

OBSERVER

Vol. 102 No. 23 May 3, 1995

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The Bard Observer

Calendar

Brought to you by the Dean of Student's Office

May 3 to May 9, 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 5:30p (6:12train), 7:35p (8:20 train) and 10p (10:45 train). Trip to the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall, leaves at 5p and returns at 9p.

Saturday: van to AA Red Hook, van leaves at 6:15p from Security. Shuttle to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck, 10a - 2p.

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 May 3	Thursday May 4	Friday May 5	Saturday May 6	Sunday May 7	Monday May 8	Tuesday May 9
<p>Rebirth of a Nation: Affirmative Action, Welfare and the Rise of the New Right. A lecture by Patricia Williams, Professor of Law at Columbia University. Olin Auditorium, 1:30p</p> <p>Graduate work in Creative Writing. Informational meeting led by Professor Robert Kelly. Aspinwall 304, 4:30p.</p> <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>Bach, Bach, Bach. Choral performance of works by J.S. Bach by students and faculty members. Bard Chapel, 8p.</p> <p>The Women's Center meets tonight from 8:30p to 10p.</p>	<p>Russian Discussion or Russki Stol. All are welcome to come from 5p 'till 5:30p. Kline Commons Committee Rooms.</p> <p>Sister Cities Project Meeting. Kline Committee Rooms, 5p.</p> <p>Medieval Studies Reception. Professors, students, music and a gargoyle will be present for the enjoyment of all those interested in Medieval Studies. Mark Lambert's house (down the driveway North of the Pink House), 5p.</p> <p>S/M ACES meets 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>Artist's Handmade Books. A presentation from the Women's Studio Workshop. Center for Curatorial Studies, 7p.</p>	<p>Spring Fling 1995!! Bungee Run and Gladiator Joust, today from 1p to 4p on the Ludlow Lawn (Old Gym if it rains).</p> <p>French Poet Pierre Martory will read with poet John Ashbery today in Olin 102 at 3:30p.</p> <p>Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting. Bard Chapel, 7p. All are welcome.</p> <p>American Symphony Chamber Orchestra presenting the season finale tonight in Olin Auditorium at 8p. Leon Botstein will conduct works by Emmanuel Chabrier, Joan Tower, Bela Bartok, and Felix Mendelssohn.</p> <p>Jewish Students' Organization meeting. Kabbalat Shabbat: Wind down after your hectic week. Olin Moon Room, 8:30p.</p>	<p>Huntington's Disease and the Human Genome Project: Through the Looking Glass. A Distinguished Scientist Lecture by Nancy Wexler, Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Olin Auditorium, 3p. There will be a pre-lecture talk at 1:30p.</p> <p>Dive right in! Open Swim, Stevenson Pool, 3:30p.</p> <p>The Tokyo String Quartet will perform works by Mozart, Bartok and Schumann. The world renowned quartet will appear tonight at 8p in the Olin Auditorium.</p> <p>Cartoon Festival. Preston Theater, 8p - 9:30p.</p> <p>ISO Spring Formal Old Gym, late.</p>	<p>Senior project recital- Part I Featuring Wendy Carrier, Scott Edwards, and Joan Tyler. Blum Hall, 3p.</p>	<p>Multimedia Presentation by Indian artist/activist Mallika Sarabhai. Olin Auditorium, 8p. A \$2 fee will be charged to students.</p>	<p>Green Coalition Meeting. Come to discuss campus recycling, composting and other environmental issues. Aspinwall, 7:30p.</p> <p>Student Ensemble Performances tonight at Blum Hall, 7p. An exciting evening of jazz, world music, classical, vocal, chamber music and percussion.</p>
				<p>The Bard Music Festival</p> <p>*Do you have a passion to do good deeds? *Do you have a desire to go around town and schmooze with the entrepreneurs in the Hudson Valley? *Do you have a car?</p> <p>If you have answered YES to one of the above, the Bard Music Festival needs you!</p> <p>RIGHT NOW!!</p> <p>We need able bodies to solicit advertisements for this summer's Festival Program Book. (\$\$\$ for you!)</p> <p>If you would like to help or find out more details, please contact Robin at 758-7410 Mon.-Fri. 9-5.</p>		
				<p>Shuttles to Tivoli and Red Hook</p> <p>Monday - Thursday:</p> <p>8:15a - 8:45a: Bard-Tivoli-Bard 11:45a - 12:45a: Bard-Tivoli-Bard 2:45p - 3:15p: Bard-Tivoli-Bard 3:15p - 3:45p: Bard-Red Hook-Bard 5:30p - 6:00p: Bard-Tivoli-Bard 6:00p - 6:30p: Bard-Red Hook-Bard</p>		

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The Bard Observer

Volume 102
Number 23

Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504

May 3, 1995

Forum passes election rules

Emergency session proceeds with aplomb

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/ News Editor

The emergency forum held Wednesday, April 26, went surprisingly well. Students (about 25 of us) were in and out in around half an hour, and voted unanimously to pass a constitutional amendment concerning campus-wide election procedures.

A similar amendment was proposed at the previous forum, April 11. Student Bryan Shelton had written it in response to a public outcry at Bard over the length and publication of election hours and a student's alleged harassment by an unspecified member of the Student Life Committee.

Though a need was generally recognized at this previous forum for a reformed election procedure, the amendment was voted down because of ambiguity.

An ad-hoc committee was formed (consisting of Shelton, Michael Poirier, Secretary Imtaez Mannan, Student Life Committee member Joshua Bell and Student Judiciary Board Chair Andrew Fowler) to rewrite the amendment and present it at a newly scheduled emergency forum, i.e. this past Wednesday's forum.

All campus-wide elections will now be supervised by a resurrected Election Com-

mittee; this body should have been active for every previous election, according to the former constitutional procedure. The new Election Committee shall be chaired by the Secretary who will solicit volunteers from the Student Association—this means you.

As for the actual election, the prospective voter must brandish a valid Bard College Student ID card and sign his or her name directly onto the roster of current Bard students, a newly created mechanism for the prevention of fraud.

This voter (we speak of course of the Platonic form of the Bard voter, since we all know that nobody really votes at Bard) will receive a ballot upon signing, and will enter a private booth, i.e. a separate room or some partition like a box or hung curtains, in which he or she can check off the candidate of choice.

Student Government shall also be purchasing a ballot box probably made of metal with a slot on top. If SJB Chair Andrew Fowler has his way, the box will be decorated with a happy face and a sticker that reads "thank you for voting."

To further guard against fraud, during election hours two members of the Election Committee must be present at the voting site. Sean O'Neill comments, "as Chairperson of the Elections Committee, I think it's goin' to be damned difficult to get pairs of students to attend the election boxes and make these fine laws work. People have to take action."

Campaigning around the voting area is now prohibited with the exception of posters hung before the time of the election.

For further details, consult an updated version of the Bard Student Association Constitution and/ or Secretary Imtaez Mannan.

Headlines taken from the Star and the National Examiner. Collage by Michael Poirier

How does the press cover rape?

BRAVE sponsors lecture

By Joshua Ledwell

Last Wednesday, April 26, Bard Response to Rape and Associated Violence Education sponsored a talk by the accomplished Helen Benedict titled "Sex Crimes and the Press." The lecture began at 7pm in the Olin Auditorium.

Student Nicole Wallenbrock introduced Benedict, an Associate Professor of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. The speaker spent 18 years reporting for newspapers, is trained as a rape counselor, and has written six books, including three on sexual assault.

Apparently, Benedict is also skilled at self-promotion. Before the lecture began, she handed out photocopies that turned out to be order forms for her two latest books.

Upon taking the podium, Benedict immediately launched an attack on reactionary intellectuals who belittle the impact of rape and tend to blame the victim. "Date rape was not invented by campus feminists," she said. She quoted Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics that count 292 rapes in an average day in America, or about one every five minutes.

Benedict attributed her interest in rape to a series of

interviews she conducted with female rape victims, when she was "moved by the courage they carried." Later, when working with the inmates of an English prison for women, she found that about 70% of the prisoners had been raped before their incarceration. The silent damage the rapes had done aroused Benedict. All the women told her that the "worst aspect of the rape, other than rape itself, was how they were treated by the police, courts, and even the press."

To illustrate bias among the members of the press, Benedict created a stereotypical character named "Joe jour-

continued on page 2

Brevity is the soul of wit.

—William Shakespeare

Discussion on rape continued

nalist." As a typical representative of the majority of crime reporters, Joe is a young white male. He has internalized three myths that hamper his coverage of rape crimes.

First is "the sexist bias in the English language," which, Benedict said, "tends to infantilize and sexualize women." In an amusing, yet sobering set of examples, she quoted the descriptions of rape victims from several newspaper articles, but changed their gender to male. Adjectives such as "pert," "vivacious," and even "blonde" somehow did not fit when used to describe men. While writers will use a man's accomplishments to describe them, Benedict explained, "women are constantly described by their attractiveness."

