

OBSERVER

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THE BARD OBSERVER

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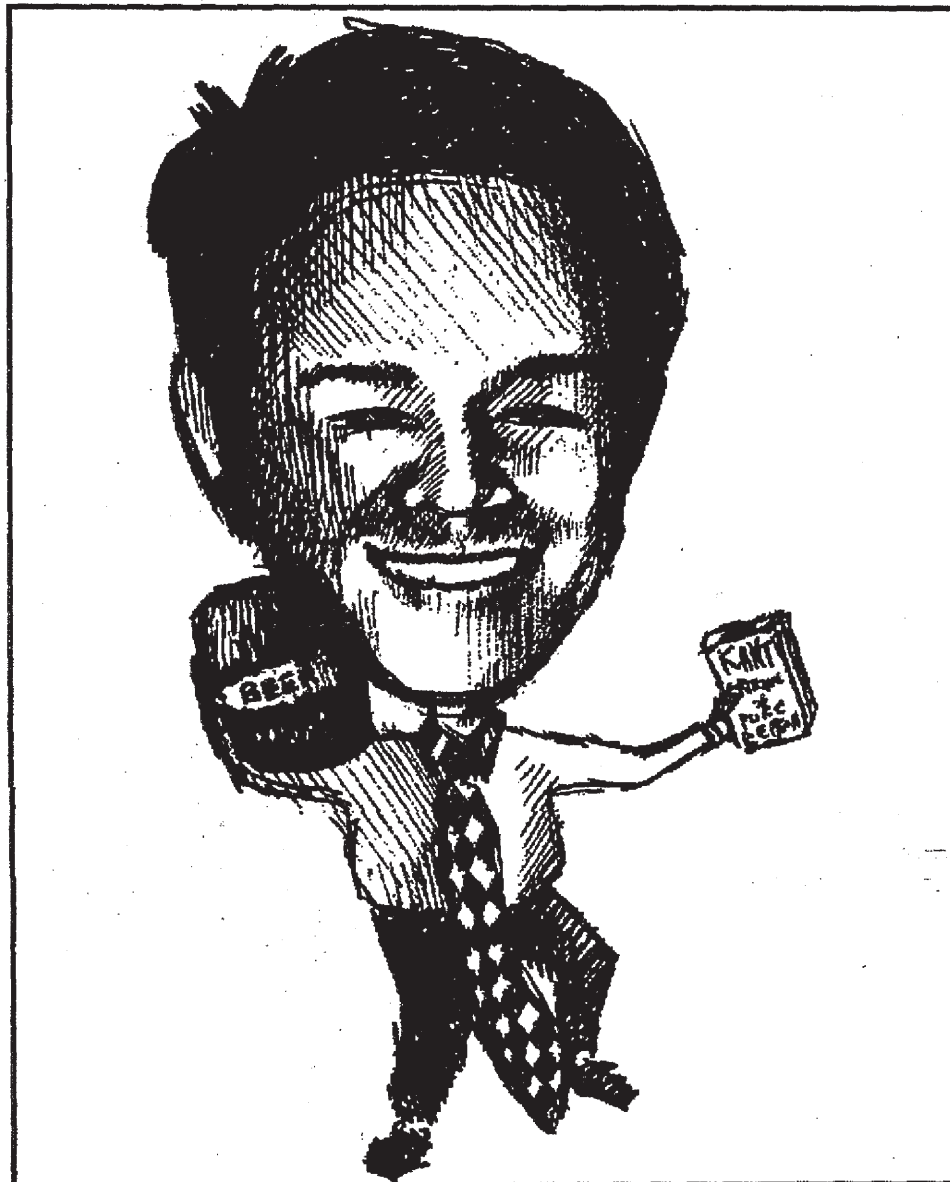
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

April 12, 1995

There the wicked cease
from troubling, and there the
weary be at rest.
—The Book of Job

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Assoc. Dean of First-Year Students Jefferson Huang (illustration by Lilian Robinson)

Moving on Associate Dean Jeff Huang is leaving Bard for Claremont

Michael
Poirier
Staff
Writer

Jefferson Huang has been one of the most open and energetic members of the Bard College administration since his arrival on campus three and a half years ago. Beginning as the director of Career Development, and later promoted to Associate Dean of First-Year Students, Huang has been extremely active and accessible in his relationship with the student body.

Unfortunately though, Bard College is going to have to let him go.

In an interview Monday morning, Huang announced that he will be leaving his position at Bard after graduation. He said that it was "a

bittersweet decision" to take another job at Claremont-McKenna College in California and pursue his PhD in Philosophy and Ethics.

"I'm leaving on good terms, but I'm going to miss this place," Huang confirmed. Through the course of the interview, he discussed his past accomplishments alongside his perceptions about Bard and its future.

Looking back

At the age of 24, Huang came to Bard in the winter of 1992 after working at LeHigh University as the Coordinator of Safety and Housing. Hired at Bard as the Assistant Dean for Student Development,

Huang divided his duties between career development, drug and alcohol counseling and the registering and planning of student activities. "I really held a job and a half," Huang commented.

In the spring of 1993, Huang was promoted to Associate Dean of First-Year Students, a newly created position designed to help first-year students with their adjustment to college life. Huang also continued organizing and registering student activities, presenting regular substance-free events to the entire campus community.

Looking back on his accomplishments at Bard, Huang said that he was especially proud of his work in the Career Development Office.

"I worked hard at giving the Career Development Office some direction that I thought was missing," said Huang. "When I arrived, the position had been vacant for a semester and things like the resume book were ten years old. Putting that office back in order was a big accomplishment."

"One of the things I'll remember the most about Bard is the students who came back later to thank me for helping them," continued Huang. "It's the individual students that I've helped, not anything that I've done for the college that I'll really take away with me."

None of which is to say that Huang hasn't contributed greatly to the college. "It's funny. You resurface the pool table and you have people thanking you for the next six months. But then you do something else you'd think would be much more significant and you don't hear much about it," Huang added.

Looking forward

Huang has done considerable work in planning the design and construction of the imminent campus center. "Hopefully my mark will be in the work I've done in the campus center planning, going to all the other college campus centers and learning from their mistakes," he said. "I've had a real voice in the design of it, even though I'm not the architect."

Huang does have a few suggestions for improvements before he leaves. "Number one is get the campus center up as soon as possible," he said. "I really think that will improve the social dynamic of the college, and that's important."

Huang also suggested that the College should look more into collaborative programs with other institutions in America and abroad. "I've seen that as one demand that comes up again and again," Huang explained.

Asked what he thought were the best things about Bard, Huang replied: "The thing I brag about Bard when I talk to people from other schools is that Bard is a very open place... There is certainly tension here, but Bard doesn't have that very basic struggle,

continued on page 2

News & Notes

The week in review

Pedro Rodriguez
Managing Editor

The Palestinian police arrested over 100 militants Monday, April 10, in response to Israeli Prime Minister Yitzak Rabin's threat to reconsider the expansion of Palestinian self-rule. Rabin was responding to two anti-Israeli suicide bombings that occurred April 9, killing eight people, including seven Israeli soldiers and an American student from Brandeis University.

Hamas and Islamic Holy War, two Palestinian militant groups, took responsibility for the bombings. The first bomb struck a bus ten miles southwest of Gaza City, near Kfar Darom. The second hit a convoy headed for Netzarim.

Mahmoud Zahar, physician and university professor at the

Islamic University and senior member of Hamas called the arrests "empty gestures." He foresees a decline in popularity for the Palestinian Liberation Organization's leader Yassir Arafat.

The United Nations reports that Serbs were apparently firing on the civilians of Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Some of the shells used were 120 millimeter mortar rounds banned from a 12.5 mile zone surrounding Sarajevo. The ban was imposed in February 1994 after a mortar blast in a Sarajevo marketplace killed over 60 people.

The Bosnian government nevertheless celebrated the capture of Mount Vlasic, 45 miles northwest of Sarajevo.

Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole has officially announced his bid for the Republican presidential nomination. The 71 year-old senator's congressional career

spans 34 years. Dole makes his third and final bid for the Oval Office.

President Alberto K. Fujimori has effectively clinched another term in the Peruvian presidential election. The National Election Board with the count nearing completion reported Fujimori well ahead with 45% of the votes. Fujimori was instrumental in fixing Peru's economy and hindering the Shining Path terrorist organization.

Representative Nathan Deal of the Ninth District of Georgia has defected from the Democratic party to the G.O.P. He is the third Democrat to do so since the Republicans slaughtered the Democrats in the fall election. "During the last 100 days, I have observed my party at the national level simply not be willing to admit that they are out of touch with mainstream America," Deal said.

Classifieds and personals

ENTREPRENEURS: Start your part-time business. Residual income monthly. No inventory, No retail sales, NO RISK! Sound intriguing? Call 679-4150.

SUMMER SUBLETS The Graduate School of Environmental Studies is looking for student housing for this summer, mid June through mid August. If you wish to sublet or rent, please call 758-7483 or, see Molly or Liz in Sottery 101.

The Bard Observer seeks staff. All interested writers, photographers, copy editors, artists, cartoonists, etc. are welcome. Meetings are held in room 84, Tewksbury basement, Mondays at 7:00 pm., or call 758-0772.

The Bard Music Festival needs people. If you are going to be around this summer, or would like to be around this summer and would like to get first hand knowledge of how a music festival works, or even if you are just curious, please call Robin Leebardt at 758-7410 (x. 7410).

