

Observer

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Old Gym RIP 2003

Old Gym to be demolished; New Old Gym to take its place next to Gym.

by **Jacob Cottingham**

The Old Gym, a focal point for Bard student life over the last couple decades, may be demolished to make room for an addition and expansion of the science center. Jim Brudvig, Vice-President for Administration, said that the plans are part of the Science Initiative, announced by the college several years ago. The administration has hired architect Peter Reynolds to design a new student space, to be located elsewhere, in place of the Old Gym. Demolition plans, though not final, are more advanced than those of the science building, which has yet to be designed.

The Science Initiative hinges on two main goals: expanding faculty and creating more space for classrooms, labs and lecture areas. However, the faculty cannot be hired until more space is allocated to the science department. To address this problem, a "volume study" was conducted last Spring to determine the most suitable location and how much space was needed for an additional science building. This study interviewed various faculty and administrators involved in the strengthening of the science department. The report found that the science department wanted a space that was contiguous with their current buildings, Hegeman and Albee, with an increase from the current 30-35,000 square feet to 60-65,000. Hence, the best site, and the one preferred by the administration, is the area of grass that sits in the middle of Olin, Albee, Hegeman, and the Old Gym.

Were a building of such a magnitude to be placed there, it would butt up right against the Old Gym. While "it is entirely possible you could keep both [the Old Gym and Science Center]," Brudvig explained that "it raises problems for aesthetics and service." Because the Old Gym and South Hall were built in the 30's and 40's as temporary buildings, they have not handled the years as well as other, more permanent buildings on Campus. The stucco is coming off of the front of both structures, and the ceiling joists have to be "continually looked at"

to make sure they remain structurally sound despite their loosening. This and repeated furnace problems have made maintaining the Old Gym quite an expense, creating a "money pit" for Brudvig and the college's budget. In addition to financial strain, the noise from bands practicing was "incompatible" to class space in Olin, Brudvig noted, interfering with classes closest to the Old Gym. The lack of first floor bathrooms in the Old Gym was also listed as a detriment to the building's survival.

A new building, currently dubbed "the Barn," proposed to be near the Stevenson Gym will carry out the functions of the Old Gym. The proposed site, an area in the southern part of the soccer field, next to the gravel road and near Woods, will house a "dance hall" and performing space. It will also utilize an existing brick building that will be renovated. The Barn's layout and design are in their preliminary stages by Reynold's company, Ashoken, the same folks that brought the Village Dorms and Woods expansion to Bard.

The new building will be approximately, 6,295 sq. feet and will have two practice rooms, a main hall with garage doors for loading and unloading, bathrooms, and an office for the Dean of Students to maintain a presence during parties and functions. The essential shape is triangular, with a large overhang to one side where students will be able to go to smoke. The floor layout for the hall has not been pre-ordained, though currently they do

know there will be a lobby area to hang out in before or during any shows. In addition, big overhanging heaters and rigging for the lights will be pre-mounted on the ceiling of the hall.

The film studios attached to the Old Gym, known as Studio X (at one time squash courts), will be moved into Avery with the completion of the PAC. ServiceMaster, Security offices and the Root Cellar, however, will not have a place in the "Barn." The Red Room, once home to a pool room and early Beastie Boys punk shows, will be replaced by a large practice room in the new building. Brudvig realizes that the Old Gym has "sentimental value to the students," stressing that the functionality will be maintained in this new space. When asked if the students would still manage it, Brudvig said it would continue to be under the Dean of Students, and not Allen Josey. Concerning indoor smoking, he explained that that was the purpose of the outdoor overhang. As for a spot to house the Root Cellar, he said that maybe there might be a spot, or a similar concession area, somewhere in the new building.

Brudvig still characterizes the new building as being in its "early stages" and demolition of the Old Gym wouldn't begin until after the replacement is up and running. The design team is planning on meeting with members of the Student Government and other

community members to discuss possible changes, based upon their input. Cinta Conti-Cook, a senior who has served various roles within Student Government said that there had been discussions about the fate of the Old Gym in earlier years. "As I remember, we were told that the old gym would be emptied out and left for students to use as social space on main campus (since it is the only main campus space left). But like much of what we hear from the admin, it is hard to tell at this point how serious they are about this..."

Before any groundbreaking on the new building, there must be "archaeological work," and public hearings with Red Hook Town planners must take place. Brudvig said that ideally, groundbreaking on the new center will begin this spring.

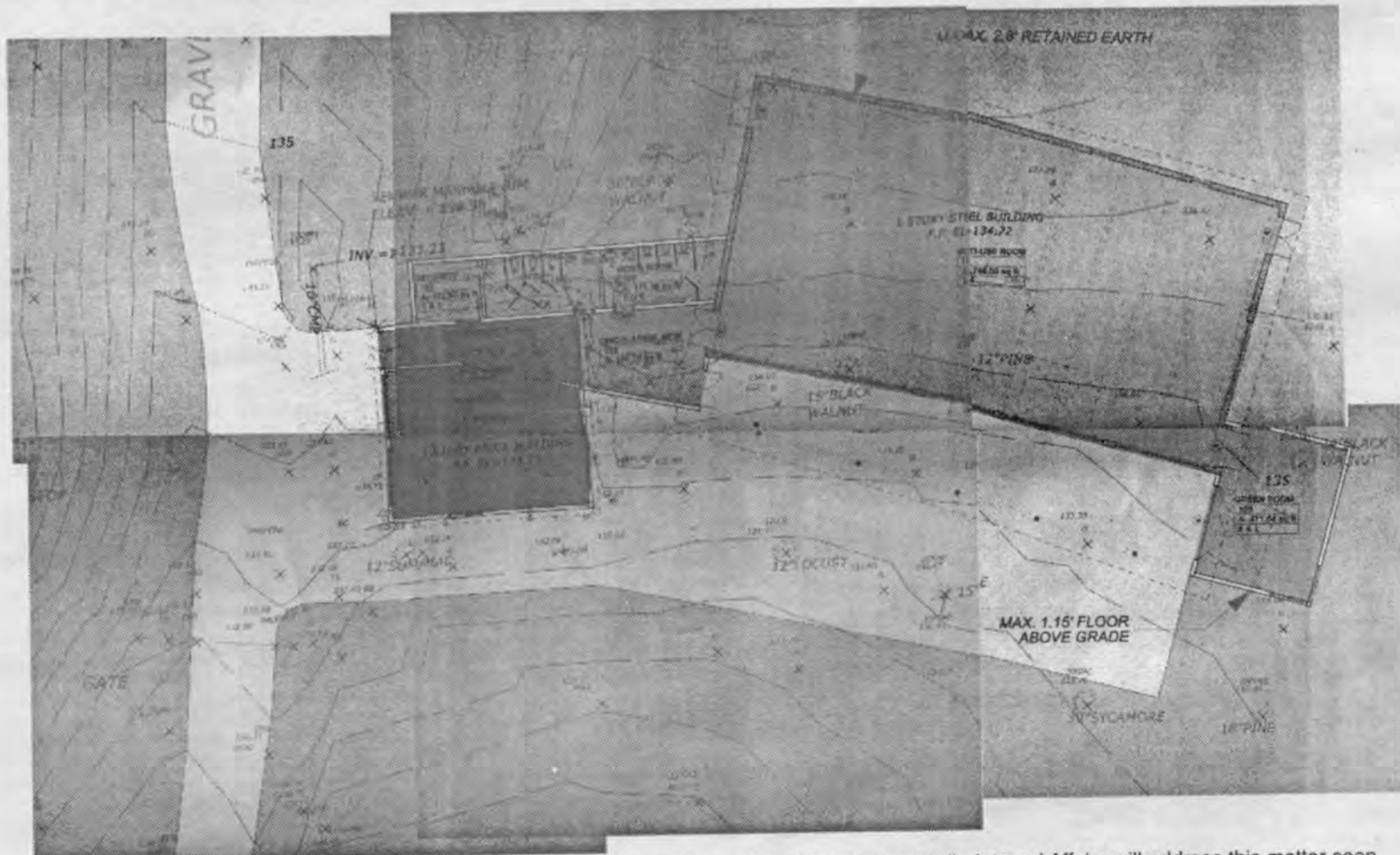
Brudvig also noted that alternatives have been considered, such as using a recycled building, like an old barn, and piecing it together in the new location as a replacement. He also said that one of his ideas had been to build a "new Old Gym" which would serve as a

rec. area, complete with climbing wall and gym floor to hold floor hockey games and so on. He said, however, that the plan was "bounced around to our people, Allen and the gym people and they ... convinced me it wouldn't work."

The administration seems to be grappling with what seems to be a looming problem with the students' opposition to the destruction of the Old Gym. Brudvig said he talked with several alumni and "while I can't speak universally, they did not say 'You can't do that, it's a monument to Bard.'" He seemed interested, if unable to fully comprehend, what the strong attachment is to the space. He acknowledged that while he has been at Bard in an administrative role for eleven years, he never went to college here and appreciates the different perspective that the students may have on the issue of the Old Gym. Before any uprisings begin, Brudvig urged the college to "have a conversation first, and know what the intentions are." Cinta urges, "this is a good opportunity for SAC and student gov't to work together. The issues are important for the community and go back to the arguments concerning central student space from a few years ago." The final say on the matter rests ultimately with the Board of Trustees, though Brudvig did say that if anyone wished to discuss the matter with him, they could email at Brudvig@bard.edu.



by Jacob Cottingham



The first blueprints for a possible New Old Gym. Sorry for the shoddy quality; our scanner was too small. Internal Affairs will address this matter soon.

It's Language and Thinking . . . Not Thinking and Drinking

by M. Zubair Hossain

"BARD DOES NOT feel like Bard anymore!" commented a sophomore right after getting back to the college after a relaxing summer. This was not just the reaction of just one random sophomore or any upper classmen but was the general reaction on campus during the Language and Thinking Workshop (L&T) for first year students this year. What is this wave of change that all upper classmen felt this year during the L&T? This article aims at unveiling the changes in L&T this year, and the first-year students' reaction to this L&T as they faced it.

Academic

In terms of academic content, this year's L&T did not differ much from last year's, but in terms of the academic pressure, it differed much. The first-year students this year constantly felt the threat of failing L&T hanging over their heads, and what is important to note here is the fact that almost all of them took it very seriously. Last year's class had that threat posing before them but almost no students in the class took the threat seriously enough.

As Dean of First Year Students, John Kelly would put it, "Unlike other years, in this year's entering class only three students faced the risk of failing L&T due to their lack of attendance."

In response to this comment made by

him, the author of this article asked whether anyone ever failed L&T or not. The reply to this question posed by the author was surprising indeed. John Kelly claimed that people do fail the L&T but since they do

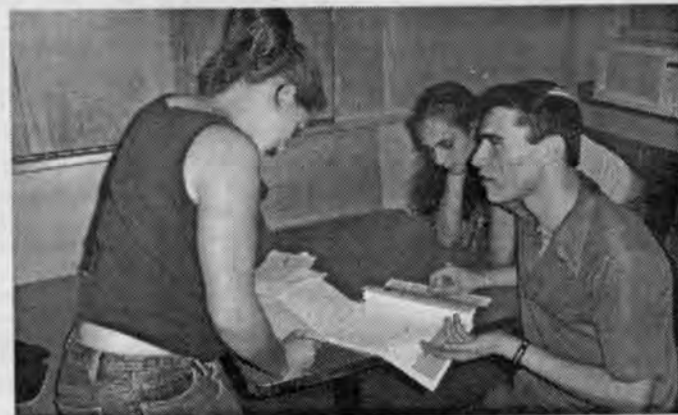
not have to repeat it in the next year, people don't get to know about it. John Kelly said that the L&T directors worked especially hard this year to design and implement a more rigorous L&T program, and that they succeeded in their plans.

When asked about the changing trends in the nature of students admitted to Bard (as observed by most upper classmen), Dean John Kelly had a brief and precise answer: Bard is becoming more selective as its applicant pool is growing.

