The Bot-Man Halloween Special

The Horror at Red Hook

Bot-man, Volume 2, Issue 4

"There are sacraments of evil as well as of good about us, and we live and move to my belief in an unknown world, a place where there are caves and shadows and dwellers in twilight. It is possible that man may sometimes return on the track of evolution, and it is my belief that an awful lore is not yet dead." – Arthur Machen

Created by Chris VanDyke, John Holowach; Written by Chris and John
Art by Chris; Copyright Chris VanDyke/John Holowach

Special thanks to Howard Phillips Lovecraft, Bruce Campbell, Abdul Al-Hazred, and random scantily clad females everywhere.
“News is whatever sells newspapers; The Bard Observer is free.”

The Bard Observer

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY, 12504

NOVEMBER 3, 1997 ISSUE 4, VOLUME 8

First-years: Fire-eaters, Chess Pros, Athletes

Diverse if not different
By SCOTT COMMERSON, Copy Editor

A concert-mistress, an Eagle Scout, a national chess champion, a fire-eater, a juggler and a cheerleader. While many colleges twice Bard's size could not claim such an eclectic array of characters in their freshman classes, our included little college once again has attracted a diverse, if undeniably quirky, group of first-year students.

This year's 320 first-years and 34 transfer students represent 36 states, as well as Washington, D.C. and Puerto Rico, and 28 foreign countries. 16 members of the class have some kind of familial tie to Bard, either a sibling or parent who graduated from the college.

While there is little chance Bard will ever be mistaken for an athletic powerhouse, roughly a fifth of the class were varsity athletes in high school. And though many students here have characterized themselves as anomalies in high school, 16 first-years served as president of their senior class.

The class is accomplished in the academic realm as well. Fifty-eight percent of students graduated in the top tenth percentile of their classes; 34 first-years received National Merit recognition.

By MICHAEL HAGGERTY, Staff Writer

This semester the Smolny College in St. Petersburg opened its doors to some 270 Russian students. The liberal arts college, the first of its kind in Russia, is largely a result of efforts made by Bard faculty and administration, specifically Gennady Shkliarevsky, professor of Russian history. The idea for the college originated when Shkliarevsky's colleagues at the University of St. Petersburg showed him the college "as a gift in his honor.

The Teen Clinic is the result of a grant from the Hudson Valley Foundation for Youth Health Inc. This area of the Hudson Valley was selected for the project owing to the lack of accessible and affordable medical services for young people in the northern part of counties such as Ulster, Columbia, Greene, and Delaware, including Red Hook and Rhinebeck.

This Clinical offers a relaxed and inviting atmosphere. Debra Thompson, the person in charge of the clinic in Red Hook, says that it is in the program's goal for the Teen Clinic "to really be manned by young people." Planned Parenthood recognizes that peer education is the best way to encourage good health among the younger contingent of the adult community. Peer educators, approximately at the ages of those accepted to the clinic, have attended a ten-week training session where they have learned how to support, and how to deal with the emotional needs of those seeking the clinic's services.

This Clinic located on Prince Street in Red Hook is open every Wednesday between the hours of 3 and 6 p.m. Both male and female clients are invited to receive any of the services offered. People can make appointments by calling 758-2032, or simply visit the clinic on a walk-in basis. The Teen Clinic, bornes that in addition to receiving free medical goods and attention, one will also leave with a free "gift" in the form of their services.

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Planned Parenthood Offers Clinic for Students

Range of services available, including free contraceptives
By CAITLIN JAYNES, Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

There is something new happening at the local Planned Parenthood which could be of great interest to many Bard students. As of this October, the local branch of the national nonprofit organization focusing on women's health care and family issues, started offering a program called the Teen Clinic, and will continue offering it for the next eight months until June of 1998.

The Teen Clinic is available for anyone between the ages of 16 and 22, and provides, free of charge, each of the following: birth control, condoms, gynecological exams, pregnancy tests, STD tests, HIV tests and counseling.

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Before this program was implemented, one had to drive to Poughkeepsie, Hudson, or Kingston to receive such medical attention.

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In this issue...
Smolny partnership struck

CONTRIBUTED FROM PAGE ONE

Smolny. In 1999 the college will officially open and accept its first class.

Smolny has in recent years deeply imbedded its history. Founded by Catherine the Great in the 18th century as Smolny Monastery, it was the first institution of higher education for women in Russia. In 1917, it became the headquarters for the Red in the Commune Revolutions. After the dissolution of the Soviet Union in 1991, Smolny was given to the University of St. Petersburg. Keeping with this historical dynamic, the first graduating class will be in 2003. It marks the 300th anniversary of the establishment of St. Petersburg by Peter the Great.

Skladskovsky hopes that the creation of Smolny College will help to change the educational system in Russia. He feels that the current system is in need of reform and a more dynamic structure. Since 1991, there have been several reductions in government funding for education. However, the system continues to offer quality education to students, whose course plan is, for the most part, prescribed to them by the beginning. By starting a liberal arts college, students will have a choice between systems. Instead of forcing students to do something with the information they learn, "to construct reality," as Skladskovsky refers to it, Russian schools rely on the student's absorption with little interaction between students and teachers. Being the first to offer students a choice in their education, Smolny could serve as a model for other institutions who want change.

For Bard, whose students will have priority in going there, Smolny will be very important. In a global environment it is vital to learn other languages and cultures in a way that is open to all. "You have to move along with time," said Skladskovsky. Although studying abroad is enriching, Skladskovsky sees several problems with the experience as it is now, which might be solved by Smolny. He says that most of the students' contact with other cultures takes place in daily life, which amounts to a sort of isolation. Putting students in classrooms together would make the experience interesting in that the student would be interacting with people from other cultures in his education. Not only would Bard students work with Russians, but with students from all over the world. The goal is to have between a quarter and a third of the student body, approximately 50 students, be of foreign origin.

Although one doesn't have to be a Russian studies major to study at Smolny, fluency in both English and Russian will be a prerequisite. Up to this point, Bard's role in this joint project with the University of St. Petersburg has been to work very closely with the faculty in Russia to help define exactly how the college will be run. Professor Brian Egan, well regarded when he visited the University and spoke to faculty there, Skladskovsky commented that a mutual trust has developed between the two of them. He said it's been a matter of "creation and experiment for everyone." Although there is a planning and curricular advisory committee session at Bard, the Smolny faculty will form their own curriculum and have their own administration. Once the college is going, Bard will serve as a center to direct North American students to Smolny.

Skladskovsky thinks that going to Smolny is not only important because a student would experience a different culture and learn in a new environment, but "for the sake of their own development." Being immersed in foreign culture forces a person to revitalize their own. A student would have to refresh their own identity and world view. This is perhaps the most vital aspect of the experience. "They will have to make choices about themselves," Skladskovsky said. And in the process of doing so, "they will become freer and more individualistic."

Understanding and Education

Five recent alcohol-related deaths on college campuses had strong impact on recent Awareness Week

By NICOLE COOK, Contributor

Recently you may have noticed posters and bulletin boards around campus disseminating information and warnings related to alcohol. The stimulus for this increase in data on drinking is in belated observance of Alcohol Awareness Week which, signified by a banner in Kline, took place the week of October 20-24. Alcohol Awareness Week is five days designated by Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) for programming and community awareness about the use, abuse, and effects, of alcohol in the community. The primary goal of the week is to promote an understanding of the substance, its responsible consumption, as well as ways in which the community handles its abuse of alcohol. The week came at a particularly relevant time for college communities, as there have already been five reported alcohol-related deaths on college campuses around the country this fall.

Natalie Bill, a Purdue University student, fell to his death from a fraternity house window in September of this year after drinking with some of his fellow brothers. Who was a freshman at MIT, died in August after drinking sixteen shots in an hour at a Greek Week celebration. The technical cause of his death is either that his blood thinned to the point that oxygen could not reach his brain, or that he choked on his own vomit. Courtney Wyman, a student from Louisiana State University, also died in August from what ABC News cites as binge drinking during a fraternity party.

Binge drinking is defined as having four drinks in a row for women, or five in a row for men.

Henry Wechsler conducted a study of college drinking at Harvard last year and found that 44 percent of students and 86 percent of fraternity members are binge drinkers. Wechsler's study, as well as the drinking-related deaths on campus, have prompted some colleges and national foundations to propose outright bans on alcohol. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education voted in October to ban alcohol at all 29 public colleges in the state.

There is much debate, however, over whether prohibition is a cogent or effective policy. David Howard of SUNY-Potsdam has been studying campus drinking for 30 years and believes that alcohol-free campus drinking has actually compounded drinking problems in some cases. He notes that many schools have used campus polls where students drink in a controlled environment, whereas now students drink off-campus, where regulations have little or no control. An article in The Wall Street Journal has gone so far as to call for a lowering of the national drinking age from 21 to 19, in hopes that tolerance will reduce the "magnitude of college drinking."

