"All work and no play makes Jack a dull boy. All play and no work makes Jack a mere toy."

—Maria Edgewood

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No security for Security

Bard security guards form union against the will of the administration

"We don't want something for nothing. We just want a fair shake, and we won't get that without a union."

That was one of the many sentiments expressed by a group of four security guards who spoke with this reporter last week. Each of the ten guards working at Bard have joined together to take the steps to form a union. According to them, the formation of a union has "been a long time coming," and it is their only chance to improve their working conditions here at Bard College.

However, the College administration has been fighting them every step of the way.

According to the guards, the College has been continuously unresponsive to their concerns about overtime, shift differentials, and job security. With a union, the guards plan to "hammer out" a contract with the administration that will address these concerns.

"We are determined to have a contract under [the Administration's] nose before graduation," said one guard. "If we reach an impasse in negotiations, we might go on strike."

Rather than negotiate directly with the guards, the College has hired a lawyer to challenge the formation of their union. "It's crazy. They say there's no money for overtime, but they have the money to hire a lawyer to fight us with?" commented one guard.

What the guards want
"These are tough working conditions," stated one guard. "We're just looking for a little support."

"We support the guards are demanding are focused in the areas of overtime, shift differentials, and job security. Currently, Bard does not provide over-time pay for guards who work more than the standard 40 hours a week. When one guard calls in sick, one of his or her fellows is given no incentive, and perhaps no choice, to cover that shift.

In addition, the guards complain of being "cheowed out" for fulfilling their duties, such as writing reports, if it means they must stay longer than their scheduled shift. "We're not trying to pad our hours," explained one guard. "If they want a report they've got to pay us for the time to finish it. It doesn't follow to do them in trouble for doing your job."

As for shift differentials, a security guard at Bard College who works the late night shift (midnight to 8am) is paid the same rate as those who work during the day-time hours. The guards are asking for "thirty to forty more cents an hour" to compensate for the shift differentials.

"We're not going to break the bank with these requests," said a guard. "The college is just looking at the money and not the benefits that everyone stands to gain."

The guards are also extremely worried about their job security here at Bard. The guards said that their turn-over rate is "ridiculously high," one quoted a figure that seven guards have stopped working at Bard in the last year alone.

"We could be more effective if we were not under constant stress," explained one guard. Apparently, the administration has not been offering due process to guards whenever a conflict arises between a guard and a student. They accused certain administrators of always siding with a
Security union continued

continued from front page

student when a problem arises, meaning that a guard is "guilty until he's proven innocent." In addition, the guards said that the College "uses job security as a form of intimidation." Without due process for the firing of a guard, they have no assurance that they can return to their jobs. "Without representation they can kick us right out the door." The future contract will have provisions so that guards can perform their duties without having the threat of dismissal hanging over their heads.

Already, the guards have felt repercussions over the organization of a union. "When they got wind of the union, four of us received reprimand letters," said one guard. "They were just giving themselves ammo if they want to fire us later." As one guard concluded, "Treating people like shit is a bad form of management.

"This is coming from the top." According to the guards, the resistance to their attempts to improve working conditions has come from Ludlow. "They want the coverage, but they don't want to pay for it," said one guard.

Director of Security Kim Squillace said that she was unable to comment on the union. The guards contended that she was "between a rock and a hard place. "It's not her fault," continued one guard. "All of the flak is coming from the top."

This "top" to which the guards referred is Executive Vice President Edmund A. Ludlow. When contacted Monday morning, Ludlow admitted that he would not answer any questions about the situation. A battle in court

In the meantime, both sides are awaiting a decision from a Federal judge about which guards may be members of the union.

When the guards originally approached the administration regarding the union, they conceded to the College that student dispatchers and the guards at the Black Center would not be part of the union. Then the administration claimed that four of the ten guards are actually "supervisors," and therefore could not be part of the union.

The guards found this claim to be ridiculous. The four guards pointed out that they do nothing more than direct and shift supervisors, but they meet the official criteria for "supervisors." Real supervisors have the powers like hiring, firing, sending people home, etc., explained one guard. "We don't have those privileges at all."

This tone of contention was taken to court last month, and the College brought in its lawyers. By press-time the judge had not released his decision, but the guards expect it to be in their favor.

No price on safety.

Regardless of the Court's ruling, the guards can still form a union and present their demands to the College. They realize that they might not be able to keep their jobs. "The bottom line is economics. The College is only willing to pay a false sense of security," said one guard. Compared to other colleges, Bard Security is noticeably understaffed and underfunded. "Vassar has eight guards on duty every night," commented one guard. "We're only asking for three each night and four on the weekends."

As it stands now, with one guard on foot and another in a vehicle, the guards are hard-pressed to meet the daily demands put on them. And, when emergencies arise, the situation only gets worse. "We already have duties most other security personnel aren't responsible for," said one guard. "We just can't be everywhere at once."

With reforms concerning over-time and job security, the guards promised that the safety situation on campus can only improve. "Security is supposed to be preventative, not reactive," explained one guard. "If an extraguard discourages one incident, that is worthwhile. You can't put a price on safety."

The guards also claimed that they were expressing themselves in the Observer to make the community aware of their situation and their demands. "The more people who know, the less chance they have of screwing us over," offered one guard.

"Right now we can't defend ourselves against the administration," concluded one guard. "That makes it even more difficult to protect the community."

Forum news

The last Forum of the semester will be Wednesday, May 11th at 7:00pm in Kline. This will be an Elections Forum!!

Positions available:
5 Planning Committee seats
8 Educational Policies Committee seats (2 in each division)
2 Student Life Committee seats
3 Student Judiciary Board seats

The following campus-wide elections will also be held at a date TBA:
Student Life Committee Chair
Educational Policies Committee Chair
Planning Committee Chair
Student Judiciary Board Chair
Treasurer
Secretary
2 Student Representatives to the Board of Trustees.

If you have an interest in running for any of these positions, please send a statement of purpose to Malia Du Mont by Friday, May 8. Statements of purpose for the positions of Secretary should be sent to Laurie Curry. If you have questions about any of these positions, please contact the people currently holding them: SLC Chair-Laurie Curry; Secretary-Malia Du Mont; EPC Chair-Renee Cramer; Planning Comm. Chair-Jeff Rhyme; SJB Chair-Kapil Gupta; Treasurer-Jason Foulkes and the Board of Trustee Reps. Sasha Gorman and Ephraim Colter.

The Spring Weather has arrived! And, with it, the need to discontinue the jitney service.
Yes, sad but true; students are walking more and needing the jitney service less. Thank you to all the jitney drivers from me, Gail Denning, in the Dean of Students Office.

Baby Sitter needed: Wednesdays 2:30-6:30pm, and Thursdays 9:30-11:30am, and other hours if available. Small children. Call Beth at 758-2906.

Can help you get your paper in time. Fast typing and editing by pro with B.A. in English. Please call June 758-5102.

MFA student looking for a summer sublet. One or two room near Bard. Call Emily at 718-625-6696.

Wanted: One or Two responsible Bard students to sublet professor's apartment on the Upper West Side of Manhattan June-July-August. One bedroom, high ceilings, large terrace. No smokers. Perfect share, $800 per month. Call 212-964-9934 or Bard ext. 134.

Summer Sublets: The Grad Student Housing Office is looking for student housing this summer—mid June through mid August. If you wish to sublet or rent please call 758-5423 or see Bots in Sottery 101.

