

OBSERVER

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THE BARD
observer

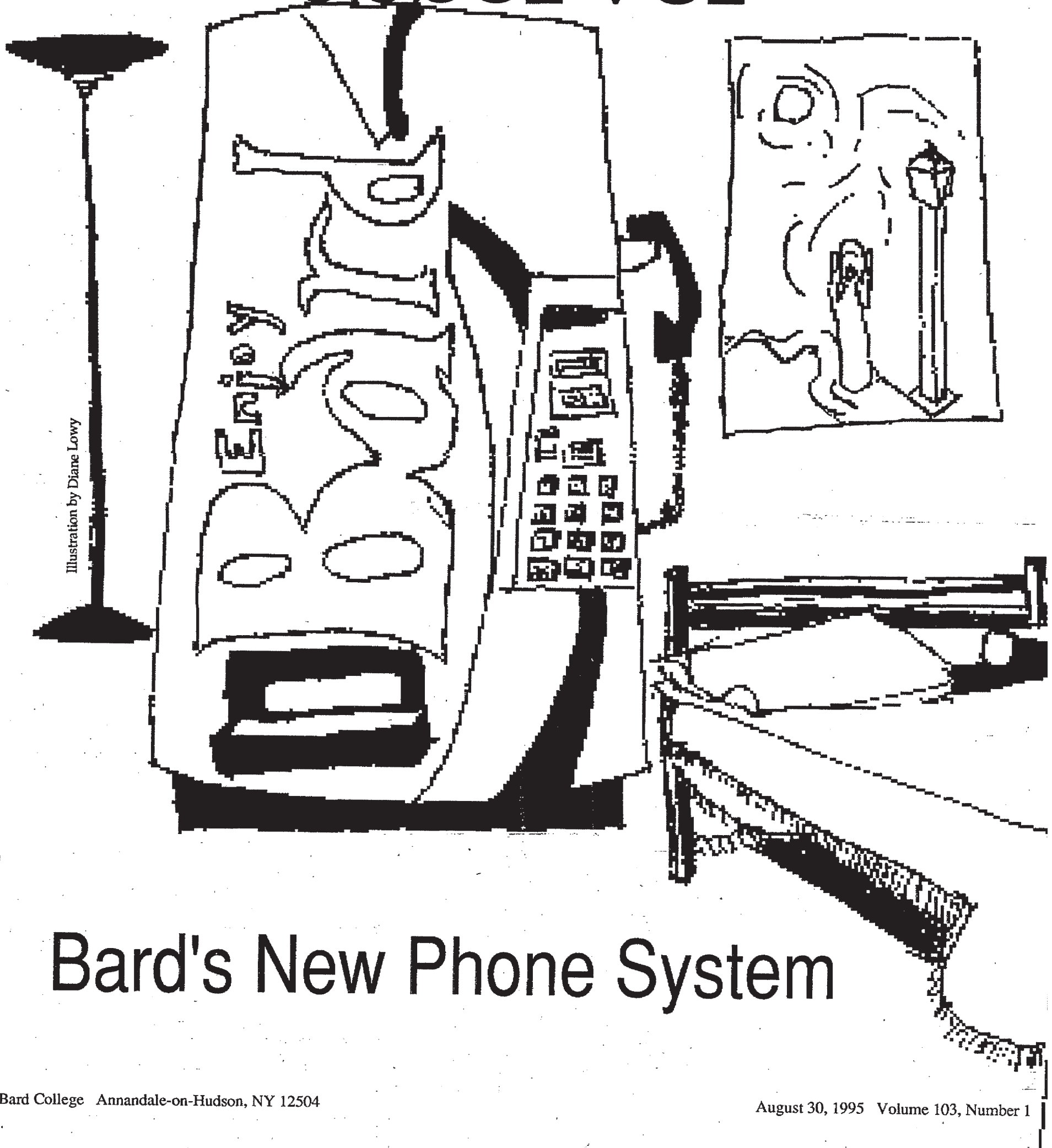


Illustration by Diane Lowy

Bard's New Phone System

Calling all students

New college phone system rings false for some students

By Joshua Ledwell
Editor

Bard's new telephone system, offering voice mail to all at an increased cost to some, has sparked controversy among students even before the semester has officially begun. In a break with last year's policy, the college has required all students living on campus to buy telephone service for their rooms. Residents of double rooms and students who do not want a phone in their room must pay more than they did last year.

The college now runs its own telephone system, purchased during the summer and completely installed for this semester. Every telephone on campus is part of the network and dialing four digits is enough to connect to any of them.

The new phones also include programmable voice mail, in effect giving everyone an electronic answering machine. Also on the plus side, residents of singles actually pay slightly less for their phone line with voice mail than they would have paid last year for telephone service alone. A year's worth of phone connection used to cost \$144, compared to the current \$125 charge.

Many students, however, resent being forced to buy a phone service they may not want. The phone connection charge, optional under the old network, is now a mandatory fee to which financial aid does not apply.

