

OBSERVER

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Sexual Assault

The campus has been rocked by the assault that occurred on Tuesday. The *Observer* responds to this with editorial commentary.

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The *Scarlet Letter* sucked, but we bet you don't know why. Helder Merl is the reviewer with all the answers.

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The Bard Observer

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York 12504

October 27, 1995

Issue 3, Volume 1

Substance-free dorm debate has begun

Recent Forum kicks off student campaign for substance-free housing at Bard

by Linnea Knollmueller

Students who attended the forum Wednesday evening are familiar with the proposal submitted by first year student Beth Koppel to create a substance free dormitory. The proposal and "Bill of Rights" she presented caused a great deal of discussion, but the idea is still in a tentative state. Discussion will continue and students are encouraged to put forth their opinions on the matter.

Koppel first discovered that substance free residence halls exist when she visited Hampshire College; she later learned that in fact they are an option at many colleges and universities, including Bates, the University of Vermont, the University of New Hampshire and Vassar.

During L & T she witnessed a party at which alcohol was served, and decided to call Director of Residential Life Gladys Watson, wondering if substance free housing is available at Bard. Watson told her that there is nothing beyond smoke-free currently available.

"I'm a freshman and I don't like this. What can I do?" said Koppel. "So I went to counseling and talked with Eric Keller. He told me to write a bill of rights, and a

constitution for substance free housing." Feeling that the word "constitution" is too strong, Koppel drew up what she calls a "tentative design," which includes a list of rights, and enumeration of which substances are considered drugs, and which are not.

After putting up signs around campus, she estimates 5 return calls. According to Koppel, two were supportive, and one caller was irate, and threatened to call Gladys Watson. All total, she has a petition with 37 signatures, 20 of whom would live in substance free housing were it an option, and 17 who theoretically support the idea. Koppel supports her cause, saying:

"we're not out to offend people, or to say we're better. We're just saying, if you want to live in a substance free dorm, come talk to us."

The most common argument Koppel has heard is the question, "if you don't like alcohol, why did you come to Bard?" Her reply is simple.

"I came to Bard to go to school. I am looking for the same respect people are looking for who put food in the refrigerator and hope someone else doesn't take it...We're not passing judgment on drugs. It's like the issue of condom

distribution. If you pass out a condom are you encouraging students to have sex? No. But it's a fine distinction. If you don't choose to live in a substance free dorm, you're not condoning drugs. We just choose to live away from drugs and alcohol." She also feels that substance free housing would be beneficial to people in recovery, who would prefer to be away from the temptations possibly found in regular dormitories.

Koppel is appealing to the Student Life Committee, the administration and the student body. Issues still need to be addressed, such as the housing crunch that happens every fall. Is there room for specialized housing when some students don't get a room in the first place? What about the questionable success of coed doubles? The proposal will be raised again at the next forum, and students can call Gladys Watson to voice their opinions. Open to suggestions and discussion, Koppel is willing to put her name and phone number behind her proposal. Anyone interested can call her at x4435. She also challenges students to make the debate public—those eager to share their views are invited to write letters to the editor of the *Observer*.

Campus community violated by sexual assault

by Richard Stern

The Bard Campus was stricken by a tragedy at approximately 4:30 PM on Tuesday October 24, 1995, when a first year student was sexually assaulted while jogging on the state lands near the Tivoli bay area at knife point.

The attacker was described as being male, between 5'7" and 5'10", having short hair and a stocky build. At the time of the assault he was wearing a white jumpsuit. He is between 19 and 22 years of age. At this time it is not known whether he is, in fact, a member of the campus community.

The Dean of students office is working diligently at this time to inform students, via their peer counselors of more details as they become available. At this time, they are urging students to use caution when walking anywhere on or around the campus.

Students should be reminded that security escorts are available whenever transportation is needed around campus. Further, foot patrol escorts are also available during the evening hours.

If any information regarding the incident is known, please contact the *Observer* or Dean of students office immediately.

The Bard Observer

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All names appearing in the Letter to the Editor or the Editorial section of the Observer are those of the writer whose name appears on the byline and do not necessarily reflect those of the Observer staff.

A pro-active approach to environmental issues sweeps Bard

Editorial by Amy Foster

Rather than take up this space with some diatribe about how the world is ending, let's talk about trivial pursuit. Well, as a metaphor for the many environmental questions which are perceived by the American public as trivial or insignificant. There are way too many to actually discuss here, but I would like to bring attention to all the effort that certain individuals of this respective institution have made toward making Bard more environmentally aware.

