OBSERVER

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Oberlin students claim police brutality

by Jason Van Driesche

Claiming police brutality and administrative indifference, students at Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio have organized to protest the way in which local police and administrative officials dealt with a student-organized demonstration that took place on Friday, April 13.

According to a press release issued by the Student Defense Committee, a group organized specifically to address this issue, the April 13 demonstration was organized as a “speakout against bigotry.” The protest focused on four issues: a new lease on a building; large tuition hikes over the next five years; total costs; and the official police statement, one of the students stated that he was told by an officer that “We don’t want to negotiate. We’re going to kill you all in a couple of minutes.”

When the students arrived at the president’s house, the statement was repeated, but there was no arrest. The police then moved in, attempting to “take those assumed to be the ‘bad men’” According to the statement, it was at this point that the police officers became violent. “The police were choking and beating any students who tried to link arms with the speaker. They used flashlights, blindfolding students on the bus and cars, and officers were seen running in random directions, striking people indiscriminately.” In his official police statement, one of the students stated that he was said to “not be in danger of arrest.”

The administration gave a substantially different account of the night’s events. According to Robert Haslau, Secretary of the College, he was standard operating procedure for the college to notify the security department of any protests of which it learns. If the demonstration is off-campus, as was the April 13 protest, the security department automatically notifies the local police. Haslau said that the police were on the scene only to maintain order, but moved in to arrest a student participating in the demonstration on a bench warrant, which is a warrant issued for an individual who has failed to appear in court for a minor charge such as a speeding ticket, and asked any police officer to arrest that individual at any time. When the police spotted the student and moved in to arrest him, said Haslau, the protesters “assumed that this was the beginning of a mass arrest.” Haslau was not at the protest, but said that the administrators who had been present did not report any excessive violence on the part of the police.

Bard receives grant to expand computer resources

by Koijhite Sherrod and Jason Van Driesche

Bard has been the recipient of a substantial grant of equipment from the IBM corporation thanks to the Institute for Writing and Thinking’s participation in IBM’s Teacher Education Grant program. The grant will provide over $150,000 in computer equipment, networking, and personnel training to the college.

The awarding of this grant marks the culmination of six months of concerted effort by the Institute and the Henderson Computer Resource Center to convince IBM that the Institute’s programs uniquely qualified it to receive this grant, which is usually awarded only to schools with established graduate school programs in teacher education. The Institute’s programs provide inservice training and workshops in the teaching of writing and thinking to over 300 middle school, secondary school, and college teachers every year.

This acquisition will require an expansion of the existing physical structure of the computer center, which is the financial responsibility of the college. While several construction options are under consideration, the most likely is that the roof of the center will be raised and a second story added to the building. Space is in short supply on main campus, so we really have to stick with what we have,” said Director of Computer Education Michael Lewis.

The space created by the expansion of the computer center will be used to create a model classroom which will most probably include 24 student workstations and one teacher station, each with low-level IBM 155/3 computers.

against the room’s four walls, with moveable tables in the center. Lewis and Director of the Institute for Writing and Thinking Paul Connolly agree that this configuration will increase the human factor in the computer classroom as students and instructors will be able to work at their stations and hold face-to-face discussions in the same space.

The classroom will be used as both a showcase of the technology and techniques it employs and a training center for teachers visiting Bard through the Institute’s programs. As the Institute’s programs are tailored to the needs of the teachers, who are not available for conferences on weekends, the classroom and its facilities will usually be available as a regular part of the computer center to the Bard community as a whole during the week.

The effort to obtain the grant arose from the separate goals of the two departments. The Institute, according to Connolly, had long been “interested in the power of the collaboration of students and what they can teach one another.” If each student had a computer console networked with those of the rest of his class, he would then be able to get away from the formal lecture format that is the traditional, but not necessarily the best method for conducting a class.

Connolly stressed that the grant will not be used for the Institute’s programs only. It will be used by Bard faculty to develop innovative teaching strategies utilizing the networked computers as well. It is used in the Institute’s programs, and Connolly hopes that this grant will lead to a system that would involve students in conversation with each other about what they’re reading and give them a chance to articulate what they’re thinking and share it with others.

Connolly, who has employed a system of “computer conversation” in one of his classes this year, has yet to determine how the new computer classroom will be used. The computer classroom will be opened to students and faculty who take the courses that the Institute offers, and Connolly hopes that it will be used to foster interaction among students and faculty in a different way. The computer classroom will be opened to students and faculty who take the courses that the Institute offers, and Connolly hopes that it will be used to foster interaction among students and faculty in a different way.

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Bard’s annual budget: what it is, how it works

by Jason Van Driesche

As might be expected, Bard’s annual budget has grown markedly as the population of the college has increased over the years. Over the two years, one thing has remained constant: the budget and the process by which it is formulated ultimately dictate the means of operation of every part of the college. Ironically, most students have little or no idea where Bard’s money comes from, where it goes, or who decides what path each dollar takes.

The budget formulation process begins in the January preceding the fiscal year in question, when the offices of the Comptroller of the College sends out forms to every department in the college. The heads of all the departments then list their requests for funding for the year and submit the form to their superiors by January 15. All the requests are submitted by March 1 to the Dean of the College, who reviews the proposals. The Dean then meets with Chuck Crimmins, the Comptroller, by March 28. Together they make recommendations and consult with the heads of the departments about any differences of opinion.

