Flik Walkout Rattles Dishes

by Stephanie Schneider and Jeff GiaQuinto
reporting by David Bates

Five dishroom employees walked out during the evening meal at Kline Commons Monday, September 23.

Noreen Ayala, acting director of food services at Bard for Flik International Food Corp., said that the employees walked out because they had heard rumors that she was looking into replacing them with workers from the Association of Retarded Citizens (ARC).

ARC workers, who have been employed by Flik since early September, had worked afternoons in the dishroom while other employees, mostly high school students, worked the evening shift. Ayala said she planned to have ARC workers cover all dishroom shifts and offer the other workers positions in the kitchen.

"At no time did we say we would fire the dishroom workers," Ayala said. The workers "never gave us the opportunity to talk to them [about other positions]."

The decision to transfer the dishroom workers was made, according to Flik Regional Director Ray Mulligan, because of problems with efficiency. He said that ARC workers, although having a higher rate of china breakage, are more efficient than the other workers and display more "willingness to do the job."

When interviewed, some remaining Kline workers, who asked not to be identified for fear of losing their jobs, said that they felt ARC workers were generally less efficient than the highschoolers. They cited ARC workers' larger amount of breakage and slower progress overall.

The walkout has brought up questions of communication between the management and the workers. Some Flik employees, who asked to remain anonymous, have made comments about the management's cooperation with the workers. One said, "The old management was much easier to work with."
Smashed car windows are epidemic on the Bard campus. This week, a vandal broke some windows in a student's white Chevy, parked in the Robbins lot. The car was also dented. Security believes the vandal is not a Bard student. The state police are investigating.

Other cars have been similarly vandalized. A blue Toyota station wagon parked in the Kline lot had its windows smashed recently. A black Renault in the Avery Arts Center lot not only had smashed windows but was stripped of its radio, battery, and passenger seat.

Two mountain bikes have been stolen since Monday, September 23. Assistant Coordinator of Safety and Security Lisa Sadowski said that bike theft is a common crime at Bard.

Parked in front of Leonard when stolen, one of the bikes is a black Specialized Rockhopper. Although it had a lock on itself, it was not secured to anything else.

The other bike, parked in front of Robbins, is a red Bridgestone. It too was not locked to anything.

It is often the case that stolen bikes had been locked improperly, said Sadowski. "I cannot stress enough that students must lock up [their valuables]."

In another theft, a wallet was stolen from an unlocked locker in the women's locker room at Stevenson Gymnasium.

EMS treated at least three persons for minor ailments this week.

One student injured his finger in the woodshop at Fischer Arts Studio (formerly Proctor). Another suffered an eye infection. Lastly, a visitor twisted his ankle at the gym.

It is standard procedure for two or three members of the EMS staff to respond to a call and evaluate the severity of injury on the scene.

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(Samuel's is an almost non-profit organization whose proceeds benefit us.)
So That They Might Lead

by Allen Josey and Sevil Miyahendar

The first-ever Bard Leadership Retreat took place on September 21 and 22 in the Adirondack Mountains at Lake George. The retreat was an experiment, organized by Resident Directors Allen Josey and Leah LaValle. They hoped that the retreat would bring together an array of Bard students who shared a common interest in leadership, for a weekend of various leadership-enhancing exercises and discussions. The retreat aimed at not only benefitting the students on an individual basis, but also benefitting the Bard community as a whole.

The twenty students who attended the retreat were of different class standings, countries, and from various clubs and organizations. Many of the students brought with them extensive leadership experience at Bard, from their high schools, and other universities and colleges, while some were just eager to find out what a leadership retreat entailed. The idea of a structured environment to discuss leadership might seem to go against Bard's traditional approach to dent leadership, however, the retreat gave the students an opportunity to discuss the issues they found most relevant to themselves and the Bard community in respect to leadership. Students of the upper-college shared their personal experiences while the newcomers to Bard expressed their first impressions of leadership at the college. The weekend became a forum in which the group was able to express various perspectives and definitions of leadership from a broad, global scale to Bard-specific information on starting clubs, formulating a budget, collaboration with other clubs, and the ins and outs of event planning.