You may have not noticed the lack of dumpsters which, up until last semester decorated the campus, along with their overflowing contents. This is due to the efforts of the current Recycling Committee who introduced Bard to recycling as well as composting. These programs are revolutionary in my view, because although it seems like these actions should have been enacted long ago, specifically in 1970, with the first Earth Day, they are the largest active efforts I have encountered at a school.

Recycling is only a small contribution one can make toward the crazy confusion that has erupted concerning the future of the planet. The fact that Bard has finally gotten into the earth-conscious swing of things, expresses the dawn of the '90's "green revolution" and the tremendous need for students to participate in order for it all to happen.

The recycling and composting currently underway are being monitored by several student workers, who observe and record its effectiveness, as well as, present suggestions for change or improvement. So you better sort that

paper because someone is watching you!

So far this year, students seem to becoming more aware of the recycling and composting procedures, but there is still a large percentage of bins which are being contaminated by outside waste. Sure it is easier to dump your shit in one large can, but come on, think about the impact of the accumulation of the garbage you acquire each week and how much that adds up to over the course of the year. Think about the elimination of the few remaining dumps and the consequential result of incineration of our waste.

There are still some kinks that need to be worked out concerning Bard's recycling and composting programs. You have probably waded through the sea of paper at the post office on many occasions and observed the stacks of pizza boxes that pile up over the course of a weekend. This is all being worked on, but the source of all this lies within the you. Maybe you have never recycled before you came to Bard, so here's your chance.

Bard may have even initiated college level recycling, or at least has a program well of enough to bring Cornell University here to observe our ways of composting, in order to bring back an example of an active program to their school. We are teaching the ivy league a thing or two.

The environment needs your compassion, rather passion about preserving what we have, so to continue our existence into the future. Motivation and concern were key elements to the origin of Bard's recycling and composting programs. Such efforts should be expressed when looking at the overall picture of the world and the part we play in it.

Campus News

Section 2

THE BARD OBSERVER

October 27., 1995

Students address issues of concern Student forums make way for change on Bard campus

by Linnea Knollmüller

After an active first forum, political activities have settled down on campus. Back in September, the budget was passed with relative ease, allowing clubs to begin scheduling events. Students were also elected to committees: Josh Diaz and Nicole Grimes were elected as student representatives to Health Services, and Brett Shaerer and Jennifer Hames were voted into the EMS Council, to oversee the Emergency Medical Service.

Wednesday evening the second forum of the year was held in Kline. Student Life Committee chair Josh Bell announced that the Food Committee is currently working with Woods Food Service to improve food quality. They hope to create a more balanced pay scale between what students pay for the 19 and 15 meal plan. Currently, choosing the 15-meal-plan

saves under \$100. The committee members are researching how other colleges handle food service issues. A third goal is to change the check-in procedure at Kline, to allow off campus residents to socialize in the cafeteria without being forced to pay to eat there.

In other Student Life news, Bell announced that Director of Security Kim Squillace is resigning and will be returning to her old job at IBM. The Student Life Committee will participate in the search for a replacement.

Toufique Khan reported that the library is looking for club heads to make up book order lists, in an effort to expand the collection. He said that if the orders add up to under \$500, there is a good chance that the library will order them.

Shelleen Greene reminded everyone that oral testimony for faculty evaluations are scheduled for next

week, and expressed her hope that many students will provide their input. One to two pages is sufficient for any student who wishes to submit a written evaluation. She also said that the Educational Policy Committee is working to find a way to allow students to give anonymous written testimony who withdraw from a class, or for some other reason are not able to fill out the evaluations at the end of the semester. She hopes to draw up a form which will be filled out at midterm, or when a student withdraws.

Treasurer Justice Platt reported, "lots of money has been given out. We're still giving it out. I encourage everyone to apply to the emergency fund." Platt writes out checks at 9:30 on Friday mornings, for the information of all club heads. "I hope I've been easy to deal with, for those who've had to deal with me."