"We're trying to recruit better students every year. We get over three thousand applications a year, and this number's increasing every year," he said.

Dean of Students David Shein also felt that the L&T this year was more successful compared to other years in terms of students' academic achievement and curriculum they followed.

Administrative



The administration decided to ban alcohol on campus during L&T. "We received requests from the faculty to make L&T alcohol free. Almost all the incoming students are under-aged, and legally too they are not supposed to drink, John Kelly said. He also stated that the PCs worked hard to keep their residents free from alcohol. Thus, there were no



reported hospital runs due to drunkenness this year during L&T.

Apart from the success of the no drinking policy, what pleased the administration most is the fact there was no report of vandalism during L&T this August.

"Every year at least one or two incidences of vandalism take place on campus during the L&T but this year till now we've had no reports of vandalism," John Kelly said.

Changes in the shuttle schedule happened to be the most discussed topic during the whole of L&T this year. The student government received numerous complaints regarding the fact that there was practically no shuttle service on-campus during the period. A few students had to walk to Red Hook to get their grocery shopping done, as the shuttle service was down. When the author of this article

approached the Dean of Students, David Shein refuted that there was no shuttle running during the period and said that the shuttle schedule was just changed to match up with the L&T schedule.

However, John Kelly emphasized the

fact that the shuttle was running. He said the shuttle service had to be changed because it was not being properly utilized. There were numerous reports of empty shuttles running back and forth from Red Hook and Tivoli. The schedule was therefore revised to be more effective and financially efficient.

Of all the changes that were observed during the L&T this year, these were arguably the most important ones. Another L&T has gone by and who knows how Bard and its tradition of L&T would change next year!

First Year Students' Comments on the L&T this Year

"It was really good. It was a good workshop, and I learnt how to write freely. I think it made my writing better than what it was before. And, finally it was rewarding to see the final copy of the 'intellectual essay.'" Nripesh

"I'm a new man!" Ran Tao

"It was as if I was 7 years old and my mother gave me a lunch and walked me to school. L&T was a hand and a lunch before walking into a classroom filled with 1st graders (college in this case)". Irina

"My teacher's assignments were thoughtful, and the topics were interesting. I only wished that the shuttles to the train stations followed

the regular schedule." Peter

"I liked the readings on Thursday nights a lot. L&T was a cool way of meeting new people and getting initiated into college. I think I liked that the best." Rad

News Briefs

PAC-ked with Construction: Annandale Road

THE HEAVY construction work on Annandale Road is finally complete. The new Annandale Road has more lanes on offer for all the heavy traffic it will deal with after the construction of the mega Performing Arts Center here at Bard is complete. In addition to lanes, the road has new lampposts and has gone through basic blacktop repair. The PAC is still under construction and is scheduled to open doors for performances sometime during the summer of 2003.

Rest in Peace

THE COLLEGE bids farewell to two honorable professors who passed away over the summer. Mr. Lindsay F. Walton III and Mr. Frederic Grab dedicated themselves to their students here at Bard College. Mr. Lindsay F. Walton III was an assistant professor of Russian in the language department while Mr. Frederic Grab was a professor of English in the literature department. May their souls rest in peace.

by Nripesh
Dhungel

Feitler Residents in a huff

WHEN RESIDENTS of the vegetarian co-op Feitler House returned from summer vacation, they found their home vandalized.

Residents reported beer bottles, cigarette butts, and magazines scattered on the floor. A waterbed was broken, they said, which resulted in a hole in the middle of the floor. Meat was also left in the refrigerator, and diagrams of meat cuts were taped to the outside. Some of the nonperishable food left in the cupboards over the summer was also missing.

"We didn't take offense to the meat or the diagrams themselves, just the intent to piss people off. The house was a disaster," said resident Paolo Vidali.

Feitler House is a group of 12 students who are admitted by an application and voting process. Residents at Feitler are not on the school meal plan. They use their own food to cook together and they clean the house themselves.

The name of a Bard student was reportedly on the subscription of the magazines, but no one has yet been charged with the responsibility of the vandalism.

Dean of Students David Shein is currently assessing the situation.

by Liv Carrow

North Campus Café

by Michael Marlin, Jr.

Work has already begun on Bard's first North Campus Café.

Junior Kyra Rice formally proposed the project early last year, calling for a better social environment and student-run space for the basement of Robbins. The proposal is now part of Rice's TLS project, which is receiving full attention and support from the administration.

Rice, also a Peer Counselor, has been working closely with Director of Residence Life Fred Barnes to meet an ongoing North Campus demand for such an atmosphere.

"This is definitely something that has needed to happen for a long time," Rice said. "It seems North Campus is mostly just a place where people live and sleep, and I realized something could be done about it."

However, Rice is hesitant to call the idea her own, saying she received suggestions from many friends. She was surprised in August when she learned that Robbins was already being cleaned out, and that the "Boiler Room Café," tentatively titled, might open as soon as this semester.

The café will most likely offer coffee, fresh juices, and light snacks, and the space will be run solely by student volunteers. Due to health code restrictions, full food service cannot be offered. Also, because of Chartwell's contract with the college, no other food competitors are allowed on campus. However, Rice hopes that someday an agreement might be made that would transform the Boiler Room Café into something resembling the campus center's Down the Road.

The space might also have multiple Ethernet ports, and a full-sized bar with accompanying stools. Administrators are quick to assure students though that no alcohol will be served.

In the past, the Robbins basement offered a few obsolete computers hooked to the dorm's only Ethernet connection. But with recent renovation to the dorm, and the addition of Ethernet in rooms, the computer terminals had become useless.

Fred Barnes will soon be meeting with architects and the college's engineer to create the first designs. He also envisions more windows and the entrance to the café being from the outside terrace on the side of the building.

Barnes also hopes to add more laundry machines, and space where readings or art shows might be held.

"No matter what else happens on campus, I think this is a good idea," he said.

First-year Student Profiles

Our intrepid reporter finds some gems.

by **Leila Brillson**

WELCOME to the new and alluring freshman class of 2006. Socially diverse and often motley, getting to know this group of approximately 365 people is quite an intimidating task. I decided to pursue the characters found in my class. It was a long and arduous task, filled with many hazy L and T nights, and even hazier L and T days. Yet, I have discovered them – several individuals, amongst the many, that are truly deserving of a few simple questions. Perhaps they do not represent you, or our class, or even Bard for that matter. But they sure do make me laugh.

S. Asher Gelman

From Chevy Chase Maryland, and is a current resident in Rueger.

His interests include aspirations to become a dance/theater major. He is also very interested in activism and Jewish studies. Mostly, he dances.

Asher is notable for founding the largest queer youth group in D.C. with over 550 members. It is called Rainbow Youth D.C.

"Because of where I am from, people always ask me if I am related to Chevy Chase, despite the fact that the village was founded 170 years ago. People also always ask me if I am Jewish because of the Kippah I wear. I like to tell them no, I am just making a fashion statement. Well, no, I am NOT related to Chevy Chase, and yes I AM a Jewish. Dammit."

Asher likes the freedom, the people, and the environment for creation at Bard. Asher, however, dislikes those who are trying to hard to be different.

When asked what is in his CD player at this very moment, Asher admitted to not having a CD player. However, he does have 3,998 MP3's, and he really likes Madonna.



by Anya Rosenfeld

Gabby Lang

From New Rochelle, NY and currently lives in Tewksbury.

Gabby enjoys journalism, writing, photography, and biology. Oh, and acting.

Gabby is most notable for choreographing a modern dance without ever having taken a modern dance class. It was to a Smashing Pumpkins song.

"So, a couple of nights ago my friend from camp came to visit. I was going to show him the Frank Gehry thing...the construction site. He has this huge red van and we are driving past the construction site. He decides to go over this huge pile of gravel, and he goes way too far. We can't go anywhere because they are starting to put down cement. So we start to turn around, and of course, we get stuck in the ditch in between the road and the field. I started to freak out a little...but less than a minute goes by when Max Dube comes up in his little Dube-mobile, and he looks at me and says, 'I think you better just leave it here and get it towed in the mornin.' We told Max we were going to push it, and he said he wanted to see it, so we should go ahead. So, it is Max, my giant friend, and I trying to push this huge van out. We get it out, and Max says, 'This is gonna be a good story for the rest of the year.'"

At Bard, Gabby likes the internal competition occurring between students academically. She says it is for a reason, not like Ivy League competition. The kids here are really eager to do what they want to do. However, Gabby dislikes the "too cool" attitude here.

In her CD player at this moment is "The Royal Tenenbaum's Soundtrack."



by Anya Rosenfeld

Rachel Meyer

From Durham, North Carolina, and a current resident of Wolf.

Rachel is interested in Central America, Spanish, and Photography. Outside of school, she admits she is a dork, and is only interested in swimming in waterfalls.

Rachel is most notable for working on the Emergency Contraception Hotline at Planned Parenthood in North Carolina. She did over the phone medical assessments for women who are interested in receiving emergency contraception. She is in the Queer Alliance.

"Trying to think of a story that was funny, I recruited 10 or so kids, plus my sister on the phone, to think of something entertaining about me. It was fun, but embarrassing, because after 20 minutes, I still had nothing. Leila also wants me to say I have the coolest accent on campus." Yes. This is true. Go talk to her.

Rachel enjoys Bard's size and beauty. She says it is a ton of fun, especially her roommate and her classes. However, she dislikes the fact that Bard is located in the middle of nowhere.

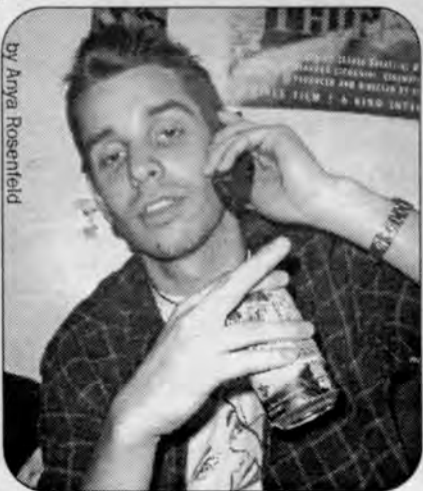
At this very moment, Rachel is listening to "The Very Best of Sam and Dave."

Carlos Haynes

From Newburyport, MA, and a current resident of Keen South, room 111.



by Anya Rosenfeld



by Anya Rosenfeld

Carlos is interested in studying race relations in the United States, and he wants to double as a film major. Film is his passion. He also enjoys music, poetry, and hip-hop.

Carlos is most notable for organizing, promoting, and performing in hip-hop shows. He was in a show at Colby College where Bahamadia played after him. Also, he made a film called "The Fallen Leaves" in Brooklyn. It is about a petty thief in Brooklyn who pickpockets his father on accident. It will be premiering in some film festivals, so check it out.

Without Carlos, L and T would have been much less interesting. "At the most, there have been 20 people in my room."

Carlos likes the liberal but not radical atmosphere at Bard. He says it is filled with non-pretentious intellectuals. Yet, he thinks Bard is too expensive and in the middle of nowhere. The small size of the school bothers him as well.

Currently in his CD player, he is listening to Kool G Rap, "4,5,6..."

Jen Kaiser

From Cheshire, CT and currently resides in Shafer.

Academically, Jen is interested in environmental science with an emphasis on conservation. She just

joined the Outdoor Club. She also is in the Bard Community Chorus. Jen plays sax, piano, and she sings.

She is most notable for being marching in the Macy's Thanksgiving Parade with her band. She says it was an unbelievable experience.

"I am really not good with stories. We just watched the Matrix for my class, which is one of my favorite movies. Everyone was laughing at it. It made me realize how different I am from the people that go here." Jen loves the campus at Bard; she thinks it is beautiful. Her main reason for coming here is the nature surrounding the school. On a negative note, Jen dislikes the food. She states that there is not much selection in Kline.

At this very moment, Jen is listening to Bon Jovi, "The New Jersey Album."

Eiren Schea

Eiren just moved here from Taipei, Taiwan. Currently, she lives in Krueger North.