Some also object to the college imposing a new system on them without consulting students first. As one result, students who recently bought answering machines for use at Bard find them-

selves owners of expensive redundancies.

Further, the more advanced system comes at increased cost for residents of double rooms. The college charged by the phone line last year, so students in doubles could split the costs of service. This year, the administration requires that every student pay the same fee. Though both residents of a double do get a separate voice mail box, they do not receive separate phone lines. Students in triples face a similar situation.

Jim Brudvig, Assistant to the Executive Vice President and the person in charge of Bard's phones, attempted to answer student complaints in two meetings with peer counselors. Three weeks ago, during the Language and Thinking workshop, he listened to peer counselors representing

first year students.

In an interview, Brudvig characterized it as "a difficult meeting. People were very agitated about the costs for double rooms." A second meeting including all peer counselors went better, he said, but "of course [the process] is not done."

Brudvig also addressed the mandatory nature of the new system. If a student does not pay the connection charge, the fee will be "subject to normal collection procedures," and end up on the overall college bill, just as an overdue phone bill was treated in the past. Brudvig confirmed that the charge was "not subject to financial aid this year," but offered to work out a payment plan with any interested student.

When asked if the fee structure will remain the same for students in doubles, Brudvig replied, "As we speak today, yes." He said, though,

that student disgruntlement has prompted him to reevaluate the policy and a partial rebate for residents of doubles was possible.

One of the new system's advantages is that all faculty and staff will be on the same network. However, non-student users are not charged directly. Brudvig said that student fees "do go some distance in paying for the whole system," but that it made no sense to charge people already on the college's payroll. "We don't pay for their personal calls, we pay for their business calls," he explained.

Brudvig said he will evaluate the new system's efficiency over time and probably make adjustments in it as they are warranted. For now, he says, "My encouragement is to use it."

Social action workshop

Volunteering now comes with an added bonus

By Linnea Knollmueller
Features Editor

Bard: A Place To Think. This motto has graced posters and pamphlets, encouraging Bard students to study what they want to, and to develop their intellectual pursuits freely. A noble philosophy, and one that creates well rounded, curious adults it is, but it does not emphasize the need in this day and age for practical work experience.

Several members of the Bard faculty have been working to organize the Social Action Workshop (SAW). Through this program, students would be able to volunteer at a local charity, community organization or aid agency, then do some sort of project related to the experience to combine the academic with the practical. Students will receive

credit for their work. Though SAW is not a concentration or major, a designation will be made on transcripts to denote and describe the amount of effort put into such a track.

To further enrich the experience, students can take courses related to Justice and the Community this fall. Some related courses are American Bedrock, with Professor Armstead, History of Multicultural U.S., with Professor Chun, or Feminist Philosophy, with Professor Berthold-Bond. Maureen Forrestal of the Career Development office and Residence Director Rich Kelley held a meeting August 16 in Kline Commons to introduce SAW to first year students. Approximately 30 students attended and expressed interest in volunteering, beginning this semester. They will add to the dozen returning students who participated last year. The high level of interest is heartening to the faculty members trying to get the program off the ground.

The only snags remaining

are organizational ones. Many of the courses related to Justice and the Community are higher levels (200 and 300) and may not be open to first year students. "We handed out the list Alice Stroup [a History Professor] made with the list of courses. The first years were advised to talk with their advisors regarding the high level courses," said Forrestal. That dilemma is one which she hopes to resolve this year. "We would also like to arrange some sort of major conference which everyone would take before taking the regular related courses." There has been no discussion about the number of hours people must work, or how many courses they must take before earning the designation on their transcripts. "Deciding to take just one course and work placement does not constitute a Social Action Workshop. It needs to be more rigorous," according to Forrestal.

While the list of available courses includes history, MES, anthropology, archaeology, political studies, economics, literature, philosophy, psychology and sociology, natural science and mathematics are blatantly

missing. Forrestal emphasized that she and other organizers are trying to work that angle into the Workshop, and math professors have expressed interest in the Workshop.

Next on the agenda is to finalize contact with the social agencies. Kelley has compiled a directory of interested local groups with which Bard students can volunteer. They include, but are not limited to: Advocate in Kingston, which deals with issues of homelessness, domestic violence and public assistance referrals; the Battered Women's Services of Dutchess County in Red Hook, which provides crisis intervention and support groups; Literacy Volunteers of Dutchess County; Mediation He will be mailing it out to those students who have expressed interest, which provides free mediation services and creates criminal justice system alternatives; Molly's African Image, a multicultural dance program for children and adolescents; and Northern Dutchess Hospital.

The final potential snare is transportation. With a campus as rural as Bard's students require cars in order to get off campus.

Physical Plant has cars and vans, which are available to students for important rides, but drivers are often hard to come by. Forrestal does not want to place the burden of driving upon students, nor exclude those with no mode of transportation. She has made inquiries as to renting or buying a bus or van, but plans are not finalized. "I won't let a small thing like transportation kill this program for all the students interested in social action," she vowed.