The final discussion of the forum regarded first year student Beth

Koppel's proposal for a substance free residence hall. The lively discussion ultimately came to nothing. The suggestions presented to the Student Life Committee will be included in the proposal they present to Dean of Residence Life, Gladys Watson. Questions included: what problems would specialized housing cause at room draw? How would success or failure be evaluated? What kinds of rules would apply to the residents of such a dormitory? Would there be backlash against students who choose to live substance free? Which dorms would be selected? The hubbub subsided when Bell suggested that anyone with comments could see him after the forum. Discussion will be continued after a resolution is drawn up, and has been approved by Watson and Koppel; eventually students will vote on the measure. Stay tuned, and watch for signs for the next forum.

James Earl Jones to play benefit concert in Hudson Valley

Newsfile

James Earl Jones to perform with the Hudson Valley Youth Orchestra to benefit Poughkeepsie Day School. Poughkeepsie, NY, October 3, 1995. Celebrated actor and Poughkeepsie Day School parent

James Earl Jones will perform on November 17 at 8 p.m., at the Bardavon Opera House, 35 Market St., Poughkeepsie, as a benefit for Poughkeepsie Day School.

Mr. Jones' performance, accompanied by the Hudson Valley Youth Orchestra under the direction of Carole Cowan, will include Sergei

Prokofiev's symphonic fairy tale "Peter and the Wolf" and the famed Aaron Copland's "Lincoln Portrait."

Tickets are now on sale at the Bardavon box office (473-2072) and through TicketMaster (454-3388). Tickets are \$25 for reserved seats, \$20 for students and senior citizens. A limited number of special

benefit tickets at \$75, which includes the performance and an after theater reception with Mr. Jones, is available only by calling (914) 883-7658.

For more information, contact Claudia Fried 883-7658 or Pat Prunty 462-7600.

Software allows students to improve productivity

Newsfile

Novell Inc. today announced Student Essentials for the Macintosh, a package of seven applications that helps students be more productive by allowing them to more easily research and prepare reports, better manage their school work and browse the World Wide Web. Student Essentials includes WordPerfect 3.5 for the Macintosh with integrated Internet publishing tools and Netscape Navigator; Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia; the Random House Webster's College Edition Electronic Dictionary & Thesaurus; Bookends, a reference management tool; Student Assist, a personal information management tool; and 100 Bitstream TrueType Fonts.

"We're offering students a comprehensive set of software applications that will enable them to better prepare and manage all aspects of their schoolwork," said Mark Calkins, vice president and general manager, Novell Business Applications. "Other software bundles and suites offer price discounts to students, but none of them offers specialized software tools chosen specifically to facilitate the tasks and demands unique to students."

Powerful Word Processing and Internet Tools

The cornerstone of Student Essentials is the new WordPerfect 3.5 for the Macintosh word processor. WordPerfect 3.5 is now faster, more powerful and easier to use than previous versions, and offers a comprehensive set of writing, communicating and editing tools. Students will appreciate features such as tables, columns, grammar checker, QuickCorrect, Bookmarks, and Templates for term papers and resumes. If an essay is too long or a report is too short, the new Make-It-Fit feature will shrink or expand documents to a specified number of pages. More than 100 Bitstream TrueType Fonts are included for students to customize the look of a document. Language modules are also included for writing in Spanish, French and German.

The new Internet publishing tools in WordPerfect enable students to create their own World Wide Web pages and import information from the Internet

into their word processing documents. The new HTML (Hyper Text Markup Language) import and export features enable students to create or edit documents from the Internet, and view them with the included Netscape Navigator software.

Gain Access to a Variety of Subjects and Enhance Word Power

Compton's Interactive Encyclopedia includes 26 volumes of information with more than 35,000 articles which can be easily printed or copied, 7,000 pictures, more than 200 multimedia clips, an up-to-date interactive atlas and illustrated interactive timelines. The unique Idea Search feature quickly displays articles and pictures, and the Topic Tree feature will allow students to view related articles and pictures.

The Random House Webster's College Edition Electronic Dictionary & Thesaurus includes more than 180,000 words with definitions and more than 275,000 synonyms. This invaluable tool will produce a full definition of a word, offer a list of alternatives and paste the new word choice into a document. The Definition Search feature will find a word when only the definition is given, and the Wildcard Search feature will find a word when only the partial or assumed spelling is provided.

Organize Reference and School Information

Bookends is a reference management tool that helps students track, organize and format reference citations and notes. Students can format references into strict journalistic specifications and automatically generate bibliographies and footnotes.

Student Assist is a personal information manager that helps students manage contacts, school assignments, class schedules, notes, activities and other personal information.

Pricing and Availability

Student Essentials is scheduled to ship in late August with a suggested retail price of \$229. For more information about Student Essentials, call Novell at (800) 451-5151.

