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Federal workers remembered

Candlelight vigil held in Poughkeepsie in aftermath of Oklahoma bombing

by Linnea Koelnmueller
Features Editor

It was no coincidence that David Kettler planned a candlelight vigil in Poughkeepsie to support federal employees in the wake of the Oklahoma bombings on the 50th anniversary of Victory in Europe Day. To many, the violence and hatred emblematic of today's society are reminiscent of Europe half a century ago. A group of twelve, small in number but large in commitment stood for an hour outside the Federal Building on Main Street, holding candles and sharing the reasons that brought them together.

Kettler began by explaining how the idea for the vigil was suggested to him over the Internet—an idea which struck him as not only respectful, but necessary, given the modern political climate. Such vigils are also taking place in New Haven, Connecticut, Grand Rapids, Michigan, and San Francisco, California. He was followed by Stanley Merritt from the Civil Service Employees Political Action Fund. Merritt voiced his support for his fellow workers in the public sector, who become nameless, classless victims of random violence by disgruntled townies since our union's fight and disturbance.

“Remember distinctly how I was feeling 50 years ago, and I want to commemorate this half century. Recent events in this country remind me of that time in Europe,” said professor Suzanne Vreman meditatively, emphasizing people's responsibility not to forget earlier atrocities and suggesting that they are not very different from current ones.

“I wanted to come and express communal fright and disturbance over what has happened, and to relate a story. A lecture was sponsored in my hometown on 'The Constitution and Rights and Responsibilities', which over 1000 people went to hear. That is the biggest turnout for anything in my town since our basketball team went to state! And it turned out to be a member of the Michigan Militia! I am very disturbed by events like this, and by coming together as a community, maybe we can get out some of those feelings,” stated Laurie Curry in outrage.

Sally Mehrens told of her heartbreak watching a little boy try to remain stoic and unaffected talking on television about what he had witnessed, Oklahoma, only to have tears belting his inner terror. "That little boy will never forget what he experienced. I not only grieve for the innocence lost, but for the vision permanently altered and marred."

"I'm not sure what feelings brought me here—despair, anger. It seems that we have hangers on which we hang words of violence, and stick them in the closet," said professor Kathleen Barker. "We are continued on page 2

Living in the age of AIDS

Professors, students share their experiences

By Joshua Ledwell
Editor

On Monday, May 8, the Bard AIDS committee sponsored a discussion of "Life and Love in the age of AIDS." Leading the talk was a panel composed of Bard professors John Fout and Lindsay Watton, Health Services director Marsha Davis, HBOP director Donna Ford, and Jean de Castella de Delley, an AIDS educator from the local area.

The meeting began with a surprise from the committee. Watton handed out several notebooks and sketchbooks to the audience, asking people to add to them something meaningful on HIV or AIDS. "Contribute something, and then pass it on to your friends," he said.

The books will circulate for a week, and then be placed on display in the library. From the audience, professor Shelley McConnell noted that there are also three computer disks being passed among campus in the same manner. The panel somewhat uncertainly decided to have every member give a short introductory speech. Marsha Davis went first in the belief that she could give background information on the genesis of the AIDS phenomenon, since, she said, "my professional development kind of coincided with HIV, with the epidemic."

When she took her first job, at the Rutgers University health clinic in the fall of 1980, Davis explained that no one knew anything about AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) or the virus that causes AIDS, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus). At first, she said, the condition was dubbed "GRID," for "Gay-Related Immune Deficiency," and was thought to be related to the abuse of amyl nitrate.

Davis related that she later worked in a neighborhood health clinic on the Upper West Side of Manhattan, in New York City. When she continued on page 7
Radio Bard College

WXBC is back on the air

by Linnea Knollmeier
Features Editor

WXBC, Bard’s on-again, off-again radio station, is back on the air, and this time they mean business. Despite a rocky history and technical difficulties, students are hard at work finding ways to broadcast to all of the dormitories, while remaining in compliance of the FCC, and within a realistic Bard budget.

Sam Provost took over as station manager this past fall, and spent much of last semester cleaning out the radio station, reading logs and organizing the CD collection. It wasn’t until this spring that he focused on actually attempting to broadcast. Provost has two and a half years experience working on community radio as disc jockey and coordinator for a high school show, and worked last summer at a radio station. He brings this expertise to Bard, but does not take all the credit for restructuring WXBC.

Anna Wilborn, music director, Caylor Roling, program director, and Hans Steiner, engineer, are working with Provost. “Without Hans, we couldn’t have achieved half of what we’ve done,” he acknowledges.

But what, specifically, has been accomplished? Provost explained that the station is run on a carrier current system, which means that the signal is carried from the mixer to transmitters via phone lines. With this system, people can only tune in by plugging directly into a wall socket. The system actually works better when there is often a hum. But the system was chosen to ensure that the signal would only reach dorms, and only Bard campus. That way there could be no temporary measures, “to increase the decibels,” Provost said.

The sound quality was never first to a higher band, about 1600, as opposed to 540 where we are now, because that way it is possible to get a smaller antenna which could only serve Bard, but would reach most of campus.” His hope is to have one central antenna to cover everything on main campus on the higher frequency—the only possible exception being Feitler, which could get a signal through a transmitter. North campus would remain at 540, with an antenna on Robbins. “Two antennas, two currencies—the only way to be censor free,” asserted Provost.

“People want the broadcast station to be FM—it’s stereo, while AM is mono, there is a stronger signal, and audiences are used to FM. But, after Reagan, we could no longer buy a ten watt antenna. We would have to have 100 watts, which would cost at least $30,000. That’s just not realistic. Maybe with the new student center being built—out of their $6 million budget, $30,000 isn’t too hard to find. But that’s years from now.”

Having overcome technical hurdles, WXBC is receiving a bin of CD’s every two weeks, and is running out of room in Manor. They plan to add more shelf space and to make a computer database to catalogue the collection, which numbers in the hundreds.

Thirty DJs are broadcasting from 6 pm to 2 am every day. There is one talk show, Wednesdays at 4 pm, while the rest is music. “We’ve got everything from dance to industrial to jazz, you’re basic meele of college music.” To help reach new listeners, WXBC hired Andrew McIntosh as hip hop director. “He can tune us in to that scene,” explained Provost, “the rest of us came from a college music background.”

