Page 1  Community in Crisis
Bard community meets to listen and learn

Page 2  Crossing Signals
After a long wait, crosswalks are in effect
Michael Poirier

Classifieds and Personals

Page 3  The “Beat at Bard”
College hosts performance-packed AIDS benefit Saturday night in Olin
Michael Poirier

Ed Wood
From Edward Scissorhands to cross-dressing with Bella Lagosi
Chuck Beckius

Page 4  If You Could Ask All Bard Students One Question, What Would it Be?

Page 6  Dedicated to Athletics
Memorial Soccer Field to be officially opened on Parent’s Day
Joshua Lewder

Page 7  Letters
A Call For Change
Mark Minervini
Bad Service [La Parmigiana]
Leslie Richardson
Katherine Ryan
Carmen Hechmer

Page 8  Calendar
"Do you think God sees me? You must close your eyes."
—Samuel Beckett

Contents

2 Crosswalks
Classifieds and Personals

3 "The Beat at Bard"
Ed Wood

4 + 5 "If you could ask Bard students one question...

6 Sports

7 Letters: Homophobia and Dessert Dilemmas

Community in crisis

Bard community meets to listen and learn

On October 6, a group of about thirty Bard students and faculty gathered to talk about the nature of the Bard community. During two hours of discussion, they took a wide variety of approaches to the question of the role of the individual in the community, both inside and outside of Bard. While the views presented were extremely varied, they mostly agreed that a spirit of community plays an important part in the life of a college, and that it’s important for Bard students to become involved in their community.

Prof. Diedre d’Albertis makes her point during the community meeting. (Photo by L.)

Eric Schwartz
Staff Writer

On October 6, a group of about thirty Bard students and faculty gathered to talk about the nature of the Bard community. During two hours of discussion, they took a wide variety of approaches to the question of the role of the individual in the community, both inside and outside of Bard. While the views presented were extremely varied, they mostly agreed that a spirit of community plays an important part in the life of a college, and that it’s important for Bard students to become involved in their community.

Community can be anything from going out to coffee to dye twister, said Shreiner. "It's the working together that's the important part. There are a lot of amazing groups out there that work to foster a sense of community."

The next to speak was student Brandon Weber, who argued that "boredom is what characterizes the Bard community more than apathy... Boredom is what happens when you get drunk and urinate on someone's carpet." However, he also stated that "the harm of boredom only comes when you start to harm others." Weber felt that "you don't have to put up Clinton posters—you can just sit in your room," as long as you're not doing any harm.

Psychology professor Kathleen Barker described research she performed at Bard a few years ago. The study looked at how Bard students feel about recycling, an activity that she felt demonstrates community spirit and an attachment to both Bard and planet Earth. She found that while 90% of the students questioned claimed to support recycling, under 15% of them actually recycled on a regular basis.

Other students and teachers also complained about the lack of community at Bard. Common concerns were the graffiti on the LASO and Gay Students' bulletin boards and last year's heroin overdose. Freshman Reka Prasad said that "Bard is full of people sitting instead of working together. She partly contributed this to a "lack of organization within organizations," pointing out that it's sometimes very hard to find out what's going on at Bard.

Weber blamed the lack of community on the fact that often "people don't pursue their self-interests." Shreiner felt that in the cul de sacs we belong to "we should be so dependent on other people to suit our needs." "If I don't like it, it's partly my fault," said sophomore Brent Armendinger.

Carol Greene, faculty secretary, felt that there are a lot of opportunities at college to help build community. College is "a terrific time to try to make an impact," she said. Professor Mark Lyle agreed, saying that students should say to themselves "somebody has to take responsibility—why not me?" He suggested that people should do an "energy computation" to decide whether they had potential to make a contribution. They should ask themselves "Did I put more energy into the world than I took out?"
Crossing signals

After a long wait, crosswalks are in effect

For years now, the administration of Bard College has been promising pedestrian crosswalks for Annandale Road. Now, nearly thirteen months after an accident involving a car and a student on rollerblades, two crosswalks have been completed.