Benedict noted that historically, editors started to consider rape stories appropriate for publication in news-

papers only after accounts of lynchings had begun to see print. Journalists have never been able to divorce rape stories from these roots, resulting, she said, in racist coverage.

The third myth is that "rape is merely sexual, motivated purely by desire, and women want men to rape them and enjoy it." Benedict mentioned the famous remark by a Texas politician who said that if rape is inevitable, the woman should lie back and enjoy it. Rape does have sexual characteristics, which create special humiliation for victims. But it is primarily an act of violence and dominance. "I prefer to characterize rape as a form of torture," Benedict said.

At this point, the speaker began to exert a subtle, but powerful influence over the audience. Individuals had laughed uncomfortably as Benedict described her pert, vivacious men, and they now

unconsciously nodded along with her torture simile. Her liberal use of anecdotes and quotes, along with her sometimes ironic, sometime sharp tone of voice, riveted the attention of all present.

Benedict said that "Joe journalist" tends to classify rape victims with either a "virgin" or a "vamp" image. She identified eight factors that predict which classification will be used, saying that the race and class of the victim and the rapist are crucial to perceptions of the crime.

The key to improving press coverage of rape, Benedict emphasized, is to include analysis in stories that examines societal reasons for rape's prevalence. She asserted that the press "ignores the most glaring reason of all for rape: women and their role as sex objects in society." Benedict believes that the "mainstream press is missing the real story" because it does not go to feminist sources for rape explanations from a societal and cultural view.

Benedict also said that the

use of clinical language when describing rape is important. Describe everything that was done, she advised, so that people can understand the severity of the crime. But the victim's name is unnecessary to the story.

As an example of good coverage of rape crimes, Benedict pointed to the systematic rape of women in Bosnia, which "were covered as war crimes." The speaker returned to an earlier theme in stating about rape: "Think of it as an act of torture and the right questions will be asked."

Bard opinion table feedback

By Allen Josey

The Bard Opinion Table is an outlet for students to voice suggestions, com-

plaints, praise and questions about what's going on at Bard. Starting last semester, Allen Josey and Rich Kelley, Resident Directors, along with a repre-

sentative of the Student Life Committee, have been having lunch every other Friday in the main dining hall at Kline to talk with students.

Here are more responses to some of the questions and opinions that have been brought up.

Opinion: "I think Kline should be open during Spring Break and other breaks when students are present on campus. We pay so much extra for this meal plan that we are forced to be on. It is wrong to expect us to pay extra for food either at the coffee shop, for groceries, pizza etc... Can't we have meal exchange during these breaks?"

A: It should be emphasized that the student body can and does have an influence on the quality of the food service it receives. Repeated attempts have been made by students

continued on page 3

Security update

By Pedro Rodriguez
News/Managing Editor

Tewksbury was subject to yet another fire alarm. Sunday, April 30, at 6:25 am, someone used the pull box on the first floor.

The Tewksbury alarm usually goes off at night, leading Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace to believe the cause might be students cooking improperly or smoking.

As of late, there have been so many alarms that only the PC's are evacuating. "It's going to be a real safety problem because people are not coming out. No fire alarm is a false alarm. [They all] go off for a reason," said Squillace.

A theft occurred in the Wolf lounge Thursday, April 27. A student had left a CD/cassette player with a radio unattended and returned to find it gone.

Also on Thursday, a security guard discovered some vandalism at McVickar. Some-

one had spray-painted an "F" on the outside door.

A student was seen this week sitting on a chair on a fire escape. As she has said before, Squillace reminds that fire escapes are for emergency use only.

Finally, someone has smashed the plastic covering of one of the light posts outside the Ravines. This apparently occurred Sunday, April 30.

Warning!

The Main Campus Parking Lot will be swept.

Saturday, May 7, beginning at 7 am.

Students, faculty and staff may park their vehicles on the Olin Lot behind the post office without penalty from

Friday, May 6 to Saturday, May 7.

All vehicles on the Main Campus lot during street sweeping will have to be towed.

BOOK/STUFF SALE SATURDAY, MAY 13

**1-4 PM ON THE LAWN IN FRONT OF KLINE
(WEATHER PERMITTING)**

Anyone interested in selling anything should contact me by Campus Mail. List what you intend to sell so we can get enough tables.

**Debbie Shepardson
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE**

Caribbean/Mexico

\$189 r/t

Europe \$169

California \$129

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prices,

start your own damn

airline.

Air-Tech Ltd.

(212) 219-7000

Opinion table feedback continued

to form a food committee to identify and work with the staff at Wood to make improvements. However, because of the lack of student support, these attempts have not lasted. This semester another attempt to form a food committee has been underway. Any students interested in getting involved with this should contact Marilyn Bernard (Peer Counselor) through the Dean of Students Office.

Also, the staff at Kline does use, and welcomes the comments students provide through the "grapevine" bulletin board.

Question: "How can I find out what my dorm charges

are? Sometimes damage in the rooms that exists prior to when a student moves in is not fixed during the year and then if the student squats their room they get charged for the damage that existed before they move in."

A: Unfortunately, Student Accounts does not issue an itemized bill explaining individual dorm damages. However, if a student has questions about specific charges to their account, they can go to Student Accounts and inquire about their bill. It should be noted that when damage occurs within the dorm (ie. missing coffee table, broken furniture...), unless the

responsible party is identified, the bill will be divided up among all residents in the dorm.

As to damages within an individual's room, Kenn Hurley, Director of Service Master, inspects all rooms prior to the beginning of the Fall semester and turns in work orders for any damage. However, because students move around so much during the year, it is very difficult to keep track of who did what.

Your best bet is to make sure that whenever you move into a new room you fill out a room inspection form and keep a copy for yourself. This is your proof of what the condition of your room was when you

moved in. If you have a serious concern about something, give Kenn Hurley a call at x7471.

Opinion: "The tennis courts need to be repaired."

A: The courts are scheduled to be totally reworked from the ground up this summer.

Opinion: "I enjoy being a student at Bard. I transferred here and feel surrounded by good people. I think that the administration is rather chaotic though. My experiences with Financial Aid, the Registrars office, "Central" Services, and Stu-

dent Housing have been very frustrating, to say the least. I always dread having to deal with any Bard administration because I know how chaotic it is. I get the impression that there is a lack of centralization. There is a significant discrepancy in the information that each department has on a subject. There needs to be more organization. Also, it would be nice to extend meal exchange to all meals, including Saturday and Sunday.

Bard Opinion Table
Where: Kline
Time: 12 - 1
When: Fridays May 5 & 19
Please give us your feedback and comments

Philosophy and poetics

Leonard Schwartz reads his recent work

By Linnea Knollmueller
Features Editor

Leonard Schwartz, professor and poet, gave a reading of his more recent work Thursday evening. The poems have been published in various journals, including *The Denver Quarterly*, *First Intensity*, and *The World*; they will be released in book form after a publisher is found. Schwartz explained in his introduction that the poems he was to read "explore the temporal movement of thought."

Though the poems are serious and philosophical in nature, Schwartz conducted the reading in a light tone, joking that his "First Year Seminar Greatest Hits" poems—those with references to the literature read in the Seminar courses—would amuse students. And the classical references poured forth freely.

"Quotations From the Tablets" deals with the epic of *Gilgamesh*, combining and juxtaposing modern and ancient imagery. "Lines for Aeschylus" and "Nausea and Nausikaa" utilize the Greek mythological tradition. Schwartz's interest in Chinese culture was apparent in "My Dinner with Ming Xia."

Schwartz offered a respite from the poetry by reading an essay about Austrian writer and playwright Thomas Bernhard titled "Breath: A Decision," which examines Bernhard's conclusion that each breath is a decision to be made to live. Bernhard, Schwartz explained, adopted this philosophy after suffering from pleurisy and tuberculosis as a teenager.

"I'd go to something lighter, but I don't really have anything that light," Schwartz quipped, before launching

into his final poems of the evening.

"I am interested in trying to use philosophical language to found my poetry on," he explained after the reading, over refreshments in the Olin Atrium. "Philosophical language is so derided and dismissed. But it is a source of a mythic sensibility. So, I want to resurrect philosophy and poetry by using this language."

While his latest work marks movement from his earlier collections, *Exiles: Ends*, *Objects of Thought*, *Attempts at Speech*, and *Gnostic Blessing*, Schwartz prefers to consider his works not through their differences, but by what they have in common. "My work is an attempt to use imagination to create a distance from everyday reality. And everyday reality is so amazing!"