The weekend, however, was not strictly business; games of frisbee on the grass outside the cottages, sitting at the lake’s edge, card games, and a group dinner in which all offered helping hands in preparing, kept the weekend well-balanced and relaxing. Some of the feedback from the participants of the weekend included: “I was glad to be considered as a member of this group...the structure was laid-back and honest...” “...this was a very enriching and beneficial experience which all should experience...” “It was better than I expected. I’m glad I went. The mix of people and activities made for a very interesting/informative/challenging time.” “The trip made me remember why I love Bard so much.”

The weekend was an open-ended experiment that Allen Josey, who is in charge of the Leadership Development at Bard, plans to make a traditional event for any student that is interested in getting involved and making a difference to his or her community at Bard and beyond.

CLUB FAIR...

If you were anywhere near Kline on Wednesday, September 25 during dinner, your toes probably couldn’t help but tap their way into the main dining room of Kline to hear the music of the Jazz Heritage Club and check out the First Annual Club Fair.

All club heads, as well as other student organizations and committees, were invited to attend and represent themselves, explain what they do, answer questions and recruit new members. Of the 60 or so student groups on campus, well over half decided to participate in this event, making it a very successful and informative evening for the student body.

In the past, many students have complained that they want to get more involved in student life but don’t know what’s out there or who to talk to. The club fair offers everyone a chance to find out what the students of this campus are all about.

* Anyone with an interest in or suggestions about leadership programs at Bard should contact Allen Josey in the Dean of Students Office, ext. 7692.

with, much more understanding.” Flik admits to some confusion in the management due to the loss of their original director of food services, Ralph Rogers, who decided to go into business for himself at the beginning of Flik’s tenure at Bard. A new director will take control in about a month, according to Mulligan and Ayala, who said that the transition is always “very difficult” and that a newly arrived company “has to learn by trial and error.”

But one Flik worker described the switch from Wood to Flik by saying, “We used to work together as a team; now the only team we’ve got is softball.”

LEVY INSTITUTE ANNOUNCES FALL 1996 LECTURES

THE JEROME LEVY ECONOMICS INSTITUTE announces its Fall 1996 Lectures, a series of four provocative and enlightening talks that address pressing economic and social issues at the forefront of the national political and economic debate.

William A. Lovett, Joseph Merrick Jones Professor of Law and Economics and director of the International Law, Trade and Finance Program at Tulane University, will deliver this fall’s first lecture, “Global Market Challenges and U.S. Trade Policy.” The talk, on Monday, October 7, at 8:00 p.m. at Blithewood, is free and open to the public.

William A. Lovett specializes in the study of economic regulation, banking and financial institutions, and international trade and finance. He is the author of Inflation and Politics: Competitive Industrial Policies and Bazaar; World Trade Rivalry; and, most recently, U.S. Shipping Policies and the World Market. He has been a staff economist with the Federal Trade Commission, a private practice attorney, and a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice in the Antitrust Division. He has taught at Tulane University since 1969.

The series continues throughout the fall with three more lectures by leading experts in their fields.

On Thursday, October 17, at 8:00 p.m., Rachel Friedberg, assistant professor of economics at Brown University, will give a lecture entitled “Russian Jews, Palestinians...Thais Immigrants, ‘Guest Workers,’ and the Undocumented in Israel.”

On Wednesday, October 23, at 8:00 p.m., Eugene R. Dattel, lecturer, former investment banker, and author of The Sun That Never Rose, will give a lecture entitled “Cultural Captivity: Japan’s Financial Dinosaurs Resist Change.”

On Tuesday, November 19, at 8:00 p.m., Katherine Newman, professor of public policy at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, will give a lecture entitled “The Working Poor in the Inner City.”

William A. Lovett’s lecture, “Global Market Challenges and U.S. Trade Policy,” will be given on Monday, October 7, at 8:00 p.m. at Blithewood on the Bard College campus. It is free and open to the public.

For information, call The Jerome Levy Economics Institute at 914-758-7700.
The Bard community awoke on Tuesday, September 24, to the results of Monday night's Operation Art, an event sponsored by the Art Club. With familiar paths and surroundings freshly populated by an array of artwork, many Bardians were prompted to ask, "Why?" "We wanted to start the year off with a bang, and to let people know that art is out there," Topher O'Rourke said, representing the Art Club. Spurred on by the desire to increase Art Club involvement, which in recent years has experienced low membership, anyone was invited to display his/her work. Although no official count was taken, an estimated 15 to 20 artists participated. No guidelines were set except those concerning vandalism because "some people's idea of art may be other people's idea of vandalism."