The crosswalks are located at the bottom of the hill leading to the Chapel, and another between the Stevenson Gymnasium and Kline Parking lot. The walks were originally supposed to be completed last summer, but Dutchess County, which owns Annandale Rd., decided to resurface the road, obscuring the space it had designated for the crosswalks.

Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace was one of the administrators who worked with the County to have the crosswalks installed. She explained that while the walks will improve safety for pedestrians, students shouldn’t assume that all cars are going to stop for those who are walking.

"The crosswalks are really a signal to drivers to advise them to slow down in these areas," Squillace continued. "The signs and the painted lines should prepare motorists for people on foot. Once a pedestrian is in the roadway, cars must yield."

Squillace went on to say that students should still exercise caution when crossing the road: "If you see a car coming, you should wait until it goes by before you try to cross. Don’t try to beat the car because you are not going to win."

She urges students to only cross the road where there are crosswalks, "Students should only cross on the walks," she said. "Motorists might not be so cautious now where there are not crosswalks."

In a related incident, Squillace reported that a student on a bicycle was recently struck by a student driving a car out of Cruger Village. Fortunately, no one was hurt in the incident which happened around 2 o’clock in the afternoon. The driver of the vehicle agreed to pay for the damage to the bicycle.

Squillace wanted to remind motorists that "pedestrians always have the right of way. "Drivers should never pull out into the street unless they have full visibility," she concluded.

In other related news, Security is still investigating a fire at the Proctor Art Center which began in the early morning hours of October 12th.

Furthermore, contract negotiations between the security guard union and the College began last Monday. By press-time, these negotiations were not yet completed. Since details of the process must be kept confidential until the contract is signed, more information will be published as it becomes available.

CASTING CALL! Needed: 2 male students, 2 female students, 1 adult male 35-60, 1 adult female 35-60, and 1 young boy 6-10 for interesting dramatic roles in a Bard College Senior's thesis film, The Sound of Revelers. Call Trevor, 792-7246 or drop a note, Box 861.

Travel Free to Cancun, Nassau, Jamaica, & South Padre Island. Spring Break with Sun Bound Vacations. Organize a small group of 15 as a College Rep. Call 1-800-4-SUN-BOUND for details.

Haunted Hayrides! Fri. & Sat. 21 & 22. Dusk to 9:30pm at Greg Farm in Red Hook. 758-1234.

Squad wanted to know general questions about what one can and should do for depressed friends. Go to the Student Forum or contact her ASAP, about getting answers.


STARR CANTINA: Rhinebeck 876-6816 Thurs. Oct. 20 9:30pm Point of Departure: $3 cover. Well-rooted, tap your booted, psychedelic with the rel...Original, Variety, Rock.

Hey Rabbit, I’m taking you down with me. “All they can say is he’s not your kind.” Don’t let me make-up your mind. Don’t you know girl, you’ll be a (tigger) soon...

Wow! 8 channels w/wonderful reception. If I walk out to Ni. Campus now you’ll know I REALLY care. Love, Joana.

NO Wilma, you may not put your own personal here. You are not leaving because you do not trust us. There just is not enough ammo. Take a nap. We all need a nice little nap. A time-out in the corner with a fuzzy green blanket is named Theodore.

Fred is just a jealous stinky go head and I don’t like him one bit...He, just purchased some real bad music...I don’t like Fred...So there.

Keys have U seen my Keys?

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FALL 1994 Lecture Series

LECTURE Thursday, October 20, 1994 8:00 p.m.

David Card, Professor of Economics, Princeton University, will be giving a lecture on "The Labor Market Effects of Immigration."

Part of a free lecture series - everyone is welcome.

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Agenda for Forum:

* Committee reports
  - Students on faculty search committees amendment
  - Planning Committee member/clubhead amendment

* Student life survey results

TONIGHT, Wed. Oct. 19

at 7pm in Kline Commons
The "Beat at Bard"

College hosts performance-packed AIDS benefit Saturday night in Olin

Michael Poirier

Editor

A evening of "high-voltage performance poetry" is set to take the stage of the Olin Auditorium this Saturday at 8pm. Featuring poetry, dance and comedy, "The Beat at Bard" has been organized as a fundraiser to benefit the Multi-County Development Corporation's Positive Housing Program for families with AIDS.