For those who may not have been aware of SAW last year, or have reconsidered taking part in volunteerism, Kelley and Forrestal will sponsor a 'social service fair' in Kline at lunch time sometime during the third week of September. Representatives from various social service agencies will talk about what they do, and what they expect or need from volunteers. The fair is not restricted to students participating in SAW; anyone interested in volunteering without any academic obligations are welcome to attend. Forrestal and Kelley will help find placements for them as well.

There is no crisis to which academics will not respond with a seminar.

--Old saying

Recycle this newspaper

Composting and recycling at Bard

By Amy Foster
Guest Writer

In a valiant effort to establish Bard College as an active participant in the current environmental revolution, the recently founded Recycling Committee has set forth a recycling program involving all students, faculty, and staff, and a composting program for all cafeteria food waste.

After five to six months of research, education, debate, and maintenance and cost decisions, the idea to begin an aggressive recycling project was brought to life this past April by Sarah Forrest, a 1995 Bard graduate, and Laurie DeCuitis, Bard's horticulturalist.

Students have probably

noticed the blue (white paper), red (all other paper), yellow (newspaper), and green (comingled waste) recycling containers stacked at strategic locations in their dorms, as well as in many offices and classrooms.

Big blue recycling bins are also scattered throughout campus. These containers have eliminated the overflowing garbage bins of the past, replacing them with the need for active student participation in the sorting and cleaning of [the individual's personal] garbage.

Before separating your recyclables, you should consult the *New Recycling Procedures* poster, hung near the color-coded containers. You

may want to devote a special bin or box in your room to collect your recyclables during the week for later distribution into the appropriate bins.

Due to the pending state fines for poorly sorted recyclables, residents of the college are encouraged to recycle responsibly and prevent the disposal of an entire bin if it is contaminated by any outside waste. Statistics show that 80% of Bard's waste is paper.

The Recycling Committee, in connection with the Bard student group Earth Coalition, also introduced the idea of composting to the Bard college cafeteria, and this program has been in effect for the past two weeks. Students are required to dispose of their waste paper

in the can marked "All other paper" and their plastic waste or cigarettes in the "nonrecyclable" can. The kitchen staff dumps all leftover food waste into a can that is then deposited on the school compost pile located behind the soccer field.

Rich and Marie West, of Quality Services Inc., oversee all recycling operations and report back to the Recycling Committee. Nicole Maccarone and Rebecca Brown have been designated as the first year monitors for both the recycling and composting programs.

The Building and Grounds Department is responsible for funding the recycling program, and Quality

Services Inc. assumes the cost for composting efforts. However, over the next few years, it is expected that these programs will generate money. The recycling project is currently receiving money from the sale of recycled paper, which will be put toward education and the purchasing of more bins. Within ninety days the collected compost can be reused as a fertilizer for campus grounds and as a bug repellent.

The Recycling Committee meets weekly in the Buildings and Grounds conference room and all meetings are open to the student population. All interested in becoming involved in Bard's recycling or composting programs are encouraged to come.

Tenure Update

Three up, three down

by Linnea Knollmueller
Features Editor

Three professors were up for tenure evaluations last spring: Christopher Callanan and James Romm, Assistant Professors of Classics; and Peter Dolan, Assistant Professor of Mathematics.

Many returning students may have provided oral or written testimony for them at the time, and may be interested in the outcome of the evaluations. None was granted tenure.

Dean of the College, Stuart Levine commented, "the cases were considered by the committees, my office and the President very seriously. All three were good candidates." Finally, though, they were considered "not excellent across the board."

All three professors will be teaching the 1995-96 school year, per a contractual provision, so students should face no complications for the coming year."

Professor Romm has

earned a sabbatical, which he will be taking in the spring," Levine added. With the departure of Callanan and Romm, William Mullen will remain the only Classics professor left at Bard.

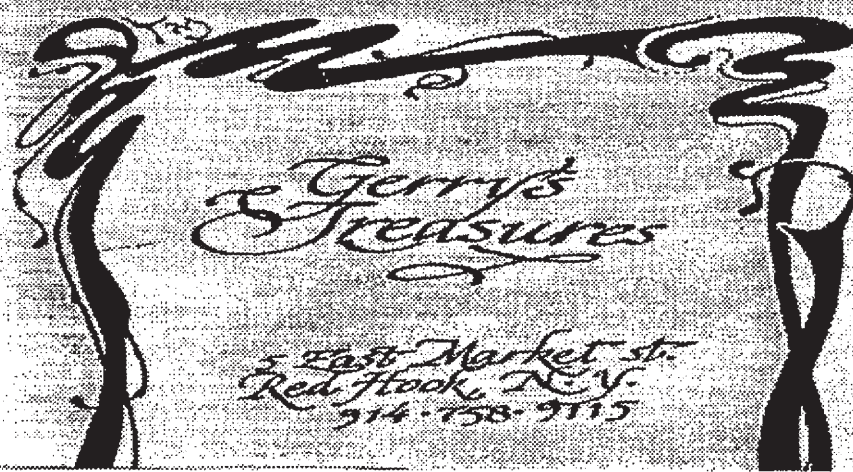
The process of replacing Callanan, Dolan and Romm is in its initial stages.