At the same time that this last stage of the fine-tuning of the budget is taking place, the members of the faculty of the college negotiate their salary increases for the coming year. Once finalized, these figures are adjusted into the finished version of the budget. The revised budget proposal is then submitted on May 1 to Executive Vice President Papadimiliotou, a final round of recommendations, questions, and negotiations ensues, and the final version is proposed at the Board of Trustees meeting in late May.

The Board of Trustees makes any changes it feels are necessary, but according to Crimmins, it “generally approves the budget as is.” The Board then prepares a six-month budget and sends it to the college. If the college is on budget at the halfway mark of the fiscal year, it issues a second six-month budget at its December meeting.

A review examination of the budget for the current fiscal year (July 1, 1989 to June 30, 1990) reveals a number of interesting facts about the operation of the college. The budget forecast given at the Board of Trustees meeting held on January 24, 1990 projected a total budget of $23,955,000 for the year. This is significantly higher than the $23,212,000 projected at the beginning of the fiscal year.

In order to avoid confusion, this article will use only the projected figures presented at the January 24 Board of Trustees meeting. The college’s previously existing science laboratory was designed by auxiliary enterprises such as $355,000. Operations and maintenance of the plant comes in at $3,070,000, and expenditures for students services total $1,209,000. The Bard Center is steady at $1,000,000, and the library comes in last at $153,000.

As of the end of the first half of the fiscal year, Bard was $1,533,000 over its projected budget, but according to Crimmins, this is nothing to worry about. “We go more by projections than by actual figures,” he said. “It all evens out in the end.”

Final Distinguished Scientist Lecture to focus on computers

The final lecture in Bard’s 1989-90 Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series will deal with computers and their uses, and will be delivered by Dr. Stephen Smale at the Olin Auditorium on Saturday, April 28, at 2:00 p.m. The public is invited to attend free of charge.

Dr. Smale, Professor of Mathematics at the University of California at Berkeley, is a computer expert and has developed theories on the use and operation of computers outside the mainstream of computer thinking. His talk is entitled “The Nature of the Computer: A Non-Traditional Point of View,” and should be of interest to all computer users.

Dr. Smale’s talk is the sixth and final lecture of the current academic year in Bard’s Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series. The series, which dates back to 1990, has brought to Bard 69 eminent scientists, including 38 Nobel laureates, speaking on issues of scientific and general interest.

The lecture will be immediately preceded by the dedication of the David Rose Science Laboratories.

The Rose laboratories, housed in Bard’s Hegeman Science Hall, were completed in 1988 with a $1 million gift from the New York real estate developer Daniel Rose. The gift of the science wing honors the memory of David Rose, a member of the Board of Directors of the Bard Center and a long-time friend of the college, who died in 1986 at the age of 94.

The wing was built in response to the increased interest in science among Bard students, and to carry out Bard’s plan to promote scientific literacy by requiring laboratory experience of all students. It has augmented the college’s previously existing science facility by approximately 10,000 square feet, and houses teaching and student research labs as well as instrument and computer facilities.

The wing is three stories high, with one floor each devoted to the Ludwig Neuteman Biology Center, the Jerome E. Feldman Physics Center, and the college’s chemistry center. Built of brick and concrete, it was designed by Kathy Sironi of the San Francisco firm Simon Martin Vogue Winkelstein Morisi, as a harmonious addition to the campus as a whole. It forms a part of the main campus quadrangle which was also included in the Olin Building and Fairmont Hall.

Speakers at the dedication will include President Bohrnstein, Daniel Rose, and David E. Schwab, II, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Bard College.

Computer expansion continued from page 2

Drives which will allow users to transfer files from 5 1/4-inch to 3 1/2-inch disks on the IBM. Lewis also stated that, in the interests of maintaining continuity, the computer center plans to keep its Apple computers in working order for as long as possible. “We know some students still like to use them. When one breaks down and we can’t fix it, we’ll cannibalize it for parts to keep the rest of them running.”

These machines are quickly growing obsolete. However, the center plans to gradually replace them with Macintosh computers over the next several years. “We hope to have fourteen and six Macs next fall,” said Lewis. The computer center does not anticipate receiving any grants from the Apple Corporation in the near future, however, so any expansion of the center’s Apple computer facilities will proceed more slowly than its IBM expansion.
Students volunteer in Appalachia during spring break

Most of the week the students worked on the “Great Oak Farm,” a camp for Appalachian youth where they were staying. All the participants were struck by the physical beauty of the 25-acre rural camp.

Camp Director Bob Weis provided a list of projects needed to improve the camp. “While I was there I just wanted to be working,” said Weis. “It was incredible. We were digging tree stumps out of the ground.” They cleared a field of trees and shrubs with axes and chain saws, then planted it with grass for an open play field. Several trenches were dug for electrical wiring and drainage. They also painted a house. It was “a nice healthy week. It’s really beautiful down there. It was also a lot of work,” says Sabina Noc.

“Basically our day went: we get up and had breakfast and went to work. There was a list of things to do. We had lunch haphazardly. At night we just sat around, read books, and played cards. We were so isolated there wasn’t really much to do for entertainment,” says Teri Tomasikiewicz, who accompanied the students as the van driver and did most of the cooking. “It was wonderful to just work with the students during the day and cook with them at night. It gave me a good feel for the Bard students.”