The event will feature performances by poets John Giorno, Bel Holman, Janine Farmynn Vega, Mikhail Horowitz, dancer Miriam Arsenberg; and comedienne Judy Altman. Woodstock artist and gallerist owner Susan Cooper will offer her services as emcee.

Giorno is best known as the creator of the Dial-a-Poem hotline, and has experimented widely in merging poetry with visual and audio technology. His AIDS Treatment Project has raised nearly half a million dollars for AIDS sufferers.

Emmy-Award winning poet Holman is the co-director of the Nuyorican Poets Cafe and has won awards for his PBS television program, "Words in Your Face." He will be reading from his most recent collection, Fireworks and Collisions. Performance poet Horowitz will work in collaboration with composer Gilles Malkine. Arsenberg will present a Beat Generation reading from her comic routine.

Finally, Bard student dancer and choreographer Arsenberg will present "Eyewitness." The Mid-Hudson AIDS Quilt, comprised of two dozen pieced quilts measuring three by six feet commemorating the life of a person who has died of AIDS, will also be on display at Bard for the benefit.

The Multi-County Corporation is a non-profit community service organization. Their Positive Housing Program is described as a "multi-faceted residential housing program for HIV-positive individuals." By providing communal homes, apartments or rent subsidies, the Positive Housing Program is currently serving individuals throughout the Hudson Valley region.

Dean of Students Shelley Morgan explained in an interview last week how "The Beat at Bard" came about. She said that members of Multi-County approached the Bard AIDS Committee last semester about becoming involved in local AIDS concerns, including fund-raising for the Positive Housing Program. Ultimately, it was decided that "something on a bigger scale" would be attempted.

Through the summer, Morgan worked alongside artists and Multi-County volunteers to organize their vision of a performance. As Morgan commented, "We have put together a really solid and exciting program. I'm a little worried about fitting everyone into the auditorium!"

Morgan said the program is expected to last around two and a half hours with an intermission. Tickets are $25 each; student tickets are $10. Tee-shirts and other items will also be on sale.

Morgan said that she is still looking for volunteers to help out with the production and to work tables. She added that volunteers get to watch the show for free. For more information, contact the Dean of Students Office at 758-7494.

For more information about the Multi-County Development Corporation, contact Judy O'Beirne at 691-6221.

This Friday night, the Dean of Students Office and the Film Committee will present Borroughs, the critically acclaimed documentary on beat patriarch, William S. Burroughs. Donations to Multi-County are welcome, and tickets to 'The Beat at Bard' will be raffled.

Ed Wood

From Edward Scissorhands to cross-dressing with Bella Lugosi

Tim Burtons newest movie, Ed Wood, is about the story of a guy who was obsessed with the idea of making movies. Unfortunately, that audience is quite small. Starring an enjoyable cast of Johnny Depp (What's eating Gilbert Grape), Benny and June, and the forthcoming Don Juan de Rocco and the Centerfold) as Ed Wood himself surrounded by Patricia Arquette, Sarah Jessica Parker (L.A. Story), and the awesome bulk of George The Animal Steele (weekly on USA network WWF), the film concentrates on the art of film making.

Ed Wood strangely mixes the movies trying to be made by the unskilled transvestite director of really bad monster movies (all of which he wants Bella Lugosi, an aging Dracula and methadone addict, to star in) with the film we view in the theater. In one scene, Depp is on his first date with Arquette and they enter a haunted house ride at a carnival. The effects in the house are pathetic and silly, then there's a power failure. It's this sort of mirroring that results in an intellectually satisfying viewing but, for this viewer, wasn't funny.

The actors all joke how things were better in the old days and how the stories were more real. The standing joke is that we could say the same thing about these times except that under this light, we just can't. The only realism in the movie is Bella. Ed Wood spouts sentences like, "By golly, I won't let this hogwash stand in the way of my dreams..." while Bella bitches, "The water's fucking cold. Hey, throw me that whiskey!" Unfortunately, even Bella is a bad actor.

