Bard’s position on minority issues

Botstein speaks out

by Emily Horowitz

The newly formed Students For Educational Equality (S.E.E.) was established in the last few weeks in order to promote a “multi-cultural education” at Bard College. On Monday, May 7, they issued a formal statement demanding that the administration publish what they feel should be done to foster and eventually achieve this goal.

The group met with the administration to discuss their plans and the college’s position on Thursday, May 10.

President Leon Botstein is familiar with the issues that Students for Educational Equality have raised. In addition to being an author of Race Relations on American College Campuses, he is the author of a chapter in a forthcoming book entitled The Racial Crisis in American Higher Education. In the chapter, Botstein addresses one of the primary issues of S.E.E.: the problem of the Euro-centric curriculum. He writes, “The curriculum debate—the desire and call for cross-cultural comparisons and the extensive integration of non-European materials—mirrors a process of de-Europeanization in terms of world politics, culture, and the character of the United States.”

In the article, Botstein outlines that the curriculum is an area that can change attitudes. He believes that through the curriculum, “racism can be combated directly and profoundly.”

As a more direct response to the specific concerns raised by S.E.E., Botstein recently issued a memo entitled Diversity and Multi-cultural Education at Bard explaining the college’s history and current status in regard to “multi-cultural education.”

The memo first addresses the question, “What Steps Have Been Taken?” Main points include: an increase of 7 percent in minority enrollment this year; maintenance of the policy of the college’s own expense, despite the fact that “State and Federal support for the program has dwindled;” the hiring of a full-time African-American member of the admissions staff; and organization with the alumni office and HEOP of a group of Bard alumni/ae “who are members of minority groups to assist the College in its recruitment efforts.”

The second issue addressed in regard to what steps have been taken is that of the faculty and curriculum. Main points include: the permanent institution of a Minority Studies program; a tenured-track African-American member of the History department; creation of an Asian Studies Program; creation of an exchange with People’s University of Beijing in the People’s Republic of China to provide teaching in the Chinese language; a permanent position for the “teaching of Oriental art.”

Proposed Bard Peace Corps Program rejected

by Jason Van Driessche

Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou recently vetoed a proposal to establish a Peace Corps Bridge Program at Bard. Had it been implemented, the program would have given students the opportunity to participate in a structured service program that could have prepared them for participation in the Peace Corps. Papadimitriou cited liability concerns as his primary reason for rejecting the proposal. He said that the Peace Corps does not provide any form of insurance, so the college has to look into other means of avoiding liability.

Concern about liability is fairly common among colleges and universities sponsoring overseas programs. One example is the crash of the Pan-Am flight over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which a number of Syracuse University students returning from a study-abroad program were killed. However, according to a public relations representative of Syracuse “no one has blamed the university in any way.”

Papadimitriou said that the college only wished to study the matter further, and emphasized that the program “hasn’t been shelved permanently.” He said that the issue of coverage needed further study in conjunction with other colleges that have had similar proposals in the recent past.

Bard first proposed the program to the Peace Corps last fall. The college received approval in March, according to Assistant Dean of the College Elaine Sprout, the Peace Corps was “delighted to have our participation.”

The proposal was then submitted to Executive Vice-President Dimitri Papadimitriou for approval. If it had been approved, the program would have been implemented next semester. The program was designed as “a way of preparing students for Peace Corps service... any kind of international or social service,” said Sprout, who prepared the program’s proposal. Sprout added that while participation in the program does not guarantee a place in the Peace Corps, it makes admission into the program more likely. “The personal qualities that the Peace Corps is looking for will be shown by completing the program.”

According to the proposal, the program would have consisted of “a sequence of experiences that would encourage students to study the history and culture of developing nations and to acquire the skills necessary for Peace Corps service.” More specifically, the program would have had three parts: academic preparation, participation in local service projects, and an overseas service experience.

The academic segment of the preparation would have consisted primarily of classes already offered.
EMS — IT'S MORE THAN JUST A RIDE TO THE HOSPITAL

by Jason Van Driesehe

Bard's Emergency Medical Services program, which was suspended when former Director of Security Art Oney resigned, is currently being reorganized for reinstatement this fall. According to Assistant Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, members of the administration and students involved in the program are "beginning to get guidelines in place for the program's operation next fall."

The EMS program was suspended when Oney left, since he was the program's head (see April 6 Observer). Executive Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou gave two reasons for his decision to suspend the program: that there was no administrator capable of and willing to run the program, and that the EMS volunteers were vulnerable to lawsuits.

According to Andy Molloy, one of the principal organizers and advocates of the program, both of these concerns are currently being addressed.

Molloy recently sent a group of students to Vassar College, which has an extremely successful student-run EMS program. Vassar's program is under the supervision of the Health Services, not the Security Department, and it has a good deal of autonomy.

Both Molloy and Morgan, who was also a participant in the trip to Vassar, agree that any future Bard program should be modeled on Vassar's system. Molloy and Morgan have been discussing the possibility of a liaison with the Health Center and Marshan Davis, the nurse practitioner at the center.