Eiren's passion is in the languages. She is practically fluent in Mandarin, French, and English. She thoroughly enjoys art history, and literature. She also likes sitting outside. She is a crazy, crazy lady.

Eiren is most notable for her ability to juggle two cultures. Having always been around Asian culture, she has felt slightly torn between who she is and what she is around. She can adjust to different places and different people very easily.

"Which accident would you like to hear about? We were having this Memorial Day barbecue at the American Embassy in Beijing. I was nine. This marine was throwing kids into the pool. Because I was smaller than the other kids he was throwing in the pool, I naturally went higher. I smashed into the light above the pool. I kinda just attempted not to get glass in my eyes. I just bounced off, and landed in the water. It wasn't too bad. My parents were mad at the marine for throwing me into the light."

Eiren likes all the different people found at Bard College. She felt comfortable here immediately. Contrarily, she thinks some of the people are slightly freakish. Sometimes, she comments, Kline brunch is a little gross. At this very moment, Eiren is listening to Ben Harper, and she doesn't know the name of it because it is burned.

So, there it is folks. This profile is inaccurate at best; I am sure that there are many people out there that also deserve a spotlight. Yet, take a brief glimpse into the future of Bard. Funny, isn't it?



by Anya Rosenfeld

From Russia with Love

Bard to begin Distance Learning Program w/ Russia.

by Anya Vostrova

THE FACULTY and administration of Bard College and of Smolny College in St Petersburg, Russia found themselves faced with the question of how could they best use technology to overcome the obstacles of time and space, conduct an open dialogue, and take fuller advantage of the rich intellectual and cultural resources that they had to offer

each other. "The Bard-Smolny Virtual Campus" project was the answer they came up with. After applying for a grant to the Andrew W. Mellon foundation and receiving along the lines of 500 000 dollars, this project is well underway.

The main goal of "The Bard-Smolny Virtual Campus" is to bring together the two campuses, without having to deal with the costs of flying back and forth between two countries. Bard has already purchased the needed audio/video equipment that will realize this goal, and there are courses already being devised. The main plan of this "Virtual Campus" is the have two classes, one at Bard and one at Smolny, with two professors working with the same syllabus that they design together specifically for the course. Classes will meet in their respective countries, using "Course ware" which will available through the internet on a web page that is being created right now, where students and professors can post their work. The exciting part is that once or twice a week (depending on the costs) the two classes will be joined virtually using the new equipment which consists of audio sensitive video cameras transmitting a life size image of the speaker/class onto a screen. Pretty "Jetson's" right? Anyway, students can get to know each other through chat rooms or web-cams, therefore creating the sense that they really aren't an ocean apart.

So far the plan is two have two courses offered in the Spring semester for three years, initially in English and hopefully Russian eventually. To help the faculty, the project will provide a half-time technical support person at Bard and at Smolny. The faculty and staff working on training and course development at each institution will form a team, working with the project directors. The team will meet every two weeks to review progress, exchange suggestions and to work out any kinks in the program. Hopefully ways of providing courses that are as good or better than traditionally taught seminars will be created. Eventually, the program coordinators imagine that the courses will span the full range of the liberal arts curriculum. The plan is that the results of this project will offer encouragement and a variety of possible models for other colleges and universities to engage in similar activities, both nationally and, above all, internationally.

If anyone is interested, keep an eye out for this new program, it seems to be a really great opportunity to experience something different from the regular class. Eventually, as the next semester approaches, there should be more information out about this program, and if you have any questions, Susan Gillespie is the woman to see. Welcome to the new age!



by Braden Lamb

Bard College Student Government 2002-2003

THE PRIME EXECUTIVE branch of the Student Association is the Central Committee (Email: centralcom@bard.edu), which sets the agenda and presides over the monthly forum meetings. It consists of the student body secretary and treasurer, as well as the chairs of the executive committees.

The Student Association Government consists of four executive committees:

Student Judiciary Board (SJB): It is the judiciary branch of the Student Association, which hears cases about non-academic violations of the college policies and assigns appropriate actions, including suspension or expulsion, which is then implemented by the Dean of Students. (Email: sjbnews@bard.edu)

Student Life Committee (SLC): It coordinates with the Dean of Students Staff, Security, Buildings and Grounds, Chartwells Food Service, and various other student services to work on improving the quality of campus life. (Email: slc@bard.edu)

Educational Policies Committee (EPC): It acts as the chief liaison between students and faculty on academic issues and curriculum changes. It also collects evaluation letters and oral testimony from students concerning the re-hiring and tenure decisions of the faculty (Email: epc@bard.edu)

Planning Committee: It allocates money from the Convocation fund to all student clubs and organization at the beginning of each semester. It also oversees emergency fund requests throughout the semester. (Email: planncomm@bard.edu)

In addition, there are several standing committees

- Σ Emergency Medical Service Council
- Σ Board of Trustees Representatives
- Σ Board of Governors Representatives
- Σ Poughkeepsie Institute

Central Committee

(centralcom@bard.edu)
Reazur Rahman (rr738), Secretary
Dumaine Williams (dw824), Treasurer
Bianca D'Allesandro (bd626)

Juliet Morrison (jm934)
Caroline Muglia (cm548)
Monica Elkinton (me573) Planning Committee (planncomm@bard.edu)
Bianca D'Allesandro, Chair, (bd626)
Dumaine Williams (dw824)
Robert Lee (rl226)
Nikhil John (nj647)
Mollie Meikle (mm665)
Eben Kaplan (ek524)
Saiful Islam (si599)

Student Life Committee (slc@bard.edu)

Caroline Muglia, Chair, (cm548)
Pia Carusone (pc496)
Sarah Mosbacher (sm923)
Mollie Meikle (mm665)
Andrew Payton (ap862)
Chiara Issa (ci387)
Fariyah Zaman (fz933)

Student Judiciary Board (sjb-

news@bard.edu)
Monica Elkinton, Chair, (me573)
Juliet Morrison (jm934)
Saiful Islam (si599)
Melissa Markson (mm768)
Kimberly Villiers (kv497)
Jonathan Ames (ja332)

Emergency Medical Services (EMS) Council

Alexandra Papadaki (ap649)
Chiara Issa (ci387)

Board of Trustees Representatives

Dumaine Williams (dw824)
Ruhul Qudus Chowdhury (rc753)

Alumni Association Representatives

Bianca D'Allesandro (bd626)
Saiful Islam (si599)

Poughkeepsie Institute Board

Jonathan Ames (ja332)

Educational Policies Committee (epc@bard.edu)

Juliet Morrison, Chair, (jm934)
Jibade Huffman, Arts (jh845)
Jessica Shapiro, Arts (js783)
Reazur Rahman, Natural Sciences (rr738)
Rubaba Ali, Natural Sciences (ra836)
Kena Hazelwood, Social Sciences (kh289)
Adam Conover, Social Sciences (ac484)
Thomas Cannavino, Lit & Lang (tc855)
Lydia Willoughby, Lit & Lang (lw264)



Robbins Renovation.

BEGINNING last year at the end of classes, Robbins has undergone some radical renovations on the third floor. Previously, it had twenty-seven rooms which were really small. The odd angles of the design had cramped it's occupants for ten years, leading Residence Life to consider making more efficient use of the space. It has been cut down to twenty-two rooms, which are slightly larger and more comfortable to live in. The bottom two floors remain as they were. Health Services was also expanded. As for future improvements, Fred Barnes says there is a strong possibility that the remaining two floors will undergo similar renovations. The outside of the dorm may also be improved as well. The picture above is from a new triple on the third floor.

- Adam Boyd

STUDY ABROAD

Meet Representative Carolyn Watson

Thursday, September 12
11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Information Table

Campus Center near Post Office

Learn about our outstanding student services and our programs in Argentina, Australia, Chile, Costa Rica, Cuba, England, Ireland, New Zealand, Northern Ireland, and Scotland

800-858-0229
www.ifsa-butler.org

Institute
for Study
Abroad
BUTLER UNIVERSITY

Budget Forum Info.

by Reazur Rahman, Student Government Secretary

Get Ready for the Budget Forum

The Budget Forum, which will be the first Student Association Forum of this semester, will be held in Kline Commons at 8 PM on Thursday, September 19th. Student organizations, which submitted a budget request to the Student Association Treasurer Dumaine Williams on Thursday September 12th and have defended their budgets before the Planning Committee, will have an opportunity to request further funding from the student body if the allotted funds fail to meet their expectations. Thus, student clubs are under an obligation to attend the Forum in their best interests; also, we expect the first year students to be interested in this event, since this will be the first student government event they will be witnessing at Bard. In light of the upcoming Forum and the expectations, we intend to highlight some of the major aspects of the Budget Forum so that all those involved or even slightly interested will have some sense of it beforehand.

The Forum will start with a call of attendance for the student government members and will be followed by an announcement that the Committee is now accepting hostile amendments to the budget. The amendments are called "hostile" because they are hostile to the budget the planning committee proposed, or are hostile to some other club's budget. (Friendly amendments are strictly prohibited by the constitution.) In other words, clubs which are unsatisfied with the amount of money they received from the planning committee may raise this amendment to secure funding either from the emergency fund, a fund kept aside by the planning committee for unforeseen and exigent situations, or from another student club. Once this announcement for hostile amendments is made, another announcement will also be made regarding the elections (bear in mind that the hostile amendments will be dealt with upon completion of the election and other matters at hand).

In this Forum, there will be election for an alternate member in the Student Judiciary Board (SJB). SJB members are responsible for hearing cases about non-academic violations of the college policies and assigns appropriate actions, including suspension or expulsion, which is then implemented by the Dean of Students. The alternate takes part in all the activities of SJB, but will only serve (have voting rights)

the committee when a board member cannot participate because of conflict of interest or other circumstances. The committee member can even be a freshman or a first year student (although everybody is encouraged to run), which gives members of the freshmen class a great opportunity to be a part of the student government. Those who want to run for the positions must attend the forum and be nominated by a second person, and give a brief speech to all present. Voting takes place by hand raising. Once the elections are over, the Treasurer or the planning Committee chair will begin business by reading the amendments in the order received. The amendment will then be defended by the author(s), after which anyone present at the Forum may ask points of information/inquiry etc. A list of the speakers will then be set up for more people to defend and attack the amendment. Everyone who raises a hand is added to this list, which is usually set up as having two people for and two against the amendment, at minimum. However, there may be time limits and limits on the number of speakers. After debate, all amendments must come to a vote and must pass by 2/3. Once all the amendments are dealt with, the closure of the Forum will be announced.

Finally, we would like to comment about the undue interruptions that speakers sometimes face during a Budget Forum. Since we all respect the concept of freedom of speech, it is unreasonable to ask random questions and interrupt the speakers. Common sense suggests that one should wait until it is his/her turn on the list, or express his/her opinions under the guise of points of inquiry - a term often misused and misunderstood by many. Point of inquiry should only be used for a genuinely specific and pertinent inquiry, not as an expression of random thought that often ends up interrupting the speakers. While, we realize that many people want to bring beer to the Forum and have a good time, it does not justify frequent interruptions and aggressive behavior. We have to realize that only when we will allow the others to speak, only then will they lend us their ears.

We hope to see all of you at the forum.



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Into the Rabbit Hole: Alice (videogame review)

by Chelsea Doyle

WHEN I FIRST SHUFFLED THROUGH the flashy titles and gory computer covers, I began to wonder how gaming had lost its pizzazz. The drab releases of RPG games consisting completely of bloody death scenes, and short lived sports games have made the world of computer gaming a rather sad and dreary place. This was the case until recently when I wandered aimlessly past the releases and something caught my eye. A creepy looking little girl with blonde hair, haunted eyes, and the title. Alice, from American McGee (who has made designs for Quake, and DOOM II). Ahhh, so it was a version of a fairy tale. How boring. Out of curiosity, I picked it up and was enamored with what I read.