An important aspect of Operation Art was that it was not confined to the Proctor Art Center. By placing the artwork throughout campus people not involved in the visual arts inevitably saw it. "The idea was originally to cover the entire campus from Manor to Blithewood," O'Rourke said. However, falling short of its goal, the pieces reached only as far as the Ravines. In addition to encompassing a wide area, the sculptures occupied a variety of locations. Some hung from trees, others were tied to light poles, or in the case of the tin-foil-and-coat-hanger creation, were suspended from the gutter of Kline, in accordance with the theme of "art in odd places."

Because artwork was not hidden in Proctor more students were able to view and invariably comment on it. In response to the baffled who confessed, "I don't get it," and the critics who stubbornly declared, "That's not art," O'Rourke explained, "I'm glad that they at least thought about it...The fact that people didn't get it is okay because at least they were thinking about it. Whether or not they liked it is not the issue."

The Art Club meets every Monday at 6:30 p.m. at Proctor Center and "is open to anyone who wants to make or talk about art." It is not necessary to be an art major to join.
by Chris Van Dyke

With soccer season in full swing, and two new coaches spearheading the program, I thought I'd talk to both of the coaches and see what their plans are for the team. This week you will read about Jeff Dezego, the new Women's Soccer coach.

Obs: Where have you coached before?

Jeff: I started coaching at Alfred University, and I was a graduate assistant for the men's program. I did that for a year. That was in 1987. Then I came to Marist College, and I was the assistant coach there. I worked with men there, as well, division one men. I was with that program for two and a half, three years. I was on campus full-time, so when I resigned I stayed on campus as sort of an auxiliary support person. Then I stopped coaching, up until three and a half years ago, when I started coaching at Vassar College. I was the Women's head coach as an intern person while they did a search for a full-time coach. Then I stayed on that program as a volunteer assistant for the last two years until I came on board here.

Obs: How well have your teams done in the past?

Jeff: I'd say they've done well. The Alfred program was a great experience, because I stepped into a situation where the program had been developing for three years prior to my arrival. The head coach was a tremendous person — he had worked very, very hard to develop his program. When I came on board they had already done the hard work, and I really got an opportunity to see things come together nicely, and they did very well. In fact, they had the best season in the history of Alfred at that time. I forget exactly what the record was for them, but they did very well. When I started at Marist, they hadn't had a winning season in quite a few years. They had had a very strong division three men's program, and when they turned division one, they struggled. My first year there, that struggle just continued. They didn't do any better that they had in previous years. But I had the opportunity to recruit players after that season, and the following year we had the first winning season at the division-one level in quite a few years. It was due in a large part to us recruiting a lot of good players to come out and step onto the field. When I took over at Vassar as head coach, they were 0-12; they had not won a single game all season, and the head coach had left under some allegations early in the year. I was brought in at the end of the season with five games left, to try and pull them together, and get them through the rest of the year. In the five games I coached, we won three and lost two, which was nice. Now Vassar is emerging as a New York state division three power. They are starting to play a much better game of ball, and I think the head coach there is doing a very good job of bringing the program together. That's kind of where I want to be in a few years. I want to get to the point where the Women's team can emerge as a top team in the region.

Obs: Where did you go to college?

Jeff: I started my college career at Hurkwood community college, which is up near Utica, New York. I played soccer there for two years. I was an all-region player for two years, the team MVP and captain for two years. Then I transferred to Cornell University, and continued to play soccer on the division one level, and had a real good experience. I had the opportunity to play some really good soccer, and receive some really good coaching.

Obs: How long have you been playing soccer? Forever!

Jeff: Yeah. A very long time: since I was seven or so.

Obs: Okay, you already touched on this a bit, but what are your goals for the Bard Women's team, both this year and long term?

Jeff: I guess this year, one of my big goals for this year is to help the team continue on its development in terms of development as individual players and the players as a team, in terms of style of play, how well they play. I want to continue on some of the successes they had last year. Last year they were 7-7-2, and I think this is the best season Bard's Women's soccer has had in its history. I'd love to improve on that, but I don't know if we will. What I'd really like to do is work on the players we have now and help them develop and become better players, then recruit and increase the number of quality players we have here, and increase the quality that each player has. My goal would be that in the next three years to make Bard Soccer one of the competitive programs in the region.

Obs: You probably don't know, but how long do you plan to stay here? Two or three years like you have at the other schools, or is this long term?

