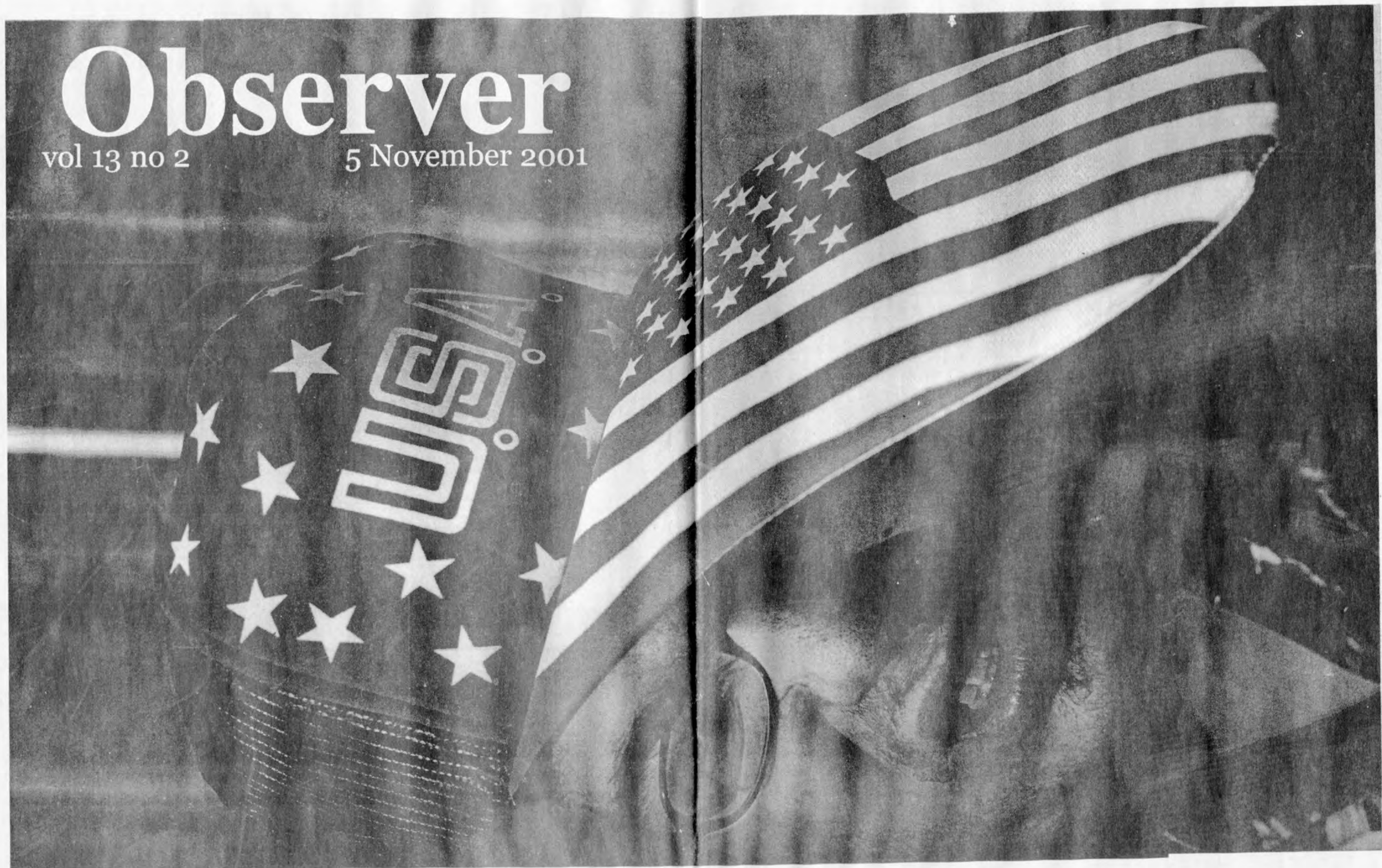


Observer

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Student Government Hard at Work

Deals with Kline, Internet, Health Services, and even Leon.

THE STUDENT GOVERNMENT has been very active this semester. All the committees are very well-organized, but I am particularly impressed with the progress made by the Student Life Committee (SLC). The SLC has undertaken a good number of projects this semester and with people like Pia and Dumaine on the committee, I am optimistic that the committee will achieve most of its goals in the near future. This, of course, is not meant to take away any credits away from Katheryn, Bianca, and Mehnaz, the other members of the Central Committee. They have been much more organized than what I hear some of their predecessors used to be.

Speaking of the projects undertaken by the Student Life Committee, these projects came as a result of the survey the committee conducted at the beginning of this semester. The main projects for this semester are:

1. CHANGING THE 19 MEAL PLAN
2. EXTENDING THE HOURS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE
3. SETTING UP AN ONLINE PHONE DIRECTORY
4. DEALING WITH NETWORK SLOW-DOWNS
5. SOCIAL SPACE IN NORTH CAMPUS
6. IMPROVING THE QUALITY OF KLINE FOOD

We have already spoken to President Leon Botstein and Dean Erin Cannan about these issues on October 29th. Our main focus in the discussion was the possibility of changing the 19 meal plan into a more flexible plan for the student body. We also discussed the possibilities for extending the hours of the Health Service, especially during the weekend.

We went to this meeting with a bit of preparation. Many of the suggestions for changing the meal plan came from the student body in the Forum on Wednesday, October 24. Additionally, we researched the meal plan options at other schools around the nation that are similar to Bard in many respects. We also looked at Bard's financial statement from last year and calculated that the cost structure of the college has not improved significantly after abandoning the 19-15-10 meal plan in favor of a single meal plan. We suggested that the college should adopt a more flexible approach since many students feel that they are paying for meals that they miss out on anyway. A lot of people feel that they don't have breakfast and so it makes no sense for them to pay for the meals that they don't eat. Many others don't like the idea of having \$150 in their Bard bucks; considering that there is not a whole lot of variety in the Down the Road Cafe, the food can get old after a little while. Also, some students cannot eat because of medical and religious reasons. All in all, students feel that there should be more options for food.

Leon responded by first saying that Bard is a secular school and is not committed to give priority to the needs of a specific religious group over the rest of the community. He also asserted that the college's philosophy is non-discriminatory when it comes to pricing its services. This is why all the dorms are priced in the same manner. He argued that having a single meal plan eliminates some of this price discrimination.

Jim Brudvig, Vice President for Administration, gave a somewhat different point of view in connection with the meal plan when I had met with him earlier. According to him, one of the reasons the current meal plan was adopted was to "simplify" things and to avoid parents complaining that "their children don't get to eat in Kline." Jim advised students to look at the meal plan as a package, just as housing or health service would be, and not think of it as a 19 meal plan. He also stated that the college has a very tight cost structure; since changing the current meal plan

would mean that the college will be giving up some revenue it has made by charging everyone for the 19 meal plan, the college will need to look for alternative sources of revenue.

Dimitri Papadimitriou, Executive Vice-President, told me at a later point that the difference

According to Brudvig, one of the reasons the current meal plan was adopted was to "simplify" things and to avoid parents complaining that "their children don't get to eat in Kline."

by Lydia Willoughby

HELKI FRANTZEN HAS waded through human sewage waste, scavenging at a landfill in Hobart, Australia, and has also worked as a dishwasher in Kline. Helki's time as a landfill scavenger calls into question a discernable concept of 'waste,' and her experiences at Kline, like any trash-sorting, bring cognizance of trash's ability to be infinite. Helki calls garbage the "stratification of human histories," a nice archeological viewpoint on the mounds of diggable material, but it reminds us of just how inescapable our consumption can be. The Bard Environmental Resources Department [BERD] runs composts in the kitchens of Kline and Down the Road Cafe and is working in conjunction with a TLS project so that each dorm will eventually have composting. Composting reduces the amount of trash that gets sent away from Bard, and these pre and post-consumer food wastes are valuable materials that can be better used at the site behind the Soccer Field than in an incinerator. Bard compost is used for landscaping; most recently in the Village Dorms and in the future at the Performing Arts Center.

Helki worked at The Resource Work Cooperative in Hobart, Australia, which despite only reducing waste by 1%, still managed to play an important role in trash reduction. The Cooperative raised awareness and provided waste reduction education by sponsoring art projects for children with their many found objects. Reusing can be more than simply buying at a thrift store, encompassing such things as chopping up an old book into mulch for the garden. Helki also practices the art of 'dumpster diving', and has learned to always be prepared with gloves, steel-toed boots and scrubby clothes in case the next dumpster on the horizon is filled with unknown junk goods. Recycling has a factory mentality - out of sight, out of mind. As soon as that recyclable is in the bin, we don't think about the fact that there isn't always a buyer for junk plastics. (However, at Bard, we do have a buyer for our recyclables.) Recycling does help reduce waste but it isn't the solution to constantly buying and throwing away, acting more like a Band-Aid to over-con-

between the 19 and the 15 meal plans is not much (\$84 to be exact) and that difference has been more than compensated by adding \$100 to each student's Bard Bucks so that students can enjoy more variety.

Erin Cannan, Dean of First Year Students, in a meeting with the Central Committee and lower administration on the 28th of September, informed us that the main motivation for changing the meal plan came from the Student Life Survey conducted at the end of last semester. When working on this meal plan, the college administrators assumed that people would be missing meals.

Anyway, as I have mentioned before, I have done some analysis on the cost structure of the college and found that the cost structure doesn't change too much even if we had the meal plan options that existed last year. (If you are interested in getting a summary result of my analysis, you can reach me by email at hf352@bard.edu). We also noticed that the colleges we have researched have a wide range of meal options. Most importantly, since Bard students want a change, we believe that there should be a change.

The administrators also agreed with us that the meal

Feeling Dirty?

What happens to your trash and how to make less of it.

sumption. Reusing is a creative process that negates the need to consume, because it uses what you already have. Reusing is about managing your waste effectively and striving towards none at all. There are similar groups to the waste-scavenging Co-op Helki worked at in Australia, in the United States and Hudson Valley region, such as the Upton SCRAP in Hudson, NY. There is also Urban Ore, out of Berkeley, California which sells unwanted goods found through salvaging or consumer drop-offs as well as designing zero waste facilities. Additionally, the Hudson Valley Materials Exchange in New Paltz sells goods recovered from land-

age, and an estimated 3 millions tons of debris from the disaster will eventually be placed there.

However, potential landfill leakage and contamination is unlike the waste produced at an incinerator. Most incinerators in the US have been shut down in the last five years for violations of the Clean Air Act, and the ash just ends up being sent to ash-only landfills called monofills. The EPA estimates that the volume of waste is only decreased by 60-70% after incineration. This small amount of waste reduction, when weighed with the environmental and human health concerns is not equivocal. The monofill, or ash-landfill is located in Cortlandt. Both the incinerator and



Fresh Kills Landfill, the granddaddy of Staten Island trash heaps.

the monofill are more dangerous to human health than a landfill ever could be. At the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency,

fills in the area.

The waste from Bard, and all of Dutchess County, goes to an incinerator in Poughkeepsie, not to a landfill. Landfills are basically like bathtubs lined with either clay soil, plastic or a composite of the two. Household items like mothballs, margarine, vinegar, booze, shoe polish and peppermint oil can create fractures and stress cracks in the plastic lining. The leaking that can occur when water gets into the fill is referred to as Leachate. Leachate can reach into the ground water and local soil, toxifying neighborhoods and creating health risks for people who live near leaking landfills. This has been especially true on Staten Island, as some of the capped areas of the fill were finished 25 years ago, before landfills were lined. One of these is Fresh Kills, the 50 year old mega-landfill on Staten Island which soars around 225 feet, the same height as the Statue of Liberty, and is the highest 'hill' on the East coast. Incidentally, it was reopened after finally closing in March of 2001 to accept waste from the World Trade Center Towers wreck-

EPA tests determine the safety of monofill ash. But even EPA-approved 'safe ash' contains 2000 parts per million (PPM) lead in bottom ash and twice the PPM in fly ash. Safe ash goes directly into the fill, despite being already toxic - five times higher than the EPA's 'level of concern for soil.' The problem with incineration is that it turns 'good' waste into toxic waste.