Because it was off-season at the camp, the students were not able to mingle with the campers. Some students spent a few days in the nearby cities to meet the locals. Kessler, Szelinger, and Zelinger realized a playground in the city of Charleston, an hour drive from the camp. While supervising the children playing, they talked to them, took photographs, and taped them. “They thought we were reporters, and under-cover cops, and other neat things. They were great kids,” says Zelinger.

Bard to upgrade literacy program with grant

Iliiteracy in the United States today is a bigger problem than most of us would like to admit. Those who want to learn to read, however, are given the opportunity to do so through many outreach organizations across the country. Those who wish to help others to become literate are able to do so through these groups as well. At Bard, literacy is quickly becoming an important issue.

Next fall, Bard will be given a $50,000 grant with which to fund a Student Literacy Project. Bard’s two-year grant, authorized by the Federal Literacy Corps Project of the Department of Education, was the largest given to a school in New York by the federal government.

Elaine Sproat, Assistant Dean of the college, attributes Bard’s good fortune in obtaining the grant to the efforts of the college’s Development Office; to Joan Bolte, regional coordinator for Literacy Volunteers of America in Poughkeepsie; and to the fact that Bard students have shown interest in volunteer work. In fact, states Sproat, “92.7% of last year’s incoming freshmen have had volunteer experience before college. This represents an obvious concern for community service on the part of Bard students. The grant will serve to integrate academic work with literacy volunteering. Professors in every department and division are encouraged to work with the Student Literacy Program at Bard. Add-on credit will be offered to students who participate in classes already in progress which are taught by professors wishing to become involved in this program. The grant will fund, among other things, travel and transportation for volunteers, the establishment of a library of teaching materials and reference works, course materials, record keeping and evaluation supplies, recruitment, publicity, and will pay academic faculty members for their time and supervision in the project. The grant also offers a stipend for student coordinators of the SLP. Elaine Sproat is the Project Director, students Mark Nichols and Karen Kolsan are Public Relations Coordinators, and Melissa Brand is the Intake Evaluation Coordinator for next fall. Harriet Schwartz, Director of Career Development, will work closely with individual student tutors as well as evaluate their performance. Starting in August of this year, the SLP’s office will be located in the basement of Tewksbury. The $50,000 grant will benefit Bard, volunteers, and the community. The grant offers Bard students the opportunity to actively participate in the bettering of someone else’s life by helping them to become literate.

Although the grant funds a separate project, it is connected with the literacy project already in progress at Bard under the auspices of the Campus Outreach Group (COG). Nichols, who heads the project, “The grant in the long run will help to expand COG.” Adding Sproat, “It’s (SLP) an independent project that supports and expands the efforts of COG.”

Since its inception in the Spring of 1989, COG has acted as an umbrella organization to such groups as the literacy project. As of now, the program has 17 trained volunteers on campus, and more students wanting to become involved. Student training is provided by COG and by Literacy Volunteers of America. Several people have already been matched with individuals seeking tutors, and many others will begin tutoring soon as well.

Beginning this week, Bard volunteers, as well as volunteers from outside the college community, will be going to a minimum security prison in Fishkill once a week from 6:00 to 8:30 p.m. Once at the prison, volunteers will tutor inmates — most of whom are foreigners, and most illiterate — in subjects such as math, reading, and writing. The prison already has an extensive education program in place, and other colleges such as Vassar (which sends 11 student volunteers there) work there as well. Although people involved in the literacy project at Bard are usually matched carefully with those they will be working with, most volunteers will not work with the same inmate on each visit.

COG’s literacy project has been one of the most successful volunteer programs at Bard this academic year. Nichols hopes that the project will help “strengthen the relationship between the college and the community.” Student participation has so far been outstanding, and all who are involved in both COG’s literacy project and the Student Literacy Project hope student participation remains active throughout the year.

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Russian historians re-examine the past

by Sira-Elizabeth Scully

Gennady Skliarevskiy, professor of East European and Russian history at Bard, returned to Moscow in April for the first time since he defected fourteen years ago. He presented a paper based on research on The Russian Revolution of 1917 at a conference sponsored by the National Committee of Soviet Historians, Institute of History of the U.S.S.R., and the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R.

S: What was the aim of the conference?
G:S: Yes. With do-Stalinization certain literature appeared in Russia that was inaccessible before, some works by western philosophers, historians, politologists, and sociologists. In addition to this, the old outlook collapsed and we had to actively elaborate a new outlook. We were given very little guidance from the official circles, with more influence from the west.

S: So would you say that what is happening now with perestroika started in the 1980s?
G:S: Absolutely. Moreover, even the period of so called stagnation under Brezhnev witnessed certain changes in society and the political system that led to the emergence of Gorbachev and perestroika.

S: What do you feel has changed?
G:S: First of all we have to say that political system under Gorbachev, just as with Kruchev, was significantly modified. But, I want to add more strongly, what I have observed is a very profound change, a complete collapse of the old system of values. The kind of outlook that was created under Stalin and was still, to some extent, maintained under Kruchev and Brezhnev, is now no longer existent, even in the party circles.

S: How would you define the old one compared or contrast it to the new one?
G:S: There is no new one. There is a vacuum now and that is why the attitude by and large is very nihilistic. There was a system of beliefs, their clue to why things were the way they were, where they are coming from and where they are going. The majority don't believe in socialism anymore. That is the fear that was always there and it is the one they no longer have.