Molloy characterized the meeting with Vassar as "fantastic." He added, "Students run it [EMS program] everywhere—why should it be different here?"

The vice president's concern about liability for malpractice has also been addressed. According to Molloy, EMS's can get full malpractice insurance for $300.

Molloy hopes that the college will be able to offer an intensive six-week course leading to EMT certification next fall. A similar course has been offered for a number of years at Vassar, where the course earns students academic credit and has a waiting list of over 70.

The only major problem Molloy can foresee is from where the funds for the program will be taken. The program will need about $5000 next semester to pay for an EMT instructor and to buy equipment. Molloy said that it "continued on page 4"

White student unions emerge at several campuses

by Dacia Dorris

(CPS) — Promoting themselves as anti-racist and anti-affirmative action groups, "white student unions" have formed on several midwest and southern campuses in recent weeks.

Campus critics, however, maintain the groups are related to the Ku Klux Klan (KKK), the 135-year-old group that has been tied to murders of and violence against Catholics, Jews, and most frequently, black people who...

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Search for new Director of Security progresses

by Jason Van Driesehe

The search for a new Director of Security to replace Art Oney, who left over spring break, is well underway. According to Associate Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, who is the head of the search committee, a new Director could be in place as early as the end of May.

The committee has received approximately 36 applications as of April 27, 16 of which met the criteria established by the committee. These criteria included prior experience in a college setting, the ability to maintain a strong presence on campus, and the ability to develop a respectful rapport with students. The position was offered to the public at large (i.e., all job ads), and the committee has received one application from a current member of the Bard security force.

Morgan noted that many of the applicants came from law enforcement or military backgrounds, but stressed that lack of college experience "wouldn't rule anyone out."

The first two interviews of candidates are scheduled for May 1 and May 8. If one of these two applications proves to be outstanding, said Morgan, a new Director could be in place within a month. If they turn out to be less than highly qualified, Morgan expects to interview about two or three more candidates before the end of the semester.

According to Morgan, the interview is one of the most important parts of the evaluation process. While she said that the applicants "look strong overall," she emphasized that many factors and qualifications, such as a candidate's suitability to Bard's particular philosophy of the role of the Security Department, can only be measured in conversation.

The applicants will meet with a number of people when they come to campus in order to provide the members of the community with whom they would interact a chance to evaluate them. Those who will include the Staff of the Dean of Students' office, of HEOH, and of the Counseling and Health Services, as well as the PC's, Dean of Students Steve Nelson, Dean of the College Susan Levine, the current Directors of Security, and last but not least, the members of the search committee. Each individual or group will be given an evaluation forms to fill out, which will be used to rate the candidates.

Morgan emphasized that she hopes to have the new Director in place by the end of May, but said that if the first few candidates did not prove satisfactory, the search could take much longer. However, Morgan indicated that the position would almost certainly be filled by late July.

Organizers say the unions are 'open to all'; Critics say they're an offshoot of the KKK

At Temple University in Philadelphia, whether the rise of the scattered groups, which all use similar language and organizing tactics, is a coincidence is open to question.

During the height of the controversy over the WSU at Florida, KKK charges, threatened to "monopolize" with Protestant "racism". In March, a White Student Union at Temple was won official student group recognition at the University of Florida. Efforts to organize White Student Unions also were launched at the universities of Nebraska-Lincoln and Southwestern Louisiana. In February, a recruiting drive began at Bradley University in Illinois.

A White Student Union, moreover, has existed since 1888 at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Whether the rise of the scattered groups, which all use similar language and organizing tactics, is a coincidence is open to question.

During the height of the controversy over the WSU at Florida, a member of the campus' Committee in Support of the People of Latin America said he saw WSU organizer Mark Wright speaking to Klan members. Wright admitted he did speak to two men Feb. 1, but said he didn't know they were members of the KKK.

At Temple, organizer Michael Splietzer told the Ont, the student newspaper, that "Blacks can achieve, but they should be taught to achieve, not think there's going to be a free ride that they can pass get by on."

"We've同类, the National Association for the Advancement of White People, won a seat in Louisiana's state legislature.

Hernandez also notes he got advice and help in trying to pull together USL's chapter from Temple's Splietzer.

Splietzer, Hernandez says, is a racist. "He believes being discriminated against is not fair."
New professorships to expand our horizons

Chang will be teaching several painting and foundations courses but she will also teach an introductory art history course covering the last hundred years of art. She is very enthusiastic about this class. "I'm already studying the material and it will be an interesting course," she said.

Also arriving next year will be Lindsey Watton, who will be teaching Russian language and literature courses full-time. The department is especially excited about Watton's arrival because his presence will prompt the creation of an official Russian Studies major. "Watton will be a great resource," said professor Cedric Shkalievsky. "He will be a major part of the program and increase the array of courses. His effect on Bard is unpredictable, but it is sure to be weighty."

