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Driver arrested after crash at Olin construction site

By Joshua Ledwell

In the early morning of May 14, a serious car accident involving two Bard students took place at the Olin construction site. The vehicle's passenger remains hospitalized after suffering serious injuries, while the driver has been arrested.

The car hit a pile of bricks behind the Olin building at 3:07 am, according to Security Director Kim Squillace. A security officer present at that night's Menage party in the Student Center heard the sound of the collision and responded immediately.

The Dutchess County Sheriff came to the scene later, as did Red Hook Rescue and the Red Hook Fire Department.

The two students were taken to St. Francis Hospital in Poughkeepsie. The driver's injuries were not serious, and the hospital treated and released him. Police then arrested him, charging him with driving while intoxicated, reckless endangerment, and aggravated vehicle assault, among other charges. As of Monday, police were holding the student on $50,000 bail.

The passenger, who received head injuries of undetermined severity in the accident, will soon be transferred to a hospital in Boston to be near his home. Currently he is "in and out of consciousness," according to Dean of Students Shelley Morgan. When awake, she said, "he has recognized family and friends.

When asked for her reaction to the accident, Dean Morgan said, "We have a student in jail as a result, and we have a student in intensive care." She praised the Bard Emergency Medical Service and Security, calling them "incredibly fast and responsive," and saying that "the minutes saved made a difference."

Scene of the auto accident at the Olin construction site. Photo by Joshua Ledwell

Student forum elects new reps

The year's last meeting produces new committees, but no new resolution

By Pedro Rodriguez

The final forum for the spring semester of 1995 was held last night, Tuesday, May 16. There were no amendments; there was little hostility. There were elections.

First on the agenda were the campus-wide election results.

"D'ye think th' colleges has much to do with th' progress to the wurruld?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"D'ye think," said Mr. Dooley, "tis th' mill that makes th' water run?"

--F.P.Dunne, Colleges and Degrees
Serve the community

The Bard Social Action Workshop seeks interested students

by Linnea Krollmuller
Features Editor

Bard is working to facilitate the participation of students in community service by connecting volunteer work to the academic curriculum. The resulting program is the Bard Social Action Workshop, and exists in three parts: Action, Discussion and Study.

Maureen Forrestal, Director of Career Development, has been working on the Bard Social Action Workshop since last fall, when she was approached by Professor Alice Stroup. They were interested in creating a situation, in which students could have a volunteer job or internship that makes the classroom experience reality based. "For example," said Forrestal, "someone taking the History of Family course, could work with families in social service."

Combining with Resident Director Rich Kelley, Forrestal and Stroup had several meetings over the year to lobby for support for the program. As a result, several professors expressed interest, including Jon Kahn, Shelley McConnell and Suzanne Vromen.

"We met with Dean Levine, and he's all for it. Now we're getting grant proposals together to get money for the pilot program next fall. There are courses that can be combined with work, so tell your professor if you are interested," explained Forrestal.

The Workshop will be run similarly to an independent study. It is not sufficient simply to work, but the student will have to turn in some form of academic work to demonstrate what he or she is learning on the job. Informal discussions and public lectures about social action, community, distributive justice and responsibility will also be sponsored. Volunteering is about more than helping others, but can lead to a new understanding of social justice.

Volunteer opportunities abound in the area, and they have been compiled into a list by Rich Kelley. "I contacted all the social service agencies in the area and asked if they needed volunteers, which they always do. From that I established a social service directory of 35 agencies in Ulster and Dutchess County. It ranges from battered women's shelters to the Red Cross to historical and environmental museums. It's a broad spectrum," he said.

Seven students have already been placed in volunteer employment through Kelley's list, and others have organized programs on their own. Transportation has been a conundrum, because Bard has pledged to provide rides for any student with a social service job, but the availability of a car and driver can be erratic. "In the budget, we put in for money for a van, but we'll have to wait and see what happens once budgets go through."

Participation in the Bard Social Action Workshop can have very practical rewards, other than the introduction to a broad range of human experience. "There will be a designation on the student's transcript and an explanation as to what it means," said Forrestal. "So, if a student is applying to graduate school, the school will understand this type of study. Hopefully it will increase one's chances for grad school and general employability."

Kelley echoed her sentiments, saying "This type of experience gives a potential employer an idea that you're willing to extend yourself beyond the norm of what is expected of a college student. That you go beyond studying."