Even with the recovery of ferrous metals by magnetic separation, the ash is still composed of arsenic, lead, cadmium, chromium, zinc, PCBs (we are in the Hudson Valley), dioxins, benzene and other toxins. Rutgers University recently did a study that analyzed the EPA standards for monofill ash. The EPA "tox test" allows ash to contain up to 100 times as much metal as drinking water, which is now back to 1942 arsenic standards thanks to Bush, and still not be labeled hazardous before it is placed in the fill lined with easily breakable plastic, sand and gravel. Incinerators emit air pollution in the burn process, and the waste left over from this process is now toxic, and

plan has to be changed if the students want it to be changed, provided the proposed change fits well within the institutional framework of Bard College! Unfortunately, the college signed a contract for a year, which means that even if there is any change in the meal plan, that will take effect starting from next fall.

The other issue we discussed was extending the hours of the Health Services, possibly during the weekend. This is because someone out sick on a Friday will have to be left unattended over the weekend and will have to wait until Monday for treatment and medications. Extending the Health Service hours during the week, or even during the weekend, could prove to be extremely valuable. However, we would also like to advise students to have some basic medication with them at all times to reduce such risks. Pia Carusone, Chair of the Student Life Committee, has been meeting with the Health Service officials to discuss possible reasonable alternatives.

We are also working on establishing an online phone directory. To avoid any security hazards, the set-up will be such that a) only those interested will have their phone numbers only and b) a person can only find out a phone number using their Bard email login ID and password. Dave Maswick from the Henderson Computer Center has

continued on pg. 7

Vandals at Bard Strike Two Places

Some high profile damage hits the Audio Co-op and Cemetery

by **Jacob Cottingham**

RECENTLY, there have been several major acts of vandalism on the Bard campus involving the Audio Co-op and the cemetery near the chaplaincy. Tombstones in the cemetery were toppled over and broken on two occasions and Audio Co-op instruments and equipment was thrown out of a window the night of Drag Race. At print there seemed to be little evidence in regard to who may have committed these acts.

The first incident involving the cemetery was reported around the beginning of the semester, according to Erin Cannan, Dean of Students. She said that after this first instance of vandalism Security patrols were increased in the area. Despite this, around the weekend of October 13-14 the tombstones were vandalized again. Because the crimes have been reported after the fact, it has been difficult to pin down when exactly they occurred. Cannan said that there was not a lot of evidence of partying in the area, though usually cases of vandalism tend to involve drugs and/or alcohol. The second incident did seem to be indicative of the same kind of behavior as the previous one, possibly committed by the same people. These two occasions mark the first time that there has been vandalism in the cemetery and especially in light of the location, "it is antithetical to the whole Liberal Arts ideal," Cannan said.

She said overall, especially after Sept. 11, there is a heightened concern because it is a Christian burial ground being deliberately defaced, and without information "you make up your own stories." She stressed that people should be aware of how they deal with their frustrations and how this is a potential example of people taking those out on their own community.

The repairs are estimated to cost a couple thousand dollars, and the college has filed a report with the State Police. In addition, the chaplaincy is working with B&G on ways to better secure the area and there have been dorm meetings with Hirsch and Trimble, the two dorms closest to the graveyard.

The repairs are estimated to cost a couple thousand dollars, and the college has filed a report with the State Police.

and Grounds, Security and the chaplaincy to find out more about the incident. Cannan said that if the persons who committed the crime are found, the college will try and work with them to reach an agreeable solution.

The Audio Co-op is similarly puzzled at the nature of the vandalism against them. The Co-op is a student run, student supported club that provides equipment, instruments



Two of the broken gravestones in the cemetery.



Leila Fain

and space to those who need it. Despite these good intentions, on the night of October 20 someone decided to toss instruments and equipment out a window of the Old Gym. Some amplifiers were slightly damaged, others were completely destroyed. One guitar and a drum set were also damaged. Cannan said "It's the same thing in a different way. Destruction for Destruction's sake. I'm unclear where that desire comes from, retaliation against your own community. Students taking something out on students for no express purpose."

Mike Morini, President of the Audio Co-op, said, "I heard that because the equipment was in the Drag Queen's changing room, some drunken hooligan threw all of the shit out the window, the fuck. Everything down to the smallest broken drumstick onto the pavement. Perhaps a twenty foot drop." This vandalism appeared to have occurred during the "peak" hours of Drag Race, roughly between 12:30 and 2:00 AM. It was first noticed by Security and the party givers shortly after that time. In such an atmosphere, it seems hard to believe that nobody noticed instruments and equipment being thrown out a window, and there is hope that someone saw something that can lead to more information being obtained about this. With the heightened security that night, it appears more likely that it was Bard students involved with this incident. If that is the case, the perpetrator would probably sit before the Student Judiciary Board, the arm of the Student Government that handles such matters. For now, the Drag Race committee is giving a portion of the money made from collecting admission to fix the damaged amplifiers and instruments.

Cannan said that there has always been vandalism, at least since she has been at Bard, and that it is something that happens at colleges across the nation on a fairly regular basis. In the past, promotional stuff has been done on the amount of money spent each semester by the college on repairing vandalism, and that it usually peaks around mid-terms and finals.

If anyone has any information relating to any of these instances of vandalism, they should contact Erin Cannan or Safety and Security.

Attention Bard Voters: Local Elections Coming Very Soon

by **Monica Elkinton**

THERE IS A LOCAL election coming up on November 6th. For locally registered voters, the polls are open from 6am-9pm. The polling place for Bard students is St. John's Episcopal Church on River Road. (It's blue and white, at the stop sign between Annandale and the Kingston Bridge.) The contested offices are County Legislature and two spots on the Red Hook Town Council.

For County Legislature, the choice is between Republican incumbent Woody Klose, Democrat Glenn Goldstein, and Liberal Party/Independence Party member Frank Stoppenbach.

Klose has been representing Red Hook as a conservative Republican for several terms. Regarding Bard students specifically, Republican Klose served as chair of a county legislative committee formed in early 2000 to investigate why Dutchess County was not letting college students vote. After listening to student and faculty complaints at both Bard and Vassar, Klose moved slightly towards letting students vote, but he has never supported us completely. As a representative to Poughkeepsie of Red Hook voters, his attendance at legislative sessions is the worst of any Dutchess legislator.

Glenn Goldstein, his Democratic challenger, is the former owner of the Red Hook Inn. Many Red Hook residents also know him from the Inn's catering business. He supports Democratic ideology such as open space, reforming funding of public schools and especially expanding programs for teenagers in the area. Goldstein also supports a fair county redistricting plan, unlike the recent Republican plan,

which was ruled illegal in court. Frank Stoppenbach, the third-party candidate, is a self-described "independent thinker." He supports several progressive ideals, such as fair redistricting, but was not endorsed by the Democratic Party. The Liberal party, which did endorse Stoppenbach, is a third party based loosely on liberal ideology. Stoppenbach takes no campaign donations, and has no campaign signs or literature.

For Red Hook Town Council (a.k.a. Town Board), the candidates for two spaces are Republican incumbents Jim Ross and Sue Crane, and Democrat/Green challenger Leslie Gabriel. You can choose two. Jim Ross has been on the Town Board for twelve years. He is a conservative Republican, who has always supported more economic development in Red Hook, including the Hannaford supermarket. Sue Crane, although a Republican, has routinely made an effort to work with the Democratic minority on the Council. Crane is not afraid to vote against Republican-supported proposals such as the Hannaford store.

Leslie Gabriel, Ross and Crane's sole challenger, has lived in Tivoli a shorter amount of time than many Bard students have. He has visited Bard several times this semester, including the first weekend of L&T 2001, where he led an effort to register students to vote. Although his views may not seem unusual on Bard campus, he is extremely liberal for the surrounding community. Gabriel's main issue is the preservation of greenspace and local farms in the Town of Red Hook. He also supported the community by funding his campaign through both collecting cans for recycling, and a lemonade stand at the

Gathering of the Vibes music festival in July.

These are the candidates among which you will be asked to choose on Tuesday, November 6. Please attempt to gather other information from local sources (newspapers, residents, etc.) about the

candidates. Choose wisely. I will be voting for Glenn Goldstein, Sue Crane, and Leslie Gabriel, but please do your own research. Perhaps your views fit more with Frank Stoppenbach or Jim Ross. See you at the polls.

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Explaining The Thailand Trip

by Hasan Al Faruq

EVER SINCE TEN-plus Bard students and an administrator made a trip to Thailand last winter to help build a house, many Bard students have become increasingly interested in knowing more about the trip. Prakirati "Biek" Satasut, a junior from Thailand and the protagonist of this entire project, talked us through "The Thailand Trip," as the project is called. He discussed a wide range of issues from how the trip was launched, to his future plans regarding the trip, his motive, and upcoming activities.

Q: Biek, tell us how the idea of a trip to Thailand originated in the first place. Did it start out as a TLS project, or was it something that you had in mind for a long time?

Biek: I started working on this project at first as an extension of a chapter of Habitat for Humanity that I was founding on campus two years ago [my freshmen year]. Back in high school, I used to work with Habitat on a bi-monthly basis, meaning that I would go with a group of students to a Habitat worksite in a local area and help out with construction work on houses. The lands were donated to Habitat from the city council, and other sources of donation were spent on building materials (power-tools, nails, hammers, etc.). And from this involvement, I also became involved with "The Global Village" program, which is a program of international aid for housebuilding around the world. Habitat has its chapter in many countries, and each chapter works on housing project and facilitating a group of volunteers from other countries, who would come in and participate in the building project at that particular country. My sophomore year in high school, I went to a small country called Guyana, which is located a little further south of Jamaica, and worked on housebuilding there for a week or so.

When I came to Bard, Habitat for Humanity was my first project for TLS due mainly to the reason that there was no Habitat chapter on Bard campus, and no one in TLS at that time had worked on such a project. Therefore, I started working on founding a chapter of Habitat and later did I extend this project into the Global Village program. The reason simply was that the local Habitat chapter was really small, and the amount of work and number of times we could work during the year was limited. Also, I happened to receive information that Thailand finally had a Habitat chapter in Bangkok, and it started growing into branches around Thailand. Instead of working only on a local level, I made a decision that I should also work on getting Bard students to Thailand. The reason was that not only was there no overseas voluntary program from TLS before, but also due to the fact that I want to work on my TLS project and contribute something to my country, Thailand, as well.

Moreover, I received a grant from the Henriquez Foundations to help pay for certain construction costs in Thailand. Without this help, the project could never have hap-

pened.

Q: Talk us through the Thailand Trip that took place last year.

Biek: Last winter break, eleven Bard students and one administrator traveled to Thailand to help build a house in affiliate with Habitat for Humanity. Through a series of fundraisers (benefit faculty lunch and selling brownies among others) and a personal contribution from each of the group members, [they] funded their own airfares, room and board.

The working site was in Chiang Mai, a northern province of Thailand that is approximately twelve hours away from Bangkok, the capital of Thailand, by car.

The group spent a week working on house construction and interacting with the locals and the house owner. All members, most of whom were inexperienced to house building, learned construction skills from their co-workers, who worked along side, supervised the group, and were the house owner's friends.