The filming is seamless, the sound perfectly hokey, and the actual acting perfect. The problem is the story itself. Movies about movies and plays about the theatre have been successful but an intentionally bad movie about bad movies pushes the limit of what popular culture will accept. It's a shame that Ed Wood is such a well done movie, because it can't be dismissed. There's none of Burton's comic genius or musical expertise as displayed in The Nightmare Before Christmas. Touted as a comedy, little in Ed Wood rises more than an acknowledged chuckle at what was once funny, an internal mocking at how stupid we were in the 50's. Truthfully, the movie itself is vastly better than the movies it mimics, we have just grown.

Depp again plays another character in the endless series of sensitive artists he plays so well. This film marks a curious point as he gets to cross-dress and play a character that isn't really funny at all. He gives a clean performance of a girlfriend who keep disappearing into the rainy Las Vegas night. Unfortunately, even Bella is a bad actor. We have seen the best of her, her boyfriend's fetish. Her eventual betrayal of Ed's trust marks the exit of the only other standing issue in Ed Wood that smacks of modernity, Transvestitism. With Parker out and Arquette in, the movie rides off into the rainy Las Vegas night almost as cliché as a Piers Anthony Zanth novel.

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"Why can't we all just get along?"
   - Abe Rein

"What makes you feel passionate?"
   - Abigail Morgan

"Do you think appearance is personality?"
   - Joshua Brussell

"How does the active individual influence the overall?"
   - Gandalf Riecks
one question, what would it be?

"How do you ever tell which way is east?"
- Naomi Yoder

"Why is Barrytown fabled?"
- Sky Spooner

"Why are you so frightened to care about anything or anyone?"
- Georgia Hodes

"Do you miss your mom?"
- Lara Messersmith

This is a new column ... if you have any ideas for questions, layout or would like to become a photographer for the Observer or this column (section ...whatever you want to call it) please get in touch with me! (I'm new at this so whatever help you can give me, I will be grateful)...Thanx
--Shana Ehrlich
(Photo Editor) Box 107.
P.S. This column needs a new name ... if you have any ideas please call or send them through campus mail.
Dedicated to athletics

Memorial Soccer Field to be officially opened on Parents' Day

Have you ever read the large stone plaques that stand next to the soccer field? It proudly proclaims the date of the field's dedication: October 22, 1994. The Athletic Department has gone back to the future; they are anticipating this week's dedication of the Memorial Soccer Field, scheduled for Parent's Day this Saturday.

Bard president Leon Botstein will open the event, followed by a reading of the names of Bard graduates who died for their country. Lastly, Jane Betz, executive director of the National Association of Collegiate Women's Athletic Administrators, will speak briefly before placing the ball for the day's first soccer game.

The ceremonies will take one hour, and refreshments will be available throughout to bolster one's stamina. Best of all will be the women's soccer game against Ramapo College starting immediately after the speeches, followed by the men versus SUNY Maritime. Don't be afraid to skip Kline, because catered lunches will be on sale.

Come cheer on your friends, and show your parents in another facet of the Bard experience.

The success of a team's unusual season, the women's volleyball team this year is mirrored in the Division III National Collegiate Athletic Association record books. The team ranks twelfth in the nation in hitting percentage at 0.279 per game, and an amazing third in service aces with 4.65 average aces per game. Individually, Dana MacDonald's average 1.12 aces per game ranks 26th in the country, while Misti Williams is eighth at 1.22.

Credit for the team's unusual success goes both to the skill of the student athletes and to strategy, explains women's volleyball coach Kris Hall. She says, "I watch the other team during warmup, and then signal to the student serving which zone to serve to." Bard's most successful varsity team will serve up its next exciting game on Saturday, October 22, at Jersey City State College.

According to athletic director Joel Tomson, the "first varsity basketball tryout/practice" will begin at precisely 12:00 AM on Monday, October 17. Apparently, the team will take advantage of every minute allowed by NCAA rules to practice this year. Can Bard's entry into the Big Ten bear them behind?

Intramurals
First meetings for ever popular co-recreational volleyball and floor hockey are only a week away!
Meet at the gym balcony on Wednesday, October 19, at 6:00 PM to be a team captain. Pick up team rosters at the gym upon which to sign up your killer team.

On the following Thursday, October 26, there will be a badminton tournament. One night only! Just show up at 10:00 PM to play, with doubles partner optional.