Schwartz, a 1984 Bard

graduate, lists Robert Duncan and Robert Kelly as two of his influences. Duncan taught at Bard when Schwartz was a student, so "he is a personal influence as well as a work influence."

Though on campus only a few days a week, teaching First Year Seminar and writ-

ing classes, Schwartz is keeping active giving talks. In two weeks he will lecture on philosophy and poetics, through the philosophy department.

In the meantime, anyone interested in his intellectual and image filled poetry, can find his books at the Bard bookstore. ♪

Career Opportunities

Do you want to acquire real world business experience?

Do you want to earn money while working in the local community?

The Bard Observer needs a new Advertising Manager!

Interested students should leave a message at the Observer office,

758-0772, or come to our weekly meetings Mondays, 7pm, in Tewksbury basement, Room 84.

There are only two Observer issues left this semester! If you have any writing or advertisements, or know of any news that needs to see print, send it in now.

<http://www.tripod.com>

Fact & Fiction

What's What

Thoughts on the current events in Washington, D.C.

By Sean O'Neill

A cartoonist recently depicted a man in a diner who exclaims, "I never would have voted for them if I thought they would actually carry out their promises."

The character was one of the 20% of potential voters who had actually understood at election time that the Republican party had a specific campaign platform that they intended to implement, and who based his vote upon that information.

Several recent newspaper polls have stated that most Americans have not heard about the Contract for America or, even, about our new Prime Minister, Newt Gingrich.

Upon reading these statistics, I decided to do an unscientific poll of some middle-aged employees who work at our college in various capacities.

Eight of the twelve people I asked claimed no familiarity with "the Contract for America."

When one food service worker asked to explain what it was, I couldn't resist lying. I said that the Contract was a Republican Party plan to raise their taxes.

What I conclude from my survey and the national poll results is that

most Americans consider the antics in the Capitol to be largely irrelevant to their lives.

And perhaps they are right, in the sense that a national welfare state is essentially being dispersed into fifty little welfare states, no budget has yet been balanced, no trade gap has yet been passed, no tax laws have been dramatically changed, no universal military conscription has been imposed, and no president has been deposed.

Oklahoma City's bombing and the O.J. Simpson trial can sustain more interest. At least those stories are not about abstractions like "line-item veto" and "balanced budget amendment." Instead, they are about the life and death of specific people.

No politician seems committed to breaking Washington "greed-lock" and imposing solutions. Except, as some see it, Newt.

Sometimes I am skeptical about the perceptive powers of many of our fellow voters.

I recall a trip I took in 1992 in a taxi from the Kingston bus terminal to Bard.

My driver, John, asked me "Where

"Bard," I said.

He looked me over. "I want the fare paid up front. Not that I don't trust college kids or anything."

"I know," I said, stupidly paying with a twenty, expecting change I never got.

"I hear Bard is a pretty liberal place."

"Yeah, you could say that."

"Ever since Kennedy, I don't trust no liberals. They're always liberal with everyone else's money instead of their own. I never got any of Kennedy's millions. Not that I thought Kennedy should have gotten shot or anything."

"Uh-huh."

"But people always forget the truth about that Eternal Flame. I watched the lighting ceremony in Arlington on television. I'm old enough to have seen it. And I saw it when those Girl Scouts accidentally poured Holy Water on the Flame and extinguished it."

"Really?"

"Oh, yeah. Took 'em two minutes to relight it. I dunno if that's a sign or not. But you don't go seeing that in no history books, do ya? It might have been a sign from above, but it's not my place to say."

John took another puff on his cigar. I noticed the no-smoking sign on the dashboard, but said nothing.

"Ever hear of Jon Tompson?" (I'm not sure if he said "Tompson" or another name.) "He had a panty raid on Bard campus a few years back. Actually, it wasn't a panty raid. He went in alone and ran through the dorms, shouting in different voices, 'Panty raid! Panty raid!' And the next day all of the girls said that there had been a panty raid. That was a while ago. Do they still talk about him? They talked about him for years."

"I don't know."

"He was a funny guy. Married, too. He moved to Woodstock afterward. (Figures.) But he saw no panties, saw no girls, didn't get none, but he called it a panty raid. A real funny guy."

"I bet."

"My wife went to college. Utica, a part of Syracuse. They were the oranges and the Utica teams were the tangerines. Thought it was kind of cute. She's got a real nice pension now. But she doesn't help me any."

This anecdote about John first appeared in the *Observer* on October 21, 1992 to prove a different point, but as the experience with an eccentric remains distinct in my mind, I refer to it again.

Sometimes, democracy is scary.

Bard Spring

An excerpt from Sandeep's just-submitted senior project

By Sean O'Neill

Past Eleven, the archetype
steps from Steinway's shower,
towel hung loosely,
cigarette drooping,
fist rapping on the door

Larry's love Linda
locked him out
of the double;
Now he's a tragic figure in
Bard mythology
to be deconstructed in
Annandale,
the annals of pretension,
by two egos
in open concert
in closed quotes.

Yes, the bleeding ponytail
knocks and knocks
calculating the Q-course
of his existence
"1.2 million new grads
minus 675,000 new jobs"
Gee, are ye desparin'?"

No mo' bunkin' in Watson's closet

My own private fruitopia
takin' for a ride
at the Bard Bookstore
"Eleven bucks a binder?
My arse!"

We will sup on berry loaf
and "jam-bowl-eye-uh"
in the middle paranoid;
later, beer or coffee at
the Historic Dreamer's Santa Cafe

"In France they call it a
Reuger Royale"

take back the gym and
deKline to a brave women's center
proctor arts Shore to "C" you
retina soybean a pissar
at a campus center built elsewhere

Do it for a dime!
Ferg is Forever
Pataki the Hun
workstudy, oxymoron
Weaver's Gass:
"velociopederast"
Blumfish Rainbows
a Bountiful Crop
Don Juan de Revco

he cannot stop

From the Scene Shop More-Ass
to the Manor alarmed
doin' the campus shuttle
at Bard —
"a place too think"
too drab a place to drink
Tivoli —
a different kind of ghost-town

this ain't a poem, you see
since there's no Christ imagery
or the customary
exploding vaginas or spleen
or a wry self-seriousness
that's avant garde routine

"Driving on the Parkway
All along the Thruway
Parking in the Driveway
At the BlazerDome!"

Free East Tewksbury!
Helms aghast
"fifty foot woman" Big Fun's idea
with his M&M nipples and those
scapulas propitiating Elvis
at blithewood's bluffs
manage a tois coupling

constipression gaydar
UpState Liplick
"O" won't get you on the Dean's List

bow tie pasta on Nightline
with David's or Evan's score
played by Gabriel or Grace,
Scott, Jill, or Emiko.

one Rose in the Post
is worth two deans in Ludlow
and e-mail maniacs are
the unbard side sprung

me, me, me
please let it be me
who frolics in the honor of the
Brandon Bognar Scholar Award!

the early riser gets the
international meal exchange student
commencing to project a
moderated admission
in the poison ivy league &
its literature of extreme situations
unkirkegaarded, out-Dirac-ing,
the masses as usual

"Hurrah for Karamazov!"

Blazers dominate Polytechnic

Tennis team prospers under new coach

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

Men's Varsity Tennis scored big this weekend at Flushing Meadows, where the Blazers dominated Polytechnic College. The Blazers won seven out of nine of their matches against the greatly inferior Polytechnic. Everyone performed amazingly,

defeating their opponents with speed and precision.

The victory signifies two major events in the Blazers' season, first, this win brings an end to their three game losing streak. Second, it marks the first win for acting coach Charles Riedinger. The Blazers will have another chance to show their skills this Saturday, at Stevenson Gym,

against the Jersey City State College.

With several games left, there is still a chance that the team could pull out a winning season. Good luck to all of the players and coach Riedinger, we wish the best, and total humiliation of all other teams.

In non-tennis news, this Friday, there will be an In-Line Skating Clinic held behind the Old

Gym. This demonstration will begin at 2:00 p.m. and everybody is encouraged and welcome to come. This clinic is free to all Bard Students and will involve a lot of great rollerblading action.

Furthermore this weekend is the Spring Fling. On Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a Sand Volleyball Tournament. Organize your co-recreational

team now and come and play. Just call 758-7530 to register and have fun. Also, at 2:00 p.m., there will be a homerun contest; everybody gets ten swings, and a chance to win some prizes. Finally, at 3:30 p.m. there will be an open swim at the Stevenson Pool. Again everyone is encouraged to attend and "make it a splash."

Intramural softball heads into playoffs

By David Hyde
Staff Writer

Despite the cool spring weather and the large dimensions of the new softball field, several long homeruns were hit in last week's games. The warm bats and the sudden surge of power in both leagues came just in time for the playoffs, which are scheduled to begin later this week. According to Kris Hall, team captains should have playoff schedules in their mailboxes today.

