World's fastest Forum

Student Forum approves Convocation Budget in record time

In the history of Budget Forums here at Bard College, none have been so expedient and uneventful as the Forum last Wednesday evening. With around one hundred students in attendance at Kline Commons, the Forum approved the Budget drafted by the Planning Committee without a single amendment and only a handful of speakers. In the past, Budget Forums have dragged on for three, or even four, hours as students introduce, debate and vote on various amendments to the Planning Committee's proposal. That unpleasant track-record made this semester's Budget Forum a welcome surprise to many returning students.

"What do you mean?" joked Student Judiciary Board Chair, Andrew Fowler, who served as moderator for the Budget Forum. According to the Student Constitution, the Planning Committee must solicit budgets from the clubs on campus within the first two weeks of each semester. With that information, the Committee then debates on how to distribute the Convocation Fund (the collected revenue from student activity fees.) Then that proposed budget must be approved at a meeting of the Forum where every Bard student has the opportunity to vote.

According to an amendment to the Constitution passed two years ago, debate on the Budget must last for at least ninety minutes before the moderator may allow a motion to close the speaker's list. Since so few people wanted to speak during the Forum, a two-thirds majority was required to close debate on the Budget. That motion received overwhelming support, leading to virtually unanimous passage of the Budget after only four speakers.

The only issue raised over the Budget was brought forward by a group of first-year students who felt their efforts to publish a literary magazine were ignored by the Planning Committee. Christina Olson, speaking for the proposed club Imaginary Alphabets, said that they had requested $3,000 from the Convocation Fund, since the Language and Literature Department would not offer to fund their publication.

"A literary magazine seemed appropriate for this college," commented Olson. The Planning Committee did not allocate any money to Imaginary Alphabets, instead urging them to appeal to the Emergency Fund.

The Emergency Fund is the amount set aside by the Planning Committee at the start of the semester. This semester the Emergency Fund was set at $6315. Clubs can appeal to the Emergency Fund for money when they go over budget, or need funding for a new project. Planning Committee Chair Jeff Rhyme confirmed that he will be accepting Emergency Fund requests immediately.

Funds Request Tracking Amendment

The item which consumed the most time at Wednesday's forum was a proposed constitutional amendment continued on next page
Stop calling!

Security refers students to the switchboard

Michael Poirier  
News Editor

Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace is urging students to please stop calling the security dispatcher.

"That is, to not telephone Security with calls that the switchboard should be handling."

Squillace explained that a number of non-security phone calls have been coming in to the security dispatcher. People have been asked to be forwarded to campus extensions through Security, tying up their phone lines and running the risk of delaying response to an actual emergency.

Squillace urges students to dial the campus switchboard at 758-6822 when they need any sort of directory assistance, such as reaching campus extensions or dormitory phones. When a switchboard operator is not on duty, calls to the 758-6822 number are automatically forwarded to Security.

"If students can limit their non-security calls that would help out a lot," said Squillace.

In other Security related news, the Tewksbury Green Lot is no longer available as a parking area. Because of the mud, Buildings and Grounds has advised Security to prohibit parking in this area.

Squillace admitted that North Campus students now have no legal place to park near main campus if the Tewksbury gravel lot and Rainbow Road are filled. She encouraged students to take advantage of the Jilney service to get from North to Main campus.

Squillace also reported that B&G will be expanding parking in the Manor North lot by making lined spaces on the asphalt.
The Hudson-Bard Community Outreach Program

When two Bard students, Gilbert Afonso and James (2) Chang, first started working with kids in the Hudson-Bard Summer Program, they found it "hard to create any type of educational environment" for the kids. So, instead of fighting the blistering heat and rowdy atmosphere of the Hudson parks, they took the kids to Bard for "a head-start program for college," where they learned community awareness, self-esteem, and critical thinking skills.