Then, the group spent five days in a remote monastery located on Doi Pui, or Pui mountain, in a more rural part of Chiang Mai, living with Buddhist monks, helping out with simple task works, and learning Buddhism through daily routine and interaction within the monastery.

While in Chiang Mai, the group also had an opportunity to visit a local school, which had classes ranging from 7th to 12th grade. Each member became a temporary teacher for half a day, teaching English classes.

In the final phase of the trip, the group headed back to Bangkok and did some sightseeing in the last couple of days before coming back to upstate New York.

Q: Will there be another trip to Thailand this year? What are your plans for the trip?

Biek: We are going to build a school this winter break. Over intersession, 12 Bard students, along with two administrators, will be traveling to Thailand to help build a school in Chiang Rai, a province in a northern part of Thailand. Each one was selected last spring semester through a careful selection process and is committed to work toward fundraising for this trip. In addition to this, each member of the group has to contribute a certain amount of personal deposits for his/her own airfare, room and

who are willing to donate some of their labor crew toward this project. What is needed for this project are materials for construction and our help, with positive attitude.

The school's name is the Ban Pong Klang Nam School, and it has 356 students and 14 teachers. The school was founded 17 years ago as a branch of a nearby school. The first building was a sim-



A shack made temporarily for classes. Because of its high altitude location on a mountain it is very hard to hold classes there in the winter.

ple shack that villagers helped put together. Later, the school became enlarged with more buildings provided by financial assistance from government funding and foreign grants.

The school itself was officially inspected and is now legally operating with teachers, who are employed and sent by the education board. In other words, these teachers are government employees, who have passed examination to hold a certificate of teaching.

Within the school, there are three buildings for classrooms, and two more for faculty and student housing. Two out of three buildings are reported as "broken" and not in a condition that would be able to withstand harsh weather any longer.

Q: You mentioned that students are carefully selected into the program. What is the application procedure?

Biek: Yes, any one, who is interested in this program, has to apply for this program. The selection process is very simple. First, they are given certain questions about why he/she would want to participate in this program. Along with other questions, an applicant has to write a brief response (1-2 pages) in regards to these questions. Then, he/she is scheduled to have an interview with some administrators, the trip co-ordinators and myself. After all these, decisions are made and I write letters to inform all applicants of their results, which they would receive through campus mail.

Q: You have also mentioned that the Trip is made possible through connections in the country you are interested to work in. How important is the connection factor – do we need such connections if we were to undertake

similar projects in another country next year?

Biek: Similar projects are undertaken at this moment by some other TLS members. These include a school-building trip to

Ghana, a mentoring and volunteer program in Mexico, and a farming project in Russia. For the Thailand trip, I will continue this program in Thailand next year and start recruiting new members in the spring semester.

It is certainly the case that working in a particular country requires a contact and substantial knowledge of such a place.

However, if one is to work through organization like Habitat, it is not necessary to know someone there or have a concrete idea of what would happen, because one can always do everything through such an organization. Still, it takes quite a lot for the group organizer to work on such a project.

There are subtle difficulties attached to these works that might just occur and become too overwhelming.

Q: Why do you intend to continue this trip? What was your philosophy behind the first trip?

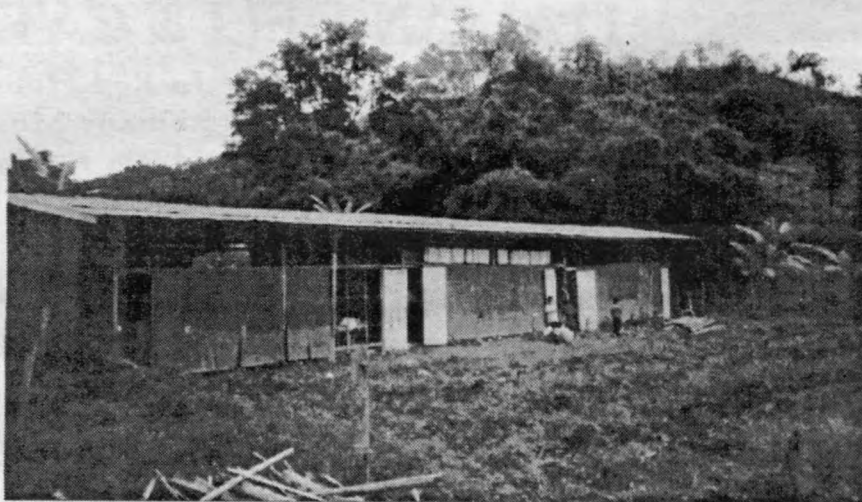
Biek: We believe that building a house would not only directly benefit the house owner, but that this action itself would also benefit the community we work with and ourselves.

When we worked on our fundraising activities and other educational activities (guest speakers from Thailand coming to speak about sweatshop labor) at Bard, we did so out of belief that our actions here would make our peers and other individuals in this community aware of the destabilizing effects of social injustice in developing countries such as Thailand and raise an interest in a perception of cultural exchange.

When we are in Thailand working along side with the locals, we also think that not only are we doing a community service, we are also immersing ourselves in a distinctive culture, which is much different from the one we are accustomed to. Such experiences give us opportunities to examine ourselves, our identity, and our cultural similarities and differences which in turn, lead to our personal and intellectual growth. At the same time, this act of community service works as an example for both our peers and the locals in Thailand. That if we can come together regardless of social layers such as class, gender, or race, we can accomplish and overcome difficulties in our community and beyond.

I would like to add more information on our upcoming fundraising events. We will keep on selling brownies every Thursday night. A single one is \$1.50 and two for \$2. They are huge. Also, we are going to have a food festival sometime in late November, which will be really good, and possibly a benefit Cabaret show, or a benefit party for Thailand.

Soon, we will organize an information meeting for anyone, who has heard about our trip and is interested in this program, so that people can get ready for application and become informed. We don't have an exact date yet but will promptly announce it as soon as we decide on the date.



A building for grade school children which is made out of aluminum tile. The walls and roof get rusty as it withstands rain and moisture from the forest. The building itself is on the verge of being abandoned.

board.

Through a connection that we have in Thailand, we have learned that the school, located in a remote area in Chaing Rai, is in need of a new building. We have been offered assistance from local contractors,

Bard Space Program Gets Headquarters

Continues to be a role model to community and Universe

by Ben Dangl

THROUGHOUT HISTORY, humanity has been blessed with individuals who have stood on the thin line between doing absolutely nothing, and doing almost everything. Results have shown that the two activities are often one and the same. Though it may take courage, intellectual prowess, and a sense of humility, it is possible to walk that line, and in so doing nothing, accomplish everything.

The Bard Space Program is doing everything.

The preliminary official mandatory deposit of *The Orbiter* at the space program's headquarters took place last Friday. Civilians driving on Annandale Road during the transition were perplexed after encountering a 1986 Volkswagen that the orbiting capsule will be loosely based upon, being pulled slowly down the road by a group of unshaven Bard students. Some cars wanted to look and stop, others had no choice. After stopping off at B and G for air they proceeded down Annandale road. Some onlookers fled, imagining it to be an alien invasion. Others simply joined the parade.

When bystanders asked why they were blocking traffic, The Space Program facilitators replied, "Oh it is OK, eventually we are going to orbit the Earth." To which the bystanders replied with a hesitant, "Yeah.... OK." *The Orbiter* relocation involved dangerously enthusiastic participants. Banners were waving and people slowed down their cars wondering what the hell was going on.

Well, what the hell is going on? "We have actively begun the research on self sustaining agricultural communities that we will attempt to implement in space," O'Shea says. This aspect of the program is led by Leith Nye.

As far as the current political and military situation in the world today, O'Shea comments, "We are going to go to space regardless of what is happening politically. Rather, we are going to space because of regardless what is happening politically.."

As far as future Bard Space Program events are concerned, there will be another, more official, parade taking place for the Bard community and universe at large to become a part of. This official parade will take

place soon; keep your eyes peeled for signs. A filmmaker has been documenting the struggles and triumphs of the space program since day one. A screening of this documentary will take place soon, with a supplementary lecture and information session. Another upcoming promotional and fund raising activity will be the creation of stickers, buttons and hats with The Bard Space Program logos on them.

As of now, The Space Program has had problems collaborating with faculty on propulsion research, because it is "too dangerous." As far as the general response from the community about the Program,

Tucker Dalton, The Bard Space Program's Philosophical Consultant, replied. "We are the engine that fuels humanity. We are doing the improbable...I am not joking."

The Bard Space Program Crew

- Jamie O'Shea - Space Program Commander in Chief
- Jean Pesci - Documentary Filmmaker
- Brian Yanity - Director of Propulsion Research and Development
- Ben Dangl - Press Correspondent
- Lieth Nye, Ken Ober - Head of Orbital Biological Research
- Kate Mullen - Head Computer Programmer
- Adam Christopher - Head of Orbiter



These Bard students and many others pulled the future Orbiter (1986 Volkswagen Scirocco) in the Space Programs promotional pull/Orbiter relocation

O'Shea says, "The community seems to have been responding with an overwhelming confusion, some with skepticism and many with anxieties. In addition, many individuals have also come forth with an unbridled enthusiasm."

The attendance of "people" in spacesuits at the drag race was in no way affiliated with The Bard Space Program. In fact, reason alludes to the possibility that these people were loosely influenced by the aesthetic designs of The Bard Space Program suits.

Lastly, in an informal interview with Bard Professor of Physics Burt Brody, he commented on the Space Program's aspiration, "I don't think your goal is accessible." To which

- Construction
- Lisa Claire - Launch Director
 - Matt Hopkins, Matt Casuccio, Bjorn Quenemoen - Score Composer
 - Abby Morgan, Maggie Ogden, Dan Prendergast, Molly Myerson, Sam Mende-Wong - Control Systems Support
 - Tucker Dalton - Philosophical Consultant
 - Blanca Lista - Diplomat

If you are an artist or a scientist interested in altering the course of history through The Bard Space Program, then contact The Bard Space Program Headquarters, at ext. 4745.

The Bard Observer will follow the developments and progress of the program in each issue.

BERD cont'd. from pg. 2

can never be used again. Workers at the fill may see it differently, as the Dutchess County Resource Recovery Agency prides itself on "bioenergy" and material recovery. According to the DCRRA, "waste to energy actually improves air quality because its emissions are less than those of conventional power plants." Even with the \$3 million dollars worth of steam the burnplant sells Central Hudson Gas and Electric Corporation, Central Hudson still operates from natural gas and fossil fuels. This is the same logic demonstrated by PCB-loving General Electric in their ads against the EPA-approved dredging of the Hudson River. While the goal was the reduction of GE-introduced PCBs, the company used the slogan "the River is Cleaning Itself." Yeah, right.

The whole of the Salvaged Office Supply room is comprised of materials deemed waste at one point or another. The paradigm is to decrease trash thrown

away, but this can only be changed through either reusable and recycling efforts or an extensive shift in the way one purchases items. It'd be great to have our waste sent to a divable-landfill, but for now, we have no other option than toxicity at a monofill. BERD is great because we are separating out reusables from the recycling, not the trash. So we're choosing to reuse before we recycle. This process reduces the waste sent for incineration by taking out reusable materials or recyclables, and it benefits Bard. BERD works in conjunction with many Bard Offices, students, and staff to decrease waste sent to the Poughkeepsie incinerator. From free office supplies, to Helki's time as a scavenger of landfills, and the composting at Kline and Down the Road Cafe it is apparent that every step is crucial to reducing the waste process.

