Curing the ills of Bard’s health service

by Tanya Panin

Most Bard students are aware of the fact that they cannot receive on-campus health care on weekends and weeknights. Gynecological exams at the infirmary are booked until mid-November. Many students have waited half an hour or more for a walk-in appointment at the health service.

According to Merylin Skiba, Director of Health Services, the reason for these complications is that the infirmary is currently understaffed. Skiba says that when she began working at the infirmary in 1986 she was one of fifteen registered nurses on staff. The health service was open twenty-four hours a day, including weekends. There were a number of beds, and Kline Commons workers brought meals to those students resting in the infirmary.

Despite the convenience of the infirmary’s twenty-four hour operation, Skiba says that she and other nurses who worked in the evenings rarely treated students during their shifts. As the cost of health care steadily increased, the administration decided that round-the-clock health care was not practical. Cutbacks were made in health services so the funds could be used for academic needs.

Skiba mentions that students must accept the fact that the campus health service is not, and was never, an "all-encompassing health service." She

Entrance to the Bard Health center, located to the left of the main door at Robbins says, "The infirmary was considered a type of first-aid station until a few years ago, when Marsha Rial (the first and only nurse practitioner at Bard) became a part of the staff."

The director says that Rial has quite a demanding job, setting up routine gynecological appointments for women requesting birth control, as well as separate appointments for those requesting gynecological exams because of a concern for illness. Women needing appointments immediately can schedule ones for Monday, Tuesday and Thursday mornings, although routine gynecological appointments must be scheduled far in advance.

Students not willing to wait a month to receive birth control from the health center do have the option to obtain less expensive birth control at Planned Parenthood in Red Hook. However, these students are responsible for their own transportation. Rial says that all of her appointments are approximately an hour long because she feels that her patients should be given educational information as well. She feels that many students are not aware of all of the intricacies of birth control and prevention of sexually transmitted diseases.

The infirmary recently received an approval from Dimitri Papadimitriou, Executive Vice President, to add a part-time nurse practitioner. Papadimitriou also approved of the request made by some members of the administration that the new part-time practitioner be a minority.

Skiba and Rial conclude that not many minority nurse practitioners in the area are willing to work part-time in a college health service; therefore they believe that the wisest action is to open the opportunity to non-minority applicants. Papadimitriou stipulates that they should continue their search before non-minority applicants are allowed.

According to Skiba, an even larger restriction on applicants is the need for a worker with an interest in college health care. She says that college health care advocates, opposed to off-campus health care, involves a "holistic approach," in which students are not only treated medically, but are taught self-care and how to change their lifestyles to improve health. Skiba feels the applicant must be sympathetic continued on page 9

Luncheon with the Deans in the non-smoking section

by Emily Horowitz

Smoking was the main topic of discussion at the second "Lunch with the Deans." On Thursday, November 8, Stuart Levine, Dean of the College, Shelley Morgan, Dean of Students, and Dimitri Papadimitriou, Executive Vice President of the College, met and talked with students. Of specific concern to the five students present was the issue of smoking in the main dining room of Kline Commons. Despite the fact that it is illegal to smoke there, students continue to do so. Smoking is only permitted in the three "paranoids."

Carolyn Daruka, a senior, said during the luncheon meeting, "It's very disappointing that the non-smokers and the smokers on this campus can't cooperate on this issue and respect each other's wishes."

Shelley Morgan offered to put up signs around the dining room and send another memo to students reminding them that they are not allowed to smoke in the main dining room. Morgan suggested that nonsmokers be assertive. "If smoke bothers you, the first step is to confront the smoker," she said.

The small turnout of students at the luncheon meeting fostered discussion and an amicable atmosphere. All students are welcome to attend the upcoming luncheon meetings, and have their questions answered and their concerns addressed. There will be a luncheon at 12:15 p.m. in a Kline Committee Room on November 27 and again on December 7.

Agenda for the Forum

by Kristan Hutchison

Clearing the air will be top of the agenda at the Student Forum Meeting on Monday 19 at 8:00 p.m. in Kline. Dimitri Papadimi-

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I may not agree with what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it.

-Voltaire

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November 16, 1990
Students attend Middle East peace conference

by Emily Horowitz

For young men of draft age, the recent deployment of even greater numbers of troops to the Middle East is due cause for alarm. Contrary to popular belief, college students are not exempt from the draft. According to Army News magazine, in the case of a "national war," college students will be called upon to serve their country.

The Middle East Peace Conference, held at Brandeis University on November 10-11, attempted to examine ways in which a draft can be avoided and if a peaceful resolution can be found in the Middle East.

The six Bard students who went to the conference attended only the first day. Michael Albert, editor of Z magazine, addressed the entire conference in the morning. According to Seth Leonard, one of the students who attended the conference, Albert spoke in favor of a "trip-wire defensive." Leonard explained that while Albert sees the need for the deployment of ten to twenty thousand troops in the Middle East, he does not see the need for forty thousand. Essentially, said Leonard, Albert feels that the United States is in the Middle East both because of the declining U.S. economy and because the U.S. sees itself as the "world police," responsible for intervening in world affairs as its leaders see fit.

Leonard described Albert's sense of why the U.S. is in the Middle East is the "sign of the fall of a civilization." Leonard was "impressed" by Albert's idea of "positive protest."

Albert noted the example of a sit-in at Carey's (one of a few vocal members of the administration who oppose the deployment of troops in the Middle East) office in support of Carey's position. This would be less effective than a hospital, Leonard recalled. "He showed us that a sit-in at a hospital would illustrate very clearly how money could be better spent than in the Middle East on guns," said Leonard.

Albert's lecture was followed by a question-and-answer session, and then the conference broke up into smaller workshops. The workshops

Bard professor publishes second issue of sexuality journal

The Journal of the History of Sexuality, edited by Bard Professor of History John Fou, covers issues of sexual politics and related topics

by Tanya Panin

The Journal of the History of Sexuality, a quarterly publication edited by Bard professor of history John Fou, was recently released to the public. The journal focuses on the major sexual issues affecting contemporary society.

Fou has been concerned with issues of sexual politics throughout his career. In fact, he is currently working on two projects on sexual politics in Germany. He decided to start the publication because he realized that there was no single journal devoted to examining sexual issues.

Fou presented his idea to the University of Chicago Press, the largest academic publisher in the United States, in January, 1988. The idea was then researched by the publications board and approved in February, 1989. After he and other members of the journal collected a sufficient number of articles, the first issue was

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November 16, 1990
The Bard Observer

SMOG has already settled in to its new building behind Stevenson Gym.

SMOG's facilities open to all

by Jon Kushner

When senior Dan Bohn first encountered S.M.O.G. (Student Mechanics' Open Garage), he came across a place where, as he puts it, "a couple of philosophy majors who commuted with their cars, and sometimes even laid their hands on them to make them work."

That was four years ago. S.M.O.G. existed only sporadically for about eight years before that because, according to Bohn, there was a lack of official recognition for the 'club.' Tools were broken and even stolen due to the minimal order and regulation of the place.

"The last president of S.M.O.G. was a great mechanic," says Bohn, but lapsed productive contact with the administration. Eventually, Bohn decided that if S.M.O.G. were to function positively at Bard, there would have to be some changes in the way it was run. He took over as active president of the club two years ago, and has since put much effort into enhancing its standing at the school.

For those who aren't in the know, S.M.O.G. is a place where any student can bring a vehicle (including bicycles) and find the tools and devices needed to do most any repair themselves. Initiative is the key, says Bohn, for "anybody who can follow instructions decently can do most repairs on their own using their car manuals."

By doing your own repairs, you obviously will save a considerable amount of money. The manuals for most any car can be ordered at an auto parts store. From there, a "$75 investment in tools and manuals" can provide the car owner with the means to save thousands.

Bohn suggests picking up a copy of J. Muir's How to Keep Your Volkswagen Alive: For Complete Idiots. The information in this book, he says, can be applied to any make of car.

Even if those who are not members of S.M.O.G. can work on their cars as long as there is a proctor present, Proctors are available Monday 12 to 4, Thursday 1 to 5 and Friday 1 to 4. However Bohn stressed that S.M.O.G. is by no means a campus service. It is simply a very good opportunity. While the tools are there for students to use, the work is done by the vehicle's owner, at his or her own risk and cost. Proctors can be of help, but are not there to fix everything. However, S.M.O.G. members are sometimes willing to help students if approached personally.