The last day for charging prescriptions at the Red Hook pharmacy is Monday July 11th. Call Martha Davis at ext. 423 if you have any questions.

The Bard Music Festival needs people to work in the festival box office from May 31-Aug. 21. We will also need staff ushers and concession workers (Aug. 12-14 and 19-21). The festival is looking for housing for Festival musicians for the weeks of August 7-14 or for the entire month of August. If you're interested in renting your home and want more details call Robin at 758-7410.

My little Goose, tell me why I love you like I do? It must be because I'm mad about you, too! (That's right where I said) "I got you, baby."

-Kelly—Latin with you better than a redhead. Thanks, heart studie.

Kelvin—I've put the kittens to bed and cleaned out their litter. Please talk to them about, well, you know. Love, the mother of your kittens.

Greg Too bad about the Karen thing. Don't worry about the emotional amp—-I'm more than willing not to be alone with you. Love Always, Jenna.

Happy Birthday to Parn Chaplin this Friday. The BGC one! Congratulatized! Now you can legally contribute to your own demise any time you want. Just stay happy, OK? Love, Aphrodita.

Only one brand of sleepers—spring 20IX a day. His friends know him as Sleep. If you ask again what I want, and I don't answer, honestly, you have my permission to slap me silly.

The Admissions Staff would like to thank the Bard Community for making Open House such a success!

Planning on going to graduate school in the fall? Going to be in New York next summer? Why not take that reading course in French or German now, before the fall term begins? Call or write for information.

Effective Methods - Experienced Teachers
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TEL & FAX: (212) 986-6477
Distinguished Scientist Harry Gray

How biology and chemistry will meet in the future

"I predict that in the next thirty years, chemists are going to do a lot of good work, and finally get the credit they deserve," said Professor Harry Gray of the California Institute of Technology. Invited to be the final speaker of the 1993-94 Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series, Gray delivered his talk on "Chemistry, Biology and the Future" last Saturday afternoon.

A recognized leader in the field of inorganic chemistry, Gray has received numerous awards such as the National Medal of Science in 1986, and the American Institute of Chemists Gold Medal. His prodigious contributions span the various ranges of inorganic chemistry, and he is recognized as a pioneer in the field of bioorganic chemistry. As Gray joked, "Bioinorganic chemistry is the living chemistry of death, the living dead of chemistry."

Building upon past and present investigations, Gray's lecture turned to his vision of the future for the scientific fields of chemistry and biology. His first prediction was that the two disciplines will merge by the year 2020. "When we look at anything in biology, we are looking at chemistry," he said.

The melding of these fields will have dramatic scientific and social implications, according to Gray. He identified three major problems that he expects chemistry will solve in combination with biology: carbon-hydrogen bond activation at low temperatures, watersplitting, and protein folding.

"These solutions require the getting together of chemists and biologists," he stated. "We're very close to the finishing line, but its going to require interaction." In direct social terms, the resolution of these three problems in particular will introduce "completely different approaches to handling the problems of energy and the environment."

Gray accused current technology as "screwing up the good stuff," namely carbon-hydrogen bonds. The use of fossil fuels as our primary source of energy involves burning these valuable chemical structures. "We can no longer afford to use hydrocarbons for energy," continued Gray. "We are going to need them for materials."

With a better understanding of how to activate these bonds at ordinary temperatures, the possibilities of efficient and direct oxidation fuels for the reality. Electric vehicles will be run on sodium power, for long distances, methanol can be used as a fuel to get over 5,000 miles per gallon.

"Electrons and hydrogen atoms are clean fuels," asserted Gray, implying a profound decrease in pollution once these vehicles become the norm. He also confirmed that scientists are extremely close to making this remarkable break-through. With more effective and more plausible solar cells being developed every year, Gray expects that energy from the sun will become our primary resource.

However, manipulation of water splitting is an important step in deriving large amounts of solar energy. In photosynthesis, plants are able to use sunlight to convert water into hydrogen and oxygen. With an efficient form of artificial photosynthesis, as power plants have become more consistent and durable sources of energy, "We haven't been able to solve this problem as well as nature has," said Gray. "But we're getting closer."

As for protein folding, Gray again described the difficulty of artificially reproducing an efficient capability found in nature. "Cavities in complex chemical structures need to be created and context chemical reactions, and scientists must work together to build similar artificial structures that are even more stable."

At the close of his lecture, Gray turned to the present day issue of energy. "We haven't been able to solve this problem as well as nature has," he commented. "We're falling behind the frontier, and I'm not sure what to do about it." Gray's expectation is that "departments are going to change," university programs are going to have to re-orient themselves if they are to participate in and further develop the dramatic possibilities arising from the merging of the sciences.

"Somehow, young people are going to solve these problems," Gray offered. "They deserve the chance."

Math and modernism

Peter Dolan addressed the issue of modern mathematics in his contribution to the Freshman Seminar Lecture series last Tuesday. His talk raised some interesting questions—for example, what use is going on in the world of mathematics at the turn of the century, and how does it relate to real life? Minutely, the math professors managed to discuss such topics as non-euclidean geometry without losing the attention of every student in the room, and came to a surprisingly down-to-earth conclusion.

Beginning with some mathematical history, Dolan dredged up memories from the first semester of Freshman Seminar by going back to the ancient Greeks. They believed that all numbers were either whole, or a ratio of two numbers. Such a concept is not entirely ridiculous, but they also thought that the number 2 was masculine, 3 is feminine and 5 is a union of the two. They held fast to a belief in the rationality of numbers until they came across examples that did not fit anywhere. (The classic problem of a right triangle with two legs measuring one foot long each was Dolan's example. How long is the hypotenuse?) "The legend is that they suppressed this information," said Dolan. "It's probably not a true story, but it's so funny we tell it anyway."

They supposedly took the guy who discovered this out in boat and drowned him. Eventually knowing that the change occurs in math, the Greeks called these new numbers "irational." They got comfortable with the idea of irrational numbers. Life goes on after that.

Fast forward to Italy in the 1500's. Algebra was the hot topic. "People were using formulas—like games, if you will, trying to figure things out. It had little bearing on real life." Suddenly, another anomalous problem came along. X² - 2 = 0. No fit into this formula. "What did mathematicians do?" They invented an answer. They invented i, called Dolan. "It fits into the equation, but what does it mean? Can I have a piece of candy? Complex numbers initially did not have a relationship to physical problems, but applications were eventually found.

The next big problem to come about in mathematics was in the nineteenth century: Euclidean geometry. Calculus and number theory were some of the issues being considered by mathematicians. The definition of parallel lines, for example, a basic assumption of euclidean geometry became troublesome. People discovered that if it were reworded, the geometry derived from it would be entirely new. They were devasted that mathematics could be imperfect, and realized that if euclidean geometry could have legal flaws, so could other areas of math. A philosophical inquiry into the nature of mathematics was begun, and the idea was openly discussed for the first time. In order to defend themselves, mathematicians developed formalism—the belief that mathematics has no relation to real life. The Platonic and constructivist school of thought were also very for acceptance. Math was thought of in a new light, much as philosophy, writing, science and music were all changing at that time.

While a devastating change at the time, mathematicians have accepted it in the past century. The varying philosophies simply demonstrate the different aspects of math, according to Dolan. "It is our way of coming to grips with the world around us. People had given up the idea of the absolute proof, had become scientific, and demanded that math be flawless. They had to understand that it isn't."

Perhaps that will placate those of us seeking to rationalize our math grades!