Chang and Afonso were originally chosen to lead free recreational and educational activities for "economically disadvantaged" kids in the parks of Hudson. However, they found that the poor condition of the parks and the 90 degree heat made anything beyond supervision and refereeing impossible. So they moved the kids to Bard, and created "Beyond the Horizon."

The "Beyond the Horizon" program was designed by Chang and Afonso to expose the kids to a new type of community. They left here, they can make sense of their own environment, and hopefully change it."

During the program's four weeks, Chang and Afonso formed "strong bonds with the children."

"Beyond the Horizon" was initiated by Lorin Rees, a member of the City Volunteer Corps in New York City and a 1991 Bard alumna. She proposed his idea to the College and Hudson, asking them both to offer a stipend to students who volunteered. The program was accepted, and Chang called the program "a chance to integrate one's own interest in college (art, dance, writing) with their concern with children and community issues."

The Bard students will host their child every other Saturday, as well as writing them letters. The hosts will help their kid with homework, read to them, take them to the computer center or gym, or just "be someone there to talk to them and answer their questions," says Chang.

If interested in participating in "Partnership for the Future," please contact James (752-7512) or Gilbert Afonso (752-7277) by phone or through campus mail.

National Depression Screening Day

Thursday, October 6, 1994

This Test Could Save Your Life

- FREE OF CHARGE
- Written Self-Test for Depression
- Screening Interview with Mental Health Professional
- Multimedia Educational Presentations

If the pleasure has gone out of your life, if you feel sad and empty or if you have trouble sleeping or eating, you may have clinical depression. Other symptoms of a clinical depression include: thoughts of suicide or death, fatigue or lack of energy, inability to concentrate, and restlessness or decreased activity noticed by others. It's a medical illness, and effective treatments are available.

CALL FOR DEPRESSION SCREENING LOCATIONS AND TIMES IN YOUR AREA:

FREE SCREENING OCT. 6 HUDSON VALLEY MALL 12-2 PM & 4-6 PM COMMUNITY ROOM
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL M.H.A. 339-4000 ext. 112

Looking for travel, romance and adventure? Well, keep looking.

But, in the meantime, you are off to work. For the Bard Observer! We need reporters, photographers, columnists, copywriters, advertising representatives, post office box stuffers...

Weekly Monday Meetings 7pm Room 84 Tows basement
What Edward Said had to say

Thoughts on the intellectual in today's society

"What is the special role of the intellectual in trying to speak truth to power, to represent the disavantaged and oppressed, and yet somehow steer clear of specialized jargon?" - A question that the internationally recognized literary scholar Edward Said attempted to answer at his lecture entitled "The Role of The Secular Intellectual" which took place on September 13 in Olin Auditorium.

In some ways, said Said, the intellectual of today's society is expected to define and seek out justice. The problem with this, however, is that justice too often becomes "a function of the oppressed" to seek out power, not even to seek out power, but to work towards truth. This means avoiding, if possible, presenting subjective 'rulings.' After the lecture, one member of the audience asked, "Should intellectuals bar themselves from employment?" which seemed to be what Said was saying?" Said's response was "No. That would be ludicrous. Someone who is unemployed is unemployed — that's all." However, he also pointed out that working for governments "too often means accepting too much of what that government does." Being an intellectual "is an activity, not a thing."

Even so, Said seemed to suggest that the most important goal of a true intellectual should be to keep important issues in one's mind, and to maintain consciousness. "Consciousness is seeking to find real justness and change." This is an ideal concerning the responsibility of an intellectual, but who are the intellectuals? Said's definition of an intellectual included the statement, "an intellectual can talk about the workings of the mind with the workings of society." Therefore, the intellectual today must not only acquire and collect any sort of information, but important information -- an understanding of culture and society. This is, according to Said, a vastfield occupied by the intellectual and intellectual debate. It is also a growingfad almost as approximately "60% of GNP today is stimulated by intellectual production."