To become a member of S.M.O.G. (that is, to obtain a key to the garage), one must have done substantial work there over the course of a semester. S.M.O.G. is currently petitioning the Student Forum for $1800 to install a hydraulic lift. Currently, cars are put up on 'blocks' at considerable risk to the person working under them. Explaining the need for the lift, Bohn says that "cars just don't slip off lifts."

SMOG has a new location near the new gym this semester. Because the structure went up incredibly fast (in only three weeks), certain important necessities were neglected such as running water and heat.
AIDS speaker sheds light on subject

by Greg Giacco

This was only the second time Linda Briggs had spoken in front of a crowd. She looked nervous, but she had something important to say. "I did this for children, to help children understand," she explained. Briggs related the story of how she had had experiences with a disease that affects all of our lives; she was talking about AIDS.

The discussion was sponsored by the AIDS committee, Campus Outreach Group (COG), and the Columbia County Youth Project (CCYP) of which Linda is a member. Lynn Carr, also of the CCYP, explained that Briggs has been "instrumental in educating the city of Hudson and young people in AIDS awareness."

Briggs spoke to a crowded room in Olin on November 7. She opened the program with a story of how she had been on the street since she was thirteen and how she had developed a heroin habit and went into prostitution to support it. She told of how she started to feel the symptoms of AIDS: chronic migraines, loss of sleep, and irregular eating habits. She also told of how she found that she was carrying the HIV virus in 1988.

It was like my whole world had just crashed in," she said. That day she found out, Briggs tried to commit suicide by overdosing on sleeping pills.

The Hudson Valley Studies program, located in Tewksbury 200, is the home of the collection of archives of the Hudson Valley, including New York State manuscript materials, ledgers and railroad records. Once the new library and archives were constructed, this collection will find a centralized home there.

Tewksbury 200 is also the home office of the Hudson Valley Regional Review, which has been published since 1984. Originally under the direction of Vibes and Professor of Religion David Pierce, it is now co-edited by Vibes and Professor of English William Wilson. The journal, published bi-annually and marketed nationally, addresses the regional studies and literary regionalism, among other issues.

Richard Vibes, Professor of economics and Director of the Hudson Valley Studies, explained, "The idea is to get people who are interested in economics, political science, art history...to focus their studies around regional concentrations." Such regional study, explains Vibes, involves getting away from "the notion of defining history by political artificial boundaries. It has to do with defining a sense of place.

In terms of the Hudson Valley, the program addresses the question of whether the valley is one single valley, or a valley broken into regions defined by social contact. Such questions are explored by looking at communion patterns, social interaction, where young people go for entertainment, etc. However, the program does not deal exclusively with the Hudson Valley. Rather, it approaches regional study as a model or method which can be applied to any region.

The bias is breaking down against the 'provinciality' of regional studies. You can do very sophisticated work with regional topics," asserts Vibes. He continues, "People are looking for a sense of place in a 'homogenized' culture, a McDonald's culture. There is an ethnic diversity within the Catskill region which is quite important to address, especially considering that the entire middle-Atlantic region, with the exception of New York City, has been sorely neglected in regional study.

Although there are few courses specifically allied with Hudson Valley Studies, the original intention of the creators of the program, including Vibes and Professor of art history Tom Wolf, was to span fields and to create a genuinely multi-disciplinary course of study.

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Wilson, who has been on the periphery of the journal since its inception, and is in his first year as co-editor, added, "The idea of the importance of region is interesting to me...not specifically the Hudson Valley Region, though I am interested in the place I live, but the overall influence of region on literature and thought. Many of the great writers have had to be considered regionally.

Several Bard professors have published in the journal, which is subscribed to by most major college libraries in the East, including Harvard, Yale, Columbia and the SUNY system, as well as by those in the mid-west where regional programs are of particular importance. In addition, abstracts of senior projects have appeared in the journal Vibes explained that there have been some extremely good senior projects in the area of regional studies within the last five years. Although in-house contribution has not been as great as had been hoped for in recent years, the flow of article submissions from outside has been quite good.

Wilson hopes to see the journal expand to encompass the idea of regionalism as an intellectual construction, "not denying the Hudson Valley as its focus, but opening it to broader study of regionalism and to other regions," he explained.

The Hudson Valley Studies program continued on page 9

by Andrea J. Stein

AIDS Fest Arrives at Bard

The first annual Autumn Fest weekend at Bard will be held beginning on Thursday, November 15. It has been Bard tradition to hold two special, event-filled weekends in the Spring semester, Winter Carnival in February, and Spring Fling in May. Spring Fling is traditionally a huge success as it celebrates the completion of senior projects. Winter Carnival, however, has typically been much quieter.

This year, the Activities Committee has decided to cancel Winter Carnival and in its place hold Autumn Fest in November, therefore sponsoring one special weekend each semester.

Autumn Fest kicks off on Thursday, the 15th with a Thanksgiving Dinner in Kline Commons. Then, at 11:00 in the Student Center, Los Africanos, co-sponsored by LASO and the entertainment committee, will provide Cuban/African music. Friday the 16th begins with the usual evening movie, "Mystery

Awesome Audio, the professional DJ, which ran the highly successful semi-final during last semester's Spring Fling, this year, however, will host the added interest of large screen music videos, as well as several other surprises. It is planned that fancy mixed drinks will be served for a cover charge of $1.00.

Because it is in its first year, Autumn Fest is not as event-filled as Spring Fling has been in past years. However, the Activities Committee has great hopes for the future. One tentative plan for a future special weekend is an all-day carnival. Clubs and dormitory floors are urged to begin thinking of booths they would like to sponsor in order to earn money for themselves. Autumn Fest, however, does promise to be quite fun and the entire Bard Community is urged to come out and participate.
Another View

Fidel’s follies: The paradox of Cuban socialism

by Scott L. Licamele

As the Soviet Union continues to reform its political economy, serious issues arise concern- ing the structural framework of foreign policy institutions. A nation that has traditionally provided Third World socialist states with extensive material and security assistance is now beginning to retreat from such impractical ventures. Gorbachev has illustrated through his new foreign policy that adventurism in the Third World is no longer a viable component of Soviet conduct. Various Eastern European nations have broken their historically subordinate relations with Moscow. Some Third World dependents have begun to experiment with market economies and multi-party politics.

“The Cold War has been Castro’s closest friend.”

systems. In fact, the Soviet government advocates perestroika and glasnost in its client states. The reception has been mixed, but nowhere has the opposition been greater than in Fidel Castro’s Cuba.

The Rise of Socialist Cuba

Since Castro seized power during the revolution of 1959, he has been successful in transforming Cuba into a socialist state. Under the Batista government, the majority of the population was illiterate and impoverished. The government was inherently corrupt, and dispossessed by the United States. Castro sought to create a new society based on an equitable distribution of wealth. Every citizen was provided with a job, housing and a comprehensive health care plan rivalled by few other developing nations. The Cuban army is the second largest in the Western Hemisphere, and has been effectively utilized in the Caribbean Basin and Africa. Fidel Castro has crassly blended Marxism-Leninism with nationalistic fervor resulting in his widespread domestic support.

From its inception, communist Cuba has been the victim of immense U.S. pressure and interference. The Bay of Pigs invasion, repeated assimilation attempts, and the penetration of Cuban airwaves with Radio Marti, are prime examples of American attempts at destabilization. But Cuba has resisted American pressure because of its nationalistic spirit and precarious economic and security assistance from the Soviet Union. During the 1970’s, Castro assisted the U.S.S.R. by intervening in Angola and Ethiopia on behalf of revolutionary move- ments. This exemplifies the important relationships of “mutual” revolutionary assistance that has characterized Soviet-Cuban relations before the ascension of Gorbachev. During the 1980’s, the Cuban government played an active role in supporting the Sandinista movement in Central America, and the revolutionary govern- ment in Grenada. Although these govern- ment were dissolved, it is important to note them in reference to Cuba’s dynamic role in Caribbean Basin affairs. So long as the Soviets were footing the bill, Castro would continue to assist revolutionary forces abroad. But Soviet aid has decreased recently, causing a funda- mental problem for Castro’s policy.