I found myself at the conference in a rather awkward position when I had to defend Brezhnev, telling my Soviet colleagues that there were some positive things that occurred under Brezhnev and that built the base for the current change under Gorbachev. They felt the only epithets you could apply to history would be negative ones.

S: Is it just reactionary?
G:S: It probably is reactionary. They refuse to rationally, dispassionately and objectively examine the past history.

S: Isn't that contrary to what an historian is supposed to do?
G:S: The conference was extremely politicized. They're fighting and some kind of a political struggle using that conference as a forum. Probably the most objective were the western historians.

Alanasev [Soviet Historian] came up on the platform and started to deliver his speech. I realized that his speech was absolutely nothing to do with our panel but it is an attack against people who he considered to be opposed to perestroika or to the historical discipline. I was amazed! It was a very big, bad, deal forum. We had simultaneous translators, and total rejection of it.

S: What does this mean for the future of socialism?

G:S: Sufficed to say, that they are probably a lot more anti-socialist and anti-Marxist than myself. I was riding in a cab with a colleague from Historic Archival Institute, talking about socialism and Marxism. Suddenly, he turned to the driver and said "Comrade, what do you think about socialism?" The guy said "F!" Ya know, "stinks! " He didn't want to talk about it. Their view of the United States I would say, is very idealized. They condemn their form of government, the way we encourage them to study this period, we condemn the Soviet system good and bad. It's a chaotic situation. There is a bunch of ideas circulating around from nationalism to liberal capitalism. They want more food in the stores, basic needs. The situation is difficult but it is not as hopeless as they portray it. I went to the stores and

believeing in America is like believing in Shang-ri-la. [The Russians] know that this world exists, but it is completely inapplicable to their own reality.

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PERSONALS
To L. and J.: Tell the Computer Center Charismatic that she can work in peace. No student workers are after her.

To the Computer Center Charismatic: This means you, silly girl!
Rob: Did you hear the one about... oh forget it.
Did Adam and Eve have navels?
Daphne and Carrie: What was said about ChaoSan is a total lie. By the way, can I borrow these handcuffs?
Okay, Rob. There's these two guys and... wait, wait, I messed it up.

"There can be no tolerance for fat pedestrians."
—The Dean.

Tony has parents! Well, there goes my spare theory.
Thank you very little. You always use to amaze me. Just don't TOUCH me anymore, all right?
Psycobitch... Catwoman size double-I... girls, this is going to take a while to draw...

I love you — just kidding.
MEH.

"You're nobody 'til everybody in this town thinks you're a bastard."
—Mr. Bignose.

You were the best fuckin' secret Easter Bunny. EVER. Thanks. Anytime you need a few pennies...
—Johnny Orange.

Who says we're not learning anything in a certain class? A certain few of us are certainly taking. For certain, who among us could have guessed that Joseph Conrad loved Doctor Who?

Tan: Oosh ah baby baby we can do it o yes we can!

Huh? Oh. Private joke. Ha ha.
Exhibition highlights mother-daughter relationship

by Emily Horowitz

Until May 6th, the Donskij & Company Gallery at 93 Broadway in Kingston will be holding the "Mother-Daughter Show." The mother of the show is Cynthia Whitka, and the daughter is Kirsti Rolik. The show places the works of the mother and daughter, both artists, together.

The works of the mother, Cynthia Whitka, are all portraits. The portraits are of women. The women look angry, sad, contemplative, and bored. They do not look enthusiastic or happy. The women are not beautiful, but they are unique and intelligent looking. The portraits have little background and do not go far below the face. The face, and the expression on the face, take up most of the space in the paintings.

The portraits are all paintings or drawings. The background is white. No bright colors or prisms are present to take away from the seriousness and strong impressions of the portraits.

The works of the daughter are very different. They are three-dimensional sculptures, all in different mediums. One is a sculpture of a large, upright book. It is made with rusty wire outlining clean, white parchment paper. It is placed on a white stand. Another work is an antique book binding with the pages removed. They have been replaced with retted pages filled with small objects. One object is a plastic fish, another an old piece of stationery.

The mother's sculptures are not as the daughter's sculptures are not. The mother's sculptures are more abstract and free from the mother, who works in the traditional realm of portraits and drawings. However, the mother's paintings and drawings are far from traditional. In the pictures shown above, the portrait is by the mother and the sculpture is by the daughter. In the portrait, the woman looks scared. Her eyes are almost completely covered, but one can still sense the fear in her expression. She is not beautiful, but she is strong and intelligent. She is not vulnerable. This mother sees women as independent and important individuals.

The daughter's sculptures are more refined. She has in parts of words. The book is meant to be leaned through and looked at. The mother's influence on the daughter is obvious. The daughter creates different mediums and different content. The mother's works are of women's faces. The content of the daughter's work can be interpreted in many ways. The daughter's work is abstract and free from the mother, who works in the traditional realm of portraits and drawings. However, the mother's paintings and drawings are far from traditional. In the pictures shown above, the portrait is by the mother and the sculpture is by the daughter. In the portrait, the woman looks scared. Her eyes are almost completely covered, but one can still sense the fear in her expression. She is not beautiful, but she is strong and intelligent. She is not vulnerable. This mother sees women as independent and important individuals.