For anyone interested in helping WXBC grow and expand, there will be an organizational meeting early next semester, where DJ applications will be passed out. “We don’t discriminate about experience. Anyone can get a show,” Provost affirmed. They will also be toying with format—hoping to spread out programming of a variety of music, and make sure the DJs are consistent in reporting for work.

The music director’s responsibilities are to pick up music from the post office, contact record labels for promotional material, report weekly to the College Music Journal (which compiles charts of the most popular songs), and to catalogue and update the collection.

Opportunities abound in the revamped radio station, and WXBC is eager for support. Anyone interested is welcome, whatever the musical taste or experience.

Candlelight vigil held

continued from page 1
not taking responsibility for the words of violence spoken around the country. People are biding their time, building a movement and waiting for the right moment.

We have to think about what we tolerate and how we live. I guess I’m hoping that this vigil will give us some hangers to put our words on.”

“I feel an incredible sadness about this event. I hope I will have the courage to say something next time I encounter racial slurs, and comments like that. Each person adds up to something,” said Janet Kottke, suggesting that everyone has an important role in society and even the action of one individual is significant; indeed it is an obligation.

Bruce Chilton said that he feels seven levels of anguish, which brought him to Poughkeepsie: “The innocence of life taken—I can’t forget that image in my mind. I feel a sense of despair that that image has been forgotten in the rhetoric that followed. I believe that the reality is tolerant of this, if not behind it, then hide in the background. The church is imperfect, but it is working toward an ethic of love. V.E Day showed that fascism can be defeated. We are in a great world of hatred. The Soviet Union collapses and we look for an enemy; some are finding it in our children.”

David Kottke, “Some of us have been critics of politics for many years. It is a reverse to discover the extent to which the critics rest on high ground. Suddenly the whole discovery of government becomes a discovery of an army of occupation. You know what side you’re on. You’re on the side of the project of democracy. This vigil is symbolic politics, but it stands for something. Lighting a candle, playing the corner stand for the actions we are going to take. They will be constructive actions. I am proud to be in this community.”

“Amyntai International’s motto is ‘It’s better to light one candle than to cure the darkness.’ I think there are few places where this is less true,” responded Gider.

Bonap said, “I grieve for those who died in Waco. I saw that as an abuse by government. I light this candle for life and respect for life.”

Chilton offered a fitting conclusion, saying: “The time I was in Poughkeepsie was 25 years ago to protect the war in Vietnam. There was no doubt that we were put on the line, but no one asked about our rage. That’s morally different now. The image held to justify violent action? If so, something is wrong with our civic fabric.”

Kottke then passed around a letter to send to Congressman Solomon and other officials, to commemorate the vigil, which everyone signed. The feeling of community was thick in the warm evening air as they stood talking about themselves and Oklahoma. The candles had been blown out, but the fire still burned.

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

There is only one Observer issue left this semester! If you have any writing or advertising, or know of any news that needs to see print, send it in now.
Urban studies inaugurated at Bard

Five area schools will study the Poughkeepsie area

By Sean O'Neill
Staff Writer

Students in Annandale, New York, may soon be participating in an Urban Studies Program. On May 4, Bard, Dutchess Community, Marist, SUNY New Paltz, and Vassar colleges begin a collaborative project with the city of Poughkeepsie. Students will join local politicians, businesspeople, and social and religious leaders in examining urban issues such as schooling, employment, crime, commercial and residential development, politics, and theLatest event in the college's academic year.

Potential programs include a senior seminar on urban infrastructure (water, roads, and information), a lecture series, "a forum for human needs advocacy," and a faculty-student economic research team.

"A Virtual Institute"
The Poughkeepsie Institute, as it is publicly known, does not own any real estate and has little bureaucratic structure, says Brudvig.

The Council Chambers will likely be used as a location for meetings, and TCI Cable will donate a public-access channel for the Institute to reach the Mid-Hudson region.

Mayor Sheila B. Newman met with the five college presidents and obtained their support for the program. She is encouraging the city of Poughkeepsie to give official sanction to the program, so that it can attract large grants from private foundations and the federal government.

Prof. James Challey of Vassar is doing research in the field of urban and cultural studies, and he will recommend to the thirty-member Board of Directors what grants can be obtained.

Peter Leonard, also of Vassar, is the main progenitor of the Institute.

Leonard brought Peter Fairweather, an economist at Dutchess Community College to join the endeavor. Fairweather currently hosts a show on the WZTA Kingston TV station about the economics of the region, and he intends to guide the Institute's cable TV programs.

Mark Miringoff, also of Dutchess Community, has added his statistical expertise to the community effort. He has created the Misery Index, or statistical charting of the social health of the nation, and will quantify the social variables of Dutchess County in a similar manner.

Miringoff will join Ann Davis, who has worked on the famed Marist Survey that polls Americans about their political attitudes.

Additionally, Norman Feinstein, a newly-installed Dean at Vassar, has made a life's work of urban studies and student-in-the-field projects. He will pledge some indirect funding for the Institute's initial efforts to organizing.

"A Bard Sister City?"
Jim Brudvig has been Bard's representative during the ad hoc talks that led to the Institute's creation. He says that Bard's reach into Poughkeepsie is but the latest event in the college's long history of community involvement.

Besides the benefits that Bard brings to the area, as both Northern Dutchess' largest employer and as its most significant source of consumers, the college also offers its facilities for civic-minded organizations. This spring the college has hosted the local Rotary, the New York State Department of Labor, and the Millbrook Conservation Group.

Dutchess County was ranked fifth on a list of regions with the most affordable housing on May 1 by the Christian Science Monitor. The newspaper reported that the county's average income is $32,000 per capita and that its houses averaged $110,000 in price. The region has been hit hard, however, by the recent closings of IBM's local offices, and the bankrupting of other regional businesses.

Local leaders have used the Poughkeepsie Journal as a forum for sponsoring further connections between suburban educational institutions and city citizens, and that newspaper has endorsed the efforts of the Mayor in endorsing the Institute.

Brudvig, along with the college's administration, is hopeful that Bard students will gain the opportunity to practically apply their social research skills through the Institute in the near-future.