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Chris Meink is a Senior Literature major from Fairfield, Connecticut. When asked how he ended up at Bard, Chris explained that he was interested in the literature major, but was not sure how he would like it. His senior project, however, was on The Ring and the Book by Robert Browning.

Chris describes himself as an "eclectic, and, in general, a kind person" because he tends to help people out when they need it. He has a "good sense of humor," says Chris "but I can be obsessive, especially in certain situations." If he says something once and thinks it's funny, he'll keep saying it until everyone's sick of it.

One of Chris's friends describes him as "the most unique person I've ever met, who is surely unique in his way." Chris's choice of fashion, however, is far from that of a conformist. Tasteful and understated on the inside, twisted, Chris's clothes definitely stand out. For instance, one outfit he often wears is a pair of brown camouflage pants with a turtleneck and white squared patterned sweater. Chris also has a fetish for polka dots. One friend jokes, "Chris is the best dressed man on campus," while another friend says, almost sincerely, "I love his fashion sense...he should have his own line."

Besides stunning his friends and others by wearing the most mismatched of outfits, Chris also enjoys roleplaying, dressing up as a friend of his mother's recommended it as a "good writing school," and so he visited and liked it there. Why he is a literature major, he says, "I don't know." His senior project, however, was on The Ring and the Book by Robert Browning.

Chris likes Bard a lot, mostly because of the professors and the classes, but he also says, "I don't like Bard in that I don't like people in that I don't like people who piss off people who piss off other people." His favorite thing about Bard is that he insists that there is nothing else that he dislikes.

"That's one of the greatest things about Chris," says one of his friends, "his clothes are constantly on display." For instance, one outfit he often wears is a pair of brown camouflage pants with a turtleneck and white squared patterned sweater. Chris also has a fetish for polka dots. One friend jokes, "Chris is the best dressed man on campus," while another friend says, almost sincerely, "I love his fashion sense...he should have his own line."

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Another View

Shameless Filler

I can't think of anything to write this week. So, you'll have to do your own filler.

It's not as hard as it sounds. I'll help you out a little. First, we open up with some incidental anecdote of something that happened to you recently. This anecdote doesn't have to be all that interesting, nor does it have to be truthful. A work of complete fiction is sometimes more believable than reality; and certainly more fun to re-tell. This anecdote should be some kind of random chance happening that seems to deny all laws of probability, and introduces a strange topic to the mind of writer and reader alike. That topic, although possibly completely removed from the purpose of the anecdote, will be the topic for this week's filler.

Got one? Good. Let's move on.

Next we're going to discuss the intricacies of this topic according to three aspects: how important it is to the lives and minds of Bard students, how noteworthy it is to the general news media, and how much you can get out of it in the form of cheap gags and off-color remarks. These gags are the hard and soul of a Shameless Filler column, as you are aware.

Oh, and here you might want to add in the little ingredients that make a Filler the interesting, personal experience it is for you, yourself, alone. To some, that would be the personal touches: the in jokes that only you and a limited number of people might understand. Perhaps you enjoy the personal jabs against characters on campus whom you disdain. Maybe you dig the awkward groans you make because the column is littered with week after week. Or, perhaps you like to dwell on the dark side of the Shameless Filler, embracing the nihilistic and macabre voice that speaks to you from behind a veil of good-natured irony.

If you only liked the column when Andy Costell wrote it, feel free to put in some "skiddishes" here. This is your opportunity to make a filler you can cherish and truly call your own, right now, in this paragraph. Don't waste this chance.

Once we've had our fun with that paragraph, we return at length to the topic at hand, despising the fact that the topic provides fewer opportunities for cheap laughs than we had at first thought. No problem, we'll just beat it to death, using every possible ounce of our joke-prolonging capabilities to stretch the literary moment and leave the topic as nothing more than a tortured old corpse on the killing floor. Oh, sorry. That bit seems to have been taken by the fellow who likes filler's dark side.

This paragraph is special. This is the one that no one reads. Inevitably, there is some filler that is too specialized, too silly, and sometimes too purrid to put into print. This paragraph of filler is usually fueled by bitterness and bile, and the self-censorship is exercised with the interests of the campus in mind. We don't want too many mass suicides taking place over something we said. Well, the truth is, it's usually stuff I cut out because it's not funny. But the bitterness and bile spell goes over better, don't you think? Besides, it's true in some cases. And many people would be upset at what I don't write. That's why you'll never see a filler about Kurt Cobain. Or health care. Or unprintable softball. So, feel free to ponder, yet not write, filler fueled by the more evil emotions in you. I figure, since it's the season for moderation and senior project boards, it should be second nature to a lot of you.

This paragraph has been added after the fact, when it is discovered that there isn't enough verbiage written to fill up two whole columns without some obvious cut-and-paste tricks. We don't like writing this filler because it's an afterthought, and we don't like being reminded we aren't perfect.

Finally, we sum up the topic in a way we didn't expect to when we first set about writing. The topic, in fact, may have changed several times since the opening paragraphs, but no matter. All that matters now is that we get out gracefully by setting up a whimsical and somewhat snide closing sentence or two which underscores our skewed and special view on life, as seen from our elite position as a weekly observer.

See? It's that simple. Next week, how to write your senior project.

By Matthew Gilman
THE BARD OBSERVER
April 27, 1994

Another View

Bard Community Speaks Out on Date Rape

The Latest Chapter in the Backlash Against Women

After a decade of right-wing attacks on women's rights, even liberals have joined the backlash. The latest focus of their attention is date rape — even to the point of questioning the prevalence of rape in this society.

According to most feminists, estimates one out of every four women in the U.S. will be raped at some point in their lifetime. Some women are raped by complete strangers, but the majority of rape victims are attacked by someone they know — a friend, relative or other acquaintance.

Almost none of the women who will ever report the attack to the police. Many women who've been forced into having sex — particularly on a date — wouldn't even call it rape. For these reasons it is difficult to "prove" how prevalent rape is.

Moreover, many people prefer to blame the victim — using the "victim-blaming" argument that women ask for it by the way they dress or act, or that women claim they were raped or willingly having sex. These are old arguments being recycled today with a new twist — against so-called "victims in feminist," a term used to depict feminists who speak out against rape as waging a war against women and disregarding women's oppression.

Some women who themselves claim to be feminists are making the same argument. "DATE RAPE Hysteria." In her book, The Morning After, Princeton student Katie Roiphe claims that, thanks to victim feminists, a "rape hysteria" has overtaken women's relationships on campus, causing large numbers of women to confuse having been raped with simply not having a good time on a date. Feminist author Naomi Wolf, echoed these same themes in her recent book, Fire with Fire, as she attacked so-called "victim feminists.

The Republican Mary Matalin, wrote a recent Newsweek article in which she told women who claimed they've been raped on a date to "stop whining about such trivial concerns," and argued that both sexual harassment claims are "frivolous" claims which "dodge the system.

What do all these add up to? Quite simply, the sexual revolution has gone too far.

"VICfM FEMINISTS" Mincing from all these attacks on "victim feminism" is the simple acknowledgment that rape occurs within the context of a society in which women are oppressed. Inequality between women and men affects women's lives — in the workplace, where women earn lower wages; within the legal system, where there still isn't an equal rights amendment for women; and within family and personal relationships, where many women suffer both emotionally and physically.

Inequality between women and men affects sexual aggression, too. The passage of time has done little to rid us of the idea that women mean "yes" even when they say "no." — meaning that often, women want men to proceed with sexual activity, without their permission. Thus, some degree of coercion or force is considered to be normal in sexual relationships involving men and women.