Most experts agree that education is the key in preventing alcohol abuse. Resident Directors, Peer Counselors, and representatives from the Counseling Center planned on bringing the Alcohol Awareness week to Bard through a variety of programs, though many of the plans were delayed because of midterms. Eric Keller, however, ever attended to Tewksbury on October 23 to discuss with students the physiological effects of alcohol. In this process of becoming drunk is the same exact process as that of becoming anesthetized before surgery. It begins with a gradual loss of consciousness, and continues to a point where one reaches a state that, in neurological terms, is very close to death. Keller also made note of the stigma attached to the word "alcoholic," and assured the listeners that if they felt that they had a problem with alcohol, even a minor one, or just wanted to take some "see-if-you're-a-problem-drinker" tests, they should stop by the Counseling Center. On Tuesday, October 29, a little-advertised but insightful program was held in Olm. It consisted of a discussion between eight residents of the Daytop Therapeutic Community who talked about the effect of drinking on their life. The men were all 19 to 24 years old and had experienced serious run-ins with the law. For most of them, Daytop was a lucky alternative to prison. Mike Sullman, a freshman who attended the program, was impressed with "how brave the men were" in speaking so candidly to strangers about their problems.

RD Katherine Vande said she hopes that "the sentiment behind Alcohol Awareness Week will continue in the future as a cause." A potential future event is a forum, involving students and faculty, to discuss issues concerning alcohol.
Meeting of Health and Counseling Advisory Committee Considers Expansion

Current space deemed inadequate

By CAITLIN JAYNES,
Assistant Arts & Entertainment Editor

The Health and Counseling Advisory Committee for the 1997-1998 school year met for the first time last week. The purpose of this first meeting was to define the goals of the committee, and address present health and counseling issues which affect the Bard community at large. Present members included students - Eva Bodolz, Larry Fienerich, Steven Foster, Seth Goldline, Caitlin Jaynes, Colen Murphy, and Nicole Macconnell; administrators of Stevenson Gym - Kris Hall, Director, Athletics and Recreation, Scott Swere, Assistant Director, Athletics and Recreation, and Kim Connolly, Athletic Trainer and Wellness Director; Barbara-Jean Brisker, Associate Director of the Health Services; and Dorothy Cowe, Director of Student Counseling.

Essentially the main purpose of the group is to act as the voice of Bard students in dealing with both health and counseling issues which affect the student body at large. Members encourage students to make their opinions known so that the committee can know best how to serve the community.

One of the main issues discussed at the meeting was the expansion of the physical space for Health and Counseling. The services' offices are located in Robbins Annex, and currently provide inadequate space for the services' productivity. Various proposals for the renovation of the space have been considered.

One involves the addition of a second floor to the existing space. Another plan would involve possibly building a wing onto the Robbins Annex, or Scott Swere offered a new proposal where the Health and Counseling Service would take over a portion of the first and second floors of the Robbins connecting wing, which is space now used for dorm rooms. Dates for meetings with administrators have been scheduled to discuss more concrete plans for the project.

The other main topic discussed at the meeting was a grant of fifteen thousand dollars. This money was given by a friend of the college for the programming of drug and alcohol abuse prevention. A portion of the money is already being used to establish a theater group at Bard in conjunction with the Tacoma Theater troupe out of New Paltz. Playback Theater performances set based on improvisational expressions of emotions and personal stories, which come from group members during rehearsal, and then audience members during performances. Eight Bard students have been involved in the project as far, and have been meeting since the beginning of the semester. As a way of serving the surrounding community, the group plans on performing at some of the local elementary schools.

There are various possibilities for the expenditure of the remaining grant money. One possibility involves having Patrick Reynolds, graffitiologist of R.J. Reynolds, come to the Bard community about issues concerning the health and tobacco debate. Another idea is to possibly offer a two-credit course on addictions. This course would be patterned after the current AIDS course, and as a rigorous and critical approach to addiction in our culture. The Health and Counseling Advisory Board is soliciting student opinion on these ideas, and encourages those with other ideas to make them known.

Alcohol Policy Still Hotly Debated

Revision Committee has met twice to consider the policies and their implementation

By BASIL BOURIS, News Editor

Despite feelings within Bard's student body that decisions regarding alcohol policy and its implementation have been forced outside the sphere of student influence, the Alcohol Policy Revision Committee (APRC) held its second meeting on October 21 in the Kline Faculty Dining Room.

The committee, comprising students, faculty, administration, and security, was assembled by Allen Josey, Director of Student Activities, at the request of Jon Becker, Dean of Students. "We tried to get a wide range of people who would represent as many areas of campus life as possible," said Josey. Both representatives from the Student Life Committee and the Party Planning Committee, attended the biweekly APRC meetings. Bob Buck, Director of Security, was present at the October 21 meeting, as well as Professor Jonathan Kahn, whose presence, Josey felt, was important considering that Kahn lives in Albee Annex, and could therefore provide a faculty perspective along with a residential awareness of campus life.

The aim of the committee is to facilitate an organized, systematic discussion of alcohol-related issues on campus. Among the issues discussed at the first two meetings were "what should happen at a 'substance-free' party when students show up with alcohol," and the creation of a "safe space" such as on a campus pub, where students of age could drink. The latter issue took up much of the time at the October 21 meeting. It was suggested that the "party pub" become a "safe space," and deKline was abandoned, perhaps that space could be used in such a way.

All members of the committee who were present at the second meeting felt that an on-campus pub would be very beneficial to the community. Bob Brock thought that it was a "great idea." A student-run pub could help put responsibility "on the shoulders of the students," something that Brock believes is necessary for the community as a whole.

Discussed of this issue, as encouraging as it may be to both students and others alike, embroils many of the problems which must be confronted before such drastic changes take place at Bard. There are, for example, issues of competition involving the space that is now deKline. There is talk of converting the space into a faculty lounge, and this does not begin to take into account the biggest issue of all, money. Insurance alone for such a venture would be astronomical, and from this hypothetical capital might come is at this point, impossible to say.

Each issue under debate necessarily leads to another. That has made the committee's focus very wide, and it has proven difficult, according to some, to discuss certain issues without entering into theoretical and abstract subject matter about the nature of prohibition or why there was ever any change in enforcement of Bard's Alcohol Policy in the first place.

Some students said that there is a feeling within the community that there are financial concerns underlying many administrative decisions about alcohol consumption on campus, such as the "open container" policy, which have not been vocalized as true reasons for past administrative decisions. The idea here seems to be that if students are told that they should not be seen with alcohol, it does not necessarily mean that they won't drink. Many feel such policies ultimately force people, along with their alcohol, and their problems, behind closed doors or off campus. One student who had participated in the discussions said later that "we should work to promote openness about why some decisions regarding student life are made."

"While our last meeting did not involve lots of issues," said Josey, "I felt that a very productive and healthy conversation took place." Issues that the committee plans to tackle in future weeks include "liability concerns, the definition of public and private space, policies on hard alcohol, which dorms can have events where alcohol is served, safe spaces for those who want a substance-free place to socialize, and security procedures when confronting students." All those present at the committee meeting encourage the participation of the community at large. Aubrey Stanola and Allen Josey in particular have said that they wish to make themselves available for comments, concerns, or ideas regarding revisions to Bard's alcohol policies. The next APRC meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 4 at 5:30 p.m. in the Presidents' Room in Kline.
Organizing Diverse Array of Activities

By STEPHANIE SCHNEIDER, Arts & Entertainment Editor

Sit for a minute and try to think of all the student organizations at Bard. Think of all the interests that are represented and you might have to sit for two minutes; there are quite a few.

There is one club that perhaps you have thought that doesn’t seem to represent a particular interest or sector of the Bard population. Instead, it’s based on a premise that automatically includes all Bard students, not just those who are interested in Scottish dancing or rock climbing. It is based on the premise that everyone is a human being.

The Universal Human Rights Society is an organization founded on the principle that “serves to unite every member of the community.” It attempts to “unite the community on the common ground of being human,” as described in the UHRS’s proposal to the Planning Committee. One way UHRS plans to meet its goals is by hosting activities like Human Rights Week, which will take place November 10 through 16.

Activities for the week include many speakers, such as Michael Parenti, who will speak Tuesday, November 10. Parenti, whose father founded the Old Whitney University from which he graduated, is a professor of political science and author of Against Empire. He will present the topic “The Hidden Costs of US Empire at Home and Abroad.” Other speakers will include, James Ottaway, Bard trustee and chair of the World Press Freedom Committee. Ottaway, who is also Senior Vice-president of Dow Jones & Co., will be presenting the topic, “Press Freedom: A Universal Human Right,” on Wednesday, November 12.

The week will be kicked off by presentations by members of UHRS on topics ranging from environmental racism, and reproductive rights to child labor and the situation in Bosnia.

James Ottaway, who is also Senior Vice-president of Dow Jones & Co., will be presenting the topic, “Press Freedom: A Universal Human Right” on Wednesday, November 12.

Other going-on for the week include a raffle, movie night and an open mic. The co-founder of this organization, Sabina Khan, is quite enthusiastic about the upcoming event. She was the person to spread awareness and chair the World Press Freedom Committee.

Khan pointed out that the examination of this document is quite timely considering that next year will be the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

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Senior Class Officers’ Statements of Purpose

Editor Note: Jane Lawless called a meeting of the senior class last Monday, October 27, after much discussion and thought. Following are the Statements of Purpose for seniors elected.