The Beginning of the End

The crisis in Cuba has become apparent. The Soviet Union recently announced a drastic cut in Cuban aid which will systematically debase the nation’s economy. Before Gorbachev began to implement his policy reforms, the Cuban’s were receiving approximately $5 bil- lion a year in aid. The assistance was distributed as follows: sugar subsidies in which the U.S.S.R. would pay two to five times higher than world market prices, military equipment and training, oil, and low interest debt financing. Because the Soviet economy is deteriorating, foreign aid has and will continue to decrease. In fact, since 1985 Cuban debt service to the Soviet Union will be required in hard currency (New York Times, September 13, 1990, p. A3). The welfare state that Castro has created is not based on organic economic de- velopment founded on real growth and pro- ductivity, but rather the result of massive foreign economic and social spending. The growth of the GNP would not evolve proportional to the GNP. Support- ers of Cuban socialism would argue that Castro has created a model state based on an equitable distribution of wealth, comprehensive social programs, and an effective educational system. There is, unfortunately, an inconvenient para- dox. The Cold War has been Castro’s closest friend. Without it, Cuba would not have achieved its level of social spending and military power permitted only because of politically motivated aid from the now defunct Eastern Bloc. Thus, it is impossible to justify Cuban socialism by examining budgetary allocations derived from foreign sources. When Soviet assistance is discontinued, this flaw will be- come apparent.

Moreover, the defenders of Castro downplay the political issues of Cuban society. Castro has maintained a one party system similar to that of the Soviet Union. Every organization is di- rectly subordinated by the Communist Party. There are no independent labor unions, stu- dent groups, church discussion groups. Susan Purcell comments, “Mr. Castro leads a communist dictatorship characterized by irra- tional, arbitrary, and personalistic authority and a cult of personality” (New York Times, January 10, 1990, p. A27). Purcell continues to debate the problems of Cuban political dyn- amics by suggesting a plebiscite. This is an unlikely possibility, since Mr. Castro has re- cently illustrated his tight hold on power exem- plified by the recent show trials and executions reminiscent of Stalinist Russia. The well known General Armando Ochoa, who had fought suc- cessfully in the Angolan campaigns, was charged with drug trafficking and sentenced to death. Although these charges may have been true, the primary undertake was the possibility of Ochoa’s potential political challenge to Cas- tro. It is clear that Castro maintains firm control and domestic support, but it is also evident that there has been increasing problems within the upper echelons of the Cuban Communist Party. An increase of defections by civil and military officials has been reported. Additionally, high level members of the Interior Ministry have been involved in rampant drug trafficking schemes.

Adios Gorbachev; Hola the Albania of the Caribbean

As Cuba enters a fourth year of recession, Castro will be forced to cut spending. When Soviet aid decreases, social and military alloca- tions will become proportional to the nation’s true economic capacity. With only $40 million dollars in foreign reserves (that’s four dollars per person), the standard of living will decline radically. Austerity measures will include a depletion of many social services, stringent food and energy rationing, military reductions, and an overall scarcity of many consumer products. Despite the ensuing problems, many scholars believe that Castro will maintain his hold on power. The only possibility for a coup would probably originate from the military. But even this prospect is limited because Fidel’s brother Raúl is the chief of the armed forces. Thus, the core of future opposition is kept in check. Tight political control characterizes present Castroist policy. Systematic repression of dissenting movements combined with the campaigns of “rectification” illustrate that Fidel means business, or rather “anti-business.” So long as an allow inequivalent relationship with the United States remains, Cuban nationalism and support for the Castro will ensue.

That leaves us with the most important cri- sis-the plight of the Cuban people. It is appar- ent that the central planning apparatus com- bined with a complete restriction of all politics.

“...the Cuban people will experience catastrophic hardships in the years to come.”

and social relations does not encourage produc- tivity. The failure of the Soviet economy exemplifies this fact. Cuba produces little oil, and lacks many resources required for indus- trial development. Thus, if Castro does not allow more economic liberalizations, the Cuban growth will continue to spiral into fur- ther recession. There is no sign that liberaliza- tion will occur. In an article by Vladimir A. of the Moscow News Cuba was depicted as “an impoverished police state still mimicking Brezhnev-era Communism, and noted with seeming approval the growth of a small dissident movement on the island.” (The Economist April 7, 1990; p. 52) All dissident movements, however, have been crushed. As the Soviet Union continues to decrease aid, the failure of Cuban socialism will become more evident. Castro’s political repression will perhaps be- come less justified. It is apparent that the Cuban people will experience catastrophic hardships in the years to come. Mr. Castro commences many speeches with the phrase, “Socialism or death!” If he maintains his cur- rent political and economic agenda, the likeli- hood for national decline is imminent. How- ever, since the entire spectrum of political opposition has been systematically repressed, the fate of ten million Cubans will continue to rest under one man’s control. It is possible that Cuba will turn inward and increasingly isolate itself from the outside world. The consequences of such policy would result in uncontrollable damage to the Cuban citizenry.
Seeking the Problem

by Kiera Van Gelder

Whether we have been raped, molested, physically abused, coerced, intimidated, or have silently endured — whether we have lain on top and penetrated or lain underneath and been penetrated — before we can seek a solution, the problem must be clearly understood. THERE ARE NO INNOCENT PEOPLE. We are all accomplices of sexism, of rape, or racism, and bigotry, of dehumanization. We are all guilty of these crimes until each one of us takes direct action against the theories, practices and cultures that perpetuate these crimes.

What is going on here? Why are we doing the things that we do? How does it affect others? And how do I communicate this to you?

Common sense would tell us that our education is specifically designed to facilitate the answers to these questions, yet, it seems obvious from recent events on campus that we are barely equipped to define our problems, let alone find solutions to them.

Is the teacher hand one of hysteria?

Is it about blame?

Is this about sexism, racism, dehumanization — an issue which is ultimately about self-awareness and responsibility: towards promoting the sanctity and respect of all human and non-human life?

I would like to respond to the article “Seeking A Solution,” which appeared in the Observer staff section of the sexual harassment and rape issue. I chose this article because it brings to light some common misconceptions about the problems we are currently confrontation with.

The article begins by stating: “The anger and fervor that has sprung up around the issue of rape and sexual harassment in the last few weeks has great potential.”

Yet this line gives little indication for the sake of all of us involved, I wish to assert that “anger and fervor” are merely the most visible manifestations of our collective emotional response. With the raising of awareness on this issue, the full spectrum of human feeling has sprung up: guilt, anxiety, shame, anger, fear, sadness, pain and joy, helplessness and empowerment, to name a few. This is what is being felt, regardless of gender, age or ethnicity. Rarely are we ever prepared or capable of recognizing these responses, and it is all too easy for each one of us to quickly label and then throw aside our emotions.

In the first and second paragraphs of “Seeking A Solution” we are given two possible directions which the current rape and sexual harassment issue might take:

1) “If directed and tempered with care, it could raise awareness on our campus and work towards the eventual elimination of the problem of rape and sexual harassment. It could act as a major force for positive community change.”

2) “But this energy also holds a potential for creating a negative impact. If overblown, it could (a) lead to accusation innocent people, (b) a heightening of sexual tension between men and women, and (c) a general rise in suspicion between people who have no reason to mistrust each other. (d) In short, it could accomplish an end exactly opposite to that which it desires.”

My initial reaction to the second statement was one of agreement and sympathy. I certainly don’t want harsh words of Harry’s students rampanaging through campus pointing fingers at Joe Student and screaming “Rapist! Rapist!” As a returned to the initial word “overblown,” and the phrase “an end exactly opposite to” my imagination became more active and I envisioned a throng of female students somewhat similar to the angry mob that stormed the residence of Dr. Frankenstein. Yet instead of carrying torches and pitchforks, they wielded their words and their anger.

Instead of descending on the front door of a castle, they descended, howling, on the rear entrance of a hapless male student. I was immediately brought back to reality: such a thing is not done, or, if it is, has miraculously managed to escape the watchful eyes of the authorities of this country. Yet, men have been known to do this to women - with iron pipes, with baseball bats, just a good old pen, if they lack that creative flair.

THERE ARE NO INNOCENT PEOPLE.

This “Sexual Tension” that we are all so fearful of heightening...can hardly be more heightened, since the ultimate climax of this “Sexual Tension” is the act of rape itself. And if the act of rape is the crux of this tension, then what we really fear is the possibility of having this revealed to us: Of being so aware of this tension and having it be so explicitly present in our lives that we can feel it and taste it and sense it.

As the first step towards any solution is the recognition of the problem, and as the recognition of this problem reveals all of the masked “Sexual Tension” in our lives.

It becomes obvious that we are confronting a situation that already is “Overblown.” It appears to be an overwhelming situation within each of us, that rears its head in each of us differently: as anger, as fear, as defensiveness, as numbness.