When women come forward after being raped by someone they know or have dated, they are likely to be met with sympathy, but with suspicion and disbelief.

AGAINST THEIR WILL

For these reasons, most women who have been forced into having sex against their will don't even call it rape. Many women who have been raped experience feelings of guilt afterwards, as if somehow they share some of the blame. This is what makes the latest wave of date rape revisionism all the more deplorable.

Feminists or not, these revisionists are simply adding their voices to the chorus which already seems to know what it wants men to say they've been raped. They add to the backlash against women's rights in general which has swept the U.S. since the 1980's.

Until the 1970's women's movement — and the publication of Susan Brownmiller's Against Our Will — rape wasn't even considered a serious problem for women. It wasn't until the 1980's that date rape and sexual harassment began to receive the attention they deserve.

Now those leading the backlash want to turn the clock backwards, to the days when women allowed in shame after they'd been raped. This is the position those who are against women's oppression must reject the new attacks on "victim feminism" — not because women are helpless victims, but because in order to fight oppression they must acknowledge that there is a problem.

A bad date is not Date Rape

by Chris Koning, Lara Leptonia, Cassie Adock

"Taking Responsibility for Yourself," the title of last week's infamous article, cuts straight to the core of our problem with the assumption that we are all little individuals whose remote personal experiences with "sex issues" are enough on their own to justify an opinion so strong, that it completely negates the existence of the larger socio-political picture. In this world people do not have ABSOLUTE control over what happens to them either economically, socially, culturally, physically.

The article's "unpopular opinion" seems to be an opinion, but rather a redefinition. The term "date rape" does not apply to "choosing" to pick up men in clubs, taking them home, and "choosing" to have sex with them rather than making a "huge fuss." To just "give in" and "save myself the unpleasantness" of stopping sexual activity is simply pathetic. It is clear that the author desired to be in a sexual relationship, but the existence of her "absent boyfriend" presented an easily symmetrical moral quandary. "Taking responsibility" for one's actions and making choices about who to have sex with is an anything but nothing to do with rape or date rape. Choice is an interesting word, isn't it, and it is often forgotten about in regards to situations where choice is not an option. RAPE IS NOT A CHOICE. In rape one is powerless. "Sex is a game, a sport if you will. The players are obvious but the rules are less clearly defined. If you plan to figure them out, don't have fun. If you can't handle it, stay home." Well, it's nice to know we live in a world where the rules are obvious to all us some of us. In all cases "rules" seem to differ everywhere, at least sex is merely a "game" that can be avoided by "staying home" should the concept of being raped not appeal.

Almost none of us, "If you are a strong woman, a Strong Woman, you never have to run crying to support groups because you have morning after regrets and that means rape." What?!! Do only weak women need support? What do "morning after regrets" have to do with rape? How lucky to have "morning after regrets" be the experience most remotely akin to rape that one has had. The author's statement is true in that the one who has had date rape experiences and have sought support. The author continues to say how she does not sleep in parks, hitchhike, or jog in Central Park and thereby in how now does rape happen. Of course she is right: one should make critical judgements on the situations in which one places oneself. But this does not apply to date rape, which often occurs with someone that one has critically judged to be a safe partner. Nor does the possibility of avoiding obviously unsafe situations indicate that it is possible always to avoid rape. The author also claims that, "I do not put myself in danger.

What exactly does this mean? Is bringing home a stranger met in a nightclub not a potentially dangerous situation? Is it not less dangerous by avoiding the consequences? One can circumventing a degree of control over one's life, but it only goes so far. One can believe that one is in a safe situation, only to find that one has been date-raped by someone that was known, trusted and possibly loved.

"I lied; I said it was an unpopular opinion, but I am ashamed of it. And because of it I will not find myself in unfortunate situations of regret and embarrassment." Well, it is clear that the author has already said that she has found herself in unfortunate situations, but will "full responsibility" by being indifferent towards having sex. "Regret and embarrassment" sound more like confessions of a naughtly priest rather than the pain and humiliation of date rape.

In the "real world," regret and embarrassment are simply parts of life, often out of our control. By attempting to dismiss the power of outside forces one makes a dangerous political move. This article is a classic example of "blaming the victim.

The author concludes with, "Don't put yourself in a position where you have no control... Grow up..." Please tell me what that out-of-control position is: Being drunk? Being around a man, any man? Wearing a short skirt? Having sexual experience? Being in a car? Existing?

The author makes the painfully naive assumption that she can have the world the way she wants it. She calls herself a Strong Woman, but she defines empowerment as acting powerless. The author's solution to the problem of rape, apparently, is to just say yes. As long as you don't fight it, it can't be rape.

Here the author could respond to Joan Doughty's lucid, intelligent description of the SJF's proceedings with this tribe, personal description of a bad night out is beyond comprehension. The author's "issues," while dealing with something quite real, have absolutely nothing to do with date rape, and mock the attempts made over the past half-century for those women are treated as equals in our society. The author's vision of "choice" is a product of that very struggle; indeed, it is a luxury.
Our Views on Date Rape: Strong Women are Raped Too

by Angela M. Snyder and Erika McInteer

We would like to take this opportunity to discuss our views about rape and date-rape, especially in light of Tara Lynn-Wagner's Another View article last week.

The aspect of Tara Lynn's article that we found most disturbing and yet a reflection of messages sent to us by society is that women are always responsible for rape and that they can always prevent it. This is wrong. Tara Lynn states that "I don't sleep in parks in strange cities. I don't hitchhike. I don't jog at night in Central Park. I do not put myself in danger. I don't get so drunk that I don't know what I'm doing and if I do, I don't blame anyone but me...I will not find myself in circumstances of rape and embarrassment." But the truth is that anyone can be raped. Anyone. And it can happen anywhere, including in one's own home and bed. It does not matter how careful is one or how many self-defense measures he/she takes.

As BRAVE counselors, we often find ourselves listening to stories of survivors of rape, attempted rape, etc. and think "I've been in that situation." The only difference between us and the others is that we have lived in this culture and are not often blind luck. The situation in which we were always aware of the danger.

The same is true of rape. We were never aware of the danger. We were always aware of the dangers.

Tara Lynn states that "For the past few years, I have been raped at the hands of a man who should never have been able to hurt me. This is not my fault. This is not my responsibility."

We would also like to address Tara Lynn's idea of a strong woman. We agree with her that "Feminism is Strength, the strength to take control of your life, take responsibility for what you do with it." However, even women who are strong, who take control of their lives, and take responsibility for their actions get raped.

The world is filled with strong women who have been raped. It has been our experience that some of the most remarkable, strong women we have met have been women who came to us because we were BRAVE counselors and they had been assaulted or raped. A strong woman is often someone who has been raped and lived through it. Survivors are strong women.

This brings us to the story with which Tara Lynn began her article. We hesitate to comment on it for several reasons. First, we do not like to give people the idea that BRAVE is the "sex police" or that we have all the answers as to what is acceptable and unacceptable behavior. In addition, it is difficult for us as BRAVE counselors to label any incident different from which we have no direct knowledge and have not discussed with someone involved.

Our job is to help people develop their own understanding of what has happened when they have had a sexual encounter which they found disturbing for any reason. Incidentally, we are also not a "support group" which instructs everyone with "morning-after regrets" that "that means rape," as Tara Lynn contends. It is not uncommon for us to talk to a group who feel that a situation they were involved in was not rape, but who want to discuss their discomfort with it anyway.

