We feel that the best thing BAGLE can do is to help create a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual organization to form is to start with the community it represents. We feel that the best thing BAGLE can do is to help create a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual organization to form is to start with the community it represents.

If anyone has any concerns or comments regarding this decision, please feel free to speak to any one of us. We will be available this Thursday, March 3, at 6:30 in Albee Social for people to talk to us.

Stephanie Chasteen, Cree Nesrine, and Michelle Schreiner Ex-Officers of BAGLE

The Big Easy

by Michael Sylvester

I must warn you, that I intend for this to be a Nature essay. To be honest, however, I don't have a clue what that means. Whenever the term Nature Writing is used, I think of Thoreau and Wendell Berry. More and more, however, downtown Woodstock suppliants itself in my mind with all its inevitable New Age associations. I can see too clearly the grey-haired, pot-bellied men dressed in leather thongs and swinging crystals around the sweat lodge. It is then that I sometimes wish for the thousand mile walk that Neu Agonists had never taken hold.

Not that it really matters. Nature writing, for me, has to do with environment more than philosophy. Philosophy has little to do with my attempt to craft a graceful sentence describing the somnambulant trickle of the frozen Sawkill. I have realized that any method that allows the quiet wisdom of a river to be heard is a method worth tolerating. For most of us, after all, our everyday environments have less and less to do with hiking in the Catskills or reading John Burroughs. We are more intimate with the mismatched trees they plant in the ashtrays. I am dressed in the ashtrays.

In the month of January, I drove Cecile, my 1985 Chevy Impala down the back roads of the Catskill mountains. That evening, I headed north and drove further down Tulane Ave.

At another hour of late night, drive by site-seeing, I stumbled upon a twenty-four hour Cajun Bar which seemed to be in full swing. Several patrons were standing about on the sidewalk and the man behind the bar said this time of the morning. I turned Cecile around and parked him in view.

I approached the bar, the reason for the crowd outside became apparent. A thin, brown-haired woman had been running over a car. Her back legs were both smashed and a thick stream of blood marked her path from the road to where she lay on the side walk. There were identification tags dangling from her collar but she was snarling and would not let anyone near her. I was too tired to try to be a good Samaritan. Someone would help her, I told myself and entered the bar.

The booths were mostly filled so I took a stool at the bar. The bartender, a man a little younger than myself came over. I asked him if it was too late for a beer and he just laughed. I ordered a draft.

The bartender's name was Rob and it turned out that he'd been there his mother lived in Buffalo. "She said it was twenty below last night," he said, shaking his head. "I don't even like to think about it." Rob suggested that I should head out to the airport. "They always have a room out there," he said. He started to explain how to get there, "take your left first and then that second right" when duty called and he rushed away to take other drink orders. I took a sip of my beer and it felt cold and smooth in my mouth if cheap and a bit stale. I tilted the glass for another when I felt a sharp jab in my side. The man sitting beside me had driven his elbow into my ribs. My beer spilled and I turned around, somewhat continued on next page

Student Life Committee Report

Student Life Committee members are currently serving on the following committees:

- The "Rethinking Tewksbury" committee which consists of Dean Shelley Morgan, Chuck Crenner, S.L.C., Dorene Solomon, Gilbert Alonso and others
- A Student Center committee (Laurie Curry, Gilbert Alonso)
- Library committee (Goldie Geider)
- Recycling (Goldie Geider) with A.W.E. member, Tracy Feldman

*Please tell us if you have any concerns relating to these committees and their functions*

Gilbert Alonso will resume the dialogue with Gladys Watson on the cost housing resolution which was passed last spring.

- Laurie Curry is working with other students on campus (Fred Fournier, Dwayne Dovetta and others) to set up a public terminal which would access the Bard Bulletin Board Service and give all students temporary access to E-Mail during the term that the main campus system is not universally available

- Laurie Curry and Renee Cramer of B.P.C. have distributed a survey to students regarding internet and if they could use it for their projects. They will take the results of this survey to the Vice President

- Sheleen Green is working with admissions to take action to recruit more students of color on campus

- Dorene Solomon is working with Shelley Morgan to investigate the possibility of reduced transport tickets (Amtrak and bus) for frequent users on the Bard Campus
Village bosses from the Institutional Revolt in the Ruaidhri Party (talk about an oxymoron) ensure revolutionaries, but the international attention given to the lives have eventually improved avoidable, since this capital of Southorealies only about 50 kilometers from the border. Citizens in hopelessness: mired in poverty, the native's get scarce attention from the federal government. Authorities in this city have agreed to intervene. The man in New Orleans could have a thing like that to a fellow human being. History of human rights violations add to the danger of turning a cosmopolitan vacation site to an intolerant, violent situation.