Migraine: When it is more than just a headache

by Mary Killian

Millions of people suffer needlessly from migraine because they don't know they have it. College and university students, in particular, should be aware of migraine symptoms because their age group represents a time when their lives are filled with the factors and conditions that can "trigger" migraine attacks. A leading headache specialist offers advice to students who may be suffering from migraine.

You've just made it through another week filled with all-nighters, caffeine fixes, junk food, mid-terms and loud music. The weekend is finally here, and you're ready to kick back and relax. Suddenly, your head seems to explode with anything or anybody. This isn't fair — free time is no time for a headache.

Chances are, what you've got may be much more than "just" a headache. It may be migraine, a disease that can cause pain so intense that many sufferers have wished they were dead during an attack. Unfortunately, the symptoms of migraine are often discounted as not serious, especially in this age group. Though migraine typically strikes more often after the college years, it can occur earlier in life. A study of headaches among adolescents and young adults indicates an average of 77.8 percent of women and 57.8 percent of men between the ages of 18 and 29 reported that their most recent headache occurred within four weeks of participating in the study.

What's worse, however, is the number of people with migraine who don't seek a treatment plan. Of those who participated in the same study, an average of 85 percent of men and 68 percent of women who reported having one or more headache in the prior year had never consulted a physician about their headaches. These facts are consistent with the results of a recent national survey of physicians that showed that the typical migraine sufferer waits an average of 3.5 years before consulting a doctor for treatment for their headache. That's years of needless suffering!

Migraine Symptoms

Migraine is characterized by multiple symptoms including severe, recurrent pain, usually on one side of the head and often accompanied by one or more of the following associated symptoms: nausea, vomiting and sensitivity to light and sound. Migraine attacks can last from four to 72 hours.

"Unfortunately, many young adults suffer needlessly from migraine because they do not understand the disease and the options for relief from pain it causes," Solomon said. "One of the first steps in understanding the disease is knowing some of the basic symptoms, which are different in each sufferer."

Until very recently, the cause of a migraine attack was largely a mystery. Many scientists now believe that migraine is caused by a sequence of events that cause blood vessels in the brain to tighten, then relax, resulting in the throbbing pain of a migraine. Although there is no cure for migraine, much has been learned to manage the disease, including effective treatment programs.

Finding the Route to Relief

"The first step is to see a physician for a proper diagnosis and treatment program," Solomon said, noting that diagnosis should include a thorough evaluation of the headache to ensure it is not a "marker" or indication of any number of serious problems. He also emphasized a review of a family medical history, particularly because there is about 75% chance of having migraine if both parents are migraine sufferers, and about a 50% chance if only one parent has migraine.

Staffpoint

A response to sexual assault

In the wake of the campus's second sexual assault in recent times—the first occurred last semester late at night by the Annandale triangle, the Bard community still feels confused, angry, and hesitant to say the problem is controllable. We speed up our pace when walking from our cars to our dorms. We ponder the role that each of us might have possibly played in preventing this assault. We sit and wonder to ourselves, "Could this happen again?" Sadly, there really isn't anyway to predict this campus's future concerning sex violators.

No matter how many more security guards we hire, or campus phones we put up, or paths we light, as long as there is someone committing these awful crimes, it will always have the potential to occur: sadly here or anywhere. For this reason, everyone should be careful, cautious and supportive of one another. Not only in where you go and what you do, but also in what you say.

Now is not the time to place blame on the victim for what happened. I have already heard friends, and people in my dorm saying things like, "That a rape happened is terrible, but that girl had to be crazy to go jogging by herself in the woods." In fact, such comments and false sympathies, while they attempt to justify this horrible situation, are counter-productive to accomplishing the task at hand: working together toward feeling safe and confident on campus again.

We need to direct our efforts, over the coming months, toward supporting those organizations in our community which combat these crimes, educate the campus in awareness and response and support the victims's recovery. Moreover, we should realize that young woman was violated, but so were we all, albeit to a much lesser degree. First of all, it is difficult and harrowing to see a squad of New York State Police cars surrounding north campus. It is difficult to accept it is unsafe for students to explore—alone, for what ever reason—the beautiful campus Bard has to offer. It is difficult to accept that dorms must be locked after night-fall to keep all people (students included) in their proper places. It is difficult to accept all of this. But accept we must! This said, our campus has an ideal of safety and happiness to work toward and balance.