By Jane Lawless

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November 10 through 16 punctuated with speakers, a film screening, and a raffle

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LASO Forum Leads the Way in Process of Securing New Prof

Latin American history, Atlantic Basin issues professor ought be hired, forum concludes

By ARIANA OLMO-STOKAS, Contributor

On Monday, October 27, sixteen people gathered in the Kline Committee Room to determine the future of Bard's Latin American Student Organization (LASO). It was an open meeting for anyone who cared to have a say in the LASO organization. Several individuals proposed the creation of a committee, in place of elections (which were suggested at a previous meeting the week before), consisting of the individuals who would run for office, as well as any others willing to dedicate themselves to making LASO an effective presence on the Bard campus. A consensus on this idea was quickly reached and the committee members were agreed upon. Mary Molina (sophomore), Aniba Cristian (sophomore), Danny Alago (sophomore), Jennifer Brown (freshman), and Marco Tejada (freshman) will comprise the committee.

The first important issue concerning the establishment of a strong Latin American presence at Bard, an issue that LASO and others have begun to pursue, took place the following evening at 7 p.m. in room 115 of the Olin Language Center. This forum, conducted by Professor Lourdes Alvarez, mainly concerned the creation and fulfillment of an additional position in history for someone specializing in Latin American history and Atlantic Basin issues. Atlantic Basin issues would address the slave trade, as well as colonialism and politics of the Caribbean. The position would deal with multicultural and multi-ethnic aspects of these areas and be an integral part of the Multilingual Studies program (MEs).

The new position must be approved first by the Committee on Vicinities, which then sends its decision to President Boettin for final approval. If approved by both parties, a search committee (including students) will be established to find someone to fill the position. If the position proposal is approved it is hoped that interested views would start in February and the position would be filled by fall of '98. The position is being strongly supported on the faculty side by the LASO program. The need for vocal student support was also expressed as a necessity for the establishment of this position.

The discussion and need for this new position also brought to surface frustrations about the lack of support that serious individuals have about the need for such positions. The students pointed to the deficiency of Latin American representation in many of the disciplines. The need and desire for literature classes, not only in Spanish, were expressed along with a desire to see Latin America represented more in film and art history classes at Bard.

Students pointed to the deficiency of Latin American representation in many of the disciplines.

By STEPHANIE SCHNEIDER, Arts & Entertainment Editor

As the first guests arrived at the Bard/Mid-Hudson Sister Cities Dinner-Dance on Saturday night, November 1, Sister Cities members still bustled around, trying to get the food on the tables. But as more people came, the lights were finally hung, the nerves were steady and things fell into place. The raised atmosphere was replaced by one of festivity.

This was an annual event for the organization which works as a friendship exchange with Larnayaga, Nicaragua. As its newsletter explains, "the point of friendship exchange is to realize that there are many similarities between the people of Mid-Hudson and the people of Larnayaga, and through a partnership we may improve all of our lives in some way."

The evening, according to Sister Cities members, was a great success. The number of people in attendance seemed to surpass that of past years. Fred Nagel, one of the community members involved in Sister Cities, worked the door and said, "They never stopped coming."

The event's success was evident from the empty pots and pans of rice and beans, the warm reception of the Latin band (whose members included Bard students, Bard alumni, and guests from New York City), and the estimated $1,100 profit from ticket sales.

The money earned from the event mainly went towards the establishment of the fund for the representative who coordinates six different pairs of Sister Cities. The coordinator, Pamela Townsend, recently visited Bard when the Bard/Mid-Hudson project held a walk-a-thon on October 6.

Her position is basically one of communication, she explained. She works with the committee in Larnayaga and also communicates with the participating cities in the United States. "I serve as a bridge," she said.

Townsend is now in the US traveling, educating at churches and schools, explaining about Sister Cities. For instance, Townsend, after visiting Bard, gave a presentation for the Vassar College Latin American Student Organization and some Vassar students were among the crowd at Saturday's dance. Townsend gave information during her visit, to both Bard and Vassar, about conditions in Nicaragua and the value of an organization like Sister Cities. She told of her own experiences and showed a video which depicts the hardships that children in Nicaragua face.

Due to the economic disaster in that country, many children, especially young girls, are forced to work as early as ages 7 and 8. While some may work and attend school, others must leave school because they cannot afford school or because employers will complete of labor law. The Bard/Mid-Hudson/Larnayaga Sister Cities group plans to rectify this with its next project, which is to supply students (from pre-school up to high school) with uniforms, shoes, and materials such as backpacks, notebooks, and pens, etc. The group is also planning on trying to involve the greater community in this project by perhaps having schools, churches, or other organizations sponsor the children for years to come.

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Director, Founder of “Bosnia Theatre”:
Sometimes Art Wins Out Over Politics

A conversation with Hadzija Hadžibamranc, actress, educator and activist

By IRMA DEDIC, Contributor

Mostar, the most divided city in Europe, is often called Bosnia Berlin. In two main groups of inhabi­
tants, the Muslims and Croats, hardly interact since they live in separate parts of the city, divided by the river Neretva. This past October, during Reading Week, while driving through the eastern Muslim­
populated part of the city on my way to meet the director of the Music Center, Hadzija Hadžibamranc, I realized how well this comparison actually describes the city: the eastern side rents are too much of eastern Berlin with its sad­
looking streets and houses covered by the veil of poverty while the western side prosper. Only a tiny 8.5x11” flyer for this evening’s performance of Pavarotti’s Night in Mostar was enough to refresh the image of the city. The war was a reality, and I wanted us at the city of Mostar and I was quite popular before the war. In that time we had only one theater in Mostar, the most divided city in Europe, is often

touted, interviewed famous Jews, and shows around Yiddishland. In 96 Barbara tells us about an encounter with, nosey WASP’s playing croquet, interviews Ethan Coen, Jerry Stahl, and Janet. Weiss, and includes lots of other fun Jewish-related stuff by con­

Curtators Offer More Reasons to Zine-out

by Elissa Nelson & Lauren Martin, Coordinator

Here we are again, with more great reasons to visit the Bad Zine Library,
located in the Root Cellar, in the basement of the Old Gym. All these
items are in the zine library, waiting for you.

Cabinet Art: Shall we begin the Earth #5 “A Practical Guide to Saved By the Bell.” Okay, I admit it, I’ve seen every single real episode of Saved By the Bell, (not counting the lame-o episodes of Good Morning Max Blu, The College Years or The New Class). If you are a fun–head and proud or secretly watching
in the shower, the show was not expected to become a hit, and it has been
a complete episode guide, character bio’s, essays, and more. I stayed up late one
night to finish this thin–fat’s 51–page zine. Yeah, I’m a geek, so why
not?” At least I admit it. And while I’m at it, I watch the whole thing when
Valley High too, so there.

Hey Mexico! Bianca explores her ethnicity, the大姐ness of “Being Mexican,
and European displaced since birth in America.” Chance plus grumps
“...in the last call game.” Personal writing from an intelligent, complicated, angry girl. Bianca’s writing, especially this zine, has made me think had bad about identity and about the many impressive
incarnations of American racism. A great example of why stories can be so
essential to our culture: this is a close, articulate, import­
ant voice that isn’t exactly echoing through the halls of academe, and it’s
because what she’s saying isn’t relevant to our lives

“See US Jews in Hollywood” This is funny, funny, funny Jews and
Dentals alike will get a kick out of. Sasha Bud used to do Hey There, Barbi Girl a newsletter about America’s favorite miniature plastic lady, but was nudged by those humorless people at Matal. Now she focuses her efforts on Plast, where she regularly “outs” celebs, interviews famous Jews, and shows around Yiddishland. In 96 Barba­ra tells us about an encounter com­

Pabst Strike #2 Seth is NOT gonna grow up, and this zine is full of good
reasons to join the Pabst Strike, like... “It’s the cause. I feel good for the Kurby Nation. He covers all the bases here, with articles about, for instance, cassettes, w                                                                   ratulations about Seth’s so­much­talking­about­fanzine, The Scrap­book (sic). Seth’s writing is passionate and weird and very funny, and does he ever
believe in kid revolution. Go teen, go!

If you read a zine you really like, please review it for this column! Also
please send your top ten or top five fans to Elissa in campus mail or by e­mail (mzd79)
Collaborative Colony Installation Buzzes with Ingenuity, Ambition

By MEREDITH YAYANOS, Co-Editor-in-Chief

People shivering under cold starlight outside of The Chocolate Factory in Red Hook on October 30 were probably reacting as much to sensory-overload as to the bone-chilling weather. Having sworn to attend Colony, an ambitious and highly inventive student installation, spectators were treated to a rare experience at Bard: well-executed, powerfully affecting collaboration. A dark, twittering vestry that combined striking elements of dance, film, sculpture, sound, and light into a comprehensive whole. Colony was one of the most triumphantly unique student works that this writer has seen in at least three years, owing much of its success to an intense collaborative process that is rarely accomplished on such a large scale at this college.

The recently acquired Milton Avery Building for the Graduate Arts (more commonly referred to as The Chocolate Factory), is a cavernous brown wooden space with high rafters, damp stone floors and a spooky turn-of-the-century industrial ambiance that the group of artists used perfectly, working with and against it to transform the place into the inner workings of a vast, alien hive. Wandering through the first and more sparsely adorned of two adjacent barn-styled rooms, observers were bathed in blacklight and picked their way through odd shadows cast by wood, thread, wire meshing, and glowing fibrous sculptures hanging from the beams. Sculpture and lighting designers Emma O'Donnell and Nick Emmett intensified their efforts for the inner room, where similarly, Chthonic (a juicier word for biotic goo) effects were denoted and elaborated upon thicker, more tangled structures and dim, organic lighting.