Intellectuals, however, "as people whose interest is not supposed to be influenced by profit, intellectuals should...identify and stick to values," said Said. One very essential question still remains: How is this accomplished? For this, Said did not have an answer. Although he insisted that there should be a compact for truth, he could not answer one of his own questions: "What is true?" He did not even attempt to approach this subject, but was instead content to go on speaking about the history and future of the intellectual in regards to moral reform.

According to Said, "power played a large role in the acquirement of knowledge" in the 18th Century, but since the 19th century the secular intellectual has been "converted from social authority to someone who is exerting constant effort." Whose interests do they work for? There was also no answer for this question, but it was apparent that they, in Said's opinion, should not be working for anyone, but the "better good." An almost impossible task, but also an innate one -- one that the intellectual must continue to strive for. The most dramatic function of the intellectual being to "know how to intervene and make opinions heard."

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Features

Madame the Gypsy Queen's Weekly Horoscope

Taurus (April 20-May 20): Sometimes finding the right words is just a matter of finding the right person to talk to. (Mark: romance heats up, etc. etc., this week)

Gemini (May 21-June 20): If you look into the greater scope of things, you will have a better chance of finding a pattern; if you examine only the short-term, you will remain the helpless whelp you have always been.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): Call your ex. If you don't have an ex, call your mother. If you don't have a mother to call, or if it's really long distance, call some random stranger, and make friends.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Are you tired of the same old hanky-panky, day in, day out? Do you long to explore new realms? Try real estate, scuba diving or go-cart racing.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): If you feel the person closest to you is getting a bit strange, then try making him or her nice meals. Then, using that pretzel, put Prune in their oatmeal.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): It's important to take time to stop and smell the keg.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 22): Perhaps you should spend more time on your homework, and less time in bed with that spindled weenie you call 'Master.'

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Looking on the bright side will cause blindness. If you are blinded by the light, how do you expect others to see your point of view?


Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): For the next few days, your libido will unexpectedly increase. Try to control yourself, you animal!

Pisces (Feb. 19-Mar. 20): Just like a Commodore 64, you and your honey are probably not compatible. Try a Drama/Dance major instead.

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): Notoriously obscene, fictionally happy, mythologically virginal, you must go on with your life.

Peace Corps On Campus

Info Session: Wed, Sept 21, 2-3 PM, Committee Rm
Info Table: Wed, Sept 21, 11-2, Dining Hall

We need someone to join 6,500 people already working in over 90 developing countries around the world. To help people help themselves.

The work isn't easy. And it takes more than just concern. It takes motivation. Commitment. But it's a chance to stop dreaming about a better world and start doing something about it.

For more info, call (800)424-8580
Barcelona

The elaborate story of Fred and Ted and the smell of fish

Meet Ted. Ted is a salesman living in Barcelona, Spain. His life unrolls over women.

He recently resolved to pursue relationships only with "homely" women. According to Ted, the process of encountering a beautiful woman is far too arduous. First you see her, then you fall in love with her. Soon you begin fantasizing about marriage. Dreamland ends quickly with the crushing of all your hopes.

By dating only homely women, Ted hopes to see the real person, perhaps catching a glimpse of her soul. Despite his semi-passionate oaths, he specifically targets the bar that the pretty trade show girls frequent.

Among his obsessions is the application of sales tactics to real-life situations, a constant dropping of theory after theory.

He reads a bible tasked in the folds of financial publication. When alone, he reads it while dancing to Transyxmia Taylor, an executive from the American household, he believes that the innocent visit of Dickie Eigman, Tushka Bergman, Mira Susmano, Pepp Munne, Helena Schmed, Nuria Rolda, Jack Gilpin, Thomas Gilpin, Pep Munne, Helena Schmed, Nuria Rolda, Jack Gilpin, Thomas Gilpin, Pep Munne, Helena Schmed, Nuria Rolda, Jack Gilpin, Thomas Gilpin

Music: Mark Susman
Written, Produced, Directed by: Whit Stillman

Barcelona will be at uptate films beginning Friday, Sept. 20. Call 876-2285 for more details.