Jeff: I am a full-time guidance counselor in the local school district, and I grew up here in Rhinebeck, so I don't see myself leaving the area in the near future. I don't have any aspirations to go on and coach at a higher level. I am very happy coaching division three soccer. I enjoy coaching women. I can see myself staying here for quite a while.

Obs: I don't know if you've had a chance to see the competition, but do you have any idea who any of the big rivals will be?

Jeff: You know, the women's soccer team won the conference last year, and that was great, and I would like to repeat that performance this year. They were undefeated in the conference. I think that as I look at the teams we play, I don't necessarily have any real rivals where I say "We have to beat these teams." I'm familiar with some of the programs around us, and I try to think where they were, and where they are going to be in terms of their development, and I kind of target that and say "I'd like to repeat that, I'd like to be able to see us do that too." I'm not looking at it in terms of "I want to beat them." I look at it in that I want to be able to be as competitive as they are in the region.

Obs: Okay, is there anything you would like to be able to say to the school population, about the Women's soccer program, or the sports program in general?

Jeff: Bard has . . . well, my impression is that traditionally it has not been a school that has had a great athletic tradition, like many schools do. I am sure that there have been many great athletes here in the past, and we have some great women's soccer players here now. This is what I'd like to see happen. Art might be a vehicle for a student's success. A student may come to Bard to study art, or literature or science because Bard is known for that. I'd like to be able to say that Bard is also known as a very good school in soccer. I'd like to see the college support that. What that would mean is people coming out to see games and supporting the program. It's a great group of women continued on next page.
Why I Love Bard College

by John Holowach, Grade Two, Mrs. Kearsing's Class

I came out of the House of Culinary Delights, Kline Commons, the
dining hall that shattered my belief that no one could possibly ruin
pasta, and heard a bit of a brouhaha coming from the field behind it,
next to the library. My curiosity piqued, I decided to investigate.

Much to my chagrin, I had forgotten that there was a rugby game
scheduled to start at one. It being two, I thought I had missed most of
the game. Remembering that one of my friends was covering the game
for the Bard Observer (winner of eight straight Best Paper Awards as
voted by the Observer Staff), I decided to look for him to get the
proverbial skinny about what I had missed. It turned out that I had in
fact missed nothing, as the opposing college did not arrive on time as
the directions were poor and involved a nebulous yet pivotal bit about
passing cows at some point. Also, the referee did not show up, so it was
a wonder that there was in fact a game.

Before the game started, the two teams were in a huddle psyching
up. At least I think they were psyching up. They could have been mak-
ing pre-game dinner plans, but I’ll just assume that they were psyching
up. The opposing team sang a dirty song loosely based on “She’ll Be
Coming Round the Mountain” and then broke huddle, ready for
action. Our squad replied with their mantra, “One, two, three, AARD-
VARK!!!” which is odd, because we don’t have a mascot, and if we did,
they probably wouldn’t be an aardvark.

Forgetting for a moment the fact that fans on two different occa-
sions ran onto the field to confront opposing players, the crowd was a
riot. There were two people coming out to watch. That would be
rather fun. The opposing team seemed to have plays on the throw, ins,
screaming “46, Spiderman!” at the referee, which I thought was absolutely hilarious until I
saw that the ref’s shirt in fact said “Making Bacon” and had a picture of
two pigs fornicating. Oh well, it was still funny that he was yelling it.
A gay guy kept taunting the dwarf, which I think really got to him.
Halfway through the second half someone else slipped away to relieve
the opposing team’s bad time of their air.

The Bard team seemed to have plays on the throw-ins, screaming out
things like “46-Spiderman” and “211-Cabbage,” but no matter what
they yelled, it seemed like they just boosted someone on someone else’s
shoulders. Of course, mine is not the keen eye of a knowledgeable rugby
fan, so who am I to judge? With such tactical genius, it was quite a
shock when the Bard team lost by a whole lot. Nobody was sure how
much we lost by, but the general consensus was that it was “a whole
lot.” But the incredible thing was that the crowd did not stop yelling.
We were unified in one cause — what that cause was, I’m not too sure,
but I had fun being united in that cause. It was an experience I could
never dream of in high school, or even at another college — a group of
people not so much cheering on their sports team as they get crushed,
but also being witty, sarcastic bastards to the opponents. It was quite
moving. A group of people who knew that it doesn’t matter who wins
or loses, just who can have the most fun. One is lead to believe that
Admissions does not allow anyone to attend who cannot laugh in the
face of adversity, who cannot realize that absurdity and amusement
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Paul West: Voice of the Incorrigible
by Meredith Yayanos