The Bard College Diversity Report

IN THE UPCOMING spring semester the Bard Diversity and Inclusion Board will present to the campus a formal report that has taken over a year to complete. The Bard College Diversity Report will be, in part, a snapshot of perceptions, concerns, needs, and ideas about diversity on campus and will also include recommendations for the creation, maintenance, and/or reorganization of college programs, services, and curriculum. The board has gathered feedback from faculty, staff, and students, and is currently in the process of analyzing and summarizing those responses. Upon completion, the report will provide a history of diversity at Bard and recommend ways of addressing issues that the respondents have raised. It will consist of an Executive Summary and Final Report that includes background information on diversity at Bard, methodology, summaries of feedback, and recommendations. In the spring, the Diversity Board will focus on implementing the reported recommendations, creating programs to which broaden awareness, and institutionalizing consistent assessment processes.

The Bard Diversity and Inclusion Board is a campus-wide planning board charged with developing an institutional plan for building cohesion and respecting difference in our community. In the fall of 2000 Angela Oh, an appointee of the Mayor of Los Angeles to the City Human Relations Commission and a member of President Clinton's Advisory Board to the President's Initiative on Race, joined the Bard community to introduce the Diversity and Inclusion Board and provide suggestions on how our community could be more effective in serving the needs of our diverse student population. Dr. Oh's appearance corresponded with the formal beginning of the Diversity Report. Her talk, along with the previous work of the Diversity Board, provided the impetus for the Bard College Diversity Report. Since then, the group has been hard at work collecting feedback from students, staff, faculty, and administration to find ways to best address diversity at Bard College.

The Diversity Board has spent the past months requesting, analyzing, and summarizing data. For those of you that responded to the invitations and shared your perspective on diversity at Bard, we want you to know that your input was invaluable, that your voices were heard, and that we will work to maintain the excellence in diversity that we, as a community, strive for.

As we work through the final stages of the report, we thank you for your time and energy. We will keep you updated as to our progress and look forward to presenting our findings at the beginning of Spring 2002. If you have any questions about this report, feel free to contact the Director of Multicultural Affairs, Jennifer Jimenez, by e-mail at diversity@bard.edu or by phone at x7454.

Bard Diversity and Inclusion Board Members as of Fall 2001:

Faculty:	Staff:
Students:	
Myra Armstead	Mary Backlund
Elizabeth Anderson	
Aureliano DeSoto	Fred Barnes
Bertha Cordero	
David Lopez	Jonathan Becker
Juan Martinez	
Garry Reigenborn	Erin Cannan
Josephine Moon	
Julia Rosenbaum	Allen Josey
Jessica Neptune	
Geoffrey Sanborn	John Kelly Jr.
Tamara Plummer	
	David Shein
Dumaine Williams	Idahlia Stokas
Alan Wolfzahn	

Ol' Dirty Bastard

The Dirty Story: The Best of ODB



HIP HOP DOESN'T have a long tradition of greatest hits albums because most artists don't last long enough to make the number of good songs necessary to have a greatest hits album. Every now and then though, someone releases a greatest hits album whether it's for talent and longevity, or out of necessity for money. When Flava Flav had some legal troubles, Public Enemy put out its *Greatest Misses* album to help him financially (they deserved the greatest hits album anyway). Ol' Dirty Bastard's got some bills to pay. He's not bankrupt or anything, but he's got court costs, new teeth (damn they're shiny), and needs some good publicity. So,

RZA helped put together *The Dirty Story: The Best of ODB*. So far as the track choices go, there's 9 tracks you know and love from the Dirt Dog, followed by three new tracks that got made while ODB was on a hiatus from the slammer. The album opens with the ODB classics "Shimmy Shimmy Ya" and "Brooklyn Zoo," then shifts to the ass-shakin' party standard "Got Your Money," and then guides through

a nostalgic journey into the recent past, composed of hot tracks from ODB's solo projects. Keeping this album from being a choice of tracks you could have put together yourself on a mix CD is the collection of random ODB interview segments which include him talking about being raw, telling the story of how he and Chris Rock were introduced for "Recognize," and an explanation of why Rick James is the greatest ever (except for Otis Redding). These moments, as well as the new tracks, are what keep this from being just a bunch of songs you already own. The first new track is really not a totally new song, but a remix of Mariah Carey's "Fantasy" which ODB appeared on in '98. I thought it was kind of a strange track choice, but Mariah has pretty much been edited off except for the intro, and at the end there is a Mariah sound-alike asking ODB, "Whatcha gonna do when ya get outta jail?" with ODB answering, "Have some fun." The second of ODB's tired-of-jail tracks is "I Can't Wait." The beat behind it is hot, but the lyrics leave something to be desired (it's mostly just ODB repeating "Big Baby Jesus I can't wait"). The third track is truly something special. It is the rebirth of ODB/Osiris/Big Baby Jesus raw style hip hop into live instrumentation lounge jazz. The track is a duet between Lil' Mo (the only good Lil') and ODB titled "Good Morning Heartache," which grooves out like a jazz standard played in the tradition of Barry White. Dirt Dog doesn't do too much, but dirty scat is something worth hearing. One of the highlights of this album, besides the classic ODB tracks and the last track, are the liner notes. The insert is a combination ODB timeline and shiny teeth appreciation photo gallery. The timeline includes a list of all of his aliases and such classic media moments as walking out of the hospital after being shot and visiting the four year old girl he saved from underneath a car while she was in the hospital. The whole thing is pretty much a bunch of good publicity for Ol' Dirty because yeah, he's in trouble but he's probably not a bad guy. The one truly heart-warming moment comes from an unattributed quote, which says, "the kids love Dirty, you know what I mean? Every time they see Dirty they smile. Then that makes him smile. I wanna get on my knees and play Lego blocks with them and everything." Little kids love Ol' Dirty, buy his album.

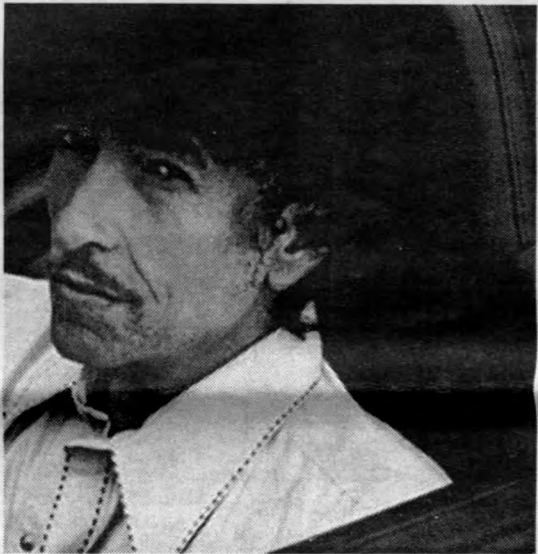
- Patrick Rodgers

SINCE HIS 1969 release, *Nashville Skyline*, Bob Dylan has been consistent only in his evasion of consistency. With seemingly no regard for the expectations of his fans, he has seldom held one form, producing works ranging from Christian rock to pitiful attempts at 80's conformity. In fact his music has become so amalgamous that the only remaining shock would be a return to conformity. This is precisely the accomplishment of his 43rd album, *Love and Theft*.

The album is no less than a masterpiece. It's foremost quality being a return to Dylan's glory days. Brilliantly alluring yet terrestrial lyrics combined with a reliance on strong studio musicianship propels the listener through the disc. There is no low point, no song to skip. The music itself is a tour of American roots. It's eleven tracks masterfully encompass swingy jazz, delta blues, strait country as well as the expected folk rock. The music immediately sucks the listener into the album's emotional identity, when Dylan begins sing the job is half done already. Dylan would be the first to admit that the album's music is seldom his own creation. Ten years on the road has given him a strong confidence in his touring band, which was brought into the studio for the first time. The result is a musical solidity near unparalleled among Dylan's albums. The premier track "Tweedle Dee and Tweedle Dum" floorboards the music from the first with it's rockabilly beat and eyebrow cocking lyrics. In it we hear the best of the old Dylan, yet are instantly aware of some new charac-

Bob Dylan
Love and Theft

teristics. Firstly his voice is entirely blown out, and it still sounds great. Retaining all it's promise of depth, Dylan's new tone replaces the youthful prophet with a time-weary elder. The difference is paralled by a new lyrical content. Dylan is no longer warning his peers of impending change, but is rather warning the new generations of life's bitter consistency. In this, many of the songs are reminiscent of the Academy Award winning "Things Have Changed," the album's imagery repeatedly returns to smoky bars, moral lapses and shady deals. It confronts the greatest evils and purest happiness in Dylan's life. In it we come to see a man, who morally triumphant in his age, remains quite aware of the sordid paths which yielded his current state. Yet *Love and Theft* is by no means a retrospect. Dylan has not lost his youth in age. "Well, I'm drivin' in the flats in a Cadillac car; The girls all say, 'You're a worn out star!' My pockets are loaded and I'm spendin' every dime. How can you say you love someone else, You know it's me all the time." If nothing else Dylan knows what he wants. The metaphysical speculations and searches for truth that dotted his early work are entirely absent now. Instead, using the same elusive language of his youth, Dylan is directing us to the truth he has acquired. Far from a single doctrine, it is a sporadic acknowledgement of innate



evil, of jealousy, vanity and hatred as well as the merits of love and simplicity. The underlying phrase is this: "I'm an old man now: here's what I know." This staunch honesty is the very essence of the album. Far from the lofty preachings or fad infatuated poses of Dyaln's past, *Love and Theft* is the simple fruition of a brilliant mind proceeding into sagacity. It is lyrically masterwork paralled only by the subtly ingenious music which propels it. Quickly put, it is an album that all Dylanites, and most people, should somehow acquire.

- Asher Ross

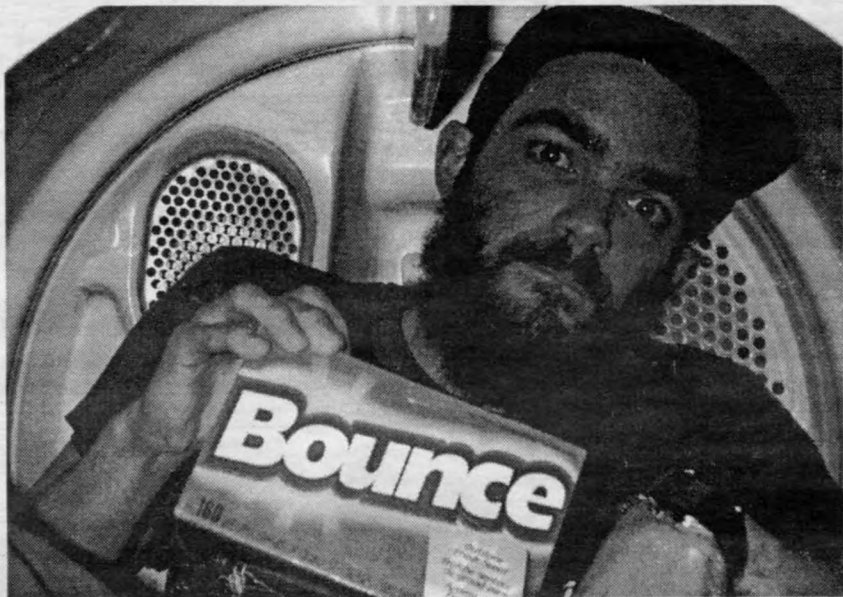
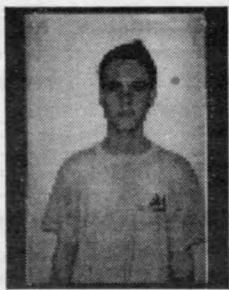
Student gov't cont'd. from pg. 2
informed us that this is possible. He also assured us that the network slow down is temporary and will not persist in the Spring semester. The other thing we are trying to work on is to see if we can get a social space in North Campus. Fred Barnes, Director of Residence Life, told us that plans are underway for having something like an all-night sandwich or coffee shop in Sawkill in North Campus. This issue will be discussed in greater detail in the future. If you have any inputs, please let us know. Finally, Dumaine is heading the Food Committee in order to work on the quality of food at Kline. Also involved with the Committee are Jennifer Jimenez, Assistant Dean of Students, and Chaz, Jim, and Allen from Chartwells. The next meeting is Tuesday, November 13 at 6:30 PM in the Kline Committee Rooms. You should definitely bring in your suggestions about Kline food;