Three-on-three basketball keeps bouncing along. Last week, the Work team decided not to forfeit to We Won Last Year. Last Year probably wishes BRK had also forfeited, since BRK lost 26-20. In other games, BRK beat Babushka, 29-15, and FLOW beat Work 25-23.

Currently, FLOW leads the league with a perfect 5-0 record. BRK is in second at 3-2, and Work and We Won Last Year are tied for third at 3-2 records. Babushka gamely resides in fifth at 0-4.

Supposedly, there's an intramural tennis league, but apparently no matches have been played this fall. "We've always had a fall intramural tennis league," commented assistant athletic director Kris Hall disconsolately. "We've sent notices through campus mail, but . . ." She says that there is still time to play, so if you've broken a string on your racquet or just forgotten, contact her immediately.

Sports Notes
It looks like the lifeguards at the Stevenson Gym pool have found a way to inject some friendly competition into their jobs! They have started a week-by-week tally of laps swum, posted on the bulletin board at poolside.

Malia Dumont currently leads after having racked up 759 laps in the few weeks since competition began. Stacie's intense competition finally resulted in 579 laps, followed by Babushka, 567 laps, and Work, 564 laps. Hopefully Malia and Stacie's intense competition won't make them too tired to rescue drowning Bardians!

A beautiful football table remains at the gym, downstairs near the vending machines. To play, ask for the ball at the main desk.

Until next week, sports fans!
A call for change

To the Bard Campus:

This sign was pointed out to me the other night: "Hey! You don't have to be Gay anymore! Heterosexuality rediscovery group. Thurs. 7pm Old Gym."

Now maybe I was jumping to conclusions, and something else was meant by this sign. Maybe I should have waited, and gone to the meeting, and have seen what it really was about. Maybe, as was suggested to me, it was only a joke; although I think it was a joke in poor taste. But in light of recent events, I felt the need to voice my opinion, making certain assumptions. If indeed my assumptions are wrong, will the author please let me know, and I will apologize in person and in print. I only make this assumption because I wanted to have this letter printed sooner than next week, before the action was forgotten.

However, considering, as I have said, the events of the past few weeks, namely the decision of the Queen Board to close the gymnasium of the Old Gym, and the obvious anti-gay writing in the library (pictures of which were published in the Observer a couple of weeks ago) I can only take this as another anti-gay remark.

I have one thing first to say about this: I am so tired of the attitude on this campus. I am tired of people hiding behind anonymous writing, signs and actions. I am angry not only because this type of thing threatens the mental well-being of people like me (yes, I am gay), but also because it is all anonymous. We all here at Bard pretend to be liberal and open-minded, but in secret we do things like this.

Perhaps this one particular incident is not really anonymous, and a real meeting is planned. I certainly will try to attend to find out for myself. Perhaps this sign is a call for heterosexuals to meet and discuss their sexuality, as BAGLE had done for gays and lesbians and bisexuals. That is the intent, then I have no objections. Bard can often be very gay, as is often joked about, and straight people might feel threatened. I am understanding this, and applaud the action to group and find support. However, I do not think this is the case, if only by the wording of the sign. "You don't have to be gay ANYMORE. Heterosexuality RE-

DECOVERY group..." Being gay is not something that lasts for only a couple years, nor is it something you choose, neither is being straight orbit, as we should all know by now.

I do not mean to preach, although it may seem that I am. I want to make clear that I am angry at the homophobic quality of the sign, as well as the manner in which it was written. (It was printed by computer on a piece of theme paper. I take this to mean that it was an action premeditated, and not done out of a short lived animosity.) People seem to be afraid to voice their opinions lest an argument ensue. God forbid we argue about anything and actually come to a compromise. Instead I think we like not arguing because it gives us something to complain about. Trust me, I know about complaining. Ask my friends, they'll tell you. But complaining is useless if it doesn't get us anywhere.

It seems to me that the recent gay attacks, if they may be so bold to dub them so, are a result of the lack of BAGLE. The club was disbanded because of a lack of attendance, and also because the leaders saw little or no reason for it. Bard itself seemed to provide an accepting environment. It seemed that one could be openly gay with little or no fear of reprisal or harassment. However, it now seems that the homophobes on campus feel they can voice their opinions, anonymously of course, because the gay people have no backing. I might be wrong about this. My point is that just because there is no organized group of gay people, that doesn't mean we don't exist, don't fight back, don't hear or see, nor does it mean that such attacks are justified. We each individually are strong, and will not let such remarks go by.