The voice of internationally acclaimed writer Paul West possesses sallow British inflections that, without effort, plunge the most genteel Yankee among us several notches down the evolutionary chain. Last Monday morning, as I crept a half an hour late into Bradford Morrow's Contemporary Innovations in Fiction class, its timbres struck me dumb, so that I stood Cro-Magnon and slobbering in the doorway for a full ten seconds before regaining motor skills. It's quite a voice, and it befits the author of Lord Byron's Doctor and Rat Man of Paris. The latter, required reading for this week's class, is a stylish fiction based on the bizarre antics of a real post-WWII Parisian called Rat Man, who would startle bistro customers by flashing a pet rat from under his coat. The account is spontaneous, commandeering, and like other books, far more concerned with the semantics of presentation than with plot or morality.

"I think plot is a highly artificial construct," said West in the minutes prior to his reading. "Life is shapeless. We like fiction because it is very shaped and defined." West, who has repeatedly come under fire for blatant disregard of convention, agrees that his work can be gleefully contradictory. He spoke at length about the misconception that a moral, plot-based work is somehow more accessible or realistic.

"For some reason, people have assumed that right-minded books have to be badly written in a plain style, lest they be misunderstood...I know people who claim not have changed their minds since they got their Phds. Where's the fun in that?" He agrees that his works, both fictional and biographical, are consistently preoccupied with war and self-destruction. "I try to keep people abreast of the incorrigible," he said. "It's important to remember how utterly barbaric we remain.

Foremost among his subjects seemed to be insecurity, coming of age, and war. "We know people who think they are mature who have yet to leave childhood. Hitler was one of them." At the reading, West recited excerpts from several books, including his work in progress — a piece about legendary gunslinger Doc Holliday tentatively entitled "Okay: a Paul Western." (Hat hat.) He also spoke briefly about a recent UFO encounter, adumbrant that everything he said was true. With a voice like that, I could almost believe him.

Powertown Inhabited by Weaknesses
by Sean O'Neill

The subjects Mike Lind knows about are as varied as the magazines he has published in: from the New York Review of Books to Rolling Stone. In three years of being topical everywhere, he has laid claim to be the next Gore Vidal or George Will. Now he's written a novel, Powertown. (HarperCollins, $24.) Unfortunately, the promise of non-fiction based on the bizarre antics of a real post-WWII Parisian called Rat Man, who would startle bistro customers by flashing a pet rat from under his coat. The account is spontaneous, commandeering, and like other books, far more concerned with the semantics of presentation than with plot or morality.

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Sunday morning I found myself heading towards Hudson and chatting with Bard art professor Bernard Greenwald. We were going to the Carrie Haddad Art Gallery where Professor Greenwald's art is being displayed until October 6th. Once there, he ushered me past the work of others' quiet, drab pieces which welcomed quiet contemplation. The back room that he showed me, then, came as a shock. Bright colors everywhere; purples and greens together, oranges, reds, blues—a riot of shapes and lines. Upon closer observation I noticed repeated pattern-styled people dancing, walking, doing the sorts of things that people do.

I asked Professor Greenwald what had started off this series of paintings, all of them painted rather recently from the dates, many of which doubled as titles. He told me that it had all started out with a picture— a black and white photograph from the turn-of-the-century showing the marching band of a black orphanage posing on the steps outside the orphanage itself. He said that when he had started, in 1975, he had begun by simply copying the photograph onto canvas. He used only black-and-white, focusing on the shape and positioning of the figures. As the years went by, however, his art has become more abstract and color has been added within the last ten years. He now bases his art almost entirely on color. "...The real subject for me," he says, "is the color, the paint, and how the paintings are made."

When I asked him to explain what he meant by "how the paintings are made" he showed me to the far wall where two smaller paintings hung. "See this," he said, "I had painted this, and then scrapped the paint away to reveal the layer beneath it." Another painting he had me feel to see that what looked like the top layer was actually the first paint. "I placed tape over where I wanted the figures to be, painted over the entire canvas and then removed the tape." The result was a row of figures cunningly using layers to trick the eye.

