

# OBSERVER

Vol. 101 No. 16 March 2, 1994

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The  
BARD

# OBSERVER

VOLUME 101 ★ NUMBER 16

BARD COLLEGE ★ ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON ★ NY 12504

MARCH 2 ★ 1994

"Cases of conscience  
cannot be examined in a  
moral vacuum."

—Sissela Bok

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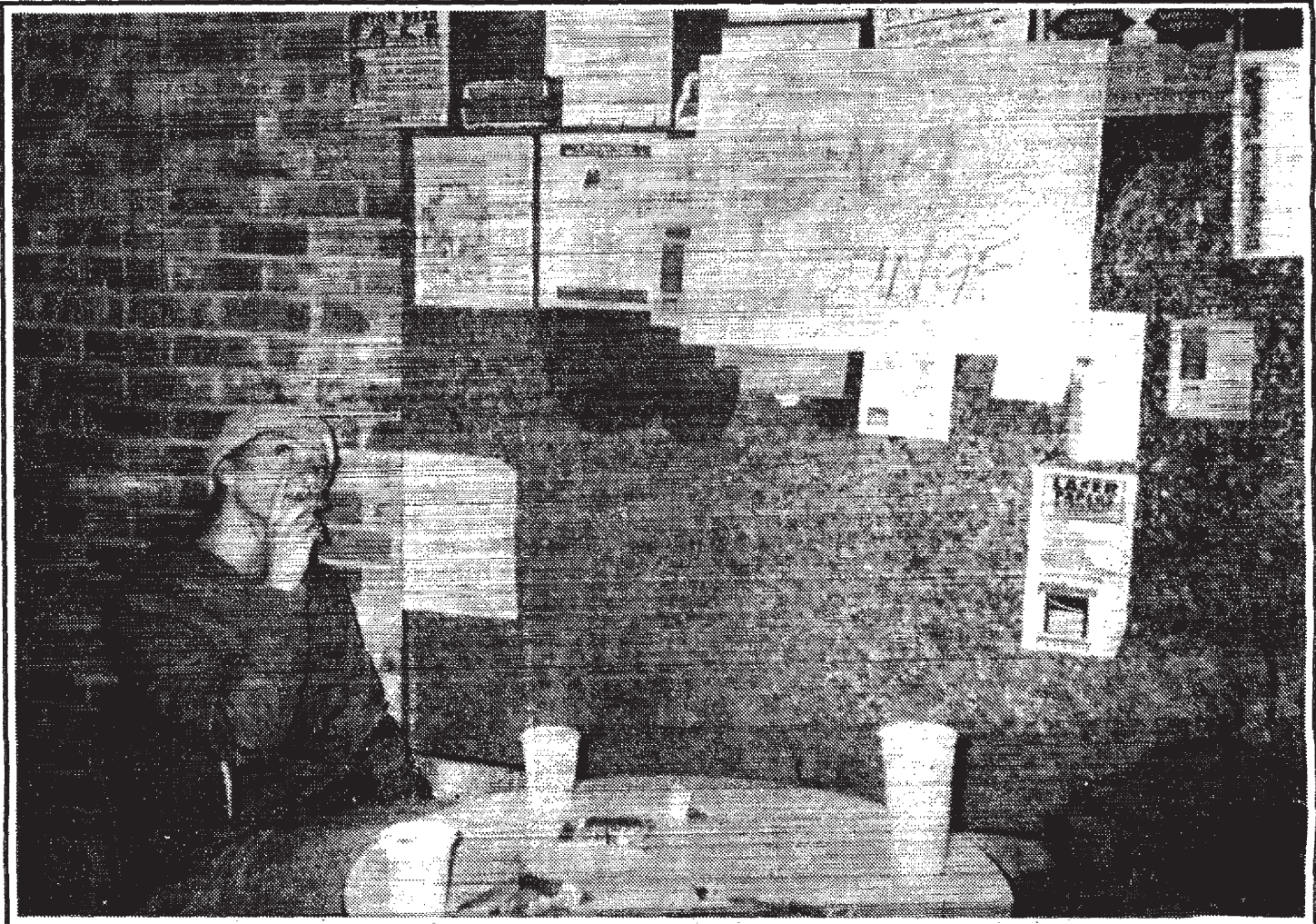
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An alternative smoking area set up to compensate disgruntled coffeeshop patrons

## Non-smoking section

### Coffeeshop excommunicates smokers

As of two days ago, the coffeeshop 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 coffeeshop, 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 coffeeshop, 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 coffeeshop, not like a

restaurant where they obey rules." He and coffeeshop 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 coffeeshop 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 coffeeshop 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 coffeeshop 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 coffeeshop 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.

**Jeana C. Breton**  
Editor-in-Chief



## Fire and ice

## Security responds to blaze

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 turn 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 its front end 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—at least, not from students. "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 want will be towed off-campus free of charge.

"I appreciate any input from students," concluded Squillace. "I hope anyone 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."

## Classifieds &amp; personals

Do you have a toaster oven that you want to sell me? Lisa x7053.