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"Wilde" night at the theater

by David Biel

After descending into the muck of outrageous grandiose farce earlier this month in Charles Ludlam's "La Bouquet Arant Candie," the Bard Theatre of Drama and Dance climbs out of the gutter of low brow comedy and into the drawing room of respectability in this weekend's production of Oscar Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." Directed by Christopher Sabin, Earnest combines elements of mockery, mystery, and melodrama in a sometimes witty, and sometimes hysterical fashion. The comedy has not been restricted in this Victorian England setting; it has simply now become more refined.

Earnest's story concerns the efforts of two young men, Algernon and Jack, to escape from the dray reality of their daily lives. In order to do this, London dweller Algernon (Robert Kitson) invents an invalid country friend named Bunbury whom he must visit often. Jack (Terence Brown) however, moves in the opposite direction—already living in the country, he invents a wicked brother living in London whom he must continuously bail out of trouble. Also a major element of the play is the love interests those two attractive men have with the pretty pair of Gwendolyn and Cecily (Morgan Bowlers and Olivia Stevens).

The mixture of deep mahoganies and olive greens, was designed by Philip Baldwin, and the 19th century costumes were fashioned by Natalie Lunn and Carla Friedman. Also indispensable to the play is Whitney Queenesbury's lighting design and Zafra Wilmott's stage managing.

Living in this age of lying national politicians, chaotic Wall Street investors, and soaring Savings and Loan managers, it has become more and more easy for one to forget one's moral scruples in the pursuit of self gratification. With this in mind, it may well be in one's interest to be down at the Scenic Shop Theatre this weekend and return the lesson our parents taught us on The Importance of Being Earnest. Earnest begins playing tomorrow night at eight and runs through Tuesday. There is also a matinee Sunday at three. Tickets are free, but reservations are preferable as limited seating is available. To make a reservation, call the theater at ext. 245.
Poet defines the undefinable

by Robin Tomar

On May 3, the literature department welcomes Michael Hofmann to read and discuss some of his latest works. The Vassar-born poet, author of two collections, Nights of the Iron Hotel and Atrium, has spent much of his life in England where he occasionally studied English at Cambridge University. He currently works as a freelance writer, reviewer, and translator.

The following interview was conducted over the phone from Hofmann's home in Florida.

Question: Poetry is obviously a difficult thing to define—how much do you do with creation and other abstract aspects of life. Especially as a college freshman, I am only beginning to connect with poetic language—but I'm not sure about the process. How would you do about it, I would guess that it is a process that is never complete, and that it is one of the meaning of his own work. But despite these difficulties and complexities, how would you go about defining the poet's job and significance?

Michael Hofman: So much of the work of poetry is a matter of instinct—often, an effective poem depends on the unconscious connection of unforeseen elements, that is to say, it's a feeling, and if those connections then appear, you have a good poem. But as you say, poetry is a difficult thing to define and as such I would almost choose to leave it undefined. Perhaps its something like listening to the sound of your own brain, as a job? Well, you have to listen to the noise. It takes a bit of sorting through—poetry does suffer in that respect. That's what I'm all about, listening to the noise.

Q: As an artist, it would probably be fair to say that you have certain insights into the workings of mankind and civilization. As such, do you feel any commitment to society or any kind of social responsibility? Is it to say, should it be part of the poet's job to see humanity in a positive direction?

MH: I hesitate to use the word social, the only real responsibility of the artist is to keep that art going, to keep that creative process in constant movement—really in that respect, to the people to listen (which they always seem to have a hard time doing) and to the information for positive purposes. The poet sorts through the noise that has overtaken modern society—that is all they really can do—it's then up to the people to do with it what they will.

Q: Looking around the world today, it's easy to spot society in transformation. Some of these turns—until at least glances—certainly appear positive—for example, the placement of an intellectual as head of state in a Soviet bloc nation. In terms of the future of civilization, what predictions can you make?

MH: Well, we'll certainly have better speeches.

Q: Do you mean just better rhetoric?

MH: Well, I do think perhaps more rhetoric, and yes, that does outwardly appear to be a positive thing, but I come from England where we have Thatcher—someone who will simply take advantage of that outward progress by claiming responsibility for it. So, though these situations look good, they will no doubt consistently be undermined by more powerful people. That's why the future becomes something of a self-appointed patron, thus using such a turn for her own ends. I really can't go as far as trying to make specific predictions for the future. I was a pessimist since a young boy and I am a pessimist now. In truth we do have something like a professional political class in our society, so the possibility of bringing more intellectuals into power does, I suppose, exist. Yes, for the future I can only foresee an eventual clash between freedom and survival. We will place ourselves in a position where it will be impossible to own cars and other such technologies. Unfortunately, the intellectuals are really a minority of a minority.

Q: As I perceive great art or literature, it is the ability to use the information for positive purposes. The poet sorts through the noise that has overtaken modern society—that is all they really can do—it's then up to the people to do with it what they will.

On the Beach at Tarpon Bay I look idly right for corpses in the underbrush then left, to check that Stierwalt was still there. The wind was from that quarter, southwest, a sort of west wind, from that triumphant, futile block, my first poem of the year that earned Hofmann the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.

“Rosalie Goes Shopping” at Upstate

by Emily Heeowitz

Rosalie is a housewife, but she does not cook or clean. One of her secret passions is her gourmet meals while she and the rest of the family enjoy a shopping trip to the local mall. Rosalie (played by Marianne Sagebrecht) has adapted to American life perfectly and discovered the American passion for "Chasing the Label." She sells her wares in "The Last Laugh, a small store near the heart of the city. She has a vision for the future of the store, and she is determined to keep it going. Rosalie's secret is the only touch of reality in this surrealistic story." Rated PG.