Kelley and Forrestal will be running a volunteer service fair during LaT this August, according to Forrestal "so that freshmen will see that volunteer service is the norm." They had hoped to schedule a fair early this semester, but realized that routines had already been established, and the likelihood of enticing many students was not high.

The Bard Social Action Workshop will be a course of study available in the fall, which students are encouraged to take advantage of. Not only does community service enrich a transcript, but it puts students in touch with the society around us, and teaches lessons that can be applied throughout life after Bard.

Security update

By Joshua Ledwell
Editor

It was another eventful week for Bard's Safety and Security corps. On Tuesday, May 9, at 2:40pm, an officer discovered a half-full can of gasoline in the hall on the second floor of Manor House. Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace pointed out that "at no time should there ever be gas stored in any container in any building."

Last Thursday night Security found that a Kline lobby door had been "slightly damaged." The glass in the door was damaged, though not in pieces on the ground. The broken door, at the north end of the building near the inside telephone, will have to be replaced.

Later that night, Security broke up a party at Manor. Squillace noted that she is reluctant to interfere in parties, since it is hard to define under what conditions a group of people socializing becomes a party that needs to be registered in advance. She said that two factors are loud music, which usually results in a Security call, and the presence of non-residents in a dorm. To be sure that your party is not disrupted, Squillace advises that "all parties must be registered parties." The Dean of Students' Office has all the necessary forms and information for party registration.

There was a theft early Sunday morning from Tewskbury dorm. At 2:52am, a CD stereo and speakers, worth $500, were reported stolen from a student's room. The door was locked, with no sign of forced entry, but Squillace said the student had hidden her key in the dorm and it could have been used to open the door. "Please don't hide your key," said Squillace.

On Monday, May 15, a student's wallet was stolen from the fourth floor of the Stevenson Library. Squillace reminded students that they should call their banks immediately after their checks are cashed or credit cards disappear. "Always notify the bank," she said, and then, laughing, "if you find it, don't try to use the card!"

Visions of Childhood: Four Contemporary Photographers

An exhibition at Bard's Center for Curatorial Studies, featuring works by Wendy Ewald, Nicholas Nixon, Sally Mann and Barbara Ess

Open May 17 through July 8
Contact: Mark Primoff
(914) 758-7412

Congratulations to the Observer Seniors who made it:

Special recognition must go to Jeana Breton and Michael Poirier, those hoary old warhorses, without whom we shudder to think. May the spirit of the Lizard King be with you all.
Surfing the Net

More discoveries from the World Wide Web

By Joshua Ledwell
Editor

Spring is here, the semester is gliding to a close, and there are now two types of students at Bard. The first group stumbles around campus bleary-eyed, surviving on huge doses of caffeine while they desperately scramble to finish all their classwork. To these dedicated (or procrastinating) individuals, I extend best wishes, but this article is not for them.

This article is for the second group of students, mostly seniors, who can afford to spend hours sunbathing beside Tewksbury, lingering over meals in Kline, or playing softball. They have the free time necessary to cruise the World Wide Web, as they ponder their futures after graduation, or playing soft- ball. They have the free time necessary to cruise the World Wide Web, as they ponder their futures after graduation.

As for the others, it doesn't matter that this article is not written for them. They don't have the time to read it anyway.

If they did, though, they might benefit from a consultation of their horoscope. At http://www.butterfly.net/astro/www.binary9.com/-nicholas/xtc.html you can find advice on what to do with your life after graduation, based on your astrological sign and updated daily.

If travel is in your future, you may want to consider a destination away from the usual hordes of tourists. Find http://www.service.uit.no/homepage-no for everything you every wanted to know about Norway, but didn't think to ask. Dedicated national offices maintain similar sites throughout the web to promote tourism, the world's largest industry.

For recreation closer to home, consult Zarf's List of Interactive Games and Toys on the World Wide Web. Its address is long: http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~sf/div/index.html#games, and the site is unaccountably slow, but the myriad diversionary links here make Zarf's List well worth browsing.

Looking for something a little less interactive (i.e. passive entertainment)? Check out the page for everyone's favorite movie. The "Pulp Fiction" page, at http://wolfsouluc.edu/pulpfigt.html, has great still photos and even movie clips, although Bard's beloved IBM donated software can't display the short clips.

If your tastes run towards the more bizarre in movies, visit Mel's Godzilla page at http://www.ama.caltech.edu/~mm/monster.html. Apparently, Caltech students, who maintain this page, also have a little too much free time on their hands.