6. Baku, Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan's bloody dispute with Armenia over the Nagorno-Karabakh region has overshadowed Baku's resort potential. But the appeal of prosperity to the Caspian Sea cannot sum up the dangers of nationalist inspired, ethnic warfare. In addition, Russian troops may soon decide to intervene and help end the conflict, as it has agreed to do in Tajikistan and Georgia. A week in Baku would probably end up leaving you more stressed than when you started.

5. East Timor, Indonesia. Though it revels in a tropical climate, the invasion of this country in 1999 by Indonesian army has produced a battle zone of human rights violations and rebellion. The former Portuguese colony has been ravaged by the army, and they routinely transgress on basic human rights in order to root out the few desperate guerrillas that still remain. NO visitors are even allowed here, but remember not to buy into any fraudulent vacation packages here.

4. South Korea. Tension has cooled since North Korea announced it would allow UN observers to look for signs of nuclear weapons research in the country. Yet President Clinton has concluded that the North Koreans already have one or two finished weapons. If the Northern leader Kim Il Sung wants to go out with a bang, his nukes are backed up by a huge army that could easily overrun the South in less than a year, should that happen. "Korean War II" could result to be avoided, since this capital of South Korea lies only about 50 kilometers from the border.

3. Mexico, Central America. Declaring that the NAFTA trade pact would be its death knell, native Americans recently took up arms against their Mexican government. Their plight is a study in hopelessness: mired in poverty, the natives get scant attention from the federal government. Village bosses from the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (talk about an oxymoron) ensure that the natives cannot make changes through politics. The federal army will surely defeat the revolutionaries, but the international attention the natives have received may eventually improve their lot.

2. Beirut, Lebanon. If you have ever flown over the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, the dawn between the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic is clear. The side that is till lush with vegetation is Dominica—the environmental wasteland on the other side is Haiti. Haitian refugees, fleeing from a brutal military government, have been pouring into this country. Their number have helped prompt a new U.S. immigration law that will give people $37,000 to the privilege of seeking political asylum in our land of the free. Until the military gives up and restores the legitimately elected Jean-Bernard Aristide to power, economic sanctions will continue to hurt this impoverished nation.

1. Mogadishu, Somalia. What impact has prepared President Bush's "Operation Restore Hope" had on this city? U.S. soldiers ostently arrived to help distribute food, but last week some international aid organizations left the country, chased away by armed gangs stalking out their turf. The city is in ruins. Citizens may carry assault rifles for protection and for sniping at the despised U.N./US. occupants. According to Rolling Stone magazine, people chew "that, a green plant that provides a subtle high." Though this might seem attractive to Bard students, consider that President Clinton has promised that American troops will withdraw from the country on March 31, 1, for one, would not be caught dead at a Somalian going-away party.

Citizens Helping a New Generation Evolve Substantially has formed up in Rhinecliff (however, people from around the world). We meet at the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at a member's apartment to discuss, publicize, and lobby for issues we care about that are usually ignored by mainstream media. For a while we will be focusing on getting Rep.'s Solomon and Fish to sign on to the McDermott bill (single-payer health care), as Rep. Hinchey already has.

March 15th at 7pm, Karen Carpenter from Citizens Action of New York will be at our meeting.

In the U.S. single-payer would mean a savings of $57 billion in red tape by cutting 1300 U.S. private insurance companies out of the system—perhaps that is why the major networks have refused to air ads from Neighbor to Neighbor, a national single-payer advocacy group.

Polls repeatedly show that 70% of the American public favor the features of single-payer. Lastly, even small business would do better with single-payer than any other plan, simply because it is the least costly.

CHANGES is also trying to start an activist magazine library; there are a few places in the area that have such alternatives.

Finally, besides single-payer, CHANGES meetings allow for discussions and/or action about, reforming welfare to include microenterprise without cutting benefits, relocalizing our foreign aid to truly help the poor, supporting small businesses, and whatever people bring to the meeting! All are welcome! Call Joel Tyner at 676-2485 for more details.
This week we have a good comparison going for some would-be action adventure movies. But we'll get to that in a second - first we're gonna talk culture, in the form of the recent film version of the play Six Degrees of Separation.