The childhood story of Alice in Wonderland has always been a favorite. Who could not recall the story of the White Rabbit, the Queen of Hearts screaming "Off with her head!" the Carpenter and the Walrus. It destroys every single happy recollection of the fluffy fairy tale and instead forms a horrible, traumatic, and dark story. Sounds good, right? Alice, the main character, has degraded into a state of pure guilt and insanity after an accident has taken the lives of her parents. Since then, her innocent mind has been warped from her life in a mental institute. Every beloved character is vicious, dangerous, and reminiscent of the former tale, but casually ripped into a delicious format of destruction, mind deterioration, and restoration. The graphics are uncanny, the story line rather intriguing, and overall kudos must be given to McGee for breaking from the mind numbing mainstream and creating something for the "other" crowd as well. It is a must try, people. If only to laugh maniacally as the skeletal Cheshire Cat brings you from disturbing level to disturbing level. Into the rabbit hole, indeed! Available for PC and MAC.



SPIDER-MAN AND THE BLACK CAT "THE EVIL THAT MEN DO" #2 (PG) Written By: Kevin Smith, Art By: Terry Dodson with Rachel Dodson.

by Henry Casey



MOST PEOPLE WHO KNOW OF KEVIN SMITH know him as a movie director. It should not surprise those people that he is also a comic book writer. Smith started out with the independent publishers Oni Press, making the Clerks and the Chasing Dogma mini series'. Later, he went to the big leagues writing 3-10 issue long story lines for Marvel's Daredevil, DC's Green Arrow, and then to Image for the Bluntman and Chronic trade paperback.

With his long list of achievements, what is Mr. Smith left to do? He has once again signed with Marvel and is starting a five issue series combining the red-hot Spider-Man and the lesser known Black Cat (a former love interest of Spidey's). A search for Tricia Lane, one of Peter Parker's former students and one of the Black Cat (real name Felicia Hardy)'s friends brings Spidey and the Black Cat together. However, the series is not just about the search for Tricia.

As usual, Smith decides to a love story line, testing the will power of Peter Parker, currently separated from wife Mary Jane Watson (yes, if your only Spidey knowledge is from the recent movie, they got married), with the sexy and single Ms. Hardy. Under any other writer I wouldn't think Peter could even think of doing a single bad thing, but with Smith, I think the

Parker marriage might have a few thousand hurdles to jump in the next few issues. Love story aside, Kevin reaches his usual quota of dick and fart jokes. He misappropriates the phrase, "spider-sense is tingling" and gets away with it nicely.

A married couple, working on all cylinders, the Dodson's. Terry and Rachel are doing a great job with the art to supporting Smith's text. At first I was not really a fan of what the Dodson's were doing but when I got issue two, the art started to remind me a lot of the FOX Spider-Man cartoon show. The simplicity of the Dodson art is not plain, but vibrant in color use. They do a great job with the cover art, with a blue tinted Black Cat image and an orange-ish Spider-Man image playing off of each other. While it may not be obvious, there may be a Kevin Smith movie joke in the cover art. Black Cat is standing back to the reader and face turned around, quite like the poses that the female cat burglars did in their black jumpsuits in "Jay & Silent Bob Strike Back", Smith's most recent film.

Overall, The Evil That Men Do is shaping up to be another one of Smith's smash successes, not just in the sales records, but in the minds of film and comic junkies alike.

Read My Lips (Sur Mes Levres)

by Michael Morini

READ MY LIPS IS THE OFF-KILTER story of a nearly deaf office manager, Carla (Emmanuelle Devos), at a real estate/construction firm, who hires an assistant, Paul (Vincent Cassell), to help with her secretarial duties and to aide her vie to be noticed in an all male firm. Unbeknownst to Carla, Paul is an ex-con parolee who, come to find out, has no secretarial skills and is in debt to some dangerous folk. Carla, whose social life consists of fantasizing about her best friend's sex life, finds both attraction and excitement in her new-found friend who gets her involved in a dangerous scheme that ends in death.

Jacques Audiard delivers a handsome looking pseudo-thriller with an interesting story line in his newest film, Read My Lips. This movie was long and somewhat drawn out but keeps your interest through its obscure plot and superb acting. The story didn't fluctuate much with its plot line and perhaps could have been much stronger had the plot twisted in some way. However, the tension created by the cinematography, soundtrack, and the editing, along with Emmanuelle Devos' excellent performance as Carla, which beat out Amelie's Audrey Tatou in the French version of the Oscars, helped maintain my interest.

The downside of this film is the fact that all the tension never actually climaxes. Just like your dad.

Although the music, which consisted of the same four orchestrated notes placed periodically throughout the film, was pretty mundane, the placement did add to the climactic or rather anti-climactic tension. Also periodically placed in the film were short, artful, montage sequences that seemed to happen in somewhat random places but complement



ed the more mainstream cinematography and pieced the movie together nicely.

This is definitely not a must-see movie. It is also not one of the best films of the year. It is, however, a good film and I recommend viewing it if you get a chance. This is a movie that most film enthusiasts should enjoy, not necessarily be entertained by, but definitely watch if you get the chance.

In Praise of Godard's Retirement:

In Praise of Love (Elogé de L'Amour)

Jean Luc Godard
2001

by Elizabeth Daley

ACCORDING TO REVIEWER Jason Wood, Elogé de L'Amour contains "more ideas in a single frame than most films manage in their entirety." Wood claims: "reviewing it doesn't do it justice, you just need to see it." I disagree. Godard places so many inside jokes, or covert references in this film. I was as confused as P. Diddy trying to sing experimental indierock. While I could have struggled to get every Sartre reference or colloquial French joke, I chose to focus on the pleasing visual nature of the film rather than its content. I learned from the large plot synopsis given out before the screening that Elogé is about "a thirty-something film maker, too self-involved to recognize the woman who might make a difference in his life when he is staring her in the face." The filmmaker Edgar wants to make a film and he is not exactly sure of all the elements he wants in his film. Nevertheless, he attempts to cast the film nonetheless and asks the auditioned all sorts of highly intellectual questions about life, death and existence. Edgar attempts to document the stages of love from its beginning to its reconciliatory period, implying that love never ends (wow!).

The first half of the film is shot in black and white and the second half is shot in color. There were some picturesque dissolves that almost made the 98 minute film worth sitting through. I laughed one time, I will tell you the context to spare you the pleasure of seeing the film. There were some young girls petitioning door to door in traditional French clothing asking to have the Matrix dubbed into Briton (a regional French dialect). Godard was trying to show that Hollywood has taken over culture with technology and created cold consumerism where there once was authenticity. It was true, so I laughed.

Elogé also had some interest-

ing sound edits, however there were few other genuinely revolutionary aspects. Godard filmed people talking without showing their faces, (he's done that before), Godard framed the characters interestingly at one point (he's also done that before), the self-reflexive nature of the film was tiring as well. Elogé shared many of Memento's moments of non-linear confusion. According to Godard, "a film should have a beginning, a middle and an end but not necessarily in that order." I think that is a very nice philosophical way to look at things, but things do not fall into place by themselves as one might think. Elogé, like Memento, was a film I did not really care to follow. It traveled in and out of time through intellectual meandering. While this approach does leave room for everyone to form his or her interpretation of the film, I could stare at a wall and form my own interpretation of a wall. There are many films that have non-linear narratives and leave room for interpretation that are worth seeing such as Mulholland Drive. I think one of the main differences between Elogé and Mulholland Drive is the director's approach to the story line or story lines. In Elogé, you get the feeling that Godard is trying to tell you something, with Mulholland Drive, Lynch is trying to show you something. When you look at a picture you are able to form your own interpretation. When someone speaks to you, there is a meaning implied and if that meaning is unclear, confusion ensues. Godard spins verbal circles with a camera. His characters are too involved in disseminating the main points of the movie by way of high brow conversations. Granted, in America we are used to the wham bam thank you mam' movie that wastes no more of our time than a music video. Still, I could have been watching pop-up videos and having fun! Instead, I was brought

on an obvious wild goose chase for the ever-intangible 'meaning.'

Godard makes it clear that he has no intention of making a 'Julia Roberts' film, and has one character say something to that effect. Godard has his characters insult Hollywood directly and also has an American film executive portrayed as stupid and evil (something I would not dispute). There are two old people in the film who have sold the rights to their story of surviving a war to film executives. Godard uses the American Executive to show how their story will be made Hollywood and dehumanized.

Apparently Elogé de L'Amour was supposed to come out last year, but in light of the many deaths in the World Trade Center Attacks, Godard and his people felt that some of the anti-American content of the film would not be appreciated as much since America was suddenly the victim. According to Ed Gonzalez of Slant Magazine, "Godard's pig-fucking of America is so laughably feeble-minded I'm moved to join the Betsy Ross bandwagon that has taken America by storm post-9/11." I, however, enjoyed watching the part of the film where Godard was bashing America because it was the only part he made simple enough for Americans to understand (wink wink). As a patriotic American citizen, I found it great to watch Godard exercise his freedom of speech however as a critical viewer, the bashing seemed a week match for his intellectual notions. To diss Julia Roberts in a film with such an intellectual air seems kind of ridiculous. I remember one quote from the film: "there is no death, when it comes there is only a sense of self." That is such a funny quote, I forget if I read it yesterday in the Bhagavad-Gita, or heard it while watching Flatliners. While I have had conversations with people in which we ponder the meaning of life and become all religiously inclined, rarely do I care to

condense all these moments into one movie. Never can I watch a movie made up of these moments without falling asleep and drooling on the person next to me. Nor can I watch a movie like this without having the feeling that I should do something useful like build a house to counteract all the pointless time I spend thinking. I would like to close this review with my favorite quote from Elogé de L'Amour, which ends the film and also epitomizes it: "maybe nothing was said."





One Hour Photo Review

Thank God for Digital Cameras

by Henry Casey

YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD THIS BEFORE: "Patch Adams" is dead, "Mrs. Doubtfire", dead, that robot from Bicentennial Man, ditto. I am writing this article to say that the hype surrounding the latest film where Robin Williams attempts to discard these personas, is in fact justified.

In *One Hour Photo*, Robin Williams plays the role of Sy 'the photo guy' Parrish. He is a social misfit whose only friend may be a fellow photo clerk. The character Sy is so outrageous that I have dubbed him 'Psycho Sy'. Portraying Sy as someone the viewer actually pities or relate to, is the ultimate test of Mr. Williams' acting.

Sy works in the photo development counter at CVSesque store called SavMart. When shown Sy's run down apartment, it is apparent that the pay must be minimal. The only reason Sy likes his job is that he can look at all the photos people take and make copies for himself. This behavior becomes extremely

unhealthy when the life of Nina Yorkin (Connie Nielson) and her family become an obsession of his. Sy's fixation leads him to not only make personal copies of her photos, but to imagine himself as a member of the family. As the movie nears the third act, Sy goes to desperate lengths in order to 'out' the Yorkin's alpha male.

Williams nails the role naturally since it was tailored to him. His nervous ticks are a joy to watch, his stutter is in full effect. After seeing this film you will fear your local photo clerk, especially if you thought you were on good terms with him. If you need any more proof as to how effective this film was, I have since switched to digital photos in order to steer clear of deranged photo clerks. Unless you want some psycho photo guy who knows your address and where you work, I suggest you do the same.

Drew Interviews Freshmen...

Welcome, Freshmen

by Andrew Schulze

A NEW YEAR AT

COLLEGE TRADITIONALLY guarantees three things. I believe they are, in no particular order:

1. A fresh batch of drunken evenings.
2. A fresh batch of hungover mornings.

Unlike other colleges that have their freshmen orientation around the same time as the arrival of the returning students, Bard's method of orientation affords the freshmen a three-week-long bonding opportunity, while invariably sidelining their social skills with the upperclassmen for at least a week or two.

The majority of these upperclassmen, who would happily associate with the freshmen, find themselves with a limited number of opportunities to do so.

Not everyone would go to a party and, without consulting the Observer, wear a sandwich sign that says:

"I NEED TO INTERVIEW A FRESHMAN FOR THE OBSERVER."