Watton, besides teaching Russian language, will teach a Russian literature course dealing with the development of Russian as a literary language in the 19th century. When Watton arrives here during registration, he plans to talk to students taking Russian courses currently, "to get ideas of what the student have done, to see what they have and haven't been taught," he said.

Watton plans to start a Russian Table and organize Russian films and speakers here at Bard. He hopes to set up a Russian exchange program. On the Russian Studies major, Watton says, "We're not aware of all the regulations involved. It's going to take time to find something to back it up with."

Watton, who graduated from Wellesley, looks forward to "returning to the small college environment. The students show a strong interest in learning. There's no need to justify the pursuit of knowledge in a small college, and it was improved upon me that Bard was indeed a place where that was given."
Five fellowships granted to Bard juniors

by Kristan Hutchinson

Five juniors, Tim Davis, Phuong Huynh, Gavin Milczarek, Amy Rogers, and Sean Sullivan, have received fellowship awards for non-paid work or study this summer. The $1500 fellowships are awarded by the Bard Center for the Study of Globalization in recognition of exposing students to relevant work that may influence their senior project and future life plans.

"It's a very coveted award and we got 13 applications this year, all of which were very excellent," said Elaine Sprout, who did the initial review of the proposals. A selection committee made the final decision on the basis of feasibility, relation to the applicants' academic background, potential for personal development, and the design and writing of the proposal.

"Wach had a very difficult picking just five," said Sprout.

The selected projects range from Biological research at established university laboratories to photographic work with a folklorist in the Adirondacks. "We didn't consciously try to get one (project) from each division, but there did seem to be a range," notes Sprout.

The fellowship opens up opportunities that wouldn't be available otherwise. Milczarek will be investigating intercellular communication in rat cells at the McArele Laboratory for Cancer Research. This research institute accepts only 10 to 20 people a year from around the world, mostly graduate students and post-doctoral scientists.

Gavin Milczarek, a biology major, will work with Dr. Henry C. Pint, Director of the Medicor Laboratory for Cancer Research at the University of California, San Diego. His summer project will involve analyzing the mutational sequence of a gene expressed in leukemic cells. Huynh believes his summer fellowship will help him choose whether to remain in graduate school at Columbia or in biomedical research.

Amy Rogers will work with the Illinois Department of State, a Federal Magistrate serving the U.S. District Court in Chicago, Illinois. As a law student, she will have the opportunity to help staff court decisions, to do legal research, to perform administrative services, and to observe trials in court.

Rogers believes her experience will help her choose whether to apply to law school or to pursue graduate studies in experimental psychology.

Sean Sullivan, a psychology major, will work as a research assistant to Dr. Steven W. Gangestad, a psychologist doing research at the University of New Mexico on the genetic basis of self-esteem. "I'm interested in increasing Sullivan's knowledge of experimental psychology, data base manipulation, and statistical data manipulation techniques.

EMS continued from page 2 would not be fair to request this large sum of money from the combination of a small foundation and a small local business. Molloy hopes to establish the EMS program as a student club funded by the administration.

The problem of funding notwithstanding, Molloy is very enthusiastic about the program's future. Now that the problems of administration and liability are being taken care of, said Molloy, "I can't foresee any more problems."

Peace Corps continued from page 1

In the Peace Corps, participants in the program would have the opportunity to teach at least two years of service in the Bard area as well, in the form of either a weekly commitment for the full year or a full-time volunteer service during the January intersession. Most of the projects would have been organized through the Campus Outreach Group, but students would have been free to initiate and design a program of their own.

Finally, the program would have to be required to take part in an overseas service program. Besides giving students the obvious benefits that come with participation in a service program, overseas service would "allow the Peace Corps and the participant to evaluate his or her ability to handle the commitment of two years in Peace Corps service."

Programs similar to the one proposed at Bard are already in place at several institutions across the country. One of the most successful is at Norwich University, a military school in Vermont. According to Elizabeth Price, director of the program at Norwich, their Peace Corps preparatory program was established as a civilian alternative to ROTC service. Norwich's program has sent two students into the Peace Corps so far. It is similar in structure and content to the one that was proposed at Bard. However, Price emphasized that the program inbuilt around service and social awareness, and does not require students to join the Peace Corps. The program exposes students to a lot of social issues," she said.

Price added that the program "has the full support of the Board of Fellows and the Board of Trustees, and that the university "has not had any problems whatsoever with the program or with the connection to the Peace Corps."
'Tis the season for allergies
by Meadowe Goldman

Allergies are the body's response to foreign substances that are usually harmless to themselves. These cause reactions in some people, which most people would normally not react. Pollen, dust, animal hair and certain foods are common allergens, but a wide variety of substances can cause an immune response, which is the underlying cause of allergies.

Basically, the immune response is a defensive reaction of the body to invasion by harmful organisms or foreign particles. The immune response produces the symptoms seen: sneezing, runny nose, throat irritation, coughing, itching, hives, watery eyes, increased mucous production, swelling, sneezing etc.