Lost keys, little yellow keychain. If you find them, please call 876-8355.

I found a skateboard by Manor. Box 1254 to identify.

I found your leather jacket in Robbins third floor hall. It's been there for three weeks. Identify it and get it back. Call 752-7476 or drop a note in box 839.

Looking for a two-bedroom apartment to rent in Tivoli, Barrytown, or Annandale starting June 1 through next school year. Please drop a note in Box 1340.

Performers Wanted! To strut your stuff at the Queer+ Coffeehouse on Friday, April 21 at 9pm, whether you're queer or just queer-friendly, whether you're a poet or musician or dramatist or diva. Contact Brent Armendinger via Campus Mail ASAP!

Remember that *Bard Observer* classifieds are free to the public.

Mose Allison

jazz and blues musician
performs at Olin Auditorium
Friday, April 14 8 pm

Jeff Huang continued

continued from page 1

that very basic ignorance of understanding other people. That's something I really love about this place."

"I won't miss the Old Gym, though, that's for sure," Huang joked.

Huang will continue working on campus until the end of this semester. At Claremont-McKenna College, located in a suburb of Los Angeles, he will take his new position as Orientation Director of Claremont Housing and supervisor of the student resident assistants.

At the Claremont Graduate School, Huang will continue his studies in philosophy and ethics. He is not yet certain which genre of ethics (medical, legal or business) he will focus on in his dissertation. However, he is very excited about his field.

"I actually love ethics because there are a lot of issues that I'm undecided on and I like not coming to closure on some of those issues. Leaving them open and alive is actually the fun part

of it," he enthused.

Huang confirmed that a search committee is already formed to fill the position he is vacating. He said that they hope to have a replacement here by mid-June for orientation.

Finally, Huang is looking forward to his final season of Bard intramural softball. "I'm hoping to make a strong enough showing to appear on the all-star team," he said. "I'm hoping that my team the Gym Rats will go all the way. We have a really strong team — the best I've seen in my four years."

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LSAT-Sun. April 30th

MCAT-Tues. June 13th

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Security Update

Pedro Rodriguez
Managing Editor

The practice room in the Student Center (Old Gym) was looted over spring break. Over \$1,100 worth of equipment was taken including an irreplaceable guitar handmade by a Bard student. The theft also included another guitar, an effects board, cables and the like. No signs of forced entry were found; the thief or thieves probably had a key.

A few motor vehicle accidents have occurred on Bard parking lots. All accidents should be reported to security. Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace comments that "it is very discouraging to be a member of the Bard community, and find that your vehicle has been hit, and not re-

ported by the driver who was responsible for the damage."

A security officer was bitten while patrolling the campus by a dog. Dog owners are required to leash their dogs while on campus.

Bard College fire alarm policy is often not being adhered to. "People are not leaving the dorms in some cases," said Squillace. Security officers routinely silence the alarms before inspecting the building in question to protect their hearing. The alarms are silenced, not reset. Should a fire alarm go off in a building, the building is to be evacuated completely. Reentry is allowed only after the security officer has emerged from the building and given the all-clear signal, not upon the silencing of the alarm.

As a final note, skateboarding is not allowed on campus. This is a safety measure.

Slightly less forum ruckus

Spring semester's third runs smooth... until the end

Pedro
Rodriguez
Managing
Editor

The Student Association forum yesterday was a considerably smoother ride than the previous two forums for the spring semester—that is, until the final issue on the agenda. To the dismay of some and the glee of others, the last 45 minutes were a return to the grandstanding fun that about 25 of the over 1000 Bard students may have come to expect.

The ruckus was over a constitutional amendment concerning voting procedure. The matter was tabled for an "emergency" forum scheduled for Wednesday, April 26. A committee was created including Michael Poirier, Bryan Shelton, Secretary Imteaz Mannan, Student Life Com-

mittee member Joshua Bell and Student Judiciary Board Chair Andrew Fowler. They are charged with coming up with a cohesive amendment for passage before the next elections.

The Student Life Committee is scheduling a garage/ book/ senior stuff sale for May 13, the same date as the Menage Party.

Funding for the new student center is running \$2 million short. Student Life Committee Chair Gilberto Afonso estimates the total cost at around \$4 million. He reports that the administration is nevertheless optimistic and is seeking one donor for one sizeable gift.

The vegan food co-op remains an unofficial possibility, but probably not for Feitler, the originally envisioned dorm. Because the proposal is still pending, the co-op will not appear as an

option on room draw paperwork. Should the proposal pass, the co-op will probably be located in unspecified "new" housing.

Bard's long standing plan to buy Annandale is proving difficult, and the administration has instead set its sights on Tivoli as a "college town." Bard may build dormitories there, or perhaps buy an existing building.

The Library/ Bookstore Committee is taking suggestions for the improvement of both the library and bookstore, care of Joshua Bell, Box 32. The obvious and perhaps most beneficial suggestion of more books was not smiled upon. Bell remarked "we might be able to get a new beanbag," and will be taking suggestions for color. There will be a meeting of this committee Wednesday April 19.

The Educational Policies

Committee is currently evaluating professors for permanent tenure. A committee member described the attitude of many professors toward book expenses as "largely unsympathetic." She is working toward getting the book list that professors submit to the bookstore to also be sent to the library so that the library could put on reserve all books owned by it.

Educational Policy Committee Chair Sean O'Neil proposed, for a third time, a constitutional amendment concerning the Faculty Search Committee, which easily passed. The amendment is quoted below:

Each faculty search committee must have a minimum of two students who preferably have declared majors in the field in which the prospective candidate is to teach, and always in a ratio of no less than one student for every three faculty members, appointed in consultation with the Committee on Vacancies. Any student may directly petition that committee with complaints about the selection of students.

The Planning Committee received "a slew of requests" for Emergency and Laundry

fund money. Laundry fund requests will be first evaluated by the Planning Committee which will make its "recommendations." The requests will then be put to campus-wide vote. Students will vote for the Planning Committee's recommendation or the request is denied. Dara Silverman said "I register disgust" in reference to the process. Treasurer Gabor Bognar estimates the remaining Emergency funds at \$10,000.

May 6, Red Hook is sponsoring Apple Blossom Day. They invite all Bard arts.

Representatives to the Board of Trustees Dara Silverman and Laurie Curry reported that Vice President Dmitri Papadimitriou backed and got a tuition increase of 3.7% for the 1995-96 year. He recommended 3.7 over increases of 3.0, 3.2 and 4.2 percent increases because financial aid costs would be kept down.

Asked about potential state and federal financial aid cuts, President Leon Botstein said Bard would deal with them when they happen.

Chelsea Miller was elected to serve on the Selection Committee to find a replacement for departing Assistant Dean of Students and Dean of First-Year Students Jeff Huang. ☛

Secretary on elections

Imteaz
Mannan
Guest
Writer

This is my first opportunity to inform the Bard community of the election process for the various offices of the Student Association for the academic year of 1995-96. The election will take place in May through campus-wide election and through the last student forum.

The campus-wide election is tentatively scheduled to take place in the pool room of the present Student Center (Old Gym) Thursday, May 11 and Friday, May 12. The positions up for election are the Educational Policy Committee Chair, Planning Committee Chair, Student Judiciary Board Chair, Student Life Committee Chair, Treasurer of the Student Association, Secretary of the Student Association,

two representative seats to the Board of Trustees and two representative seats to the Alumni Association.

The positions up for election at the student forum Tuesday, May 16, are: five Student Life Committee positions, five Planning Committee positions, eight Educational Policy Committee positions, four Student Judiciary Board positions and two Student Judiciary Board alternate positions.

The Election Committee will be chaired by Sean O'Neill, the current Chairperson of the Educational Policies Committee. He will solicit volunteers for the Election Committee. The committee positions are open to all interested members of the Student Association, and the interested students should contact Sean no later than April 21 to ensure adequate planning and arrangement.

A statement of purposes should

be submitted by the contenders to the Secretary (Box 988, campus mail). Only the positions that require campus-wide election would need a statement of purpose. The deadline for statements of purpose is 5:00 pm, Thursday, April 27, 1995.

For the Bard community, all statements of purpose will be printed in the *Bard Observer* prior to the election.

Further details of the election will be announced as more information is received. If any questions or concerns arise, feel free to contact Sean or me for more information.

I am pleased to see the recent awareness over the election procedures. I hope that this letter has been helpful and informative. With the support and enthusiasm of all of you, we can make this election a great success. Thank you all for your patient perusal.

Volunteer Opportunities

In order to provide an opportunity for students at Bard to involve themselves in social service programs, they must first be made aware of what is available. During the next few weeks, there will be articles highlighting several organizations that provide various services to the surrounding communities. These programs are also available through the Social Action Workshop: a collection of faculty, students and staff working to combine academic study and the experiences gained through social service. If you would like additional information or to speak with someone about the programs, please contact Rich Kelley in the Dean of Students Office, ext. 454.

Midnight Run

Three nights each week, groups of people head to New York City taking along hundreds of bag lunches, gallons of soup and coffee, and all the clothes,

blankets and toiletries they can assemble to distribute to the homeless throughout the city.

Over the years Midnight Run has grown, as has the epidemic of homelessness. Almost without promotional effort, support and participation in Midnight Run, both by individuals and organizations, has expanded dramatically. The experience of the seven years since it began has overwhelmingly affirmed that many seemingly indifferent people are anxious to respond to the homeless crisis, but don't know how.