But I did.

A few friendly freshmen stopped and talked to me for a while, but most of them explained that they didn't want to be interviewed. Just as the funny looks from some of the freshmen—and most of the upperclassmen—were starting to get to me, I met a freshman, one Isabelle Meyers, a green-eyed brunette from Virginia. She said that she'd be happy to be interviewed. I was just about to start suggesting times that we could meet again when she said that she was fairly bored with the party, and that we should probably "just do it right now."

We both laughed and headed to my room.

The interview went something like this:

DREW: Tell the Observer a little bit about yourself.

on his own accord, without consulting the Observer.

ISABELLE: I'm a freshman at Bard, from

Charlottesville, Virginia.

DREW: Charlottesville!

That's where the family trees don't branch!

ISABELLE: Very funny. Well, I

have seven cousins, and none of them are involved. As far as I know,

DREW: That's a relief. What made you decide to come to Bard?"

ISABELLE: I came to Bard because I liked the idea of being several states away from my family, but close enough that I can

could drive home in one day. The classes also looked really interesting.

DREW: How long is the drive home?

ISABELLE: Eight hours.

DREW: Do you have any idea what you want to study? What classes are you taking?

ISABELLE: Well, obviously I'm in freshman seminar, and I'm also taking intermediate French, intro to psych, and a few dance classes. I have no idea what I want to major in yet.

DREW: Dance classes? You must be really flexible!

ISABELLE: Wouldn't you like to know?

DREW: How is it that a freshman is in intermediate French? Wouldn't you need to take an introductory class first?

ISABELLE: Actually, I took four years of French in high school, and also spent two weeks in France as part of a French club trip.

DREW: I see. Did anything exciting happen to you while you were in France?

ISABELLE: One time, I was supposed to meet some friends at a beach, but got off the bus one stop too soon, and ended up at a part where I was the only one with a bathing suit.

DREW: So, the beach was au naturel?

ISABELLE: Unfortunately.

DREW: Then what happened?

ISABELLE: Well, I put on my sunglasses and started walking down the beach to where I thought my friends were.

DREW: Did you find them?

ISABELLE: Yes, but not before running into my French teacher, Mr. Murphy, in the nude section.

DREW: Mr. Murphy was letting it all hang out?

ISABELLE: You got it.

DREW: Yuck.

ISABELLE: The funny thing is that we had always joked about never wanting to see Mr. Murphy in a bathing suit, but that day I would have been thrilled to see him in a Speedo, rather than the alternative.

DREW: No kidding.

ISABELLE: But, I had a great time, and met a bunch of nice people.

DREW: That's cool. What else do you like to do?

ISABELLE: Even though I don't play any actual sports, I like to stay active.

DREW: What do you do to stay active?

ISABELLE: Run and bicycle.

DREW: What are some of your other hobbies?

ISABELLE: I like to read, and listen to music. I'm a big astrology nut.

DREW: You're kidding! Me too!

ISABELLE: No way!

DREW: Yeah!

ISABELLE: That's awesome!

DREW: When is your birthday?

ISABELLE: December 8th, 1984.

DREW: Ah, a Sagittarius. Is your moon in Gemini or Cancer?

ISABELLE: Gemini. I'm impressed. What are you?

DREW: I'm a Scorpio.

ISABELLE: Ooh. Dangerous!

DREW: Wouldn't you like to know?

Although I'm not exactly sure, I think that was technically the end of our interview.

In short, I very much enjoyed the time I spent getting to know a few members of the freshman class. They are easy to talk to, friendly, and funny.

Book Review:
Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong
 by James W. Loewen

by Jacqueline Moss

LIES MY TEACHER TOLD ME was given to me by a couple of my history teachers from high school. I'd never heard of the book, but trusted my teachers' good judgement. Loewen examined twelve of the most popular American history textbooks in the nation in order to expose why history is usually labeled "boring" and why the truth about American history is usually excluded and "myths and misinformation" perpetuated.

Textbooks in American history stand in sharp contrast to other teaching materials. Why are history textbooks so bad? Nationalism is one of the culprits. Textbooks are often muddled by the conflicting desires to promote inquiry and to indoctrinate blind patriotism. -Loewen, 14

Loewen cites one of the reasons why history is "boring" is because textbooks avoid conflict and controversy and the stories related are predictable (13). Everyone in American history is perfect, is a hero, except, of course the slave owners, and sometimes not even them. For example, most people associate former president Woodrow Wilson with progressivism, however, I didn't know Wilson was a white supremacist and re-segregated the federal gov-

ernment; Wilson also vetoed a clause on racial equality in the Covenant of the League of Nations (26). Another startling example of the unwavering patriotism textbooks promote is that "More Americans have learned the story of the South during the years of the Civil War and Reconstruction from Margaret Mitchell's *Gone With the Wind* than from all of the learned volumes on this period." (Beck and Clowers). American history textbooks often overlook the fact that Helen Keller was a socialist and display her as the epitome that hard work and effort pays off; merely a bland inspirational figure (Loewen, 20). However, Keller became a socialist because of her work with the blind; she realized blindness was concentrated in the lower classes and that the "social class system controls people's opportunities in life, sometimes determining even whether they can

see" (Loewen, 21) due to occupational hazards usually confined to the lower classes and to poorer or non-existent medical care. When Keller became a socialist, newspapers wrote that she had "extolled her courage and intelligence now emphasized her handicap" (Loewen, 22). So, why is history taught like this? Why is history still taught like this, even in this "information age" of "enlightenment". The simple answer is business. "People" don't want controversy, "people" don't want shades of gray, "people" want absolutes. "Publishers produce textbooks with several audiences in mind. One is their intended readers: students' characteristics, as publishers perceive them, particularly affect reading level and page layout...historians and professors of education are another audi-

ence...teachers comprise another. Conceptions of the general public also enter publishers' thinking, since public opinion influences adoption committees and since parents represent a potential interest group that publishers seek not to arouse." (Loewen, 272). Loewen even quoted a representative of Holt, Rinehart and Winston as saying "When you're publishing a book, if there's something that is controversial, it's better to take it out." (Loewen, 271). Modern American history textbooks still supply "irrelevant and even erroneous details, while omitting pivotal questions and facts in their treatments [sic] of issues ranging from Columbus' second voyage to the possibility of impending ecocide." (Loewen, 272). Loewen's detailed and in-depth exploration of the quality of education history textbooks promote is fascinating, well developed, and enjoyable; even if the author does indulge in a bit of tedious ranting. Loewen's book should be required reading for all students of American history and all teachers of American history. Bibliography if needed: Loewen, James W. *Lies My Teacher Told Me: Everything Your American History Textbook Got Wrong*. Simon & Schuster, NY, 1995.



Helen Keller: Pinko in disguise.

web site reviews

Radio Netscape

by Elizabeth Daley

The Spark

by Chelsea Doyle

Back to Cool Websites

by Elizabeth Daley

I HAD A BIG FAT incomplete over the summer. While doing research on my beloved Edgar Allen Poe (my incomplete paper topic), I found this most useful site for research. It is called www.concordance.com and has works of many famous authors. It allows you to search authors' complete works for certain words or phrases. It tells you how frequently they appear and allows you to see the surrounding text in every case. I am sure you will thank me later for bringing this site to your attention, when you are all world leaders or when you have all those last minute papers to do.

THE NEXT WEBSITE IS A WEBSITE I often used to distract me from the learning benefits of concordance.com. This website is <http://channels.netscape.com/ns/music/radio/sampler.jsp>. Picture this: 175 different radio stations tailored to your every music whim. Indian music, over 5 different Indie-Rock stations, tons of Hip-Hop, Oldies, One Hit Wonders, Oldies, two 80's stations, basically anything your heart desires. Also, radio Netscape has no commercials making it true bliss. There are these things you can click on to see what is playing on other radio stations while you listen. For this reason it is schizophrenic radio because something good is always on...almost like digital cable- but that's another story.

THERE ARE NOT MANY HIGH school or college students that do not know the name "SparkNotes." In fact, the popular website has taken the place of former books such as CliffNotes, and replaced it with a much cooler set up. SparkNotes is a place where you can find literary summaries for nearly every single college text that you may come across. They have most of Shakespeare's plays as well as contemporary fiction summarized into chapters, with explanations of characters and even themes. It provides excellent background information, and even some unknown trivia that you can bring out to charm your teacher with. The Spark also has tests you can take. The "Death Test" can tell you when you will die, and if it will be from alien invasion, a rash, or something equally strange. Overall, www.thespark.com is a very funny site with a delightful blend of information and humor. If you are ever bored and just surfing the net, stop on by The Spark and give it a try.

look for this:

Hi! My name is Matt. I put together a concert series at the Red Room. It starts on Friday, September 28th and ends October 18. During that time the series will feature a Bard musician playing once a week for eight hours straight. We'll probably set up pillows and blankets so that the audience can sleep if they want to. The performances will be recorded and released in MP3 format on single cd-rs. I will be starting the series at 10 p.m on September, 28, the performance will end at 6 a.m. Tony Hubilla will be playing on October, 18. Obviously, we would like company.

el-P
 Fantastic Damage
 reviewed by
 Jacob
 Cottingham

EL-P, THE MAD SCIENTIST of hip-hop released his first solo album over the summer. As the founder of Company Flow, and the Def Jux label, ELP has carved out a style that is further honed on "Fantastic Damage." The entire album maintains a dark, biting that is inherently connected to the technology used to create it. Throughout the album ELP mixes in sound clips of people screaming theatrically, an old voice reading Orwell quotes ("You want a picture of the future, imagine a boot stamping on the face of a human forever."), and a cartoon mother that could be from Bambi. It's not really for parties.

The third track, "Deep Space 9mm" is one of the more accessible songs on the album. The driving beat is a swishing wave of static held at bay with a staccato drum that is reminiscent of a marching band snare. The song is bracket by a slowed and elongated beep that could back a Radiohead song were it not accompanied by ELP's voice echoing itself slightly and a pulsing electronic dancehall adding such intensity and odd familiarity. With lines like, "Save the gestures/can't save the children /ain't worth the effort," and "my generation made friends with sluts/ thank god for the drugs and the drums," ELP seems to struggle with the incredible power of entertainment and the inability of people to change despite this. "Delorean" the sixth track on the album features a brief verse by Aesop Rock and like most of the others it carries a shifting musical attitude over the course of a single string of emotions. Beginning with a driving rounded distortion and vocals that seem shouted partly out of desperation and partially out of anger. This leads into some scratching that is backed by a beat which practically forces you to nod your head or tap a toe before it rips into the pounding feedback and screech that's more hardcore than that kid down the hall.

What ELP manages to do with his vocals and producing, is vary a song's tempo and beat so that it generally avoids a verse/chorus/verse/chorus repetition while still building a cohesive point within a song. In "Trauncy" the beat seems built a rough, low guitar distortion a la '70's, and feed into a chaos pad or some such electronic distorter. Only partially though one of the more gritty parts the song do you realize how many noises seem to be going seemingly at random, yet incredibly thick. It ends with a break into a simple beat with a piano that would accompany a beautiful valley ride in a Tron motorcycle.

"Fantastic Damage," is a melding of personal experience and politics that is rarely blatantly stated. The album thrives on creating an imaginable violence that is inherently linked to the technology used to create it. "Dead Disnee" becomes especially eerie in light of recent al-Qaeda shit about targeting Disneyland. "It's playing tackle football on concrete," he says at one point on the album.

The best example of this is "Stepfather Factory," one of the more intense songs on the album. ELP plays out a calm steady talking CEO of a robotic company "in the age of familial industry." Talking to a baby girl he cuts off as soon as she is introduced he explains how she can eliminate the funny feeling she gets inside when she sees Mommy cry, and can think about candy or toys or whatever it is that normal kids think about. "This is maybe just an SOS shrapnel an echo of dead sentiment," he says on "T.O.J.," a song that's mostly about love. What ELP seems to fear is a lack of genuine expression of emotion due to the extreme complexity of the social and technological systems around us. At one point he urges "This is for the kids worried about the apocalypse, stop talking do something." Towards the end of the album in "Laserfaces' Warning," he shouts out "I tried to warn you! I tried to warn you!" as a Max Headrome computer style voice raps "What can you do?"