These symptoms result from the body's mechanism for combating any invader—real or perceived. This can be due to any number of reasons, including inflammation, infection, or allergies. Exactly why we can get an immune response to harmless antigens remains a biological mystery.

Different types of allergens, food allergens, pollen, allergens, asthma, hay fever, and other allergies are especially this time of year. Allergy tests are available, but only significant if those with allergies are allergic to anything that causes the reaction—some people are allergic to it, some are not. This can be transported on clothes, pets, etc. and you can then get a reaction if the rash itself is not contagious. The rash may appear at different times on the body, after a single exposure, but you will not "spread." You can continue normal activities, such as swimming, once the rash has appeared.

There isn't 'any" cure for allergies. The best one does not cause the allergy as much as possible and try to relieve the symptoms. An array of medications are available to relieve discomfort. All of these are decongestants, a process that involves giving a person small doses (infused into an "allergy shot") of the substance to which they are allergic. This should only be done for people who do not respond to drug therapies and whose allergies greatly interfere with their lifestyle. Allergy shots must be obtained by prescription from an allergist, but can be administered at the Health Services, free of charge. If you have concerns or questions about allergies, some area allergists are:

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Then Zack took it up. "Four weeks" he counted. "And I still have to get a summer job and actually work!"

Finally, Nancy summed up all their feelings. "Four weeks?" she asked. "And we'll have to go back into the Real World?"

I don't know why this particular announcement affected me as strongly as it affected my friends, but I, too, became frantic. I hadn't realized how much I liked this place. I knew I'd only just left last week. And wasn't it only two years ago? Where had the time gone?

I was about to say something where the disappearances, immediately like a supernatural herald of doom. Only a short while later, and a lingering cry of "I must run and warn the others!" told me she had been there at all.

I ran to Josh for support. burst through his door and stood. Josh was painting. he leaped off his bed with the covers over his head. "Josh!" I cried. "Josh, do you know what we only have? Four weeks left in the summer?"

There was no reply. "Josh! Do you realize what time it is?" I yelled. There was a short silence and then this one word emanated from under the Star Wars sheets.

"Death!"
"What?"
"Death!" spoke Josh. Then he exploded. "That's just further evidence that I won't resort to triumphed over us all.

He had reached towards the end even I had reached towards the end. Then Josh had managed to get up from his seat. "I'm all right!" he yelled. I saw the cow slowly move away. He looked at me. "Do you think I'll kill myself now and get it over with?"

"No!" I shouted. "You'll have a good fifty years left to live!"

"Fifty years more, fifty years less. What does matter. The ironclad Death traps its steady hand around us all eventually. He began looking for a handy semi-automatic rifle.

At this point Sueie came bounding into Josh's room. "I just realized something," she said as happily. A thought had crossed my mind as well. "Josh! I had just realized the rifle he had found under his bed."

"But listen to this, this is much more important! Josh lowered the rifle, and my look at her expectantly. "Do you know?" she asked suggestively, "what big hands and big feet room?" "Big gloves and big slippers!" And then, with the sneal of delight, she turned her back and showed me her golden curls flashing behind her. Josh and I stood there silently for a moment. Then without a word, Josh put the rifle away. He turned to me and said, quite slowly and distinctly. "I don't think I will kill myself today.

"Why not?"
"I wouldn't destroy any chance of watching her die first."

Then, I thought, was the first intelligent thing I had heard in a long, long time.

Please recycle this paper
DIVERSIONS

Senior film show: form and color, or content?

by Francisco Hirata

This year's Senior Film Show will take place in the Film Theater in Preston, on the following dates:

Thursday, May 17 at 6:30 pm and 9 pm (Program 1).
Friday, May 18 at 6:30 pm and 9 pm (Program 2).
Saturday, May 19 at 1 pm and 6 pm (Program 3).
Sunday, May 20 at 3 pm and 8:30 pm (Program 4).

These films from all nine graduating seniors will be divided into those two programs, on the basis of length and style; the important thing is that every film will be shown four times. The programs will be announced before these show dates. Please remember that there is no smoking, eating, and/or drinking during the films.

The show has been organized this way in order to avoid the usual chaos that is a tradition during this event. Not only are we staying from old traditions in the presentation, but in the films themselves as well. We can pretty much say that most (if not all of) the films being presented are narrative films. Apparently the old experimental tradition seems to be dying out in the film department. This is kind of sad but it only reflects the new trend towards narrative films in world cinema in general.

Following is a brief description of the films. Unfortunately, with Josh Rakish gone, this listing won’t be as amusing as it could have been had he decided to stay, instead of graduating (Rats!).

First (21 min. in black/white). Michael Adelman’s film about “two guys, a tire and a girl. It’s more about form and color than about content.” Lorin Roece, Bill Bronson and Melka Rosada star.

The story is about two brothers (Lorin and Bill) who are estranged by the care of a tire by their father. The father gives them some money, tells them to do whatever and adorns them not to lose the tire. Once alone, the brothers go hang out with Meika. Together with her, they next proceed to do other fun things... carrying the tire all the time. Sounds like a lot of fun, doesn’t it? But don’t ask what the tire is supposed to symbolize, because Michael won’t tell you.