## SUMMER SUBLETS

The Graduate school of Environmental Studies is looking for student housing for this summer — mid June through mid August. If you wish to sublet or rent, please call 758-7483 or see Bette is Sottery 101.

To Pam, Stacie, Julie and all my other new and close friends: Thank-you for making my birthday tolerable as well as enjoyable. Love, Jeana.

Fun=Turn. What if there's no time to lose? I wish we all weren't so afraid of each other. Love, a silly boy who ought to know better.

To he who submitted the above: I apologize immensely for the mistake made in typing your last submission. I will try to be more observant in the future. — the editor-in-chief.

Dear dear Rabbit, "there's something between us and its changing my words". Phones are bad things, I barely hear my voice. I trust this: our flowers scorched. All, Tigger.

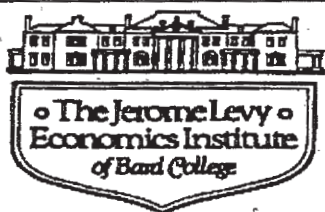
To whom it may concern: Any complaints about typographical errors in this paper are to be directed to Mr. Vincent Dewar of the Plymouth-Carver Intermedi-

ate School in Massachusetts. Mr. Dewar "instructed" the managing editor in eight-grade typing. The tyrant used to turn off the lights or tape paper over the boy's hands so that he could not look at the keys. To this day the managing editor feels queasy when approached by an electric typewriter without correction tape, and hallucinates about waxed mustaches when he dips beneath 50 words per minute. A lawsuit for emotional damage is pending in civil court, and all future typo complaints will only help the case.

"If you've missed it, here's your chance! If you've seen it, you know it's rich enough to see again!" THE PIANO. Soon to be playing at Upstate Films in Rhinebeck. March 4-10. Call theatre for times. (914) 876-2515.

The National Library Poetry is once again holding a contest with over \$12,000 in prizes. To enter, send ONE original poem, any subject or style, to the NATIONAL Library of Poetry, 11419 Cronridge Dr., P.O. Box 704-YF, Owing Mills, MD 21117. Limit of 20 lines. Include name and address on top of the page. Deadline: March 31, 1994.

Is there going to be an event on or off campus that you think the *Observer* should cover? Would you like to write about it? All ideas, suggestions and assistance welcome. Staff meeting: Mon. 6:15pm.



The Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

**SPRING 1994**

LEVY INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES

Friday, March 4, 1994  
8:00 p.m. Lecture

Francine D. Blau, Professor of Economics, Institute of Labor & Industrial Relations, University of Illinois will be giving a lecture entitled, "Gender and Economic Outcomes: The Role of Wage Structure".

Part of a free lecture series -- everyone is welcome!

The Baccalaureate Service will be held this year on Sunday, May 22nd, 1994. The service is an interfaith gathering attended by the senior class and the faculty, which marks and celebrates the upcoming graduation of the senior class. We are looking for creative contributions to our program. This could be a marvelous setting for the presentation of some of your work. If you have composed a piece of music, written a poem, or created a dance which you feel could be incorporated into the service, we are eager to include you. Your piece need not be of a "religious" nature.

Also, we would like to include in this service prayers, blessings, and reading from all religious backgrounds represented on campus. If you would like to present anything from your religious tradition, we are also eager to include you.

Please contact Rabbi Jonathan Kligler through the campus mail or at his office in Hopson 203, if you are interested.

**Bard  
College  
Community  
Natural  
Food Store  
NOW OPEN  
Thursdays 1-5pm  
&  
Fridays 1-5,  
6-10pm**



## 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 Innerspace/Outerspace Connection: History and Progress Report."

In 1983, Lederman won the Wolf Prize for the discovery of the B-quark, and five years later shared the Nobel Prize in Physics with Melvin Schwartz. For ten 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 "atomos" as the elementary pieces of nature—too small to be seen or broken into smaller pieces. Ever since then, physics has been driven to identify the fundamental "atomos" by cutting deeper and deeper into elements, atoms and even nuclei.

Another 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 electrons and nucleus of atoms in the 1920'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 smash atoms" when he described the two varieties of particle accelerators. Linear accelerators ("West Coast") 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 1.9 trillion eV at TEVATRON; the now discontinued Superconducting Supercollider 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 Gauge 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. "If 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 brought 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 elemental 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 insides 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 for entitling *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 innerspace/outerspace 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 sniffing pig can devour the succulent truffle, the farmer "snatches it away and publishes it."

(Thanks to Prof. Deady for proof-reading this article.-ed.)

**EVERYONE WELCOME**

to hear

**ELLEN PHELAN**

**Bard's Avery Professor speak**

**on the subject of Art.**

**Olin Auditorium**

**Today, March 2 at 7pm**

**The Women's Center Presents:  
Our Voices, Ourselves**

**An open mike coffee house  
Friday, March 11th 8:00pm  
at Annandale House, rm. 110**

**For artists & academics and fans of both.  
Open to all genders. If you want to perform contact  
Amanda Harris by campus mail or just show up.  
Wine, cheese, cookies, and nonalcoholic  
beverages will be provided.**



Faces of Bard

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 "FDR's WWII 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.