Sex in the Rural Environment.

by Carl

HERE WE ARE, SOME TWELVE hundred liberal arts students, stranded in the wilds of upstate New York and it seems (at least in many of my previous experiences and the experiences of many of my friends) we are completely alone in dealing with the local wildlife. Sure, we have our solid group of friends ("the herd") to which we belong. They give solace and unnecessary meaning to the occasional one night stand yet, often, they are the one night stand. There is an overwhelming sense of community at Bard—but only in our groups of ten. Everyone else belongs to a different pack, often friendly, but we never even give ourselves the chance to sniff his or her asses. We're all too preoccupied with staring at the ground and deconstructing the few glances that we actually do catch. In a situation like this, how is anyone supposed to find good sex outside of the group—or, even harder, how does anyone find love?

Let's look at a typical Bard scenario—the "go get 'em" Thursday night. You have made it known to all your friends that you "plan on having a good night." You've dawned your favorite denim, properly futzed with your hair, and found the perfect worn out tee shirt. You're already slightly inebriated and, amazingly enough, completely convinced yourself that Tivoli and/or the Old Gym has endless romantic or sexual possibilities in store. The only obstacle is that the only people you'll talk to are those you already know. Often this obstacle of insecurity is tackled by drinking. Although this allows for conversation with the faces that have either once, or perhaps as many as eight times, sat directly across from you in a lit class, unless they are at the same level of intoxication they will simply nod and wonder why you have chosen this night to final make a respectable introduction.

So how does one overcome this barrier? Perhaps it's all in making sure certain people you are courting do hit the same level of drunkenness by inviting them to tequila night with you and your friends. Or maybe it's all about looking up on the paths—one hello at a time.

Does your whole family look at porn on the internet? Do you? A quiz, brought to you by Elizabeth Daley

- When you go to use the computer...
 - A) Someone is always on, be it mom or dad
 - B) Dad is always on and fidgets nervously when you enter the room
 - C) Your brother yells "get the fuck out of here i am trying to....", then he struggles to formulate the next sentence
 - D) It is to look at porn on the internet
 - E) None of the above
- When you use the internet...
 - A) you can never find the web browser's visited history
 - B) sadly, you always find the history and it often involves the young and willing
 - C) the history alternates between comic books, thespark.com, and good ole fashion porn
 - D) you make sure to delete the history, lest the family find your love for golden retrievers and nudist colonies unnatural
 - E) you always go to google and if any of that porn stuff pops up at you, you say ten hail marys and go back to your science project
- When friends try to call your house...
 - A) The internet answering service always goes on
 - B) They yell into the internet answering service "hey, why is your dad such a pervert"
 - C) Your brother never lets you talk to them because he is trying to dial up
 - D) You tell them you are too busy to talk but you will see them on aim to trade pics
 - E) You have nice long, healthy conversations
- For Christmas...
 - A) Your mom gave your dad a 'secret present' that was for adults only
 - B) Your dad asked your mom for something in her ear and she slapped him
 - C) Your brother seemed highly disappointed at his "gamers magazine" subscription
 - D) You never get to sit on Santa's lap long enough
 - E) You go caroling with your dearest friends and feed soup to the less fortunate
- When someone asks about how your parents met...
 - A) they look at each other and giggle uncontrollably
 - B) your dad says "back in the day, there was this thing called swinging"
 - C) your brother tells how he saw their wedding pictures and that no one had clothes on
 - D) you make sure to remember the story so you can recount it in chat rooms
 - E) they say that they met when your father was the altar boy at your mother's church. Mom accidentally tripped dad and set the rug on fire. Some years later, dad rescued mom from her burning apt building and there have been (chuckle, chuckle) sparks ever since.
- In your house the v chip
 - A) is revolting to your rights as Americans
 - B) is always "about to be installed" by dad.
 - C) seems to be the bane of to your brothers existence
 - D) is the only thing that ever makes you feel...sad
 - E) is installed in every computer, lest your cat step on the wrong keys and end up in a life of sin

If you answered mostly A's
 You are living a den of sin. Mom and dad are definitely getting it on in your absence, possibly as we speak. I wouldn't be surprised if you have some dirt road memories that for the first person to catch point would only bring you some type of sick pleasure, so I will save that for the first person to catch roommate, please be considerate and buy some type of air freshener and stain remover. Please. I tried to convince him to stop but he is an addiction like any other. At night, you don't leave your room. Your dad is a perv, man.
 Mostly C's
 Your little brother is an al Bundy in parents may tell you it is all you sexual and arousing. While you of naked people attempting to be pornography. It's basically pictures of naked people attempting to be the making. He can barely keep his hands out of his pants. He brings his friends and they sit next to him silently. Makes you won't a perv, dude.
 Mostly D's
 Ok there is this thing called pornography. It's basically pictures of naked people attempting to be sexual and arousing. While you of naked people attempting to be the making. He can barely keep his hands out of his pants. He brings his friends and they sit next to him silently. Makes you won't a perv, dude.
 Mostly E's
 Your dad is a perv, man. At night, you don't leave your room. You are an addiction like any other. He tried to convince him to stop but he is an addiction like any other. At night, you don't leave your room. Your dad is a perv, man.

The Bard Observer

Memories, Dreams, and the Sept. 11 Memorial

Where are we on 9/11/02?

by **Emily Friedhoff**

How will our memory of the 9/11 attacks be preserved and reflected in the memorial we create?

Memory is deeply significant to history. While we all have our own, personal memories, it is as if we need to create tragedy and suffering to make our lives feel more real. History is written by recollection, and serves as a way to educate those who were not living at the time. Documentation of tragedies serves as a warning of what could be, based on what already happened— as a way to prevent reiteration.

We have never experienced ANYTHING remotely similar to the events that occurred on September 11th, 2001. We have never been forced to conjure up so much fear, paranoia and helplessness. We never expected the World Trade Centers to fall with so many trapped beneath the tons of ruins.

The architects of the World Trade Center were, to some degree, prepared for an attack from the sky however— the engineering of the towers was supposed to be able withstand the blow of the largest aircraft at the time, and allow almost 2 hours for workers to evacuate before collapse. Perhaps taking a hint from the only other incident of its kind, the accidental crash of a small naval aircraft in to a face of the Empire State Building on July 28th, 1945, the World Trade Center's 110 stories rose cautiously on the New York Skyline in 1973 (and '74).

As the first anniversary of the September 11th terrorist attacks approach, we find ourselves struggling to cope with the overwhelming emotion that we experienced. We find ourselves at the heart of an invisible retaliatory "war." We find ourselves lost as to how to mourn the lives of the 3,000+ lost to the horrific events.

We find ourselves asking: How will we remember?

We want to build a memorial. Good. The first step to remembering something is making a shorthand symbol that will conjure up the memory. Do we want to remember the television images? For the most part, no. People do not want to keep seeing the dark planes hurtling through space, aimed at the towers. They do not want to see the explosions. They do not want to remember the people jumping. They do not want to remember the futility of the humongous buildings collapse. They want to censor the raw feelings they experienced, because they were so on the moment— confusion, fear, terror, paranoia, paralysis... no one wants to remember how they felt—or rather, how they were forced to feel. But if we cover that up, what reason is there to make a memorial?

I remember that I could not believe the images that were presented on September 11th. I, and many others, considered the imagery part of a hideous dream, or some disgusting preview to a new movie. This is a bit far-fetched, but the fact that I denied this event could in fact mean that it didn't happen, especially since I had visited the World Trade Center not 2 weeks before the attack (and had seen the distinctive view of Midtown from Windows on the World, on the 107th floor of the North Tower). I know it did—every time I visit Times Square, I look down Broadway and see the towers missing, and I realize that it happened— but the details were just too awful to be a reality. It was a sensory overload for all of us. My emotional healing is still not com-

plete. I have been writing poems, composing music, and making drawings and political comics since September 15th. I remember the fact that after September 11th, I was more drawn to learning about TI remember the fact that after September 11th, Manhattan, itself, turned mysterious and symbolic.

I am, for the most part, upset with the direction of remembrance has been conducted over the past 12 months. I appreciated and respected the months of slow, methodic recovery work done at

remember the heroes without attributing their actions to patriotism.

If the memorial is the piece of steel rubble that formed a cross, I am not for it. Christianity was not the only religion that suffered losses on September 11th... people of many religions worked at the World Trade Centers.

Memorials that are convoluted with too much symbolism, might lose their true meaning with time. On the other hand, memorials that are designed too simply may offend those who want the memory to be preserved.

A memorial designed on a societal memory is bound to be more successful than one created by dream-like inspirations. In addition, a design that favors a particular "theme," such as national pride, should be avoided. Memories about a single event can vary from person to person. Remembrance should not be based on a particular spin, but a collective consensus.

Thus, in building a memorial to the tragic events, we do not necessarily want to remember the dream (or the nightmare), but more the implications of what the events meant in both our lives and in history— in building a memorial, we need to find a design that will act as a trigger to our personal memories of the events.

A simple memorial design, such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, allows its viewers to reflect, both literally and personally, on the tragedy, without having to experience a flashy, squat, uninspiring, or overly poetic reminder of the significant casualties. The sheer size of the roster engraved in the black granite wall is enough to symbolize the magnitude of the tragedy. The simple poetic gesture of having the viewer travel below ground level to meet the deceased intensifies our unity with the departed.

The World Trade Center itself stood as a monument to world peace through international trade.

The location where the World Trade towers once rose, Ground Zero, will play a significant role in conjuring up remembrance, no matter how big or small the memorial turns out to be. Completion of the recovery efforts in late May marked the transformation of Ground Zero from "destruction site" to a "construction site"— it opened up the space for new possibilities. Many are concerned with the absence of the Twin Towers on the Manhattan skyline (and the loss of the unique view of the city from their uppermost floors). Yet, at the same time, others are concerned with preserving what is now considered "hallowed ground,"

and out of respect, do not want to rebuild the towers as they were.

In all honesty, I found that the "Tribute in Light" was the most moving gesture. I could literally see the towers of light from my River Vale, New Jersey backyard (20 or so miles north of New York City). And being so deeply affected by the events, seeing the faint columns made me feel like we were remembering, and confronting everything: the attacks, the collapses of the World Trade Centers, and the people who lost their lives. Unfortunately, it was only a temporary memorial.

We must find a way to build a memorial to both the story and the poem—the memory and the dream. We must take the time to consider how we will represent the World Trade Center atrocity in a memorial, so that the experience remains honestly in the minds of all who view it, in the future, as well as the present.

We can remember the heroes without attributing their actions to patriotism.

Ground Zero. I feel that that was a memorial in itself. But the flag has been a prevailing symbol (especially when hung vertically to look like the towers), and has gone through at least two different stages of symbolism. The first was right after the attacks.

The flag was appropriate on September 11th, up until the point where people started to sell shirts and bumper stickers printed with them. Cars and houses were draped in them... oozing red, white and blue. Looking at how the media dealt with the blame for the attacks, the flag began to feel less relevant and more ethnocentric. It began to be shown as an ID card.

The second stage was on and after October 8th, the day that President Bush sent troops to start bombing Afghanistan in retaliation. Not one month had past, and already the flag's meaning had switched from remembering September 11th, to supporting the war. Not only was Bush's war a "War on Terrorism" (something hard, if not impossible, to eradicate)... it was almost literally a "holy war,"— a Jihad, the same kind that Al Q'aeda declared on us. Bush had his God as reason to avenge the 9/11 attacks, and the Taliban had Allah and their hatred of Bush and America capitalism. It was quite unsettling

The American flag began to feel less relevant and more ethnocentric. It began to be shown as an ID card.

to see flag upon flag on house upon house, everyday for 3...4...5 months. When would the war end? When would the American Flag retain its original meaning? This war should be over by now, and we should have won (especially considering the circumstances that begun this war. How do the families of the 9/11 victims feel?!)