Prisons (60 min. in black, white and color). August Armstrong describes his film as “a softcore pornographic film.” It is a rather disturbing story about a woman who returns home after 15 years to visit her mother. The length may seem a bit intimidating at first (John Pruitt is quoted as saying “this is the longest senior project ever made at Bard”). But don’t worry, in spite of the length, it shouldn’t feel that long; the premise sounds interesting enough, and with her experience, you can be sure that August will make an excellent film. No problem, right August?

About Lisa (16 min. in black/white and color). Syl (Patricia) Barrett. No “War of the Roses” or, rather, “Scream of the Douches” here. Syl’s film concerns a wife-beater... although, actually, it is more about the wife than the husband-wife-beater. But wait! There is a third character involved, who is not a wife-beater. Sounds confusing? Actually this is my own fault because I didn’t want to talk about the film. In any case, it stars Jen Taylor (the wife), Matt Sutton (the husband). A source close to the filmmaker told me that this film is “more about form and color than about content.” It’s true, we may be missing a new trend in filmmaking; the Bard school of “more about form and color than about content.” Watch out NYU, USC, AFI and UCLA!

Jacqueline Rose’s film about two young women and their relationship remains untitled. (20-25 min. in color). Jackie wants to show that feminist theorists are wrong in this film about a young woman (Francesca Spinotti) who decides to stay home and create her own reality while her friend (Jennifer Hills) creates her own world in the outside. They both are wrong and that’s what we will see in the finished film. How will that be interesting? I don’t know, but it will be interesting to see, and we wish Jackie the best of luck in doing that. Master avant-garde filmmaker Dirk Dely (who will be graduating this fall!) provided the lyrical photography for this film. Definitely worth watching.

A queen in our time

by Seth Holland

Maria McKee. Maria McKee. Coffen 1989: 44 | 1/2 minutes on CD (one CD-only cut — a really good one).

One of the great rock phenomenons of the 80s was the reemergence of American country rock in the wake of the Eagles generation bands breaking up. The demise of the increasingly sterile and公式 70s era country rock was concurrent with the foul of “cow punk”: punk bands covering Hank Williams Sr., Gene Autry, PATSY CLINE, anything twangy. And writing new twang tunes, too.

As I love both the Buffalo Springfield and the Sex Pistols, the Flying Burrito Brothers and Black Flag, the Eagles and the Clash (talk about your paradoxical tastes), “cow punk” has been one of my special pleasures. It has also introduced me to the sorority of female singers. My dad loves Bessie Smith and Billie Holiday, but I loved Johny Rayton, so I didn’t give his singer the time of day. But a combination of aging and the thrashes in the new country rock movement has opened my mind. But Annette Zilch and the wonderful, hyper Blood on the Saddle, Julie Christensen of the humbly emotional Divine Brownies, even the wonderful k.d. Lang and the really lovable Michèle Shocked, pale for me besides HER.

Maria McKee looking so gorgeous and real in gingham on the cover of Lone Justice. Maria McKee belting “Ways to be Wicked” (with no intro) at a deep, unexplicable lust for singing shining in her voice. Maria McKee singing Scottish-Irish Southern Gospel lines without time or need to breathe, shooting up angelic scales as she evokes Steenbeck’s Odes on “Soap, Snap, and Salvation.” Maria McKee exploring her dirt poor southern roots in her tender nod to her family, at home on the floor of Shetler, the second Lone Justice album. Maria McKee and Little Steven turning Shetler into a statement every much akin to Steenbeck’s, “Shelter,” “Bacon,” “Reflected (On My Side),” Maria McKee begging: “Dreams come true, say they do, say they do / And I’ll stand up and take it...” Maria McKee singing hard with her pal and occasional LA club stage-sharer Dwight Yoakam on his hymns to traditional country and the people at their Appalachian roots and really meaning it with all her soul.

Soul — as big an influence on her as country. And that’s what gives her the power that every d.k. Lang lacks. This is a woman who has the knowledge, the spirit, and the ability to stand alongside Aretha Franklin in my book. And just as Shelter was a step closer to Frank-
Soviet composers visiting Bard campus

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Personal
Daniel & George: Doesn’t anyone want to stay & play? I’ll bake brownies & y’all can bring the chocolate milk - or the bong! Not as appealing as rent, work & bills, huh? I might miss y’al the most! Love, love, love, Carrie. P.S. I want my tee shirts!

Hey Annie - it’s our turn!!

To all of my senior friends: How lonely it will be without you! I value the friendships we share & can’t imagine thursdays as being the same anymore! I’m so envi-
ous, so sad, & surprised! Congratulations! Carrie.