**Jeanne C. Breton**  
Editor-in-Chief

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

I'm here "because Bard is full of right wing extremists," says Eric Taylor. Eric is a Freshman II/Sophomore II transfer student from New Jersey who will most likely major in Victorian Studies because "I wish society today

was like society then."

He previously attended Lehigh University in Pennsylvania where "the classes were too big and not worth the money." The classes here, however, are what he likes most about Bard as well as the fact that "Bard is so liberal, opposite of the school I transferred from." The thing Eric likes least about Bard is Kline because it has a "less than palatable food array."

As a person, Eric's friends say he is quite nice although one of his hobbies is locking himself in his room. When asked why, he said "because I only like dealing with people when I want to." His other

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 some pull with Buildings and Grounds which gives her "a sense of authority."

hobbies include going to diners, watching a large assortment of movies and playing with his computer.

His favorite movies are: *Naked Gun*, *Spaceballs*, *Philadelphia*, and *Star Trek II: The Wrath of Khan*. *Naked Gun* because "it's hilarious," *Spaceballs* because he's "in love with Mel Brooks," *Philadelphia* "because it was touching," and *Star Trek II* because he liked "the way the snail looks when it crawls out of the peoples' ears."

Currently, his favorite computer game is *Kings Quest 6* - mostly because of the movie at the beginning.

His favorite diner is the Texas Lunch Diner because "it's open twenty-four hours, and has better food than Michael's." His favorite waitress is Sandi, and he says everyone should say "hi" to her when they go there.

The majority of his friends say that he is "a funny, intelligent person." One says this of Eric, he "can't sing, can't act, can dance a

Her friends describe her as a 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 sometimes 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 - "don't get to 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 it 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 little bit." Another did not know what to say of him, except "Eric's a really nice person; he drove me to Jamesway 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

ways people live," she says, as well as admitting that her most memorable life experiences have been long trips with her family that enabled her to visit "some of the most beautiful places in the world."

Malia is also a member of the

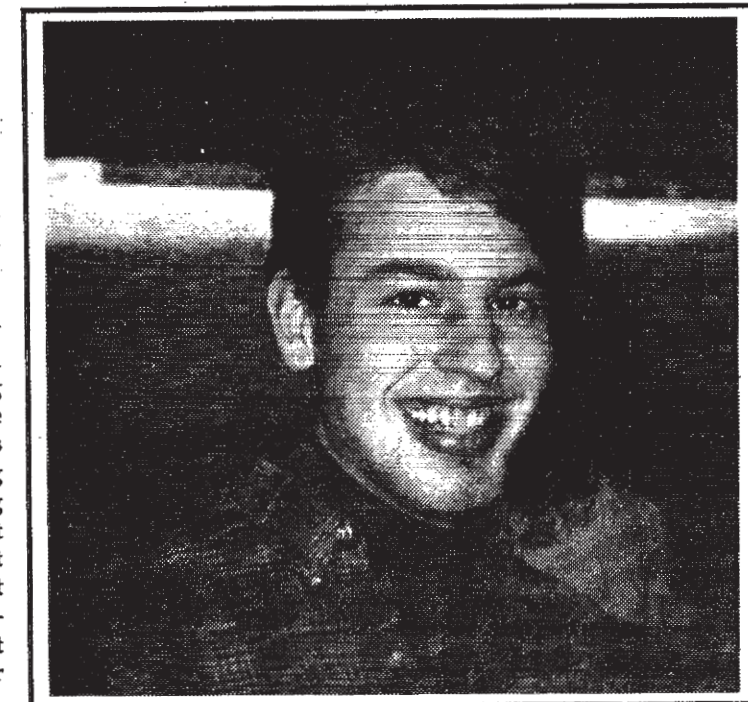
Tennis Team and a lifeguard. Her favorite movie is *Fried Green Tomatoes*. She swims every morning, and her life long ambition is "to have an impact on world events, or at least make people think about the consequences of their actions."



Malia Du Mont

allow him to express and experience them all. Eric's life long ambition is currently "to combine my talents of art, music and litera-

ture into one project," but as far as life after Bard goes, "I don't know [what he wants to or is going to do], and it frightens me."



Eric Taylor

If you'd like to be featured as a "Face of Bard" please contact the Observer at 758-0772



## 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, around which most Larreynagans gather daily to fill basins for drinking, cooking and washing. The pump is old, however, and prone to break-downs. When a new days supply of water is unavailable, citizens must store water for days, and such "standing water" can become contaminated literally overnight. A community vote has indicated that the town wants to build a new well and pipe 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 we have in surplus, but 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 regular 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 taking advantage of the moment.

**Gemini** (May 21 - June 20): You've been craving attention and this week you will get 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 cash.

**Leo** (July 23 - August 22): They will turn to you for advice like never before, but you will be speechless until you are offered a few words of wisdom.

**Virgo** (August 23 - September 22): A long distance relationship may be putting a strain on your social life; only cut the ties that were already fraying.

**Libra** (September 23 - October 22): After feeling cooped up last week, this week you will find the need to free yourself and 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): Been 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.