That's where the Midnight Run connection can be vital. Without special skills or qualifications, new volunteers can become immediately, and intimately, involved.

You can help Midnight Run. Whether on behalf of yourself, a company, a school, a religious or civic group, it's an opportunity for you to start making a difference.

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Beware writers bearing gifts

Lewis Hyde lectures on chance and accident in creative work

Linnea
Knollmueller
Features
Editor

Lewis Hyde, professor of Art and Politics at Kenyon College, gave a public lecture April 6, sponsored by the Institute for Writing and Thinking. His talk was entitled "A Gift of Hermes: On Change and Accident in Creative Work," and centered around Hyde's own writings and his discoveries through the creative process. A poet, writer, editor, and translator, he has a wide history in the world of arts and letters from which to draw ideas and examples.

Hyde is currently studying trickster figures in literature and mythology, which coincides with his earlier work with hermaion—the gift of Hermes, or the accidental find. "In all creative work there is some pattern or design, yet things happen that you don't expect," he said, "the trickster figure in particular is usually

in a state of wandering, and will unexpectedly bump into things." Using the story of Hermes, the Greek messenger god, for specific examples, Hyde explained that on the day of his birth, Hermes left his mother's cave and stumbled upon a turtle. He realized that he could make a lyre out of the shell—a fortunate accident.

"But the trickster figure is about the boundaries of the group, and how one can get out of it. The language of finding is interesting because it is ethically ambiguous; there is no clear moral system associated with finding."

Suggesting that people are looking for an "escape from the fabrics structuring their lives," Hyde asserted that the lucky find allows for alternatives to such strong bonds as social situation. "An accident always has a context of the ongoing design, and the lucky find is a way out of that design."

The crux of Hyde's talk was the larger questions asked by the hermaion: what does an accident reveal? What is on the other side of order? If tricksters are messengers, what message do they bring? He provided three possible answers, some more compelling to him than others.

"The classical answer is 'it is the will of the gods'—that there are no accidents, you just think there

are. What is being revealed is a higher design," Hyde stated, offering Freud as a modern version of this classical thought. "In psychoanalytic theory there are also no accidents, just outbursts of the unconscious, one's real feelings." for Hyde, though, this solution is incomplete. "If Hermes has an accident and reveals the will of the gods, and he is a god himself, what does this say? To me, it suggests that heaven itself is unsure, and open to contingency."

As a second interpretation, Hyde said, "perhaps these trickster characters bring

primordial chaos to heaven. The answer of 'hidden purpose' is something we made up to cover up the chaos surrounding us. I think that's a plausible answer, but the Greeks complicate it by distinguishing between smart luck and dumb luck. So, this cannot be relied upon."

Hyde's personal answer is that the lucky find reveals the mind of the finder. Only the person open to finding the unexpected will recognize something as a lucky find. "The mind is prepared for what it's not prepared for—this paradox comes up a lot in writing. You have an idea of

where you want to go with a story, but have to be open to alternatives. We need this type of intelligence to live in a world of contingency. Hermes has the wit to live in a world of happenstance, the world invoked by mythology." In support of his idea, Hyde quoted Picasso, who said, "I don't seek, I find," and Louis Pasteur, who asserted that "chance favors only the prepared mind."

While the content of the lecture was rather esoteric, the delivery and examples were clear and simple. Perhaps other writers can take a lesson away from the studies and thoughts of Lewis Hyde. T

Queerweek: April 15-21, 1995

A week devoted to Queer Expression, Visibility, and Solidarity

Saturday 15: Coming Out Ball

Sunday 16: Informal Discussion on Coming Out to Parents and Friends Albee Social, 7 pm

Monday 17: Queer FilmFest part 1, Preston

Tuesday 18: Queer FilmFest part 2, Preston

Wednesday 19: Take Back the Gym, Stevenson Gym, 10 pm- 1 am

Thursday 20: Elaine Myles (Lesbian Writer), 7 pm

Pat Humphries (Lesbian Folksinger), DeKline, 9 pm

Friday 21: Queer+ Coffeehouse

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Democracy Triumphant?

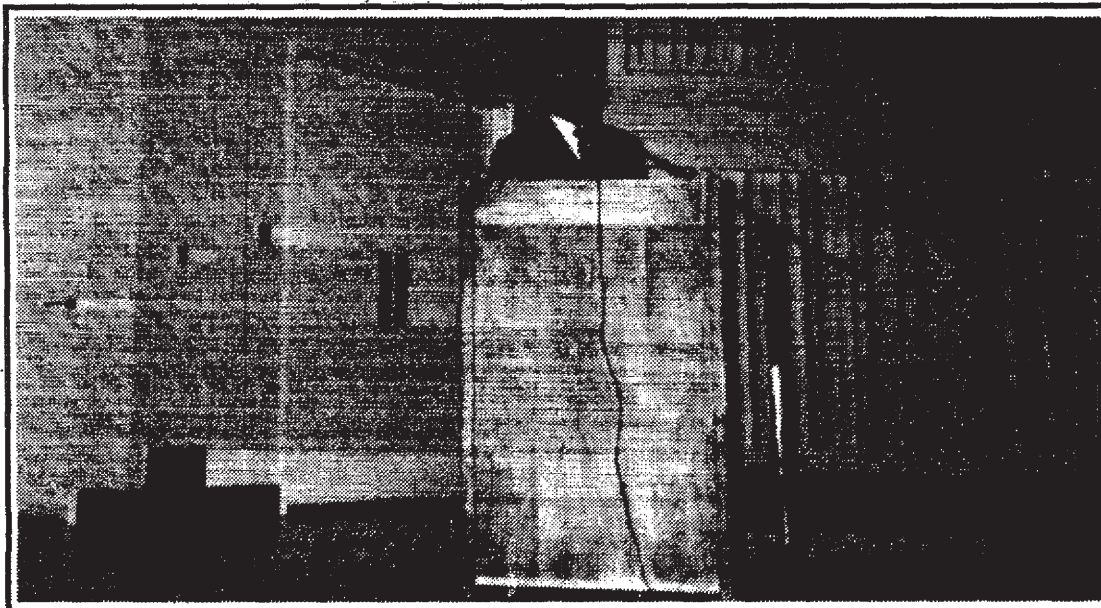
A conference on truth, justice and the Eastern European way

Five years after much of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union won the right to democratic self-determination, the ultimate destiny of the region is still uncertain. "Democracy Triumphant? Issues and Perspectives on the Post-Cold War Era," a conference held at Bard Saturday, April 8, brought scholars and renowned international figures together to exchange views on the future of these new democracies.

Conference Director and Bard professor Amy Ansell, in her welcoming speech, characterized the event as a "follow-up to a conference held five years earlier." Called "Recovery of Memory," the 1990 meeting had been held in the hopeful aura immediately following the opening of the Eastern Bloc.

Now, in the wake of disillusionment with the sacrifices necessitated by economic reform, some politicians in the region have elected former communist functionaries to national office. In the West, observers have worried that the new democracies may revert to authoritarian rule.

Ansell emphasized the important role of international exchanges in furthering understanding among different cultures. Along these lines, she lauded Bard's own Program in International Education (PIE). In its fourth year, the PIE program brings students from Central and Eastern Europe to study at Bard while Bard students can spend time



George Soros

learning at one of several sites in Poland, the Czech Republic, Hungary, and other countries.

Understanding through Dialogue

The next speaker may have been familiar to Bard students. Former history professor and associate dean Karen Greenberg returned to the college to open the first discussion, "Education and Media in Transition." Greenberg, the founder of PIE, is now executive vice president for programs at the Open Society Institute.

Speaking with a pointed, direct style, Greenberg brought up what to her is the fundamental question for Americans to ask themselves

at the end of the Cold War. "Should we interfere or intervene in Eastern Europe?" People who do not ask this question, she said, are stuck in the past, captive to the Cold War's crusading mentality and unable to see that the United States shares many of the economic and social problems for which we profess to have the solutions in the East.

Proposing her own solution, Greenberg noted that "influence is a lot better than interference or intervention." She would focus on exchange, emphasizing that both West and East could benefit from what one has to teach the other. Programs based on "mutuality of interest," such as the PIE program, hold the greatest hope for progress,

she said.

Greenberg ended her talk on a pessimistic note, stating that the people of Eastern Europe and the former Soviet Union are disappointed with their lives today. "Things don't feel good," she sighed.

Elzbieta Matynia echoed this sentiment. Another former Bard professor, Matynia is director of the East Central Europe Program at the New School for Social Research. "Things are not looking well," especially in Russia, she said, noting a growing divisiveness that threatens the consolidation of democracy there.

Matynia felt that Eastern Europeans needed to make a mental adjustment to adapt to the new realities of freedom, but, she said, the United States would not do all the teaching. Americans could help by adopting a "non-patronizing approach." She stated that a dialogue among intellectuals and scholars from West and East is the key to progress and understanding.

"I have never taught at Bard," joked Miklos Haraszti. He modestly did not mention his true credentials, which include editing Hungary's major clandestine magazine in the 1980's and a stint in the first democratically elected Hungarian Parliament from 1990 to 1994. His political experience showed in his charming speaking style, which had the crowd laughing several times.