Okay, the new series isn't as good as the old, but Star Trek fans will still find the official "Star Trek: Voyager" page interesting. Warp to http://voyager.paramount.com for a flashy tour of the Voyager starship and a preview of the next new episode. Your host is Robert Picardo, the holographic doctor on board the lost ship.

At http://www.dnx.com/vamp/gothic/images/index.html, Bardians who wear black will find a home in the GothicImages database. Here are gruesome photos of several Goth bands, scenes from the movie "The Crow," and art from "The Sandman" comic books. The art here is tremendous, and there is a ton of it. Some of it even uses colors other than black!

Speaking of black, there is one address that might be of interest even to the caffeine-addicted horde not reading this article. Look to http://www.flightpath.com/brento/anodetocoffee.html for "An Ode to Coffee." You can add your own tribute to coffee or browse many other links to find fellow coffee lovers.

Once you've had your coffee fix, it's time to at least pretend to do some work. There is an unique research site at http://www.palnet/chapterone/index.html, where you can browse the table of contents and first chapters of thousands of books, including those reviewed in journals such as Foreign Affairs.

What's that? You've always wanted to know what your name was in Hawaiian? Consult http://hisor.aloha.com/find.html for the answer in the language that only has seven consonants.

Finally, ease yourself back to familiar surroundings by delving into the Bard home page. If you have never been able to understand the architectural theory behind the facade of the new library, you can find a partial explanation at http://www.bard.edu/infocenter/index.html.

Now, that's enough computer stuff. Go outside and throw a frisbee around near the Ravine. Your homework will wait until next semester.
A last indulgence in weekly righteousness

By Sean O'Neill

In a furtive flight I dodge down the steps of Blithewood's garden. The air is bright and I claim the space alone. Splashes in the fountain shake a rug of sound over the flowers and under the long shadows cast by the pillars.

My frantic worries run down to the rock oversewing the river, like dogs set loose. I am left behind to hear a bird's clarinet call and to watch the sun set on my semester's last days.

A visitor walks around the lawn to evade me, positioning himself such that the bricks block our view of each other. We each need, I suppose, not to be observed in our observing.

How bizarre the world is, I think, to simultaneously contain misery elsewhere and peace here in this garden.

Then, several damned dogs lead a jogger through one of the archways. That first worry returns with the barking.

Too much free time for me, perhaps, while I await the storm of a workaday life.

A "senior banquet" looms next week to celebrate with awards and applause those students who have done well. This idea remains so long as the fatal slip isn't made; namely, confusing selective recognition with something akin to the Final Judgment.

Fortunately, Bard is something less than a meritocracy. I believe that if there is any threat to the future of our college, besides the spending cuts of Governor Pataki, it would be the increased emphasis on equating academic success with a student's human value. Our tiny campus, thankfully, respects the person who has achieved along with the grades he or she has on the transcript. Regardless of what most universities presume, an individual's surrounding of private tumult is more crucial than that person's scores on an arbitrary scholastic measuring stick. It was this distinction between Bard and elsewhere that I emphasized to a prospective student last April.

It seems to me that every student here has a legitimate tale of personal heroism. It is not enough, unfortunately, for some students to be content with the private knowledge of their victories. They need to go beyond a friendly sharing of sighs and gasps to give an exaggerated account of wails and vomit.

A hierarchy of pain emerges. Conversations around the dinner tables center gripping rights for some self-appointed martyrs and their tribulations, while dismissing other people's emotional struggles as comparatively insignificant.

A competition for having the most valiant history ensues, such that everyone here becomes a (monetary) statistic on the edge of homelessness, that everyone seems to have been abused in some form and has developed elaborate psychological defenses, and that we all remain doubtful about any chances for future success.

Austere budgets are the fashion, alongside despairing dreams, in our toxic times. If these humorless extra-complaints were soothed by being heard, I wouldn't mind them. When a friend seeks a willing ear, most people are glad to offer consolation. What is maddening is that the truly painful histories get drowned out in this fracas of dissatisfaction. The man whose parent dies, the woman who faces addiction, the student or professor who is seriously ailing or infirm—these people are initiated into a secret club of silence. Their grief brought on by unexpected traumas ironically fails to get a hearing in America's culture of complaint.

To run from another revelation of what I consider petty concern, I come to see the 6:40 train pass along its way to Grand Central. It blares its horn at the wild swans. Then, the garden's quiet returns.

I'm lucky; my scars are few and far between.

I hope the seniors have found a measure of calm to take away with them after commencement. The library and the curriculum are too small, and the garden too pretty, for anyone to take away anything else of lasting importance from Annandale.