there is no point bitching about the quality of Kline food if you don't let these people know about your preferences. At the same time, these people have a right to know how much you appreciate the food. If you like a certain dish and feel that there should be more dishes like this, then you should also speak out. The bottom line is that you should not hesitate to tell people what you want. In the meantime, I am also working on setting up an office-space for the student government. I have already set up a voice system for you to use. The extension is 6064. There are four mailboxes for each committee. Once again, this system has been set up so that you can convey your concern to us right away. I have also created a website for the student government with my limited web-designing skills. The idea was to have a website so that we could update it regularly to keep stu-

dents posted with our activities. I am using a redirect URL. It is: <http://studentgovt.iscool.net>. had no intentions of choosing such a funky domain name, but didn't have too many options. I will talk to the web-designers at Henderson who designed the official Bard website and work with them over the winter intercession to see if we can get a nicer domain name, make the website a little fancier, and get more space for this site in the Bard server. It is not always easy for us to write up-to-date articles in the newspapers if they are not coming out on time. It's much easier for us to update the website. We will update the page regularly. So you should keep checking this page regularly. You should also check out the student government bulletin board in the campus center for updated info. At this moment, we are also working very hard on making the Student Association Constitution more readable for students and hope to have it done soon. These are some of the projects that we have been working on this semester, in

addition to our usual assignments as members of the student government. If you have any specific concerns, or questions, you should feel free to call us at x6064, or email us at centralcom@bard.edu. We want you to give us your inputs on a regular basis. We realize that we wouldn't have been able to embark into so many projects without your input at the Student Life Committee survey and at the October 24 Forum; and we definitely believe we won't be able to do anything at all if you don't assist us by actively voicing your concerns. Our goal is to maintain a very clear line of communication between the student government and the student body, because we believe that there is basically no difference between the two. We will get back to you with more updates in the future. Don't forget to come to the next Student Forum on November 14, at 7:30 PM in Kline Committee Rooms.

Hasan Faruq
Student Body Secretary



Mike Morini



The End of an Era . . . RIP SPB

An Exclusive interview with MC Feitler		the people who will help me do that.	plans for the future?	er fucker.	it's like when you put a sheet of bounce in the dryer: everything is smelling sweet, but it is all dried up, Don't touch me. Everybody is messing with me and I can't stand it. People have this tendency to treat me like a toy. If I could just stay in a room and make raps and only come out to share them and go bananas with my friends every now and then, I would. I feel the power. I got a gold watch so I'm not hungry anymore... I am starving... Bye-bye, SPB.
Observer: What is your name?	MC Feitler: MC Feitler.	O: How did you meet the other members of SPB?	MF: I was all drunk up in the club and they came up to me.	O: What do you have to say to all of your fans.	
O: What is your job?	MF: I sing the songs for ...	O: And they asked you if you wanted to form a band?	MF: I'm out of the band.	MF: I love you.	
O: Who?	MF: All the babies I will make and	O: Your band has had much success up till now. What are your	O: What do you mean?	O: Is there a reason for your departure?	
			MF: I'm getting married.	MF: <sigh> No comment... No, I will comment. If you want to know this or that you should ask the streets because the streets never lie. That's why I have got to bounce from this band because	
			O: With whom?		
			MF: I don't wanna talk about it.		
			O: So what has happened to SPB?		
			MF: We got divorced in this moth-		

With a Name Like Konk Pack...

Improv set by electronic ensamble fails to impress

THREE EUROPEAN "avant-garde" improvisers known as Konk Pack; Tim Hodgkinson on flat guitar, clarinet, alto sax, and electronics, Thomas Lehn on analogue synthesizers and Roger Turner on drums and percussion played in Blum Hall on Friday October fifth.

Before they played, Bard alumni Nick Krapels sat dead center in front of the audience at his table full of intimidating little electronic toys and seemed to be vastly uninterested in the fact that their was an audience staring at him while he chit-chatted with a crowd member for almost a half hour. Maybe he forgot that anybody was there.

His music was snobbish, boring and excessive in volume. It was pretty much one very loud, long, sustained note which fed-back, without any interesting changes in timbre or rhythm for what I remember to be the majority of his set. He relied much too heavily on the inherent nature of the notes he was playing. His absolute lack of interaction with or acknowledgement of the audience made his performance even more unbearable. When he finally finished, those of us who couldn't take the ridiculous volume of his set returned to the hall and soon Konk Pack took the stage.

The impatient, agitated sounds that ensued for the next hour or so had their moments of clarity, but for the most part the music was muddy and seemingly rushed.

It was like listening to something that Karlheinz Stockhausen wrote while he was on speed or hearing a Fifty-Thousand note tone-row unfold. The group was so eager to use all of the gadgets they had and to show us how many different sounds they could put together that the abundance of tones simply grew and too many different things happened too fast. This music didn't repeat, develop, or reference itself at all in a vain attempt to be interesting. I admit that some of the sounds they made were cool, but it became frustrating as the listener's memory began yearning for something, anything to chew on.

It grew to be quite annoying when each time a decent idea arose from the madness, the group strayed from it before I could even remember that it had happened.

The lack of dynamic in their show didn't help either. They appeared so busy trying to make noise that the volume just grew and stayed loud. No real timbral contrast or control was exhibited and it resulted in the sound becoming pure percussion. It didn't help that none of the players had a very impressive rhythmic sensibility or vocabulary.

This was worsened because not much attention was paid to the space in the room. Often the drummer's symbols over-ode any intelligible sound coming from the guitar's high end, and the synth was so erratic in range that by mid set, it had deteriorated it's own capability to create any sort of melodic continuity. Not too long into the show the chance that the group was going to create any sense of musical cohesion appeared unlikely.

I appreciate the guts this group had for going and improvising for a whole show, however, everything seemed a little too tense and indecipherable. I realize the effort put in by the CMA to get them here, hopefully next time they'll make a better pick.

- Matt Casuccio

Res-Life would like to thank all those who participated in the Silent Auction on October 4. About 42 pieces were auctioned off to raise money for the victims of Sept. 11. Nice job.



Golden Yolk Restaurant

Gi Gi Manager

7479, South Broadway
Red Hook, NY 12571

TEL 845-758-8868
FAX: 845-758-3776

Killing Stereotypes

Response to Micah Noble's "Aggressive Tactics"

by **Kierin Moscowitz**

"It is hard to convince people that this type of killing is almost necessary. But consider the educational system amongst Palestinians in Israel."

When I was growing up, I was taught that Muslims, Palestinians, and non-Jews throughout the Middle East deserved to die. But, I've never heard anyone suggest that I deserve to die for that belief. I've never heard someone recommend that my synagogue be bombed, my neighborhood sanctioned, or Navy Seals "hunt down" my Hebrew school teacher. Nor have I heard broad generalizations that all people of my ethnicity are terrorists, advocate terrorism, and are motivated by hate.

Yet, according to Micah Noble's logic, "This type of killing is almost necessary." (*Observer*, 10/4; "Protecting Democracy.") In the article, he argues that the widespread Palestinian desire to kill Americans justifies a U.S. attack on Afghanistan.

Specifically, he advocates "We must attack governments that harbor terrorism economically, and devastate them in the only way that we really can, by pinching their lifelines." Noble argues

that the content of Palestinian education justifies military and economic attacks.

The invocation of anti-American sentiment seems to be more of an emotional plea rather than a logical argument. If I am anti-Palestinian, do they deserve to kill me? If I am anti-American, do I deserve to die? If it turns out that many Palestinians don't support terrorist attacks on Americans, should the U.S. still bomb Afghanistan?

In thinking over Noble's article, I am angered. I can't help but to think that his argument runs in one direction. If they say "Americans deserve to die," then we should kill them. If we say "Palestinians deserve to die," we should kill them. I wonder how much they look at Americans and feel that we want them dead. And I wonder how much that fuels their hatred.

I went to Iraq a year and a half ago. My family and many of my friends warned me how Iraqis want to kill Americans, and I was warned that they want to kill American Jews even more. But, it wasn't like that. I was greeted with smiles, warmth, and was immersed

into a welcoming environment I rarely experience in the US. It was clear that most Iraqis hated the American Government; they seemed to make a clear differentiation between a government's policies and the people who live within a government's borders. It is rare for Americans to make these same

ing "them" that includes a much broader span than merely known terrorists and the Afghani government. He uses Palestinian education to justify attacks on Afghans. The Occupied Territories and Afghanistan are countries apart from each other those borders contain people who identify with multiple reli-

gions, ethnicities, and nationalities. It is unclear, but it seems that Noble casts them all under the same "deserving to die" gaze. Moreover, he advocates economic warfare, which I understood to mean sanctions. Sanctions target the poorest, the youngest, and the most vulnerable. When food and medicine are cut off, the rich can afford to buy smuggled goods and they can stockpile resources. 10 years of sanctions on Iraq has killed over 500,000 children under the age of 5 (UNICEF 8/99).

There was time when I could have believed that "this type of killing is necessary." That is not how I think any longer. Sure, I think violence is sometimes necessary. But, it's got to be shown utilitarian. That killing a few will save the many. It can't be simply "us" vs. "them" and it can't be based on broad stereotypes of the enemy.



distinctions.

When Noble advocates that "we" should pinch "their" lifelines, we must question who is the "we" and whose lifelines are we pinching. It is unclear who the "we" are, but Noble seems to be advocating a broad sweep-

Tewksbury 2001

A closer look at one of Bard's most infamous dormitories

by **Betsy Burns**

Aaaahhhh, Tewksbury: Bard's very own housing project, the first and last stop on a Thursday night (A.K.A Friday number one), the focus of Service Master's homicidal tendencies, the cigarette butt of all campus housing related jokes, and the place that I am embarrassingly proud to call my home. Sure, we residents of 'Tewks' have probably had more mandatory dorm meetings in order to clarify and re-clarify on what the practice of 'appropriate behavior' actually entails than all other dorms combined. Yes, for over a month, now,

every female on the first floor has used the same stall (the second to the last) in the women's bathroom because all of the others either don't close all of the way and/or have seemingly permanent logs of feces trapped under wads of toilet paper and are lodged deep within each constipated toilette. It is not only the girls that suffer; beginning sometime during the evening of the last Friday number one, and throughout the remainder of the weekend that followed, the boys, too, only had use of one stall as someone, whom all of Tewksbury has concluded was a non-Tewkser, donated a weeks worth of Kline dinners to the other stall (I'm talkin' the entire stall). We, Tewks' inmates, boastfully repeat the rumor that the other dorms' residents are threatened with exile to our home by the administra-

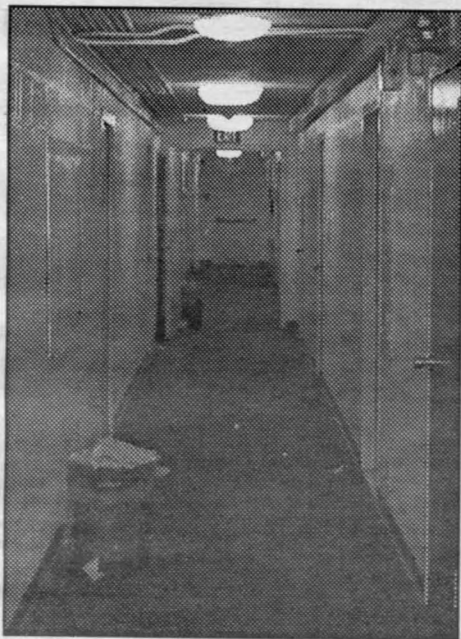
tion for insubordination.