We have no reason to trust each other. The very fact that almost every woman is raped, the very fact that every day persons of color are degraded by racist ignorance and brutalized by that nation’s history, will create a climate of mistrust among sisters and brothers, is certainly reason to mistrust each other.

This “Opposite End” that “Overblowing” the issue might create is already a reality. We are all mistrustful, and those of us who forgot to be so are commonly victimized. We are all tasking to this “Sexual Tension” whether we acknowledge it or not. We are all innocent people being accused of inhume crime, for we are conditioned from birth to dominate or be dominated.

We have had barely a fighting chance to seek refuge in each other, for we are too busy accusing and fighting each other.

Yet how much of us have begun the painful process of being honest about our own emotions, admitting that we are sexist, racist, violent...Who has even encouraged us to do so?

Another quote from “Seeking A Solution”: “The hysteria about sexual harassment has reached a disturbingly high, and correspondingly irrational level, one that discourages honest openness, and discussion.”

1) “Hysterical” is a term that has been employed through the centuries to invalidate female response to oppression.

2) “Irrational” is a term that has been used through the centuries to de legitimate female intellectual capability.

In using these two words to describe the climate surrounding sexual harassment, the authors invariably deny the validity of the emotion raised, in both females and males. The authors imply that hysteria and irrationality create an impasse towards “honesty, openness and dialogue.” Yet until we acknowledge these reactions as natural, gender neutral, responses to the irrational and hysterical act of rape, we will forever play the blame game, we will forever play the blame game, we will forever try to deal with this issue on a solely intellectual level, as we have been taught to do.

How long are we willing to avoid the central issue, which is ultimately within ourselves and the action we take? How can we begin to communicate with each other and let each other without defending ourselves, allowing the voice of pain to surface so that it might dispel?

Sexual problems and tension between men and women "are basically bedroom problems and must be solved in the bedroom."

How long are we capable of looking away, of keeping silent, of passing the responsibility, like a hot potato, in to the laps of the already downpressed?

Jeremy Miller points out, quite correctly, in "Sexual Harassment Section One Sided" that "men are not the sole perpetrators of sexual harassment." I have no problem acknowledging this. Yet I do have a problem with men's selective concern about what is considered characteristically male. In such a statement as "Man is a highly advanced, reasoning animal who is capable of self-reflection," the validity of female inclusion is rarely questioned or asserted by men. Yet when the statement "Man rapes" is issued, males feel the need to point out that females also rape. Would that every man had felt so much conviction in including the other half of the race in all previously issued statements over the past five hundred years?

I believe that most women, who are honest with themselves, admit to sexual harassment in one form or another. We, all, female and male, have opportunities to make ourselves heard. Men rape. Women pull power plays, play mind games, touch you when you don't want to be touched, and might even sit on an erection you never intended on having. Men rape.

Innocent, guilty, victim, victimizer, these distinctions are very real and need to be acknowledged. Fear, guilt, numbness, and anger, are emotions that must be given voice.

Yet, who are we struggling against, and who are we being honest with, are questions we must eventually ask ourselves. It is here that the womanizing, if possible, gentle, loving touch might be made.

A page of unedited observations from guest writers

November 16, 1990
The Bard Observer

SPANDEX'S RETURN

(part the seventh)

by ZZYXZ (David Steinberg)

A group of 8-2x2-1 people grabbed me and led me up to the altar. I looked to OMAR for help, but he was busy pretending that he didn't know me. They tied me up to the cross, or was it an addition sign? I saw above me: 4+4=3 4+4+4=2 4+4+6=4 4+4+8=6 4+4+4+4=0.

That gave me inspiration - Latin Squares.

"What, you think Euler was infallible, right?"

This being a keystone to their faith, they murmured absent. "Therefore," continuing the trap, "there belong to the box of Latin Squares for any k of the form k=4n+2."

More nodding of heads. I then told the scribe (positioned at the sacred chalkboard) to write down the following numbers - a 10x10 Crame-Latin Squares. [A note to the non-mathmatically inclined reader: please ignore the last half of PART THE SIXTH and this paragraph. Thank you]"Therefore," I concluded, "Euler was wrong."

There was a momentary pause. Suddenly, as though a switch was turned on, the most wonderful symbols! Don't you wish you could write as well as I can? Well you can!!!

Write ZZYXZ/Little Bunny Foo Foo Society/Barnard Amundale, NY 10514.

Follow my advice and you too can be a scribe for the all knowing, all loving, all powerful, bigger than a breadbox, SPANDEX, there was a mass exodus from the altar. CRIP/HO! OMAR came up to me. "Well done. I knew I could count on you." He did not mention his previous unfairness. I decided to lift it pass. For did it not say in THE GOOD BOOK, "Be true to both friends and foes. For the friends when confronted with truth will remain true to the friendly path. Similarly, true faith is opposed to the path of foolishness. Keep in the truth, and the foes will be able to keep their eyes on their path. The Detour Is Unavoidable." TDIU is seen frequently on SPANDEXian churches and other holy sites. This is the reason why I was true with OMAR and asked, "Why did we have to do that? Why is this trip really necessary?" In reply, he pointed behind me. There I saw a glowing vision of SPANDEX. He winked at me, and I knew that I was in this for the long run.

TO BE CONTINUED.

DOVER PLAINS

an alternative to abortion

BIRTHRIGHT

DISCERNING THE BOUNDARIES OF LEGAL ABORTION

FINISHED 2/14/90

N.O.B. 1230
Poems of the Week
by Eric Coates

Problem
i are you and
you am i
curious personhood
granted by
an odd division
inta pairs
here, and there,
and here and there
one a me versus
alla yous
what a bit of mind
sposed t'do?

Good Friday

The wind, grown over more chill, blows against your hands and brow, reaching down your side, your feet, and you feel as if you hurried toward some god. Your Life has only just begun.

Bret Ellis is Less Than Zero

by Mark Kuhar

Less Than Zero
by Bret Easton Ellis

A virtuoso first novel... What is perhaps most impressive about Less Than Zero, aside from Ellis' obvious skills and promising future, resides in the insipid surfaces of the aimless youth culture on display, their persuasive upper middle class reality. Never has the Hollywood version of success looked so frightening in a piece of contemporary literature or so damned to failure.

The novel carefully details the events of a college freshman returning from an exclusive private school in the east to his home in the hills above Los Angeles. Ellis recreates this world of the disturbed youth of California and their jaded amoral lives, where one is always searching for the ultimate high; no matter what the cost may be. The reader watches the novel unfold depicting the California youth and his endless journeys through nightclubs, parties, sexual conversations, and drug abuse.

Ellis depicts this world in a superb style whose passive detached narration is perfect not just for the book, but for the lives of the people mentioned. Less Than Zero is a passionately adolescent novel. Its very blackness, unmitigated even by humor which is the special province of youth, the literary equivalent of rock 'n roll despair.

"Seinfeld" worth a look, guys

by Jonathan Manitsky

Jerry Seinfeld has taken his comedy routine to the arena of television and will soon be made Emperor. Though it has become rather commonplace for a comedian to take his/her act to the boob tube, evident with "The Cosby Show," "Roseanne," and even Jackie Mason's failed "Chicken Soup," the combination that Seinfeld brings to the airwaves will easily surpass all of these past attempts.

Seinfeld on guys: "The great thing about guys is that they can be friends based on almost nothing. Just two guys will become friends just because they're two guys. That's almost all we need to have in common. Cause sports and women is all we really talk about. If there was no sports and no women, all guys would say is 'so, what's in the refrigerator?'"

Seinfeld on women's needs: "Women are subtle. Men are not subtle, but women are obvious. Men know what men want, women know what men want. What do men want? We want women!"

The show originally aired a year and a half ago but was taken off with plans for redesigning the format and reworking the characters. At the beginning of the summer, four new episodes were aired during the testing weeks of the season and received high ratings. Finally NBC has made up their minds to give this show the life it's been fighting for and has most definitely deserved. Come mid-season, not even Jerry is positive of the date, the show "Seinfeld" will start with thirteen brand-new episodes.

The formula that it has now embraced, as opposed to the original (though an addition of a character, subtle changes on established characters, and better camera angles are apparently the only differences), seems to have convinced the network that it will work. I am totally positive of it.