What's What

In 1997, Alice goes to the Wonderland of SuperMenage 8

By Sean O'Neill

Alice, a student at Bard High School, planned to use her new camera to photograph people at a local college party.

She learned about the menage from her tutor, a student from Bard who volunteered his time to help her cope with her speech impediment.

Alice trusted Sandeep. Unlike her previous tutors, he shared an understanding of what it meant to feel inadequate. He didn't pity her; he admired her.

Sandeep had gotten rid of his own stammer when he was around fourteen years old. Their rapport formed immediately upon his confiding to her that he, too, had stood for hours before a mirror reciting the most basic of sentences, and that he, too, still refused to say in large crowds words that had troublesome consonants.

Sandeep kept over-compensating for his perceived deficiency by being an extrovert. He gained fame for leading a two-day, student takeover of his college's administration building.

Alice remained an introvert, convinced that nobody thought of her as anything but a caricature from a TV "Schoolbreak Special." She rarely told others of her desire to become a photojournalist like Sebastian Salgado.

Sandeep arrived at Alice's house dressed in a rabbit costume. He took out a pocket watch and urged her to "come on" because "the Queen is waiting."

Her parents were ignorant of this man's history as an organizer of the (safer) sex party that they didn't realize was a (safer) sex party.

When they asked why he chose a rabbit suit for the dance cage and marble columns, untroubled by the barking, the Queen referred to was a man with seven-inch high hair who was a lewd disc jockey. They didn't know that the trees around the library would be decorated with condoms.

Mom and Dad just waved, proudly, as if their daughter was a ship setting sail on a maiden voyage.

The menage occurred in the college's library — beer kegs placed at the reserve desk, bungee-cord jumping down the stairwell shaft, and futons on the top floor for the "horizontally-inclined." Not to forget the naked performance artist standing between a dance cage and marble columns, underneath a moonlight, glass roof.

Alice devoted this night to picture-taking, up until the party was disrupted by police officers ordered in by the college president.

In one of her photographs, a professor poured fruit juices for the thirsty. He wore the gaunt expression of a man awaiting a god.

In others, she had "before-and-after" shots of a student from Zambia. His eyes at first are shy and octopus-like. Later, they're as carefree and bright as an eight-year-old's when skipping school.

Her favorite pictures were of two women enthralled with a night of true love and of a freshman's broad smirk had just become the building's director.

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Student athletes honored

League standouts named in fencing, volleyball, and tennis

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

There is no new tennis news this week, but fortunately there are several honors that Bard Athletes have received that deserve attention. Raman Frey and Sebastian Salazar were both ranked in the top twenty for digs in Men's Volleyball in the nation. Frey was ranked fifth with an average of 3.08 a game. Salazar ranked 16 with 200 digs and an average of 2.60 a game. This is an excellent achievement for these players and for Bard, and accordingly shows hope for the future of a successful volleyball team.

In other achievements, Seniors, Laurie L. Curry and Stephen Stephens were named Robbins/ECAC Scholar-athletes. The two were chosen by the Bard College Department of Athletics for their excellence in athletics and in their academics.

Curry, a history and Russian Studies major, was nominated for her four year triumph as a Women's Varsity tennis player. She was the NAIA singles and doubles champion in 1991; and was named all-conference in 1993 and 1994. Curry also acted as team captain for 1994 and 1995, as well as holding the school record for the career wins.

Stephens, an economics major, was nominated for his excellence as a Varsity fencer. Stephens, who held the title of sabre captain for four years, provided constant support for the team, not only in wins but in the ability to teach new fencers. He was named all-conference in 1993, and placed first in the United States Fencing Association Sectional Qualifiers in 1994. Both athletes will be missed for their excellence on and off the field.

The Varsity Athletics Award Brunch, will be held on Sunday, July 1, at 12:00 PM in the Kline Committee Room. This brunch will be celebrating the achievements of all varsity athletes. Anyone who participated this year, in any varsity sport, is encouraged and welcome to attend.

Well, this is the end of the season and all athletes and seniors who helped Bard teams to victories. Good luck to all, go Bard.

Athletic league softball

Trash talk and forfeits characterize the end of the season

by David Hyde
Staff Writer

Going into the bottom of the seventh inning of the Athletic League Championship Game, things did not look too good for the Gym Rats. Despite an almost perfect season, the Gym Rats found themselves trailing the American Dream by four runs. The game itself, which could clock in just under an hour and forty-five minutes by the time it was done, was a mix of the spectacular, the bizarre, and the mundane.