## Shameless Filler

Wah-hoo! Man! Dude! Didja go?! Didja see it?! Yeah, man, me too, they were fucking awesome! YES! FUCK YESSS!!! Fuckin' Morphine, man, the best goddamned 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. I saw it, okay? I saw it despite the fact that I had a massive headache that night, and I should have been rehearsing for the Rocky Horror performance the next night. I went there, from Albee Social where people were dressed and undressing (and cross-dressing) most casually in front of a tiny television which spewed out "Science Fiction Double Feature." I walked into the lobby of the Stupid Center and found some friends to hang out with until the band was done setting up. My hand was deemed unworthy of being called art. Twice.

I waited. I chatted. I heard squeaks and drumbeats emanating from the still-empty Old Gym, and I waited. Every so often someone from the Entertainment Committee would stroll through the growing mass of students and nonchalantly enter, on urgent business, no doubt. 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 sound check. Soon after, a strange

guy who I had never seen before simply by-passed the intense student security at the door. He was kind of short and had a hat. He wore an eyepatch. I think I heard someone refer to him, reverently, as "Bishop." 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 limey who does the overnight show, *Forward in All Directions*. He plays a good selection, but his engaging banter is annoying. So is his over-emphatic accent. He seemed less than thrilled to speak to me on the phone.

"DST," bored, unhappy.

"Hi! I'd like to request a song!"

"Watcha got." He's asking me?

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

"You gonna go see them?" Distracted,

wasting time while he pulls the CD.

"Oh, yeah, when they come around."

Suddenly the coffee kicks in. He practically growls in my ear, "THURSDAY. BE THERE." But with his accent it sounds more like "THUHSDEY. BEY THEYAAH."

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 mosh 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 unpretentious enough to skip the usual "entrance." One of them looks a lot like Ian Brandt. Then I realize I've mistook 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 Annandale Trio Once Removed, and they play extended jazz riffs that stretch out 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 circuses. I turn to the person next to me and being a lengthy question and answer session. Every so of-

## In which we try to find a cure for pain

ten 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 Annandale 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 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



## Another View

## BAGLE disbanded

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 the subjective worth of a club on campus. The Menage is now a separate club from BAGLE. The Menage deserved every penny that it received, commensurate 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 to throw 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 even former officers don't 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.

Obviously BAGLE is not serving the Bisexual, Lesbian and Gay 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 and try. 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 to help create a Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual community is to destroy the illusion that we already have one.

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 Nevins, and Phoebe 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 supplants 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 thousandth time that *New Ageism* had never taken hold.

Not that it really matters. Nature writing, for me, has to do with environment more than method. 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 misshapen trees they plant in the ashtrays in shopping malls. And those trees hardly ever get listened to, their voice is so weak.

In the month of January, I drove Cecil, my 78 Chevy Impala down to New Orleans. I was, quite frankly, blatantly escaping Winter and, as I reached further and further into the South, the ice and snow gave way. In Virginia, the roads became once again clear and driveable. Somewhere in Alabama, I rediscovered Spring.

It was two in the morning when I reached New Orleans. I had been driving for sixteen hours and I was exhausted. My spine felt twisted into a rough mold of the contours of my driver's side upholstery. It was too early in the morning to impose upon the friends

who had offered me their homes. All I wanted was to sleep but the adrenalin of finally arriving in the Big Easy took over. I drove up and down the French quarter. Squalid, weather-worn buildings stood toe to toe besides newer, trendier stores. The only hotel I saw offered hourly rates and so, with all too clear images of paper towel linens in mind, I headed further uptown and into the business district.

At the third hotel I tried, a middle-aged man in a lime jacket buzzed me through the doorway after staring at me with blank-faced indecision. It was then that I realized how I must look to him, dressed in my combat boots and flannel shirt, my head shaved, earrings in both my ears as well as the stud in my nose. I was no good ol' boy. I was clearly, not 'from around these parts.'

The clerk politely informed me that, while no, he did not have any vacancies, I might try next door. When I told him that I had already tried next door, he smiled and said something about convention season. I climbed back into my car, jam-packed with everything I owned, and drove further down Tulane Ave.

After 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 music was loud for this time of the morning. I turned Cecil around and parked him within view.

As I approached the bar, the reason for the crowd outside became apparent. A thin, brown haired terrier had been run over by 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 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 first left 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:

- To interview a senior level counselor who is a drug and alcohol specialist (Dareta Soloman)
- The "Rethinking Tewksbury" committee which consists of Dean Shelley Morgan, Chuck Crimmons, (S.L.C., Dareta Soloman, Gilbert Afonso) and others
- A Student Center committee (Laurie Curry, Gilbert Afonso)
- 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 function\*
- Gilbert Afonso will resume the dialogue with Gladys Watson concerning the co-ed housing resolution which was passed last spring.
- Laurie Curry is working with other students on campus (Fred Fourier, Dmnath Detissera 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 E.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
- Dareta Soloman is working with Shelley Morgan to investigate the possibility of reduced transport tickets (Amtrak and buses) for frequent users on the Bard Campus



## International Review

by Joshua Ledwell

It's been a long, snowy winter here on the picturesque banks of the Hudson, and we're all itching to spend Spring Break somewhere much more hospitable than our icy, isolated campus. Wouldn't it be creative this April to turn down the usual things: languishing at home for a week, or worse, drinking oneself into a stupor at Daytona Beach? There's a wide world out there replete with exciting international resorts and beautifully moderate climes. But Bardians beware—some vacation sites should be avoided at all costs! Accordingly, I present the Top Ten Worst Spots on Earth to spend one's spring break.