The new Athletic Director emphasized that every team qualifies to play in at least one playoff game. Every team, that is, except for the Kluegers, who were in the West Division but dropped out of the league last week. The top eight teams remaining in the Rec League will compete in the A Tournament beginning this Friday. The other teams will play in Tournament B, which begins on Monday. Seeding for the playoffs is determined by team record and the difference between runs scored and runs allowed by a team during the regular season.

Hopefully, weather for the playoffs will be better than it was for

the last three weeks. Despite chilly conditions Tuesday night, the final games of the regular season were scheduled to be played in what was supposed to be a doubleheader. Unfortunately, the Zebraheads did not show for the first game and forfeited to the Naked Ice Borers.

The second game, which had already been postponed three times, was then played under ominous grey clouds. The Naked Ice Borers finally defeated the ELKS/E.O.C. by a score of 11 to 2, despite an inside the park homerun by Elk Luke Potoski. Elk captain Justice Platt said after the game "we gave 110%, but the ball just wasn't bouncing our way today."

The victory improved the Naked Ice Borers' record to 4 and 0; on Saturday, they crushed Superdiva 25 to 5. The star of Saturday's game was PLAYER OF THE WEEK Cree Nevins who took time off from writing his senior project to hit two homeruns in the same game. The first shot rolled to the fence as Nevins raced home; the second homerun, in his next at-bat, was a blast over the centerfield fence. The Naked Ice Borers, seeded first in the A Tourna-

ment, are an obvious early favorite in the playoffs.

Despite the loss to the Naked Ice Borers on Saturday, Superdiva (3-1) makes the A Tournament playoffs with the aid of two forfeit "victories" - after defeating the Elks/E.O.C. 8 to 7. Ben Friedman of Superdiva didn't have much to say about his team's victory, but did say that Ginger Shore's Naked Ice Borers "should be in the other league."

In other Rec League action, Slut Trash took on the Distinguished Scientists Softball Series (0-2); it was THE GAME OF THE WEEK. Slut Trash hammered out five runs in the bottom of the third inning, to seize a 10 to 3 lead, but just when the lead seemed comfortable, the D.S.S.S. responded by exploding for ten runs in the top of the fifth inning. Slut Trash was rattled by the onslaught of hits, but ended their opponents' comeback by scoring five more runs in their half of the inning. With the victory, Slut Trash improved their record to 3 and 0 and will face the Wood Warriors in the playoffs.

In the Athletic League, the trend towards more power and more homeruns continued. On Thursday, the American Dream had homeruns by Kimani Davis and Kyle Wheeler against the Dirty Dogs. In the same game, the Dirty Dogs had back to back homeruns by Terry Lown and Steve Race which soared out of the park.

The Dirty Dogs scored four runs in the top of the fifth inning to tie the score at ten to ten. But in the bottom of the inning, Davis, who had

doubled, scored on a hit by Ron Reece. The victory was the first of the year for the defending champions.

While the Gym Rats have yet to hit a homerun this year, their strong pitching and consistent hitting have helped them to a 3 and 0 start. In their game Thursday, the Gym Rats scored 2 runs in the first inning, 2 in the second, 5 in the third, and one more insurance run in fourth as they beat the Tony Danza Bonanza 10 to 2. The Tony Danza Bonanza were humbled by the pitching of Misti Williams and Eric Keller who allowed a mere four hits in five innings. The lone bright spot for the Tony Danza Bonanza was co-captain Seth Travins who had two of the four hits.

The next day, the Gym Rats

won again, this time by a score of 15 to 3 over the Dirty Dogs. The Gym Rats scored eight runs in the sixth inning to put the game out of reach. With the victory, the Gym Rats secured a First Place finish for the regular season; they will play the fourth seeded Dirty Dogs (0-3) in the first round of the playoffs. The Tony Danza Bonanza (2-1) will play the American Dream (1-2) in the other first round playoff game in the Athletic League.

In other softball news Kris Hall has informed the *Observer* that the first ever Bard Softball All-Star Game will be scheduled before the end of the academic year. Captains will be asked to select at least one player for their team to play in the game.

See you at the playoffs.

Real World Sports

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

The umpire strike is over. The owners finally made a deal for a five year contract giving the umpires at least a 25 percent raise. The umpires will also be receiving their full salaries, instead of cuts due missing games. Under the new contracts, an umpire's starting salary will begin at 100,000 dollars. So, for now, everything is back to normal in the new corporate world of baseball. Go players, owners, umpires, and fans.

With the season well into swing, teams in both the American and National leagues are demonstrating the ability to take early leads in their respective divisions. In the A.L. East, the Yankees lead the division with four wins and one loss. The A.L. Central division has the Brewers leading with five and one, and in the Western division Seattle is a head four to one. Over in the National league, the Eastern division is being lead by

the Braves who are one game ahead of the Expos. The Cubs in the Central division, with a little help from a higher source, lead St. Louis by one and a half games. And, the Rockies lead the Padres by one game with a record of five and one.

Yet, as they are only one game behind it is still safe to assume that the Red Sox are going to win the entire thing this year. But, of course, it is still early in the season, so it's best we don't make assumptions. Go (place the name of your home team here).

For all of you Knicks fans, the Knicks are leading the Cleveland Cavaliers two to one in a five game series. They have a chance to advance to the next round, this Thursday, when they play the Cavs at Gund Arena. Go Knicks.

Senior Projects are due today. So let's be nice to all seniors. Accordingly, I was told by a senior friend, that he didn't like the format of the sports page, especially Real World Sports. Well, to him I say, "Go and graduate."

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Statements of Purpose

Educational Policies Committee Chair

You have worked wonders earlier this semester by electing me as your secretary. Now I urge you all to let me serve you as Educational Policy Committee Chair for the next academic year. You students have prepared me to handle this job in the most efficient manner. I was interested but inexperienced and you taught me everything that was needed to serve you. You voiced your concerns over the campus and community issues and let me channel them to the appropriate sectors for you. It is you who made sure that the duties that you assigned to me were executed to everyone's satisfaction. I am proud to say that I kept my promises and never let you down. Our understanding of democracy and freedom has reached a new landmark through your par-

ticipation in the last few student forums, and I am glad to be a part of it. Together we have advanced yet another step forward in reaching our goal, a free and healthy community.

I want you to make me a part of Educational Policy Committee because I believe that every problem has its solutions, and together we can find solutions to all our discomfort on the academic issues. We as students can work on this sector and achieve the glory that Bard students well deserve. I promise nothing now because it is you who decide what you want and how you want it. I can't do anything without you by my side. I only promise that I will not stop fighting until all your needs have been met. Let me fight for your rights, our rights, the rights of the student body. Let me do

it for you. After all, why would you settle for anything less?

Imteaz Mannan

My name is Shelleen Greene, and I am running for the position of Chair of the Educational Policies Committee. As a third-year literature major, I have served on a search committee that has successfully filled the position for a professor in Afro-American literature. I have also recommended changes to enhance the curriculum and broaden course selection. I believe that we, as students, should know as much about changes and developments in our curriculum as possible. As viable members of the

Bard community, we also have the right to decide on the faculty we want. If elected chair, it will be my utmost goal to assure that the voice of the student body be heard.

For the past year, I have served as a representative to the EPC. During this time, I have taken oral testimony from students for faculty up for rehire, promotion and tenure. As part of the parallel process, I along with the other divisional representatives have made the faculty as well as the administration aware of students' desires. Having participated in this process, I have seen how your comments and opinions have had crucial bearing on decisions of rehiring and tenureship. However, there is room for students to have more say about decisions in the hiring of new faculty, as well as in

the making of final decisions, which has for the most part been handled exclusively by faculty and administration. Working with the committee on vacancies, as well as the faculty evaluation committee, I hope to find ways in which student representatives can have more of a say in the decision making aspect of this process.

My experience, understanding and dedication have prepared me for this position. A vote for me is a vote to enhance our academic programs as well as to insure that we have a greater say in decisions concerning the faculty. With your support, I will above all continue serving in the student body's best interests. Thank you.

Shelleen Greene

Student Association Treasurer

My qualifications for the post of Treasurer are simple: Responsibility, a decent head for figures, Scrooge-like attention to financial detail, and a real grasp of the Bard club scene. Having served on the Planning Committee for the past year, I have acquired the knowledge of the specific needs of specific clubs essential in the Treasurer, and am ready to use that knowledge and experience to continue the high standards of speedy disbursement of funds and responsiveness to club needs set in the past.

I will be consistently and readily

available to all and sundry, and I will deal with the inevitable troubles that arise where money is concerned with the probity and discretion befitting the post of Treasurer. Ideally, the position is nearly invisible, thought of rarely and then in connection with easy and straightforward financial dealings. I want to run a smooth ship over glassy waters and will do everything I can to make that possible.