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Student Life survey influences housing, food service

by Kathy Bannor

The results of the Student Life survey conducted last semester are not yet fully tabulated, but they have already influenced many administrative decisions on campus.

The statistics will have to be tabulated and entered into a computer before the results will be complete. This should be finished by next semester, but in the meantime, the informal results have influenced the decision to change food service companies.

Oberlin

Haslan also noted that no students reported to the Oberlin Health Center on April 13 or 14 for treatment of any injuries resulting from batonings. He did mention that several students went to the center on April 15 to show that they had bruises.

Finally, Haslan said that President Starr had contacted the chief of police, requesting that all charges against the students be dropped. The police department agreed to drop all charges for trespassing, but will press charges for theft and incitement to riot. Haslan also indicated that the president intended to talk to the students as well in order to persuade them to drop their charges against the department.

The Student Defense Committee was organized in the fall following the confrontation with the police. According to Juan-Teo Nguyen, one of the organizers, the group enjoys a good deal of support from the student body. About 50 students are "seriously involved" in the committee's work, covering legal issues, press relations, and discussions with the administration, and most of the rest of the student body supports the group.

The committee intends to file actions once they are able to "find out theresponsive" said Nguyen. "The issue is not just the police brutality. It's freedom of speech."

The group organized a press conference on Tuesday, April 24 to update the national press service on the situation. A number of major wire services were at the conference, but the outcome was unknown at press time.

The administration and the Student Defense Committee are currently organizing an inquiry committee to investigate the incident. The committee's membership will be made up of two-thirds faculty and one-third students.

A statement announcing solidarity with the students was signed by about 60 members of the faculty, staff, and students.

Russia revisited

When I see that kind of interest and commitment, I think something good will come out of it. But again it is all based on my intuition. I'm sure that they will come up with a new system that will be more positive, more humane and probably generate greater social democracy in the country. Maybe, this conference on some subconscious level was motivated by this desire to start creating something new and they wanted to get some feedback from foreign historians that will allow them to start building because they want to acquire a firmer foundation for their outlook on life.

S: How did it feel to go back? G: It was a deeply emotional experience because I was reestablishing my links with that country. I made friends. For me it is no longer Soviet Union, impersonal entity but people I know and people whom I established very personal and emotional contacts with. I knew I never lost touch with Soviet Union even though I have American citizenship, but now I have references.

The Recovery of Memory: Eastern Europe and the question of nationalism

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by Keightie Sherrod

On occasion, something appears in the pages of the Bard Observer that makes me wonder about my fellow students, about the amount of care (or lack thereof) that they take when they read, about the hair triggers that many of them seem to have on their tempers, and about their criteria for what will and what will not set them off and make them respond. One would expect that the pieces appearing in the editorial section (called in this paper "Observations"). a section designed to stimulate thought and debate over issues that are of more than local significance, would be the pieces to provoke reactions from the Observer's readership. To judge from the recent letters we have received, we have succeeded in this section, however, one would be wrong.

I hear, among other things, to the recent flurry of sarcastic letters aimed at David Biele's recent installment of "A Fresh Look," but am concerned also about the way in which the Bard community regards the Observer's editorial section in general.

Our editorial section has, in recent months, contained several columns on important issues that all of us at Bard should keep in mind: observations on the need to respect the environment (both ecological and social) which all of us must share, on the nature of Bard's relationship with the Levy Institute, on the possibility that the curriculum is biased, and, just last week, on the proposition that it's the duty of the local public to question public officials. Is anybody actually paying attention?

The only editorials to have generated any real response this semester have been David Biele's "Be Visible" and Jason Van Driessche's "Democracy and Courtship are a Necessity." The responses to these columns have reflected on the part of their writers a careless reading of the pieces in question, and to a failure to consider why and how said pieces came to be written, much more than they have represented an honest attempt to confront the issues Biele and Van Driessche originally addressed.

"Be Visible" has generated a controversy that has thus far had little to do with the issues Biele tried to raise in it; instead of honest expressions of the Bard community's feelings on the matter, we have "Thorn and Bristle" attacking Biele and the newspaper from behind the cover of their pseudonym. While Thorn and Bristle have a perfect right to disagree with Biele, I think that they will find that their methods have served to confuse my issue: that their message has been lost. Besides, if one is going to attack an individual and the free expression of his opinions, it behooves him or her to be brave enough to face the repercussions, to reveal who he or she is and why he or she holds a differing opinion.

Van Driessche's piece poses a different problem, one that I feel has gone unclarified for far too long. Is "Observations" too nebulous a title for an editorial section? Several individuals have responded to Van Driessche's column, but none of the suggestions it made; instead, we have people saying, "We take Thorn and Bristle as column as one that betrays editorial bias."

Do the members of our community understand the difference between an article and an editorial? Editorials are opinion pieces, as letters to the editor are opinion pieces. Editorials, as opinion pieces, are inherently biased. That is the nature of the beast. Editors have a right to opinions, too.