The American Dream looked unstoppable at the plate. The defensive champs were lead by Kimani Davis (4-4) and senior Bucky Purdom. Davis hit two doubles and a homerun to straightaway centerfield and Purdom hit a homerun in the sixth inning to tie the game at eight.

The team's defense however (with the exception of Kimani Davis' amazing catch in centerfield that robbed Gym Rat Joel Rush of a sure homerun) was less than sensational. In the bottom of the second inning, with two outs, a shallow pop fly off of the bat of Gym Rat Kevin Thayer fell in between three members of the American Dream, and the Gym Rats scored three runs. The inconsistent defense cost the team the ability of the American Dream to get the third out would haunt the defending champs throughout the game.

But what may haunt them the most occurred in the top of the fifth inning, when a player on their team who would have scored on Davis' homerun failed to touch all the bases. Gym Rat shortstop Joel Rush quickly tagged home plate; the player was out and what then would have been the eighth run was discounted.

The Gym Rats, who had not hit the ball with the authority that they normally do and had to hit some controversial calls by umpire Colin Thatcher managed to stay in the game with some clutch two-out hitting. In the bottom of the seventh inning, down by four runs, the Gym Rats loaded the bases. Co-captain Joel Rush came to the plate with two outs as the tying run.

Those who had attended last year's Championship Game could not help but think back to the final inning of that game. It was a year ago that the Gym Rats had the bases loaded, none out, the tying run on second, and then failed to get the ball out of the infield. Joel Rush had made the second out.

But yesterday the Gym Rats co-captain and Player of the Game Joel Rush responded with a solid double, as he knocked in two runs to make the score 13 to 11. Brad Cline, the Gym Rats feared clean-up hitter, then stepped up to the plate. Although first base was open and the next hitter had yet to get a hit in the game, Purdom chose to pitch to Cline. Cline responded with a shot up the middle that scored both runners. Cline himself scored the winning run when a wild throw to the third baseman sailed into left field.

After the game Rush told The Observer "I'm just glad I don't have to hear that talk trash for another year. To win with them talking trash and with a couple of questionable calls going our way...It was the most exciting game of the year."

It may not have been their most exciting game of the year, but it was the best game of the week, if only because so few games were actually played. (Only two games were actually played.) Only two games were played in the B Tournament as Keyne's Curse defeated the Blumfish Rainbows, 18 to 6, and the Unicorns then crushed Keyne's Curse, 15 to 5.

All other games in the B Tournament were decided by forfeit. S.C.F. forfeited to the Unicorns; the Zebrasheads forfeited to St. Tula; St. Tula (who may not have enough players to field a team next year after deferring and falling so many students in moderation) then forfeited to the D.S.S.S.; Flash, Bats also forfeited to the D.S.S.S. Even the Athletic League Consolation Game was decided by a forfeit when the Dirty Dogs could not play the game and the Tony Danna Bozzz was declared the "winner."

The B Tournament Championship game was played yesterday, with the Unicorns beating the D.S.S.S. 12-6. The A Tournament is scheduled to conclude on Friday. Bountiful Crop advanced to the finals after putting up an amazing show of Wood Warriors, 14 to 10. Bountiful Crop was lead by Basil Boris (who hit two inside-the-park homersons) and the stunning defensive plays of Nick Levi and Eric Frasier.

Bountiful Crop will play the winner of the Graceland/Naked Ice Borers game, which is scheduled to be played this evening. Although the teams have yet to play, there is already some bad blood between the teams after some controversial decisions by Kris Hall.

That said, this is only Intramural Softball at Bard. The trash talk and bad attitudes that sometimes dominate the playoffs belong in a different league. See you next year.
Bard misses another

Bard Vocal Ensemble performs, premieres Gould choral piece

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/ News Editor

For those who read my review of the American Symphony Chorus Orchestra performance in the April 26 issue of the Bard Observer, my rantings will be nothing new. Yet again, Bardians have missed a fine concert.

The concert was the first of the Bard Vocal Ensemble’s performance. There were but two main characters, and friends of the performers. Some of the performers may have taken their final bow on a Bard stage. Last time this happened (at the penultimate ASO concert), I proposed that maybe the twentieth century had started and was ready. There were some twentieth century pieces in this program, but they are more accessible than Messiaen’s Quartet for the End of Time and, God forbid, Schoenberg. I’m not tempted to believe the reason was the same.