With those reservations in mind, we would like to say that: First of all, we admire Tara Lynn for discussing what was obviously a very difficult encounter in a public forum like the Observer. More discussion should occur around issues of sex and sexuality. Secondly, we would like to clarify the differences between "bad sex," "coercion," and "rape" in light of Tara Lynn's story. These three categories seem often confused, and we ourselves realize that even though an incident is often difficult: the lines between these categories are unclear. What we consider to be "bad sex" is a situation in which someone willingly consents to sex with another person, but for whatever reason does not feel good about it either during or after the event. "Coercion" is an incident in which consent was obtained for sex, but was not obtained willingly (e.g. obtaining consent by refusing to leave, threatening to leave someone in a strange place, or simply harassing that person until they give in.) "Rape," on the other hand, is an incident in which consent has not been obtained for the encounter: this can happen either through the use of physical force, intimidation, or in a situation in which a person is incapable of giving consent (e.g. sleeping, unconscious, passed out drunk.) The crucial issue is, again, consent. In light of this, we would tend to agree with Tara Lynn that the incident she related does not sound like rape. It sounds like bad sex. It also appears to have been a highly coercive situation. And while we find sexual coercion morally offensive, it is not rape.

We would also like to address the role of alcohol in Tara Lynn's story. Most rape situations, and nearly all date and acquaintance rape situations, involve the use of alcohol by one or both parties. This is a fact of life everywhere, and especially, it seems, here at Bard. In an ideal world people considering a sexual encounter would always communicate well. This would mean years. Nobody would know. Nobody would know what they wanted and "maybe" would not exist. This, as we all know, does not happen in the real world: people are sober, and the use of alcohol often exacerbates painful situations, including bad sex, sexual coercion, and rape. However, we would like to reiterate that while someone who is drinking is likely to be responsible for their own behavior (a point on which we agree with Tara Lynn), it does not mean that if they are raped (or coerced) when they have been drinking that the rape or coercion is their fault. Rape, assault, and coercion are always the fault of the perpetrator, not the survivor. Getting drunk is not a raping offense. Neither is getting drunk and going home with someone. As human beings, we have the right to set sexual limits and have those limits respected, regardless of if we have been drinking, regardless of any situation.

Dear Bard Community:

I was only a little shocked to read Tara Lynn-Wagner's article in the Observer today. I have heard such sentiments expressed often before, from both women and men. I have to agree, a Strong Person (male or female) doesn't go crying rape because they regret they had sex the night before. However, a Strong Person never would allow themselves to accept responsibility for another person's actions. If someone grabs your genitals without consent, it is sexual assault. If someone sodomizes me when I don't want them to, it is rape, it is wrong, and it is a felony. It doesn't matter how drunk I was when it happens, it doesn't matter how much I did or didn't resist. It doesn't matter where I jog or how I dress. It is not my fault.

I am a member of BRAVE because I wanted to do all I could to stop sexual violence. I've had too many friends hurt to try and ignore it anymore. It was never their fault. More often than not the person who hurt them was someone they thought they knew. How well must you know a man if you are going to share a private space with him? I think we must teach people to survive. It is everyone's responsibility to take care of their own actions. People who act in a socially irresponsible manner must be socially sanctioned. People who are the wrong party have done nothing wrong and the only penalty they should receive is a hangover. Bad judgment is not a rape-able offense.

In our society we try desperately to not think about rape. One out of four women and one out of eleven men will be forced into sex without their consent. We don't want to believe it, we don't want it to happen to our family, our friends, but the truth is probably already. We want to blame the survivor. We don't want it to be rape. We don't want it to be rape.

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Prof. Brooks continued

have to engage in international issues for our own local health.

Prof. Brooks has come a long way from Texas, where he grew up.

"My mother was a very pious Roman Catholic from Louisiana, and we were raised in that tradition. But as I grew older, I had to find different expressions and understandings, as a modern man, and as a modern black man, and in relation to the problems of my own people at that time. And I found the discussion of these matters in Stevens's poem Notes Toward a Supreme Fiction, and elsewhere."

At Notre Dame, and later at the University of Chicago, Prof. Brooks studied modern poetry. "When I was twenty, I was in college studying philosophy and English. And I had a great interest in classical music. I had played the piano since I was nine years old... and for a long time I thought I would study music professionally. But, as it turned out, I became more and more attracted to philosophy and English."

"And you remember that back in those days Martin Luther King was a force in the South. So I was trying to find a way to be of some relevance to that movement."

"I was very much caught up in T.S. Eliot and Ezra Pound, and I wrote my dissertation on the American poet Wallace Stevens, one of our most important poets... He wrote some quite rich poetry, steeped in color and sound and philosophy. He was concerned about what happens to the mind when Faith gives way. In this period, he sought for something to believe in, and for him that was the imagination, or poetry itself. Those notions preoccupied myself, and I ended up transposing many of these problems, and some of his solutions, to myself."

Prof. Brooks's eyes light up when he speaks of the subject dearest to him—literature. Although African American literature diverges from the mainstream national literature, he feels that "the problem of modern man, the problems of the American man, and the problems of the ethnic and black American man, are not discontinuous. The literature asks, where do we find ourselves in the twentieth century?" The black novelist, Richard Wright, who wrote Native Son, said that the black man is a metaphor for America. And I believe that any black man who attempts to lead a full life has to encounter these problems... Ralph Ellison's Invisible Man has influenced conservatives, liberal writers, both black and white, for example, through this struggle to be an American and a black American at the same time.

Interested Bard students can learn more about the views of Prof. Brooks in his class here next autumn.

Attending the town meeting on Thursday, April 29 at 6:30pm in the Kline Committee rooms.

Questions about the

by Ephraim Glenn Colker

Since there have been so many questions concerning the Menage over the years, the Crew of Menage '94 would like to sponsor a Town Meeting and chat about the following: What do I wear? Can I come as a man? Will there be alcohol? Can I bring alcohol? Can I take pictures? What time should I come? Can I bring a "friend?" Do I need to bring a pose? Isn't it just a big orgy? Is it all gay people? Is this just an opportunity for gay people to hit on straight people? Is this just an excuse for straight people to hit on gay people? Am I allowed to take my shirt off like the boys do? Since you call it a safer sex awareness party, does that mean that people have live sex there? What are monitors? Why is security there? Are they gonna be assholes? Who the fuck do those twonies think they are? Do I have to put up with people being sexual and erotic there? Are pets allowed? OK, is leather allowed? Can I bring my little brother or sister? Can I do ANYTHING? Do I have to bring ID? Does my girlfriend/boyfriend/lover/grandmother have to have a guest pass? What in the hell is a mocktail bar? Are the drinks gonna be worth a buck? Can I sign up to be a go-go dancer? OK, can I just wiggle my ass on the one way street just one BIG cage? Do people get whipped? Do people do lots of drugs and come all high and obnoxious? Can I? Oh, do I have to be responsible? Do I have to think? What anyone else's fun? What's love got to do with it? Do I have to go piss in the bushes? Where do I get a T-shirt?? I want to come but my colleagues on the faculty are just so uptight! I want to come but my students can be so goddamn immature? Are alums coming? Who? Why? What if it rains like last year? (I hate this question) Why isn't it free? (You know I pay $26,000...Didn't you guys get $1,400? Why does it cost $5? Why are you making this such a big deal? Is it gonna be better than last year? OK, is this music gonna be better than last year? Will you take requests? Are there prizes? Is there gonna be a catwalk? (you f**k'ed cancelled it last year! I have some music, will you play it? Where do I park? How do I get in? Can I volunteer to be a monitor? Can I just come to make fun of people? Can I just come get laid? Can I just come to see chicks tits? Can I just come to watch guys' nipples? Can I just come to see gay men I can't have? Can I just come to get horny and go home and masturbate? Can I come in drag? Can I come in burkenstocks? Can I sneek in? Can I give the crew at the door a hard time at the door by paying in change. Why should I come to this elitist piece of shit? Isn't it just another feed for our rich friends? Who the fuck cares about safe sex? What time is it over? What time do I have to leave? Where are the afterparties? Is there really gonna be entertainment? Is THERE FOOD? If I'm not there, what will I miss? Do I have to be one of the Beautiful People to come? Do I have to know how to dance? Do I have to come? I have to have a great body? Who else is coming? I wanna come, but how do I get rid of my boyfriend for the night? I wanna come, but how do I get rid of my girlfriend for the night? How do I get rid of both of them for the night? I'm coming, I'm comin, but how do I convince this chick I'm not gay? (for the night) I have a whole carload of friends coming from Vassar, sh*t, what if they can't all fit in my room? Can I really wear my (fill in the blank)? You mean I can dance and flirt with anybody I want? What is sex positive? There are actually gonna be new people there? I can hangout with all the folks I haven't had time to catch up with in a while? This is all cute and wonderfully PC, but, uh, what's the point? Tell me again. One more time. I almost got it...
The Homecoming