The densifying influence within the focal room was compounded by a presence of insect song provided by sound designer Christian Sutter. Wearing headphones adorned with bug antennae, Sutter crouched behind an array of cords and organizer Laura Chipley, whose projections of footage upon walls, beams, sculptures and crowd divided by sound designer Christian Sutter. A lush ambient landscape replete with crickets, dimensional visual effects, and would later be 'fed' to an augmented audience by Iris Alper.

The dimly lit room was compounded by a sense of darkness that became more intense as one was drawn further into the space, becoming yet another facet of its communal art of similarly intense beauty. The introduction of dancers was at first perceived as the focal interest of the space, it soon became apparent that they were only an integral part. Crawling slowly through the crowds (there were approximately 200 attendees) to a centralized position, the remarkable restraint and control of these five women was established immediately. Kristin Solomon, Suzanne Schultz, Anna Berkner, Kathryn Johnson, and Chipley spent a time moving in a pupal heap on the stone floor between five ropes into which they would later climb with seemingly mindless confidence. The dancers would maintain calm, instinctual stances, elevating their movements, the audience eventually realized they could move freely within the space instead of standing immobile with their attention focused on a particular part. In fact, audience members seemed to be absorbed into the space, becoming yet another facet of its complex whole.

After aptly commented that the group effort resulted in something "profoundly different than what I have ever seen before as an individual" and believes wholeheartedly that for her, the collaborative process was the installation's most rewarding aspect. "The way [Colony] happened...it yanked our individual potentials away from personal agendas. We were 5 different people with five different ideas that combined into this one amazing world."

It's a startling realization: that the potential for something akin to Colony is unlimited in a place like Bard, where the resources, spaces, and talent exist. The only remaining question is, as one spectator asked, "Why don't things like this happen more often?" Hopefully, rather than dwelling on the question of why, students who attended that night will be galvanized into acting upon who, what, where and how in attempts to create more communal art of similarly intense beauty.

The Dancing Paperclip of Tormented Souls® by MAGNUS

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Seasoned Connoisseurs Conclude: To Hell With Corporate Radio

Survey of radio stations available at Bard, from the totally geek to the totally chic

By DEVYN LUDLOW & LAURIE ALLEN, Contributers

This is a brief report and review of every radio station that you can receive on the PM dial on campus. Of course, I’m sure there are a few isolated folk with HAM radios and three-stone antennae out there who can receive every radio signal broadcast from Afghanistan to Los Vegas, NM, but for the rest of us, this is a fairly complete listing. Take into account the fact that the complier has their own taste (relatively speaking) in music and radio, so you may find that some stations are not as thoroughly researched as others. Also, not all stations have a single transmitter (or are satellite broadcast), and so their broadcasting source is therefore omitted. A lack of listeners is probably of course if you have symptoms please don’t hesitate to direct the editor, sweaters.

8.7 WCDS - The CBS radio station. This is a great station. They play a mix of TV shows, radio plays, and CBS news. Highlights include the CBS evening news at 6:30 (with Dan Rather), David Letterman, movies (I heard Robin Hood, and Top Gun on here) and soap opera (Guiding Light is at 9 a.m.). Always exciting.

8.8 WFSO (Clivebridge, NY) - A solid and fairly entertaining religious and conservative talk station. They really know how to stretch Biblical interpretation to the limits. Very little music here.

8.8 WEMP - The Edge (satellite) - Pop and new tunes. Music “taps from Sinatra.” One may hear such bands as Oasis, Blue, the Chemical Bros., Puff Daddy, Morphine, Atari Teenage Riot, or any combo of the above. Good Hip-Hop show on Friday evening. Basically “MTV on the radio.”

8.9 WRHV - A purely classical station. Occasionally broadcasts some NPR, of course.

8.9 WGBG (Kingston, NY) - Christian radio. “Some talk, some news, all with a Christian twist,” as they say. That amounts to music.

90.3-90.9 and 105.1 WAMC & WAMK (Kingston, Catskill) - NPR favorites. For those unfamiliar with the NPR (National Public Radio) broadcasting format, it’s mostly real news and seriously discussed issues. Programs include “All Things Considered” (opinions and news), The BBC news (with an English accent!), “Car Talk,” “Jazz Fear,” “Opus from the Met,” “Thirde and Shamrock” (Celtic and Irish music), and lots of other good stuff not to be missed.

91.7 WFRH (Kingston, NY) - “Non-profit, non-commercial, family radio.” Christian radio. Lots of EZ listening Christian music.

92.1 WNRQ (Toughpkenip, NY) QP - Plays soft hits and light rock. Whitney Houston, Amy Grant, Rod Stewart, Michael Bolton, Mr. Me., etc.

92.7 and 96.9 WRRV (Toughpkenip, NY) The Rock Alternative - The name says it all. Groups like Nirvana, Alana Morisette, Green Day, Australian kids, Fiona Apple, and Stone Temple Pilots.

93.3 and 95.3 WBWZ (New Paltz, NY) 93.3 - The Hudson Valley’s Greatest Hits. A mix of 80s and 90s with an occasional older tune. A. B. George, U2, Genesis, Rod Stewart, REM, Led Zeppelin, and so on.

94.3 WFRP (Kingston, NY) B95 - The club station. Plays disco, techno, some R&B, and childhood tunes. Haddaway, Snap, The Real McCoy, and guys like Puff Daddy.

95.1 WRRK (Brookfield, CT) 95.9 - The Home of Metal and Roll - A mix of Classic Rock and modern hits. Aerosmith, Pink Floyd, Tom Petty, U2, Steve Miller Band, the Beatles, Beak, etc.

95.5 W23TAV () (Kingston, NY) B95 as well - “The Delight Station” - If you have a heart-throb and want to play ‘em a song, this is the place to go. Lots of Whitney Houston, Elton John, Bryan Adams, Taylor Dane, Luther Vandross, and Rod Stewart (who is, coincidentally, the most frequently mentioned artist on the radio try counting some time - it’s eerie). Try Late Night Love songs time at night, every night for dedications.

96.1 and 96.5 WIND (Toughpkenip, NY) - Modern country. “Country and crosstown talk and entertainment.” Folks like Garth Brooks, and Travis Yorkin.


98.4 WKEZ (Salisbury, NY) - A lot of variety. One can always find something different here. Besides I didn’t hear R. Stewart mentioned once!) New stuff, old stuff, classical, pop, and just plain weird music. Music’s probably never heard before. Check it out.

98.5 WCTW (Catskill, NY) The Cat - A solid 50/50 mix of 80s and 90s pop music. They play the kind of music you only hear on the radio. I even heard Michael Paul, Axial Dabril, Dave Matthews, etc.

99.3 WTHN (Alenville, NY) - “Wax.” Basically the same music. All new country.

99.5 WRVE - The River - “Rock ’n’ Roll with the edge” Except not really. It’s classic rock reasonably sprinkled with some 80s and 90s pop. Led Zeppelin, Creedence Clearwater Revival, Fine Young Cannibals, the Cars.

100.1 WBDST (Woodstock, NY) - All about various. Like 96.1, always something new here. Programs include: Blues, 9-11 p.m., Sunday; an Indie show, 10-11 p.m.; and a world show on Monday nights. Check it out.

100.7 WJHD (Toughpkenip, NY) - Plays an odd mix of soft rock, EZ listening, and new age music (and Billy Idol?).

101.5 WPHD (Toughpkenip, NY) - Pure classic rock. Queen, the Rolling Stones, Led Zeppelin, the Who, the Rolling Stones, etc.

102.3 - badly received Christian radio. I have no idea on this one.

103.3 WQQQ (Sharon, NY) Q103 - “The bits keep on coming.” Classic 80s and 90s rock. Some good bands, but bad songs, Santana, Duran Duran, Stevie Wonder, the Carolees, Hootie and the Blowfish are here. Also broadcasts a weather report every 15 minutes.
As some of you may remember, last year I wrote the horoscope for the Observer. Now, horoscopes written for this sort of thing are always 100% speculative and that doesn't serve much of a purpose. Writing them this year, I decided, because of the one I had to sacrifice exploring any of the other ones in depth. This year I thought I would try something different: instead of just a short horoscope, I am going to write, wish me well about one planetary position or issue, and how it affects all of us. In addition, if any of the esteemed readers of the Observer have specific astrological questions that may prove to be of general interest, I'll be happy to answer them in this space. (Send queries to horoscope@observer.com.)

This week, MARS IN SAGITTARIUS, or Energy Explored to a Higher Cause.

I chose to talk about this position because Mars is an important planet. Mars rules the sign of Aries, which in turn rules the first house of the natural zodiac, which in turn rules the traits of enthusiasm and desire. This makes it a sort of "maverick" planet, which indicates that energy connected with the planet is positive, that it is, in fact, reaches outward. The placement of Mars in the sign of Sagittarius tells us how we see about getting out there as well as our attitudes toward work. Mars governs outbound, directed action, and the sign Sagittarius is full of what our energy is going to be directed.

Until the 6th of November, the Martian energy is something to think about the sign of Sagittarius. On an abstract plane, the constellation Sagittarius is connected to issues of the "higher" realm of philosophy, spirituality, and wisdom. Sagittarius is also connected with the truth, as it is in forms. How does this affect us on a practical level?