Please remember this as you go to the post-office, and allow me to watch over your money with the same zeal I bring to my own. Thank you.

Justice Platt

A Slight Statement of Purpose for Treasurer of the Student Association

I am Bryan; I be 5'11. What I want to do is make sure that no one gets shit on and that everything is by the books. Competence, that is the goal. That is what I will provide. Gabor has been competent but he has also

been an asshole. I will not be an asshole. I've asked him how he runs things, he gave me the whole nine, and I now feel I have a good grip on the duties of the office and how to fulfill them. I have visited the new assistant comptroller and she further explained the process to me in detail. As a club head, I have had to submit requests and I understand the frustration that can arise from late checks. I fully intend to continue the policy of: you tell me what you need and why by 9am Tuesday and I get you your business by Friday. Quicken is the program which is now used by the Treasurer to keep accurate records; Quicken is also the program I have used to keep records for the Bard Society of Folklore. I am also aware that the Planning Committee now functions in secrecy, with no explanation or justification for their decisions. To alleviate this I would be willing to discuss the reasoning behind any decision on allocation of Student Association funds with anyone that asks. I will also make announcements at each Forum that explain, in brief, the Planning Committee's reasons for all alloca-

tions made since the last Forum. I think that another step towards greater understanding would be to have every club to submit an extra copy of their budget proposals and Emergency and Laundry Fund requests to be placed in the Student Association reserve folder in the library (an idea originally proposed by Michael Poirier).

In the past year, I have changed from a somewhat apathetic non-participant to a Forum-going happy boy because I realized that I have a responsibility to participate. I feel that the office of the Treasurer is the place for me to fulfill my obligation. I am able and I have prepared myself well. I am dedicated and have proven it with my work in drafting new electoral procedures (passed in the Forum on April 26) specifically designed to prevent fraud and harassment. Vote for me and I'll do good, as opposed to bad, which is something completely different.

thanky,

Bryan Shelton

Student Life Committee Chair (uncontested)

Alright, there is all of that stuff about how the Student Life Committee acts as a liaison between students and the Administration, Security, and Buildings and Grounds, and I will do that. But the real thing Student Life Committee is supposed to do is to be there for all student complaints, suggestions, and concerns. There is nothing too small for the committee to ask for, and try to make happen. I believe that everything can be talked about with the administrations. I also know that there have been some complaints about the committee being "administration toadies." So, I will set the record straight from now on; I believe that you have to work with the administration. They

are not the enemy. But, the Student Life Committee is not part of their staff. The committee works for the students, and even though we, as students, will always have to compromise, I will always keep it clear who I work for.

Alright, so there is my preachy section, now here is some of the things that I have heard students want and will try to get, if elected. I think that there should be a few more change machines on campus, so if I have an urge to wash my clothes at 4 am, I can do it. I think that we could use a little more parking. I think that there should be emergency call boxes everywhere, now, not later. I think that there should be some nice places to sit out

by the Ravines, because they look like shit, and that's not very fun. And, I want to put a cigarette machine somewhere on campus, because it is needed.

These are just a few things that I have heard about. There is a lot that can be done, or at least tried. I know this committee and its activities very well, after having served a semester on it, the Library Committee, the Campus Center Committee, the Jeff Huang Search Committee, and the Election Reform Committee. So here's my motto, it comes from a little pop idol named Vanilla Ice, "If there's a problem, yo, I'll solve it." So vote for me. Bell.

Joshua Bell

Statements of Purpose requested for:
 -Film Committee
 -Board of Trustees
 -Alumni Association
 due to Sean O'Neill by Friday 5pm through campus mail

Hello, my name is Wendy Grunseich and I am running for Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. As a member of the Student Life Committee it is my obligation to bring the needs and griev-

ances of the student body to the attention of the administration. With the experience gained in representing you through the Student Life Committee I believe I will be an effective and knowledgeable

representative to the Board of Trustees.



I know how it feels to live

without a job, to be in "monastic seclusion" in those cold days of winter due to lack of transportation and limited choice of entertainment, to drive on the Manor road; I exactly know how it feels to live without a house, to cook in

the miasmic atmosphere of Albee basement, to walk alone home at dead of night. I have gone through all this. I can imagine the feelings one may have delivering pizza at Broadway, or doing construction jobs or waiting tables at Pongo after graduation. I have dined in Kline Commons, I have lived off-campus, I have worked for minimum wage, unable to do anything about the monopoly power of the bookstore I have refrained myself from buying books and daily necessities. Besides, my active involvement in various clubs and activities and my sound interaction with different personnel at Bard made me aware of the pressing needs, necessities, priorities and concerns of the students.

Because I am very concerned about the students and I have a great deal of interest to voice their needs to the Board of Trustees who are ultimately responsible for making critical and crucial decisions on various aspects of student life, I would like to ask the students to consider my candidacy as a representative to the Board of Trustees.

The board comprises alumni and business people who are concerned with the finance and management of the school. It is essential that the Board knows Bard life from its students. And it is the responsibility of the students to choose these people who can articulate their problems in the best possible way and who can pursue the interests of the students most vigorously to convince the Trustees. The position can also be important in representing a good image of Bard to the Trustees who influence the financing of the school.

I believe I am an excellent candidate who can fulfill all these requirements. With this position, I would be able to demonstrate both my dedication in rendering needed service to the students, as well as my refreshing capacity to take bold initiative as a vocal advocate for their interests for fulfilling their needs. If elected I will make myself more accessible to the students so that they can discuss their concerns with me any time to share with the Trustees. I will also try to use the Trustees as a resource to the students.

Sincerely,

Thanks for your time and deliberation,
Mostafizur Rahman
Shah Mohammed

Mostafizur
Shah Mohammed

Representatives to the Alumni/ae Association

A representative to the Alumni/ae Board should be a student who is informed about issues on campus, as well as someone who has an understanding of how the Alumni/ae Department operates. I feel that I, Dara Z Roark, have both of these qualities. This year I am a PC and I hold an EPC position for the Arts Division. I have attended every forum this year, and I have a clear understanding of what are the main issues and concerns of stu-

dents here at Bard. With my experience as both a PC and being on the EPC, I also know how to present these concerns to the administration and the Alumni/ae Board in an effective manner.

For the past three years I have worked in the Development Office—so I knew Terri Tomaszewicz before she left, and I now know Don Moore, the new head of the Alumni/ae Department. Next year will be a transitional time for this department

and the Alumni/ae Board, and my past knowledge and experience will be beneficial.

I currently hold this position temporarily, and I would like to continue being involved with the college and students in this way next year, my final year at Bard.

Thank you.

Dara Z Roark



As representative to the alumni/ae association, it would be my responsibility to keep students informed as to the state of the association. Understanding the importance of the alumni/ae association for funding, jobs and internship opportunities, I believe I can fulfill these responsibilities. I ask for your vote.

Thank you.

Shelleen Greene

Student Judiciary Board Chair

I hereby submit my intention to stand for Chairman of the Student Judiciary Board. Thank you.

Simon Marcus



Greetings. I am Mostafiz Rahman Shah Mohammed and I am a second semester Junior. Considering the importance and seriousness of the job, I feel compelled to submit my name for the Chair of the Stu-

dent Judiciary Board (SJB). I think I have demonstrated a measure of personal responsibility in everything I did so far at Bard. I am hardworking, dedicated, committed and caring. I have been a member of SJB for the last year and a half. I have dealt with a good number of complicated cases so far and I believe I am capable to deal with any sort of cases. My close acquaintance with campus resources and interaction with students, staff and faculty will give me a pragmatic approach to any problem.

I want to uphold the legacy of the current SJB chair, Andrew Fowler, who is graduating this semester and who did a splendid job. Apart from being a member on the board, my close friendship with Andrew gave me a better understanding of the SJB procedures, and how it can better serve the students. I want to pursue his efforts further to make the SJB a more accessible source for students through various measures: possibilities include organizing programs in resident halls

about the role of SJB, using deans and a case advisor as a liaison to the students, interacting with BRAVE etc.

Much of the painstaking work of reaching a decision in any case can be done with good coordination with the members. My affiliation with many clubs and activities and my Peer Counselor experience have taught me how to work with a whole variety of students of diverse backgrounds and interests.

I hope that nobody has to come to the SJB, but if anyone does have to, I will remain steadfast in my efforts to make sure that the person is treated with justice, prudence, temperance and fortitude. In order to maintain justice, I am ready to make any decision with an implacable air of determination.

I will remain committed to the SJB, which I see both as an educational and disciplinary enterprise to the Bard community. I know that it is not an easy job and sometimes it requires stressful time commitment without any prior notice. I am ready for any sort of time commitment and I am willing to prioritize SJB over anything.