The Election Committee needs volunteers to run the election Thursday and Friday May 11 & 12

Contact Election Committee Chair Sean O'Neill through campus mail, or call 7345

Don't forget the yard sale from 1-4pm May 13 on the Kline lawn. Come sell your books, clothes, CDs, and anything else you don't want anymore. This is not just for seniors. Anyone can sell things. If you want to sell things let me or any other Student Life committee member know.

Debbie Shepardson, Box 1200
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE

Security update

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/News Editor

Due to a misunderstanding, an advisory was placed in last week's Observer stating that the Main Campus Parking Lot was to have been swept last Saturday. The sweeping of the Main Campus Lot will, however, take place this Saturday, May 13.

Students, faculty and staff may park their vehicles in the Olin Lot behind the post office starting 6pm Friday, May 12, to avoid towing. The hall phone in Proctor was stolen Tuesday, May 2. This is a fairly common occurrence according to Director of Safety and Security Kim Spallace, who also remarked the theft was a particularly bad idea. There was only one hall phone in Proctor. Should there be no professors around, there is no phone to report an emergency.

The library parking lot was vandalized during the week. Security officers found broken lights, shattered beer bottles and stones (presumably used to break the lights). The porch of the admissions building was also vandalized.

Admissions incidentally, will soon be moving to the white house behind Proctor, which is being added on to at the moment. Vacant for the past six months or so, the building is used to be faculty housing. Professor of Art History Jean French was its last occupant.

Finally, good news. The Trek model 800, tagged mountain bike reported stolen from South Hall on the April 26 issue of the Observer has been found. Someone called security to the basement of a dormitory where an officer matched the serial number with the one on the theft report. The owner of the bicycle might want to stop by the Security office to get his bike back. The Crime Dog investigation.
Retiring official speaks out on reform

By Sean O'Neill

After reflecting upon my year-long stint as chairperson of the Educational Policies Committee, I have reached one conclusion. It is time that we abolish tenure for professors.

I have developed this opinion while serving in an advisory capacity to the Faculty Senate at meetings with Dean Stuart Levine. Along with my wise colleague, Jennifer Abrams, I have grappled with the mechanics of hirings and firings by creating positions and filling vacancies most every week.

Lurking behind every complication and conundrum that we faced was the specter of tenure. Professors with tenure are not necessarily more obnoxious that those who are untenured, but the assurance of job security does elicit the most unforgiving sides of those personalities predisposed to sorrnness.

Tenure has most fervently been defended by those who argue that it provides the requisite career assurance for scholars to pursue free academic inquiry. I dispute this reasoning. Professors who challenged the prevailing ideology and who practiced incorrigible politics were haled out of university positions throughout this century, whether they were tenured or untenured. When a post for a professor becomes politicized, the Powers That Be can circumvent the thin shield that tenure represents.

If professional camaraderie is so tepid among academics that one of their own can be fired without just cause by an irresponsible administration, then what hope do colleagues have in protecting young recruits who were still under the microscopes of inspection? Will a twenty-nine year old's career be ruined because he griped before signing his perpetual contract?

If academic freedom is the issue, then radicals bear the responsibility coincident with that freedom. They must stand behind the merits of their arguments and teachings, rather than on the duration of their sinecure. True freedom implies that a scholar does not retreat into the safety of an ivy-covered tower to shout down her jermiaids instead of engaging with the representatives of the oppressors.

Furthermore, "Red scares" and personal vendettas are infrequent causes for the dismissal of professors. Such nightmare scenarios disguise the real reason that tenure barriers have been erected: to hide incompetence.

Few other professions claim that a lack of threatened pay-cuts and firings contributes to quality workmanship. Why should higher education be unique?

If people who have taught students for twenty years continue to maintain high standards, as they claim to do, then they have nothing to fear by the replacement of guaranteed posts with periodic, merit-based evaluations.

In a world without tenure, there would be no tenure dispute. Professors would be deprived of the main source of back-stabbing when no group has the power to grant favored professors preferential status in the hierarchy of egos.

Undoubtedly, the health of today's academic debate would be greatly enhanced if continuous reviews of all professors by colleagues and administrators were required.

Any such review must have the threat of sanction and dismissal behind it if it is to be genuine, unlike Bard's current senior faculty reviews. The Faculty Senate and the Dean may not share my opinions. They do, however, care fervently about campus affairs, and my experiences with them have been enlightening and genuinely inspiring.

I no longer wish, however, to contribute to this committee, because I believe strongly that a fresh wave of students ought to be given a chance to represent our interests. I wish that professors could likewise learn to step aside for the advancement of their betters.

In closing, I urge all students to write letters to the EPC or the Dean whenever their professors are up for tenure — I know now that such recommendations are crucial in decisions about people's futures.

Bard Spring

All standards of decorum collapse, along with the plot

By Sean O'Neill

It was inevitable that the story of Bard's future would end in a horrific apocalypype.

Oups. I just gave away the ending! Yes, that's right. It happened so fast that few anticipated it, but civilization ended in a few minutes. It turned out that the big dispute over what should be taught to Bard students was unimportant because all human knowledge was destroyed in the devastating impact of a hurtling meteorite the size of the moon.

You know, the whole thing is funny in a perverse way. A morose sort of funny, but funny nonetheless. Who am I to write this? Who am I to speak of life before the end of life? Well, I'm a radioactive mutant historian, obviously. It takes a contaminated being to write a pure history.

Meanwhile, for the End of Humanity . . .

The only Bardians that Sandeep's ex-girlfriend Linda was attracted to were on the Emergency Medical Service staff. She thought that EMT's were really courageous and, thus, immensely sexy. Certified First Responders were stimulating in their own way for her, but nothing made her buzz like one of those fully-accredited EMT's. Just the thought of having mouth-to-mouth resuscitation by one of those gorgeous EMT hunks, who wear those huge walkie-talkies on their hips, was enough to make her want to injure herself.

Okay, okay. The plot has become a bit contrived. Sue me.

Linda was particularly attracted to one EMT named Flint Westwind. Flint was the only still-active EMT who had lost a victim. It was a sad and tragic story. The victim only had had a minor paper-cut, but it had progressed to a full-fledged gaping wound, with blood spewing everywhere. During this misfortunate turn of events, Flint had panicked.