Seinfeld on calling: "One of the main ways kids resolve any dispute is by calling it. 'I want the front seat.' I wanted the front seat. I called it. And the other kid knows that he's got nothing to say. If there was a kid's court of law it holds up. 'Your honor, my client did ask for the front seat.' And the judge would ask, 'Did he call it?' Well, no—Bang, Case closed. Objection overruled.'"

The show fuses Seinfeld's offstage life in New York City and his on-stage comedy routine, relating the subject matter of each episode from the two different perspectives. Although Seinfeld is the main character of the show the supporting characters are no less essential. Kramer, his next door neighbor, played by Michael Richards, has to be seen to be fully appreciated. His ability to turn an ordinary line, a look, an entrance into pure laughter will leave you searching for the rewind/search button so you can bring it back and check it out again.

In one part of the novel a dog eats a cigarette butt symbolizing that Los Angeles is a decadent environment and even the animals act in sick, unnatural ways. One can only hope that Bret Easton Ellis did not simply follow the writers' maxim of writing what you know, but is instead a major new contributor to American fiction.

My final thoughts on Less Than Zero reflect my belief that growing up in a metropolis such as Los Angeles is perilous, prone to excess and deca- dence. It's no place to raise a child and the children who are raised there can easily be emotionally, intellectually, and spiritually scarred for life and consequently behave badly. Thumbs up to this latest Catcher in the Rye for the MTV generation.

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Thirty centuries of Mexican art at the Met

by Gregory Donovan

"Mexico: Splendors of Thirty Centuries" is the title of a special art exhibit at the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The exhibit attempts to document over 3,000 years of Mexican art work with close to 500 works, which were borrowed from numerous archaeological sites, churches, museums, and private collections from Mexico, the United States, and Europe.

The exhibit is divided into four parts: Pre-Columbian art, Viceroyal Art, 19th-century Art, and finally 20th-century art. I would like to comment on each section, because I think they vary in levels of competency.

The earliest and thus first section is the pre-Columbian section. The work of this period is shown through seven archaeological sites. Each site represents a principal indigenous culture, viewed at its cultural and artistic height. Included in these sites are: La Venta, which reveals the development in architecture, basketry, sculpures and works in jade; Izapa, known for its mysterious stone sculptures and altars; Teotihuacan, a huge planned city with painted walls and a rectilinear urban street plan; Monte Albán where the Zapotecs mastered skills in public architecture and large sculptures, El Tajín, Chichen Itza, and finally the Aztec city Tenochtitlan with palaces, monumental stone sculptures, polychromed vessels, feather mantles, painted books, and gold works which captured the interest of the Spanish conquistadors.

These sites are impressive to look at and much more advanced than one would expect. This section of the exhibit I think is one of the strongest.

The second section is entitled the Viceroyal Art. In this section we learn that the pre-Columbian cultures flourished for over 2500 years until they fell to the conquistadors in the early sixteenth century. The Spanish brought Christianity and European culture to Mexico, and the art they created was an extension of the European art work, which gradually mixed with the New World art.

Realistic missionaries taught Indian artists new principles, forms and styles. During the second half of the sixteenth century there was a huge decrease in the Indian population. Art suffered and turned into a more European genre.

Fortunately, during the seventeenth century Mexico started developing a national identity and used more non-European elements in its subject matter and style. Mexico was forming its own sense of art. These feelings peaked in the eighteenth century, with a developed sense of the Baroque style that embodied a lack of European orthodoxy.

The founding of the Royal Academy of San Carlos in 1785 was the expression of another influence from the old world. This neoclassical school, based loosely on European standards replaced the Mexican Baroque art work.

This section is the most difficult for many people to deal with. The invasion of the Spanish depressed us. We see the invasion and the infusion of Christianity as the death of the old Mexico. This section is poorly handled, in light of that.

The next section is the 19th-century art. In 1820, after a period of time in which the Mexicans, through armed conflict, cast off its colonial status, art work produced in this period was still centered around the academy, but formal artist began to paint in a native manner which was to influence the 20th-century painters. Mexican landscape became an important fraction in the art work of this period. At the end of the 19th-century José Guadalupe Posada, the first truly modern Mexican artist, emerged. He was the first of the modern Mexican artists.

In this section one can see the infusion of European ideas in Mexican painting, while also recognizing that the Mexican ideals alter and color these European concepts in a very definite manner.

The last section and the most exciting was the 20th-century art. The art work is rooted in the 1910 revolution and in the pervasive nationalism. Mexican artists of the 20th-century felt the need to establish a connection with pre-Columbian Mexico and in both their subject matter and technique.

One writer expresses his ideas on this section saying, "Programmatic art—expressing religious or secular beliefs—and wall painting were two constant elements in Mexican art, and in the twentieth century they reappeared in the great murals of Rivera, Orozco, and Siqueiros. Central to twentieth-century Mexican art are death and passion, narrative and satire. Modern painters were steeped in the art of previous methods, but reinterpreted themes and styles to express contemporary political and personal issues."

The Mexican show started in October and will run to January 13th, 1991. There are public programs, tours, and special recordings for the show. There is no extra admission for the exhibit. It is included in the regular $3 fare to enter the museum.

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RECRUITER INTERVIEWS ON CAMPUS

Thursday, November 29, 1990

Kline Commons Committee Room

For application and appointment, contact: 758-7539

Peace Corps

The Toughest Job You'll Ever Love.
Casino Bowling
For better or worse

by Jody Apap

Okay, so you're bored on a Friday night and would rather do your Lit homework than get messed up with the boneheads down the hall.

Well, come to think of it, the Lit homework sucks too. Never fear, instead of plodding through Joyce, how about donning a pair of slick shoes, laying your 8 bucks down and chucking a 12 pounder down the alley with hopes of winning $50 for one strike.

That's the new craze at 9-G lanes. It's called Casino Bowling and it's taking the Valley by storm.

Here's the scoop. For eight dollars (and 75c for the shoes) you get to play three games. The games are played according to the regular rules in terms of scoring -- spares, strikes, gutterballs, you know, the usual. However, there is a twist.

Mixed randomly through the regulation size white pins there are a few red, yellow, blue, and green pins. This is where it gets fun, because if there are certain combinations of colored pins in the rack, a strike can be worth from 50 cents to 50 smackers.

There are many combinations that can be winners, but I'll run through a couple to give you the gist of the game. If any of the colored pins is the head pin and you roll a strike, it's worth 6 if it's yellow, 12 if it's red, and 18 if it's blue. If it's green and you clear the rack, you win a free game.

Rah!

Then it gets a little bit more complicated. If either the 1 or the 2 pin is blue, red or yellow (no greens are allowed in the rack at all for this to apply) you win $1.50, if it's pins 1 and 3 it's two bucks. But remember, you gotta get a strike if you wanna win the cash.

Actually, you can win $1 if you get a spare when two of the pins were originally colored (except green), and 75c if one was colored.

The value for strikes rises up to fifty bucks if pins 1, 5, 7, and 10 are colored. However, the odds of you even getting the chance to roll at this combo is quite slim. On Friday night we didn't notice anyone in the entire place have that chance. But then again for only a dollar-fifty a Genny, we weren't paying that much attention.

Between the four of us we had the chance to win somewhere between twenty and thirty dollars, but due to our lack of finesse, we won ever so slightly less than that.

But hey, it's not whether you win or lose, it's how much money you make doing it, I mean how good you look, I mean whether you have fun or not.

Intramural Update
by Rowdy Doug Dowdy

In the beginning, all volleyball teams had unblemished records. After opening night on November 6, two teams continued their unbeaten status. Simple Pleasures dealt a death blow to Death Squad 15-0, 15-4, and 15-11. Past Our Prime showed some signs of life, defeating Hirsch 15-13 and 15-8. Woods Fine Dining took on an under-knowledged Blithewood Bullies team and won two games 15-6 and 15-2, but the Bullies figured out a bit of the game and came back to win the third 15-13.

Fard College has been selected as one of a limited number of colleges to participate in the Certs/Trident Spikefast Volleyball tournament. This is a 4-on-4 tournament, with regional play to be held in April at Princeton University. Prizes will be awarded to participants with the winners advancing to Princeton. More details will follow. We have also been asked to send an intramural team to an invitational tournament at Columbia-Greene Community College on November 17. Interested individuals need to contact Christa Shute, Jody Apap or Rowdy D. during intramural volleyball night.

Floor hockey will begin on November 14; league games will also be played on November 28 and 29.