First off, it will be in the Sagittarian and the Aries who are most strongly affected by this planetary position. The Sag will be charged with more energy than usual, and have no problem in completing her required tasks. The Aries will find herself questioning change more than usual, particularly regarding issues of purpose and meaning.

This takes us to what is perhaps the most important issue of what Mars in Sagittarius can do for us. In addition to ruling the higher paths, Sag rules higher education, including college. Not only does Mars bring energy to your work, but the planet can help you avoid the pitfalls of overthinking. Now is a time to ask yourself exactly how you are utilizing what you're learning. What are your strong points? Where are you going to be a higher purpose in the work you do? If not, are you satisfied with that kind of life?

On the 9th, Mars will move into Capricorn, which will change our focus from the philosophical to the pragmatic. We will ourselves working harder, but with more actualized, material goals in mind. With the move into Capricorn, the red winter begins.

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A MourNFul Cry: Resurrecit Air-guitar

By JOEL HUNT, Contributor

After a short, um, absence, I'm back at the keyboard, pounding out this poorly written exercise in facility. I've got to suddenly remember all the good new stuff I've bought lately, and — with my extraordinary powers of recall — I must think of witty things to write. No problem. Yet after mind-numbingly long trips across the Midwest for Reading Week, and a short weekend vacation to the Bay State, I'm having trouble concentrating on this, my work (if I can call it that). So consider this column a blessing, because — I'm only writing it for you. That's right, you. The kids come first in my book. Always nicking for the kids. Oh yes. I remember back when I was about ten-years-old or so, and I loved to put a record on my parents' machine, stand on the couch, and air-guitar into the livingroom mirror. I always thought that air-guitar (like air-drumming, air-keyboard-playing) was a wonderful activity. It was
time to share that with some of the readers of this. I don't know, if you're reading this, do you think it's possible to resuscitate the air-guitar? Fortunately, this collection features something pretty good of venture rock bands that we can all feel proud about as we pump our hearts to their music. It's all about you. I'm still overwhelmed by the idea. Last but not least on the agenda is the self-titled debut double by Stein & Stross (On Touch and Go). As you may or may not know, this trio includes Ian Williams from the invincible Duo Calculo, but Stein & Stross is an entirely different beast. Preferring to shy away from "rock" scene structures, S&S rely on a limited set of improvising. The result is not exactly rendered within established idioms, but rather an entirely new creation. Thrown into the traditional guitar-bass-drums mix is a few unusual elements. It's all about you, as should be obvious from titles like "Guitar Cabinet Shock Wav High Freedom!" If you try to air-guitar to that, you will be confused ten seconds. It is a recommend.

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Veterans' Radio Report

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

103.9 WQMR The Edge — That is to say, the other Edge. Not the same Edge as the 88.7 Edge but basically the same music.

104.7 WSPK K104 - Like The Edge but with more of a hip-hop pop twist

105.7 — Has a very poor sound. Probably to me Las Vegas lounge music.

106.5 - Heavy rock from the 70's and 80's. Led Zeppelin, Black Sabbath, Metallica, Guns & Roses.

106.9-107.3 WRWD (Highland, NY) - Basically another new country satellite. None of the country stations play anything but the new stuff.

And that's basically it. If anybody out there knows of any great shows that we neglected to mention, please drop The Observer a line. In other news, rumors are flying about the possible acquisition of a new station for a college radio station. However, I have no idea who to contact or who is the source of these names might be, so all interested folk ought to talk to the administration (might be a good be for the laundry fund). For those who don't know, Bard used to have a radio station (in the basement of Flora) until the equipment was stolen last year. So now, no radio. Otherwise that's the radio report, folks. The radio is definitely worth listening to. There is a lot going on, we are relatively cut off from the events of the outside world. It's nice to have at least one source of accurate and up-to-date information.

And down with corporate radio.

Continuing on the SIlkbrein vein, that fine label has just released a compilation entitled Taul & Fairhead. This collection documents a few of the most prominent from seven-inch records by the Dead C, Hawk's Flans, V-1, Alastair Gauleth (one-half of A Handful of Dogs), Sebadoh, Guided By Voices, Thomas Jefferson Slave Apartments, and many other greats. My favorite track has to be "Tiny Constors" by the Shadow Ring, probably the band from the other end of the pond that I've heard in years. But, uh, again they're not so easy to air-guitar to! Fortunately this compilation features pretty good of venture rock bands that we can all feel proud about as we pump our hearts to their music. It's all about you. I'm still overwhelmed by the idea. Last but not least on the agenda is the self-titled debut double by Stein & Stross (On Touch and Go). As you may or may not know, this trio includes Ian Williams from the invincible Duo Calculo, but Stein & Stross is an entirely different beast. Preferring to shy away from "rock" scene structures, S&S rely on a limited set of improvising. The result is not exactly rendered within established idioms, but rather an entirely new creation. Thrown into the traditional guitar-bass-drums mix is a few unusual elements. It's all about you, as should be obvious from titles like "Guitar Cabinet Shock Wav High Freedom!" If you try to air-guitar to that, you will be confused ten seconds. It is a recommend.

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ALBUM REVIEW

The Tanaka-Nixon Meeting: It's a hum and drone kind of thing.

The album received the most air-guitar action lately to my house happens to be Shapes by Polvo (available on Touch and Go). Like many of my other favorite albums, air-guitar records (1998 by Hole, Synchrocity by The Police), it kicks out the jams! It's worth listening to those Live version stirs frays from North Carolina. Of course, it came as no surprise to those of us that heard the Dave Breyik (it's Polvo's guitarist) interview in Tako Freeze magazine. I suggest you do the same thing, as well, as it comes with a nifty Trans-Arms/Staring Split 12" that might just be worth your dollar.

When we get to the air-guitar tip, as it were, I guess that I should discuss Tusk, the new album by, no less, Fleetwood Mac. Now New England's own Dead C. This is what you should never, never, never attempt to air-guitar to. "Your arms will fall off. Which is not to say that it is not worth the try for sure. While we're on the air-guitar tip, let's talk about Resurrect Air-guitar. The album was released in Europe for sure. While we're not the only band that has been receiving the air-guitar treatment, the new release by Tarka-Angler Meeting is entitled Resurrect Air-guitar and has no cover information. This group, made up of Bruce Russell and the ill-named Danny Butts, does a really intense hum-and-drone kind of thing, which is much different from the scope of the splatter thing that the Dead C does. Either way, it's still great. But if you're going to become a completist, get ready to spend some real money.

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THE BARD OBSERVER ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1997
Catwalk on the Wild Side

Drag Race V provokes gyrating nudity, and a cross-dressing extravaganza

By ABIGAIL ROSENBERG, Opinions Editor

"Please clear the catwalk," the MC's voice reverberates over the clutter that replaces the pulsating, bass-heavy music. "We have someone special here tonight, Wendy, Wendy, will you please step up to the catwalk?"

Bright pigtails and a baby blue house dress mount the walk. As the performer looks out at the crowd, the cheering reaches fever pitch. His orange beard is now visible. He is the transvestite incarnation of Wendy, namesake of the first food joint. As he begins to gyrate, the music begins. "Man Eater," one of the theme songs from the '80s movie hit Flashdance envelops the crowd. From a black leather bag, Wendy pulls out hamburgers and hotdogs, ketchup and mustard. As his lower half undulates to the music, Wendy spreads the condiments on the meat, lustily ingests, and beckoningly licks his fingers as the crowd goes wild.

This is just one example of the entertainment that the fifth annual Drag Race offered its participants. According to Bob Brock, Bard Security Director, approximately 450 partygoers showed up to partake in the cross-dressing, overtly sexual atmosphere of the night. A team of students headed by Camero Hickey transformed the Old Gym into a mecca of delight. "It didn't even look like the Old Gym," said one queen. A four-foot-tall catwalk was erected, bordered by white Christmas lights. An enormous rainbow flag covered a quarter of the wall space and a juice bar was nestled in the corner, quenching the drained bodies of the passionate dancers. White, plastic paper covered the entrance to the gym, initiating the newcomers from the outside world into the underground, throbbing world of "DRS."

Bard students as well as members from the outside community, who showed a surprising affinity for cross-dressing and S&M gear, danced nonstop from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. The catwalk was crowded with dancers, in all stages of undress, grinding to the music and each other. Throughout the night the crowd was treated to skits and dances by enthusiastic participants. Gyrating and stripping were the acts du nuit with plenty of nudity and stage-diving thrown in for good measure.

The night culminated in the actual Drag Race. Dozens of contestants competed for the coveted crown in four categories: Queen, King, Prince, and Princess. As the hopefuls walked the catwalk, the noise level rose to a constant shrill. Sweaty bodies danced along as the race continued, cheering loudest when the actions of the competitors transcended the cliché traditional cross-dressing and reached an erotic plateau of explicit sexuality.

Unlike last year, many people from the surrounding areas showed up, although few were in drag this year. Like other large parties, there were some participants who didn't know when to say when. According to Brock, "three or four ambulances were called," but none of the people needing attention were Bard students.
What are the Critics Saying?