Time Cop

Paradox abounds in the new Jean Claude Van Damme movie

Chuck Beckius Staff Writer

Continuing my ongoing analyses of movies based upon the previews of new movies, before it, Time Cop did not bode well. Double Dragon and Street Fighter were and still are mindless video games long gone with the advent of Mortal Combat. I thought that this sort of wrong-headed marketing scheme ended with the executive in charge of Mario Brothers having been drawn and quartered. I guess that good taste has no place in pop culture today.

Who am I to discuss taste when I am reviewing another Jean Claude Van Damme (Bloodsport, Black Eagle, Cyborg, Universal Soldier, and Lethal) to name some) movie. However, if one accepts action movies as a separate and viable art form reflecting some small aspect of the human condition, then TimeCop can stand up against critical treatment. The film posits itself in 2004 when a Nobel Prize winning physicist culminates twenty years of work with the invention of time travel. This invention seems to have no application at all except ruining the world and the present since only travel backwards is successful. The terrifying ramifications of its improper use are taken up by the NSA and a Senate Oversight Committee appropriates funds to police the time stream and prevent interference with the natural order of events. The senator in charge, however, has an evil vision and is the one hiring everyone to break the time laws so that he can become president. These lackeys are the people Van Damme chases in a high budget, two hour episode of Time Trax. Eventually, Van Damme chases down the senator himself, all the while Van Damme is haunted continually by the pressure to change the events surrounding his wife's death, a possibility he faces on every mission.

That's the bulk of the plot which is executed stylishly and without the macho posturing that most action movies play up as essential. And, there's only one explosion that gives rise twice due to repeating time streams. More articulate than ever, Van damme does not ham up the screen with heavy one liners and instead we see the true inner struggle of a man enforcing the law he wishes so desperately to break. Thankfully for him, the course of duty calls him to enforce the law in such a way that it alters reality in his favor.

The action scenes are mostly no-nonsense with a great variety- knife fights, gun battles, combat sticks from lamp stands, liquid/plastic-like medium that corriesy end in the character's demise. For numerous action scenes do what happens twice due to repeating time streams.

More impressive than the action scenes, however, were the special effects. Evolving what appeared to be cardboard, annoying characters, the film does not work.

I hope the perception of Americans abroad has not sunk this much. We can all be bad as these two.

Players: Taylor Nichols, Chris Eignman, Tushka Bergman, Mira Susmano, Pep Munne, Helena Schmed, Nuria Rolda, Jack Gilpin, Thomas Gilpin

Music: Mark Susman
Written, Produced, Directed by: Whit Stillman
Cross-country at cross purposes
By not providing transportation, Bard College lets down Varsity athletes

Joshua Ledwell
Sports Editor

Though beset with injuries and sometimes even lacking transportation to away games, Bard varsity athletics goes on.

One cross-country runner complained to me that Bard's lack of vehicles able to go off campus caused the team to forfeit a meet last week.

On Saturday, two vans had already left with the women's volleyball and women's soccer teams before the cross-country team was scheduled to leave for the Vassar Invitational meet. Unfortunately, the van that was supposed to take the team there was taking students to Greig Farm for apple picking. There were no other Bard vehicles available.

The coach and one student agreed to take the team to Vassar in their own cars. Apparently, though, one car broke down before it started, and the cross-country team dispersed, unable to attend a meet due to Bard's pathetic parsimony.

Come on, Bard! Students train and practice daily, but when they want to compete they are rewarded with this? I hear rumors that new vehicles will soon be available, and I hope they are true. It's inexcusable for a college to charge so much for people to come here, and then neglect them in this way.

Varsity Sports

Winners go first today! The women's volleyball team has done well so far this season, with a record so far of 3-1. On Tuesday, Sept. 27, from 7:30-9:30 PM, you can play with a brand new foosball table, rotating rows of little soccer players until your wrists ache. After the tournament, the table will be installed in deKline for the enjoyment of all. I wonder where they'll put it?