Home B-ball games on December 1st and 6th.
Be There!!!
Hudson Valley Studies
continues from page 3
gram has also been active in producing books, such as "The Livington Legacy," based upon the Symposium held in June of 1990 on the family legacy of Clermont. Clermont is a historical residence in Germantown which is maintained and preserved by New York State.

The hope of the program as a whole is to develop materials which may be used by people who are interested in the region. Wiles explained that local historical material is often very romantic and fictional. However, local history provides students a sense of immediacy. As Wiles and Pierce explained in the opening essay of the journal's first issue, "Such self-identity as we experience and much more of our experience is attained by participation in the near at hand." As Wiles said, "No matter where you go to college, there should be some connection with the community," citing the many students here at Bard who have become involved with local politics and community projects.

Hudson Valley Studies is geared to students interested in attending a broad-based education drawing on the interactions of various subject matters and in exploring the outside influences which affect any setting. The Hudson Valley Regional Review, too, deserves attention on campus as it adds much interest through its essays, poetry and book reviews.

Middle East
continues from page 2
I was surprised and disappointed that there was not an overwhelming show of people and support." However, after reflecting on the events of the conference more seriously, Leonard realized that "this was only the first step of an important movement against a big and a big issue.

Marina Seritin, another Bard student who attended the conference, agreed with Leonard that it was too bad more students did not attend the conference. However, Seritin was pleased that "over 25 universities and colleges were represented. Considering that fighting has not even started yet, the fact that students are organizing is important."

Seritin is active in the Bard organizing devoted to the conflict in the Middle East, as well as the larger issue of United States foreign policy in general. Students Against Intervention Policies (SAIP), SAIP, in addition to attending off-campus events, sponsors discussions, speakers, and debates at Bard. They have a number of events planned for the end of the semester. The next Bard event that SAIP is sponsoring is a discussion on Monday, November 19 at 7:00pm in Olin 102. Josh Phillips, a Bard student and certified draft counselor, and Leo Smith, professor of music at Bard, will discuss college students and the draft as well as the nature of war in general.

Seritin encourages any students who are interested in working with SAIP or need information about activities to contact her at Box 1015, or 758-2446.

Health care
continued from page 1
...those students who don't know this knowledge. In her previous search for a full-time nurse practitioner, Serkin came across many applicants who didn't understand students of the present generation.

Another concern of students is that the counseling service is not open on weekends because of understaffing. The infirmary has employed some people to be on-call for emergencies, such as a suicide attempt or drug overdose, whom the administration can easily contact. Security offers transportation to Northern Dutchess Hospital. However, there are no on-call personnel for medical emergencies because of limited staff.

Despite the infirmary's many limitations, Skiba believes that Bard's health center serves its purpose. "College health services are limited in general because any college's main interest is education," she says. For example, according to the director, most colleges, such as Vassar College, do not have a pharmacist on staff. Some do not supply prescription medications. In most cases, the students are responsible for picking up their prescriptions at a local drug store. (At Vassar, each prescription is

Sexuality journal
continues from page 2

Lilli Matus "Screams, Howls, and Middlemarch," and Joshua Gans's "Rubber Wars: Struggles over the Condom in the United States." As the director of the center, most colleges, such as Vassar College, do not have a pharmacist on staff. Some do not supply prescription medications. In most cases, the students are responsible for picking up their prescriptions at a local drug store. (At Vassar, each prescription is delivered.) But because Bard is fairly isolated, a pharmacist is needed on staff, and most medication is supplied on-campus and pre-packaged. Students who need prescriptions on weekends, or who need medications that the infirmary does not supply, can charge at the Red Hook drug store on their student identification cards.

Serkin feels that the health service is expanding gradually. Shelley Morgan recently ordered a computer, with the director said the infirmary has been requesting "for a few years," Skiba also hopes to add a bed in the infirmary along with a conference room, but she does not expect these changes until far into the future.

Don't forget to send in professor evaluation letters!

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Housemate Wanted: starting Dec. or Jan. Share lovely 2 bdrm apartment with me and 2 cats in Rhinecliff. Female, non-smoker preferred. $300/ mo. includes utilities. Call Cindy, x417 or 876-5738.

Any bassists, drummers, vocalists, or other guitarists interested in forming a funk rock band for Bard engagements, or just to practice, with possible other potentials call Mark D. at 757-3005.

A dozen, you say, why don't you do drugs with Henry and Jim? Contact box 102 or 1079.

Congratulations to the women's varsity volleyball team on a great season and even better uniforms. A fan.

Hey folks, I'm not really one of "them," at least, not totally. Gimme a call before I'm forced to convert entirely. -Jen, the girl with the long hair over in the gate house.

U.S. Troops out of the Middle East, NAPALM IN!

SWF Freshman seeks a good man must be 5'7" or smaller. Should be either a photographer or a banker. Needs to have received soft lips from a parent. Unemployed children need not respond. Send resumes to box #502.

To everyone who participated in the Special Olympics coaching workshops thank you for making it a success that it was. -Gregg Beratan.

Dear "R.T." You can have her, if you think you can handle it (too bad choice). I personally doubt it, since you obviously lacked the sac to leave your name on your pussey little note. As for the implicit, my assented "your actions will follow you full circle round, the higher the leap, the harder the ground."

Mary had a little too much.

November 16, 1990
The Bard Observer

3 room apartment. Share bath & kitchen. $400 a month in Germantown. Available immediately to female. (518) 537-4981.

If anyone lost a ring on Parent's Day, please contact the Assistant Dean of Students, Beth Frumkin.

I need a ride to Boston! Over Thanksgiving break. I'm trying for, if you can give me a ride to, from, or both ways. Box 692, South Hall 110.

Wanted: Used computer at a reasonable price. Jonathan, Box 774 or 758-1370.

Travel Sales Representative. Wanted, outgoing, aggressive, self-motivated individual, to handle Winter and Spring break trips on campus. For more information call Student Travel Services at 1-800-645-6489.

Jake's Bikeshop. Repairs, parts, tuneups, etc. Certified professional mechanic. Call now — reasonable rates. 757-5006.

Carribbean trip by National Science Foundation, 2-4 credits from NC State U.; 1-2 weeks in Dec., Jan., or Apr.; call Prof. Kimberley (919)775-7831.

Death row prisoner, caucasian male, age 44, desires correspondence with either male or female college students. Wants to form a friendly relationship and more or less exchange past experiences and ideas. Will answer all letters and exchange pictures. Prison rules require your full name and address on the outside of the envelope. Jim Jeffers, Box B-38640, Florence, AZ 85222.

Wanted: Musicians wanted for 30's band-tango, waltz, beguine, songs considered, especially brass, violins, smart piano, and smooth snare. For local gigs, Bard gigs, and/or fun. Contact Pola Chapelle, 986-4166.

Disiland band looking for pianist and a trombone player. Contact Oliver at 758-1658.

1986 Pontiac 6000. 60,000 miles. Excellent condition. $5,000 or best offer. 914-757-3833.
The antiquated notion of an objective reality

by Emily Horowitz

It seems to have become fashionable to label the Observer as "biased." There is a sentiment that the "lick" of the Observer serves merely to further the secret agenda of its editors. At Bard, the level of debate has not matured past accusations of "bias" in reaction to the paper's claim of objectivity. This debate must become more sophisticated, and not continue to nitigate personal attacks and slander.

The bias question is a phenomenon found exclusively at Bard and in the Bard Observer. It is, in fact, being addressed in many areas of academia, where there is now a growing debate surrounding claims to "objectivity." In law, economics, and certain literature, there are movements that challenge such claims. To claim to be "objective" is now seen as no more than an attempt to claim to be right. As the authority of objectivity is waning, we increasingly see writers use the device of a "story" to relay their subjective experience rather than claims to relay or represent objective reality. The point of this movement is not to advocate telling fictitious stories in order to address, say, an economics question, but to underscore the fact that essentially we have always been telling stories. The difference is that we now view them with a little more skepticism. Even in the relatively "objective" field of accounting, the authority of the "unbiased" statistic is in question. As the size of the S&L crisis becomes apparent, there is a movement to rethink how such basic claims of financial fact are formulated. It is a very interesting time, but, unfortunately, the debate at Bard concerning the Observer is left out in the cold.

People who constantly accuse the Observer of bias still cling to this antiquated notion of an "objective" reality. Any story will include an author's bias. Even the selection of names, dates, and other "facts" is a subjective process. Such facts are selected at the expense of other, maybe equally important, facts. I think the dispute lies in our differing definitions of "bias" and "objectivity."