Six Degrees is the story of a ritzy New York couple (Donald Sutherland and Stockard Channing, both of whom give excellent performances) who are conned by an intriguing young man who shows up at their doorstep claiming to be a 'friend of the children,' who are away at college. This intriguing young man is Will Smith, best known so far for his character in 'The Fresh Prince' TV show. Smith gives an outstanding performance as a young, confused conman who knows the game better than the people who invented it.

The farcical plot thickens as several couples realize they have all been had by the same scheme, and their attempt to enlist their spoiled children in the search for truth has very humorous results.

The story wanders between mystery, drama, and almost slapstick farce, all of which combine together into an impressively cohesive whole. The really effective thing, though, is watching how Smith's character gets to the others, especially Channing. Good acting all around makes this film move, and the direction is interesting - although maybe not for some; it's a strange style with some weird elements, but for the most part it seems to fit the story well. There's something exceedingly odd about this film, and we'll assume that's the result of making a play into a movie without rearranging the goals and ends to fit what we expect from a film. It's not what we expect, in terms of ending or resolution of the various subplots, but in many ways it is better, much more satisfying.

'Okay, enough art, let's talk action. There've been a whole slew of action-adventure type movies coming out in the last few weeks, from the serious to the parody. Let's have a look...'

The Getaway. Yeah, get away as fast as you possibly can. This remake of a 1972 Peckinpah film stars Kim Basinger and Alec Baldwin as a husband and wife team of professional crooks who have to pick up the pieces when a partnership goes wrong. For the most part this is a chase movie, although there are some interesting 'anatomy of a crime' gimmick scenes near the beginning. Mostly it just doesn't hold water - the chemistry between Baldwin and Basinger just isn't believable; their passion is underdone but overplayed. Supporting actors James Woods and Michael Madsen, both of whom have been excellent in similar roles, just don't have enough to work with (Madsen might have been more acceptable as the truthteller partner if they hadn't given him such a stupid haircut for the whole film...). The attempts at humor in this movie are a little strange, and even though they do work at times it's hard to react positively because the rest of the film hardly works at all. Basically, the mood of the film makes me think that detective, lover of animals, on the popularity of True Romance, but with bigger names and less effort. The result is a big disappointment. If you go see it, there's a sex scene with a really comical cutaway, and there's some pretty well done violence (probably the best scene in the movie is Baldwin beating the shit out of a putty crook in a train bathroom). That's about it.

On a lighter note, there's Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. If you like Jim Carey (the scrappy cartoonist from TV's In Living Color) you know what to expect. Basically, this film is somewhere between a spoof on mystery-thrillers and a showcase for Carey's odd physical comedy. The result is, well, not bad, really. Carey is the pet detective who is brought in to find the kidnapped Dolphins mascot before the super bowl. He's completely manic for the whole thing - his seriousness definitely helps the film move along. Some of Carey's stuff is pretty good, and a lot of it is really out there - like the kind of stuff you come up with at a dinner in the middle of the night with a group of friends, but funnier. Granted, his schtick gets a little old by the end, but the pace of the film is such that you can deal with it. Pet Detective has as much plot as many of its seriously intended counterparts (sad but true), and some pretty good satirical elements, specifically a gag based on The Crying Game. A really fun movie, just don't expect any kind of intellectual gratification whatsoever.

Next we proceed to the new Steven Seagal vehicle, On Deadly Ground. Seagal plays a demolitions expert who's lost his conscience and works on oil rigs, but then the bad guy gets greedy and is polluting the earth where the eskimoes live, so Seagal goes and has a mystical experience with the tribal elders and becomes a resolute good guy and kicks all their asses (the evil capitalists' asses, not the tribal elders'). That's it.

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First impressions and quick decisions with the Immediate Decision Plan

Cynthia Bogart, Christopher Patton, and Allyson Kloss are three students who participated in Bard’s Immediate Decision Plan on Saturday, February 12th. Bard’s Immediate Decision Plan enables prospective students to gain firsthand knowledge about this college, to apply to school, and to learn whether or not they have been accepted for admission—all in the same day.