"There is one additional wrinkle to this situation," said Levine. "Many students already know that Callanan has accepted, beginning in the fall of 1996, a new position in the Classical Studies Program of the college as Director of an institute for the teaching of classical languages. He will begin his new contract next year."

No professors are being evaluated this fall, but in the spring six faculty members will stand for tenure: Kathleen Barker (psychology), Amy Cheng (studio arts), Daron Hagen (music), Anne Turyn (photography), Lindsay Watton (Russian), and Li-Hua Ying (Chinese).

Come find out about varsity sports, intramurals, and non-credit athletics courses

Meeting September 7
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Bard for First Years

A brief guide to the college

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing Editor

It seems useless to welcome you, since you've been here for almost a month—much longer than most of us. To all first-year students, welcome to Bard College anyway.

Bard was founded in 1860, during the Civil War, as an Episcopal men's school called St. Stephen's. In 1928, Columbia University adopted Bard as one of its undergraduate colleges. Under Dean Donald G. Tewksbury (a name hauntingly familiar to many of you), the college began to emulate Oxford's system of tutorials and seminars.

Bard began accepting women in 1944 and broke away from Columbia.

Current President Leon Botstein took office in 1975. Throughout its history, Bard has maintained a classical, liberal arts base and has steadily broadened its curriculum to delve further into the sciences and include economics.

You've all heard the spiel before.

What you may not know is that through these hallowed halls have passed Mary McCarthy and Saul Bellow as professors as well as Donald Fagen (of Steely Dan fame) and Chevy Chase as students. Beau Bridges son used to attend and there have been rumors of a Peter Gabriel sighting in a laundry room. Apparently Gabriel's daughter was given a tour.

Natalie Merchant (of the defunct 10,000 Maniacs) supposedly lives near Tivoli. A couple of mem-

bers of the B-52's reside in the Hudson Valley. And, of course, Woodstock and Saugerties are right across the river.

Should you have about nine dollars and a ride to Poughkeepsie, New York City is within your grasp. Go to Metro North in Poughkeepsie, board the southbound train, and wait in your seat for just under two hours. It may be a good idea to have another nine bucks for the return trip.

For trips in the Tivoli-Rhinebeck-Bard area, check the Observer or the Student handbook for Bard shuttle routes and schedules.

Rest assured Bard is a liberal arts college and as such—to paraphrase Professor Peter Sourian—you won't learn anything useful.

Enjoy; this is expensive.

The office of the Dean of Students Shelley Morgan is located on the second floor of Ludlow. Adjacent to it is Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life Gladys Watson's office. The two deans handle housing, the concerns of transfer students, clubs, and general student needs.

Residential Directors Rich Kelley and Allen Josey reside in Robbins and Manor respectively. They are the front line of the Dean of Students office, working with students directly. Rich Kelley also works with Buildings and Grounds and the Social Action Workshop. Allen Josey works with the Career Development office.



Clockwise starting from the top: Resident Director Allan Josey, Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, Associate Dean of Students and Director of Residential Life Gladys Watson, and Resident Director Allen Josey.

Stuart Levine has been with Bard since 1964. He started as Professor of Psychology. Now, as Dean of the College, he oversees all things academic. All seniors are required to submit a copy of their senior project to his office on the second floor of Ludlow. He holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from New York University, a Master of Arts from the New School for Social Research, and a Doctorate from SUNY at Albany.

Dimitri Papadimitriou is both Bard's Executive Vice President and Executive Director of the Jerome Levy Economics Institute. Since 1977, he has been Levy Institute Professor of Economics. He holds a Bachelor's from Columbia University and a Master's and Doctorate from the New School for Social Research, Department of Economics. His office is on Ludlow's first floor and can occasionally be heard as a commentator on National Public Radio.

Leon Botstein enjoys a triple life as a college president, musician, and historical scholar. He's been Bard's president as well as Professor of History and Music History since 1975. In 1992, he became conductor of the American Symphony Orchestra, which, in addition to tours and New York City dates, plays a series of concerts



between Vassar and Bard during the semester. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and his Masters and Doctorate in History from Harvard.