Thanks for your time and deliberation,
Mostafizur Rahman
Shah Mohammed

Planning Committee Chair (uncontested)

Hi! My name is Toufique Khan. I'm the only student with experience on the Planning Committee who would like to be its chairperson for next year. For the last couple of years, I have been actively engaged in various activities around campus (such as co-hosting the recent ISO Cultural Show and being an active member of the Bard Foot Patrol), apart from working as an elected member of the student government.

The decision-making pro-

cess for the last two budgets that were passed was surrounded with some ambiguity. If elected, I will take the first step towards clearing things up by placing all the budget requests together at the reserve desk in the library for anyone to peruse. All convocation fund requests shall be dealt solely on the merit of the respective proposed budgets and in accordance with the availability of funds. I will ensure that the emergency and laundry fund requests

are honoured without delay congruent to the guidelines in the Student Handbook. As a representative of the students, I will most certainly accommodate and appreciate any suggestions. Finally, as member of the planning committee I had to relieve myself from all other club responsibilities. Thus, I would not bring any conflict of interests to the job.

Thank you for your consideration,
Mohammed Toufique Khan

Student Association Secretary

My name is Luis Alcazar-Roman and I am a second semester Junior here at Bard. I currently hold one of the two seats in the Educational Policies Committee for the Natural Sciences and Mathematics Division and in the past I have run for other positions in the student government.

The position of Secretary of the Student Association is one of great responsibility. I am aware of the dedication and care needed to fulfill the position. I am familiar with the responsibilities and duties of the Secre-

tary and I am ready to give this position the full, proper commitment and dedication necessary for the proper fulfillment of these duties. I will take the necessary action to accommodate the requests of the student body and make sure the Student Government works to satisfactorily answer everybody's concerns. Among the projects I have in mind toward the realization of this goal is improving the archiving system of all the rulings and legislation of the Student Government, using the ad-

equating computer software, to establish a record of precedents upon which to base our decisions.

I am confident in my ability to perform the duties of the Secretary. In this position I see an opportunity to realize my goal to serve the Bard Community and return part of the services that it has provided for me during the time I have been here.

Luis Alcazar-Roman

I believe student forums have been poorly advertised, and in turn that they have been poorly attended (usually fewer than thirty people). I have always publicized my campus events well (*Bard Journal of Social Sciences*, Debate, Free East Timor, etc.), and I would do the same for student association events. I would advertise forums and the like at least two weeks before their occurrence with no less than fifty signs,

and for events such as elections I would even stuff mailboxes. I am aware of the new electoral processes passed on April 26, have spoken with their authors, and would run elections according to them. The Secretary also plays a role on the Grievance Committee of which I am well aware. This facet of the job has often been ignored. These are the three main functions of the Secretary; I have the time, and I'll do the job.

Brandon K Weber

How safe are we?

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/News Editor

Bard has responded to the rape of the Bard student on Thursday, April 13.

Student Julia Wolk organized a meeting for the Tewksbury lounge which took place Tuesday, April 18. Students met with Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, Assistant Director of Safety and Security Jim Lawlor and Resident Director Rich Kelley. This was, by all reports, a vent session—no doubt a good thing.

A second meeting between students and administration occurred the Friday of that week, April 21. This time, Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou and Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace were present, along with the Dean of Students. The meeting centered on the Bard Foot Patrol, a defunct student organization which provided escort service for students and served as another set of feelers for Bard Security.

Papadimitriou again voiced his original concern over the foot patrol—that students would be needlessly endangered should they witness any wrongdoing. It was explained to him that foot patrollers would not get involved, but merely radio in to security.

In response to call for any stepping up of security, not to mention Maythw Johnson's question concerning "revolving door" security employment [see Johnson's letter, page 11], the Vice President evaded the question using the argument that one can never be totally safe, that crime can happen anywhere. That is, he implicitly equated personal risk at Bard College with personal risk at any and all other places.

Let's quote some statistics. All figures are taken from the *Statistical Abstract of the United States 1994*, the *County and City Data Book 1994*, both issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the *1994 New York State Statistical Yearbook*, put out by The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at State University of New York in cooperation with the New York State Division of the Budget. The numbers represent only those crimes reported to police.

Bard is situated in a rural area. In the United States at least, rural areas are subject to the least amount of crime; metropolitan areas, the most.

A total of 1,932,000 violent crimes were committed in 1992 within the United States. ("Violent crime" includes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.)

1,759,000 of those were committed in metropolitan areas. By contrast, 220,000 were committed in rural areas.

For the sake of argument, let's examine some metropolitan areas—New York and my hometown Miami, Florida—and pit them against a rural area, Dutchess County. Note that Dutchess county includes the city of Poughkeepsie. I will nevertheless use the entire county as my rural area.

New York City had a 1990 population of 7,323,000. For 1992, the following crime statistics (each per 100,000 people) apply:

violent crime—2,164/100,000
murder—27.1/100,000
forcible rape—38.2/100,000
aggravated assault—861/100,000.

I made some calculations

based on 1990 populations and 1992 crime figures by dividing the population by 100,000, and multiplying that quotient by the index figure x (from $x/100,000$).

In New York City I estimate there were over 1,984 murders, 2,797 forcible rapes and 63,051 aggravated assaults.

My hometown, Miami, it seems, fared worse per capita. It's 1990 population was 359,000. Miami scored:

violent crime—3,371/100,000
murder—34.2/100,000
forcible rape—72.8/100,000
aggravated assault—1,734/100,000.

Using the same process as I did for New York City, for Miami, I estimate 122 murders, 261 forcible rapes and 6,225 aggravated assaults.

Dutchess County with its 1990 population at 259,462, had a total of 1,017 violent crimes in 1992. These were: 9 murders, 40 forcible rapes, 306 robberies and 662 aggravated assaults.

Reversing the calculation to find index figures (since totals were given for Dutchess County rather than indexes) I reached these numbers, each per 100,000 people:

violent crime—391.96/100,000
murder—4.24/100,000
forcible rape—15.42/100,000
aggravated assault—260/100,000.

Dutchess County has less crime, violent and otherwise. When Poughkeepsie is taken into account, the figures for Bard's area drop further. Dutchess County also covers a greater area, at 806 square miles, than New York City's 309 and Miami's 35.6. This means that Dutchess County's

much lower crime rate is also more spread out. This also means that you should give thanks daily you don't live in my hometown.

To imply that Bard is just as dangerous as anywhere else is utterly invalid. Anyone can be assaulted anywhere, but this is a half-truth. We as students are safer at this campus than in many other places. By this I do not mean to imply that our safety should be taken for granted. However, Bard

Security and the Bard Administration have the proverbial golden opportunity here.

Securing our campus is far easier than securing its equivalent in a large city. An extra boost could make this campus virtually free of violent crime. This is not an indictment; this is an incentive.

Though nothing is fool-proof, it could prevent another tragedy. What better argument?

Oklahoma vigil

To the Bard Community,

On Monday, May 1 an informal group of area citizens issued a call for local residents to join them in a candle-light observance on Monday, May 8, at 8 pm, at 235 Main Street Poughkeepsie, the site of several US federal offices, to support public employees in the aftermath of the Oklahoma bombing. Joining similar groups in New Haven, Grand Rapids, and San Francisco, they issued the following call:

"The Oklahoma bombing of April 19 massacred public service workers, their clients and their children. Inspired by our horror at this event, we will gather at the Federal Building to express our support for the people who provide the public

services that our community depends upon. This is a non-partisan effort. We differ about ways of improving service to the public, but we agree in deploring a political debate marred by defamation and intimidation of government employees. Democratic government is mutual aid. Where government touches us, it works through our fellow-citizens and neighbors. They must not stand alone."

The sponsors are inviting elected officials and all groups and individuals to join the vigil. For information, call David Kettler at (914) 876-5293, Kathleen Barker at (914) 758-7600 or Bruce Chilton at (914) 758-7600 x7364.

David Kettler

Brave sponsors two Self-Defense workshops

Introductory level: Wednesday, May 10
Refresher course: Thursday, May 11
Workshops run 7-9pm
in the Stevenson Gym aerobics room

To preregister, call the DOSO at x7454
Participation is limited to 25 in each workshop

Unto every person there is a name

On Thursday, April 27, 1995, many Bard students and faculty observed Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day). This is a day set aside for remembering the six million Jews (one and a half million of them children) and six million others who were systematically murdered because they did not fit the criteria of Hitler's Third Reich. As a part of the international program "Unto Every Person There is a Name," the Jewish Students' Organization arranged for people to read names of Holocaust victims. Also the JSO distributed yellow stars, with the slogan "Never Forget," so that people could identify themselves as Jews (which Jewish

people were forced to wear under the Nazi regime) or so that people could express their solidarity against the Holocaust.

