

# OBSERVER

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# THE BARD observer

Annandale-on-Hudson, New York, 12504 - Sept. 20, 1996 - Issue 1, Volume 7

"This time, we  
mean it."

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"Point of information": Gretchen Wilson at the Forum.

Photo by: Caroline Burghardt

## Furor at the Forum

By Jeanne Swadosh

On Wednesday, September 11, Bard students participated in democracy at its best (or worst) at the Budget Forum held at Kline Commons. Eight hostile amendments were submitted by representatives of clubs whose members felt that they did not receive enough funding for the fall semester from the Planning Committee.

None of the hostile amendments brought before the Forum were passed by the students in attendance. However, in a vote of 63-10-16 the nascent African Students Organization (ASO) was allowed to resubmit its amendment because it had been written to encompass two semesters.

The ASO's lack of funding brought up questions on the precedence of older, more established clubs over newer clubs. Several other recently-organized clubs received substantially less money than requested.

Of the eight hostile amendments, the one submitted by the ASO

received the greatest response. Charges of racism were directed at the college, although not by the members of the ASO. The representatives emphasized that the goal of the ASO is to "include each and every student in every event we host here," as a way of educating fellow students about the cultures of Africa. Representatives also stressed the inevitability of more African students arriving at Bard in the future.

"I say to you, students of Bard, the future of this organization is in your hands. Embrace it. Don't destroy it," said Nhlanhla Ndebele, in a passionate appeal which incited much applause.

The Earth Coalition (EC), which also included the Green Crew, requested a total of \$850. The two groups both received no funding from the Planning Committee as a result of failure to schedule an interview. The money was not solicited from the Emergency Fund but from funds allocated for the Bard Journal of Social Sciences, which received \$3,600, making it the fourth highest in funding. The EC received strong support from Eva Olsgard, the Planning Committee chair.

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## Student Rally Congregates on Leon's Lawn

by Sean O'Neill

Yesterday, a hundred students gathered outside the Ludlow Administration offices to protest President Leon Botstein's decision last spring to deny tenure to Prof. Kathleen Barker, a professor of psychology and an organizer of the gender studies interdisciplinary program. For fifty minutes, a noontime crowd listened to students, mostly psychology majors, demand a reconsideration of the decision. Nine professors are up for tenure evaluation this year. Those denied tenure must leave after one year.

The hundred students then walked to President Botstein's home, chanting, "You have no choice, hear our voice!" After hand-delivering a petition to him, the students quietly talked with Botstein for around thirty minutes. He told them that they could complain to the Board of Trustees and ask them to reverse his decision. Appeals to the Board have happened twice before, both times unsuccessfully. Botstein called the crowd "a terrific tribute to Kathleen Barker," while adding that he thought he had done "the right thing" when denying her tenure.

Before meeting Botstein, the students had an open microphone at which anyone could speak about their dissatisfaction with the tenure process at Bard. Although other professors who had recently been denied tenure were mentioned by name — such as Daron Hagen, Amy Cheng, Chris Callanan, and Jamie Romm — most of the speakers focused on the case of Kathleen Barker. Many personal testimonies were given in emotionally charged language. Eva Olsgard charged that Botstein was listening to already tenured reactionaries in the faculty, who were mostly men, and she said two male professors, when critiquing her work, "tried to murder my soul and demean me as a student." An exchange student from South Africa, Nhlanhla Ndebele, complained of the "injustice" in the arrangement of power between the faculty and the administration, as shown by recent decisions.

One of the chief organizers, Stacey

## Tenure

By Anna-Rose Mathieson and Nathan Reich

Four professors were up for permanent tenure last spring, but only Li-Hua Ying (Language and Literature) received it. President Leon Botstein denied tenure to Kathleen Barker (Social Science), Amy Cheng (Art) and Daron Hagen (Art), though all were recommended for tenure by student and faculty evaluation committees. Hagen was denied tenure and based on what Botstein called "a mutual decision" a new position was created for him. Barker and Cheng, however, are given only one more year by their faculty contracts before they leave the college.

Though Botstein says that "restraint and caution are well advised" in making tenure decisions, dismay has been expressed about some of his recent judgments. Botstein refused six of seven candidates for tenure in the last two years, while he granted eight of nine candidates between 1990 and 1994.

Barker received unanimous recommendation for tenure from her division, yet, with the advice of Levine, Botstein refused to grant it. Botstein says that the expectations are higher than they were in the past. The market is more competitive, the pool is larger. He also points out that we "live with the consequences of tenure decisions made twenty, thirty years ago. I'm not sure if we can ever be guilty of setting our sights too high for the students of this college."