Now a professor at Northwestern University, Haraszti broke with the previ-

ous speakers to express hope for democracy in Eastern Europe. In the election of former Communist Party members to the new government in Hungary, he sees not a disaster for the future but "the normal growing pains of a working democracy." Nations that resisted the domination of Soviet-style communism for years, he said, aren't about to fold so easily. "Democracy is becoming an inherited culture," he optimistically proclaimed.

However, Haraszti foresaw potential dangers to Eastern Europe in government control of the media. All of the new democracies in the region, he said, could not avoid the temptation of keeping partial control of broadcast media. For the maintenance of true freedom of the press, television and radio must be established on an autonomous basis, similar to the British BBC network. The establishment of truly private companies, though, might remain an American phenomenon.

Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict

The most interesting and timely part of the conference came next, with a total of five participants discussing the forces threatening Central Europe and tearing apart the former Yugoslavia.

Bard professor Shelley McConnell introduced the subject by drawing on her expertise in the emerging field of democratization. The complicated issues raised by the new governments in Eastern Europe "caught the literature by surprise." Old ideas have made way for theories that take the role of ethnicity and identity into account. In previous democratic transitions characterized by conflicts of interest, problems could be negotiated. Identities, she noted, could not be debated.

Moderator Norman Manea spoke briefly on nationalism and multiculturalism. His background as a Bard professor of literature appeared in cryptic references to the "civilization of soil versus the civilization of the satellite." He said that

continued on page 8

The Dime Store

The Dime Store is open for over the counter service
Monday through Thursday 11:00am - 12:00pm.
Mail orders can be placed at any time Monday through Friday.

Our items for sale now include:

- Lifestyles Lubricated Nonoxynol-9 condoms
- Lifestyles Colored Lubricated Nonoxynol-9 condoms
- Lifestyles Non-Lubricated condoms
- Kiss of Mint Non-Lubricated condoms
- Aqua Lube water based lubricant
- And more to come.

Look for our soon-to-arrive expanded brand selection.
Be safe.

Do it for a dime.

What's What

The columnist's interview with his interviewer

by Sean O'Neill

Ever suspect that people our age are besieged with criticism?

Perhaps I'm paranoid.

But what if Columbia House sent me a free CD each time I heard that my generation is dull and lazy?

I'd own a huge music collection, wouldn't I?

And most of the songs I'd have would be about angst and hopelessness, right?

Unlike the Baby Boomers, we're told, people our age haven't earned anything. It's said that everything has been handed to us all of our lives.

Everything like pollution, lousy schools and debt, perhaps?

Well, pardon my slowness — I'm only a product of my time — but who draws these silly conclusions? Nevermind *Nevermind*. I like our "generation," whatever age-group it spans.

And, while all it takes is a glance at the *Times* to know that our lives may not turn out Happily Ever Laughter, things aren't excessively glum either.

I added a new "Youth-Are-Doomed" lecture to my expanding collection when I recently sought employment for the summer.

I had been warned in advance that this firm had a conservative ideology. One person employed by it, for example, was Alexander Haig, a former assistant to President Ronald Reagan.

The place certainly was financially conservative. I discovered that the job would pay twenty-five cents an hour.

I had an interview with the director of "human resources." The director studied me over a stack of newspaper clippings that were piled on his moon-marbled desk.

The standard questions ensued. "Why do you want the job? How did you find out about it? Why did you choose to go to Bard?"

The questions then veered in a strange direction.

"Where do you see yourself in five years?"

Traveling the world, I said.

"Will you be married by then?"

Probably not.

"Good. Who is your hero?"

I almost answered Forrest Gump, the man who always wins, or else Malcolm X, the man who would have won. Instead, I said Marc Russell, a political comedian he didn't know.

"What do you think is the greatest difficulty looming for twenty to twenty-five year olds?"

A toxic environment.

"No, no. I mean, why are young people drinking, drugging and sexing themselves to death?"

I don't know, sir.

"What is the cause of the decline of the middle class?"

One reason is that more and more jobs require specialized education in the U.S. and that there is less demand for less skilled workers. Also, the standards of consumption that define middle class status have become increasingly outrageous.

"What do you think about the family?"

I like families, sir. I think they're a good idea.

"And the climbing divorce rates?"

I would say economic changes have caused the divorces, and do not think that divorces cause economic decline.

"You're very analytical, aren't you?" he said, in a tone of disapproval.

He then "tossed out a theory" for me.

The nuclear family — that is, a man, a woman, and their children — is a social ideal that shrinks the middle class as well as creates hordes of nihilistic, amoral twenty-somethings.

This man believed that extended families, which in turn build mutually-supporting neighborhoods, are superior

to the consumer-oriented, individualistic ethos of nuclear families. Large families allow many chances for emotional release and personal expression, whereas small families encourage "emotional exiting."

A noteworthy idea.

The despair created by unnaturally small families, consequently, leads to substance abuse, which leads to unprotected sex, which contributes to the spread of HIV infection that, ultimately, will eradicate American twenty to twenty-five year olds.

Infection will kill off, in Darwinian style, those youth who do not realize what is best for them. The biological imperative of our species is to recreate extended families, and only this will restore our nation's economic well-being.

That was a rather analytical argument, I responded. Then I repeated a sentence of Leon Botstein's, about how this logic was "nostalgia for a past that never was."

I said "emotional exiting" happened in extended families in the past, too; that Prohibition was made law in the prosperous 1920's because of rampant alcoholism despite extended families; that the perpetual changing of jobs and locations disrupts plans for extended families, *etcetera*. Surprise! I didn't get the job.

Bard Spring

Mental Statism and the Machine Experience

by Sean O'Neill

Her visits to the library were intermittent, since she kept erratic study hours. Yet he was always there, in the "reading room" that was open all hours.

She first had noticed him a few weeks into 1997, when his gaunt figure passed like an apparition along the book-shelves beside her.

It wasn't, however, until she failed to pull her first all-nighter that she ventured into the all-night reading room. She sat across from him, but, instead of memorizing her chemistry texts, she fell asleep.

When she awoke at dawn, he was still there. His only movements were to occasionally turning a page. She wanted to say something amusing to him, but decided not to. His concentration seemed too intense to disturb.

She left the eerie scene for her bed in Tewksbury dorm, where she dreamed of him. How nice it would be to know someone who would give equally intense attention to her!

Curious in a way she had almost forgotten she could be, she returned in the afternoon to the library after taking her chemistry test.

She walked conspicuously to the magazine rack first, and then headed towards the room.

He was still there. Except for the fact that he was holding a different book, she would have been unable to tell if he had ever left his seat. She sat at a desk, slightly behind him and to his right. She coughed, loudly. He remained motionless. After a few minutes, she left.

Soon, her friends, formerly accustomed to finding her by a third floor window, noticed that she had changed her favorite study spot to the always-open reading room.

Her friends saw other changes in her personality, too. She seemed more agitated. When talking to them, she was increasingly prone to distraction. She denied, though, that she was experimenting with any new drug.

Then, one Tuesday, she got a feeling in her blood that compelled her to do something. Something daring. Something wicked.

She went to the room. The pale, almost tubercular-looking figure turned a page of a book.

She walked over to him, crouched

on her knees, and said, breathily, "You're in my seat."

The reader continued to read.

"Get up, you're sitting in my favorite seat," she said.

No response.

Dizzy and fearful, she did the unexpected. No one knows why she did it. Perhaps to provoke him? Or to unconsciously let her inner fears free?

She screamed. Shriek, long and in his face.

The man looked up from his volume of Goethe, grimacing. His disdain for humanity was renewed with double vigor. How was it possible, he wondered, that this ugly, screaming beast could be one of the most expensively educated humans in the history of the world?

Jeff Katz, a librarian, rushed in. "Who screamed?"

"He did," she pointed.

"Nonsense," Katz said. "He doesn't talk."

"Who is he?"

"Johann, an undergraduate here since 1952."

Johann returned to reading.

"He looks like he's in his twenties,"

she said, incredulous.

"Well, the story is that Johann enrolled as a Bard student just like everyone else, but, when the time arrived for him to graduate, he didn't leave. He got so frightened about going out to a world beyond academics that he chose a life of studying instead."

"And he has never aged?"

"No. And he's read every book in our collection, though it isn't much. Six-hundred books a year, we estimate. He's probably the most knowledgeable man on the planet. Nevertheless, I know that he doesn't speak. You must have been the one who screamed."

"I'm sorry," she said, in an unsorry voice. "I don't know what came over me. I guess I thought he was dead."

"Himph," Katz muttered.

Johann turned another page.

"Why don't you kick him out?"

"By rights," said Katz, "Johann should be kicking us out. Have you no respect? He is the one who owns the place, in a manner of speaking. He's outlasted everyone and outread everyone. He has become Bard."

She glanced at Johann the undead and felt slightly ill.

Tennis starts with a slam

The Blazers win three out of four

Joshua
Bell
Sports
Editor

Well, Spring is here and with it we see the arrival of Men's Varsity Tennis, intramural softball, and a new *Observer* Sports writer. Tennis, being the only varsity sport played during the spring at Bard, has made an excellent start by winning three out of four of their first matches.

The Blazers triumphed at their season opener, Monday April 3rd, against the College of Saint Rose with a score of five to four, winning four out of six of their singles matches and one out of three doubles

matches. Accordingly, on Thursday, April 6th, the Blazers dominated Mount Saint Mary's College, defeating all of their opponents with lightning speed.