I must here urge the community to think: not just about what piece is in a particular piece is saying, but also about in what context it appears, and where in the paper it appears. Look at the front page; just what is the point at which it appears in the paper? If it's on the editorial or letters page, then it is an opinion piece. If it's on the front page, as it was in this week's issue, that is what the little headlines at the beginnings of sections are for. What brings me to this final question: why has David Biele's light features column "A Fresh Look" suddenly become the focus of so much controversy? Last week there were two very sarcastic responses to the installment "Non-Stop Nonsense." The letters in effect accused Biele of pitting himself for being a young white male, ignoring completely the suggestion that appeared within his columns, that what is ordinarily regarded as a minority, the liberal-minded community, has here become a majority that is in danger of becoming closed-minded. Why all the hubbub over the characterization and nonexistence of the implications, which are far more serious?

Read the other stories in the newspaper; there is a lot of more important stuff going on, much more that is worth bitching about much more than this. Bard recently hosted a lecture given by a famous AIDS researcher who may, or may not be guilty of falsifying research, as described in The New York Times. I was Ian McCurdy, the only one who cared about this event and the implications of the deed attributed to this man. Where was I? Lone remaining campus dorm space to faculty offices. Isn't that more important than the possibility that one writer regards himself as a minority when perhaps he isn't (especially when that possibility was suggested by a column with a history of why observations on Bard life that are generally presented tongue-in-cheek)?

What does it take to get you to think before you write or the handle? At least you might do it over something worth getting mad about.

How carefully are you considering what you are reading, Bard?

---

Think before you spend

by Jim Traizer

Anyone of at least moderately liberal leanings who has lived through the last few decades of American history is certainly familiar with the idea of a boycott. The targets of these actions are almost always companies that have offended the values of the American public through corporate policies which ranged from investment in South Africa to unfair labor practices at home. One of the most popular reasons for more recent boycotts has been the environment, and many companies in which the corporate world has raped, maltreated, pillaged, and burned down the planet Earth.

Recently, however, there have been some defections from Wall Street's rogues' gallery to the side of righteousness and truth bringing with them a new strategy for saving the world: buy their stuff.

What these companies have decided to do is very simple. They're going to respect the environment and encourage others to do the same. Perhaps the most significant of these businesses is Walmart, one of the largest chains of retail stores in this country. According to an article in the April edition of Sports Afield, "Wal-Mart has been working closely with environmentalists and companies that have designed and packaged their products in an environmentally responsible manner will receive special signs next to their displays. The significance of this move is subtle but important, such signs give products greater visibility on the shelves and are much easier to sell. What this tells the companies who market products through Wal-Mart stores is that conservation pays-in-cash. One example of a company which is cooperating with Wal-Mart is Procter and Gamble which now uses recycled plastic in packaging Spic and Span.

This line of reasoning has also spread into the tuna industry. On April 13, 1990 The New York Times reported that the three companies which sell 70 percent of the tuna bought in the United States have agreed, after years of pressure from environmentalists, not to buy tuna from fishermen who killed dolphins in the process of netting the fish. According to the Times story between 80,000 and 100,000 thousand dolphins die each year after being caught in the nets of the commercial fishermen who follow dolphin in schools in order to locate the tuna. From now on, however, the makers of Starkist, Chicken of the Sea, and Bumblebee tuna will buy fish only from fishermen who have used alternative means, like sonar or bird activity, in order to locate the schools.

The message here is that things are beginning to change. The years of protest and boycotts have succeeded in getting the attention of business and they are beginning to respond. This is not enough to relax the pressure on those companies who have yet to see the error of their ways but it is a step in the right direction. It is important to make the business world realize how much pollution costs. The more effective tactic may be to show them that environmentalism pays.

The best thing for the public to do is simple, examine the products you buy and give preference to those identified as containing recycled materials and less excess packaging. As noted in Sports Afield, 30 percent of everything we throw away is packaging; that means boxes, wraps, and bags. The solution to this problem may not be in being more concerned about what goes into a piece of merchandise than with what the merchandise goes into. If those companies who are now trying to behave responsibly see that they can make money by recycling we are on the way to winning the continued fight against page
Democratic Socialists seek to address minority hiring, other issues

To the editor:

This letter is in response to the article "Reformist Goals?" submitted to the Observer by Robin Cook and Amara Wiley. They could not have known how timely their perceptive commentary was; the first meeting of the Bard chapter of the Democratic Socialists of America had just met the night before the Observer came out. At the D.S.A. meeting, this semester's agenda was discussed and it was decided that the group would focus its attention on the following issues: minority hiring at Bard and a related critical look at Bard's curriculum. We agree that classes such as Black Women Writers are important and valid arenas of study in obtaining a liberal arts education. We were pleased to see evidence of student interest and awareness.

There is an overwhelming demand at Bard for classes which address "marginal cultures," as is obvious by the long lines for classes such as Women in Africa and the Minority Studies Seminar. However, this interest belies the reality that Bard, supposedly a progressive institution, is far behind other schools such as Vassar, Smith, Amherst, and SUNY Albany, to name a few, in percentage of minority professors, students, and established programs of study such as African American or Latin American concentrations.

It is no secret that President Bolton would like Bard to emulate institutions such as Smith and Princeton. Smith in particular has an impressive plan for "Institutional Diversity" that makes Bard look all the more elitist and out of date. As stated in "The Smith Design," currently "fourteen percent of all adults in the United States... twenty percent of all school-aged children will fall into this category... Those figures are testimony to the nation's increasing diversity.--cultural as well as demographic." As an institution looking towards the future, Bard can not afford to fall behind in the social and intellectual currents of the nation. Concern for minority hiring has become such a major issue among institutions of higher learning that Baruch College in New York City is having trouble recruiting minority professors to Bard. A creative, energetic approach to establishing incentives for potential minority professors must be created.