Both the Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) and student-run Educational Policies Committee (EPC) use four criteria to guide their evaluation of a candidate for tenure: teaching, advising and interaction with students; progress and accomplishment in their field; interaction with colleagues; and contributions to the life of the college. The FEC observes teacher's classroom performance, while both the FEC and the EPC solicit oral testimony from students and faculty and examine student evaluations. The FEC, EPC and the Dean of Academics present a recommendation to the president. He makes the final decision. A professor dissatisfied with the outcome can appeal to the Board of Trustees.

There are some who have lost faith in the entire tenure system. Bennington College abandoned it. The argument against permanent tenure is twofold. First, once tenure is awarded, it is very difficult to rescind it. Second, once tenure is granted, the incentive to perform and advance in one's field may be removed. Botstein explains that a professor would have to be convicted of murder or come to class drunk everyday for a professor with tenure to be fired.

The Faculty Handbook states that tenure is a means to "freedom of teaching and research and of extramural activities", and provides professors with "a sufficient degree of economic security" (*Evaluation Procedures for Faculty, Ref. I.5.3*). Philosophy professor Garry Hagberg concurs, adding that "tenure is not an end in itself but the by-product of a rich, full, serious, wholly committed academic life."

Despite the objections raised, Botstein believes "my opinion of the tenure system is irrelevant. I have an obligation to administer it."

Ann Turyn, a professor in the arts division, is up for tenure this fall. Any student who wants to share their opinion is highly encouraged to provide oral testimony before the FEC or EPC and write to Dean Levine (or drop in for tea). Students are also encouraged to write and testify about Michele Frank, Melanie Nicholson, Craig Smith, John Brockopp, Jill Chafetz, and Sarah Willie who will be considered for rehiring. Also being evaluated are Franz Kempf and Sanjib Baruah, who are up for promotion. Share your opinions with Stuart Levine and the Bard Observer while they can help to make these decisions.

Meadows, attested to Kathleen Barker's compassion when retelling how Barker, her adviser, was one of the only faculty members to support her when another professor allegedly harassed her. Meadows reminded the crowd that in 18 years no psychology professor had been granted tenure, and she urged students to have their parents complain to the Administration. Botstein, she said, will "listen to Daddy's MasterCard."

One student shouted that only "20 percent of tenured professors are women." A senior faculty member told the Observer that at the September full-faculty meeting Botstein reaffirmed his commitment to "giving special attention" to increasing the number of women hired and kept for teaching jobs.

Prof. Adolfas Mekas said, "I'm very, very happy that this is happening. I've been

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## Flik has Arrived

By Julilly Kohler-Hausmann and Betsy Norlander

What does this mean to Bard students? The produce is fresh, the mashed potatoes are real, we even hear that the corn is straight off the cob and now you can get two times the juice in one trip. Most students seem to agree that the overall quality of food has improved, but there are still some complaints.

From talking to students and looking at the answers they gave in the questionnaire we distributed last Wednesday, many people agree that the variety of food is suffering as its quality improves. Nobody is happy about the lines which have been known to wrap all the way around the juice machines, especially when there isn't even the guarantee of a slice of pizza once the front is reached. These are the things that students note most consistently, but when a new company takes over it's certain there will be changes that the student body is not aware of. Do we care about the radical alterations in the process by which our food travels from grill to plate, and the work force behind it? Of 150 students and professors surveyed, quality of food was overwhelmingly ranked as the first priority, while a startling 83 people ranked Employee/Management relations least important. One third of those polled were admittedly ignorant about this relationship. Furthermore, we received comments

indicating resentment that this question was asked at all: "Why are you asking me this?" "Why do I care?" And what are we to make of not "applicable"? There are grounds for concern. The people who work for Flik were reluctant to discuss working conditions under the new management. There remains a great deal of confusion, some of which will inevitably be worked out with time. Much of the current management team is transitional and will be leaving in the near future.

For those who work in Kline, the break with six years of Wood management style has been a jarring experience. Flik's preparation and presentation of food, although more appealing, is incredibly labor intensive. For example, the smaller serving receptacles in the salad bar need to be refilled two or three times as often. In order to have fresh vegetables, the kitchen is busy processing huge quantities of produce; mashing the potatoes that used to come from a box or cutting the corn off the cob. Flik has much higher standards than Wood and demands much more of its workers.

Their management approach is less hands on and less personal than what employees were used to under Wood. In addition to readjusting to the 'Flik way,' student employees have explained that at times it is not even clear what the 'Flik way' is. Due to confusion in management, works have periodically been stuck

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## Notebook

By Sean O'Neill

Bard's Rugby team lost by 6 to 9 to Columbia University on Sunday. Rugby games attract more fans here than any other team sport. One theory — Bard students generally think of themselves as clumsy and expect they would hurt themselves if they played sports. At last, Bardians have found a sport that's so violent and allows for so little padding that it presents the maximum possibility for would-be-jocks to injure themselves. Delighted fans noted three calls for Emergency Medical Technicians during the game.