In the inauspicious plot of Harold Pinter’s The Homecoming, a man loses his wife to a prostitution ring that is run by his own family. It is obviously not the playwright’s primary intention to create a realistic model of a social situation. Instead, Pinter’s play emphasizes the states of emotion that are provoked when people feel that their primary needs are threatened by others. The play places an intense focus on the embedded individual in his or her search for belonging, attention, power, sex, and even sleep. Fantasy is the author chosen artistic form for presenting the emotions and desires brought out by personal relationships.

At its best, the fantasy of The Homecoming has the power to release the psychological tensions of the audience. At its weakest, the fantasy is too fantastic to elicit much more than titers of clever laughter.

The Bard Theater’s set for its production is spare: red-painted walls surround an armchair, an ugly couch, a day-bed, a record player, and a clutched stand for the hour. This low-key living room also has a mirror, a window, and some stairs that lead up to some hidden, but much-used, bedrooms. The setting reflects the rusty, empty gruniness of these people’s lives. Teddy, acted by the ever-adopted Elia Shehryar, expresses contempt for the place in his first moments on stage, and the set gives his view credence.

The first vivid burst of the play comes from the aging patriarch Max, portrayed by Zack Jordan, against his young son in a 2004-suit, Lenny, portrayed by Jordan Bridges, with no particularly affected mannerisms. Their style of speech immediately informs the audience about the high level of abstraction that will dominate the rest of the play. The characters speak past each other, one insisting upon knowing the location of a pair of scissors, and the other insisting upon knowing about the record of a competitive racemouse.

Max is quick to refer to his deceased wife as a whore and his daughter-in-law as a slut; he tells his children bastards and his brother rubbish. Lenny is the pimpl who, with shoulders back and pelvis thrust out, eagerly reminds his father of the family’s past history of sexual abuse.

The play’s subsequent scenes come in style to Max and Lenny’s initial encounter—repeated struggles between pairs of people, where each person wishes to intimidate and subjugate the other. Occasionally, the characters resort to punching one another in the stomach or seducing one another sexually, but the preferred tool of domination is subtle language. Thus, the play can be considered as a series of verbal incises, with the characters resembling chickens who peck at one another indiscriminately.

When Max derides his brother Sam, the lank, undead-looking chauffeur portrayed by Ned Young, the audience wants Sam to fight back—a compliment to the actors for getting the most out of physical suggestion and verbal imitation and creating worthwhile characters in the least amount of time. Their lines convey the paradoxical, the unexpected, and the absurd, but the actors transcend these words and make their emotions compellingly believable nonetheless. Never has biting into a piece of fruit seemed so threatening, or spitting on a rag seem so evil, as when they do it. When the drip-dead gorgeous Ruth, played with malice and smiles by Samantha Mednick, says in the play that “the fact that my lips move is more important than what words come through them,” she states succinctly Pinter’s artistic message.

Yet and metaphor consistently displays glass jewels on wood. Glass orange jewels and paint splatters are melded onto a long, narrow piece of wood. The different variations of orange and size of jewels suggest a reaction from the viewers. Though this is not profound work, it is creative in its attempts to draw attention to itself.

Kenny Scharf’s Deluxo Mastermix, acrylic and spray paint on canvas is a chaotic, cartoon-like space adventure. Among the varying features of the painting are purple faces which jut out towards the audience, the spray continued on page 10

BRAVE presents
A Speak Out and Vigil Against Sexual Assault and Violence
Saturday, April 30th 7pm in the Chapel
Come and participate by reading poetry, fiction, personal accounts, performing music, etc. Or come to support your friends. Everyone is welcome. Refreshments will be served. This the final event of Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
North Division
In a close battle, Simon's Sluggers edged out That Back 12-11.

East Division
The Sit & Wait Herbivores (what the hell does this mean? someone please tell me) showed their innate, aggressive, meat-eating natures by devouring the Red-Headed Stepchildren 14-5. Ellis played into two games, defeating Spark My Part 15-5 in the first game, but losing to GA Express 8 to 7 afterwards.

The "A" Division ("A" is for "Athletic")
In the upset of the decade, the Charlestonians came from behind to tie the Dirty Dogs—slogan games are only an hour long, games can end in ties—for only the second tie game in four years. It is only known that they have been four years. Maybe it's actually longer than that. The defending champs, the Gym Rats, turned away the Swivelbys 13 to 7, while Buttafagoo beat Somewhere Over Proctor 6 to 4. Despite their opponent's loss, S.O.P. captain Chris Bittinan predicted they would "take it all" by the end of the season.

Play of the Week
This used to be the Game of the Week, but it's too tough to call on one game better than another (especially since I can't be at every game). There are two plays of the week. This time: The Homer That Never Was—Kevin Wolff of the Swivelbys pounds the ball into the deep right-center field and race around the bases with his arms lifted in celebration, only to have the three-run shot denied. Umpire Ben Jordan had called time before the promotion. The next promotion, Wolff, got up and singled to right instead.

The Shot Heard 'Round Pewabody—Charles Baldanza achieves dangerous Lefty status by banging a homer off of He-Noona to lift GA Express to victory. While others have hit home runs over the Papeerdrip, Baldanza is the first to actually hit the thing during a game.

I'm sure there were other just-as-memorable plays, but I only writes 'em as I see 'em.

Wrapping up softball talk, the fence is finally up. Unlike last year, the fence is an even 250 feet all the way around; rightfield doesn't have a "homerun porch" this time, although they still get potato chips at cars in the parking lot. The fence still does not separate all the way to the right field foul line, only reaching the Alaska. The foul line stretches from home plate in front of the bleachers and across the paved path, extending well beyond the lamp post in right field—meaning that a ball hit over the path is not necessarily fouled. If last year's rule is ignored, it will be up to the umpire to decide whether a ball hit in that area is high enough to have passed over the fence had it been hit now accepted. Call out. 530 for details.