Unfortunately, the Blazers could not pull out a win at their April 6th away meet at Yeshiva University, where they lost three to six. Bard's number one seed Shehzad Hameed, however, did manage to win his match against Yeshiva with by the score of 6-4, 7-5. Coach Joel Tomson did not seem to be disturbed or worried by the loss to Yeshiva, and further said that he believed this year's team to be the "strongest team Bard has ever had."

Last Monday, the Blazers played a very strong match against Mount Saint Vincent

College at home at the Bard tennis courts. Although official scores could not be obtained at press-time, we have reliable reports that Bard dominated Mount Saint Vincent without any problem. According to Eugene Kublanovsky, "they were bad, very bad."

The Blazers have another away meet today, against the ever-wonderful New Jersey Institute of Technology, so if you see a player wish them good luck and Godspeed on getting out of New Jersey (a problem the fencing team seems to have). Also clear your calendars and come to the April 20th home meet to cheer your Blazers on. Until next week "go, fight, win, Blazers."

Play ball!

Intramural softball season begins

Joshua
Bell
Sports
Editor

It's that time of year again, time to grab your gloves, and your bats, and your bottles of Lowenbrau and head on out to the NEW Bard Intramural Softball Diamond for some serious softball action. That's right time to see otherwise apathetic and non-athletic Bard students go out and kick some severe spherical-ass. This year the intramural department can boast 17 teams competing in the Recreational League, and four teams competing in the Athletic League. Moreover for those of you who had not heard, the teams will be competing on a brand new softball field.

The new field is essentially a complete field, providing players with a backstop, bases, a fence, a pitchers mound, and imported softball dirt (from New Jersey). All students need to bring is themselves, a good attitude, and a few packets of Big League Chew. Unfortunately, the usually pleasant and predictable Hudson Valley weather impeded the start of the season by dumping snow all over the field delaying opening day until Tuesday the 11, of April. Teams that were supposed to play on Monday should be contacted by the someone from the gym,

soon, about rescheduling. Accordingly, Tuesdays games were held without any awful interruptions from God or nature. The season was kicked off by competitors in the South division, with the game between Graceland and KEG: the all-dremain outfit. Were assuming that the KEG's are not the legendary fraternity Kappa Epsilon Gamma, but by any means they fell to Graceland by a score of 28-2.

The second game of the season was played by Bountiful Crop who defeated one of last years champions, St. Tula, 14-2. Rumor has it the film team is losing a few in the begging, just so they can have a come-back season and make an endearing sports movie out of the whole ordeal (keep your eyes open for not-quite-"Major League" III). This afternoon at four, the Western division begins its season with a game between Super Diva and the Zebraheads. This game will be followed by an Elks/E.O.C. doubler-header versus first the Naked Ice Brothers and then the Klugers.

For all of those that are extremely atheletic, the Athletic League will be beginning its season on Thursday with a game between The American Dream and The Tony Danza Bonanza. Followed by the Gym Rats playing the Dirty Dogs, these games

will be played at four-thirty on the same field that everyone else uses, behind the gym (on a space once known as the soccer field).

In other non-softball sporting news, the Bard Biathlon is coming up, so anyone interested in competitions involving great deals of stamina and exertion get your Nikes ready and check the gym or the *Observer* for further updates. Also the athletic department will soon be offering swim lessons, so stop by and sign up to learn how to swim. Finally, all those interested in Badminton should go to the Thursday Night Madness badminton tournament at the gym. The games should be starting at ten-thirty P.M., so go and play the only sport I can think of that has a piece of equipment called a shuttlecock (sorry cheap joke, but I couldn't resist).

One last note, the new softball diamond did not just magically appear, in some sort of Field of Dreams frenzy, but was put together by Grounds Foreman Randy Clum and the rest of the Grounds staff. If you see a member of the Grounds staff thank them for their hard work, so that we can play. So, with all of this said, on behalf of the *Observer* I would like to say "So long, see you next week, play ball and God-bless Bard Intramurals." Bell.

Box Scores

Athletic League

The American Dream	Thursday at 4:30
The Tony Danza Bonaza	
Gym Rats	Thursday at 5:30
Dirty Dogs	

Northern Division

Woods Warriors	Monday at 4:30
Keyne's Curse	
Fashion Rules	Monday at 5:30
The Unicorns	

Monday April 11th's games rescheduling TBA

Eastern Division

The Blumfish Rainbows	Friday at 4:30
Slut Trash	
C.A. Enlightenment	Friday at 5:30
D.S. Softball Scientists	

Western Division

Super Diva	Wednesday at 4:00
Zebraheads	
Elks/E.O.C.	Wednesday at 5:00
Naked Ice Brothers	
Klugers	Wednesday at 6:00

Southern Division

Graceland	Graceland 28-KEG 2
KEG: all-dremain	
St. Tula	Bountiful 14-St. Tula 2
Bountiful Crop	

Next games to be played Tuesday, April 18th starting at 4:30

Real World Sports

Well, a new addition to the *Observer* will be a real world sports brief, telling all of you Bard students what is going on in the major league sports world. Once again the sports world has thwarted my dreams of being a professional baseball player, by announcing that the strike is off. Major League season begins this year on April 26. For those New York fans, the Yankees start with a home game versus the Texas Rangers, while the Mets play away at Mile-High Stadium in Denver Colorado against the not-so-great Rockies. As a die-hard Red Sox fan I can state with all conviction, "it looks like a good year for the boys, I think we are going to win the whole goddam thing."

In basketball news, a lot of teams have clenched spots in the play-offs, including Orlando, New York, Indiana, Charlotte, Chicago, Cleveland, San Anto-

nio, Utah, Seattle, Phoenix, and L.A.'s Lakers. Other close contenders include Boston, Houston, and Portland. Look for more updates as the play-offs begin.

Earlier this week, Ben Crenshaw won the Masters Golf tournament beating the favorite Jay Haas. Crenshaw, who was two strokes above Haas after the second round, came back with two excellent rounds and takes home a \$319,000 purse.

Well, that's about all for this week. If there is particular sports coverage you want to see please drop me a note in Box #185 addressed to Bell and I'll get around to covering it. Also we will be beginning a support group for those still traumatized by the 1986 loss of the Red Sox in the World Series because of BILL BUCKNER, those inquiries should be sent to Box # 32. Thanks a lot and see you next week.

Democracy conference continued

continued from page 5
in Eastern Europe today, "the centrifugal cosmopolitan society conflicts with the centripetal need for belonging."

Ian Bremmer, the next speaker, looked like what he was: a young, sharp expert on the former Soviet Union. Following McConnell's lead, the Stanford fellow discussed the importance of ethnicity in the new republics of the East. He drew a contrast between the civic nation-state and the ethnic-nation state, but emphasized that the latter need not be seen as xenophobic and bad.

Bremmer used a blackboard to place the civil and ethnic models of states on a scale of minority inclusiveness ranging from "full participation by just being there" to "shoot on sight." Important factors in making a state more inclusive include lessening of perceived threat from outside and pressure from non-governmental organizations and Western human rights groups.

"I'm going to take a quite different approach," said Bard professor James Chace, beginning his lecture on "Containing Ethnic Conflict: The New Security Structure of Europe." Departing from the previous speakers' tendency to outline Eurocentric solutions for the problems of the East, Chace presented the American perspective on a security structure for the continent.

Touching on themes familiar to his students, Chace advocated a "wholesale re-vamping" of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) to meet the needs of the new Europe. Bush and Clinton, he said, made no effort to rethink the institutions of the Cold War era, and as a result, American policy has drifted from its overriding goals. A new NATO would have the same function as the old: to prevent either Germany, Russia or some other single power from dominating Europe.

"Democratic Ethnopolities" was the title of professor Rasma Karklins' prescriptive speech on the elements a multiethnic state requires to survive and prosper. While cultural assimilation of minorities is "one way to create a civic nation," Karklins did not recommend it. Rather,

she pushed the value of cultural and linguistic pluralism among regions of the country, with an overall "lingua franca" to tie the state together, and listed Canada, Switzerland, and Belgium as successful examples of her theory.

Karklins said that she held "basically an optimistic view" of Eastern Europe's ability to cooperate and perhaps create a set of new Switzerlands.

During an amusing question-and-answer period, Professor Chace took exception to Karklins' examples, claiming that Canada's ethnic diversity is driving it apart and that Belgium has had many crises that have nearly sundered it. As for Karklins' third example, Chace cheerfully said "I wish Switzerland didn't exist," calling it the exception to every political science rule.

Economics in Central Europe

After a break for lunch, the conference resumed with a discussion on the economic transitions taking place in the former East Bloc. Leading off the talk was moderator Dimitri Papadimitriou, who spoke of the careful balancing act required for successful economic recovery.

Finding the right speed to push free-market reform is essential, Papadimitriou said, as well as not allowing the need for economic growth to outstrip the evolution of guiding institutions. He returned to a humble theme espoused by some of the earlier speakers in saying that the United States, where "many of our people do not live within" our political and economic spheres, does not have all the answers for Eastern Europe.

Stanislaw Wellisz, an economics professor at both Columbia University and the University of Warsaw, pleased the crowd with his clever, dry wit. Asking the question on the lips of many speakers, "why is there a retreat from reform," he cited a sharp drop since 1989 in the value of wages for the people of Eastern Europe.

Ironically, reforms initiated by the first wave of elected democrats are paying off only now, after the fickle electorate has replaced the reformers with former Communists. Wellisz had few worries for the future of the re-

gion, though, predicting that the desire to join the West in political union would keep once-authoritarian leaders in line.