What our critics don't realize, however, is that nothing brings people together like a common enemy. While I'm not sure if that enemy is the critics or Tewksbury itself, our community is as solid as the cinder-block cells in which we gather. I've rarely seen a cleverer bunch, either. I mean, who other than a Tewks tenant has displayed such brilliance as was seen in the posted 'chunk o' lung' of a seven year smoker instructing its viewers to "touch it, feel how chunky it is", on the first floor wall of Tewksbury? Where else are there PCs cool enough to bake their residents brownies after the tragedy of September

11? Within our community we share cigarettes, entrepreneurial strategies for the selling of cigarettes, alcohol, the means to facilitate the purchase of said alcohol, and the accompanying really truly hilarious times and stories.

We know that you non-Tewks folk will continue to talk shit. I mean, we sure as hell will. I've heard, though, that if one can live in Tewksbury and still make it

through school she can live and make it through anything. And trust me when I say that we at Tewks may have given up on trying to live down a bad reputation but on any given Saturday, or really, Tuesday night for that matter, we, if anything, are living it up, not through.



The Bard Journal of Social Sciences is now accepting papers in topics in: anthropology, economics, environmental science, film, gender studies, history, international relations, philosophy, political science, psychology, sociology and any other field of the social sciences.

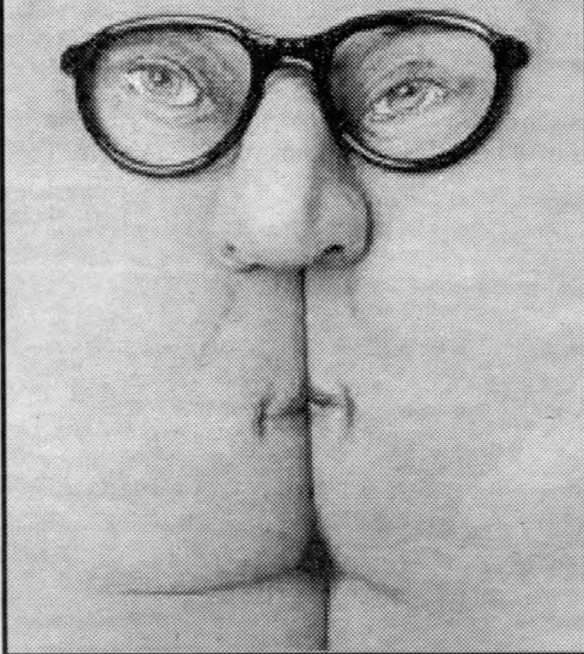
Papers must be 10-20 pages and double-spaced.

Please address submissions and enquiries to bjss@bard.edu.

Deadline November 10.

ALMOST INTELLECTUALISM

by Michael "Indie" Marlin, Jr.



Sorry folks. This week's format for "Almost Intellectualism" will be a little bit different. We invite you to continue sending your questions, comments, and concerns to mm374@bard.edu or via campus mail to Michael "indie" Marlin, Jr. In the meantime, we present you with another masterpiece by Mr. Marlin:

Reading Week Righteousness

Reading Week: a time for studying, a mode of preparation for midterms, a classless week designed for students to bask in the glory of academia while getting ready for the rigorous second half of the semester. Undoubtedly, *someone's* intentions were good. "Why, whatever do you mean by that, Michael? What does Reading Week mean to you?"

In order to answer that question, we must first examine my *modus operandi* during this week. By depicting my actions during this time, I am not necessarily considering myself a typical example of a Bard student, nor would I like to set myself as one. In a way, I am simply creating a forum of thought and discussion amongst my peers. With that petty disclaimer out of the way, let us begin.

Day 1 The drive home. The blunt I made from my uncle's Cuban cigar was packed so tight that buds were overflowing into my mouth like a chlidog. I lit it up and it was smooth sailing from then on. Passing another Bard student on the New York Thruway, I rolled down my window at 65 MPH and shouted, "Hey! Do you know where I can find

Reading Week?" I then pointed to my fat blunt as if to answer my own question, and I started laughing hysterically.

Day 2: Still not home. I must have made a wrong turn in Vermont somewhere. Fortunately, I had a map. I'd be in Philly in no time.

Day 3: The rest stop. I was getting a little worried, not necessarily because I couldn't find my house, but because I was pretty certain that reading week was only a week long, and I had a lot of work to do. I took out my Psychology book

and started to read.

Fuzzy Period in between

Day 3 and 4: All I remember is stomping on my Psychology book trying to put the fire out. No one seemed to want to help me. An elderly couple took some pictures.

Day 4: Home. My blunt, "Billy," as I had named it, was finally finished as I pulled into the driveway. (I told you it was a fat blunt!) I opened my trunk to unpack when I realized I had left all my stuff at Bard...everything except my Psychology book of course, but that was toast (pun intended).

Day 5: Back to Bard. "Billy Jr." helped to make the ride back go much quicker. I had duct-taped the map to my steering wheel this time, making sure I wouldn't go off track again.

Day 6: Map's gone. I punched a hole right through the thing trying to honk the horn at that bitch who nearly ran me off the road.

Day 7: Important roadside realization. Reading Week was almost over. I had to get back to Bard. I took a look at Billy Jr. who was about half-finished. "Bill," I said, "I need to get back before it's too late. We've been through a lot together. Hell, I wouldn't be here today if it weren't for your father! But our time must come to an end." I looked at him closely, and, if my brain weren't completely fucked at that moment, I would have sworn that my blunt looked at me with such sorrow and grief that he was about to cry at any second. I tossed Billy Jr. out the window in fear of becoming anymore emotionally attached. Now I could continue pursuing my destination. Now I was ready.

Day 8: The Police Station. Unfortunately, a cop had pulled up

behind me at the same time I flung Billy onto the highway. After some long delays I was free to go, but with some hefty fines to pay.

Day 9: Bard...Again. The incident with the police had greatly cleared my mind, so I had no problems getting back after that. It still took me a day to get to Annandale, however, because apparently I had been in West Virginia when the cops caught me. In any event, I made it back. By this time, though, I couldn't pack my things and go back home. I wasn't exactly sure what day it was, but I knew Reading Week had to be over. I went to my room, packed up all my books, and ran to Olin, in hope of finding whatever class I was supposed to be in. When I got there, the place was completely desolate, and most of the lights were turned off. At this point, I had no idea what was going on, and it scared me. I went to Security, actually shaking from my nervous state, and I said to the guy at the desk, "Could you please tell me the date?" He looked at me skeptically for a few seconds and replied, "The eighth."

The eighth. The eighth. I repeated it to myself, trying to figure out exactly what it meant. The eighth? Then I figured it out. I didn't know what exactly had happened to all of those days that I thought I was trying to get home and back, but I did know that Reading Week was still just beginning. Sure, I had already used up the first weekend, but...Reading Week was just beginning! "Fuck yeah!" I shouted.

I ran back to my room almost crying with excitement. I entered the dorm and went right to work on my private stash. Minutes later: "BilltheThird, it's me and you! Philadelphia, here we come!" And I was off for home again.

Now, I suppose, we should return to the original question at hand: What does Reading Week mean to me? Well...basically, it doesn't mean anything. Nothing special, anyway. It just means that there are no classes. And when there are no classes, students do whatever the hell they want. They become themselves and do what pleases them. Those who don't do what pleases them waste the whole week away. "But Michael! Does that mean: don't study?" No. It just means you have a week off from school, whether you are actually "reading" or not. As long as each person finds his or her actions justified and useful during that time, then Reading Week is being well occupied. Once you figure out that concept for yourself, only then is it time to name your blunt and smoke that mother until you have no idea what the fuck is happening.

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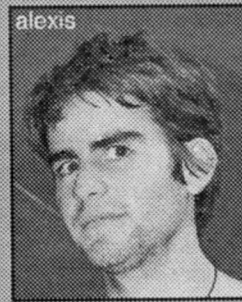
The only thing I'm going to say is...vomit.



It was loud and fat.



It was cold. They should have it when the weather is warmer...maybe in Spring or September.



It was very hyped-up compared to last year, but I was disappointed.



It was ok. The things people did didn't surprise me. Some did go far, but it wasn't surprising because it's Bard.



I didn't go.

What did you think of Drag Race 2001?

My Brain on Sports

What I learned my sophomore year

by **Dave Tramonte**

SO I'VE decided the only constant in my miserable life is sports. We're at war, I've had about 4 voice mail messages since the first day of school, and at mid term a C+ in intro to acting is my strongest grade. Thank god for everything that is happening now in the world of sports, without it I would have nothing. The Islanders are on a role giving everyone on Long Island a reason to live for the first time since the invention of gold chains. Michael Jordan showed up to pre season in a Wizards jersey and scored a bunch of points. Personally I think it would be cooler if he tried to make a come back in Minor League baseball but it's still great to see him back. Anyway I've been thinking some one famous and important should interview me some day about my opinions on sports because it's really all I know about these days. So I started thinking what would I say if some one like Jay Leno sat down with me on the tonight show and played a little game I like to call "Sports word association." Here's how I think it would go.

Leno: The NY Yankees

Me: experience, timely hitting, depth in roster, winners. Will win the series even if they go down 3-0.

Leno: Boston Redsox

ME: Inexperience, No hitting, No depth, losers.

Leno: Well put.

Leno: Pro bowling

Me: Any sport where fat people are the norm is o.k. to me.

Leno: Lawrence Taylor

Me: Coke.

Leno: The soda or drug?

Me: The drug. He is my favorite Coke Athlete of all time.

Leno: Mike Tyson

Me: Misunderstood.

Leno: How so?

Me: I can never understand what he is saying.

Leno: The college bowl system

Me: Should have some type of tournament for the top four teams instead.

Leno: But it's Tradition

Me: FUCK TRADITION, why should I feel any sentiment towards the Tostido bowl? I bet you didn't want the re-alignment of baseball and the wild card out of tradition but you love it now don't you?

Leno: That is true.....

Leno: The LA Lakers

Me: Should move back to Minnesota because there are no lakes as far as I know In LA

Leno: What should the LA team be called then?

Me: The boob jobs.

Leno: That's really stupid

Me: Just think of what the insignia on the jersey would be though...

Leno: Michael Vick

Me: Some one take his temperature because I think he's SICK. (I made that phrase up myself)

Leno: The baseball movie A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN

Me: Don't make me laugh

Leno: come on you know you cried when Kit scored the winning run off her sister Dotty

Me: ALLRIGHT fine, yes I love it, (a tear falls down my eye) it's my favorite baseball movie of all time. (Breaks out into full

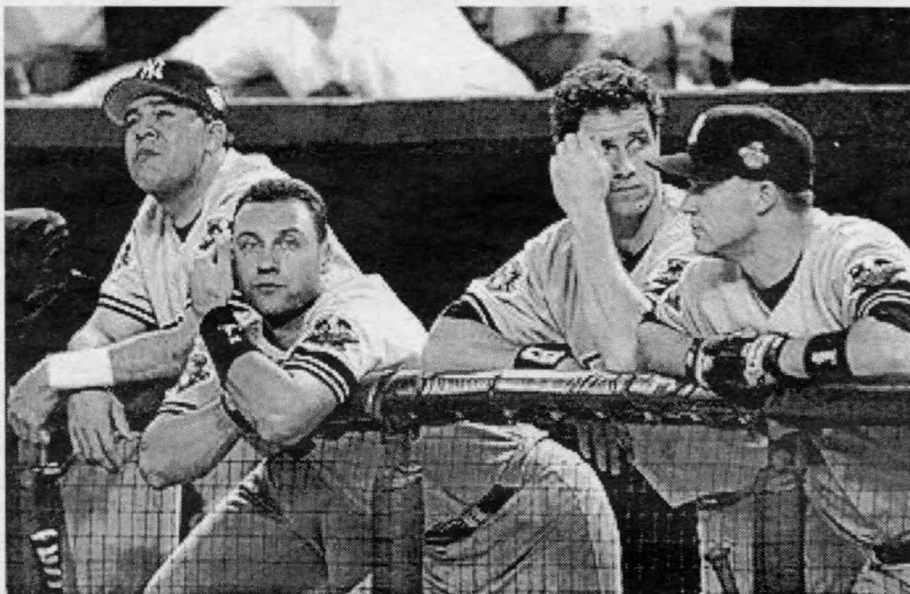
blown crying) Don't tell anyone though.