Rather, it’s the end of the year. People are busy. Few saw the advertisements, etc. I do believe, however, that those who saw the signs immediately divorced the concert out of apathy. “I can’t dance to it.” Rather go hear feedback laden noise—ten tunes in one key, with the words—take draughts of draft.

Hey, rock is fun, but there’s more to life than the blatant visceral. There is another kind of visceral. This was even fine!

The ensemble, led by faculty adjuncts Megan Hastie, tackled choral works from the sixteenth and twentieth centuries, interspersed with duets, in all spanning three languages: English, Latin and French. The composers chosen were William Byrd, Francis Poulenc, John Dowland, Claude Debussy, Benjamin Britten and Bard’s own Akire Bubar and Gabriel Ian Gould. The concert was the premier of Gould’s choral piece Opening the Door: A Remembrance. It was written as a remembrance (“not a requiem or elegy”) for his friend Galen Croasty Gibson, suddenly shot down at Simon’s Rock in 1992. Gould chose Gibson’s own poem “Opening the Door” as the text from which he wrote a work nothing short of gorgeous.

The performance too was moving. Gould included a solo for each of the choral voices: bass, tenor, alto and soprano. The soloists were William Brooks, Alex Greenshields, Akire Bubar and Gabriel Lally respectively.

Gould was the pianist for the Remembrance as well as his other piece, Epitaph, an art song for piano and tenor. Alex Greenshields, the only constant in the show, again took the solo part. Epitaph being a song, is a smaller and simpler work, composed of two motifs in the piano.

Akire Bubar, with Greenshields, performed two of her works, one a cappella duet, the other a duet with acoustic guitar. The latter was a good love song, so difficult to write without falling into the trap of triteness. I particularly applaud the simple yet elegy aass figure in the guitar.

This was the sweetest concert, along with the ASO Chamber Players April 21 performance, I have had the pleasure to hear at Bard, period. Sure there were mistakes, but the choice of music and the emotional content cancelled them out; they couldn’t ruin it. The ensemble members are: Sopranos—Anne Chandler, Kelly Jones, Gabriel Lally, Lilian Robinson, Erin Tedesco; Altos—Akire Bubar, Jane Galang, Sue Paquet, Emily Singer; Tenors—Jeff Gioquinto, Alex Greenshields; Basses—William Brooks, Bob Capowski, Ben Epstein, Gabriel Gould, Rob Renbeck, Paul Spitz.

As a composer and a junior at Bard, my sorrow will be great to watch so many pass on to better things May 27. So much talent will be lost for those of us remaining. To all seniors: Godspeed.

Editorial: Save Callanan

Three professors of the Languages and Literature Department of Bard College (Chair Nancy Leonard and Professors Mark Lambert and Frederic Grab) are petitioning against the recommendation that Professor Christopher Callanan receive permanent tenure. Apparently, Callanan holds unpopular views for the L&L Department. I do not know what these might be.

What I do know is that Callanan is one of the finest educators I have had the pleasure to study under. I’m taking Latin—not the easiest of subjects—and enjoying it, and learning one hell of a lot more than in many many other classes, Bard Lit Department included.

Callanan cares about the students. He’s more accessible than any professor I can think of. I’ve been to three schools; I’ve known plenty of professors. Some of these professors are friends of mine, but none are as easy to talk to.

I suspect Callanan cares more about the students than the institution. I suspect the faculty wants someone partial to their agenda. That’s the bottom line: what’s more important? Students or faculty? I propose that professors should get it.

We’ve met to student of Callanan that doesn’t rave about him. If the faculty is going to carry on a vendetta regardless of the interests of the students, then frankly, I no longer give a damn about that faculty.

I will be starting a counter-petition. If you don’t sign, write to President Botstein and/or Dean of the College Stuart Levine. Be heard! Contact me, Pedro Rodriguez, through campus mail, box 451. Please note this is not an Observer sponsored petition.

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 pages 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 in the Observer. Please see the Calendar Page for the endorsement of this site. The Observer is published every Wednesday while classes are in session. Time, dates and locations of events and dates which arrive in campus mail, or to our office, the Friday prior to the next issue will be guaranteed immediate publication.

Performers acknowledged

To the Editor,

I wish to publicly acknowledge the work of Scott Edwards. This past Sunday evening he performed a recital of solo piano music that was challenging to both the performer and the audience—especially impressive to have been taken by a student performer. To say that Scott rose to the occasion is an understatement.