The next speaker, Peter Boettke of New York University, disappointed with his loud, boring manner and jargon-sprinkled verbiage. He proposed political solutions to the economic problems the East is experiencing.

Concentrating on Russia, he saw organized crime filling the role of contract enforcement, a function the state had proved unable to perform. As long as Western models are not thoughtlessly imposed on situations peculiar to Russia, though, he felt that the government could adapt successfully to the new realities of post-Cold War economics.

Lawyer Katharina Pistor from Harvard Law School also directed her comments to Russia's economic predicament. Her precise, knowledgeable talk was a refreshing change from Boettke, and she later garnered many questions from the audience.

Pistor attributed Russia's problems with organized crime to the inception of a free market before civil society could catch up. She thought that Russia's autocratic history would make legal reform difficult, but emphasized that tradition need not doom the state to permanent obsolescence.

Overall, the economic discussions were narrow and of limited interest to the politically-oriented attendees. The panelists even declined to field one question from the audience, citing lack of knowledge.

Gellner, Nationalism's Guru

The conference next changed its format to accommodate two keynote speakers. First came Ernest Gellner, Director of the Centre for the Study of Nationalism in Prague, Czech Republic. Gellner is an internationally acknowledged expert on nationalism, having written more than twenty books and other publications on the subject. According to administration sources, he flew in on the same day of the conference, and Bard paid a total of \$6,000 to secure his presence.

Considering his price tag, Gellner's talk "Civil Society and its Enemies" was less than satisfying. The scholar began by saying that he meant to state the case for liberal democracy against to-

talitarianism. Instead, he meandered into a description of agrarian societies and their dubious relation to the civil society of today.

Gellner described Marxism as a total failure, saying in his clipped British accent that the only remaining Marxists were probably in this country. Yet he also said that "totalitarianism in a modern society must be Marxist," or have the characteristics of Marxism. Right wing dictatorships are therefore easy to topple, he claimed.

Civil societies today, Gellner said, stand on three legs. Without self-policing, the multi-state system, and continued economic growth, life as we know it would be very different. The scholar cautioned that none of these three will endure forever. Though we may trumpet the moral values of liberal society, he said, we owe our success only to economic success.

The Million-Dollar Keynote Address

Last, but far from least, came philanthropist George Soros. President of a \$12 billion investment fund, Soros has spread his great wealth across the world, especially in the countries of Eastern Europe. He has opened universities and foundations all over the region, starting well before Gorbachev and political openness made such endeavors fashionable and easy.

Bard president Leon Botstein presented Soros to a packed audience in the Olin Auditorium. He gave Soros a glowing introduction, comparing him to Lafayette in his selfless devotion to democracy and civil society. No one, Botstein said, has "changed the lives of so many people" in Eastern Europe as Soros.

If any other proof of his importance was required, the presence of Security Director Kim Squillace and Assistant Director Jim Lawler, for the first time and on a Saturday night, spoke volumes. They stood at either side of the auditorium, watching the audience carefully as Soros lectured.

Soros, surprisingly, looked as good as his pictures all over the campus. He spoke in a confident, relaxed manner, punctuating his words with understated hand gestures and warm looks at the audience.

In the debate on the role

of the West in Eastern Europe, the philanthropist emphatically came down on the side of Western influence. "The idea of the open society," he said, mobilized people to struggle against "the universal closed society of the Soviet Union." Now, people continue to model themselves after Western ideals.

Soros discussed with regret the plight of Russia today, which due to the failures of the West is falling into a "black hole." While a capitalist system is emerging there, he said, "I don't think it is going to take hold." Organized crime and a weak government have transformed Russia into a "lawless, amoral society," and the masses remain "apathetic, alienated, [and] estranged" from the state.

By contrast, Soros described the Ukraine as now "in a very hopeful stage."

Soros next presented his plan for a new United Nations. Calling the current organization outdated, he proposed drawing up a new charter with perhaps "a few fewer members," such as Libya. However, he was unable to answer later questions about the feasibility of creating such a new body given the antipathy in the United States towards international rule. Certainly such a new organization would be a boon to international investors like Soros himself!

The question-and-answer period showed that Soros had attracted a diverse crowd to Bard that night. The first person to rise to President Botstein's invitation for questions waved a cigarette around and asked Soros whether he thought bans against smoking in public places were compatible with the concept of an open society. When Botstein commented that rephrasing this question so that all could hear it would be difficult, the questioner was laughed at and left in embarrassment.

The next questioner asked if American federal government could be trusted, given that Bush, Clinton and many other federal officials were once members of a "trilateral commission." Soros responded that he was not into conspiracy theories. Funny, with foundations in twenty-four countries and with billions of dollars at his personal command, I kind of expected him to say that.

Beware of the Plants

How to protect yourself from indigenous wildlife

by Barbara-Jean O'Keefe

Poison Ivy is common on the Bard property. Controlling it would be virtually impossible, and very damaging ecologically. So, if you are (or might be) allergic, learn to recognize and avoid poison ivy. It is a woody vine that rambles on the ground or climbs trees, rocks and buildings. The stem (up to 2 inches in diameter) gives rise to surfaces, often having a hairy appearance. These rootlets do

not have enlarged disks at the tips and are not branched. The leaves have three leaflets, each about 1-3 inches long and usually with one or two large teeth on each side. The surface of the leaves is glossy or oily looking and they turn red early in the fall. Many poison ivy vines bear hanging clusters of small, waxy, whitish or grey (inedible) berries. Poison ivy usually grows in the sun or partial sun, along roads and trails, and thrives on the type of clay soils with a long his-

tory of disturbance that are so prevalent on the Bard campus.

Persons who are allergic to poison ivy develop a red, itchy rash, with or without small blisters, several days after contact with the plant or with the toxic oil on clothing, pet fur, or other objects. By the time the rash appears, the oil is long gone from the skin and the rash does not spread to other persons or to other locations on the same person. (However, the rash may appear at different times on different parts of the body after a single

exposure.) If the rash doesn't bother you, leave it alone! If it itches, it is best treated with over-the-counter, or prescription topical cortisone ointments. Don't scratch it—the symptoms will disappear in a few days to a week. There is no reason not to bathe or swim when you have poison ivy, unless you scratched the blisters and they have become badly infected.

You can avoid exposure by staying out of vegetation (other than lawns), especially

along roads and trails. Relatively few people get poison ivy, considering its abundance. After the leaves fall, there is much less risk. During the winter, cottontail rabbits browse on the twigs, and several kinds of birds (notably woodpeckers) eat the berries. Evidently animals, like many people, are not affected by the toxin. The plant is also an important soil binder on the Hudson River bluffs. Poison ivy is a part to country living in the Northeast.

Poison Ivy Remedies

Last autumn's tree planting festival became more memorable for many students than the actual event. At least six students acquired a nasty case of contact dermatitis from poison ivy or poison oak roots while digging the soil to plant their trees. Itchy, weepy, scabbing skin and restless nights ensued, sometimes lasting up to two weeks. Two students had severe allergic reactions, causing puffy, beet red faces and swollen shut eyelids. These required systemic steroids to alleviate severe symptoms.

As we approach Earth Day and warmer weather, a few precautions could help prevent an outbreak of the poison ivy rash.

1. Know your plants (see preceding article).
2. Wear gloves if planting or doing yardwork.
3. Wash your hands and body well with Dawn dish detergent or old fashioned brown soap after possible contact. Use a nail brush to scrub poison ivy resins from under fingernails.
4. Wash all clothes worn at the time of contact (i.e. after a walk through the woods).
5. Beware of all possible contacts—a frisbee or softball retrieved from the woods, a pet's fur, shoelaces, or the hands of a friend who did not wash well after outdoor exposure.

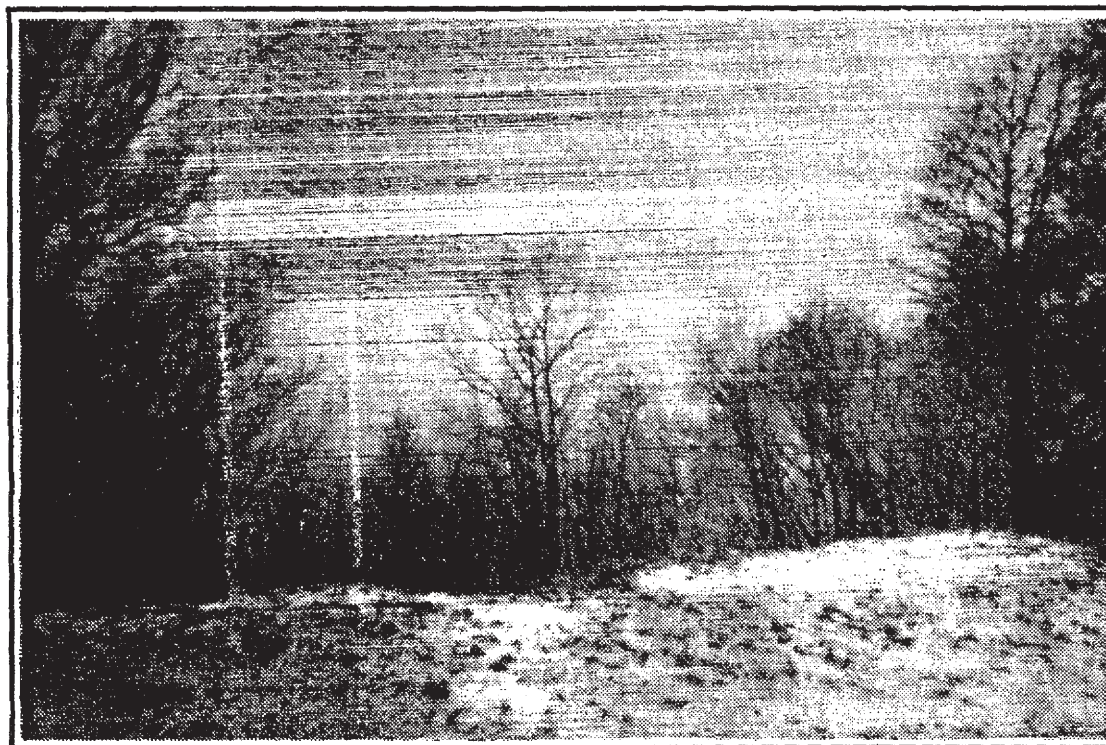
If, despite precautions, you develop a poison ivy rash, there are some basic measures you can take to make yourself a bit more comfortable.