He promptly performed a dangerous, ancient maneuver to cure paper-cuts.

The freshman died instantly.

Linda did not know any of this because EMT's are sworn to secrecy about their cases, even those resulting in death. Flint had quietly disposed of the victim's body in the B&G im­promptu dump along the Hudson River bank.

He had thought nobody would discover the student's whereabouts.

But he was wrong.

Linda, a photography major, was taking pictures in the forest and stumbled upon the decomposing corpse. She thought her Exhibit would be the best in years with the photos she took of it.

But she was wrong.

Linda's camera and film were confiscated by the Bard Anti-Puritanism League (LPAB, backwards), which by now had gotten completely out of control, like this plot. The League was training its members in self-defense tactics to prevent further disruptions from Administration officials in their malevolent plans.

The League had teamed up with Bard's own Women's Defense Network to learn better self-defense tips. The Women's Defense Network was founded and run by — you guessed it — a man, who went by the name of Bob Druck.

Druck had had a troubled youth, of course, and he had a history choked with family dysfunction. In order to cope with the pain, Druck had turned to the martial arts. He was skilled in Taekwondo and had earned a third-degree black belt. He was subsequently intent upon passing his knowledge to women so that they could learn the Art, too.

One of the secrets he imparted to women through the course was that the Fighters should always aim for the attacker's testicles. His students were slightly uncomfortable with the fact that he referred to his testicles with the names of popular TV cartoon characters.

Druck encouraged his disciples to kick him frequently in the groin area and in the head. (Druck was also a member of another campus club that I don't want to take the time to try to explain here, and that the Administra­tion also revoked funding for.)

Linda had also taken the self-defense course, so she survived the seizure unscathed. But, the BAPL got away with the photos of EMT's body-dumping site. They would use it to blackmail Flint and EMS and prevent the EMT's from siding with the safety-loving anti-Menage policy of the Administration.

Now I will end this episode before it degenerates any further. A closing note: The current EMS team is competent and the author's stories have no truth in reality.

Just in case you forgot that this is really awful fiction.

NEXT WEEK: "The Menace."
Softball playoffs begin

American Dream will defend Athletic League Title

by David Hyde
Staff Writer

The playoffs have begun.

After a slow start, the American Dream has responded with two consecutive victories. Last Thursday, Ron Rhee homered twice and Kyle Wheeler added another blast for the American Dream, as the team is now 13-6-1. The American Dream is a team of winners that exceeded expectations.

Rats' hitting, defense of Colin Thatcher and the solid defense of Colin Thatcher and the

boubledommed their regular

starting pitcher Noah Zisman, who was at a senior project meet-

ning. Graceland centerfielder Pedro Rodriguez hit an inside-

the-park homerun down the right field line off the third of the three

pitchers. Ironically, the homerun for Rodriguez came after his co-

captains instructed him to try not to hit a homerun.

The second game onThursday,

between Bountiful Crop and G.A. Enlightenment, was arguably the most exciting game this week. It was of course THE GAME OF THE WEEK.

The game was full of subtle-and not so subtle-ten-
sions; as G.A. Enlightenment player Mark Groner remarked, the game pitted beer against pot, G.A. Enlightenment got off to an early lead, thanks to the solid defense of Colin Thatcher and the biblical readings from G.A. Enlightenment fans in the stands.

The turning point in the game neither seemed to occur when the fans of G.A. Enlightenment began to taunt Jerry Garcia. Bountiful Crop then rallied to take the lead. They kept the lead thanks to two incred-

cible catches in the outfield by PLAYER OF THE WEEK Nick Lev; one of Lev's catches preserved the lead and robbed Thatcher of what

would have been his second homerun of the game.

In the fourth inning, Jonas Eno-Van Vleet made an over the shoulder, running catch in shallow right field with what would have been the tying run on third base. Bountiful Crop then scored 5 insurance runs in the top of the fifth inning to put the game out of reach. The final score was 13 to 7; Bountiful Crop will play the Wood Warriors next week.

Tennis season ends

Final game cancelled

by Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

It was a quiet week for Men's Varsity Tennis, with no matches played due to cancellation. There-

fore, unfortunately the season is over.

The overall record for the Blues is four and six. Not bad

considering their loss of coach and friend Joel Tomson.

The Good news is that many team members will be returning

next year. We will have further news about

conference leaders, new coaches, and individual records next week.

In non-varsity news, the Home Run Contest saw about ten competi-

 tors attempt to hit the ball out of

the park. Brad Cline, of

the Gym Rats, won this year's competition with one home run that hit the fence, and two hits of 235

and 225 yards. Kimura Davis of the American Dream won second place; while Tor Lorey, of

Blumish Rain-
Law Professor Patricia Williams lectures

By Joshua Ledwell

Last Wednesday, May 3, Bard hosted a prominent black intellectual who provided a firsthand perspective on the merits of affirmative action. Patricia Williams currently teaches law at Columbia University. She has written several books, including "The Alchemy of Race and Rights: Diary of a Law Professor," and "Law and its Discontents."

Professor Gloria Chun, introducing Williams, described the latter book as "largely an expose on the American legal system" and said it had had a great influence on her. Chun also thanked the Bard Black Students Association, the Asian American Students Organization, and the Cross-Cultural Community Group for making it possible for Williams to come to the college. The lecture was well attended, drawing over 100 people.

In flyers posted all over campus, Williams' talk was titled "Rebirth of a Nation: Affirmative Action, Welfare, and the Rise of the New Right." Therefore it came as a disappointing surprise when Williams began by saying she only intended to address issues around affirmative action. However, the law professor was able to offer a fascinating view of this controversial issue, making a legitimate claim to being, as she put it, "an affirmative action baby."

When she graduated from high school, Williams related, she expected to become a schoolteacher, one of the few jobs then available to black women. "I do think I would have been an exceptional English teacher." Instead, aided by affirmative action programs for advertising, recruiting, and scholarships, she decided to go to Wellesley College, and then on to law school at Harvard University.