A national campaign is needed to bring rape and other sexual assault to the public attention so that they are not as quick to dismiss it. But to borrow a similar tactic and localize it, we as Bard students should take an active stance in influencing events such as these that affect our lives personally and the welfare of life on our campus.

Perspectives:

When there is no safety in numbers

Editorial by Ben Schwabe

When you hear about something horrible, it makes you think, you cannot help it. The fact that a woman has been raped, someone we may have known and certainly have seen, is a horror. We all know it happens all the time. We probably already know a friend or family member who survived a rape or assault. We are an informed community, and also a jaded one.

That does not mean we are not disturbed. We should be. The fact of rape is horrible. The fact that one person can care so little about another as to do such a thing is a horror.

So then, what do we think about? We feel unsafe for ourselves. We feel sympathy for the survivor. Some of us may be reminded of events from our own history, and be forced to deal with it again. Some of us may feel guilty for the crimes of our gender. Some of us would like to pretend it is not our problem. It has disturbed me that the vast number of the "not my problem" crowd has been male.

Well, they've got a point, men get raped very, very rarely. To be a man means being able to walk down a dark street alone without worry. It is unlikely that someone will use sex like an instrument of torture against you.

But if you don't think rape is your problem, your dead wrong. Men rape women, that is almost always how it goes. If you look at it that way, men are the problem. Our society grants us great privilege, we can be pudgy, short and balding and still be rock stars. We can beat our wives and still get million dollar advertising deals. Our culture accepts a man who abuses women more easily than a man who is attracted to other men. With every sexist joke we tell and every "Did you score last night?" we feed this culture of violence against women.

Fortunately, in being the problem, we are in a great place to be the solution. We stop taking our male privilege for granted. We stop letting it slide when someone degrades women in front of us. We stop our friends when they start. We stop when we realize she is too drunk to say yes or no. When we stop all that we put to right what has been wrong for as long as we can remember. Maybe we even evolve.

The Bard Observer we continue its News and Opinion coverage of the campus assault in weeks to come. As always, students and faculty are invited to submit material for publication on this, or any other issue.

A few words on Halloween at Bard

Sobering Draft

by Jeremy Wilson

Halloween, some may say, came early with the Bigala/SMACES Drag Race last weekend, but the holiday is not about dressing up as an alter personality. It is a serious exploration into the superhuman phenomena that surround our daily living and haunt our wakeless hours.

The Bard setting, nestled into the Hudson Valley with its misty nights and shaven corn fields, is an ideal locale for the temperamental beasties that rise from the depths of autumn. In the spirit of All Hallow's Eve, I would like to contribute a precautionary address to the main of the campus.

Pop culture—by way of Hollywood and best-selling paperbacks—has in recent times kept a matronly eye on us and directed our unflinching attention toward the demonic and unholy. Vampires, ruminated upon by Anne Rice and renegade has-been David Lynch, brought to beauty and banality through Brad Pitt and Paul Reubens, we all know how to guard ourselves from them: a bit of gospel singing, misanthropy and Kline's garlic soup. James Spader and Jack Nicholson have shown that you can get farther with a silver bullet than a kind word with lycanthropes. And Frankenstein a la Branaugh, well, just stay away from the third floor of Rose.

But not since "The Serpent and the Rainbow" have we been apprised of zombies. I think this sub-division of the undead is about to make a comeback and we should all be prepared.

First of all, how to recognize them:

1) They have pasty skin, an appalling odor, dirty clothes and say witty things like "AWWWWOWWWHHUHHUHH." This however describes many of our living students.

2) They can stay awake in art history classes, even when projecting the slides.

3) If you sit in the big room, they sit in the paranoids. If you sit in the paranoids, they sit in the big room. If you live off campus, they live next door.

4) They keep odd hours, particularly from managing DeKline, a senior project, hermeneutics class, etc. and mismanaging their social life.

Next, how to combat them should you encounter them:

1) Initially run in the opposite direction; if it's just some of your wasted friends, they'll probably say something witty like "AWWWWOWWWHHUHHUHHUHH."

2) Since they are undead, most weapons available on this campus will not hurt them. Consider instead reading from the Bard Journal of Social Sciences to lull them into a pacified stupor.

3) If this suggestion does not work, lead them by the hand to Ludlow and explain that the resident voodoo master Dean Levine will be happy to return them to the grave, academically that is.