10. *Verkhoyansk, Russia.* And you thought we were having a bad winter! In April, this Russian city located well inside the Arctic Circle averages only 5°F. That's worse than some parts of Antarctica! Verkhoyansk is also not a recommended spot to spend January Intersession, either, when the average daily temperature is -57°F. Shivering Bard students seeking a more friendly clime might find a radiant warmth in the Ukraine, though the Chernobyl area is not known for its accommodations.

9. *Basra, Iraq.* Locals here have complained that the government has ignored their city during post-Gulf War reconstruction in favor of Baghdad and cities to the north. As much as half of the housing in this city is still rubble after B-52 pounding during the war. Violent Shiite separatists and the continuing United Nations sanctions on Iraq have cut into food supplies, and amenities are limited. Finally, your U.S. passport would likely attract attention from the all too excitable authorities.

8. *Algiers, Algeria.* This beautiful city has become harder to appreciate fully since a dust-to-dawn curfew was imposed. "Sporadic" gunfire at night continues in spite of the law. Violent members of the outlawed Islamic Front party have threatened foreign visitors with death, prompting hotels to add armed guards to their lobby decorations. Though the party recorded overwhelming popular support at the ballot boxes, the military still ruthlessly controls the former French colony. Although Bardians may wish to help the economy, which is crushed by 20% unemployment, Algiers has become a dangerous place to visit.

7. *Myanmar.* Formerly called Burma, this country has recently eased its bureaucratic restrictions on travel in hopes of stimulating tourism. Still, this is the nation that The New Republic has called "Asia's Bosnia" for its genocidal assaults on minority tribes and Muslims. Myanmar's recent history of human rights violations adds to the danger of turning a cosmopolitan vacation site into 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 proximity to the Caspian Sea cannot surmount 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 Sarajevo and Georgia. A week in Baku would probably end up leaving you more stressed than when the semester began!

5. *East Timor, Indonesia.* Though it revels in a tropical climate, the invasion of this country in 1975 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. *Seoul, South Korea.* Tension have cooled since North Korea announced it would allow UN observer 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 ancient 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 time than you could say "Korean War II." Seoul ought to be avoided, since this capital of South Korea lies only about 50 kilometers from the border.

3. *Province of Chiapas, Mexico.* Declaring that the NAFTA trade pact would be their death knell, native Americans recently took up arms against the 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. *Port-au-Prince, Haiti.* If you have ever flown over the Caribbean island of Hispaniola, the demarcation between the countries of Haiti and the Dominican Republic is clear. The side that is still 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 charge people \$130 for 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 former President Bush's "Operation Restore Hope" had on this city? U.S. soldiers ostensibly arrived here to help distribute food, but last week some international aid organizations left the country, chased away by armed gangs staking out their turf. The city is in ruins. Citizens may carry assault rifles for protection and for sniping at the despised UN/US occupiers. According to *Rolling Stone* magazine, people chew "khat, 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. I, for one, would not be caught dead at a Somalian going-away party.

## more Big Easy

*continued from previous page*

indignant, to find a very large man in a blue tee-shirt staring straight ahead as if nothing had happened. His arms stretched his tee-shirt at least as much as his stomach.

"I'm sorry," I mumbled, turning around as quickly as I could. Like it usually isn't, I wasn't quick enough.

I still really do not know why the man decided to start punching me. It is easy to pin his aggression on my shaved head and nose ring, but maybe he was just having a bad night and I represented something he felt he could take it out on. The next thing I knew, however, the man had lifted me from my stool and dropped me to the floor with two very hard punches. With his knee, he held me pressed to the beer soaked wood chips and pummelled me with both of his hands, striking my chest and breaking the stud of my nose ring in half.

I have always conceptualized men his size as slow and lumbering, but this man's fists were agile and workman-like, too quick to watch, the enormously enlarged wings of a hostile hummingbird. He hefted his body upward so that he could kick me in the chest and the air rushed into me. I realized I had been holding my breath. With the release of his weight, I scrambled toward the door, his second kick catching me squarely in the ribs as I made it to my feet. I ran to Cecil without looking back.

I don't remember exactly how I got on the Huey Long bridge. I probably took the first exit I saw. The Huey Long is twenty-six miles in length and extends over Lake Pontchartrain from New Orleans to the suburbs of Mandeville and Covington. Signs every mile warn that the winds off the lake can be fierce and as they buffeted my Impala, I struggled to concentrate, to stay in my lane even though I was only driving forty miles an hour. In the rear view mirror, I could see the blood streaming from my nose and my

chest hurt so badly that I couldn't get the seat belt around it. I left the bridge and started toward Hammond.