Also, last week when I discussed the relative merits of waiting to consume alcohol until after the game, I did not mean to imply that one should imbibe. Owning a gun does not imply that one should fire it at a unsuspecting passerby; owning a pack of condiments does not imply that one should spread them on one's hands. Merely having possession of alcoholic beverages does not imply that one does not drink them. I hope to clarify last week's "rule 86": upon reaching two strikes, a batter is allowed only two foul balls, not three, as previously stated. Also, I discovered that the "new" soccer field behind the ym will be used for a soccer camp this summer, so you all ought to complain to Krs about it. Now that's con- playing bad softball.

Biathlon results
The Bard Biathalon was held last Saturday and five new records were set. Nina Silke set a record for the men's season's 1/2 mile swim (1:15.6), while Milkman Roseborough set a men's record for the 3 mile run (16:39). The team of Roseborough and Kira Chitwood set a record for co-ed teams (3:26.9), while the female team of Silke and Jennifer Matthews also broke the old record (3:30). Three of the winners were Rob Cutler and Kevin Allen (3:26.9), with individual winners Jeff Davis (3:29) and Dawn Gray (3:46), another record-breaker.

Softball schedule

Sunday, April 28
Dirty Dogs v. Buttafagoo 5pm
Champions v. Gym Rats 6pm

Friday, April 29
Sitt and Wait... v. Spark My Part 4pm
Red Headed Stepchildren v. Ellis 5pm
Red Headed Stepchild v. GA Resistance 6pm

Monday, May 2
That Back v. Joe's Wooden Anus 4pm
Simon's Sluggers v. Hot Beverage 5pm

Tuesday, May 3
No Name v. We're Not Bagle 4pm
Ricardo's Revenge v. Saint Tula 5pm

Monday, April 29
Somewhere over... v. The Swivelbys noon
Phat Back v. Hot Beverage 1pm
Simon's Sluggers v. Joe's Wooden Anus 2pm

Homecoming continued
continued from page 9
Max's outrage at having a messy rug. Because Sam chooses to assert his will in the struggle with the others, he is promptly forgotten.

Several critics have written that The Homecoming operates at multiple levels of interpretation. The play is, objectively, about two generations of prostitutes and pimps as seen during Teddy's overnight visit to his London birthplace. The play is metaphorically about what happens in an earnest team, such as Teddy, when left in a society that's sole guiding principle is self-satisfaction. The play is additionally an exercise by the author in self-examination, in its probing of his unresolved fears of himself, his family, and his lovers. These three different levels of looking at the play merge, and it is not until after the excesses are over that the viewer can try to dissect the pattern.

The audience sympathizes somewhat with the intellectual Teddy, who merely seeks to "maintain an intellectual equilibrium," and to bring his wife Ruth home. But Ruth does not want to return to America, which is to the land of sand, rocks, and insects, and she provokes a situation in which she can be freed from him to remain (and be dominant in) a culture gather. She is not threatened by stories of how Joosy and Lenny joyfully raped some women in a park. The play does not deal with her abandoning her husband and his three boys in America, so she can earn her living on "her back" to a "distinctively distanced" in the West End. This is a dream-like, dream-like exposure of the fear a husband has towards his wife, fear that comes out in these moments when he realizes he does not seem to understand her at all, and that he might up and leave him at any time. It is this nightmarelike unpredictability that makes us feel close to Teddy, who certainly does not inspire us with any heroic action in transcendental reality. Hereafter walks out alone. But when the audience leaves the theater, their cynical perspective on the world has been heightened. The play suggests that this is how things should be. By this intriguing and unexpected play.

Cricket!
by Dammat De Tisera
(Also note that the terminology is not something you would find in real cricket.)

Last Saturday (the 24th of April), the Bard cricket team started its spring season with a match against Yale University at Yale. This match was won by an organizing three runs despite the valiant efforts of the Birdians.

This game was restricted to 25 overs and the match was not extended beyond the limitations. But I must first say that Yale managed to lose ten runs for the loss of 8 wickets. For Bard, Mahboob Hosain took 3 wickets, while Shankar Jayam took 2 for 2.

In the innings, Bard managed to score 113 runs with very valuable contributions from Mahbub, who made 30 runs, and Shankar Han, who made 31.

The Bard team, for this match, was in batting order: Dammat De Tisera, Mahboob Hosain, Shankar Han, Amin Ahsan, Shiladitya Han (Captain), Anir Bhattacharya, Fahad Azizuddin, Ruben Milford, Michael Walsh, Rayce Layward, Mustafir Shah Mohammed and Tah Цiane Khue.

Bird's next match will be against Dartmouth College at Dartmouth on the 31st of April.
Letters

Senior Class Column

by Ephraim Glenn Colter

Dates to remember: TREVOR MESSERSMITH, photographer, "Please." Opening reception at 8 P.M. in Kline Commons, Sunday May 8, 1994

ERIC HOFFMAN, performance artist, "Ecosys: An Experiment in Ecological Theatre." Opening of May 6th through the weekend.

KEVIN ALLEN, photographer, May 1-7, Kline Commons. KATE MCCUMBERGOLDRING, photographer, May 1-7, Kline Commons.

And don't forget LISA ANOMAIAPRASERT, sculptor, opening this weekend, Proctor!

MICHAEL ADAMS, photographer, May 9-18, Kline Commons.

ANGUS CHASES, photographer, May 13-17, Proctor.

ANNE BECKER, photographer, May 15-18, Kline.

Have you checked out...AMANDA FAUST, sculptor, "Garters, Hose, and other Implements of Destruction." Proctor. The shows up right now!

HAVE WE ALL GOTT THE DATE OF THE AUCTION IN OUR COLLECTIVE HEADS—Tuesday, May 10, Kline Commons, 8 P.M. Yes, after written projects and after the Menage. Got it? Sorry folks, but sweet. I'm sort of, uh, "bus..."Good luck on all the Pat!!

Exhibition continued

continued from page 9

painted colored circles, the black zigzags, the commotion, and the war of the elements. The swirling action makes the paintings seem a never-ending movement of time and space. It is the most grabbing and ornamental work in the room. Its sense of meaningfulness makes it so entertaining.

Room III takes a minimalist approach. Not many works are displayed in the room, and among them are different kinds of pieces, such as a chair and a motorized device. Tina Barney's Graham Cracker Box, a chromogenic color print, 3/10 displays a typical scene of a kitchen table. There stood children staring aimlessly out into the audience. The table has dirty dishes strewn about and a large graham cracker box on the right side. A woman who is probably the mother dressed in a tennis skirt sits in the corner with a glass of wine while another woman sits down on the phone. Though this is not a happy picture, it is a typical scene of family life. Its simplicity and frankness tells a well known story.

Rebecca Horn's Untitled from "Buster's Bedroom" is a piece which combines brass, motor, and twelve wooden piano mallets with felt tips. Six piano mallets are on either side of the motor and move upward and downward simultaneously. This mechanical piece is not interesting to watch, but it is interesting because it plays with objects with which we are acquainted.

In contrast with the previous rooms, Room IV is a letdown. The paintings are too tightly crammed into the space that it detracts from the paintings themselves. For instance, one could easily overlook Alex Katz's Ada in Blue Housecoat and Help by Eric Fischl because it is such an understated piece and is placed so high. Too many works placed within one place is detrimental to those pieces which would normally receive more attention if they had more space. The setting detracts from their simplicity. On the contrary, Keith Haring's Untitled easily draws you in to itself because it is such a loud piece that it does not require a specialized setting.