Professor Greenwald uses layers in his artwork in many different ways. "I like puns and irony, and I try to let my paintings use these elements." He showed me a painting entitled "Laocoon." The picture showed a repeated figure of a man with blue squiggles pervading the canvas. After I admitted ignorance of the story he explained to me how there was a Greek myth about errant priests who offended the gods and who were repaid by having themselves and their sons attacked on land by sea serpents, in this case, blue squiggles. A pun indeed.

Much of what Professor Greenwald does with his art depends on chance. He said he likes the risk, even if there's a chance that it will go too far and he will have to start again. "Risk is the exciting part about art. Through risk is how we make discoveries." He showed me how certain colors form an optical illusion when used together—white and black lines form around spots of color or force one's vision to pop out of sync. Some of the paintings end up looking nearly three-dimensional, an effect which he emphasizes by painting the frames to look as if they're perhaps the edge of the painting.

He told me that most of the art that I saw here was produced at the end of the summer, that it took him some time at the end of every school year to rediscover what he was doing and how he was doing it. I asked him if he ever regretted his teaching which takes up three-quarters of the year. He told me that teaching for him, as a person and an artist, was important. He has learned clarity from explaining what he wants from his students and this clarity passes into his work. "Teaching others forces me to teach myself, demanding from myself the same quality that I demand from my students." Professor Greenwald's art will be exhibited at the Carrie Haddad Gallery until October 6, 1996 at 622 Warren Street, Hudson, New York. The Gallery is open from 10 am to 5 pm every day except Wednesday, or call 518-828-1915 for more information.
Vandals Strike Bard Campus?

by Adrian Healy

Literally overnight, the Bard campus was overrun by unruly Vassar students posing as Bard Art Club members who proceeded to blight the campus with various pieces of art that one was meant to believe were done by actual Bard students. Judging by the calibre of the works, it became obvious that the possibility of Bard student involvement was slim.

Not wishing to appear harsh, I must admit that the quality of the pieces seemed to be completely polar. One could walk around campus and see easily which works were done by inventive Bard students and which were pure pollution.

The vanguard of the Bard students' contributions was without a doubt the blue chair placed incongruously beneath a large tree in front of Olin. It beckoned to the student just smelling the sweet air for the first time after having been in class for far too long. It sang, "Come to me, come and sit on me! I shall be large and comfortable, and extremely blue!" This was an enticing invitation until one noticed the large blue bicycle hanging from the tree above it, swinging in the breeze like a highwayman from the gallows, precariously close to toppling down upon the head of one foolish enough to listen to a chair.

Also of note were the pieces that played with shadows and perspective of light and darkness. I am writing of course about the shadows painted on the ground around campus, those who have wrested their freedom away from their bodies, souls who grew tired of their corporeal chains and decided that they would rather be trapped in a moment of time, an angle of light, a fleeting thought in the head of a student as he traverses the campus. They have gained their freedom only to lose their mobility, their faculty for change, trapped in an eternal stasis, or at least until the paint washes away. Alone they face the sun that had once been their God, their creator, but now just looks upon him, hands washed, as they are trod upon by those running to the post office to see if they are loved. Pitting in this category also are the presswood outlines of human figures in the hills near Ludlow. At night they are not just lifeless art to be observed, but they observe. As one stares in the poor lighting, they seem to stare back, frozen in contemplation or perhaps contempt for those who cannot mind their own business and walk to where they so direly need to be without looking at things that don't concern them.

And then there was the rest, a motley collection of origami and photocopied breasts that seemed far too puerile to be done by Bard students. There was speculation at one point that no one could tell the art from the trash. To test this point, a friend of mine poured the contents of his garbage can on the lawn in front of his dorm. Three days it stayed there, no one wanting to disturb someone else's brainchild. It seems so easy to be able to dump whatever trash one can find sitting around one's room and have it pass for art.
No Comment

Insight to the Inside

by Shawnee Barnes

Whenever I feel that I might need a person or admit to myself that I'm lonely, I feel like I am being "needy." Isn't it true that an independent and "strong" person doesn't need anybody else? (I ask that question with a drop of cynicism.) One thing I've learned in my twenty years is that loneliness is a state of mind that can be changed, for loneliness is relative. It's relative because it is different for everyone, I guess. The one I'm referring to is that feeling that something is missing, but you can't figure out what it is. I came to this conclusion because even when I was with people, or in a relationship, I still felt lonely. What is that?