After about a half hour, Cecil began to shake. He had been driving now for close to twenty hours and the sixteen year-old engine was complaining. I pulled over onto the first side road I could find, a long, gravel road extending up into a series of small hills.

After checking and adding both oil and transmission fluid, I washed my face with the last on a long emptied Evian bottle. The bottle now contained the bitter tasting water from a gas station rest room in Mississippi rather than that of clear, French springs. The night had reached its coolest point and I could see my breath in the dim bulb of my open hood. After a few minutes, the sun rose, silhouetting a few small homes and barns. A rooster crowed in several, long and demented sounding cackles. The whole situation seemed so absurdly Biblical that I started to laugh, mostly out of fear and nervousness. I downed the rest of the Mississippi water and climbed into my car. I rented a room for twice what I was willing to pay at the first motel I saw.

In his twenties, the novelist and playwright Samuel Beckett was randomly stabbed by a man he did not know. He spent the rest of his life trying to determine why a person would do a thing like that to a fellow human being. The man in New Orleans could have had a knife but he didn't. For some reason, I don't feel like I need to know "why". I am here again in the Hudson Valley and the snow keeps on coming, piling up just when I think that I have shoveled for the last time. As I write this, I can see the horses who live across the street from where I rent a room. They are chasing one another around the corral and I am so damn happy. Today, I don't even mind those Woodstock men in their sweat lodges. I mean, what the hell. Throw another log on the fire boys and spank each other once for me with everything you're worth.

## CHANGES

Citizens Helping a New Generation Evolve Substantially has formed up in Rhinecliff (however, people from around the Mid-Hudson area are welcome). We meet at 9am 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.

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

Single-payer works just fine right now in Canada, Germany, France, Japan, Australia, etc. providing universal coverage, choice of physicians, quality care, cost controls and personal bargaining power.

Canada pays 30% less than we do per capita for the above, and 95% of the Canadians get the care they need in 24 hours or less.

In the U.S. single-payer would mean a savings of \$67 billion in red tape by cutting 1500 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 few places in the area now that have such alternative magazines. Finally, besides single-payer, CHANGES meetings allow for discussions and/or action about reforming welfare to include microenterprise without cutting benefits, re-allocating our foreign aid to truly help the poor, sustainable development, and whatever people bring to the meeting! All are welcome! Call Joel Tyner at 876-2488 for more details.



## What's hot and what's not

## More movies than you can get away with during a work-filled week

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

**Shawn Taylor  
Film  
Reviewer**

*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 in-

teresting - 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 endings 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 traitorous 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 someone wanted to capitalize 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 petty 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 scrawny contortionist 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, lover of animals, who is brought in to find the kidnapped Dolphins mascot before the super bowl. He's completely manic for the whole thing, which 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 diner 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 goodguy and kicks all their asses (the evil capitalists' asses, not the tribal elders'). That's it in a nutshell, folks. Seagal directed this one, and in doing so managed to steal sequences from most of the blockbuster action films of the last ten years, especially Batman and the Indiana Jones series. Some of the violence is almost up to par, but they keep trying to force this lousy plot on you to the point that you almost can't appreciate the overorchestrated mayhem scenes. Oh, and Michael Cane plays the evil capitalist, which is kind of cool, but really doesn't make up for much - especially the five minute ecology speech Seagal makes at the end. I wonder if all those bullet casings were recyclable... If you're into Seagal, skip this and rent one of his older ones. If you're into violent movies...

*Hard Boiled!* Oh man, everything an action movie should be. Plot to spare compared to any other similar attempt, but John Woo (*The*

*Killer, Hard Target*) doesn't worry too much about that. He's too busy orchestrating the most brilliant gunfight scenes in recent movie history. I can't think of a single reason for seeing any other action adventure movie that this one doesn't do better, and with more style. Chow Yun-Fat plays Tequila Yuen, the jazz-playing Hong Kong detective assigned to bust a gun smuggling ring. Most of the later action takes place in a huge hospital - major symbolism (save the babies!). The film is rife with moody, melancholy police detectives, reflective, honorable gunmen, and violence violence violence. John Woo is the master of the existential gunman flick, and it really shows here. And man, can those guys roll! You know, he would have taken one right through the heart if he hadn't had this cigarette lighter in his pocket... Catch it while you can, it's at Upstate for most of the week.

Back off the action track for this last one, the *24th Tournee of Animation* is playing at Upstate through the end of this week. If you've never been to an animation festival, there's no time like the present to start. These shows contain a variety of animation clips from around the world, and range in nature from goofy to creepy to absolutely beautiful. This particular edition features some great stuff, most notably a Czech piece set in a cafe, an eerie Tim Burton-esque claymation piece about the sandman, some cute little wolves, and a cartoon by artist Gahan Wilson.