Leno: The Banning of Dodge ball in schoolyards across America because it's too violent.

Me: That's the most ridiculous thing I've ever heard, getting a bloody nose from

Me: They need new play calling, less running, more passing. But no matter what happens Jason Sehorn will have great hair. Oh and Lawrence Taylor did a lot of coke when he was a Giant.

Leno: Thank you Mr. Tramonte. (Loosens



Luis Soho, Derek Jeter, Paul O'Neill, and Clay Bellinger at Game 1 of the World Series

dodge ball is part of growing up.

Apparently people have a problem with the injury's involved in it, but I say injuries only make kids stronger. I know when I was fat kid I was an easy target to get hit with the ball and even when it stung a bit if some got me right in my chubby face it only made me stronger.

Leno: Derek Jeter

Me: From a leading member of "Heterosexuals of the world" I gotta say, good looking guy.

Leno: Your pick for the winner of the major league soccer championship

Me: Everyone who doesn't have to watch it.

Leno: The Giants last 3 losses against the Rams, Eagles, and Redskins?

his collar) It's been interesting (winces) Let's cut to commercial fast.

In closing I hope I shed some light on certain aspects of the current sports landscape, and I just want to thank such ESPN documentary's as the one I skipped my Monday class for called "The origin of the butt slap in the NFL."

A Dane in the Life of Mike Tyson

by **Sean Sullivan**

ONCE again, the Iron man, Mike Tyson proved he is still one of the most fearsome boxers fighting in the world today. On October 13th, at Parker Stadium in Copenhagen, Denmark, Mike Tyson took on Danish superstar Brian Nielsen in front of over 25,000 fanatic Danish fans, who at the time were witnessing the biggest sporting event in Danish history. Nielsen entered the ring in traditional Danish colors to the song, "Always look on the bright side of life" (which I was informed of by Vibe Pape, who is fresh off her 18th birthday this past October 30th, is a very popular song in Denmark). Mike Tyson entered the ring in New York Yankees garb, to show his support, as well as a skull cap with an inscription of "punishment."

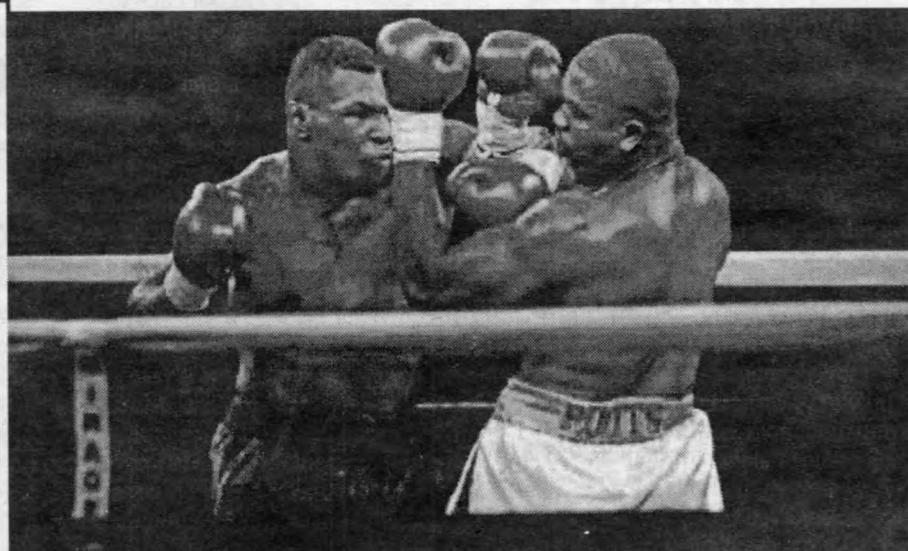
For six full rounds Iron Mike beat up the 62-1-1 Dane from pillar to post. From round one on, Tyson engaged in a furious assault with little to no resistance. He showed flashes of brilliance that made him the popular fighter he is today, as well as convincing evidence that he stands a very good chance of becoming Heavyweight champion again for a third time. In round three, Tyson broke through Nielsen's guard to land a four-punch combination to the Dane's chin, and succeed in knocking him down for only the second time in his career. Nielsen rose before the count of ten, but was visibly hurt and dazed. That is why, seconds later, he doubled over in pain claiming a borderline shot to the body by Tyson was a low blow. While viewing this fight with the aforementioned Vibe, she

told me that Nielsen's trainer was talking to his fighter using a tone of an irate parent berating a small child, which, some would say, is demeaning.

Throughout the fight, Tyson continually applied pressure and numbing combinations to the body and head of Nielsen's 261lb frame. After the sixth round Nielsen's corner called it quits using the cut over Brian's left eye, that he sustained in the second round as an excuse. In only the second defeat of his career, now at 62-2-1, Nielsen did give his best shot, but against the pugilistic masterpiece known as Iron Mike, that was not enough. Tyson's record improved to 49-3-2 (no contests) and 43 knockouts. After the fight, Tyson said he loved his children and felt good to get in six rounds of fighting, the longest fight for him since 1996. Mike was reportedly so impressed with Denmark that he bought a home there and planned to spend some time site seeing.

"C'Mon Creed"

Mike Tyson is a topic often discussed during the recent Bard campus, have to come to room 111 to watch all five great films, in no particular order. Jed Cl'arke and Franco Bulaon feel part 3 and 4 are the best sequels, when Mick told Rocky he had become civilized. David Steeves, usually sporting his tie-dye t-shirt with the phrase, "senioritis: not just a state of mind, but a way of life in Hamden High School," raved about Mr. T's role as the hungry challenger Clubbo Lang. "The training sequences were the spine of all the Rocky's. Sylvester Stallone is a genius," said Jed.



Even Jackie LaDuke, who had never seen any Rocky film before said she, "liked it a little, I guess." Having to contend with over 15 papers at once, I would often watch the Rocky films for inspiration and motivation. One time, I even went to Philly to visit the famous steps however the damn Rocky statue had been taken down. Rocky Balboa, the ultimate underdog, succeeded with heart and determination. Mike Morini sat down with me one night, say 2a.m.ish, and watched Rocky4, where Rocky took on Soviet Ivan Drago. "It was a shitty movie, but it was entertaining," he said. I have no idea why, all of a sudden, I have become engrossed in watching these films repeatedly. One thing is certain, there's no way I am going to stop!

My Ear Phones

On the way to writing this article, I was informed by the perpetrator himself, Franco Bulaon, that my earphones had been broken. I had lent them to Mr. Bulaon, as well as my discman, on a

previous occasion, because he had broken his own headphones. Upon receiving this news, I proceeded to chase Mr. Bulaon behind the campus center for a very brief period. It was brief because Mr. Bulaon is apparently out of shape, and was winded in less than a minute. This might be due, in part, to Mr. Bulaon's recently dyed red hair, which I might add, I had lent him Herbal Essence to wash his hair with. Once I caught the run away, he immediately surrendered and promised to "give me anything." I'll surely hold him up to that in the future. All in all, Franco Bulaon is a great person.



A group of the heroes who finally did it. they beat the once unstoppable Yanks

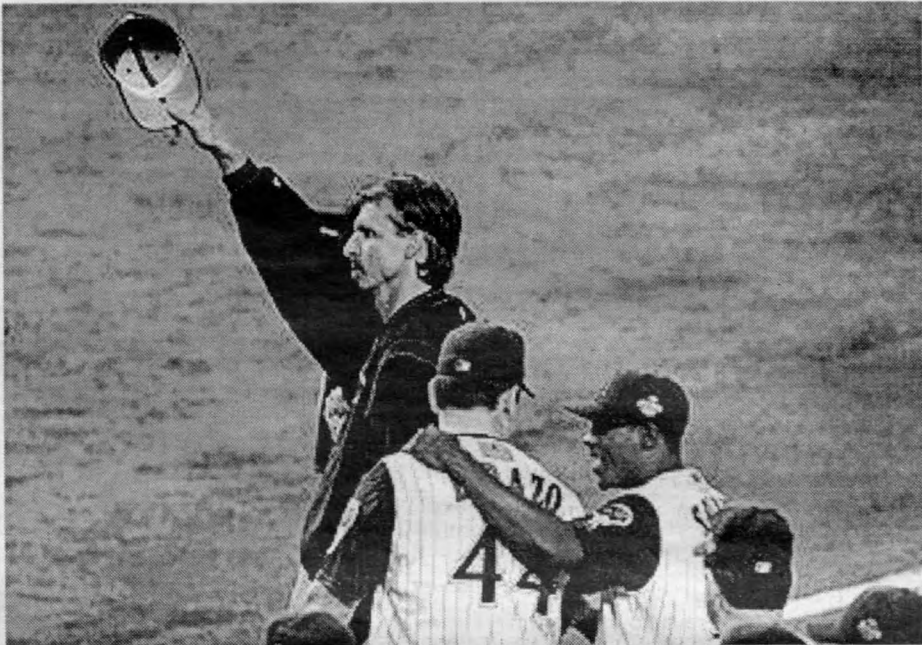
Yankees Don't Get Their 27th World Series Title cuz Diamondbacks Win

by Franco Bulaon

trade for Wade Boggs or get Danny Tartabull back on their team. Hideki Irabu is also interested in coming back to the Yanks. I don't know, maybe these are good options for the Yanks who seem to be on the down fall. I know if that it was the Mets playing the Diamondbacks, they would've beat their ass. Last year the Mets should've won the World Series and this year they should've been in the playoffs but this guy in Atlanta named Brian Jordan ruined their chances. I hate that man. It's a damn shame.

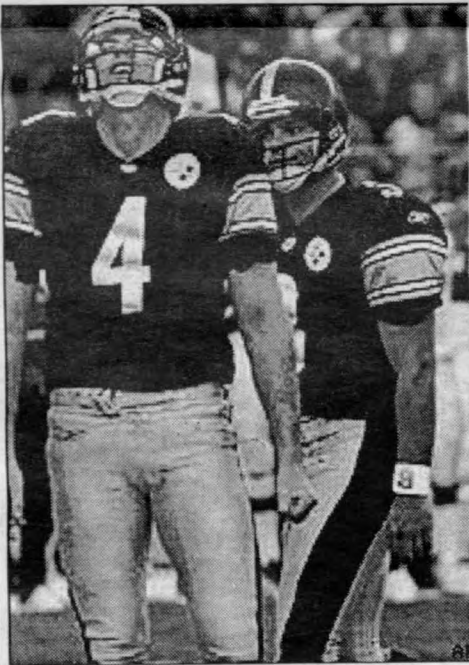
YESTERDAY the Yankees lost. Hahah. Just kidding. The Yankees fought hard throughout the series but came short after Luis Gonzalez's bases loaded single in the bottom of the ninth scored the winning run off closer Mariano Rivera. In that same inning, Derek Jeter hurt his foot, and this guy named Tony Womack hit an RBI single which tied the game 2-2. Then in that same inning Rivera hit this dude, I forgot his name, in the hand. I was watching this game in the campus center, and when that happened everyone started cheering. I figured they were mostly Mets fans or people who really hate the Yankees. They cheered the loudest when the Yankees finally lost and the Diamondbacks were all jumping on top of each other. At the end of it all this one guy with a beard and a hat that read "Beauty is skin deep but ugly is to the bone" got really mad and yelled "we're just trying to make history god dammit" and ran off. Other than him, there were not too many Yankee fans at attendance. Either that or none were visibly upset about their loss. My dad however likes the Yankees and I think he was mad when they lost.