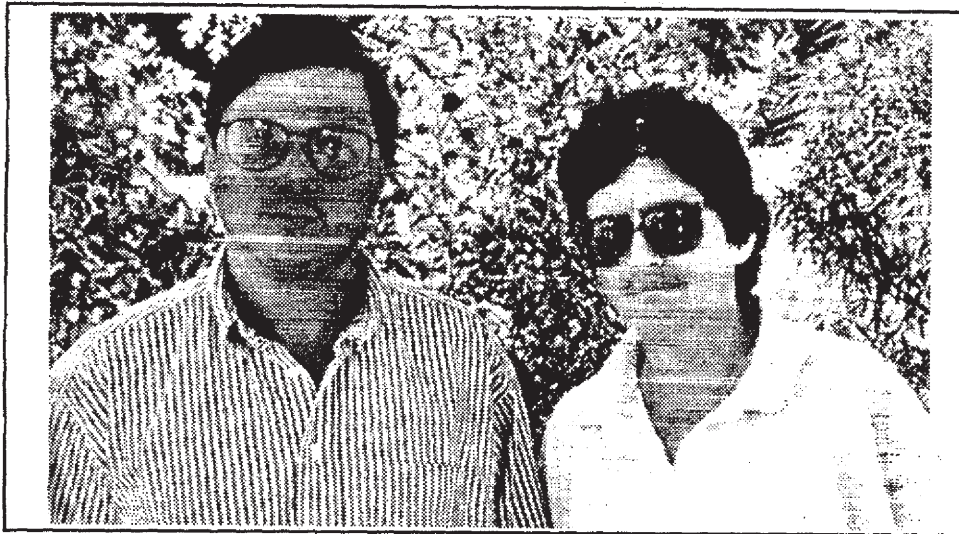
Left to right: Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou, President Leon Botstein, and Dean of the College Stuart Levine

Left to right:
Lynne White,
Peter Gadsby,
Mary Ann
Barrows, and
Ellen Jetto



The office of the Registrar is found on Ludlow's second floor. The staff is headed by Ellen Jetto and includes Peter Gadsby, Mary Ann Barrows, and Lynne White. Students should drop by to request transcripts, to drop and/or add classes, to reserve classrooms, or to ask any questions related to registration.

Kim Squillace is Bard's Director of Safety and Security. Jim Lawlor is Assistant Director. Their office is on the first floor of the Old Gym (the current Student Center) as are all security offices. Thefts, emergencies, student access to locked buildings, fire alarms, and lost and found all fall under Security's jurisdiction.



Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace and Assistant Director Jim Lawlor.

Kenn Hurley, Head of ServiceMaster



Kenn Hurley is the head of ServiceMaster, an outside organization hired by Bard for interior maintenance. Its workers clean dorms and classrooms as well as faculty offices. ServiceMaster can be reached through the Physical Plant offices.

Stevenson Gym prepares for Fall semester

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

Alright all you sports fans, welcome back to another fun and exciting year of Bard College athletics and recreation. As we kick off this sports year, we welcome our new director of intramurals and recreation, Gregory Moss-Brown, who has been busy planning some wild and fun events for the fall semester.

We also welcome back the rest of the gym's jovial crew: Kristen Hall, the director of Athletics and coach extraordinaire; Gina Delmont, our illustrious trainer and American Gladiator competitor; Kathleen Davis, our "ool" (no pee in it (their joke, not ours!)) and aquatics director; and of course, the woman who keeps the whole place running, Jamie Schultz the athletic departments secretary.

Already planned for this fall semester are eleven non-credit activity classes, open for all Bard students to enjoy. First there will be a course on centering, which will

assist participants in attaining and maintaining one's own inner awareness. For those who enjoy the water, aqua aerobics is being offered and will teach students to enjoy the water while strengthening their muscles and improving their flexibility. There will also be a basic swim stroke class offered for all those interested in learning to swim or improving their basic swimming skills.

For those interested in the martial arts, there will be three classes dedicated to introductory martial arts skills. Akido, the Japanese martial art, will assist students in gaining physical and mental flexibility, as well as offer a way to reduce stress and have fun. T'ai Chi, the ancient Chinese exercise system, will be offered to increase one's health, balance, agility, and relaxation. Finally, there will be a Tae Kwon Do class offered, for all those interested in stronger mental focus and self-defense skills. In addition to these martial arts classes, a yoga course will be offered to increase participants' physical and mental health and teach important stress reduction strategies and skills.

For those interested in a more classical sport, there

will be a fencing class that will teach the basic skills necessary for competition as a fencer. In addition to these indoor activities, there will be several activities that take place outdoors. There is a basic wilderness survival course that is being offered to students that will teach essential skills of outdoor survival and etiquette. There will also be a rock climbing class that will teach the basic skills of rock climbing as well as the procedures and safety required for the sport.

Well, there you have it, the classes being offered by the gym this fall. But wait, there's still more. In addition to these classes, there will be intramural volleyball, indoor soccer, badminton, basketball, floor hockey, tennis, and water polo. Also there are several sports clubs that are in the planning stages, including, cycling, rugby, bowling, cricket, fencing, and countless others. So if you are interested in any of these, or perhaps have an idea of your own, come to the gym on September 7, at 9 p.m. to discuss, sign up, and enjoy what the gym has to offer you! GO SPORTS!

Back where it all begins

An evening with the Allman Brothers Band

by Noah R. Billick
Guest Writer

The recent demise of Jerry Garcia demands an inquiry with regard to what will happen to the innumerable Deadheads who have devoted their lives to pursuing the Grateful Dead in their cross-continent jaunts. This is not to say that every fan of the Grateful Dead was a diehard 'Head who would, at the drop of a hat, travel fifteen hours in the back of a Volkswagen minibus for a chance to see the 'Dead. While the pilgrimage made by less-dedicated fans pales in comparison to the adoration displayed by the "long distance 'Heads," travelling three hundred miles to see a band is a tradition carried on by fans of younger bands like Phish, The Dave Matthews Band and Blues Traveler, as well as fans of older bands like Santana or, perhaps most importantly, the Allman Brothers Band.