Bogart, from Queens, NY, admitted that she was nervous, but felt that going through IDP was worthwhile because it allowed her to “...get to know right away if I am accepted; it’s more personal, and I get to see what Bard students are like.” If Bogart was accepted, she would seriously consider attending Bard. “I first saw Bard listed in the college review book. It seemed interesting because it offers different liberal art programs.” Bogart also appreciated the seminar which she was about to participate in because it was similar to her classes in her high school.

Christopher Patton, from Ridgewood, NJ, learned about Bard from other people. “People told me that Bard was a place I might like.” Patton went through IDP because he is convinced that it is the right way to go about admissions. In addition, he believes that the seminar is the best method of learning. “It is better than sitting in a big hall.”

Allyson Kloss from Teaneck, NJ, who likes Bard because it is a small liberal arts college in a rural setting, said she “can’t stand the stress of waiting for a letter.”

For three weeks this January, Bard College took the Immediate Decision Plan on the road, bringing to major cities across the country a different, and many say better, way for students to apply to college. In February, Bard held four on-campus IDP sessions.

Bard’s Immediate Decision Plan is considerably more than a same-day answer for college admissions. However, it is an innovative response to a number of problems plaguing the traditional college admission process. Among those most often cited by applicants and counselors are that prospective students must base their college decision on a limited amount of information, often as little as what can be gleaned from college bulletins and anecdotes from friends; and that students must wait weeks, often months, between the time of their application and the admission decision, making it difficult for them to finalize their college plans and financial arrangements.

Bard’s Immediate Decision Plan addresses these problems with original solutions. During each IDP session, for example, applicants attend an interdisciplinary seminar taught by a Bard faculty member. The seminar, which covers study material provided to students prior to their arrival, is modeled after Bard’s regular academic program and enables students to experience what a course at the College will actually be like. After the seminar, students are interviewed by Bard admission counselors who have carefully reviewed their application materials and high school credentials. Candidates are then given a decision on the spot regarding their application, as well as an explanation of that decision. Accepted students have until the standard candidate reply date of May 1st to decide whether or not to attend Bard.

Dean Stuart Levine, who participates in the IDP program as a teacher when they go on the road, and conducts the question and answer session with parents at Bard, feels that the most beneficial aspect of IDP for Bard is that it attracts good students. In addition, it allows the students to present themselves in the best way, and to meet faculty and other prospective students.

Unfortunately, Levine admits that there are some negative aspects of the program. “Sometimes rejecting someone is difficult for the counselor and the student, but it is better than receiving and anonymous form letter; this way the students can explore the reasons why they were rejected.”

Mary Backlund, the director of admissions, also admits that “The wear and tear on the staff is the downside. It takes a toll on people. We try to make the experience meaningful. It can be a very emotional experience; it is hard to have people sobbing in front of you.”

Backlund stressed that no matter how creative a student may be, that in order to be admitted, the academic preparation must be there. Though the admission counselors do not want to be too judgmental (because this is the part in the students’ lives when they are making important decisions), they do expect prospective students to have a sense of responsibility. As Backlund stated, “One is responsible for one’s education.” A question admission counselors ask themselves is, “Would you like to invite this person to your dinner party?” Sometimes the answer is “Yes, but I would not want that person to come to Bard.” “We admit students to graduate them,” she said.

But despite the downside, Backlund believes that the program is successful. “It is honest, efficient, and provides an absolutely unique opportunity to experience Bard in a day. It is more powerful than just a visit; it is so different because a student can meet potential classmates. It is the difference between reading about the Back to the Future ride and going on it.”

Interestingly enough, Backlund enjoys the most difficult aspect of the program—the teaching that takes place in each interview. “Each student has a unique character and must have a wonderful sense of humor.” Backlund especially appreciates the camaraderie that is built up between the student and the admissions counselor because it is a relationship different from anything else.

Both Levine and Backlund agreed that this year’s IDP students were a stronger group overall from previous years. Sixty-five percent of this year’s IDP students were admitted, which is a slightly higher number than from groups of previous years.

Bogart, Patton, and Kloss were accepted on IDP. Though each had applied to schools other than Bard, there is a good chance that they will be on campus come fall.

Mary Backlund would like to invite students with memories of their IDP process to write them down and share them with the admissions office.
New York's new mayor

by Shawn Milburn

There is a new mayor in New York City, his name is Rudolph W. Giuliani, and he represents a dangerous threat to the integrity of political democracy. Conservative in spirit, sterile in his compassion, and naive in his perception of reality - I must speak out against this man.