“Perfection”

Food *****
Service *****
Value *****

- Poughkeepsie Journal, 10/10/97
Brenda Bucbinder Sacks, Chef & Restaurant Critic

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Village Books

Located in a colorful 19th-century building in Tivoli, this inviting, comfortable bookstore is home to over 25,000 well-priced new, used and out-of-print books. Also, the local spot for weekly chess games. Holdings include Hudson Valley materials, fiction, biography, mystery, poetry, the arts, social and political history, and more.

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I decided I wanted a mouse to use for genetics experiments.

I brought it home and set up the cage. She looks so cute sitting around and trying to dig through the glass.

Herbert loves her. Don’t you, Herbert?

Written by Diana Oboler. Drawn by Soja Wilson. Illustrated by Herbert.
Cruz’s Dreams of Home Invites Viewers into Fantasy, Pre-Brechtian Indulgence

By ROSALIE PURVIS, Contributor

When the audience was let in to the dance studio five minutes before the actual start of Miguel Cruz’s Cash piece, Dreams of Home (directed by third-year students Juliet Ollman), we were given the chance of waiting or sitting in the ambience of the already active set. Two sleeping figures in togas lay in the background near four rectangular pillows, covered in graffiti, an authentic New York City trash can, and some pretty convincing subway benches. The program told us that we were now at 101st street and Lexington Avenue, “Time: The present,” and indeed, with a recording of clamorous noises and voices playing in the background, we were.

The sound failed as the play began. Dolores (Abigail Markow) entered. She really was the “Mexican movie star – angel of Death” the script called for, with her sleek black hair and pale skin, made even paler by makeup and dim but hardening lights. She entered and exited the stage three times, presenting the now awakened figure on the left with three different trays of food. She became in the background, the food. Her sleeves, broken only briefly by a gentle and very easy from Dolores, was a bewitching one. Her red smile was larger than life in a plastic-clown-in-a-hoasted-ame-nity-park sort of way.

In Dolores’ fourth entrance, as she was presented, on her tray was the head of her assistant, Hobie (Seth Gillim), his legs dragging as she tugged him on. The script describes Hobie’s character as an “odd looking angel” which he certainly was with his shaved head entirely painted green. Some audience members made reference to The Mask, which I saw as an understandable compar­ison, recalling the expressive face and zany musical voice of Jim Carrey in the title role of that movie. It is in Hobie’s voice that the play opens: “It takes great strengths to change through a man’s heart.”

The person to whom Hobie makes this utterance, is a homeless man called Pedro (Nicolas Bodkin). Pedro’s rendition of the Pedro reveals that his big, bald head is the odd “ain’t’ or ‘just’ a sound he has always half-closed, childlike smile intact, with a startlingly voluminous voice.

Some people laughed during Clare’s piece, “Up and Down.” This light-hearted piece followed several serious ones, and had people in the audience laughing at their own words which is terribly sad but beautiful and refreshing to hear our children, brought gracefulness to their movements and made them look especially smooth. Overall, this piece was very well done and not even the incredibly dramatic

While there were funny moments in Clare’s dance, like when she described how bored she was when she first saw the Nutcracker or how her sisters used to pull her hair, the fact that people found the topic amusing was troublesome to her.

music by Dead Can Dance attracted the audience from the dance.

Dance Theater III: Amusing, Original and Precise?

By DEBORRE PALOBERT, Contributor

On Saturday, October 25, the Bard College campus was quite a bustling scene. Artistic excitement began to build as soon as people entered excitement came in with the sun and the wind. You might have been at the ISC’s cultural show or busy preparing yourself for the Dog Race, or, hopefully, experiencing Dance Theater III. Inside the theater building at the last event, the atmosphere was similar to that of any theater before any show. People mingled around the table for dinner and sea in the ball, talked softly about their children, and students engaged in their usual happenings. Then it was time to remove our shoes before we entered the theater. On this rainy night it was hard to refuse and I placed mine at the end of the line of wet sneakers and pumps. Once everyone was inside the theater, the lights went out and the show began.

By the ease and grace with which he pulled off the crazed monologues of, saying lines (after Bodkin). Mr. Bodkin’s rendition of Pedro revealed a theatrical insight absent from the last part he played, a troubadour but quite normal young man in Hot Balloon. I was most impressed by the ease and grace with which he pulled off the crazed monologues of, saying lines which he certainly managed to pull off with ease and grace. The most difficult technical part of the piece was the amount of times the dancers fell to the ground. It is not easy to do this from a straight standing position. Some dancers often do, and they did it to keep the audience interested. Some comparisons made it look quite easy. There was also a good deal of sort­ting the piece, which made it less a piece of physical comedy. Three dancers/insta­cations made a lasting impression on the audience. “I liked the tension between the audience and the performers,” one student said, “it made the audience feel as if they were in the show.” The piece proved to be one of the most enjoyable and memorable of the evening.

Clare Amory’s piece, “Seven Dancers Including Me,” was differ­ent from every other one in Dance Theater III, being original in many aspects. First of all, there was no music. The dancers spoke words written by Clare, but on which they had collaborated. Second of all, this dance piece was about the absence of dance. It focused on dancers who had stopped dancing. In the beginning Clare was alone and she told a story about when she had started to dance. Gradually, other dancers came on stage, and each one added to her story. They spoke about the difficulties of finding balance, they spoke about feeling of movement, of movement and of being unable to find balance. Towards the end we were made to realize that Clare’s story was that of all of the dancers on stage. Combined with repre­sentative movements, some of which were painfully smooth and others disturbingly funny, this piece was effective. I have not seen a real dance piece that is so meaningful.

Some people laughed during Clare’s piece. “I was shocked that people found it funny,” she said. While there were funny moments in her dance, like when she described how bored she was when she first saw the Nutcracker or how her sisters used to pull her hair, the fact that people found it amusing was troublesome to her. In retrospect she said, “It might be a piece that strikes non-dancers differently. I probably feel the weight of the topic more because I am a dancer.”

Kathryn Johnson, another dancer in the evening’s program, said that Saturday night was perhaps one of the best perfor­mances, but complained about the audience, saying it was “dull.” “There were two girls sitting in the front row and talking and laughing the entire time... I think it helped us to come together and put on one of the best perfor­mances we’ve ever had of this show.”

The next Dance Theater production will take place November 25 at the Avery Arts Theater.
South Africa's Transition to Democracy: A Big Myth?

By MICHAEL CANHAM, Contributor

South Africa is regarded as a case of intense democratic activity by the rest of the world. Everywhere and at every turn, the black majority is being treated to expressions of justice and the rights witnessed in every thing ranging from the passing of the new constitution, a product of four years of long negotiation between the African National Congress (ANC), led by President Nelson Mandela and the former Apartheid Regime (National Party), to participation in the local government elections, to the building of the local Reconstruction and Development Program (RDP) committees. At the same time a closer look at the democratic process reveals a wave of strikes and a recursion of social protests. These activities reflect the worsening poverty and living conditions of the black populace, along with their frustrations with the slow pace of the black-led government to deliver basic material needs such as housing, jobs, health care, and education. A very stark contradiction of this democracy in South Africa is the growing tension between the formal freedoms and democracy on the one hand and the continuing poverty and deprivation on the other. A poster at a recent march in South Africa reflected this lack of democracy (NELA/LAC) in joint responsibility for the health of an economy that they hardly own or control. South African-style democracy has come to represent the largest obstacle barring democracy for the rich, the very things that the upper classes applied as the "miracle." The organized working class, which saw the dismantling of Apartheid in the beginning of the end of exploitation, have discovered that the normalization of social democracy runs against their historical demands for decent working conditions, housing, education, and working conditions. Above all, the South African Bill of Rights entrenches private property, meaning that exploitation is a right under the new constitution.

Today, the black government in South Africa is calling on the workers to stimulate the economy and raise their productivity levels in the name of progress, freedom, and democracy. The argument put forth by social reformists—that workers will "share in the prosperity" through higher wages and better working conditions— many had made it long before the start of Reading Week, and by then were long gone. But I cannot think of anyone from this place as unfamiliar with the promises and expectations I contributed head-on in my decision to find rest.

The breath was timidically for me, even though I only left for a day. Physically the week had taken such a toll on me that for the sake of my health I had to keep myself from even thinking about work during the interlude. I spent on Metro-North toward Audrey, whom I love and laugh with, who esses my brain and warms my heart. And leaving this way was the right choice.

Purposeful, responsible neglect gave me the perspective I had been seeking for. The ability to reflect the whole found in the act of reflecting. First and foremost, it made me think that being able to access this peacelessness was maybe more important to survival than academic self-improvement.

Back at Bard I've a bit of a new subhuman side of my motivation which has allowed me to get worked up in the way I usually do. The panic attacks, waking from dreamless unable to begin, and the snow in my head which came to me before Reading Week, are physical dangers to which I cannot seem to convulse myself to return. But one day in Kline I found my breath short again and my appetite gone. I feel stalled by the stasis now, and no amount of external motivation will take me out of it if I don't brood, the. So I keep moving to push through it, and when I feel sure that I am walking, laughing, at very least breathing.