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Film shows continued from page 6
It's Driving Me Crazy! (25 min. in color). No, it's not "Driving
Miss Daisy" it is Francisco
Hirao's senior project. It was
a common expression among
seniors these past weeks. I won't
bother trying to explain the
film is about because I don't know
how to explain it. It has John
Lepp and Bill Van in the starring
roles...and some cats too. It takes
place in places we all know
around campus (and out of
to). This film could be consid-
ered a black comedy, but not for
the weak of stomach or for the
hard-core cat lover. (The
filmmaker wishes to apologize
publicly to Frederick Ostenberg
for omitting his name in credits
and wishes to acknowledge
Frederick's generous contribution
with a most important prop: a
baseball bat.)

The short film The Slate Genie is Out of Work (5 min. in color)
star-
ing Bill Van and Matt Krogow will
be shown right before it's Driving
Me Crazy!, as some sort of appe-
tizer before the main cat...I mean,
course.

Harry Sipps, Sam Eats Polish Kiel-
basas is the title of Sorin Jarovice's
film. (3 min. in black/white) This
genius shot this film in a week-
end! Amazing just for a film sen-
ior at Bard. The film is about "a
guy who eats polska kielbasas,"
and stars Jeff Senevich as Harry,
if

Minority issues continued from page 1
A investigation of the possibilities
of student exchange programs with
colleges in Liberia and the
Philippines, and joining of the
"National Minority Faculty Iden-
tification Program to enable the
college to recruit faculty who are
members of minority groups."
The University also states the
figures for minority representa-
tion of faculty, which was a mat-
ter of confusion at the S.E.E.
meeting. At the present time, the
College has under faculty contact
the following individuals in the
campus who represent diverse
cultural heritages in the catego-
ries devoted by the Middle States
Association, the higher education
accrediting association of the
College: five Asians (including
Asian-Americans), two African-
Americans and four Hispanics.
These 11 individuals under fac-
culty contract are drawn from a
pool of 120 faculty. They rep-
resent nine percent.

The memo also addresses the
question of "What Should Be
Done?" which was the primary

focus of the S.E.E. meeting. In
this section, the point is stressed
that Bard does not exist in a vacuum.
Bard's attempts to achieve a
"multi-cultural education" must
be looked at in comparison with
other colleges of "similar enroll-
ment size, a comparable location,
and comparable financial
resources." In this perspective,
"Bard has far exceeded its means in
many respects."

However, this is not a dismissal
or denial of the problem. It is
background to help explain the
problems that occur in fulfillment
of the goal. Botstein emphasized
that change must and will be slow,
and "goals should be set for the
next five and ten years." The final
remark in the section is the point
that "the college is committed to
accelerating the pace it has already
demonstrated.

Botstein concludes the memo
on an optimistic note. The final
section, "How Might We Pro-
ceed?" discusses the steps that
the College is prepared to take
immediately to help to reach an
agreement. The College would also
like to "explore short and long
term opportunities to enhance

the
diverse and multi-cultural char-
acter of the campus." It does not
want this issue to become an an-
tagonistic situation that is "ham-
pered by a lack of either candor or
certainty" as has been the case at
other institutions facing this prob-
lem.

Although the College "resists any
legitimation of the identifica-
tion of faculty members primarily
due to their nature as teachers or
scholars but rather than by age,
gender, race, or religion," this idea
is not meant to imply that the
College is opposed to affirmative
action. In fact, the College has
"promulgated a new affirmative
action statement."

Botstein and S.E.E. share the
conviction that the curriculum is
where the most drastic and im-
portant changes must be made,
and where the most profound and
lastingly influences on the students
and eventually society will be
made.

Your Feet Never Felt This Good
Birkemose
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Walking shoes.
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We are a ultra-modern
innovative practice & will go
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Weighing the gains

The Peace Corps Bridge Program that was proposed for next fall has been canceled. The program had two main goals: to provide paid work experience for Peace Corps personnel and to offer American students the opportunity to work abroad in their field of interest. As a result of the program's cancellation, Peace Corps personnel will lose their jobs, and students will fail to receive paid work experience.

The Peace Corps Bridge Program is a valuable opportunity for students and Peace Corps personnel. It provides a unique chance for students to gain valuable work experience while contributing to the development of the host country. Peace Corps personnel also benefit from the program as it allows them to continue their service in a new capacity.

The cancellation of the Peace Corps Bridge Program is a significant loss for both students and Peace Corps personnel. It is important that we work towards finding alternative opportunities to provide these valuable experiences.

Election difficulties addressed

The election process faces several challenges that need to be addressed.

1. **Voter Suppression:** There are concerns about voter suppression tactics being used to discourage certain groups from voting. These tactics include long lines, strict ID requirements, and purging voter rolls. It is important to ensure that all eligible voters have equal access to the polls.

2. **Election Integrity:** There are concerns about the integrity of the election process. This includes the potential for hacking, voter fraud, and the use of unsecured systems to tabulate votes. It is crucial to ensure that the election process is secure and transparent.

3. **Voter Education:** There is a need for better voter education to ensure that all eligible voters understand the importance of voting and know how to navigate the voting process.