What we mean at the Bard Observer when we claim that a report is objective is that the author basically tried to chronicle the events and also to get reactions from both sides of any dispute. I do not believe that anybody here is so presumptuous as to claim that some type of higher objective reality is attained.

It is no accident that newspapers have reporters that write "stories." There should be a recognition that a reporter supplies nothing more than he or she experiences when covering a story. Human consciousness is nothing more than the construction of meaning. What is "meaningful" is the product of an infinite process of subjective judgments. Reporters are no different. To cry "bias" after every article is written implies that an "objective" or higher truth is attainable.

The Observer also tries to ensure a relative type of "objectivity" by printing just about anything. If you have a point of view, express it. At this time when the student government is so concerned about the inadequacy of funds for campus activities, it is troublesome that people are saying we should establish a second paper because the Observer is so biased. This would be a blatant misallocation of funds. Few have used the resources available at the Observer to express their views, although it is completely willing to print them.

What could a new paper do? Would this new paper be able to produce the "objective" truth that the Observer so deviously hides? Are the people who claim bias those lucky few whose subjective experience has allowed them to see objective reality better than the rest of us?

We are not The New York Times, and if you've got a problem with the Observer or anything else, we'll print it. A paper that will print anything is, in its totality, as unbiased as you can get.

Letters to the Editor

Apology for Birthright

To the Editor:

I owe an apology to Birthright. My statement on the "reprehensible" methods used by Birthright was inserted into my letter after being "enlightened" by a number of friends. I was a victim and a participant in the hypocrisy I condemned.

Robert Sharkey

Artice slanted

To the Editor:

Your article in the November 2, 1990 issue on handicap facilities at Bard cannot be applauded for accuracy and appears to be slanted one way.

Dick Griffiths, Physical Plant
open letter to students, faculty, and administration regarding the results of the poll taken in front of the Student Office on November 8, 1990, by the Friends of Leonardo

Thank you to those students who, though they would not or could not pursue a course of study in Italian language study, expressed their support for the idea of having a course in Italian language study at Bard. Thank you also, to members of the faculty and administration who signed the open letter opposing the poll.

The results of the poll are formidable. Of 418 who signed, 122 students signed, 11 faculty members, and 166 administration members. The total number of votes cast in favor of Italian study at Bard were offered at Bard.

Even if we bow to the administrative skepticism and/or cynicism and disinterest in the result of the poll, we are still a total of 40 students committed to the study of Italian out of less than half the student body polled. We hope to continue the poll in order to reach all students. Intuitively, I would guess that we would gain at least another 100 students who would commit as well. Again, using the skeptics’ formula, we would have an additional 30 students to add to the original 40, making the irreducible number of committed students.

Of course, there are biases and there are priorities and all of them have their arguments. Nonetheless, there is a point at which the requests of students, and in some cases, I was told, their parents, must be heard and should play a part in any discussion. I understand that a petition signed by 12 or 15 students and submitted to the Language and Literature Department in 1993 was the impetus behind a request for Italian by the department of the COV (Committee on Vacancies). Obviously, the number of students interested in the study of Italian has increased dramatically or perhaps it was never originally tapped. (High school study of Italian seems on the increase. Two visiting students with parents in town signed the poll that day because they expect to continue their study of Italian at college.)

I am not embarrassed for me, a nonacademic, to discuss the importance of the Italian language and its literature and culture, but I will make some observations.

If Bard College is to pursue seriously the cross-disciplinary language program it highlights in its 90-91 catalog, i.e., “to reach out and provide sophisticated upper-level foreign language education to students from all fields so that they may become literate in a language other than English,” what better, more eloquent creative writing project than that between Italian and Art History. Half the art treasures of the western world are found in Italy. Considerably more if you were to dig up some back yard vegetable gardens in Eruscan cities and Volterra. Bard can boast of a strong, nationally respected Art History program. Its members have been critical members on the American Council of Learned Societies, and on the styling of the field of Italian language studies for almost twenty years. From my conversations with them, their frustration is believable and understandable.

An intensive examination of Italian film classics is a regular part of the curriculum of the Film Department. It is being offered this semester in film history. How wonderful if students could have understood what they heard, the nuances and subtleties, and not be distracted by inadequate summaries called subtitles. Italian is the language of western music—operatic, classical, and Italian words. How fitting to offer “allegro vivace e sorridente” a cross-curricular seminar in music and Italian.

Nicola Michiaveli and political science; Galileo Galilei and physical laws. ...The premises remain to this day, that in order to master the discipline with Italian are limitless.

Practically speaking the next step for the Friends of Leonardo is to submit the results of our poll to the Language and Literature Department and to the members of the COV. I urge those of you who spoke to me and feel deeply about his request to write letters to the Chairman of Language and Literature, Professor Faron, and send copies of your letter to COV members: Professors Skiff, Rockman, Baruah, Bonet, and student representatives Melissa Cahoon and Noah Coleman.

Those students who complained to me about their lack of success in arranging tutorials in Italian language and literature should speak again to their advisors. If you were satisfied after your meeting with your advisor and Levine, then I urge you to make an appointment with the President. He has the responsibility to defend the image of Bard as a responsible, progressive learning center and if promises are being made that cannot be fulfilled, he should know about it. Lon Borstein is a reasonable man, dedicated to the growth of Bard as a credible center for the arts, sciences, and culture and always has been accessible to the students and their parents.

The original proposal for Italian study at Bard which was made by the Division of Languages and Literature on September 7, 1989, to the Committee on Vacancies, was brief and precise: “...for Italian, a language very reasonably requested every year by students interested in literature, art history and other fields, and a language particularly important to us now that we have the Irma Brandes chair at Bard.”

The late beloved Professor Irma Brandes was an internationally recognized Dante scholar who taught at Bard and managed at Bard for many years. During those years, she continually requested that the study of Italian become part of the curriculum at Bard. In an essay by the Italian Language Program of Montalvo, she compares Professor Brandes’ study of Dante with T.S. Eliot, saying: “Her work is the most suggested of all. She is one of the first to have read of the theme of the ladder which leads to God.” We believe Irma Brandes, our Guardian Angel, sits on the top rung of that ladder as you read this, looking down on Bard College for which she had such great warmth and affection, shaking her head in disbelief, in wonderment. She will help us if we continue to make our voices heard. Parla italiano che l’Iddio ti capisce!

Pola Chapelle and the Friends of Leonardo

The Friends of Leonardo from Vincenzo will have an Italian table at dinner time in Kline. Tuesday evenings is being targeted. (We welcome all faculty who still have it, is represented by the chart on the wall of the model Tavistock, and use us. Don’t worry about how limited your knowledge of Italian may be. There’s no one to grade us on that.

“Offensiveness” of Vocabulary for Sex addressed

To the Editor:

In the Nov. 2 Observer, Jeremy R. Miller expressed anger about Jed Kusner’s and my piece entitled “Vocabulary for Sex at Bard” (Oct. 23). As other students were similarly offended, I would like to clarify the reasoning behind our treatment of the subject.

Mr. Miller suggests that “all these pieces offer is the opinion that the man is less than a woman in the sexual arena,” which he feels “degrades men,” as “many women pressure men or engage in manipulate situations to get sex.” Moreover, he believes that our bias originates in an attitude that “any type of sex is that is not between two loving individuals is due to some man manipulating a defenseless woman into bed to fulfill his twisted, empty desires.”

Our piece opens: “Here is a vocabulary list so that you can better describe some familiar sexual situations at Bard.” “Vocabulary for Sex at Bard” is, as stated, a description of some common situations. It is not, nor does it claim to be, all-inclusive. Neither is it weighed down with a corresponding list of disclaimers. The vocabulary list is about coercive sex. Non-sexual sex is coercive, but non-coercive sex is irrelevant to an article about coercion, and as such, is not addressed. Similarly, not all men are sexually coercive, but those who are not are irrelevant to this piece.

I am gender-specific here, as we are not sometimes in the vocabulary list, because coercive sex is, in the vast majority of cases, gender-specific. In his letter, Mr. Miller suggests that I check the copyright date on the psychology books I used to develop “stone age ideas” about sex. He fails to recognize that I am a faculty representative; however, their power on the committee is no greater or less than that of any of the students. Furthermore, it is not implied, in any way, that men and women have overcome their traditional roles. However, denying reality makes it more difficult to change reality. In reality, men and women are still conditioned in gender-specific ways, and they often behave accordingly. Of course, there are always exceptions. I am sure situations exist in which women coerce men into sex. However, sexual coercion was made in such an overwhelming majority of cases, that to add to every mention of such coerced sex in the dictionary, “Women are sexually coercive too,” is to offer a dangerous distortion from the actual problem. Moreover, in my experience, women who still have it, are uncomfortable with topics such as rape and sexual harassment often mention this potential role reversal as a deliberate effort to end serious discussion of the subject at hand.