Williams had a plethora of stories about her encounters with the entrenched societies in academia, where she found both her gender and color were held against her. At Wellesley in 1970, white students approached her overflowing with guilt at the injustices of society. "They apologized for the pain I must be experiencing," Williams deadpanned. She became tired of constantly being pitied.

Later, Williams met with outright discrimination at Harvard Law School. There, affirmative action policies were seen as creating a "two-tiered" admission policy so that blacks could attend. Williams said that people ignored the fact that the college had all kinds of "tiers" for different regions, legacy students, and so on. Affirmative action acquired a reputation, pushed today by Congress, that it was all about quotas.

Williams also had to deal with intense hazing and rough treatment from peers at both schools. She and others were "fresh meat to those who knew how to tear a carcass limb from limb."

In her professional life, Williams said, she often has been the first woman or black person to enter a work environment. Affirmative action policies have been important to her advancement, she said, but she was careful to add that "Affirmative action is not just about getting a job. It's about civil rights. And we still have a very long way to go."

In the O.J. Simpson trial, a situation where most people see only racism and tragedy, Williams finds the positive consequences of affirmative action. The trial features an Asian judge, black lawyers both on the prosecution and the defense, and media experts of color. Even the defendant himself could never have had the opportunity to be a successful football star before affirmative action, Williams said. "We have accomplished much in the last twenty to thirty years that is too easily forgotten."

Concerning the current debate on affirmative action, Williams believes that "its varying forms simply haven't begun to enter the debate. These aren't simple times, I know that," she continued, "but discerning people ought to be able to "distinguish affirmative action from its evil twin, quotas."

Williams found a metaphor for a society without affirmative action in a convenience store. The shop sold identically cast plastic dolls, but charged three dollars for white-skinned dolls and one dollar for those with black skin. The distinction, irrational in terms of market value, only makes sense if one considers race as a factor. And this is what Williams stressed: a truly egalitarian society cannot be achieved through color blindness. In fact, the real factor in ending affirmative action, Williams said, is "old-fashioned but newly coded prejudice."

When asked how to answer today's irrational criticism of affirmative action, though, Williams was at a loss. "I actually am quite pessimistic," she said. "White males have co-opted terms of oppression, and have left blacks with a stigma of inferiority," from affirmative action. The backlash against affirmative action "could have a devastating effect on minorities," Williams lamented.

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May Movies at Tewksbury!!!

All shows start at 9pm

(Scheduled movies to be shown include. . .)

DATE: MOVIE

Wednesday, May 10 "The Adventures of Priscilla—Queen of the Desert"

Wednesday, May 17 "Quiz Show"
AIDS panel continued

Saw her first patient with AIDS symptoms, she said, she was too unfamiliar with the condition to be able to diagnose it immediately. Soon enough, though, AIDS became all too familiar. "Then it was just devastating," she stated. "In the mid '80s, it became a major, overwhelming epidemic."

Lindsay Watton spoke next, asking the audience to understand "how exactly AIDS has an impact on your lives." He said that today the world is "living in an age of AIDS," but also in "what I would characterize as an age of sexual repression," where fear of AIDS makes talk about sex taboo.

A student interrupted Watton with a question, leading the talk into a less structured format. She wished to know if HIV was truly the cause of AIDS, and if progress was being made towards a cure.

Of Delley spoke up in response, calling AIDS "a legal definition, not a physical condition." The presence of one or more of a set of "opportunistic infections," which take hold after HIV has damaged an individual's immune system, means AIDS. The educator explained the difference between HIV and AIDS, noting that "you can live with the [HIV] virus for a very long time" without developing AIDS. He also said that, if a person with AIDS and a badly damaged immune system were tested for HIV, the test might fail. Thus, a person might test negative for HIV but clearly have AIDS.

Watton and Davis then spoke about HIV testing in general, with Watton asserting that "a negative test doesn't excuse you from the epidemic" and Davis challenging some students' unconscious feelings that frequent testing offered a protection against contracting the disease.

The panelists were not afraid to express their personal feelings about AIDS. Davis said, "I was in college in a different era. I don't think my behavior was any different, but it was a different era."

A student agreed that AIDS held a different meaning for her generation, saying "we can't imagine a world without AIDS."

Professor Fout chose this moment to speak about his very personal relationship with the AIDS epidemic. To laughter from the audience, he said he had experienced the sexual revolution in New York in the 1970's and "it was wonderful." Later, though, the beginning of the AIDS crisis terrified him and his peers from that time, and Fout became convinced he would get the disease.

His fears were nearly rationalized in 1988, when his companion of thirty years tested positive for HIV. After years of sexual contact with the man, Fout assumed he would also test positive, but he did not have HIV. Instead, he said, "I had to watch" while his companion sickened and died.

Fout has come to grips with his fear of the disease.

"One way to deal with AIDS," he said, "is to find a way to get involved, to help." Working on the Bard AIDS committee has been a way for him "to find a way not to live in fear all the time," he said.

The panel then talked about love in the age of AIDS, and proved that even faculty and administration can become gigantically uncomfortable when talking about sex. Nevertheless, they adeptly fielded questions such as: "Can HIV be transmitted through oral sex?" Yes, said Delley, through "pre-cum" and microscopic cuts in the gums.

Davis derided the rise of "the new Victorian," who, she joked, "operates by saying 'I will never have sex,' then getting bombed out of their minds and screaming with five people." Fear of AIDS is best conquered through education, she said, not through intoxication.

Fout noted that "it always helps to talk to someone," and suggested that students with questions approach a member of the Bard AIDS committee for a confidential discussion.

In closing, Watton offered radical advice to students worried about contracting HIV, "Assume you are HIV positive," he said: "Imagine you are, and then imagine how you will proceed."
Russian environmentalist speaks out
Maria Tysiachniouk pioneers a new consciousness in the East

By Laurie Curry
Guest Writer

When the Soviet Union collapsed in 1991, the world finally understood the depth of the country’s economic and political crises; we also got a frightening look at what seventy years of totalitarianism had done to the Soviet environment. The Soviet nuclear and industrial facilities had decayed—chernobyl grimly demonstrated—and the air, food and water in many regions became poisoned beyond repair. Ill-fated irrigation schemes had rerouted rivers causing perpetual drought across central Asia; refugees, faulty oil pipelines had dined white cities in the Caucasus, and paper factories had begun to dump their waste into Lake Baskal, the world’s largest source of fresh water.