Yet what worries me most is that many people tell me they too are finding it hard this semester, in a way more powerful than ever before. I see professors hit by this same delicate wave, either confused by their assigned readings or suffering under unmanageable deadlines. Either way, these expectations are not assigned from above, delineated by incentive authorities, but comes from a fury that encircles all, that we will have to deal with before it will go away. An entire science class has been unable to complete a major lab, paper extensions have become the rule rather than the exception; one professor has coined a new epidemic among students, consisting only of missing class. Do I perceive this madmen more because I am caught up in it, or is it some sort of final thing on us? In any case, I am weathered old man who says this is no more crazy than when they were in college; somehow I was able to get through it. In some ways, I have been waiting for the "linked change" predicted by Native Americans over sixty or unadulterated ninth-grade calculus class. Wouldn't it be nice, to have our petty abstractions drained of their importance by a Change that demands we pay attention for our survival? Perhaps we fear such a change, because we associate it with empty threats and final judgment. And we wunder if we will be able to help them through it. But what if the decision is being made as we read? The natives predict a Change, punctuated by fickle weather patterns among the Gabriel*X*0r community.

The Whole Lotta Good That It's Part

By ANDY VARYU, Contributor

"Since reason demands nothing contrary to nature, it therefore demands that every man should love himself. . . ." said that new maxim (I mean real advantage), should aim at whatever really leads a man toward greater perfection, and, to sum it all up, as far as he's concerned, should endeavor to preserve his own being. This is as necessarily true of the human being, as Spinoza, c. 1670.

It was a major decision for me, last Wednesday night, to leave Bard for a day and personally separate myself from suffocating study. Perhaps that capitalism will be transformed into socialism—many had made it long before the start of Reading Week, and by then were long gone. But I cannot think of anyone from this place as unfamiliar with the promises and expectations I contributed head-on in my decision to find rest. The breath was timidically for me, even though I only left for a day. Physically the week had taken such a toll on me that for the sake of my health I had to keep myself from even thinking about work during the interlude. I spent on Metro-North toward Audrey, whom I love and laugh with, who esses my brain and warms my heart. And leaving this way was the right choice.

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Services
Tutor, specializing in study and organizational skills. Very experienced with excellent references. Linda Dostie, (914) 575-5006.

Wanted
We're looking for students (work/study and others) who are available to assist in concert productions. Inquiries can be made to Amie McCarty, Assistant to the President and Manager of Music Programs, at ext. 7425 or via Campus Mail.

U.S. and European chess magazines 1996-1997. Also looking for chess video, for free if possible. Send any or all to Miss Margaret Broxym, 715 East Rand Grove Lane, Apartment 2A, Palatine, IL 60074.

All classified ads are printed free of charge to the advertiser. The Bard Observer "reserves" the right to edit them for length and clarity, however.

DO IT FOR A DIME

For those of you unfamiliar with us, The Dime Store is the only place around to get cheap rubbers. Forget paying high prices at the Bookstore or X-tra Mart, we'll send them to you at cost, to verts equals.

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We have lubricated Lifestyles and Trojan, lubricated Rough Riders, lubricated assorted colors, non-lubed Gold Command, non-lubed Kiss of Mine, non-lubed condoms, and non-lubed Lifestyles organs. We have to keep it all Bard students and their partners safe and satisfied. If you have any questions or comments, please write them down and send them to box 774.

Do it for a dime!

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Observer Editorial Policy
The Bard Observer is Bard College's only student-run newspaper. It is published every other Monday and is distributed free on campus and in nearby communities.
Everyone is welcome to submit.
The deadline for all submissions, be they stories, cartoons, photographs, statistics, or advertising, is 2 p.m. on the Wednesday prior to publication. Late submissions (with the exception of late-breaking news articles) will not be accepted for any reason. Submit all writing on a labeled disk (or else we claim them for ourselves) in Macintosh Word format (no PC files please) along with two hard-copy printouts. Send submissions to campus mail to the corresponding section editor.
All letters go to either Lilian Robinson or Merideth Yarmut. Submit developed photographs if possible, preferably in the commercial 4X5 print size. We strongly discourage anonymous submissions. If anonymity is absolutely necessary, you must reveal your identity to the editor. The Bard Observer reserves the right to edit for spelling, grammar, length, and coherence.
Letters to the Editors

B.A.R.C. Founder
Questions point of PETA

Dear Editors,

In September of 1997 I lated the Bard Animal Rights Collective on this campus. The club was started to raise awareness of animal suffering and to encourage a cruelty-free lifestyle. It was also supposed to be a place where people who realize animals have rights can support each other. I am personally vegan and I encourage the lifestyle, but I wanted B.A.R.C. to be a place for anyone with any interest in animal rights. But ever since the signs for the first meeting went up, enormous backlash occurred. The club PETA, an idea taken from the internet, was created. I have received letters telling me B.A.R.C. signs that state that all oppression is connected and I have also been verbally harassed. B.A.R.C. has done very little to deserve the anger it receives, which makes me think the reason people are so threatened is a much bigger issue.

I have to ask myself why people feel they need a club to take pride in oppressing animals and why they feel so threatened by vegans and vegetarians. Maybe it is because vegan/vegetarianism makes people question their entire worldview. Regardless, I believe forming a club against animal rights is ridiculous and offensive. There would be outrage if there was a white pride club or a straight club, which to me is of the same mentality. Imagine a sign saying that someone should take pride in their straightness and kill a gay person. Now remember that sign that said we should take pride in one's humanness and drink milk/meat. Animals experience emotions and pain, just like people, yet people can justify killing for no reason. Animals used for the dairy and meat industries are kept confined, pumped full of hormones and antibiotics. Farm animals are as sensitive and intelligent as dogs or a cat. Very few people would let their companion animals be tortured and slaughtered, or kept confined, pumped full of hormones and antibiotics and therefore justifying their torture.

Nora Kindley
Founder

“Virtual” Hospital Merger
Is Indeed More Rational

Dear Editors,

Kingston, Northern Dutchess, and Benedictine Hospitals have rejected the type of “virtual merger” that Vassar Brothers and St. Francis have done because they saw it would not save them enough money. However, I have read that Vassar is beginning a major new construction project, so they can’t be too bad off. And this is with a projected Medicare cut for Vassar of $12.8 million over the next five years (St. Francis, $12.7 million) (Poughkeepsie Journal, Aug. 29, 1997).

For the past few years, the hospitals have been consolidating services wherever possible – lab, dialysis, etc. I think that is a more rational path and one that will have community support. That way they can maintain their individual identities – one Catholic, one secular.

Sincerely,

Mildred Meyer

Stop the Boot! Stop the Boot!

Dear Editors,

No one need be booted by Security. The jalopy would absorb the Boot, not save them. No one need be booted by Security. The jalopy would absorb the Boot, not save them. No one need be booted by Security. The jalopy would absorb the Boot, not save them.

Sincerely,

Mildred Meyer

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Editors' Note: Bard's student PETA club, People Eating Ethical Turkeys, was the only group that goes by that acronym. The original PETA, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, is an international non-profit animal protection organization over a decade old and with more than 500,000 members, many of whom are inspired by the upfront and ethically-opposite "voice" of their organization's acronym. For more information on the real PETA, write to PETA Headquarters, 501 Front St., Norfolk, VA 23510, call (757) 622-PETA, or e-mail www.peta-online.org. An article on the two PETAs, as well as B.A.R.C., will follow in the next issue of The Observer.

BARD OBSERVER LETTERS MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 1997

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Women's Athletics Breaks Records, Tops Expectations
Fall win-loss totals—31-17—made men's 2-23 look puny

By ABIGAIL ROSENBERG, Opinion Editor

From the much-touted "year of the women athletes" in the 1996 Olympics to the unexpected triumphs of the WNBA, women's athletics have been in the spotlight. This season at Bard has been no exception. In a fury of feminine athletic prowess, the Women's Tennis, Women's Volleyball, and Women's Soccer teams captured titles and records that are unsurpassed in the history of Bard athletics.

The Women's Tennis team, coached by Fred Feldman and supported by Captain Hazel Garland, are the proud champions of the Hudson Valley Athletic Conference. Boasting a historic 10-0 conference record, the team surpassed all expectations and own the right to call themselves undefeated. This marks the women's second conference championship in the past three years and makes them the team to beat in next season's race for top dog.

Unfortunately the women lost their last home game of the season to the College of Saint Thomas Aquinas. In a routing five-game match Bard was up two games to one and felt confident of a season closing victory. Going into the fourth game the players looked loose and relaxed; Shilo Burton and Eva Bodula exchanged high-fives and the back court erupted as a game started. It was a game of sports and fouls in which Bard would go on a 5-0 run and then let the lead slip. At one point Bard played so confidently that senior Addie Sanchez returned a ball, for a point, off the top of her head. Saint Thomas came back strong with the next service volley and took their turn as the leaders. The game see-sawed back and forth until Saint Thomas won 15-13.

Although coach Kristen Hal of the nationals would have pleased with the St. Thomas results the team didn't appear entirely unhappier as she walked off the court for the '97 season with a second HVWAC title in her pocket. It was an especially pleasing season for seniors Shilo Burton and Jennifer Novik who leave the sport with a legacy to the offense, and was more often on the floor than not. Juniors Eva Bodula and Joanna Zamfir feel confident continuing the Bard domination of HVWAC as coach Hall's diligent recruiting and intensive training will most likely create another seamless Bard Women's Volleyball team.

The Bard Women's Tennis team finished this season with an 8-9 record, the best so far in the history of Bard women's soccer. Closing out the season with a 1-0 win against Jersey City State College, the Blazers made Bard history in the fall of '97. Coach Jeff Dezago was pleased with the results, saying that, "Hopeful this season will prove the turning point of the women's team and next year we can look forward to a winning season for the women's team".