The Allman Brothers Band has changed drastically since its early successes as a country-tinged southern rock band. The death of lead guitarist and founding Brother Duane Allman thrust rhythm guitarist Dickey Betts into the lime-

light. Betts acquired the job of frontman and songwriter ("Ramblin' Man", penned by Betts, remains the Allman's only Top Ten song). Since that time, the Band has abandoned its country styled, radio friendly format in favor of guitar heavy, jam oriented music. It is this orientation towards improvisation that places The Allmans in the same musical category (albeit an artificial one, as most categories are) as the Grateful Dead, Phish etc. It is a popular notion, though, that the Allmans transformed their style. This is not so. Rather, they abandoned the twangy, unobtrusive sound that powers their "Best Of" album for a bold, relentless assault of guitar fury, courtesy of guitarists Dickey Betts and Warren Haynes. The difference becomes self-evident when the antiquated version of "Blue Sky" is compared with the version on the album *An Evening with the Allman Brothers Band*. The bygone version sounds almost ethereal when juxtaposed with the latest recorded version. The idea of including extended solos and improvising on the song's form was not born with the death of Duane Allman, though. For evidence of early jams, examine the album

Live at Ludlow Garage 1970, which includes the whopping forty four minute version of "Mountain Jam," a song based on a Donovan melody.

The Allman Brothers spared nothing for their audience this past Saturday night at the Saratoga Performing Arts Center. The summer home of the New York City Ballet, the New York Philharmonic and the Philadelphia Philharmonic was host to several thousand fans eager to experience the arousal and excitement of an Allman Brothers show. Opening act Rusted Root took the stage first, inciting the audience to cavort, rock, rollick and prance around the grounds of SPAC. The Allmans took the stage at about 9:30 pm. From the opening instrumental, guitarists Dickey Betts' and Warren Haynes' stentorian Gibson tones filled the music with harmonized licks as well as extended solos. Powered by drummers Jaimoe and Butch Trucks as well as percussionist Marc Quinones, the Band plowed their way through several blues numbers, each played in a distinctive Allmans style: dense percussion, screaming guitars, an altered progression that includes jazz chords and a B-3 Hammond organ from Gregg Allman. Duane

Betts, Dickey's son, joined the others on stage, a guitar slung on his shoulder. The blues number they performed enabled all three guitarists to display their skills, and Dickey took ample opportunity to show his son how the placement of space in a solo can be just as important as the selection of notes.

Although they played "Ramblin' Man," classics "Blue Sky" and "In Memory of Elizabeth Reed" were eschewed in favor of the more recent "Soulshine" and the Bo Diddley inspired "Back Where It All Begins." The band played with such fervor and intensity that the audience, though obviously fatigued by the relentlessness of the music, cheered themselves hoarse between songs.

The climax of the show was the tune "Jessica," an old instrumental vehicle for the two guitars. They concluded with "Whipping Post," a number that bassist Allen Woody introduced with a menacing riff from his custom-made twelve string bass. The ominous rumbling from Woody's bass precluded the despairing yet passionate song, and with that the show was over.

With the passing of Jerry Garcia, a gap is left in the music world. Will Deadheads flock to Phish and Santana shows in hopes of finding a substitute for the man many considered 'Dad'? Probably not.

Of course, the superficial similarities of the Grateful Dead and The Allman Brothers are their tendency to attract hippies and those with "hippie-ish" inclinations, as well as their fondness of the extended jam. But the similarities run deeper. For these are similarities common not only to the Grateful Dead, the Allman Brothers and Phish, but also to John Coltrane and Pharoah Sanders, as well as to Mozart and Samuel Barber and everything in between.

It is the allure of the music; the transcendental power of music; it is the constant striving for something inexplicable in any other medium—a feeling that the music exists beyond the performer and/or composer and that the performer is simply an outlet for the mastery and mystery of the music gods. The Allman Brothers were, last Saturday, vehicles for the gods to display their mighty powers.

The eyes and ears of Bard College

Interview with Erin Cannan, the new Dean of First Year students

by Meeka Bhattacharya
Guest Writer

Dean of First Year Students Erin Cannan feels she is the "eyes and ears" of Bard College. She finds working with first year students "interesting and rewarding...since you've come into a new environment—it's not the same when you're a freshman or a sophomore—you're going through a big change." To her, college is dynamic; that's why she makes herself "open" to the needs of the students.

Cannan majored in Philosophy at SUNY Geneseo and got her graduate degree in counseling at Edinboro of University of Pennsylvania. She interned in Geneva and worked at William Smith, where she gained her interest in first year students.