Currently, Russia and the New Independent States are embarking upon economic reforms, yet the average person’s standard of living still declines. The governments of these new nations are not putting their scarce money into the environment. Needless to say, this region is in need of environmental activists, scientists, educators and legal advisors.

Maria Tysiachniouk, currently a visiting scholar at the Graduate School of Environmental Studies (GSES), hopes to play all of these roles in her native St. Petersburg. Professor Tysiachniouk has spent the last year obtaining information in Edinburgh, Scotland and the United States that she can use in her lectures and research in Russia. Among the sponsors for her grants are the Soros Foundation, the United States Information Agency, the Central European University in Budapest and the American Council of Teachers of Russian.

As a participant in the two summer (GSES) program, Ms. Tysiachniouk has studied a wide range of environmentally related issues. She is currently writing a thesis on the issue of environmental consciousness towards sustainable development in which she compares the environment consciousness of professors, members of non-governmental organizations and business people. She returned to St. Petersburg between 1994 and 1995 summer programs to teach a course on human ecology. When asked how her scholarship was received at home she explained that the faculty of her university was extremely excited that she had this opportunity to study at Bard. She said that the goal of attitudes about the environment are practically nonexistent in Russia, as are studies of sustainable development. Juxtaposing the attitudes she has seen in the United States with those she has experienced in Russia, Ms. Tysiachniouk remarked that in the United States, "people are concerned about how they can protect the environment from the harm that people do to it," while in Russia, people "try only to protect themselves from the environment, to survive and remain healthy." The general economic crisis has exacerbated the effects that polluted land and water have on people’s health. Ms. Tysiachniouk described how some wealthier people own a device which they use in the market to measure the levels of radioactive activity in the food that they are about to buy. Poorer people, however, cannot discriminate, they must buy what they can afford. She named water pollution as the greatest environmental challenge presently facing Russia.

Ms. Tysiachniouk has also been involved in environmental issues at the state level, advising the State Duma about Russian environmental policies. In order to better understand U.S. environmental legislation, this year she conducted interviews with several officials in Washington, D.C. She spoke to New York representative Gerald Solomon’s Legislative Assistant, Frank Petramale, and to Monica Medina, a member of the Senate Committee on Environmental Public Works, about current attempts to reverse landmark environmental legislation in the United States. When questioned about Russia’s environmental laws, she explained that “laws are on the paper, and they are good laws.” Enforcement, however, is the real challenge. In addition to these larger projects, she is helping to establish a dialogue between Russian and American environmental scholars using electronic mail. She is also working on a project geared toward Russian children. Modeled on the Hudson Valley Clear Water program, which she has had great contact with, the Russian version will be called the Neva Valley Clear Water program. One of the activities that this program will organize is to take children sailing on the Neva, the river that runs through St. Petersburg.

Ms. Tysiachniouk has been very active on campus, auditing classes, using the Levy Economics Institute’s research facilities, and attending several rallies on women’s violence in the Hudson Valley and in New York City.

She will give a lecture entitled “The Environmental Situation in Russia: The Growth of Activism and Environmental Groups” on Friday, May 15, at 3pm in Olin 202. This lecture, which is sponsored by the Russian Studies Club, is open to the entire Bard community.

Play anonymously reviewed
The secret reviewers pan latest theater offering

By The Anonymous Staff Writers

Yes, it's us again. The dreaded anonymous reviewers that you all hate. We know you think we’re foolish, but no one else seems willing to write these, apathy being the rule. At least we don’t try to review plays we directed, unlike some people we could mention.

*La Vie en Rose* is playing at The Scene Shop Theatre from May 6 through May 10. The show consists of two separate plays: Faith Hope and Charity, by Odon von HovARTH, and Etta Jenks, by Marlene Meyer. They were directed by John Pallaikis, with set design by David Maxine, lighting design by Jason Boyd and Andrew Hill, and costume design by Arden.

The shows featured Zack Bonnie, Jessica Burr, Jason Daly, Amber Glassburg, Todd Grace, Jeff Hamm, Ty Howell, Adam Jones, Matthew Kern, Rebecca Levenfeld, Nicholas Levy, Jeff Lewoczynck, Robert Rockman, Tara Shorey, Lucy Smith, Bora Tekay, Ruth Unger, Hubie Van Rielen, and Alexis Williams, and starred Toreza Topferova as Elizabeth in Faith Hope and Charity, and Marita Von Young as Etta in Etta Jenks, both of whom appeared in partial fulfillment of the senior project.

We are forced to admit that we will only be reviewing one of these shows. Alas, we cannot review Etta Jenks because Faith Hope and Charity was so bad it drove us away screaming into the night. Indeed, one of us was forced to explain “After that I need an enema,” and yet another reviewer was overheard warning her ex-boyfriend (whom she actively avoids) not to go near the theatre lest he be sucked in.

Take a bad play, and boy this was, add less than stellar acting, and you’ll get this production. Sometimes we ask ourselves -WHY? Why does a department capable of wonderful things, as anyone who saw the student reps can attest to, sometimes do this to helpless audiences? Why, sometimes, do we long to call the acting police?

We have seen worse plays at Bard. Some of you may recall Coach of the Holy Sacrament. This was almost that bad.

The show in general, other than making our jaws drop to the floor in shock at how very bad it was, elicited no response. Maybe the hopelessness of poverty, the indifference of bureaucrats, and the destruction of all virtue could have been brought more vividly to life. It certainly couldn’t have been duller. Maybe we missed the point of the show entirely. It certainly seems possible. We would prefer to think that we are utterly stupid than to consider what the actors and crew must have suffered if this show was as boring, dreadful and pointless as it seemed.

There were a few bright
Bard Bach Bach!

Bard College Community Chorus performs

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/News Editor

The American Symphony Chamber Orchestra played its final concert of the semester at Olin Auditorium Friday, May 5. Led by Conductor and Bard President Leon Botstein, the ensemble played through four pieces ranging from the nineteenth to the twentieth century.