There will also be a table tennis tournament on the same night. Kris Hall describes table tennis as "sort of a combination of volleyball, handball, and basketball." Sounds interesting!

The Natural High. Once it came from a balloon, and soon it will come from rock climbing! Saturday, October 1, Bard students will travel to "The Inner Wall" at New Paltz to scale their indoor rock climbing course. If you wish to go, register for $4.00 at the gym. All equipment, and instruction if included in the registration fee.

Only the first forty students to register will have places, so register well before the deadline on Tuesday, Sept. 27. As always, call Kris Hall (ext. 530) for details.

Last, but not least, the taichi martial arts starts this Thursday. Stay sporting!

Another View

Hey...ah...ah...this...ah...is...ah...Dean...ah...ah...Levine...ah

We apologize for this exclamation, Stew forgot to ask Leon's permission to speak. Don't worry, though, he has been sent to his room without his dinner. Speaking of dinner, it is almost time for me to get my raw food from kline. I'm not worried. I pray to the god of salt shakers to save my taste buds. Speaking of buds, it is just about time for my nightly bowl. How on earth do I figure out the secrets of the universe. Speaking of the universe, well, uh, who really cares about the universe anyway. Speaking of anyway, when's the next Menage, and will there be free condoms again? Speaking of condoms, does anyone know where I can get one with airholes in it? I lost three hamsters this week. Speaking of weeks, Happy Hump Day. Yes, today is Hump Day. Wednesday is the hump dead smack in the middle of the week. Speaking of smack, where is Stew?

The neutronic noyonace

continued from page 5

All possess futuristic military hardware and live in blue colonials and late victorians. The streets are in a much state of bad repair and the malls seem to have gone downhill. That alone does not make for that big a problem. Time Paradox. It's everywhere. The police agency created in the movie originates to prevent people from screwing up time so badly that the present from which they came does not even exist when they return. Now, suppose an officer left on just such a mission and did his duty in such a way that he never would have been sent in the first place due to the alterations he made. That is only one of the many paradoxes the movie explores.
Let's be frank!

by Jeana C. Breton

North campus residents must finally be relieved that they have an alternative to walking on Annandale Road to get to main campus. The newly installed, and paved path going from main campus to Crozer Village makes it possible for walkers and bikers alike to travel without risk of being hit by oncoming cars. Some students, however, still use the road at night, even at night. Perhaps this is because the path remains dark whereas the road at least has a few street lights and light from houses on the side opposite the path. The campus is still waiting for lights along the path as well as the promised emergency phones.

Which brings me to what I really want to complain about. Awhile back a student was hit by a car in front of Kline Commons. At the time of the incident, the administration finally faced up to the dangers to students who were traveling (by one means or another) on Annandale Road. In response to a long-growing need to make the road safer, Dean of Students Shelley Morgan distinctly said that a path along the road would be installed, as well as crosswalks across the road. Where are the crosswalks?

I remember asking Dean Morgan personally, only a short time after the accident last fall, when she expected to receive guidelines from the county for installation of the proposed crosswalks. Dean Morgan's reply was “about two weeks,” and as soon as they received the plans, they were supposed to have the lines painted and the signs up. It has, however, been several months since this promise and still there are no indications that there will ever be crosswalks.

The two places that need crosswalks the most are in front of Kline (crossing over to in front of the Chapel) and in front of Stevenson Gymnasium (crossing over to Kline Commons Parking Lot). These areas are extremely busy and students are in danger of being hit by cars as there is no reduced speed limit, limited viewing distance, and no crosswalks. I was impressed to see that no parking signs had finally been put up along the road, but even those do not improve driver's ability to see pedestrians if cars continue to park there - which they do, without, so far, being towed despite supposed strict parking regulations recently imposed by security.