One of her goals at Bard is to strengthen the substance-free programming. To this end, she brings in outside entertainment

such as inviting folk singers or other artists on campus. Cannan has a budget for running such festivals and she is hoping to start an entertainment committee, so that students can come up with their own entertainers.

Cannan warns that parties have to be registered and hosted by someone over 21 who has participated in an awareness workshop. This is designed to ensure safety and control the alcohol served.

"We need to know when you're having a party, so we can keep the facilities open in food service; security needs to know in case of emergency; ServiceMaster needs to clean up, etc."

A student can come up to her office, which is on the second floor at the Old Gym, to

talk to her any time. She recognizes that some first year students

stand glitches in the system, there are going to be times when you don't get what you want. It needs to be dealt with..."

But she insists that it has to be brought to her attention immediately. You can discuss an issue with Cannan and she will direct you to the right person, if not help you herself. She feels it is detrimental to the student and the college if problems are not brought to her.

"I can't work with my left hand if I don't know what my right hand is doing," she explains.

Another goal is to set up a way to meet with all first year students, one on one, at each dorm.

Her various and sundry duties range from attending meetings to organizing ori-

entations for students to just giving directions on the phone on how to get to Bard. Cannan loves the individuality and the variety of students.

"At any other college, people might say something like, 'you know that girl with the shaved head,' but here if someone says that people will ask, 'well, can you be more specific?'"

"I'm challenged by the enthusiasm of the students," she says, adding that students need to find a balance between student activities and academics. In a way she feels like a first year student herself since she too has to get familiar with a new school and the uniqueness of Bard. Cannan's friendly smile lights up her somewhat cluttered office.

The next time you see a young blond woman pacing about at festivals or just sitting at Kline, just go say 'Hi.' She'll be more than happy to talk to you.



go through a rough time.

"Students need to under-

Etiquette: the complete modern guide

By Bryan Shelton
Guest Writer

Meanwhile, I left school demoralized, head hanging down, feeling beaten and lethargic. My performance did not impress me. I felt that I learned little and that it was my fault. Sure, some classes were not all I hoped (shitty prof or not hard enough) but then I didn't work hard enough either. I only did as much work as it took to get by. In harder classes, that's a lot of work. In easy classes, it could mean that I only have to read two books and write two papers in order to get satisfactory marks. Not doing work means not learning and not learning means I'm wasting my time here. I can sit on my ass anywhere, and usually for much cheaper. So I wasn't happy with me.

I wasn't happy with the rest of the student body, either. It was the general deal: everyone complained that nothing was happening and yet no one did anything. Furthermore, if someone happened to do anything constructive or real, all the rest of the student body would do is complain or make fun. Those that participated with passion and pushed to do what they envisioned as positive and supportive of the Bard community were shit upon. It always comes down to the dedicated few doing what they did for no gratitude and no respect. Beyond this, I felt that the whole hedonist contingent

was far too active and influential. I really am surprised more people didn't hit walls, or fall off buildings, or get alcohol poisoning, or OD, or . . . (I am not making light of such things, nor am I passing judgment; I am simply expressing concern) There is definitely room for partying, dancing, fucking, and healthy exploration of substances, but this is a college, supposedly established for the intellectual and personal growth of the students in attendance. College is indeed the place for a modicum of youthful indiscretions but do not let them dictate the experience. I mean it's just too fucking expensive for it, methinks. Sometimes I got really pissed and hoped that the drunken sods with bloodshot glazies were paying full tuition so that they were really wasting crazy cash. I prayed that they were not getting monies from the school that could have been better used to support other, more productive students. But I know that is far too angry and judgmental for I have sat outside the old gym with time a big mush and my stomach awash in fermented fluids, mind deadened by THC. Hell, some people weren't ragers when they were thirteen and so this is their first chance to experiment, etc. and more power to them. But it shouldn't get in the way of the school and shouldn't prevent others from enjoying themselves in other ways. So I was disappointed with the student body.

Disappointed was how I left Bard. This disappointment led to selfish alienation and the decision to just do my thing and be a film hermit, watching, reading, listening, all by my lonesome, privatelike. But something happened over the summer. These feelings changed. I was reinvigorated and re-inspired to create, to do, to go, to see, to write, to speak, to listen, all in public, as a part of a living breathing community, dammit! How? Why? Because I saw people around me back home doing things, taking part, towing the line. I realized that there's some mighty big tugboats out there, peoples that care alot. My roommate Jen put on shows, wrote a zine, did a web page and mailing list of midwest shows, ran a zine distro, and worked two jobs while remaining a mostly sane and lovable human being. My friend Carl opened a cafe to support the local scene. He put on shows in a safe, nonviolent, drug and alcohol free environment and turned a lot of kids on to the philosophy of productiv-

ity. Even when the cafe folded because of lack of scene support and Carl's lack of business sense, he didn't give up. Now he's writing a zine and working on putting on shows in whatever space he can find. There were lots of others, all working hard, doing what they love, even when they get little or no response, they do it out of purpose and sense of direction. They got my mind running as to what could be done here at Bard.