Stationed outside of Kline, Bard students and faculty (both Jewish and not Jewish) read 15,513 names in nine and a half hours. Reading the names was meant to give the names back to those who were stripped of their identities before they were murdered. By reciting the victims' names (ages and birthplaces where available), the readers and observers could remember that each victim was an individual, a son or daughter, a sister or brother, a child or a parent.

In the Jewish religion, it is customary to light a Yartzheit

candle every year on the anniversary of a family member's death. Because many whole families were killed, most victims do not have anyone to mourn for them. Accordingly, the JSO lit six Yartzheit candles in memory of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

This year communities also observed the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps. The BBC journalist Patrick Gordon-Walker went to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp after its liberation. He described, "One

woman came up to a soldier who was guarding the milk store and doling the milk out to children and begged for milk for her baby. The man took the baby and saw that it had been dead for days, black in the face and shriveled up. The woman went on begging for milk. So he poured some on the dead lips. The mother then started to croon with joy and carried the baby off in triumph. She stumbled and fell dead in a few yards." This story reminds people that liberators witnessed some of the

results of the Nazi atrocities and that the liberators can add to the testimony of survivors.

By remembering those who died, readers were able to defy the Nazi's wish that nobody would remember, believe, or care. Many thanks to Andrew, Dana, Luke, Melanie, Holly, Zack, Josh, David, Esteban, Michael, Ben, Nick, Laura, Tracy, Chris, Sarah, Robyn, Rachel, and Suzanne for showing they care and making the project successful.

Sandy Kalm

Volunteer transportation

Dear editor:

I am happy to see the recent emphasis placed by the administration on volunteer opportunities in the community. Rich Kelley's weekly articles in the Observer and the possible addition to the curriculum of the Workshop in Social Action are both positive steps that help to encourage increased student involvement in the community around Bard. I myself have recently started volunteering two days a week at the Astor Home for Children in Rhinebeck.

The Dean of Students has always said that the administration will support students interested in volunteering by providing transportation. Unfortunately, this offer of help has not come through in my case, forcing me to rely on the generosity of friends or the loop bus for rides to Rhinebeck and back. While I understand that there was never a guarantee of transportation, the lack of it has curtailed my involvement, and I have no doubt that it has limited the activities of other students who would also like to participate in other volunteer activities. I realize that there are many reasons for the lack of transportation, some of them beyond the control of

the administration. I write to express the hope that the administration will be able to remedy these problems by the time next semester starts, and thus show the seriousness of its commitment to assisting students taking part in volunteer activities.

A note to all Bard students: the children at the Astor Home are currently engaged in studying different cultures for a cultural fair that they hope to hold in June. The cultures that they are studying are: Egypt, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Eskimos, American Indians, India, and Mexico. They would welcome the opportunity to talk with anyone who belongs to or has experienced any of these cultures. If you are interested in spending an hour or two of your time sharing your culture with these children, please call me at x7534.

On a totally unrelated topic, I would like to thank Gilda Lyons, Erin Tedesco, Laura Gaugh, and the other great musicians who performed in the old gym on Thursday night. They were all wonderful, and I hope that there will be many similar concerts in the future.

Malia DuMont

Smoking dorms

To the Bard Community,

On Thursday, April 27, I attended a meeting with Dean of Housing Gladys Watson and the remaining Potter first floor residents in order to discuss the fire of Wednesday the 19th. During this meeting we were enlightened by the fact that smoking in all resident lounges is illegal. This is printed in the midst of the Stu-

dent Handbook. Unless a floor or dormitory agrees to have smoking in the lounge at some point it is to remain a non-smoking area. Also, if it is unanimously agreed to designate the lounge as a smoking area, the large sand-filled ash tray cans can be obtained by the Peer Counselor. Gladys Watson made a special effort to point out that the small "flyaway" ash trays placed in some lounges were not pro-

vided by college housing and that her allocations had not helped to purchase them. It turns out that it was precisely one of these ash trays that was the cause of the fire. (It blew off the window sill). Therefore it is strongly recommended that if your dorm chooses to allocate its lounge as a smoking area, that a large sand ash can is obtained.

Kristin Oland

Lyme disease info on reserve

To the Bard Community,

The library has been approached by faculty to put on Reserve a collection of articles on Lyme Disease. There are apparently a lot of people who are concerned or show symp-

toms.

The articles are in a binder and are placed as a folder item on Reserve titled LYME DISEASE. It is retrievable to the public on the on line catalogue by its title. It will circulate for a three hour

period but also as an overnight item as of 10 pm in the evening to be returned by 10 am the next morning. Any additional material will be added on as it is brought to the Reserve office.

Monique Tambini

Notice to all Bard students

The last day for charging medications at the Red Hook Drug Store this semester will be Wednesday, May 10, 1995.

There will be no exceptions!

If you have any questions, please call the Student Health Service at 758-7433 (x-7433)

Yarden protests Tomson firing

To the editor,
The sudden and unexplained erasure of a presence from a community is an act of violence against that community. On Friday, April 21st, such an act was perpetrated against the Bard community. The wound is unlikely to heal properly until it has been opened, explored and cleansed. The unjustified summary dismissal, the sudden firing, the removal of Joel Tomson, Director of Athletics, from Bard College is the kind of action that might offend supporters and adherents of Amnesty International, of "Take Back the Night!" or other interested persons of liberal persuasion who think that violence is much more than physical violence. But working people know that arbitrary, summary dismissal is, not only a well defined form of violence, but respond to it as such and have developed various means, including legislative, to protect themselves from injury.

Of the many wounds caused by violence, especially the chronic low level violence that is endemic in bureaucratic, hierarchical, institutionalized structures the most damaging is the failure to recognize the condition, leaving it untreated. An the 'reasons' for failure to protest the violence are many: I-risk-my-own-job; They-won't-let-me-play-on-the-team. Fear. It-is-not-my-business; I-just-work-here; I-care-about-my-family; if-I-complain-it-will-just-make-things-worse; ya-win-

some-ya-lose-some. Indifference. Resentment.

Partisans may be pleased by the fallout; life-is-a-contest; may-the-best-man-win; Kris Hall will make a much better Athletic Director; I-prefer-to-look-at-the-good-side-of-things; Only ignorance of history suggests that violence can *never* have positive results, that good things have *never* happened as a result of wars, assassinations, or other forms of terror: ethical objections to violence are *not* made in ignorance of history. Many of us are happy to see women in positions of genuine authority at Bard College, and especially when they have new and alternative values to offer. But the arbitrary act of violence which *thrust* the [sic] Kris hall into her new position can, as conveniently and obscurely, be followed by another which will *eject* her.

The perpetrators of this particular act are at great pains to obscure their motives, their purposes. But let us be clear. Terminations of contract, replacement of employees by more skilled or cheaper ones, superannuation, reorganization, retrenchment are all common occurrences in the labor market. A decision not to renew Joel Tomson's contract would have been as uninteresting and unexplicable an event as would be a tale of endless and unproductive conflicts surrounding his work that led to a negative decision about renewing his contract. Nothing of the sort. The timing, the sudden shock to the

community, the manner, the disregard for the feelings of the persons involved, the students, the players of the tennis team, the lack of respect for the fifteen years of well-regarded positive presence, the denial of any possibility of dialogue, the privileging of the *subjectivity* of one person in the community over that of all others, all bear the marks of calculated and deliberate violence, of intent to injure.

A sense of community, as well as ethical impulse, is violated in the regarding of persons as means. The ethics of the action, as well as the ethics of concealment and perspicuity of rationales demand our scrutiny—"philosophical differences" (unnegotiable fractures developed in the fifteenth year, of course, like all philosophical or marital differences) result in sudden firing of a mainstay

of the Bard Athletic Program? ?????

Our present picture of what happened is based on three documents, the *Sunday Kingston Freeman* of April 23, 1995, the memo to the community from the Dean of Students of Tuesday afternoon, April 25, and the *Bard Observer* of April 26. This picture is remarkably incomplete, and the first task is to reduce our ignorance. But this cannot be done without engaging in a protest of the intention to keep us ignorant, the intention to sow fear. Let us find out whatever we can and share our knowledge, both factual and theoretical, test hypothesis, examine evidence, treat the matter as suitable for serious research. Do not let our feelings of sadness at the behavior of some of us, or the ugliness of what we discover, deter us from speaking. Developing an understanding of the roots of violence is a good place,

perhaps in our society a necessary place, to begin a liberal education, an education for living.

For myself, as a working person in the Bard community, I know violence when I experience it. I also know from personal history the consequences of failure to protest it. The ceremonial pomp and ritual of graduation will obscure this event (as others before it) in a colorful cloud of good wishes to graduates leaving the scene and high-toned aowals by our community leaders of the importance of enlightened action, of the need for greater support of 'higher' education, will add another straw to the burden of cynical indifference to violence which we all carry.