**Every morning in Africa a gazelle wakes up.**

**It knows that it must run faster than the fastest lion or it will be killed.**

**Every morning in Africa a lion wakes up. It knows that it must outrun the slowest gazelle or it will starve to death. It doesn't matter whether you are a lion or a gazelle:**

**WHEN THE SUN COMES UP YOU HAD BETTER BE RUNNING**

**You too had better be running when the sun comes up to the Grand Spring Cross Country Race. Faster than me.**

**For more information contact John Hannon—Box 870 by Campus Mail or at 752-7357.**



## I.D.P.

## 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

Anne Miller  
Features  
Editor

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 selection 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 applicants prior to their arrival, is modeled after Bard's regular academic program and allows 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. The most difficult part is for the best."

Mary Backlund, the director of admissions, also admits that "The wear and tear on the staff is the downside. It takes a toll to deny 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 point 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 stu-

dents 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 most 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 has applied to schools other than Bard, there is a good chance that they will be on campus come fall.

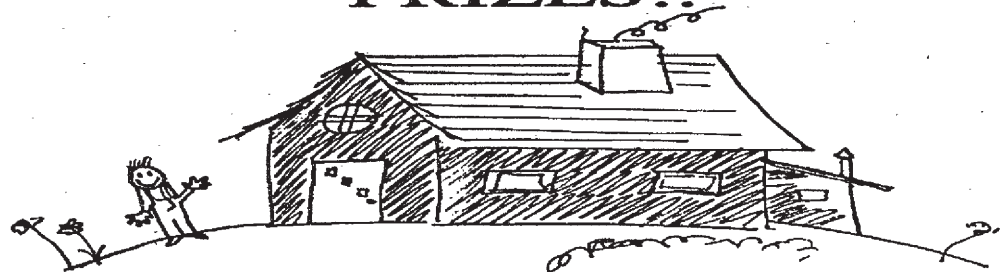
Mary Backlund would like to invite students with memories of their IDP process to write them down and share them with the admissions office.

## Kayacking anyone?

There will be a free **Kayacking demonstration** at 10am on Sunday, March 6 in the Stevenson Gym.

The goal of this presentation is to spark interest in an instructional kayaking clinic. The course is also free, and equipment will be provided. Classes will begin Sunday, March 13 from 10:30-11:30 am, and will continue every other Sunday.

## DESIGN THE NEW STUDENT CENTER AND WIN VALUABLE PRIZES!!



CREATE A DRAWING OR DIAGRAM OF A ROOM, A DRAWING OF THE BUILDING ON A PRACTICAL SIGHT ON CAMPUS, OR SUBMIT PHOTOS OF OTHER COLLEGE CAMPUS CENTER FACILITIES.

SUBMISSIONS SHOULD BE SENT TO BOX 727. WINNERS WILL BE DETERMINED BY A FORUM

NOTE. DEADLINE MARCH 8TH.



## SURVEY What to Eat?

**\*Please answer all questions honestly and return to the Observer. Results will be printed in next week's issue.**

1. Are you primarily vegan?
2. Are you primarily a vegetarian?
3. Are you primarily a meat eater?
4. What kinds of food do you wish Kline had more of?
5. What kinds of food do you wish Kline had less of?
6. Do you think there should be an alternative dessert on ice cream nights?
7. Do you wish Kline had more than one toaster?
8. Do you wish Kline microwave?
9. What is your favorite Kline dish?
10. On a scale of 1 to 5 (1 being best), how would you rate Kline food on average?
11. How many meals a week do you eat at Kline?
12. How many meals a week do you prepare for yourself?

**Attention Club Heads!!**

**The May Student Forum will take place: Wednesday, May 11, not May 9 as you were informed. Sorry for the mistake.**

## 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, and in future speeches 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

yourself.'" 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 this 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 hardest 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 making it from one treatment to the next. Their life is measured by the daily dose of painkillers.

One thirteen-year-old boy named David had been in remission from leukemia for almost a year. He developed a brain tumor that would probably kill him within the next six months. When I first saw David, he had been lying in bed for two weeks without opening his eyes or wanting to talk to anyone. Aside from the constant pain, David was depressed and lonely. I sat and talked to him, but he didn't want to talk. He hurt less by silently lying in his bed, so I just stayed with him. It hurt me to have him lie there in

pain and not be able to comfort him. As I stayed with him, he opened up to me and just having someone with him was what he needed. Later that day, David and I played trucks on the floor of his room. The pain wasn't gone, but for the moment, it wasn't important.

Leaving the kids hurt more than anything I have ever done before. While I was there, I could see the difference in the quality of these kids' lives. Just having someone to talk to, or hold, made all the difference. This experience is not something that can be done and left behind—it becomes part of you. Although I cannot be there physically to bring some happiness into these and other children's lives, I recall how happy the kids were when they did something more than just lie in bed. However much we want them to be active and experiencing life, there are only so many volunteers. So I have started to collect toys and games for these kids. If you have anything you would like to give, I am sending care packages to the cancer ward and the pediatric units I worked in this vacation. Anything from an old Nintendo system to teddy bears and board games would make a major difference. I can be reached at 752-7341 in Potter 202 if you would like to help these kids.