1. Use cold compresses or soaks on the affected area for twenty minutes, four to six times a day. This is the mainstay of therapy.
2. Apply a drying lotion (eg. calamine) after each soak or compress.
3. Avoid topical lotions containing antihistamine or benzocaine derivatives (eg. Caladryl). These ingredients add nothing, and may act as allergens.
4. If the rash is not weeping, apply 1% hydrocortisone cream 4-6 times per day.
5. Use an oral antihistamine (eg. Benadryl) for moderate to severe cases. This helps decrease itchiness and may help you sleep at night.
6. If the eyes, face, mucous membranes, genitalia, or large areas over the body are involved, see your health care provider.

Understand too, that one can develop a sensitivity to poison ivy at any time. Many people (myself included) survive multiple childhood exposures with no allergy, only to be surprised with an extensive case of contact dermatitis in early adulthood. So take precautions as you enjoy the beautiful outdoors of Annandale!



The snows of April.



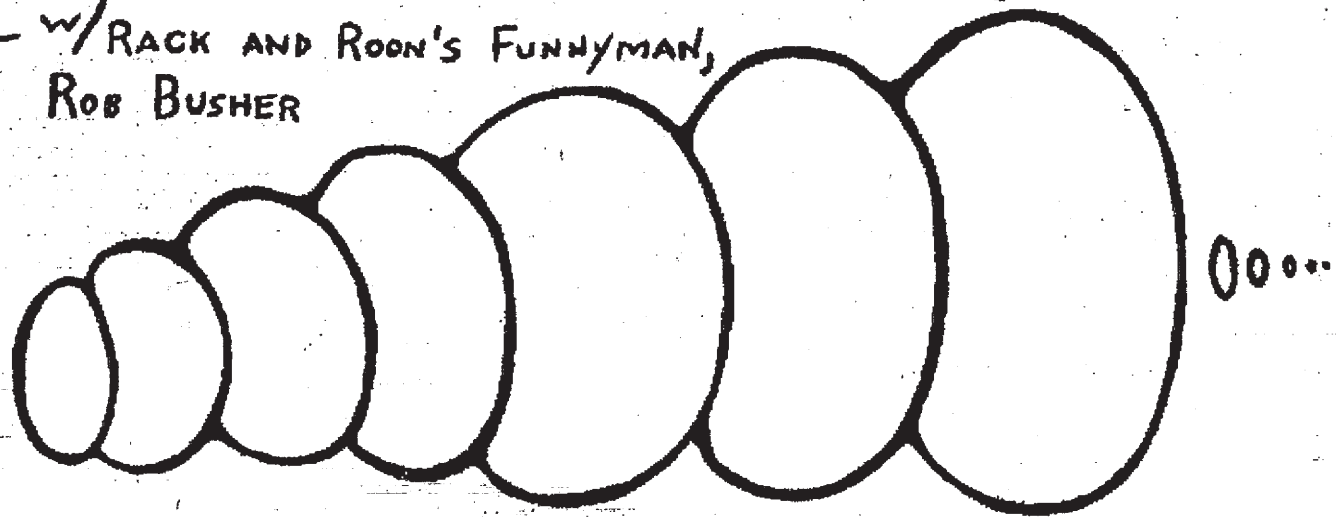
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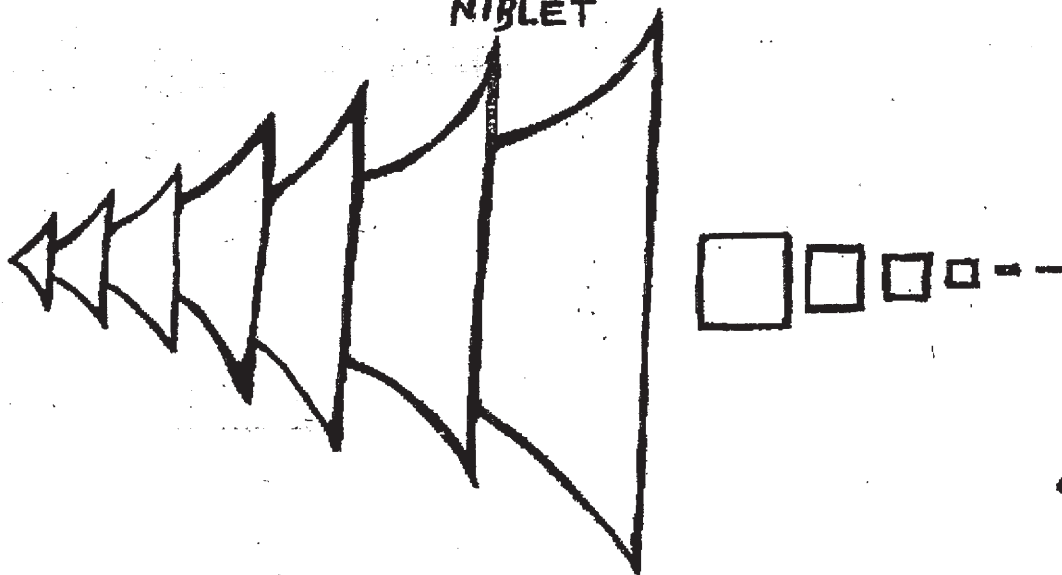
As told
by mortonvena

* SPECIAL ISSUE *

- w/RACK AND ROON'S FUNNYMAN,
ROB BUSER

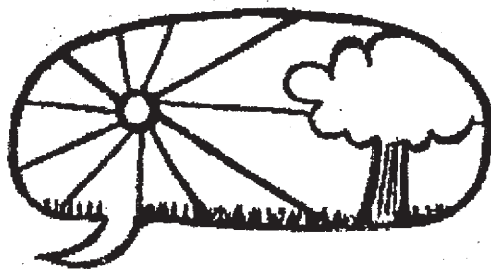


KAFKA CORN GIBLET SNORKS
 NIBLET CORPS



PINESOL
 EASEL

GUMMY SHOE
 CANOE



"RED DOESN'T FREEZE."
 - SCOTTY PLAIDTRUCK -

Earth Coalition

For those of you out there who have been hearing rumors that Bard finally has an environmental club, we are here to tell you that those rumors are true. We are Earth Coalition, and we meet every Tuesday night at 7:30 on the third floor of Aspinwall.

Earth Coalition started when a group of us began meeting informally to work on recycling and composting at Bard because we all thought something needed to be done and no one seemed to be doing anything. After meeting informally for several months we realized that we were a group and wanted to open up to the Bard community. About eight of us traveled to Philadelphia for the Free the Planet Conference after which we decided to incorporate the Free the Planet Campaign into our already existing goals of recycling and food waste disposal from Kline (composting). We've already made a lot of progress on these goals. We've completed a campus-wide waste audit with the help of Marie West, a woman contracted by the college to deal specifically with our needs, such as recycling.

When we return from Spring Break the new recycling program will have taken effect. This means Bard will be recy-

cling. There will be new bins which will be more available, convenient, and clearly marked.

Our next step will be a campus-wide education program to ensure that students are aware that Bard is recycling. Everyone's cooperation is essential to make this program work.

You may have noticed us tabling at Kline with a petition for an environmental bill of rights. This petition is part of the national Free the Planet campaign which is trying to draw upon the voices of students and others who are concerned. The goal is to send a message to Congress that we want environmental issues taken seriously. You will see this petition again at Earth Day which will be held here at Bard on April 22. Earth Day is a big project and we need lots of ideas and help.

We run our meetings with rotation co-chairs and everyone takes part in the leadership. We've accomplished a lot so far but there's much more to do, so come with your ideas and enthusiasm.

Thanks very much,

Susana Strauss
Anna Lacina
Earth Coalition

And the verdict is . . .

"We, the jury, in the case of the people versus O.J. Simpson, find the defendant, O.J. ... NOT GUILTY of the murders of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman." In all seriousness, regardless of whether or not O.J. perpetrated those two awful murders, the spectacle of the O.J. tv-trial present important implications for the American people, for the future of democracy, even. [My own belief is that it is downright unethical to hold someone guilty for the progress of science: should we blatantly ignore Dr. Orenthal's dazzling new contributions to surgery?]