During a visit to Brooklyn school, Mayor Giuliani was asked by a teenage woman whether or not scholarships were available to students, like her, who may not have the grades to receive financial aid for collegiate endeavors. In response, in a future speech referring to this question, the mayor transformed the empowering words of J.F.K. (masked by Dan Quale-esque conservative rhetoric): "ask not what somebody else can do for you, but what you can do for yourselves." Period. This is Giuliani's theme (See NY Times, Monday Feb. 28th: B1) to the citizens of New York: Don't expect your elected government to provide the means for you, as citizens of a democracy, to make it above what your own social environment can provide. Down with class mobility. Fuck the fact that I am here to serve you. You're on your own.

A democracy, minus its many debated themes, provides a constructive way through which citizens can voice preferences towards a representative body of servants, who can in return make damn sure that those preferences are met on a realistic level. If a teenage woman asks for the means to educate herself, a democratically elected leader does not call the woman naive and tell her to "deal"; that leader recognizes the question, researches whether it is a majority or minority opinion, and if it is a majority opinion that leader instigates legislation (paid for by that majority's taxes) to ensure that the particular preference is met with vigilance.

I am discouraged by the fact that deprivation of education is a major factor in the continuing class stratification of this U.S. society (of any society really). It is apparent to me that a leader who would deny this woman, this city, this political democracy that which it desires, is simply ensuring the oppression of the developing classes. Shame on the man who would forget that this woman is as much a leader in this democracy as he is. I denounce Mayor Giuliani's goal to establish New York City as an arena where an elected official can essentially ignore citizen preference and determination.

Helping kids with cancer

by Robert Cutler

During this last winter vacation, I volunteered in the Pediatric Center at the All Children's Hospital in St. Petersburg, Florida. This experience was one of the best and most rewarding things I have ever done in my life. These courageous kids were given spinal taps and bone-marrow samples by the most compassionate nurses and doctors I have ever seen. Watching an average day at the cancer unit, I was amazed at the span of experiences that were part of their everyday life. At times it's easy to forget just how precious life is, but when you sit and rock a seven-year-old boy while he is getting chemotherapy, many things come into focus. Most of the time I don't think about how lucky I am to be healthy - I just live my life. For these kids, health is a matter of class mobility. Fuck the fact that I am here to serve you. You're on your own.

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## Results of new Student Center Survey

Last issue, the Observer published a survey asking what the student body would like to see included in the upcoming Student Center. Of the thirteen responses received, here are the results:

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<th>Resource</th>
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<td>Bus/Train schedules</td>
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<td>Community board</td>
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<td>24-hour Post Office access</td>
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<td>Ping Pong table</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>Condom vending machines</td>
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<td>Wipe-off message board</td>
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<td>Rotating student art exhibit</td>
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<td>3</td>
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<td>Cigarettes for sale</td>
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## Correction

To the editor,
When the Observer printed my letter last issue, a sentence was left out. The letter should have read: "I know both students whose rooms were flooded in South Hoffman, and they did not leave their windows open. I doubt the students whose Potter first floor rooms were damaged left their windows open, either."

Matthew Apple

## The real world

Hey Matt,
What are you planning to do with your life when and if you get into the real world?
Laurie DeCiutiis

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### The Bard Observer

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### Bard Observer Editorial Policy

All submissions must be turned in to either campus mail or our Tewksbury office no later than noon the Saturday before the issue for which they are intended. Space on the Another View and Letters pages works on a first come basis; if we cannot fit your submission in one week, it will be guaranteed space the next week. We do not exclude any material unless it is slanderous, or does not include the name of the author. Classifieds are free to Bardians and cost $0.10/word per issue for all those in our local region. For more information on our policies or advertising rates please call (914) 758-0772 or write:
Bard Observer Bard College Box 185 Annandale, N.Y. 12504
**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2**

- **Mesa de Español.** ¡No te la pierdas! Kline Committee Room 6-7p.
- **Grand Union Run.** Leaves at 6p and returns at 7p. Meet the van behind Kline.
- **Scottish Country Dancing.** Join us for dance and refreshments. Manor Living Room, 7:30-9:30p.
- **Table Française.** The French speaking crowd meets at the Kline Presidents Room from 5:30 to 7p.