The Bard chapter of D.S.A. is looking not only to the administration. A commitment is needed from the faculty, the student body as a whole, and organizations such as LASO andIBSO, to whom we extend an invitation to help and guide us in this issue. In the final weeks of this semester we will be preparing a list of objectives and a time line for their implementation. Our goal is to see some progress by the end of next year, and any input from the Bard community is welcome.

Biele should watch his words

To the editor:

I have been living in the United States for nearly three years. Each day I am reminded of the ethnic, cultural and linguistic differences which characterize my social position. In response to the daily reminders of my status, I have set my bed in the far left corner of my room so that I can only wake up on my right foot. However, when reading David Biele's utter "nonsense" I felt my obligation to react. I hope others to will have reacted to the sheer vulgarity David makes of the word Minority.

Does David know what Minority signifies? If not, then what is he suffering from? Indeed, he seems to be about the abstract idea that he thought he was suffering from anti-Semitism.

In bold terms, a member of a minority group is one who can't tell her notability. She suffers mostly from it at times when wanting to go about her business unnoticed. This certainly does not seem to be David's case.

After painstakingly reading David's article several times I have come to the conclusion that he suffers from being unnoticed. It is very brave and legitimate of him to search ways for fighting this ill. However, the use of the Minority pseudo-argument as his medium is more an outrage than anything else. Some were born into bearing Minority as their daily burden. Minority means nothing to him and much to others.

His lack of attention is what Dave suffers from then two things come to mind. First, he should get a better diagnosis. Second, Minority is not the answer to his pains. Since Dave is so "mainstream," he should make it's point to not let marginalization into the tributary brooks called Minorities.

I hope you feel better.

Sincerely,
Mark Saul

Deciers of "nonsense" are kneebiter

Dear Editor,

This letter is written in response to those two drippingly sarcastic letters last week insulting David Biele's humorous column, "Non-Stop Nonsense." Allow me to address the gentleman in question:

Dear Mr/Mrs. Callaghan and Wilson,

You are complete kneebiter. He was joking, ok? JOKING! If you were writing to imply that you just didn't care for what he had to say, then I must tell you that you just came off as two humorless, obnoxiously sarcastic doddleheads.

Again may I stress, you are kneebeters.

Love,
Joshua Ephriam Israel Abrams

On Sunday, May 6, the Bard Observer will host a workshop on investigative reporting. The workshop will take place in Olin 102 from noon to 5 p.m. We will open with a talk by Harriet Schwartz on "Investigative Reporting on the College Newspaper." Following the talk will be a question-and-answer period and two films dealing with the subject of investigative journalism, "The Image" and "All the President's Men." The public is invited to attend.
Literature Department Lecture:
English poet Michael Hofmann will be reading from his works in Bard Hall on May 3 at 8:00 PM.

Philosophy Department Lecture:
The Philosophy Department presents a lecture by Prof. Richard Schmitt of Brown University. I am the Captain of My Own Ship...: Reflections on Autonomy. The lecture will be held in Olin room 102 at 8:30 PM on Friday, April 27.

Photography Lecture:
On May 3, at 4:30 PM in Preston, Photographer Chuck Close will give a lecture.

Music Program Zero:
May 2: Special colloquium with Wiska Radziejwicz of Princeton University, who will present and discuss her recent work in sound and video. 1:00 PM in Brook House.

Also on May 2: Leo Smith, Prof. of Music at Bard:

Confessions of a Jazzman. 7:00 PM in Brook House.

New Horizons Concert:
On May 4 The Hudson Valley Philharmonic Chamber Orchestra concludes its New Horizons concert series with Leon Botstein conducting. At 8:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium.

Outing Club:
The Bard Outing Club will hold a horseback riding trip at Silver Springs Ranch on Saturday, April 28. The cost is $15.00. For more information, contact Joceyn Krebs in Box 847 or Amy Bernard in Box 553.

Dean of Student's Office:
From now through the end of the term the reading room of the Olin Building will be open until 2:00 AM, seven days per week. The Dean’s Office asks that students respect this study space so that we can maintain these expanded hours of use.

Minority Studies Workshop:
April 30: Margarite Fernandez-Olmos, Department of Modern Languages, Brooklyn College, on New York-based Puerto Rican Women Writers within the Context of Puerto Rican Literature.

Dean of the College:
Information is available in my office concerning a variety of 1991-92 NEH Fellowships.

Sociology Department Lecture:
Leading sociologist Professor Neil Smelser (Berkeley) will speak on Education and Political Paralysis on May 2, Wednesday, at 8:00 PM in the Olin Art History room.

Sunday's Movie:
Sunday, April 29: Querelle, by Fassbinder. The showing of this film is co-sponsored by BBLAGA.

Friday's Movie:
Friday, May 4: Zelig, by Woody Allen.

For both Sunday's and Friday's Movie, showings will be at 7:00 PM (non-smoking) and at 9:00 PM in the Student Center.

ATTENTION ALL CLUB HEADS:
Please submit your club’s activities to The Dean of Student’s Office for Placement in the Weekly Calendar.

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