4) If that does not work, tell them how much you pay to go here.

5) The remaining zombies should be dismembered if at all possible and contributed to Woods Food Service, Gina Delmont in atheletic rehabilitation or photography majors.

I hope that these points will be heeded by the campus in the event that Montgomery Place's Haunted Hayride denizens or even stragglers from Tivoli (Natalie Merchant included) wander onto our happy homestead and turn it into a seething pit of torment and despair. Or vice versa.

Ramblings of an angry youth

Fast Kids

by Bryan Sheldon

Mini-Manifesto

We're overproductive overachievers. Much like the doozers (see Henson, Jim) we must constantly make things. We have booked shows, made zines, demos, and reams and reams of flyers. We stand teetering on the edge of bankruptcy, always ready to make that leap, to this risk. We fly blindly into the world of expectations and damn them all. We are here because too many people are too, too willing to corner themselves into a characteristic style/genre/sound/scene/et cetera. Sometimes it just happens that way, but usually people going yeah, yeah, yeah, we'll sign on the party line. The fast kids will never fall subject to simple classifications, to rank and file complacency, to mediocrity. Fast kids have a passion for writing, for playing music, for . . . for going (doing anything in a fast, deliberative, and constructive manner). Fast kids are not a clique or a movement, they are merely co-conspirators. All productive kids with an urge to go are equals.

Elsewhere

This is something that inspired me once upon a time. I have tried to be a fast kid. I don't think I have been successful, though. I have definitely overextended myself this year. I have left a couple people out in the cold and so I must apologize to Lauren and the zine distro and Bell and Stern here for being a deadbeat. They had to beat this column out of me.

What I really want to say is that this personal bullshit is boring. Anyway, I need your help to put together some good shit in this paper. The asshole we given me free reign with a full page and so if you give me poetry, I see, essays, rants, photos, line drawings, comics, porn, anything . . . it goes. I only have one condition: it's gotta be good. None of this half-assed hard bullshit. If you think you got something give it to us. But don't give us crap or we'll use it as toilet paper.

One Last Thing

This is being added at the zero hour. Last night was a long and cold one. The campus has never been scarier for me. My legs were jelly as I walked on foot patrol. A Maglite can be fucking heavy when it wants to be. My partner and I saw a friend walking alone and we ran after her. We walked her from Oberholzer to Robbins and back. Then we walked down the path in the woods from Cruger Village to the Gym. I didn't want to be there in the dark. I wanted to run back to my room and hide in bed. I was cold; I was wet. I don't often suffer from emo boy male self-hatred. I felt it. And I was probably feeling the least of it. Saying I'm sorry is hollow, but I am sorry. And I'm pissed. Maybe now there'll be more lights and call boxes. Parents are coming so maybe if we pass out informative flyers in front of Olin, Leon will move his ever-so-disconnected from our campus, tuchus. These flyers could illustrate our lighting, door-locking, and call box deficiencies in plain, simple language. Then he'll have to deal with better questions than that lame "excuse me President Botstein, are there drugs at Bard," one.

I have one massive fear. Everyone is scared and taking precautions right now but for how long. How many wandering drunks are we gonna have at the Halloween party? How many weeks does it take until everyone forgets and it all goes back to normal. You're all enraged now but you have no staying power. But you've all heard it before, huh?.

Entertainment

Section 3

THE BARD OBSERVER

October 27, 1995

Moore freely adapts her way to misery *The Scarlet Letter* fails on many levels

by Helder Mira

In an interview, Demi Moore declared that the reason she chose to be in a "filmed adaptation" of Nathaniel Hawthorne's novel the *Scarlet Letter* was to enlighten people who have not read the novel, because it is a powerful piece on women's rights. The film begins with the farcical subtitle "freely adapted from the novel by Nathaniel Hawthorne." This film established one struggle, to discover any resemblance to Hawthorne's original story about a Puritan women's opposition to the rules of her oppressive society. Instead, the producers of this film created a romantic love story to follow up "The Last of the

Mohicans" (subsequently, the opening sequence is almost shot for shot the opening sequence of "Mohicans").