But we didn't win. Not yet at least. Osama bin Laden is still alive, and Al Q'aeda is still in operation, even if there are only fragments remaining. Perhaps that is a reason why it is so hard to think up a September 11th memorial design... our minds are still in Afghanistan and now, Iraq, when they should be at Ground Zero. President Bush is perpetuating and expanding our fight unnecessarily. And we aren't any safer. We didn't fight back hard enough, and it shows.

If the direction of the 9/11 memorial is patriotic, I am not for it. We can

the drab report

by Michael Marlin, Jr.

One of the biggest cliches at this school is to say that "Bard has changed."

Three years ago, when the seniors at the time had returned from summer break, I was quickly informed that I would never understand the "Bard that was." I had never experienced the old bookstore or the post office in the old gym. I never got to eat at the infamous DeKline. And I never got laid at the Menage on some crusty old mattress. According to those seniors, I had "missed out."

In Observer issues dating back decades, students complained of losing many privileges and questioned the future of "Hudson Valley's best kept secret." One student in 1998 reminisced about orgies in the basement of Tewksbury and the gratuitous nudity on campus. "I didn't come to Bard because of a student center with plush reclining chairs and pool tables and a terrace. A lot of us wanted a place to feel comfortable being different," she said.

And now that I have reached my senior year, I can't help but also think: what is happening here? Some students will never know the true meaning of "Ravine House" or what it was like to throw shit off the roof of "old" Obreshkove. Soon, no one will recognize Albee as once being a place for great parties. And, in just a few years, students will have no response, other than a confused shrug, to the words "Old Gym."

But there is truth to the cliches that my Bard forefathers and I have been spouting, and it seems that this year will be no exception to the changes that continue to reshape Annandale-on-Hudson.

Last year saw the end of the annual freshman party on the first arrival day, traditionally thrown by upperclassmen. The "beer fairies" who try nonetheless to distribute free alcohol are reprimanded. L&T itself has become completely dry, with security guards actually dumping out containers. Even the latest Old Gym party saw beer wasted onto the pavement by security, even to those who were 21 years of age.

There's no denying that school policies and state laws regarding alcohol and other substances have been in existence for years, but since when have they actually ever applied to us? This is BardWorld. Unfortunately, though, our little bubble is being popped all too quickly, whether we like it or not.

Granted, there are probably many students who now come to Bard thinking that these changes are for the better, and this is their school too, so who am I to say whether the changes are good or bad?

But, cliché or not, Bard really has changed.

The opinions and ideas expressed in the *Observer* do not necessarily reflect the views of the *Observer* staff. Each writer is a member of the Bard Community who publishes his/her views at his/her own discretion. If you would like to express your opinion in the *Observer*, send it via email to observer@bard.edu, by campus mail to *Observer*, or drop it off at the office in the basement of Tewksbury.

We're at War. What War?

Legislative loophole ignores Congressional consultation

by **Jacqueline Moss**

"The war against terrorism." We hear that phrase everyday. That's why we sent troops to Afghanistan; that's why Bush told the Palestinian people not to re-elect Yassir Arafat when he has no right to tell an independent people what to do; that's why Bush's administration has freed up millions of dollars to spend on military expansion while the economy flounders.

But we're not at war.

Congress holds the power to declare war, not the president (Article I, sect. 8 of the Constitution); Congress hasn't passed a declaration of war; thus, we are not at war. The president, from John F. Kennedy to Linden B. Johnson to Richard Nixon—never petitioned congress to pass a declaration of war during Vietnam, nor did former President George Bush senior during the Gulf War, and nei-

ther has George Bush Junior in this "war" against terrorism.

In 1973, the same year Vietnam ended, Congress passed the War Powers Act, which "required the president to consult Congress whenever possible before committing troops, to send an explanation for his actions within 2 days, and to withdraw any troops after 60 days unless Congress voted to retain them." (Davidson, 1050). The War Powers Act of 1973 was created precisely to prevent a war like Vietnam from happening again, to prevent the U.S. government from just "jumping in" to war. But the War Powers Act has a loophole. The president is only required to consult Congress "whenever possible;" the president could just say he didn't have time to consult Congress, therefore the president is not really required to do anything.

Throughout the 20th and 21st centuries the power of the executive branch has grown exponentially, and now has as much power, if not more power,

than Congress. The framers of the Constitution did not intend the powers of the executive branch to exceed those of the legislative branch; the framers did not want power to be concentrated in any individual person, (like in a monarchy or a dictatorship) because that was precisely what the colonists disliked so much about England's rule of the colonies. This is alarming because no one seems to have noticed that executive branch is claiming powers not granted in the Constitution, and more importantly, Congress hasn't done anything to curb the expansion of presidential power.

We are not legally at war and we are not at war according to the definition of "war" - "a state of usually open and declared armed hostile conflict between states or nations" (Merriam-Webster Online). We don't even know whom we're fighting; we don't even know who the enemy is. I refuse to call the activities of the United States in this "war" against terrorism a war.

American Cheese

9-11, 7-11, donkeys, and elephants

by **Jamie Newman**

Recently, if you live in America you can't help but think a little about September 11, and even those who don't will probably give it a brief thought on the one-year anniversary. As a native New Yorker I must admit that prior to 9-11 the World Trade Center meant little more to me than a 7-11. However, by September 11, almost everyone in America was a born again patriot. The events of September 11, and the alleged wake that ensued are greatly affected by the way you learned of them.

My passion for the cause grew cold like my coffee as we watched our city crumble. As time passed, it seemed as though everyone I know agreed that our feelings of heart-felt patriotism were fading to apathy. Over-saturation has disconnected us from what really happened on that day. From "I survived 9-11" t-shirts to twenty-four hour news coverage brought to us by Kurt Loder, I have started to feel as though the American Flag

does little more to symbolize our country's ideals as the Golden Arches—yet another instance of "the powers that be" turning an event of great historical importance into the perfect means of mass distraction from a country's internal issues. We must thank our politicians from both the right and left for exploiting tragedy to further their own divisive agendas.

One year later, when the smell of burning steel is no longer a brutal reminder, have things actually changed? Financial crises once again take precedent in policy making and our politics are still symbolized by a donkey and elephant. While for a second we appeared to be vigilant and united, in less than a year's time we are again complacent and divided.

In New York City in the weeks following 9-11 I had never seen a city so proud of their emergency service workers; the NYPD shirt even became fashionable among the city's hipsters. Yet, when it was time for the police department to renegotiate their contract with the city, there was magically no room in the bud-

get for a substantial pay raise. While it may have seemed as though September 11 would have given cops the ultimate bargaining tool, unfortunately Major League Baseball was far more successful in reaching a fair compromise in their negotiations than New York City was. All the sworn allegiance to law enforcement preceding these negotiations was no more than a testament to the artifice that is American politics.

Although I am truly happy with the benefits my country has afforded me, and prior to 9-11 I never concerned myself with griping about America's problems, I could only repress my frustration for so long. I just can't help but feel somewhat sick to my stomach when I think about how such a meaningful event in my life has been so trivialized by media over-saturation and the hyper-commercialism that followed.

I'm an AMERICAN. I eat American cheese on my burgers. I drink Budweiser out of a can every week and genuinely like it. But the way things have been recently, I'm finding it harder to be proud to be an American every day.



Dear Miss Lonelyhearts,
Why is it that EVERY person at Bard broke up with their significant other of like 9 years just recently?
-Flustered

Dear Flustered,
It seems freshmen bardian boys are the ex-type, the long time lovers-but it all ended last year. The new fad is the rebound. The fresh fish will either bounce back like rubber or simmer in their lost lovers stew. It's up to your seductive nature to help them decide.

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts,
My roommate's girl is hot. They aren't official, so can I hit it?
-Biff Welton

Dear Welton,
Its up for grabs, literally, unless you go by the bros-before-hoes love laws. This is a prime time case of lust; it's a Russian roulette-just get out alive.

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts,
I want a tattoo. Yes or no?
-Sally Beel

Dear Beel,
If you can find a part of your body that doesn't stretch, wrinkle, fade or discolor-go for it.

Dear Miss Lonelyhearts,
I want to experiment in bisexuality. What is the best way to initiate that? Does that mean that I am gay?
-Ralph Pente

Dear Ralph,
Everyone and their roommate wants to experiment with bisexuality-that's why they come to our home, Bi-ard College. Did Teen People send this question? Send better questions to:
DearMissLonelyhearts
@hotmail.com

To Whom It May Concern

Dear Editor:

Please provide my name and address to any person(s) who might be interested in corresponding with a college educated prisoner concerning prison reform and criminal justice issues - or general interest subjects. Feel free to print this letter in your publication. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,
Ronald Davidson

Ronald Davidson 76A1166
Elmira Correction Fac.
PO Box 500
Elmira, NY 14902

the Guy@KLINE

What would make a riot squad riot?



Free cable & feminine hygiene.



If Mr. T asked the world that question, that would make the world riot.



No riots.



Sorry, shortie, you're look'n pretty sweet, but I'm protesting "Guy@Kline" right now.



Ya-Yo.



Me. Just ask the soccer team.

The Bard Observer



The world championship Yugoslavian basketball team

Bringin My 'A' Game

By Dave Tramonte

So much for the "Dream Team" in basketball. USA lossed twice in the sport it invented.

Pete Sampras won the U.S. Open but it was the same day as football so I didn't watch.

I don't like baseball anymore. Mainly becuae of steroids.

Here are your football scores

New england won over the Steelers and it pissed me off

The Chargers beat the Bengals

SanFran kicked the Jints

Raiders topped the Hawks

Saints over the Bucs

Washington Native Americans topped Zona

Texans offed the Boys

KC masterpiece topped the Brown Stains and it pissed me off becuae of a stupid Helmet throwing incident.

JETS JETS JETS JETS JETS JETS JETS JETS IN THE SUPERBOWL THIS YEAR

Jets beat the Bills and it kicked ass

Big shout out to my new assistant sports editor and un-paid intern Jacob Grana who I blame for this sports section being so bad. He thinks I should have talked more about Baseball.

SPORTS TRIVIA

Who is the best short reciever of all time who plays on the Jets and has more game winning catches then anyone I can think of in such a short career? His last name rhymes with Le Jet.

74

KEEP PUNCHING WITH Sean Sullivan

Wassup Freshmen, wassup Uppers. I didn't think three months could go so quickly, but they did, at least for me. Did anyone really like that movie, Reign of Fire? I don't think it was even worth sneaking in for free. Jed and I chilled in Asia, at least the Bronx Zoo section of it. He was lurking for penguins. The elephants didn't look too happy to be there though. Women's soccer got off to a good start this season, winning their first game 3-0 against Pine Manor College. It was a clean dominating victory, although not one without some injuries. I saw No. 13 Libby take one for the team pretty hard apparently hurting her knee, but she got back up and played on some more. I hope she's feeling better. The worst happened to Crichton Atkinson who collided with a 'beast of a man, woman' as she put it, causing her to wear crutches this weekend. Stairs are now her opposing team. But, she'll be back as ferocious as ever, I'm sure. Senior Jackie LaDuke agreed with Crichton about those beasts, but said it worked to Bard's advantage. "I think it was a really good first game especially considering the beasts on the other team. We had a big advantage because we are all small and fast and were able to get right by them and score." Rambo LaDuke scored an impressive goal by easily evading those opposing women and kicking in an open shot, after Val Sullo was fouled. At one point the ball was kicked right into her stomach causing her to lose her breath for a bit, and yet she didn't even retaliate and get a red card.....this time. Freshmen Diana Vasquez scored one goal off of an assist by Jackie. Junior Jessica Case also scored to keep the team in the lead. THE RETURN OF THE GREAT BULAON????!! It just might happen this semester. The streets have been circulating rumors of a possible return of the once great No. 30 Franco 'Scarface' Bulaon. He's got two things in this world, his balls and his word, and he don't break 'em for nobody! Former teammate Ian Schaff told me he once overheard some students who believed Franco was just a myth. Let me tell you, 'Scarface' Bulaon is no myth. If anyone were to challenge him to a game anytime anywhere, he'd probably school that person. At least, that's the streets talking again. Actually, there's even a movie loosely based on his basketball career called, 'The Goat'. Reports confirm that Franco was recently spotted balling in the gym, which, at one point, he sustained a self-inflicted scratch to the face, but he fought through the pain. I can attest to his skills as I and a few others were recently treated to a free pizza at Village Pizza III in Red Hook due to Franco winning a free pizza coupon, after besting a four year old girl at a half-time FG contest during one home game last year. C'mon Coco, show us what ya got!