Bard's Women's Tennis Trashes the History Books
Raptors went 13-1 to dominate conference

By JEREMY DILLAHUNT, Sports Editor

Continuing this year's trend of victorious seasons dominated by women's teams at Bard, the Women's Tennis team destroyed their conference competition by going 10-0. The women were 13-1 for the season and an incredible 107-19 in matches played this fall. By capturing the conference the women gave Bard another first place spot alongside the Women's Volleyball team in the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Conference. This is the first time the Women's Tennis team has won the conference and it is their best record ever.

At the Hudson Valley Women's Athletic Tennis Tournament Bard took four of nine first places: Debbie Whittaker for first singles, Mass Gumbis for fourth singles, Nikki Gacibor for sixth singles, Debbie Whittaker and Laura Coxon for first doubles. The next highest ranked school only took two first place spots. The Bard women were cheated out of the tournament title by an ineffective point system. Rather than giving Bard points for a team that was too scored to compete against the mighty women, the buzzing officials advanced the Bard women to the next round pointless. By the end of the tournament the women had made up eight of the nine points, but lost the tournament by one point.

Coach Fred Feldman was ecstatic to the point of speechlessness with the season's results. According to Abby Rosenberg, "I think we made his entire life," with the exception of his dog Molly. With results like this year's we can expect to see a good showing next year at the tournament by the women's tennis team and seniors Addie Sanchez and Addie Johnsons. A new conference can even be on the horizon, considering the dominance exhibited by the women this year.

Women's Soccer Finishes With Best Season Ever
Bard women's sports continue to triumph

By JEREMY DILLAHUNT, Sports Editor

The Bard Women's Soccer team finished this season with an 8-9 record, the best so far in the history of Bard women's soccer. Closing out the season with a 1-0-0 win against Jersey City State College, the Blazers made Bard history in the fall of '97. Coach Jeff Dezago was pleased with the results, saying that, "Hopefully this season will prove the turning point of the women's team and next year we can look forward to a winning season for the women's team".

For next season the team will essentially stay the same, (losing only senior Jennifer Beattie), which Coach Dezago is also happy about. While Beattie was key to the offense as the leading goal-scorer he feels that her leaving will not create an offensive vacuum. Although there are no athletic scholarships offered at Bard, recruiting for next year's team will be intense. Coach Dezago wants to foster the attitude on the women's soccer team that playing soccer is for fun and players should not get mired down by a "winning is most important" attitude.

The success of the team rests squarely on the exceptional team play. The women's team is a perfect balance of solid individual skills and strong basic team cooperation. Other teams playing against Bard won or lost because of individual players' exceptional skills but overall, Bard has the strongest team play of the scheduled season. To improve to a winning record Coach Dezago feels that it is necessary to continue with the emphasis on the team play, in some ways emulating the Brazilian style of soccer. Strong, solid, and precise give-and-go and square plays will break down the most stalwart defenses if carried out unrelentingly. At the same time emphasis on individual styles is necessary for the Bard women to continue their climb to success. Whether it is Brina Norton's ultra aggressive midfield dominance, Paige Taylor's methodical brick wall defense, or Katrin Wessenzens exploitive roadrunner offense, the women are a formidable opponent when they play as a team.
Men's Soccer Notches Up Another Victory
(The belt is in danger of falling off however)

By JEREMY DILLAHUNT, Sports Editor

The Bard Men's Soccer team closed out the season this year with a record of 2-14. It is difficult to pin-point the cause of such a disappointing season, especially when one compares it to the previous season's relatively successful record of 5-3-8. Some would point to such reasonable arguments like a new coach, eight fresh first-year students, the loss of last year's two team captains, as well as the loss of four seasoned players to graduation and injury, and the ineligible and injury ridden roster. Excuses aside, improvement should be a cinch next year.

On a happier note, Bard lost the points off of Webb Institute when they showed up on Parents' Day '97. In an exciting and somewhat unfair match-up Bard released all of the season's aggression on the crawfish of the Webb goal. From far away as the post office one could hear the steady ring of leather meeting metal post as Bard went 1-0 for shots on goal in the first half. At one point the invincible assault on the Webb goalie by the Bard forwards and mid- and backfielders, was so heated that he fell down into a fetal position and could be heard audibly saying, "Mummy, please take me away from this evil glich." The Bard team didn't lose, however, and the poor post from Webb was left to suffer for a full forty minutes until the half-time whistle delivered him from his torment. Igor Romaniak's first-half goal temporarily snatched the Webb goalie from his girded state of consciousness when he bounced off his head and rolled into the back of the net. With a 1-0 lead going into the second half the men could smell the blood of victory dripping from their cleats. Webb attempted some form of a counterattack as they kicked the ball away, but just couldn't find the back of the net with their teeth broken hands after another meeting with the Reds. Seth scored the shot out of the men, ahem, boys, from Colombus and in doing so bought his team an extra game for the season.

Following the Columbia game, the Bard Reds hosted division leader Drew University, to which they lost 37-0. Bard played hard but just couldn't get it together against the smaller and faster team from the loveliest state in the union, New Jersey. In the first half the tone was set for a second-half confrontation due to numerous eye-gouging, goal-pulling, and nail-biting incidents. The inevitable blow-up came from a passing comment made by a Drew player and directed at Samir Vulic's mother (a popular form of degradation in the rugby world). After much posturing, not unlike that of game cocks before a fight, and finger-pointing, both Samir and the Drew player, who Junus Shriefter, Bard's own psychic rugby fan, lovingly referred to throughout the game as "Dough Boy," were ejected. The ejection failed to stir the spirits of the Bard ruggers and they continued to lose the game from there on out.

In Sunday's three-game New York Metro-politan Tournament, Bard played and lost to Manhattan College in the first round. In doing so they raised the bar for accomplishments for Bard men's sports by going 0-6 on the season. What they lacked in putting on the board they more than made up for in entertainment value. Over the season they brought us memorable moments like "the boot," numerous ambushes, even more bloody faces, and confused hunters wandering on the playing field looking for what they thought was the mating call of a Canadian moose. The season wasn't without loss however; the Reds managed to procure for themselves a couch and filled out the roster to a weighty 22 players. Next season the Bard ruggers look forward to winning their first game ever.

In referencing the officials' handbook on the rules pertaining to stomping, one could come across something like this: "Stomping: when a player from one team intentionally raises his foot above the knee level and forcefully brings it down upon the hand, stomach, face, or other body part of a member of the opposite team causing that person injury to become seriously injured (fear to suffer a contusion, laceration, hemorrhage)." However, this does not pertain to pay injuries (like broken bones or torn ligaments resulting thereof). "He wasn't even bleeding," continued Seth, wildly untruthful that he would have to sit out the last game of the rugby season.

Seth should take some comfort in knowing that the Bard Reds wouldn't be playing if it wasn't for his dramatic efforts in the game against Columbia on November 19. In that game, Bard lost, a Columbia besmirched the chastity of Seth's mother, or delivered an equally offensive remark via snail-mail to Seth, which Seth felt he needed to address personally with the tender. He did so by attempting to remove the larynx of the Columbia, with little more than his thumb nails as operating instruments, so that the besmircher could no longer besmirch. The resultant action of the incident was the self removal of the Columbia from the New York Metropolitan Tournament for fear of not being able to pick their teeth with broken hands after another meeting with the Reds. Seth scored the shot out of the men, ahem, boys, from Colombus and in doing so bought his team an extra game for the season.

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They Tore the Flesh From Its Bones
PETA shows Bardians the very spit of well-done

By JEREMY DILLAHUNT, Sports Editor

If you were anywhere on Bard campus Sunday, October 26, you would have been unable to escape the tantalizing fumes of the first annual Bard College pig roast sponsored by PETA (People Eating Tasty Animals). In an unprecedented display of ancestral mutilation, the men of Bard College tacked into the long dormant game that allows them to chase down a gristle and skin it with a single blow to the knee cap. Newt would be proud. Alas, against the blackened, bubbling, charred skin being held together only by steel wire, the Bard Rugby team hosted Drew University in a conference match. The stinky smell of barbecue sauce and singed flesh mingled in the air with the primal grunts of two groups of large men in close, intense, and intimate contact with each other.

The pig, affectionately referred to as "flapper" by some, weighed upwards of fifty pounds and yielded a succulent array of rum roast, rib, haunch chop, pork chop, tip, shoulder roast in a motto booster game. By the end of the game on Parents' Day one could see those bowed goal posts, from the damage inflicted by a Bard team that went 1-14 for shots on goal during the second half.

The fire in the bellies of the men proved to be short lived however, as they were relieved of the rigors of the season with no goals scored. At this point one could only hope for the kind of success that England had in the '96 World Cup when they made it to the dark hunte to the semifinals. Such is what dreams are made of, and for next season the Bard men better get their sleep.

The Reds Look For a Belt to Notch
(Not that they have a knife)

By JEREMY DILLAHUNT, Sports Editor

Seth Goldenfein, co-captain of the Bard Rugby team, was ejected five minutes into Sunday's New York Metropolitan Tournament, held at Bard in the "ridiculous" call of "stomping." When questioned as to whether he disagreed with the referee he said, "Of course I was stomping, I've been stomping this entire season. But to get ejected?"