When you think about, it was a great series. At one point the Yankees were down 2-0 in the series. But after they won 3 in row after that I was like "oh here we go again." But yesterday I wasn't able to say that. They lost and I kind of felt bad being from New York and all. It would have been cool to bring glory to New York and have a parade and all, but then again the Yankees have won 26 World Series' already. Maybe their time is over. Maybe they need to rebuild or trade some players like the way the Florida Marlins did after they tasted some glory. Roger Clemens and Paul O'neil are really old players. I've heard from another source that they might



Randy Johnson thanks the crowd after beating the Yankees in Game 6

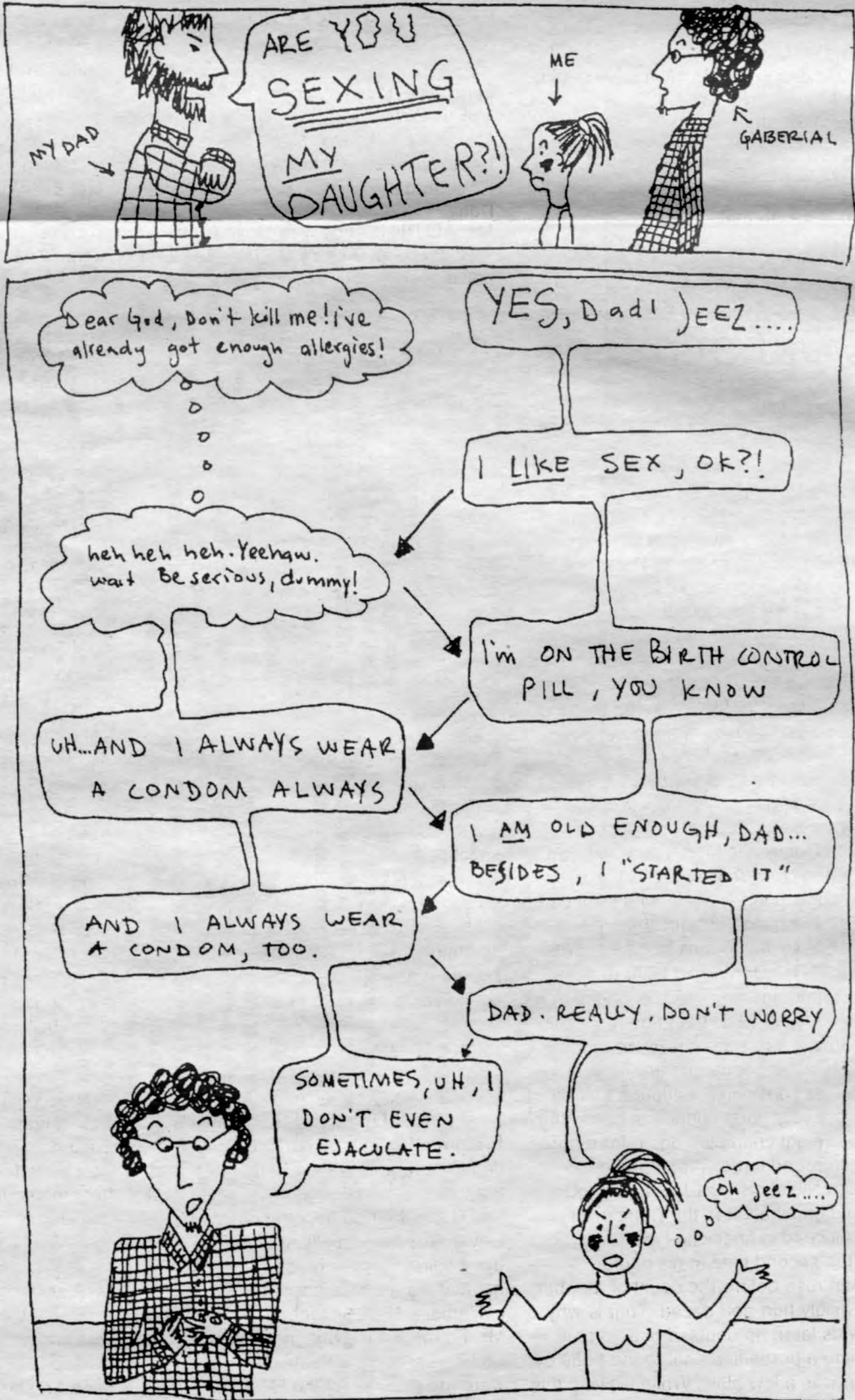
Sports! Rap-up



Steelers kicker Kris Brown would have been different. In NBA News.

hey even without Webber the Kings can still kick some ass. They beat the Spurs yesterday 103-83. Oh, sorry did i say beat, I meant crushed. With someone like Vlade Divac, who scored 25 points and grabbed 11 rebounds, who needs anything else. Jordan scored 19 points in 22 minutes in the Wizard's loss to the Pistons. everyone's favorite human, Dennis Rodman, must now pay \$80,000 in "damages" to a Las Vegas casino dealer, who sought \$300,000 in "damages" in the case. Rodman rubbed the dice on the dealer for good luck and the dealer claims that he was humiliated. He must have felt pretty humiliated in order to ask for \$300,000. What a buffoon. most of the names for the next version of Team USA were announced yesterday. Jason Kidd, Reggie Miller, and Ray Allen made it, to name a few, and they will be coached by the team with the most style (or maybe just the coolest colors), the Milwaukee Bucks', head coach, George Karl.

-Mike Morini





Aries

Yo. You liked this shit last time so here we go again. Wait a minute, how do I know you liked it? Did you? Cuz if you didn't man, you've got a bad attitude. Get yourself together. I mean look at yourself! Jesus, man, you need some sun.

Taurus

Wow, that was a bad way to start. Now I'm feeling really bummed about the whole process. What's going to happen to you this week? I don't know, dude, and to tell you the truth, I don't really care.

Gemini

Wait a minute now. We can get through this shit together. It doesn't have to be this way. I'm going to go out there and give it all I've got, and you've got my back right? Here goes: I have a little yellow and blue nerf-style football with little lights that blink when you throw it. I really think that you won't survive the week if you don't get one

of these balls right now.

Cancer

All right! I'm feeling good after that one. I may have had a bad start, but I'm back baby! Don't you always want to eat the pieces in a backgammon game? They look like little black and white candied treats, I just want to grab a handful, you know? Oh man, I really hope somebody out there knows what I'm talking about, because I don't want to be crazy.

Leo

You might say it's cheap

that I don't write real horoscopes.

Virgo

That was to punish your inferior brains. So is this.

Libra

Dude, I just totally dissed Leo and Virgo, check it out man, they're right above this one. Was that cold or what?! Boo-ya!

Scorpio

Wow, looking back on the horoscopes I've already written, it's been quite a show so far. I started off really down,

then had a great streak, but since then I've been stuck in a vindictive black hole of sorts. What's the deal with that?

Sagittarius

If there was one horoscope I felt bad for this week, it would be Scorpio. They got totally cheated, man.

Capricorn

Now I'm a little frustrated, and I bet you are too. These horoscopes aren't going anywhere. We're all on this wacky journey together, and I say, let's

go somewhere. Because right now, man, we're treadin' fuckin' horoscope water here! Let's get out of this rut!

Aquarius

The problem is, I only have two horoscopes left in which to rock. I feel a little cheated. There's only twelve little pockets in which I can insert my fascinating commentary on the actual process of creating horoscopes. Who came up with twelve? Why not thirteen?

Pisces

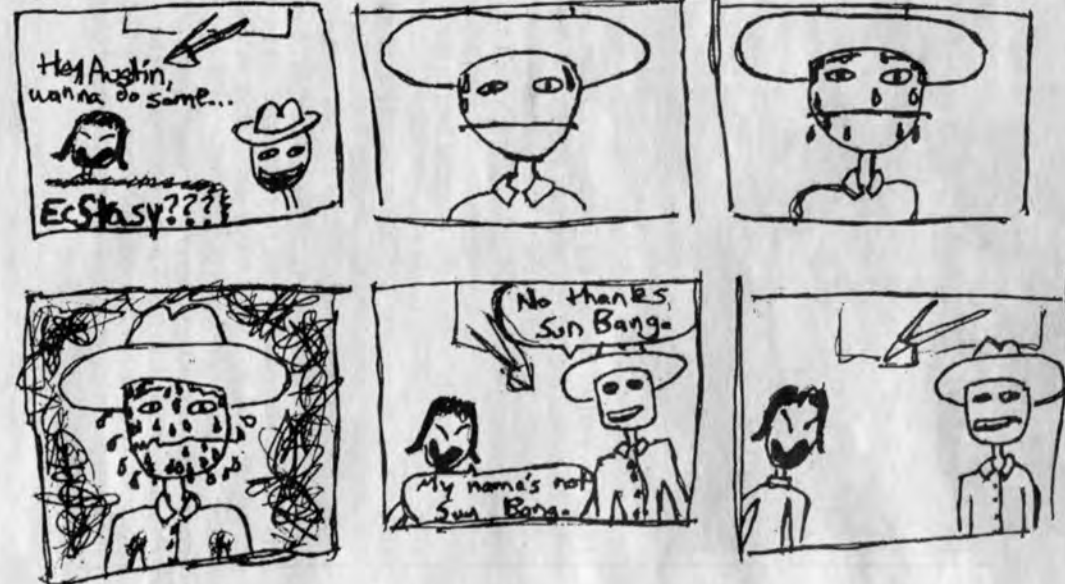
I'm beginning to question the sanctity of this whole operation. Why are we so intent on finding out what our horoscope says? What makes the month in which we were born so fucking important? I'm about to unleash some shit that might freak some of you out.

Jobmalifen

A new fucking horoscope man, and ANYONE can join up! I don't care what month you were born, you just have to have an open mind, dude, and you're in. So here it is. Enjoy it man, because it might not last.

Horoscopes by Joel Clark

Bard Daze, by Curtis Brown



interested in submitting anything to the Observer?
articles, reviews, cartoons, photographs, are all welcome.

email observer@bard.edu

or call x7131

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

• NEWS & FEATURES •

Vandals at Bard Strike Two Places, by Jacob Cottingham, p. 3

That well known vandal who stole the handle is baaack and he or she has destroyed graves and musical equipment.

The Bard Space Program, by Ben Dangl, p. 5

These crazy cats have gotten themselves a Volkswagen Scirocco?

Feeling Dirty?, by Lydia Willoughby, p.2

BERD talks trash.

• ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT •

Important News for anyone who has ever heard of SPB, p. 7

An exclusive interview with MC Feitler tells it all.

Music Reviews, p. 6

Check out our dynamic duo of Bobby Dylan and Ol' Dirty B.

• OPINIONS/EDITORIAL • SPORTS! •

That Guy at Kline, p. 9

See your fellow students respond on the spot to a random question. Courtesy Michael Marlin, Jr.

Tewks 2001, baby, p. 8

Betsy Burns tells it how it is folks.

Sports! business with your host, Mike Morini, pp. 10-11

Hey what a shame the Yankees didn't win another one. ...

Cover Photo: <Jamie Newman>