Although I read the novel years ago in high school, I was able to remember enough of it to know exactly what was wrong with this film. While the novel did revolve around the love between Hester Prynne and the Reverend Arthur Dimmesdale, it was not the corny sexual relationship that was so atrociously portrayed in the movie by Moore and Gary Oldman (who best stop acting in these bloody period pieces, selling his talents short). The film conceals nothing, including Moore's stunt double and Oldman's buttocks, from the audience, whereas the novel revolved around secrets, such as the

identity of Prynne's lover and her husband. The film is an entirely different story from that of the novel, adding subplots of impending war with Indian tribes, witch hunts, and, of all things, a rape. The most drastic change, by far, was the swashbuckling ending that had Dimmesdale attempt to save Prynne, to provide the audience with a feel-good ending.

Director Roland Joffe attempted to make a beautifully set period piece, and instead, created, one of the most appalling films ever seen (with *1492* coming in a close second). Demi Moore as a Puritan, with her crystal earrings, should return her copies of Winona Ryder's period pieces and make a sequel to "One Crazy Summer" because we are due for a John

Cusack revival. Gary Oldman should get the fuck out of Hollywood and back to England where he can play more interesting psychopaths. And Robert Duvall should return his Oscar; his portrayal of Prynne's husband was degrading to a once fine actor (particularly with that wig they made him wear). My recommendation is to read the novel if you are inclined to (it is a very good novel which is worth reading) and avoid this film at all costs. My good fortune was that my friend and I were the only people in the theater and therefore able to critique as loudly as possible. If you're desperate for a movie, I recommend "Seven" if you still haven't seen it, or rent "Prick Up Your Ears," an early intelligent Gary Oldman film.

Dance concert stirs up memories of Bard past

by Jeremy Wilson

Monday night saw the closing show of the non-senior dance concert and the opening of a quietly new Bard aesthetic in movement. The audience ranged in modest numbers from parents, friends and—inclusively—enthusiasts. All of whom were anxious to see how a concert would fare without the contribution of last year's star seniors.

The new generation of dancers happily released the "parental" apron and walked on their own, rather than riding in the car-seat previously provided by recent graduates.

The new voice that varied in texture as a mumble from a roar can be divided into two campaigns: the neo-classical and the iconoclastic.

The first category was best represented through Deirdre Larson's debut attempt "Inside Tight," which

seemingly deposited the audience—in medias res—in a conversation between a kore (Iris Alpers) and a kouros (Larson). As fossils of a lost culture, the two performers isolated amphitheater over-expression and condensed it into movements that subtly provoked the same pathos and glory of Greek tragedy. A perfect Hellenistic balance was struck between Larson's passive demeanor and Alper's tempered tension: a stunning combination for a duet of first-time performers.

Todd Grace enlisted from Homer's *Odyssey* the monster Kharybdis for his same-titled piece. And that is precisely what the audience got. No classical reference could have been more a propos to describe the aggressive motions Grace performed. Gratuitously gymnastic and timed like a blow to the stomach, "Kharybdis" caught the audience in its whirlpool.

endANCE by Gena Schmid,

danced by John Leo, Anne Miller and Zoe Wolff, like the other two pieces, fine-tuned the Bard dance vocabulary to present an ambiguous triad alternating between isolation and modest interaction. The ghostly blue light-triangle the dancers maneuvered within gave the piece an appropriately oppressive fatalistic feel.

As for the iconoclastic, one may say John Leo's choreography has cornered the market here: creating statements in artistic terms that say, "Look at the palette, not the finished canvas."

His first piece "Of Elephants and..." borrows a quote from a Robert Bly translation to perhaps voice his dissatisfaction with the department. Improvising as ranch-hand and drag queen, Leo gave the audience a taste of artistic exploration, that was never shown so baldly in the perfectionist graduates.

His second piece "Autumnal Chocolate" presented two other new-

comers, Heather Holden and Mayzoun Wazwaz. Of a similar flavor as his solo, the two were positioned in front of lit music stands and performed motifs from a blank tablet: a scenario that is reminiscent of Jean Churchill, but—lacking the brevity typical of her pieces—was too self-aware to include the audience.

Erika Hughes's "Portrait of a Lady" was a fine presentation in the style much of the audience would have expected from last year's shows. Using distance from the audience and Chris Chinook's haunting score, she drew the audience her title and left definitions to their discretion.

Fun pieces, such as Kathryn Tuman's "Tartar Control," an ode to waking up performed by Lucy Smith, Sonya Robbins and Wolff and the show-stopper Grace's "Tegler's Triplody" with himself, Hughes and Sheila Berotti as league-nighters par excellent, interjected variety in form and flavor.



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**We don't know what's going
to be here, but we know that
it is going to be good**