4. **Voter Turnout:** There are concerns about low voter turnout. It is important to encourage higher voter turnout to ensure that the election results reflect the will of the people.

These challenges need to be addressed to ensure a fair and just election process. It is essential to work towards creating a system that is accessible, secure, and transparent for all eligible voters.
Letters to the Editor

Plumb Awful angered by audio co-op's actions

To the Editor:

There are a lot of assholes at Bard College. A heck of a lot. A whole hell of a heck of a lot of assholes at Bard College. You know, there are assholes and then there are assholes, and this is the latter, and this is the latter, and this is the latter, and this is the latter, and this is the latter. These are not just any old assholes, these are the kind of assholes that can make even the most patient person snap.

To start with, there is the audio co-op, which is a group of people who make music and record it. They are a bunch of jerks. They are alwayspresence the volume way down on some people and making others sound like individuals with preconceptions for decorating the walls with used pop corn. Or prevent them from getting too loud, or if they get too loud, deliberately fail to promote their gigs. Come on, doing shit like that is almost as professional as the tone of this letter.

We refer specifically to the Spring Fling Bard Band Marathon that took place on Saturday in the Student Center, but this is not the only example of their assholishness. When the band Plumb Awful got up on stage, just because they were not one of the co-op's pet bands, the co-op personnel took the liberty of "improving" the band's sound for their own amusement. "Coo, John, wouldn't it sound great if those oldies were done again, he sounds really stupid!" "Oh, lookie, those guys over there are getting mad. Let's do it again! Wow, this is fun!" They made of the rest of us, who are not part of the warm, lovely audio co-op family.

We would ask in the future that the co-op leave nepotism to legitimate power structures like the mob. None of us are prone to bitching of this nature, but this cliche bullshit just simply go to hell. And we wanted to make sure that those responsible for incurring our wrath understand what we were saying.

Sincerely,
Mary McMahon
P.S. I am also very proud of my Irish heritage. My last name is McMahon, not MacMan (as it appeared in the article).

Mountains out of mole hills

To the Editor:

After reading a most unnecessary and scathing letter I had written in response to last week's Appalachian article, I realized that I had written a pretty good editorial in favor of constructing mountains out of mole hills.

It was just that I had become very upset over the fact that a fellow volunteer expressed to me that they felt they had been misled by the article and that I was also a little concerned as to why the city had not been included along with Man Bro's and Glenn Pott's names, concerning the grade school trip. I take a great pride and an extreme satisfaction in having entertained those children for an afternoon. It is a very scary thing to stand up in front of grade schoolers. (Remember those sixth grade book reports?) Though children (in general) respond well to enthusiastic adults, if they don't like him/her, talk about themselves or even undermine the attempts, the individual is trying to make at establishing a rapport with them.

Luckily for the three of us, the children were extremely well-behaved, obedient and attentive. For me, it was the most exhausting and the most encouraging task of our trip. I am very proud to have even attempted such a challenge.

If this letter has proven to be a mountain, then I suppose I am guilty of wanting a little acknowledgement.

Sincerely,
Mary McMahon

Letters to the Editor

Letters should be no to two double spaced, typed pages. All letters must be signed.

The Observer reserves the right to withhold names of letter writers in certain cases.

Alienating minorities

To the Editor:

In response to Jason Van Driesche's article "There Can Be No Justification for Discrimination," the sociology club would like to make two points. But first, we would like to say that we do not represent S.E.E.

Although the language of Van Driesche's article makes the argument against reverse discrimination seem logical and reasonable, it does not address the fundamental issue of institutionalized racism. The following quote from the article implies a definition of racism which is incorrect. "They must not favor one candidate over another simply because the former is a person of color and the latter is white; that is as bad as favoring a white over a person of color... a person must be judged based on his or her qualifications and merits alone." Underlying this statement is a dangerously simplistic and misinformed conception of racism which fails to recognize the complexities of institutionalization. Racism describes people being chosen based on their merit and qualifications as if those are presently objective measures of value. He does not take into account the far-reaching exclusionary process of racism. In high schools and colleges minorities are systematically excluded from the discourse and curriculum, thereby inhibiting them from getting the necessary credentials for job selection. An important question to ask is why are there so few minorities in the job pool to hire? Racism goes beyond what gets picked for a job, it is how one ends up with the credentials to be applying for the job in the first place. The United States' educational system is tailored for the success of white middle-class males. Alienated minority children are systematically failed out of high schools and droves. Racism begins long before the job interview process. This is the issue that multi-cultural education of reverse discrimination entirely circumvents the more subtle forms of discrimination embedded in the educational system.

Van Driesche claims that "merit" and "qualification" should not be associated with race. We argue that one important, yet overlooked, "qualification" or "merit" of an applicant is his or her color. The white middle-class educational system is alienating to minority students who do not identify with the white middle-class culture. There is no real effective representation of minorities in positions of authority. More minority faculty would allow minority students the opportunity to be represented in the institution. Minority status is a qualification.