The concept that loneliness is a state of mind lets us look at it as a construct instead of as this perpetual nag. To feel content in the moment in which you are present, and trusting that you are there for a reason, push any lonely feelings aside. When I say "content," I don't mean "happy and gay," but just mellow and in control. That place is hard to reach and I can say that I have a lot of work to do before I get there.

The kind of loneliness I'm talking about is that which you experience when trying to fill this empty space inside you, but it never seems to be filled. You get new clothes, you have a one-night stand, or you drown it some other way, but it's still there. Not to say that such measures don't help; it's just that they're not targeting the real issue. You could say it's a mental loneliness versus physical loneliness.

I physically need people around me and miss them when they're not there. It can be measured in space and is most obvious that you are "the alone one" when you're out with a bunch of couples and your date happens to be an over-salted Margarita. You're happy to be there, you feel content and you're enjoying the conversation, but it's so obvious something (or someone) is missing. But think at least you're not there as a couple and feeling lonely, because that's the most lonesome and loneliest feeling of all. So, next time you're feeling lonely, just remember that at least you have yourself, because you are your own permanent date.

Comment? Shawnee Barnes, box 598.
Student Speaks Out Against Bigots

An open letter to the Bard Community,

Sweetie Darlings, we have a serious problem. There has been an alarming rise in homophobic graffiti this semester, including a whole series of slurs on the wall of the men’s bathroom in Kline, which were recently erased, but which nonetheless made their impact and sent chills down my spine. It began with “Mommy bought you books, sent you to college, to become gay,” the meaning of which is quite beyond me, probably something about Bard students as spoiled and being gay as connected to that (if it is accusing us of being immature, it is just too ironic). Well, after that followed a very witty retort, in my opinion, which continued “so you bet not disappoint her, sweetie.” However, this must have touched a nerve, since it prompted (though I don’t think it provoked) a whole mess of comments, the worst of which was “GAY GUYS SHOULD BE SHOT,” to which someone else wrote “I agree,” and another person wrote “yes.” This is really frightening, all it made me think was that I couldn’t believe this was at my school. This is only part of a larger trend which includes defacement of BIGALA and SMACES posters, including someone writing “your all sick freaks” (my all sick freaks!?) on the BIGALA board. By far the most terrifying of these, though, was someone writing “KILL ALL FAGS” on the back of a Drag Race poster. Now, let me be very clear about this, this is nothing short of terrorism, used to place fear in the hearts of Bard students who may or may not be gay.

Now, dearies, I have suffered through my share of abuse and name-calling in junior high, but really thought I was safe at a liberal institution like Bard which prides itself on intelligence and maturity in its student population. And I do feel proud, and safe, being “out” here, and I enjoy that freedom to express myself to its fullest potential. But when I think of those who are still questioning or are not out, I hate to think of what damage these sorts of abusive statements can do. This must be stopped. We, as a community, cannot tolerate bigotry, hatred, or violence (as was implied by at least two of the items of graffiti). Thus, to those of you who wrote them, I can only say that I pity you for your ignorance, but I cannot forgive you for imposing fear on my fellow gay students. To the community at large, I urge increased support, such as not letting someone deface a poster in front of you, regardless of whether it seems to be just a joke. I know it’s hard to stand up to people, but I really believe that we who believe in the freedoms of Bard students, to express themselves in such ways as putting up posters, not defacing them, are in the majority. Let’s keep it that way. I will close by urging you all to attend the DRAG RACE on October 19th, to declare your support for the diversity that makes Bard a safe and pleasant place to be.

Sincerely yours, Nicholas de Villiers.
Students Fight to Topple Solomon

To the Bard Community:

Republican Congressman Gerry Solomon is one-hundred percent right in the eyes of the Justlife Education Fund, the Christian Coalition, the American Security Council, the National Rifle Association, the Liberty Lobby, League of Private Property Voters, and the Competitive Enterprises Institute. That means that he did not once vote in a way in which these right-wing groups did not approve. Solomon is the representative in the district which includes Bard, and is the powerful chairman of the House Rules Committee. Every measure of the present congress has his fingerprints on it. The democratic party and local trade unions are doing nothing to stop him in his part in the assault on working people.

Compare the above groups to the AIDS action council, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, the Human Rights Campaign Fund, the Coalition for Nuclear Arms Control, the National Education Association, all of which have given him ratings of zero percent, and you see that Solomon provides an excellent opportunity to go to people in the towns and villages of this area and talk about the issues on which he has voted against them.