The first piece was Emmanuel Chabrier’s Larghetto for Horn and Orchestra. The featured horn soloist was Jeffrey Lang, who also wrote the program notes for Chabrier’s piece. In the notes, Lang mentions the association of Chabrier with the French Impressionist painter Manet. What is often and egregiously referred to as “classical” music had its parallel impressionist movement. This is appropriate enough since the Larghetto sounds like the work of the slightly later composer Claude Debussy, one of the prime movers of the musical impressionists.

Joan Tower, Chair of the Music Department, was present at the concert and took her bow with Botstein after her Duets was played.

This twenty-minute piece in one movement moves through four sections, slow-fast-slow-fast.

Speaking to Amanda Burrows later in the week, she told me she’d performed on three hours sleep.

Joan Tyler appeared again for Part III, this time solo. She performed Suicide Number 2 in D minor in its six movements. As fine a cellist as Tyler is, she didn’t sound her best to me. The performance sounded sharp here, flat there. There are an awful lot of double stops in the piece—not exactly the easiest thing to do on a cello instrument.

After a brief intermission, the Bard College Community Chorus took the stage, so to speak—their actual chorus was actually there for the whole performance. This semester, they performed Gottes Zeit ist die allerbeste Zeit, Cantata number 6.

There were three soloists. Tenor Alex Greenshields and baritone David Yee soloed in the second movement, turning in good performances, though I’ve heard Yee do better.

Glenn Knickerbocker, a counter tenor, hit all lines in well-supported head-voice.

Yee returned for a second solo after Knickerbocker.

The choir sounded great, though a little top heavy. This is through no fault of their own, but rather through a lack of men, that is, basses and baritones, in the ranks.

Supporting the chorus were students Mara Tillet and Rana Boland on flute; Joan Tyler (yet again) and Erich Schoen-Reene on cello; local members Susan Seligman on cello, Susan Hall-Powell on bass and Professor Frederick Hammond playing continuo.

The piano concerto was written as a birthday present for his wife Ditta Pas Tory and was the last of his completed works. The final 17 bars, however, were cut before they were made. The orchestration of these final bars fell on his friend Tibor Serly.

I must admit, I didn’t like it. But, I am in the minority.

The second half was all Felix Mendelssohn and his Symphony No. 5 in D Major, Opus 107 in four movements. Mendelssohn borrowed two themes for this symphony: one from the finale of Mozart’s Jupiter Symphony and the “Dresden” amen, a traditional melody by J. G. Naumann.

It was written for festivities in Berlin commemorating the Reformation, hence its nickname, the “Reformation” Symphony. It is reminiscent of Mendelssohn’s fellow German composer Beethoven.

Overall, the concert was an excellent performance. There were some difficult pieces and they were pulled off with finesse. I look forward to one more year of symphonic music a la ASO.

THEATER REVIEW CONTINUED

from page 8

Pots. Adam Jones, although he gave his weakest performance of the year, was still outstanding as Alfons. He is one of the department’s singing graces, and we look forward to seeing him in better shows in the future.

Zack Bonnie, as the Chief Inspector, was amusing.

Matthew Kern, as the Assistant Inspector, was a delight to watch amidst the dead wood that surrounded him.

Bora Tekay was, as always, excellent. He was, however, in the minority of the Bard Theatre who can walk with a limp, seem disabled, disgusting, and dreadful and in no way seem artistic or contrived. It was just too bad his role in this show was so small.

Ty Howell, as the Chief Inspector, radiated slime and malice. It was nice to see someone cast against type here, and we hope to see more of him in the future, as he is a treat to watch.

Todd Grace, as the Daring Young Lifesaver, was wonderful. His characterization was clear and sharp. We enjoyed him immensely. Look for him in the upcoming Dance Concert as well.

On a technical level, this show was excellent. The set was amazing. Clearly, this is where the budget for the semester has gone (which would explain why the last set was so very bad). It was a bit odd to see the audience reflected on a stage that was nothing but mirrors, but what the hell. The lighting was nifty. Amazingly, given all those mirrors, it never reflected into our eyes, blinding us. How’d they do that? Only one complaint, actually — during blackouts the light from the control booth shone onto the stage and was reflected about. Thus, the black outs weren’t very black. Could you guys dim those lights? Feit in a show that appeared dreadfully complicated, our hats are off to stage manager Amanda Johnson and all her crew.

However, all in all this play was awful. So awful we left. Sorry we didn’t stay for the second show. It could not have possibly been worse. But this one was terrible. Even the coffee was lousy.
Film Committee
Statements of Purpose

Our main purpose as film committee would be to bring a diverse variety of films to the Bard community. This would include (but by no means be limited to) the work of independent filmmakers, cult classics, foreign films, and new releases. Our goal is to create a balance between popular entertainment and the more challenging “art house” film.

For the good weather of the early Fall and late Spring semesters, we plan to stage a series of outdoor “drive-in” movies. For the winter months we are interested in pursuing the possibility of additional late night Saturday screenings of cult classics. Furthermore, as a mix of film students and film enthusiasts we would like to, and are committed to, bringing the Bard community the biggest and best variety of films. We are open to working in conjunction with other committees and organizations to produce programs which might not otherwise be possible for a single group to present.

Above all, we want to maintain a consistent and diverse program of both fun and interesting films that satisfy the student body. Recommendation forms will be provided, and we will try our best to accommodate serious requests. Suggestions are more than welcome.

Daniel Martinico
Helder Mira
Alex McGregor
Luke Sieczek

As a mix of film students and film enthusiasts we would like to, and are committed to, bringing the Bard community the biggest and best variety of films. In addition to showing the films you would usually have to pay to see at Upstate, we will show films from all periods of cinema history.

Basically, we are full of energy and can hardly contain ourselves as we plan to show at least two films a weekend, with additional special screenings, midnight shows, late late night shows, double features and theme nights.

We will also distribute a list of films that will be shown all throughout the semester, as well as a list at the beginning. We would like to have communication with other clubs on campus in order to have joint screenings of interest to the entire Bard community. And of course we are concerned with your comfort and will do what is necessary to get you the most and best seat for each show.

Overall we are entirely dedicated to film and the needs of the Bard community. Always open to suggestions, we only want to serve you.