Sincerely, Jason D. Durham
Abolish the Q-course

To the Editor,

It is like having our shorts dropped to our ankles in public, akin to feeling the doctor’s hand down there, being told to cough, and that he suspects a hernia; like having our knockers smacked by Miss Elderbud while she chides us for mediocre recitation (and we have endured the hardship of it for close to twenty years). Mathematics allows Man to sever himself, not only from his flesh, but also from his soul. The torture of it, the unnatural sterility of it, has caused us delirium. Our predication is much worse than can be told; mathematics has had the resilience of the devil—it has never ceased in its efforts to brutalize. But we will leave assertions behind us to put forth this appeal to the community: that we be freed from the Quantitative Skills Requirement in the name of progressive education and liberal thought. Since it would not be education and liberal thought. Since it would not be persuasive for us to lash out with exaggeration, we will give a brief and accurate account of our mathematical history.

We spent our first four years of mathematical training in a public system which suffered from neglect—at the end of which time even the procedure for long division eluded us. Our parents became aware of the problem and transferred us to a progressive institution. The solution was found. In this new environment we performed Maypole dances and stood over tidal pools, sketching their contents. Since we had no interest in mathematics, we were not asked to participate. When it came time for high school, we transferred to a bilingual French school that used a British math system. But again, since this institution was progressive, and we showed interest and ability in other subjects, we managed to slide through without understanding the Pythagorean theorem, or speaking more than a few words of French. We cultivated an artistic sensibility and an admiration for Freud (to the embarrassment of our family, we still harbor such qualities). We did not receive grades of any kind until we entered college.

The founder of our high school admired John Dewey, and we in turn learned to admire the hands-on, experiential approach to education that Dewey theorized. We left for college knowing that abstraction, in its various guises, was the problem with education. Reality, with all its odious sensuality, with all its color and heat, was the true source of knowledge, as the minds Heraclitus, Didierot, Rousseau, Goethe and Faraday taught us. Besides, even since we learned about mustard gas and the first war we knew that abstract thought led to death and destruction. The disgusting effect of mathematical thought on molecular reality is all too apparent. As Professor Peter Skill has commented, “You want proof? Think about it—how many people can you vaporize with a symphony?” Since Skill’s question, which he dramatically dropped on us at the end of his lecture last Thursday, is taken out of context, we should probably mention that he was speaking of the proof that the mathematical-scientific mind has described Skill does not use the word “disprove.” The truth with more accuracy and power than the arts. We do not mean to suggest that Professor Skill lacks humanity, but merely that he was aware that the first atomic explosions were ironic events.

Hence, the class of ’95 is not graduating from the school it applied to. This great sadness reveals itself to us without the least hope of catharsis, though cathartic release is the goal of our appeal. When we looked at schools we were pleased to find a small progressive college that did not require the understanding of basic mathematics or the submission of SAT scores, and instead focused on the great liberalizing forces of literature, music, and the other arts. The Quantitative Skills Requirement, now in its third go-round, seems to stem on, and a deep insult to the healthy minded. We beg the Anglo-Saxon analytical mind to realize that there are various styles of learning and forms of intelligence.

It seems best to keep philosophical and religious arguments aside, and instead speak with humble detachment. We are victims of progressive education—and the submission of this appeal to the faculty, administration, and community is done with the hope that it will serve to destroy, and satisfy, our Quantitative Skills Requirement. If our words have their intended effect, we trust that Ethel Bliche and others will act swiftly to dismantle the requirement they fought so hard to establish, and notify the registrar and other important administrative persons of the change.

It was deliciously gratifying when a professor noticed at registration that we had mistranslated marked on our card eight more meditations than his course would yield. He belittled:

“Really trying to get your money’s worth, huh? I’d take it you ten years to do that!” Another professor, though fatigued, began to check his account at the registration table. He added:

“With the current fees students could go to the opera 25,000 times. Everyone within earshot enjoyed a chuckle at this joke.

Our only wish has been that we could be compliant and without cynicism, like a minister in the face of an absurdity of college—especially college mathematics—has made this impossible.

(There is hope: In coming to terms with our collegiate experience, Mary McCarthy’s The Groves of Academe has proved indispensable.)

With love,
Seth Gardner Frouty


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 SSTory 101.

Beautiful lake house to rent academic year 1995-1996. Situated on 1.2 acres, 20 minutes from Bard, 125 private lake fishing, Frick dock, car port, finished basement with entertainment center, washer/dryer, 2 bedrooms, 2 baths, dishwasher, LR with fireplace, antiques, decks, views, pass-over. Responsible people only. No smokers, no pets. Call 212-995-8618.