It is essential that people be educated about the fallacy of reverse discrimination and understand the importance of minority representation in schools. This kind of education is necessary to end institutionalized racism.

The Sociology Club
(Sarah B. Davis, Jed Kusterer, Karma Kreuzbeck, Liana Rosario, Morgan Cleveland, Drew Glazier, Judith Nelson, Daryl Lynn Johnson, Eva Pappadopoulos, Josh Kaufman)

Response to Jason Van Driesche

To the Editor:

I'd like to address Jason Van Driesche on his opinion piece, "There can be no justification for Discrimination." Mr. Van Driesche, who or what has given you the authority to advise the students for Educational Equality not to resort to "any means necessary?" When was the last time that you organized or participated in a political movement on or off this campus? I believe I speak for several political groups at Bard when I say that we don't need your petty, uneducated commentary anymore. In all the very least annoying, at the most, extremely insulting.

It's obvious that you have no understanding of what affirmative action is. Were you even listening at the S.E.E. meeting when a student responded to your concerns about "reverse discrimination" by explaining that affirmative action wouldn't be necessary if racism didn't exist? I guess not. I guess you also weren't listening when the panel answered questions about their hiring policies. Nobody advocates the hiring of unqualified faculty simply because they are minority. They do advocate a more active search for minority faculty and the holding of positions specially designated for people of color.

So Mr. Van Driesche, next time you feel the urge to comment on somebody else's politics, at least try to learn something about the issues involved. And stop being petty, the bureaucracy doesn't need your help either.

Annonied in Annandale, Fiona Lawrence-Luckman

Image
Literature Department Lecture:
Poet John Ashbury will be reading from his works in Olin 102 on May 27 at 8:00 PM.

Soviet Studies Lecture:
Prof. Igor Kon, an academician of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and Andy White, Prof.-at-Large at Cornell University, will give a talk *Culture and Sexuality in the Soviet Union* on May 17 at 8:00 PM in room 102 of the Olin Building.

Distinguished Social Scientist Lecture:
Barrie Thorne, Prof. of Sociology at the University of Southern California will speak on new discoveries in her ongoing work on language, gender and society. 8:00 PM in Kline Commons.

Music Program Zero:
May 17: Performance Space: *Three Solos, Three Duos, and a Trio* with Bard Professors Richard Teitelbaum, Leo Smith and Benjamin Boretz. 10:00 PM. Brook House.

Recovery of Memory Conference:
On May 11, 12 and 13th. An international conference on the changes sweeping through Eastern Europe, sponsored by the Jerome Levy Economics Institute, the Bard Center and the International Academy for Scholarship and the Arts. Preregistration is necessary for all events. Free to all students with I.D. Contact Prof. Karen Greenberg for more information.

China Table:
China Table is back until the end of the semester in Kline Commons President’s Room. 12:15 to 1:15 PM. A chance to practice your Chinese or talk in English with Chinese people and others who share your interest in Chinese politics, society and culture.

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

**Sunday's Movie:**
Sunday, May 13: The film for this Sunday was not available at press time. Please check posters around campus for information.

**Friday's Movie:**
Friday, May 18: *Whitetail and I*, by Bruce Robinson.

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.

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**REMININDER: The next issue of the Weekly Community Information**

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday 12</th>
<th>Sunday 13</th>
<th>Monday 14</th>
<th>Tuesday 15</th>
<th>Wednesday 16</th>
<th>Thursday 17</th>
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<td><strong>Recovery of Memory Conference</strong>&lt;br&gt; Begins (see above)</td>
<td>6:00 PM Worship Service&lt;br&gt; Bard Chapel</td>
<td>7:00 PM News Meeting&lt;br&gt; Olin 3rd Floor Lounge</td>
<td>5:30 PM Learning Difference Support Group&lt;br&gt; Admissions Office</td>
<td>7:00 PM ACOA Meeting&lt;br&gt; Aspinwall, Room 302</td>
<td>7:00 PM N. A. Meeting&lt;br&gt; Aspinwall 302</td>
<td>12:30 PM John Grey&lt;br&gt; Aspinwall 302</td>
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<td>6:00 PM Features Meeting&lt;br&gt; Aspinwall 3rd Floor</td>
<td>7:30 P.M. BBLAGA Meeting&lt;br&gt; Aspinwall 302</td>
<td>8:00 PM Social Scientist Lecture&lt;br&gt; Kline Commons</td>
<td>8:00 PM Program of music&lt;br&gt; by Daron Hagen performed by Bruce Wolosoff, Ann Mathers, and Su Lianlau&lt;br&gt; Olin Auditorium</td>
<td>8:00 PM Soviet Studies Lecture&lt;br&gt; Olin Room 102</td>
<td>8:00 PM Music Program Zero&lt;br&gt; Performance Space&lt;br&gt; Brook House</td>
<td>7:00 &amp; 9:00 PM <em>Whitetail&lt;br&gt; Student Center</em></td>
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<td>7:00 PM A.A. Meeting&lt;br&gt; Aspinwall, Room 302</td>
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