Elie Yarden,
Professor Emeritus of Music,
Bard College

No love at Bard?

Written on the bathroom wall in Kline are the words, "There is no love at Bard." To this I would reply in the affirmative, however I would add that most are too self-indulgent to notice.

I sat in the coffee shop this morning, in that empty calm following meal exchange and before lunch, watching CNN press conferences and debates between hate mongers, militia right-wing fascists, government lovers/haters, FBI-kissing-protect-me-from-harm-weirdos, Limbaugh act-alikes, ACLU protect-me from the politically incorrecters, and several others who I won't bother to describe with such euphemistic fervor.

I thought to myself—where does mutual respect fit into the "American," whether

mainstream or avant-garde, way of life? When do we take the time to notice with deference the plethora of personalities that surround us daily—the diverse hopes, insecurities, confidences, intellects, creativity, aspirations and dreams of fellow humans that surround us all? Why is it that when so many of us take a stand we have to be supported by a soapbox 'just a bit' higher than those of our peers?

All of us experience existence at Bard and in this world, whether willingly or unwillingly, simultaneously. Do yourself a favor and leave

the false-securities of self-righteous conviction and feel, search and respond to those around you. Say hello, ask questions, care, be enthusiastic—in essence transcend the self and bond with as many humans as possible. I guarantee your life will change dramatically, and I also predict a world less quick to stigmatize those with differing opinions as deviants from a philosophical norm that does not exist.

Paradoxically self-righteous,
absurdly idealistic and
most assuredly yours,
Shawn Milburn

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Editorial Policy

The *Bard Observer* is an entirely student-run publication. Submissions from the community are always welcome.

Letters to the editor should be under 500 words, and may be edited for spelling or grammar. Pieces for the Opinion page will not be edited without the consent of the author. Only that which is slanderous or libelous will be denied publication. Anonymous submissions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for publication—but we prefer them to be signed.

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

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

More Security needed on campus

Dear Executive Vice-President:

The rape that occurred here at Bard is still very much on my mind. Being the victim of sexual abuse, I am particularly sensitive to this matter, and I feel that this matter has not been satisfactorily addressed. The young lady who was raped is not only a victim, but we, as a community, are all victims of Bard's constant disregard of the pleas for an adequate Security force.

In response to my question concerning the matter of the union and Security, you said it was irrelevant and had no bearing on the current situation. I beg to differ. Given that a job position guarantees job security, fair wages and benefits, it will attract and retain reliable and dedicated employees. In my short time of being a dispatcher for Security, I have seen five guards leave the College (I'll refrain from including in this number the guard hired who quit before his first day on the job), because the essentials of job security, fair wages and benefits are missing. With our revolving-door Security force, how is it possible to keep enough people adequately trained for such an important position?

Security is a service, much like Service Master and Buildings and Grounds. The College cannot function without the presence and assistance provided by Security. Yet, Security is not even on an equal footing with these other services. For example, both Service Master and B&G have unions. Furthermore, a starting grounds man at B&G makes \$9.82 an hour; an employee for Service Master (working midnight to seven and receiving a shift differential) makes \$9.23 after a three month probation; but sadly, Security officers only make \$8.77 after a three month probation.

It seems the College is most concerned with those services which have immediately tangible effects.

Career office's books stolen

To the Bard Student Community:

During the current semester, we have been experiencing a rash of book thefts at the Career Development Office. Among the books which are missing are *Peterson's Directory of Overseas Jobs 1995*, *Peterson's Summer Jobs in the USA 1995* (on the shelf less than one day) and, most recently, the 1995 edition of the *National Directory of Arts Internships*. All of these texts are used with great frequency by

Clean buildings and well-kept grounds have an immediate appeal to prospective students and their bill-paying parents. After all, it's a business as well as an institution of learning. Consequently, we have an aesthetically pleasing wall in front of Security and newly painted white doors on the Ravine dorms. But somehow these services provided by Security aren't as readily perceivable, except in emergencies. And so Security takes a back seat to these other selling points of the College. It seems the College would rather have their buildings clean and painted, even if it can't protect the students who utilize them. In the College's efforts to attract students, it has neglected an eminent service that would retain them. The aesthetically pleasing wall and the newly painted doors could have done nothing to prevent the rape, while a security force adequately invested in might have.

How many current students will not return after this semester, or how many prospective students will not attend Bard because of this grave misfortune? I agree that more Security may not have prevented the rape from occurring. But with more Security, the likelihood of such an event occurring in the first place would have been decreased. Now the College finds itself in a position of damage control.

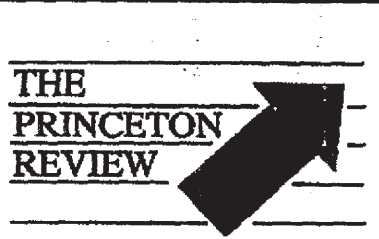
But has Security been stepped up, in view of this event? No. There is a rapist at large. He is unidentified as yet, and may be a resident of the area, or even a student. He could be watching and could strike again at any moment. This sort of circumstance would seem to necessitate an immediate response on behalf of the College to increase Security. Over the summer, the College reacted quickly to rumors that concertgoers might crash Bard. An outside security force was brought in to protect the College against a seemingly imminent threat. But the gate crashers of Woodstock '94 never ar-

rived and Bard was safe and sound. But in light of an actual threat, no such short term reinforcement of Security has occurred to ensure the safety of students until the end of the semester, or until the rapist is apprehended. Why?

It's now 7:00am, I started writing this letter at 4:30am after my shift at Security; as of late, I've been suffering from insomnia. But I'm sure my lack of sleep is nothing compared to the pain the rape victim feels and will feel by having her life irrevocably altered forever by this terrible event. Speaking from experience, I assure you, her every perception and action will be tempered by this single act of aggression which could have been avoided. I am indignant at the College's lack of concern for its students and employees. Why must such an extreme event occur to precipitate necessary changes that could have been implemented as preventative measures? I say you have a moral imperative to do all that is within your power to ensure the safety of the students currently attending and those who will attend in the future. Even if this means being a little extravagant with the budget in regards to Security, I think we are all worth it.

Sincerely,
Matthew Johnson

LSAT
GRE
GMAT
MCAT



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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.

Beautiful lake house to rent academic year 1995-1996. Situated on 1/2 acre, 20 minutes from Bard, 125' private lake frontage. Private dock, car port, finished basement with entertainment center, washer/dryer, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths, dishwasher, LR with fireplace, antiques, decks, views, passive solar. Responsible people only. No smokers, no pets. Call 212-595-8618.

Open, loft-like residential and/or professional co-op on Riverside Drive in a designated landmark area. Architect: H.L. Meader, built 1916, 1000 sq. ft., faces South and West, original ceramic tile floors. Location: corner Riverside Drive and 96th Street. Maintenance \$418.00. Asking price \$165,000 (negotiable). Owner will hold a partial mortgage. Call for fact sheet: 212-595-8618. Leave return fax number or address.

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.

Need some spending money for the summer? Do you have a knack for appeasing large

crowds? Do you have good organizational skills? Do you like Bartok? The Bard Music Festival needs people to do a variety of jobs over the summer including the two week-ends of the festival (Aug. 11-13 and 18-20). If you are interested, please call Robin at 758-7410.

Responsible student seeks summer housing in which to work on Senior Project. If you need a housesitter or someone to sublet for June and July (I leave in August to study in India) please call Kathy Hoover at 752-7539 or drop a note to box 856.

House (2 bedrooms), Rhinebeck, \$600 a month for 3 summer months. Call Marisa at 876-8355.

Snowboard for Sale and Full-back two-point bindings. Excellent condition (used just one season). Won't last at \$400. Drop a note: Box 780; or call: 758-3325.

I've got a brand new pair of size 37 Birkenstocks with heel straps, black, of course. You've got something approximating 50 bucks. Let's get together. Box 627, x7311.

I watch you watching me. I don't know your name. Perhaps the magnetism makes speaking difficult, but intimidation isn't very attractive. I promise I won't repel if you dare to say hello. —Paranoid (?)

House for rent on Annandale Triangle, a short walk to campus, June 1st through August 27th (dates negotiable). Two bedroom/one bath with workshop and loft, kitchen, large living room, fully furnished (gas stove, fridge, beds, desk, cupboards, shelves, futons, chairs, tables, etc.). \$550/month. Contact immediately: Call 758-3325 or Box 780.

The Bard Observer

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your fellow students. If you have "borrowed" any of them, please return via campus mail. No questions will be asked.

If this situation continues, the Career Development Office will be forced to take measures to ensure that the materials in our library, which are for the use of all students, will be protected.

Sincerely,

Maureen Forrestal
Director