Now for Boxing! This summer brought us lots of excitement and one major disappointment. In August, tough contender Samoan David Tua crushed former heavyweight champion Michael Moorer in thirty seconds, supplying constant pressure, never letting Moorer into the fight. He just swarmed all over Moorer and knocked him clean through the ropes leaving him in a daze. In other heavyweight action, Evander Holyfield won a technical decision over former champion, Hasim Rahman, after eight rounds when the fight was stopped due to a grotesque swelling atop Rahman's head caused by Evander's holy-head-butts. The fight then went to the scorecards and Evander was ahead at the time of the stoppage. Evander did look rejuvenated and in good enough condition to still compete with the young lions of today's generation even at 39. One of those young lions, Wladimir Klitschko, of Germany, who is considered the best of the leading contenders, dismantled former top contender Ray Mercer, who in 1996 gave Lennox Lewis all he could handle for ten rounds. Wladimir kept Ray at bay with his powerful jab and hammered him with his huge right hand till the fight was stopped in the sixth round. This fight, however, did little to enhance Klitschko's reputation as Mercer is washed up at 40. Canadian contender Kirk Johnson fought WBA titlist John Ruiz in a fight that was horribly boring and sloppy. Johnson had all the talent and size to beat Ruiz, but came into the fight out of shape and

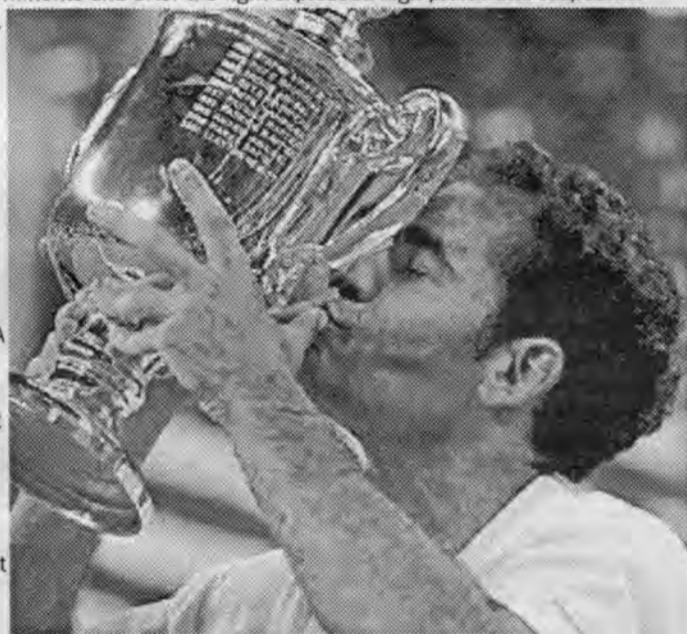
unfocused. During the fight he continually lost concentration and low blowed his way to a shameful disqualification loss. It was actually his first loss too.

And of course on June 8th in Memphis, Tennessee Mike Tyson lost to Lennox Lewis for the true championship of the world, the linear title (the man who beat the man). After months of talk, preparation, and arrangements the two finally squared off in front of a sell-out crowd before Lewis ended the fight with a big right hand to Tyson's jaw, along with the help of a push to the ground. Tyson fought well in the first round winning it on all of the judge's scorecards. However, other than that, the rest of the fight belonged to Lennox minus a few Tyson moments here and there. Lewis was able to keep Tyson at bay with his jab cutting both of Tyson's eyes and bloodying his nose by the forth round. In the forth, Lewis was deducted a point for pushing Tyson to the floor and hitting him in the back. He was also warned for excessive holding. After showing this fight to Danny Castillo, who successively got through Officer Candidate School for the Marines, he had this to say about Lewis, "Lennox is a punk, yo. I have no respect for him," in response to all of Lewis's dirty tactics. Tyson fought a clean fight to the surprise of many. At no point did he make any lewd comments and after the fight expressed high praise and respect for Lennox's abilities.

In the contract, there was a rematch clause, and Team Tyson has expressed their interest in pursuing that right. A rematch most likely will happen, somewhere in 2003. A condition of that clause is that each fighter must have one interim fight before the rematch. Tyson is tentatively scheduled to fight in November against the always exciting Clifford Etienne. Lewis, on the other hand, just vacated his IBF title belt for not fighting mandatory challenger Chris Byrd, just as he vacated the WBA title for not fighting John Ruiz, who now holds that belt. There is talk of putting Chris Byrd in a fight with Evander Holyfield for the vacant IBF belt. Lewis still has the WBC belt and of course recognition as the true champ.

This Saturday, September 14th may possibly hold the fight of the year on pay-per-view. It is a Southern California turf-war between two tough Mexicans, 'The Golden Boy' Oscar De la Hoya and Fernando 'El Feroz' Vargas. This is an extreme grudge match as both fighters have expressed massive hatred for the other. Both have tremendous skill and both own a belt in the junior-middleweight division, 154 lbs.

Oh yeah and Samprass got jiggy with the open cup.



Horoscopes

by **Madame Babarosky-Smith**

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 – Dec. 21) – Whoee. What a summer you have had! Upheaval in every department of life: financial, emotional, intellectual, luuuu/seX even location. And yes, you could have been more productive with some and less with others, but you can't say the months of June, July and August were stagnant or uneventful. Now with all these sensations of change and forward momentum, it's time to evaluate and define what you want for the future. Ahead, you're going to have to compromise your ideals with reality and your philosophies with your feelings. It won't be easy, but it can be done.

Scorpio (Oct. 24 – Nov. 21) – For the beginning of the year it seems like you have a pretty Zen-like outlook helping you through the social and academic stresses of the first few weeks at Bard. Others might consider this calm slightly unnerving if not downright abnormal. It's possible that they're right. But ride the wave of focused ambivalence as long as you can. For a few miles offshore there are storms brewing and you'll need the Zen to keep you safe from the shit storm.

Pisces (Feb. 19 – Mar. 20) – Too many things on your plate, but you don't have to get fat about it. It's about pacing, breathing and elastic pants. To put it another way, yeah, you got stuff to do – but isn't that better than sitting around staring at the wall? Inherently you know how to do it, spend less time worrying and the prioritizing will come easy. Good things are in your future, yes you'll have to work for some of them but others are already with you.

Taurus (Apr. 20- May 20) – Stop it! Just stop. The thoughts and actions of your past few months are just plain counterproductive! And it seems you're willing to keep on going with it until the end of time. But frankly, once you get to the end of time there will be a fair share of "god dammit why!" to be reckoned with. I suggest you think less before you act and act more than you've been thinking. We can't necessarily change ourselves but we can make small improvements!

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19) - The world is not pain. Nor is it necessarily pleasure. The world is an inconceivable and constant bal-

ance and battle of the two. There are times in which we have more than our good share of either. And it only makes things that much harder once "harvest season" (i.e. the abundance of one or the other) is long gone. As individuals you may be experiencing either of these two extremes. If you're feeling rich with happiness perhaps you should consider yourself a squirrel and bury a little bit of it for harder times. The answer to pain is much more difficult and all I can say is, don't get too skinny eventually the balance will shift.

Aquarius (Jan 20-Feb 18) -Soon enough your sign will be sung and praised on this very campus. Feeling unnoticed or forgotten is typical of these early weeks. And perhaps those you feel are doing the forgetting won't remember. But a new niche can be found, as well as prodigal to that which has begun to seem hopeless. Only you can make the steps towards that which will be your redemption, your future.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) -Yeah you're anal, but you're also emotionally flexible when you have to be. These two traits combined can either be very appealing or repelling to others. In this high stress period specific to your sign's position, it may seem impossible not to get irritated and bogged down with your own, and other's, shit. But the flexibility is there. You don't have to do Yoga in order to bend a little. Hell, you can slouch all you want as long as you remember which parts and details of life are bother bothering about. (Be on the lookout for a great improvement in living.)

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) - Don't mean to bring you down, but, beware the ides of March.

Cancer (June 22-July 22) - It's short because I don't have any words of wisdom for you. There are times when even the most seasoned astrologer becomes as useless as the cheapest 8 Ball.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23) -Heady times in your future. Interpret "heady" however you like. But the stars will make your upcoming months so full of it you'll be either in a state of bliss or begging the world for the smallest bit of sanity. Good luck!

The Bard Observer is your very own college publication. We always need people willing to write, take photos, draw cartoons, or help edit. We welcome Letters to the Editor as well. Here's how to contact us:
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Here's when we plan on coming out.
 September 11
 September 24
 October 8
 October 22
 November 5
 November 19
 and sometime in December.

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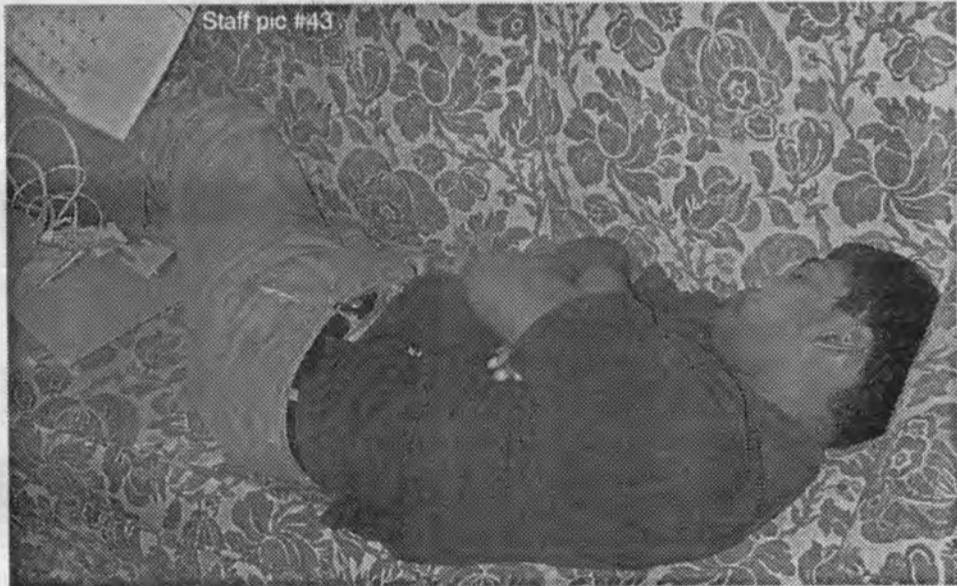
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Zubair. Gotta love the bastard.

apostrophe

by **Braden Lamb**





The Observer really, really needs some people interested in being editors next year.

And as usual, we are welcoming any type of submission. Like cover photos

email observer@bard.edu or call x7131

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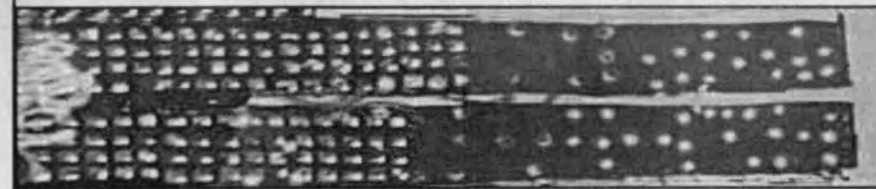
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Cover Photo: <Mr. Cottingham>