I guess what I am really calling for is an end of such attacks, as well as a discussion on the topic. Do the straight people on campus feel threatened? Are the gay people getting too "in your face"? Do any of you have a problem, be it religious, moral, or otherwise with gay people and their actions? What is the problem? The more we talk about it, the less confusion there will be. I do believe in arguing, because it is only through arguments that we learn and reach a compromise. I am willing to answer anyone's questions, even endure anyone's insults, if only they are given in me face to face, or even voice to voice. Heck, I'm even willing to write you about it. If you want to talk to me by name is Mark Minervini. I live in Hobbitson 213 (that's north campus, in Cruger Village) and my number is 7332. I do not hide, please don't feel you have to either. I would also like to get a meeting together somehow, a campus wide event, in which everyone would have a voice. We need to have this matter resolved. I used to like being a Bard student. I transferred here from a place where it would have been impossible to come out, so Bard was refreshing change, a hope for the future. But now it seems that that hope wasn't legitimacy founded, and Bard is just like everywhere else.

So please, talk to me, give me your input, ask me anything. I do not pretend to be an expert on being gay, but I can try to tell you what I know. Together maybe we'll learn even more.

Mark Minervini

Bad Service

To the editor:

I feel it necessary to let all the Bard students know about the ill treatment we received when we went to La Pammigiana to eat. I do not want to criticise the restaurant's cuisine or atmosphere, what I wish to comment on was the service we received.

We told the hostess there were three of us for dessert and we were seated in the busy restaurant. We were asked three menus and asked, "Are you ready to order dinner?"

We replied that actually we'd like to order dessert and before we knew it the waitress disappeared. The hostess came over and whisked away the menus before us and said, so quickly we couldn't even catch it all, that there was a place called Samuel's that had great dessert and that was down the road to the left.

Then she disappeared with our menu in hand before we could even respond. Even if La Pammigiana wished to give priority to those who are there to order dinner, it was very embarrassing to have to go up and walk out of the restaurant after we were waited. Was it our age that led the hostess to find it easy to brush away our business? Who knows. All that is clear is that we will never darken the door of La Pammigiana and we hope you will do the same.

Leslie Richardson
Katherine Ryan
Carmen Hochmer
Thursday Oct. 20

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<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
<td>Russian Table. Kline Committee Rooms.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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<td>Alcohol and Native American Genocide.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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<td>Lecture by R. Howard Bloch, professor of French at Columbia University.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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<td>Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
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Friday Oct. 21

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<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>Institute for Writing and Thinking Local Knowledge Workshop. &quot;Reading the Texts of American Democracy&quot;.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institute for Writing and Thinking Local Knowledge Workshop. &quot;Writing and Thinking: Writing to Learn&quot;.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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<td>Chinese Dinner. Kline Committee Rooms.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
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<td>Dedication of the New Soccer Field.</td>
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Saturday Oct. 22

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<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Absolutely Fabulous Marathon. Sponsored by the Victorian Studies Club.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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<tr>
<td>NA meeting at Bard. Aspinwall 302, 7p-9:30p.</td>
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<td>6p-7p</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exhibition. &quot;Recent Acquisitions: Rivendell Collection&quot;.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
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<td>Community Stewardship of Environmental Resources.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
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Sunday Oct. 23

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<tr>
<td>Community Stewardship of Environmental Resources.</td>
<td>Olin Auditorium, 7p.</td>
<td>6p-7p</td>
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Monday Oct. 24

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tr>
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<tr>
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<tr>
<td>Absolutely Fabulous Marathon. Sponsored by the Victorian Studies Club.</td>
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<tr>
<td>NA meeting at Bard. Aspinwall 302, 7p-9:30p.</td>
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Tuesday Oct. 25

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Attention Students: Please call the Dean of Students Office at x454 if you have a complaint about the performance of a driver. Your feedback is critical. Thank you.