While I believe that gender neutrality and disclaimers regarding men coerced by women would have been inappropriate to the vocabulary list specifically, I regret that sexual harassment of women was not addressed somehow in the sexual harassment pages. Unfortunately, none of the students involved with the pages was familiar, with the topic or knew of men who had been harassed.

Ultimately, this neither a battle between the sexes nor a competition. An abused man deserves the same consideration as an abused woman, but concern for one should not be interpreted as lack of concern for the other. The issues addressed on these pages are not “women’s issues,” but issues affecting both. The understanding of sexual coercion of women should prove beneficial to a male victim of coercion.

The main purpose of the vocabulary list is to provoke dialogue about and questioning of behavior patterns firmly established that they are rarely examined. Ideally, this will help victims and potential victims recognize abusive situations. It will help us create an atmosphere in which we feel free to contact any of the following people either in person or through campus mail: Karen Fernandez, Danielle Costamani, Joshua Kaufman, Shelley Morgan, Katherine Moog, Simeon Sattar, Olivier de Beochtor, Jim Trauth, Gladys Warren.

Thank you

Joshua Kaufman
Chairperson, Student Life Committee

Please relax your computer.
Weekly Community Information Newsletter

Brought to You By The Dean of Students

Coffee House:
The Women's Center is sponsoring a coffee house on Thursday, November 14 at 9:00 PM in Manier.

Autumn Fest is here:
Thursday, November 15 through Saturday, November 17. See article on page 3 for details.

Musical Activities Group:
M.A.G. will hold an open concert for music, performance, tape-playing, film showing, artwork-displaying... Arrange something ahead of time or just show up with something to share. The next open concert is Friday, November 16th at 9:30 PM in Brook House. Contact Paul Winkel via campus mail for more information.

Tibetan Ritual Workshops:
Rescheduled from October 26. On November 16, Dr. Lin Lerner, Ph. D., will give a workshop in practices based on models derived from Tibetan ritual. Applicable to people interested in dance, music, anthropology, art, religion, philosophy, art history, and Asian culture studies... Time: 10:00 AM, Location: Brook House.

Dance Theatre IV 1990:
A performance consisting of senior and faculty choreography will be presented on November 17, 18, 19, 20 at 8:00 PM in the Dance Studio of the Avery Arts Center... No reservations are necessary.

Distinguished Scientist Lecture Series:
"Winston J. Brill, research and development innovator will speak on Bio-Technology and Plant Agriculture on November 17 at 2:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium.

Minority Studies Lecture:
Antonio Benitez Rojo, Dept. of Spanish Language and Literature, Amherst College, will speak on Carnival as a Cultural Paradigm. On November 19 at 6:30 PM in Olin 201.

German Fiction Lecture:
On Tuesday, November 20, at 8:00 PM, Prof. Ernestine Schlant will give a talk titled: The Shifting Patterns of Remembering and Forgetting the Past in West German Fiction. The talk will be held in the Art History Room of the Olin Building. Schlant is a member of the department of German and Russian at Montclair State College and is the author of Hermann Broch (University of Chicago Press). She is also the wife of Senator Bill Bradley of New Jersey.

Literature Division Lecture:
The Division of Languages and Literature presents a lecture by Prof. Jack Zipes of the University of Minnesota entitled A Second Glance at Little Red Riding Hood. "The transformation of an oral folk tale, which celebrates the maturation of a young woman, into a literary tale, which aims to civilize young girls in a violent manner." Wednesday, November 28 in Olin 102 at 8:00 PM.

Performance: Guy Yarden and Doug Henderson:
7:00 PM on Wednesday, November 28 in Brook House. Guy and Doug are Bard alumni who perform regularly at P.S. 122 in New York City. Doug also plays with the Spongehead Experience. This concert will consist of improvised solos and duos. Before the concert, at 6:00 PM in Brook House, there will be an informal listening/discussion session for open music, or just come check out other people's music. Guy and Doug will play excerpts from their forthcoming CD Exquisite Corpses From P.S. 122.

Bard Papers:
The Bard Papers is seeking submissions for the 1990-91 issue. We are looking for work from all fields, done in or outside of class, including original papers, senior project excerpts, fiction, poetry, artwork, photography. The deadline is November 21, 1990. Please send to Kim Miller, Box 901, Campus Mail.

Riverdance Auditions:
Riverdance, the regions newest dance company, announces company auditions for its upcoming 1991 season. Founded in 1989, Riverdance was conceived to bring quality classical and contemporary dance to the northern Dutchess and Ulster County areas. Open auditions for dancers will be held on Sunday, November 18, between 2 and 4:00 PM at the Rhinebeck Dance Center in Astor Square Mall, Rhinebeck. For more information, call Michele Ribble at 876-3303.

Weekend Movies
Showings are at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM in the Student Center. The first showing is always nonsmoking.

This Weekend:
Friday, November 16: Mystery Train.
Saturday, November 17 at 8:30 PM: Footloose
Sunday, November 18: Malcolm X (a documentary co-sponsored by BBSO)

Next Weekend:
Thanksgiving Vacation, no movies this week.

Instead of wasting paper by hanging posters all around campus, announce your event in the Weekly Community Information Newsletter!

Calendar of Events

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday 17</th>
<th>Sunday 18</th>
<th>Monday 19</th>
<th>Tuesday 20</th>
<th>Wednesday 21</th>
<th>Thursday 22</th>
<th>Friday 23</th>
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<tr>
<td>Morning: Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, &amp; Rhinebeck</td>
<td>6:00 PM Ecumenical Worship Service Chapel</td>
<td>6:00 PM Environmental Club</td>
<td>6:00 PM Amenity International Olin</td>
<td>5:00 PM Spanish Table Olin</td>
<td>4:25 PM, 7:25 PM, &amp; 8:40 PM</td>
<td>Bard van to Rhinecliff train station</td>
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<td>2:00 PM Science Lecture</td>
<td>7:00 PM Aesthetics Anonymous Asp湖南 302</td>
<td>Committee Room Kline Commons</td>
<td>6:00 PM Observer News staff meeting Kline Commons</td>
<td>6:00 PM Russian Table College Room</td>
<td>5:00 PM General deadline for submissions to The Bard Observer</td>
<td>6:30 PM Bard van to Poughkeepsie train station</td>
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<td>9:00 — 10:30 PM Trip to Hudson Valley Manor, Kingston</td>
<td>7:10 PM Writing Tutors Albee Annex 100</td>
<td>7:00 PM Debate Club Kline Commons</td>
<td>7:10 PM Writing Tutors Albee Annex 100</td>
<td>7:00 PM Alcove Annex 302</td>
<td>7:00 PM Movies Student Center (See Above)</td>
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<td>8:00 PM Dance Theatre IV Avery Dance Studio</td>
<td>7:19, 8:20, &amp; 9:30 PM Van meets train at Rhinecliff station</td>
<td>7:00 PM Women's Center Meeting Student Center</td>
<td>7:10 PM Writing Tutors Albee Annex 100</td>
<td>7:00 PM Christian Meeting Bard Chapel Basement</td>
<td>7:00 PM Flute Choir Bard Chapel</td>
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<td>9:00 PM Autumn Fest Movie Footloose Student Center</td>
<td>7:30 &amp; 9:00 PM Movies Student Center (See Above)</td>
<td>8:00 PM Student Forum Meeting Kline Commons</td>
<td>8:00 PM Observer Photo staff meeting Albee lounge</td>
<td>7:10 PM Writing Tutors Albee Annex 100</td>
<td>7:10 PM Writing Tutors Albee Annex 100</td>
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<td>9:00 PM Autumn Fest Semi-Formal Dance D.J. by Awesome Audio Student Center</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>8:00 PM Dance Theatre IV Avery Dance Studio</td>
<td>8:00 PM Dance Theatre IV Avery Dance Studio</td>
<td>8:00 PM German Fiction Lecture Olin Art History Room</td>
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12:00 NOON Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering December 1 through December 7, 1990 due in the Dean of Student's office