Why does he keep winning elections in this district without any serious opposition? That question works nicely with the question: why does the Dutchess County Elections Commission try to exclude college students from the vote? The answer: the system is rigged to exclude anyone who would challenge the power of ideologue Gerry Solomon.

The presence of his opponent Steve James is not enough to convince us that joining a campaign this election season is enough to help working people in their struggle against the power of the Solomons of Capitol Hill. Although many of us supported and worked on Clinton's campaign in 1992, we cannot bring ourselves to campaign for the democrats. For that reason we are mounting an independent voter education campaign to let people know their Congressman is screwing them over, largely with the consent, or without a serious fight from, the traditional "opposition" groups in the area.

Steve James is a Democrat. He is a small dairy farmer. He believes in the values of family and small business. He probably will not win because the Democratic party never puts much resources into defeating Solomon, and if he does, it will only upset the establishment a bit. The reason for this campaign is to take votes away from Gerry Solomon, which will mean that they wind up with Steve James. But the important part is the labor that will be put in, the process of talking to people about their own political issues.

Our plan is as follows: get as many college students from Bard and local community colleges to go around in towns and villages from door to door with information about the Republican incumbent. After Reading Week, we will be ready to begin the campaign. We will train every person who takes part, and provide transportation to and from the areas we will be canvassing. The idea is to subvert this election process which for so long has been used to exclude real issues from popular discourse. We will talk to people on their doorsteps, because that is the only place where real interaction between the people who get acted upon by this powerful man can occur.

It is not the unanimous opinion in the working group that we can improve our lives with electoral politics alone. In this case, it is obvious that the electoral process is actually being used by Solomon to prevent people from improving their lives. We can and will take advantage of conservative Gerry Solomon's incumbency in this campaign to raise political consciousness in our area.

For more information on how to join the campaign, ask for myself or Anthony Antonucci at 758-1706.

THE BARD observer

Earth Coalition is Going to Make a Difference

As the half dozen expectant young students entered the committee room housing the Earth Coalition meeting last Wednesday night at 7 p.m., they looked around and wondered why the room was so empty at a school where a liberal atmosphere was renowned. Everyone outwardly expresses concern for the environment, yet when it comes time to act upon such concerns there is little commitment to be found.

This year, Earth Coalition, despite lack of financial assistance, is taking action. Plans to install compost bins in dorms and interact with the nursery school on campus are under way. Earth Coalition participated in the waste reduction forum last Tuesday in order to reach beyond the campus to the surrounding community. A campus-wide clean-up is also on the agenda for the upcoming month.

The initiative has been taken, but more involvement would greatly increase the impact we as a student body could have on the campus and local community. It is amazing what half a dozen students can come up with in terms of ideas, but unfortunately there aren't enough of us to act on each and every one of them. If you have any ideas, concerns, or motivation, meetings are at 7 p.m. on Wednesdays in the Kline Presidents Room.

Megan Hamill
Andreah Davit
and the Earth Coalition

Scholarship Information

by Allen Insey
Attention all Juniors and Seniors. Looking for Challenging Scholarships! Now is your chance. All of these scholarships require a faculty nomination process. Application materials are due to your Faculty Representative no later than Monday, Oct 14th, 1996!

THE FULBRIGHT...
...was created to foster mutual understanding among nations through educational and cultural exchanges. Grants are awarded annually to the United States. Proven intellectual and academic achievement of a high standard is required of all applicants. Demonstrated integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow beings, the ability to lead, and the energy to use their talents to the full is necessary.

THE BRITISH MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP...
...was founded to finance young Americans of high ability to study for a degree in the United Kingdom. It is in commemoration of the humane ideals of the European Recovery Programme ( Marshall Plan).

THE GERMAN MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP...
...was created to support research projects that seek to improve the understanding of significant contemporary economic, political, and social developments involving the US and Europe.

THE TRUMAN...
...is awarded to college juniors who have outstanding leadership potential, plan to pursue a career in government or elsewhere in public service, and wish to attend graduate school to help prepare for their careers. Truman Scholars participate in leadership programs and have special opportunities for internships and employment with the federal government.

THE RHODES...
...is tenable at the University of Oxford and may be held for a maximum of three years. Thirty-two scholarships are awarded annually to the United States. Proven intellectual and academic achievement of a high standard is required of all applicants. Demonstrated integrity of character, interest in and respect for their fellow beings, the ability to lead, and the energy to use their talents to the full is necessary.