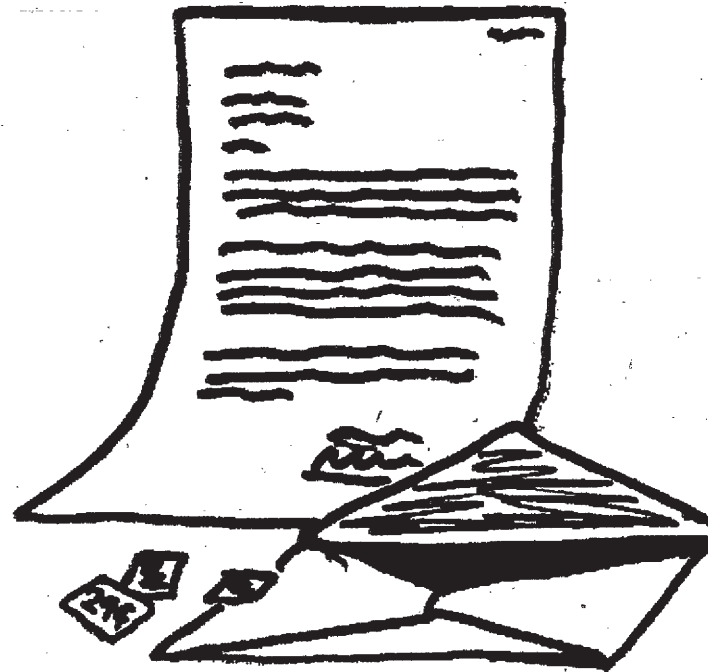
***The International Student Organization is now planning its annual Cultural Show. Anyone interested in performing contact: Angelina Kouroubali (box 964) as soon as possible.***



## 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:

Resource	Yes	No	Don't Care
First Aid station	7	1	5
Couches	13	0	0
Pool table	9	1	3
Video games	6	5	2
Film viewing area	12	0	1
Dance floor	9	0	4
Recording studio	5	2	6
Jukebox	6	3	4
Radio station	11	1	1
Newspaper office	7	1	5
Club offices	9	1	3
Club meeting space	11	0	2
Cable TV room	11	2	0
Designated smoking room	8	4	1
Art studios	1	5	7
Music practice rooms	2	6	5
Change machine	13	0	0
Laundry facility	2	4	7
Campus phone	13	0	0
Pay phones	10	0	3
Bus/Train schedules	11	1	1
Club bulletin boards	8	1	4
Community board	13	0	0
24-hour Post Office access	10	0	3
Lounge area	12	0	1
Ping Pong table	8	1	4
Condom vending machines	8	1	4
Wipe-off message board	5	3	5
Rotating student art exhibit	9	1	3
Cigarettes for sale	6	5	2



## 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 DeCiuttiis

## 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



# CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS' OFFICE

FEBRUARY 16 TO FEBRUARY 23 + 1994

## ★ 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 ★

- ★ **Tavola 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.
- ★ **BAGLE** (Bisexuals, Activists, Gay Lesbians Et 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. Economist 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 5:45p; pickup at Mall at 9:45p.
- ★ **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 Bubar.** **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.**

- ★ **Dance performance** with choreography by seniors and faculty. Free, unreserved seating, **Dance Studio 3p**

## ★ MONDAY, MARCH 7 ★

- ★ **A Chorus of Disapproval** by Alan Ayckbourn, directed by William Driver. Free admission, **Scene Shop Theatre, 8p.**
- ★ **Dance performance** with choreography by seniors and faculty. Free, unreserved seating, **Dance Studio 3p**
- ★ **The Man with the Movie Camera.** Preston Theater, 7:30-9p
- ★ **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.**
- ★ **Dance performance** with choreography by seniors and faculty. Free, unreserved seating, **Dance Studio 3p**
- ★ **John Bard Lecture** will be given by Nathan Sivin, 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.**

### HOW TO PUBLICIZE IN THE BARD OBSERVER

If you have an event to publicize in the *Bard Observer* Calendar:

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 committee room at Kline Commons. The Observer will then publicize the event in the next issue of the Calendar.

## ★ TRANSPORTATION SCHEDULE ★

**WEDNESDAY:** Grand Union Runs: Leave at 6p, return at 7p.  
**FRIDAY:** Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall Runs: Leave every other Friday at 5p. Pick up at the Mall at 9p. Trips are scheduled for February 11, 25; March 11, 25; April 15, 29 and May 13.  
**Rhinecliff Train Station Run:** 4:20p for the 4:53p, 5:50 for the 6:21p, 7:00p for the 7:41p.  
**Poughkeepsie Runs:** 5:30p for the 6:19p, 7:45p for the 8:35p, 10:00p for the 10:45p.  
**SATURDAY:** The 10a-2p shuttle from Bard to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck.  
**SUNDAY:** Van meets the 7:15p and 9:30p trains at the Rhinecliff Station.  
**Church Runs:** 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 8:30 am and 9:30 pm. Return to North Campus, leaves behind Kline at 3:30 pm and 5:00 pm.  
**Van trips to New York City:** every three weeks: March 5, 26, April 16, May 7. Sign up in the Dean of Students Office - \$5.00.

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