So I returned, my mind awash in the possibilities of creating a viable scene in our little community here. I headed out Sunday night to inspect the flock of new freshmen and see if they would look responsive to constructive ideas. I was worried at first, fearing the worst, and seeing it in some. But the more people I talked to, the more excited I got. Lotsa kids seemed excited at the prospect of the whole experience, classes and peripherals. They wanted to go see do play as a community and really make use of their time here. I realize that this may be laughed off as the

naiveté of freshman and one particularly dumb sophomore. There are those that will say that this inspiration and energy will die off and we will be shown to be the truly apathetic sods that we really are. Perhaps. But at least I'm a try . . . and I'm a try to get as many people to move as I can. See, I have a theory, if people are told that they can do, that they should do, from the moment they arrive here, they will do. I hope I'm right and the naysayers be damned.

P.S. If anyone is interested in assisting in putting together a zine distro here at Bard please contact me at 752-4261 or box # 1177.

P.P.S. If anyone wants to talk or yell at me, or just send me their dirty undies in the mail you can go through the same phone and box.

P.P.P.S Submit your own writings to the Observer, PLEASE. We need to make this paper into the community forum that it should be and we need your help to do it.

Bard should pay student driving fee

By Diane Lowy
Guest Writer

When working in a fast food place one does not expect benefits. Even McDonalds pays employees for the time spent in training. At Bard, however, potential student drivers must pay \$13 for a defensive driving course as training.

The mandatory three hour course for all Bard drivers directly benefits Bard. Every time Bard offers this course there are more qualified people who can drive, not only for routine trips (i.e., the campus shuttle) but also for medical emergencies.

When thinking of the overall \$10,000 or so spent each semester in tuition alone (not including room and board, books, phone, or weed), \$13 is nothing. However, that is over three hours of the \$4.25 most people are paid. When coupled with the opportunity cost of

being paid for those three hours the course costs over \$25 or six hours of minimum wage.

There are not enough qualified drivers. Instead of considering this a fact, the administration should consider this a problem that needs to be addressed.

There are no financial incentives to work one campus job over another or to stay in one job over another. If one person preforms twice the tasks of an average worker, he or she will not be rewarded for his or her efficiency. He or she is paid the same \$4.25 per hour as the student worker who reads in the stacks during his or her shift.

Students who work in the library are paid for time spent training for the job. Another difference between jobs at the library and driving is that there are too many applicants throughout the year for library jobs while there are chronically

too few drivers.

It would be a waste of energy to find the exact effect of needing to set aside time, money, and energy at the beginning of the school year in order to train for a driving position. It is safe to assume that this has some effect on the students. An optimist might even say that making the course free could attract enough new drivers so that finding a student driver would cease to be a problem.

The student drivers benefit the college by taking the course. If the school did not charge money for students to take the course it would still be an exploitation (considering the wages students work for) but it could make a difference. By increasing the accessibility of the course existing jobs could be filled more easily and the administration could have an expanded variety of reliable drivers.

The Bard Observer

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area art

Art Shows

Quitman Resource Center of Rhinebeck's fifth annual Art Show and Sale
Hall of Health of the Dutchess County Fairgrounds, Mulberry St., Rhinebeck
Fri, Sept 1, 7p-9p artist's reception
Sat, Sept 2, 10a-4p
Sun-Mon, Sept 3-4, 1p-4p
Sat-Sun, Sept 9-10, 1p-4p

Landscapes

Artist James Bloodgood-Abrams
Now-Sept. 23
Gallery hours: Tues-Fri, 10a-5p
Sat, 11a-4p
Barrett House Galleries
55 Noxon St., Poughkeepsie

Art Shows

Illuminated Expressions
Artists Sydney Cash, George Donskoj, monica Maurer-Auer, Dan McCormack, Christie Scheele
Now-Sept 23
Gallery hours: see above
Barret House Galleries/Dutchess County Art Assoc.
55 Noxon St., Poughkeepsie

Prints

Artists Virginia Dow, Ernest Frazier, Susan Fowler-Gallagher, Mimi Graminski, Juliet Harrison, Johanne Renbeck, Christine Rothlauf, Laura Toonkel, Richard Toonkel
Now-Sept 10
Hours: Fri, 4p-8p; Sat 12p-8p; Sun, 12p-4p
Tivoli Artists' Co-op

Classifieds

Hello to Peter, Darren, Jen, Chelsea, and ? (told you I can't remember names for shit). Sorry I was preaching Sunday night. Just some things I feel strongly about. Call me at 752-4261 or drop me a note at box 1177 and give me your phone #s. —Bryan

HEY! HEY! HEY! If you want to help out with zine distribution here at Bard, call Bryan at 752-4261 or drop a note in box 1177.

Bard Observer classified ads are free to students!

Editorial Policy

The *Bard Observer* is an entirely student-run publication. Submissions from students, faculty, and staff 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 free of charge in the *Observer*. Space on the Calendar Page is provided through the Dean of Students' Office.

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

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observer

The Observer thanks the
Dean of Students Office and
the Publications Department
for assistance with this issue.