Open, left-like residential and/or professional co-op on River­side Drive in a designated land­mark area. Architect: H.L. Meader, built 1916, 100 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. 212-595-8616. Leave return fax number or address.

Need some spending money for the summer? Do you have a knack for appeasing large crowds? Do you have good organizational skills? Come! 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 and 18-20). If you are interested, please call Robin at 758-7410.

House (2 bedrooms), Rhinebeck, $600.00 a month for 3 summer months. Call Martha at 876-8355.

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 758-3335 or Box 780.

Musicians performing with the Bard Music Festival would like to rent a house during August.

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

Bard Grad seeks a sitter for summer, June 1-August 8. Care for me personable, well-behaved cat. Small stipend available. Contact Peter Grasswell through Sheila Morgan, Dean of Students.

Fuk you, Gladys.

I'm looking for a roommate for a large, 2-bedroom house in Tivoli for the summer. $275 a month. Call 752-7428.

Summer sublet, large one-bedroom apartment. $500 a month, June-August. Call 339-6631.

Are you having trouble committing yourself to Bard Life? Do you find it hard to overcome the apathy and spend time with "friends?" Join the "Anti-sociable Anonymous." We'll make you a social butterfly in no time. Look for signs around you.

Dearest M, We shall meet again.

Basement apartment for rent on Annandale Road—between Kline and Kruger Village, a 5 minute walk to main campus—June 1st through August 28th. Looking for 2 people responsible to share 2 bedrooms, 1 bathroom, large kitchen/dining area, partially furnished (1 bedroom fully), table, chairs, large refrigerator, freezer, soda, coffee, tea, microwave, toaster, oven, stove, full-sized fridge, some cutlery and cookware, private parking space, free cable TV hook-up (all needed is your own TV), toaster oven, cleaning supplies, rugs, lamp, $550 a month, all utilities (except phone) included, direct rent from owner (not sublet). Contact immediately—this won't be available for too long!! Call 758-2243, ask for Kyhle (present tenant), or Tim and Ann Ross at 758-3903 (owners) or drop Kyhle a note in campus mail box 1015.


Fritz + Fritz = Friends. Happy early B-day. Love Raymond Sephac & D.

Dearest Moose, That's not a parachute, it's not a napack... it's a Bartok doll??! Love, Goose

To the "writers" on campus: maybe next year. PER
TRANSPORTATION

Jinery Schedule: the Jinery 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, 2:00p, 2:20p, 2:40p, 3:00p, 3:20p, 3:40p, 4:00p, 4:20p, 4:40p, 5:00p, 5:20p, 5:40p.

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 (6:30 train) and 7:20p (7:50 train). Vans to Poughkeepsie Station at 5:30 p (6:12 train), 7:35p (8:20 train) and 10p (10:45 train). Trip to the Poughkeepsie Galleria Mall, leaves at 5p and returns at 9p.
Sunday: Meet at 9:15a to go to various churches in Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck (St John's, 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 6:45p, 8:45p and 10:52p.

Meet all vans behind Kline

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Wednesday May 17</th>
<th>Thursday May 18</th>
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<th>Monday May 22</th>
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<tr>
<td>Visions of Childhood. A student-curated show featuring photographs by Barbara Eas, Wendy Ewald, Sally Mann and Nicholas Nixon. Center for Curatorial Studies, 4p-7p.</td>
<td>Russian Discusion or Racok Stol. All are welcome to come from 5p till 5:30p. Kline Commons Commitee Room.</td>
<td>Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting, Bard Chapel, 7p. All are welcome.</td>
<td>Dance Theatre II. Senior and Faculty work, this afternoon at 3p at the Dance Studio.</td>
<td>Dance Theatre II. Senior and Faculty work, today at 1p and 9p at the Dance Studio.</td>
<td>Dance Theatre II. Senior and Faculty work, today at 8p at the Dance Studio.</td>
<td>Performance Class Concert. Blum Hall, 8p.</td>
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<td>Table Française. Kline President's Room, 5:30p - 6:30p.</td>
<td>Recital. Gabriel Gould's Senior Project Concert. 6p. in Blum Hall.</td>
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<td>Songwriting Class Concert. Works composed and performed by students. Blum Hall, 8p.</td>
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Shuttles to Tivoli and Red Hook

Monday - Thursday:
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

THE CALENDAR EDITOR WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU ALL A GREAT VACATION. HAVE SOME FUN, GET PLENTY OF REST AND COME BACK FOR MORE IN SEPTEMBER!!