Thankfully Room V allows the viewer to overlook the clumsy orientation of Room IV. Im Knoebel's Drachenraum consists of five white paintings, acrylic on wood. They are delicate and simple, in addition to being well placed. The lighting is soft, yet manages to create a shadow which underlines the pieces and highlights them. They are hung high so that the audience looks up and gains an appreciation of their authenticity.

All in all, "Exhibited" is a successful exhibit. Many of the pieces are fresh and spontaneous and grab the viewers' attention. However, diversity is important and needs to be lost in a poor arrangement, as seen in Room IV. Yet this is the only room which makes such errors and the viewers can appreciate the stimulating work in the other rooms.

No one deserves rape

by Holly Rebekah Graf

Rape is not "morning-after-regrets." Rape is violence. Rape is hate. Rape is pain. I don't know what really happened to you that night because your story is lost in denial and justification. However, I do know that you consider yourself a strong woman. When we say strong, I think we both refer to self-respect and the ability to do for ourselves what we need to do to keep ourselves healthy, both mentally and physically. You offered many opinions about what a strong woman should do, but I don't think a strong woman should have sex with someone she moderately avoids. "The unpleasantness" of saying no. So maybe you're not as strong as you think you are, or maybe you were raped. When you tell us to take responsibility for ourselves, are you suggesting that responsible people don't get raped? Believe me, they do. Responsible, strong people get raped just like responsible, strong people get hurt and beaten and harassed. But if you were raped and you are responsible and strong, you can help yourself, and you can help others. Right now you're not helping anyone. Please understand that it does not matter how "impossible" you are—I OR ONE DESERVES TO BE RAPED? Or not even you, not even after getting drunk with someone you didn't know, not even after inviting him up to your apartment, not even after being physically intimate with him. Like I said before, your story is unclear. I was confused when I read it because you didn't seem to think you had been violated, yet you were offering your own reactions as a model for dealing with rape. In any case, I think you should know that your article was highly offensive for anyone struggling with the very real, very damaging experience of having been brutally sexually assaulted. It is fine for you to be proud of your ability to deal with your morning-after regrets, but please do not belittle the suffering of those who "run crying to support groups" because they have something more serious to deal with, rape.

More Responses on Date Rape

To the editor,

I am responding to Tara Lynn-Wagner's letter, as I'm sure that many others are as well. I find the whole fascination with the kind of "pop feminism" she is subscribing to very troubling in ways that need to be addressed, not just dismissed as I think many feminists (understandably) would like to do. I think what bothers me most is that the cultural perception of all women as victims is a very serious problem that can very much lurch one's sense of autonomy, but this argument can only be used to a certain point. It is rather simplistic to argue that sexuality and the messages that we all send can be confusing and it is very important that women should feel comfortable expressing themselves. But unfortunately in this society, our conceptions of gender and sexuality can be very convoluted and ambiguous and it is very important that BOTH partners in any sexual interaction should take responsibility for their actions. I fully concede that a woman should have enough self-esteem to decide what she does or does not feel comfortable with sexually. But to just assume that every man is a raging beast that the woman must hold in check places an outrageous burden on the woman, and relieves the man from any blame if a transgression occurs. New developments in sexual politics have created a new kind of power that can be abused, but to focus all of our energy on this issue seems to be an easy diversion from the far more prevalent abuse of women's sexuality by men. Come on, have women been getting a free ride for that long? As much as one may disagree with a policy of theoretical victimhood, don't deny those who have been victimized their right to fight back.

Amy Herzog

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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 in 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, April 27

* Alcohols Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are meeting today in Aspinwall 304 at 12 noon.
* French Table. Kline College Room, 5:00p to 7p.
* 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.
* Alcohols Anonymous meeting in Barrytown. Meet van at Security at 7:45p.

Thursday, April 28

* Alcohols Anonymous meeting in Aspinwall 304 at 7:30p.
* Martie Hollander, candidate for the position of Assistant Professor for Art History at Bard College, will give a lecture entitled "The Divided House of the Gnomes of the Mass." Olin 102, 6:00p.
* Toscana Italiana. Kline President's Room. All Welcome! Join us for conversation at 6:30p. Benvenuti!
* Interdisciplinary Seminar. Virus: Biological and Computer. Seminar conducted by Biology Professor John Ferguson and Computer Education Michael Lewis. Meetings started two weeks ago and will continue for one more Thursday. Olin 310, 6:30p. For information contact Ms. Karen Becker.
* Interdisciplinary Seminar. Gnosticism: Philosophy and Techniques. This seminar will be led by Professor Leonard Schwartz. Today will be the last session. Olin 308, 7p. For information contact Ms. Karen Becker.
* Poetry Reading and workshop by poet Linda Zissel who is visiting the US. forum her home in Israel. Olin. Tavern Poetry Room, 7p.
* Menage '94 Town Meeting. An open discussion, a chance to share your views and input concerning the Menage. All are welcome. Kline Big Room, 7:30p.

Friday, April 29

* Alcohols Anonymous meeting in Aspinwall 304 at 12 noon.
* Czech It Out! Do you have an interest in Czech culture? Would you like to learn some Czech words, expressions or experience Czech humor? Come to the Czech table. Kline Presidents Room, 5:30p.
* TAI-CHI class with Master Wendy Shab. Stevenson Gymnasium, 7p. The fee is $5 per class. To register, call 758-7590.
* Waiting, a new play by Toby Armour, directed by Alleen Passloff. Scene Shop Theatre, 8p.

Saturday, April 30

* Alcohols Anonymous meeting in Aspinwall 304 at 12 noon.

Sunday, May 1

* Wickets, balls and short square-legs? Anyone for Cricket? Yes, it is now the season to play. Worried that you've never played before, but would still like to learn? Come to the practice session today from 3p to 5p near or inside the Stevenson Gym. For more info call 758-7590.
* Charles Stein will be reading today from his new book The Hot Rock Tree. This book consists of poems selected from his larger opus of various fortunes. Artists' Co-op, 60 Broadway in Tivoli, 8p. Admission is free.

Monday, May 2

* Alcohols Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous will be meeting in Aspinwall 304 at 12 noon.
* Women's Center Meeting. Annandale House, rm 110, 6:30p.

Tuesday, May 3

* Alcohols Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous will be meeting today in Aspinwall 304 at 12 noon.
* Professor William Wilson will be giving a lecture entitled "Joyce and the Artist." Pre-lecture reception will take place at 6:20p in the Olin atrium, and the lecture will start at 7p in Olin Auditorium.
* Van to Cheap Movie Night at the Red Hook Lyceum. Van leaves at 6:30p from Kline and returns at 10p. First come, first served, so be early.

Wednesday, May 4

* Alcohols Anonymous and Narcotics Anonymous are meeting today in Aspinwall 304 at 12 noon.
* Amelia Treslewyn, candidate for the position of Assistant Professor of Art History at Bard College, will give a talk entitled "Methuselah in Pre-Columbian North America: Art as Medium and Vice Versa." Olin 102, 4p.
* Senior Projects due at the Dean of Studies' Office, 8p.
* 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.
* Alcohols Anonymous meeting in Barrytown. Meet van at Security at 7:45p.
* Wickets, balls and short square-legs? Anyone for Cricket? Yes, it is now the season to play. Worried that you've never played before, but would still like to learn? Come to the practice session today from 3p to 5p near or inside the Stevenson Gym. For more info call 758-7590.

Transportation Schedule

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