If all this comes down to this, however, Annandale Road is in fact a county road not owned by the college, therefore, security is not responsible for enforcing traffic rules (such as the 30 m.p.h. speed limit) or prohibited parking. The dangers will remain unless the county decides to do something, but why has there not been more pressure from the college? Does the college not care? Two weeks has become, has I have already said, several months. Before another student is hit, shouldn't something better be done to secure students' safety?

Mistake

To the Editor-in-Chief:

As concerned students of the English language, we were alarmed to see the following in the Bard Observer:

“The naturalist high I ever had”.

“Naturalist” is a noun defined by Webster's as either “one who studies animals and plants,” or “an advocate of naturalism.” It is not an adjective, and even if it were, punctuation would have been required at the end of the quote. The correct heading should have read:

“The most natural high I’ve ever had.”

Please avoid such careless and embarrassing errors in the future. It reflects upon the entire student body.

Sincerely,

Katherine Duff '98

Suz Seidman '98

Concerned students:

I'm sorry you were upset by the usage of “naturalist” in last week's paper. I was, however, aware of the error and allowed it to go to print anyway since it was a direct quote taken from a student who had gone up in the hot air balloon; it seemed better to not misquote the student than to heed to the rules of English grammar.

Sincerely,

the Editor-in-Chief

You are absolutely right. The quote does reflect on the student body, precisely because it is exactly what one student said to the reporter. We were aware of the grammatical insufficiencies of "naturalist", but journalistic ethics (and a predilection for cheap puns...), prevented us from altering a direct quote from a student. Messing with quotes from students makes me feel like a cheap plagiarist...

Sincerely,

--Sports Ed.

Editorial Policy

The Bard Observer is an entirely student-run publication. Submissions from the community are always welcome. Letters to the editor should be under 500 words, and may be edited for spelling or grammar. Pieces for the Another View page will not be edited without the consent of the author. Only that which is slanderous or libelous will be denied publication. Anonymous submissions will not be printed unless at least one editor knows the identity of the author.

Campus organizations are also invited to publicize their events free of charge in the Observer. Space on the Calendar Page is provided through the Dean of Students' Office.

The Observer is published every Wednesday while classes are in session. Only those items which arrive in campus mail, or to our office, the Friday prior to the next issue will be guaranteed immediate publication.

The Bard Observer

Trunkaury Basement Room 84, 914-758-0772

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Eric Schwartz

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Thursday Night Madness

Every Thursday night from 10:30pm to 1:00am at the Stevenson Gymnasium is open to Bard students only.

Come experience the madness

Aerobics almost every evening!

Pick up schedules at the Gym.

September 21, 1994
TRANSPORTATION

Jitney Schedule: the Jitney runs Monday through Friday at the following times: 8:30a - 10:30a, 12p - 2p, 4p - 6p. The vans run continuously between Kline, Manor and Feltier during each of these periods.

Monday: van to OA Barrytown (7:30-9:30p), leaves at 6:45p.
Tuesday: van to AA Red Hook (8p-9p), leaves at 7:45p. Van to the Lyceum in Red Hook, 6:30p.
Wednesday: Grand Union Run, 6p. Van to AA Barrytown (8p-9p), leaves at 7:45p.
Friday: van to OA Kingston (5:30-7p), leaves at 5:15p. Van to AA Red Hook (8:30-9:30p), leaves at 8p. Poughkeepsie Gallfieria Mall trip, 5p. Vans to Rhinecliff Station at 4:30p (4:53 train), 6:10p (6:31 train) and 7:30p (7:51 train). Vans to Poughkeepsie Station at 5:30p (6:19 train), 7:45p (8:55 train) and 10p (10:45 train).

Meet all vans behind Kline

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ATTENTION CLUB HEADS, PARTY ORGANIZERS, ET AL.

The Bard Observer Calendar wants to publicize your events and everyone on campus wants to know about them! If you want your parties, films, dances and other extravagant soul gatherings to be a complete success, send the Calendar notice and we will put your event in the weekly schedule,

IT'S SIMPLE, AND IT'S FREE!