The media, in its overwhelming coverage of the 'trial of the century', has discovered, or even created, a host of new problems for the American legal system. What's next? Would you believe the end of jury trials in America? Never, you say? Judging from the perspective of the present, with the courtroom already infiltrated by modern communication systems, can we envision a future where the arena of justice has become contingent on the presence of technology, to the point that the law itself becomes a game, a movie, a simulacrum masking the absence of justice? a future where the courtrooms of an exploited U.S. legal system are restructured to correspond with our ideas of the law is derived from sit-com tele-

vision? a future world containing exciting new possibilities, entertaining new forms of popular justice? Of course, such actions would be justified on the pretense of the necessity to reveal THE WHOLE TRUTH.

Did I hear you right? O.J. will be acquitted? Well...sorry, Nicole, sorry, Ronald G, we know you deserved better, but O.J. will get off easy. Acquitted, because of an American psychology which has become timid, intimidated, frightened of assigning blame for any human crime. Acquitted, because the people of this age of information, and especially their children, are more susceptible than ever to have doubt implanted in their minds. Acquitted, because the American media-industry has permeated society so thoroughly that there can be no isolating the jurors, no possible sequestering which could adequately prevent their being exposed to prejudicial viewpoints.

The trial of O.J. Simpson is more than a trial conducted on television, it is a trial about television, about visual media. Witness: Johnnie Cochrane's opening remark, pulled from the mouth of Jack Nicholson: "They can't handle the truth!" He speaks to the jury, saying, "When you reach a verdict...if you can reach a verdict..." and already, we're starting to hear stories of jurors who lied to become a part of this so-called world-event, jurors who are placing bets on the outcome of the trial, signing licensing deals with Nike, Coke, and Hertz Rent-a-Car.

Politicians may campaign for the creation of an information highway, but this ignores the fact that our information society has

already evolved to such a state that we can tangibly feel the decline in our ability to arrive at certainty, the disintegration of our ability to assign guilt, blame; and suddenly, no-one can prove a thing. But scientific thinking will continue to advance, to develop new methodological standards, new techniques for gathering evidence. And, as the complexity of the techniques through which we accumulate evidence develops, the language employed by the prosecution will need to grow proportionately until, finally, it will become too cumbersome to be adequately handled by a jury, even a jury of one's peers. At such a point we would then have to move away from jury trials, as there is a growing segment of the population which can't see the big picture and, as a result of their blindness, they will always offer a site for doubt to take root.

The fact is, we can no longer pretend that we can merely present to facts and expect that the jury will be able to make a judgment free from any morally coercive or otherwise seductive rhetorical force. The fact is, we cannot expect the individual to be any more scientific in this age of information. The fact is, the O.J. trial could have profound implications for the representative character of American democracy.

But in the end, we will be met with disappointment, for a hung jury leaves us with no spectacular resonances. Disappointing, for, in the end, this whole trial is a spectacle—and nothing else besides.

Andrew Noselli

Operation Stray Cats

To the Bard Community,

There are stray cats on campus, and a few of us are trying to trap them, get them tested for feline leukemia, then (if they test negative for feluke) get them fixed and given the basic shots (not, however, the feluke shot because it's unlikely we could trap a cat again in time for the follow-up shot).

Professor Burt Brody has loaned us a HavaHart trap, and Sara Cooper, Secretary to the Dean of Students, is seeing to the trapping with the help of Simon Marcus. Dr. James MacDonald of the Red Hook Veterinary Hospital (RD3, Box 15, Red Hook 12571, (914) 758-2691) is giving us a very good rate for veterinary services.

After "full spa treatment," the cats will be released where they were trapped on campus—not a great solution, but better than their reproducing and/or getting and/or passing on diseases.

What can you do to help?

-Let us know if you want to adopt a cat or kitten: be aware, however, that the cats are feral and require patience.

-Let Sara (ext.7454) know where you see cats regularly on campus, and what they look like.

-Contribute any amount of money you can to defray the veterinary costs, the only cost involved in our project: at present, I will pay vet bills, but I can't do it all myself and anything you donate will help. I will keep records, which anyone can see in the Faculty Secretaries' Office (Hegeman B8, ext. 7231), showing payments to the vet, contributions received (by donor, when known) and (I hope, I hope) funds available to keep up the project, including bringing cats back periodically for shots, although that would depend on our ability to trap them again; if there is any money unused after a certain period, it will be donated to the Dutchess

County SPCA (unless someone requests a refund). We will issue periodic feline-and-finance updates. We are guessing that there are perhaps ten cats (but have no real idea of the number), and could figure roughly \$90 for a female and \$65 for a male (barring unusual circumstances); we have only just started—Kitty One, a young brownish-grey tabby female with a cauliflower ear, was trapped and taken to the vet on March 15, and brought back on the 18th; total vet bill, \$87.

I would be happy to hear from anyone with suggestions to improve our plan. I know Vassar has a program to adopt out its campus strays—perhaps someone would find out the details of that (I can supply a phone number), including staffing necessary. Thank you all in advance.

Carol Brener
Faculty Secretary

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CALENDAR

Brought to you by the Dean of Student's Office

April 12 to April 18, 1995

TRANSPORTATION

Jitney Schedule: the Jitney runs Monday through Friday and makes stops at the following places and times:

Robbins: 8:30a, 8:50a, 9:10a, 9:30a, 9:50a, 10:10a, 12:00p, 12:20p, 12:40p, 1:00p, 1:20p, 1:40p, 4:00p, 4:20p, 4:40p, 5:00p, 5:20p, 5:40p.

Tewksbury: 8:42a, 9:02a, 9:22a, 9:42a, 10:02a, 10:22a, 12:12p, 12:32p, 12:52p, 1:12p, 1:32p, 1:52p, 4:12p, 4:32p, 4:52p, 5:12p, 5:32p, 5:52p.

Tuesday: Van to the Lyceum in Red Hook, 6:30p - 10p.

Wednesday: Shop 'n Save Run, 6p - 9p.

Friday: Vans to Rhinecliff Station at 4:20p (4:50 train), 6:00p (6:31 train) and 7:20p (7:51 train). Vans to Poughkeepsie Station at 5:20p

(6:12train), 7:35p (8:20 train) and 10p (10:45 train).

Saturday: van to AA Red Hook, van leaves at 6:15p from Security. Shuttle to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck, 10a - 2p. Trip to the Hudson Valley Mall, leaves at 5:30p.

Sunday: meet at 9:15a to go to various churches in Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck (St Johns, St. Chris and St. Paul). Pick ups at Rhinecliff Station for trains arriving at 6:07p and 8:55p and 10:06p. Pick ups at Poughkeepsie Station for trains at 6:46p, 8:46p and 10:52p.

Meet all vans behind Kline

Wednesday April 12	Thursday April 13	Friday April 14	Saturday April 15	Sunday April 16	Monday April 17	Tuesday April 18
<p>Table Française. Kline President's Room, 5:30p - 6:30p.</p> <p>German Table. Join us for some conversation. All are welcome to attend! Kline Commons Committee Rooms, 6p - 7p.</p> <p>Spanish Conquest and Colonization at the Center of the Old World: The Spanish Nation in Rome, 1555-1625. Lecture by Professor Thomas Dandele. Olin Auditorium, 7:30p. Reception in the atrium at 6:45p.</p> <p>CAN/NORML Meeting. Topic: What are the Marijuana Laws? Come with your own harrowing tales and information to share. Olin Moon Room, 8p.</p>	<p>Vintage Clothing, Records, Pottery and other nifty things. Sold today outside Kline.</p> <p>Russian Discussion or Rysski Stol. All are welcome to come from 5p 'till ???.</p> <p>Kline Commons Committee Rooms.</p> <p>Sister Cities Project Meeting. Kline Committee Rooms, 5p.</p> <p>S/M ACES meets every Thursday at 6pm in Kline Committee Room.</p> <p>Benvenuti alla Tavola Italiana. Kline President's Room, 5-6p. Join us for Italian conversation from 6-7p. All welcome! Olin 202, 7p - 9p.</p>	<p>Reading by Poet John Ash. The poet, essayist, and art and literary critic John Ash will read from his poems today at 3p. Olin Auditorium.</p> <p>Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting. Bard Chapel, 7p. All are welcome.</p> <p>Jewish Students' Organization meeting. Kabbalat Shabbat: Wind down after your hectic week. Olin Moon Room, 7:30p.</p>	<p>Coming Out Ball. Sponsored by Bigala as part of the Queerweek. Watch for signs specifying place and time!</p>	<p>Coming Out to Parents and Friends. An informal discussion sponsored by Bigala as part of the Queerweek. Albe Social, 7p.</p>	<p>Queer FilmFest I. Sponsored by Bigala. Film and time TBA, Preston.</p>	<p>Green Coalition Meeting. Come to discuss campus recycling, composting and other environmental issues. Aspinwall, 7:30p.</p> <p>Queer FilmFest II. Sponsored by Bigala. Film and time TBA, Preston.</p>
<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px; margin: 10px auto; width: 80%;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Free Fitness Seminars</p> <p>April 10 - 14: Diet and Exercise: How to lose the extra ten pounds in a healthy manner.</p> <p>April 17 - 21: Alternative Ways to Achieve Fitness Without Entering a Weight Room.</p> <p>Instructor: Gina Delmont, Bard Athletic Trainer/ Fitness Director.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Stevenson Gymnasium 7:00pm - 8:00p.</p> </div>						