Thank you.

Jake Perlin
Malcolm Little
Josh Diaz
Anthony Earl Spinnelli

Go Fly A Kite!

Educational Policies Chair
Statement of Purpose

Ed. note: The following statement of purpose was inadvertently left out of last week's Observer issue.

My name is Jennifer A. Abrams and I am running for the position of Educational Policies Committee (EPC) Chair. I have served on the EPC this past year as one of the two representatives of the Social Sciences Division. Concurrently, I have served on the Committee of Vacancies, which grants recommendations for academic hirings, search committees, increased and decreased course loads for professors, and sabbaticals. This year I have brought student concerns to the Faculty Senate about grades being submitted to the Registrar extremely late by well-respected professors. I am also working with the Executive Committee concerning putting required books for every class on reserve in the library. I feel that I have a clear idea about how the Bard bureaucracy works, and that by voting for me I will be in a position to make positive changes in light of the many obstacles put in the way. So please take the few minutes and vote in the poll room!
Women graduates return to Bard

On the weekend of May 12 and 13, the Coalition for Choice will be hosting a "Celebration of Women Weekend" in honor of 1994 being the 50th anniversary of women at Bard. Three Bard alumnae will be here to discuss life at Bard when they were here in the '60s and '70s. They will also speak on the role of women at Bard at that time. This panel discussion will take place on Friday the 12th at 7 p.m. in Olin 102. Alumnae Doctor Naomi Fox Rothfield, working in rheumatology in Connecticut; author and professor at Denver University Rikki Ducornet; and author and professor at Hobart-Williams, Mary Caponegro will speak and answer any questions that evening.

The following night at 7 in Olin 102 Rikki Ducornet and Mary Caponegro will read from their novels and poetry. Also joining them will be performance artist and Bard graduate, Carollee Schneeman. Carollee will show her controversial video and slides of her work.

These evenings promise to be very thought provoking and interesting. We welcome all students, professors, and members of the community to come learn about Bard's illustrious past and see what Bard grads are up to today!

Michael-James McGregor

Lack of Security

I am writing in response to the comments of Vice President Dimitri Papadimitratos as they appeared in the April 26 issue of the Observer in an article entitled "Students discuss rape." Although I did not attend the meeting on campus security of which the article speaks, I feel compelled to respond to Dimitri's claim that the crucial factor in campus security is "individual behavior." The article quoted him as saying, "Security has gotten first rate. We have a good force. That doesn't mean we can't do better, but there has to be recognition for what they do. Also, individual behavior is very important. Sometimes ten more officers won't prevent incidents." While this language is ambiguous, I believe purposely so, it is con-

If you are going away and need a housesitter please call Robin Leebard at 758-7410.

happening. The Bard Observer seeks
staff. All interested writers, photographers, copy editors, artists, cartoonists, etc. are welcome. Meetings are held in room 84, Tewsbury basement, Mondays at 7:00 p.m., 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 weekends of the festival (Aug 11-13).

For information contact Robin Leebard at 758-7410.

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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 your room, please call 758-7400 or Molly or Liz in Sottery 101.

Beautiful lake house to rent academic year, 1995-96. 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, peaceful. Responsible people only. No smokers, no pets. Call 212-995-4618.

Open, loft-like residential and/or professional space on River side 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: 212-995-4618. Leave return fax number or address.

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TRANSPORTATION

Jitney Schedule: the Jitney runs Monday through Friday and makes stops at the following places and times:
Robbins: 8:30a, 8:30a, 9-10a, 9-10a, 9-10a, 10-11a, 12-12p, 12-12p, 12-12p, 12-12p
Tewksbury: 8-42a, 9-02a, 9-22a, 9-42a, 10-02a, 12-12a, 12-32a, 12-52a, 1-12p, 1-32p, 1-12p, 1-32p, 4-60p, 4-00p, 4-20p, 4-40p, 4-50p, 5-20p, 5-50p

Tuesday: Van to the Lyceum in Red Hook, 6:30p - 10p.
Wednesday: Shop 'n Save Run, 6p - 9p.
Friday: Van to Rhinecliff Station at 4:20p (4:50 train), 6:00p (6:31 train) and 7:20p (7:51 train). Van to Poughkeepsie Station at 5:30p (6:12train), 7:55p (8:20 train) and 10p (10:43 train).
Sunday: meet at 9:15a to go to various churches in Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck (St Johns, St Chris and St Paul). Pick up at Rhinecliff Station for trains arriving at 6:07p and 8:55p and 10:06p. Pick up at Poughkeepsie Station for trains at 6:46p, 8:46p and 10:52p.

Meet all vans behind Kline

Wednesday May 10

Masterclass by cellist Bion Tsang. Blum Hall, 3p-5p.
Table Française. Kline President's Room, 5:30p - 6:30p.
Open Concert presented by students doing different musical compositions. Blum Hall, 7p.
The Women's Center meets tonight from 8:30p to 10p.

Thursday May 11

Russian Discussion or Russki Sot. All are welcome to come from 5p till 5:30p.
Kline Commons Committee Rooms.
Sister Cities Project Meeting. Kline Commons Committee Rooms.

Friday May 12

Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting, Bard Chapel, 7p. All are welcome.
Second Annual SPAZ prem. The festivities will commence at ten o'clock in Ye Old Gym. Tortoise and The Sea and Cake will perform for your entertainment. Refreshments will be provided. Formal attire is requested.
Slides of the Senior Class from their L&T, followed by the film The Graduate. Preston Theater, midnight.

Saturday May 13

Menage VI-Alice in Wonderland. Begins at 10p. Fee $2 in advance, $3 at door.

Sunday May 14

Lyme Disease from A to Z. A presentation by Andrew Evans, from the Dutchess County Health Department. Part of the Lyme disease awareness week. Kline Commons' Presidents room, 3:15p.

Monday May 15

Film critic Nora Sayre will be speaking today in Preston at 7p.
Student Work Concert. The Da Cape Chamber Players, together with Bard students will be playing student compositions tonight at 7p in Blum Hall.

Tuesday May 16

Green Coalition Meeting. Come to discuss campus recycling, composting and other environmental issues. Aspinwall, 7:30p.