**THURSDAY, MARCH 3**

- **Tavela Italiana, Kline President’s Room.** All Welcome! Join us for conversation at 5:30-6:00p. Benvenuti!
- **Introductory Yoga** will start today, contact Prof. Ben Vromen for more information.
- **RAGLE** (Bisexuais, Activistas, Gay Lesbians El al.) meeting. Come one, come all! Albee Social 6:30p.
- **Open mike Coffee House** at Bard Hall. There will be wine, cheese, cookies and non-alcoholic beverages. Sponsored by the Women’s Center. People of all gender welcome, 8p.

**FRIDAY, MARCH 4**

- **Beginning squash lessons.** For further information contact Kris Hall at 758-7530. At the Stevenson Gym, 3-4p.
- **CZECH IT OUT!** Do you have an interest in Czech culture? Would you like to learn some Czech words, Czech expressions or experience Czech humor? Come to the Czech table. Kline Presidents Room, 5-6:30p.
- **Distinguished Guest Lecture.** at the Jerome Levy Economics Institute. Economists Francine D. Blau will be discussing “Gender and Economic Outcomes: The Role of Wage Structures”, Levy Institute, 8p.

**SATURDAY, MARCH 5**

- **Hudson Valley Mall Trip.** Meet the van behind Kline at 9:45p; pickup at Mall at 9:30p.
- **A Chorus of Disapproval** by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by William Driver. Scene Shop Theatre, 8p.
- **Mike Agranoff**, master musician and storyteller will be performing, with an opening by Bard student **Akire Barber**. DeKline Cafe, 9p.

**SUNDAY, MARCH 6**

- **A Chorus of Disapproval** by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by William Driver. Free admission, Scene Shop Theatre, 3p.
- **A Chorus of Disapproval** by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by William Driver. Free admission, Scene Shop Theatre, 8p.

**MONDAY, MARCH 7**

- **A Chorus of Disapproval** by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by William Driver. Free admission, Scene Shop Theatre, 8p.
- **The Man with the Movie Camera.** Preston Theater, 7:30-8p.
- **Feminism in Academia: a Forum.** Olin 204, 8p (refreshments will be served).

**TUESDAY, MARCH 8**

- **A Chorus of Disapproval** by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by William Driver. Free admission, Scene Shop Theatre, 8p.
- **John Bard Lecture** will be given by Nathan Silver, expert on Chinese culture and the history of science. The lecture will compare Greek and Chinese science. Olin Auditorium, 8p.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9**

- **Mesa de Español.** ¡No te la pierdas! Kline Committee Room 6-7p.
- **Grand Union Run.** Leaves at 6p and returns at 7p. Meet the van behind Kline.

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**HOW TO PUBLICIZE IN THE BARD OBSERVER**

1. Drop off the announcement at the Dean of Students Office in Ludlow 204 and it will be forwarded to the Observer office. Please put your name on the announcement and how you can be reached if there are any questions.
2. Call the Calendar or the Observer at 758-0772.
3. Call Ext. 454 to make a reservation for your event in a room in Kline Commons. The Observer will then publicize the event in the next issue of the Calendar.

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**TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE**

- **WEDNESDAY:** Grand Union Runs: Leave at 6p, return at 7p.
- **FRIDAY:** Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall Run: Leave every other Friday at 3p. Pick up at the Mall at 3p. Trips are scheduled for February 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 15, 29 and May 13.
  - Rhinecliff Train Station Run: 4:20p for the 4:39p, 5:40 for the 4:51p, 7:00p for the 7:15p.
  - Poughkeepsie Run: 5:30p for the 5:49p, 8:35p for the 8:55p, 10:05p for the 10:20p.
- **SATURDAY:** The 10-20 shuttle from Bard to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck.
  - **SUNDAY:** Van meets the 7:12p and 7:30p trains at the Rhinecliff Station.
- Church Run: At 9:15 to go to Red Hook for St. Chris Church and Tivoli for St. Paul’s Church.
- Other Transportation: Jitney Service; To South Campus, leaves Manor Gatehouse at 8:00 am and 9:30 am. Return to North Campus, leaves behind Kline at 3:20 pm and 5:00 pm.
- Van trips to New York City every three weeks: March 5, 26, April 10, May 7. Sign up in the Dean of Students Office. $5.00.

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