Bard's Public Relations Department is keeping an eye out for a special edition of the education supplement in The New York Times. The newspaper has been periodically printing special sections that promote itself for having lasted a hundred years (without a comics section). Word has it that the Times may cite Bard as being a model college for the nation during the century to come. As you know, our thousand-person campus is novel for having only two television sets with good reception, two or three sports teams with a full complement of players, and no one who wants to outlaw abortions. The Times may have seen the future of American education, and its chosen model seems like a finishing school for new subscribers.

Last spring a couple donated a "dynamic sculpture" to the college that was placed in front of the Fairbairn offices of the Journal of the History of Sexuality. The arms of the statue move mechanically in what appears to simulate a plant on the ocean floor. This sculpture is a near duplicate — give or take an arm — from another sculpture located in Short Hills Shopping Mall in the New Jersey suburb of Millbrook. This other sculpture was made by the same artist, Pol Bury, in 1980. This may present a case of what's middle-class kitsch in 1980 becoming an avant-garde statement in 1996. Does this mean our yellow and brown new library, that the Times christened "avant-garde" in 1995 will be kitsch in 2010?

President Leon Botstein hadn't been inside the Security office for several years. Over a week ago, however, he decided to make a phone call from there. Next to the phone was a photograph of his body. His head had been replaced with a cartoon woman's face. "Who did this?" he asked, ripping the picture off the wall and trashing it there. Apparently the most well-known man in the village of Annandale can't get enough respect.

New York Governor George Pataki came to Kingston last Friday to announce a deal where New York City will pay towns in the Catskills \$1.5 billion dollars to assure the purity of their water. Perhaps Pataki should warn Bard students to shower before swimming in the Hudson River. That's the drinking water, after all, of his buddy Mayor Rudolph Guiliani.





# THE BARD observer

## Bard College Convocation Fund Budget

September 8, 1996

Club Name	Request	Allotment					
ACT	\$850	\$0				Partnership for the Future	950 0
ASO	2400	2400*				Photography Club	1800 600
AISEEC	2435	0	Bard Volunteers	1400 0		Publication of	936.30 250
Art Club	545	450	BBSO	4700 2500		Erotica	
Asian American Student Org.	2405	1600	BiGaLA	2780 1700		RAW art	3150 2100
Asian Film Club	1765	800	BJSS	4900 3600		Rock Climbing Club	1117.60 300
Audio Co-op	2000	750	CEESO	2718 950		S/MACES	2155 650
Baha'i Club	0	0	Central Committee	2225 2250		Scottish Country	189 189
Bard Billiards Club	105	60	CJC	485 250		Dancing Society	
Bard Co-op Association	117	20	College Bowl	648 350		Shortwave Radio	1200 0
Bard Debating Society	1950	1600	Dance Club	1800 700		Listeners	
Bard Drama Club	675	350	deKline	1250 150		Sister Cities	400 400
Bard EMS	3796	3796	Earth Coalition	1000 0		SMOG	742 742
Bard Green Crew	700	0	Electronic			Society of Physics	266.15 200
Bard Jazz	4920	1900	Multi-media group	600 300		Students	
Heritage Club			Entertainment	16600 6000		Student / Labor	500 350
Bard Martial Arts Club	1950	1100	Committee			Coalition	
Bard Observer	2275	2275	Equestrian Club	970.95 137.95		Student Center	1600 1600
Bard Ouring Club	485	485	Eurasian Thought and Culture	1300 500		Sound System	
Bard Party Brigade	600	0	Film Committee	12500 11000		The Writer's	400 100
Bard Psych. Club	450	100	ISO	2400 1600		Conspiracy	
Bard Rugby	2200	500	Jewish Student	1412.75 900		Uncle Chappy's	680 150
Bard Student Server	4500	0	Organization			Can-o'-Beans	
Club Proposal			KNOW	2375 0		WXBC	925 0
Bard Video Society	450	0	LASO	3000 2250		TOTAL	125294.85 63704.95
			Model UN	3301.1 1750		Emergency Fund	4645.05
			MSO	820 500		*by hostile amendment at the Budget	
			NORML	1500 400		Forum	

## ASO BUDGET PROPOSAL

[eds. note: The following statement by the African Student Organization reprinted here in its complete unexpurgated form, caused bedlam at the September 8th Forum.]

As a tradition in Bard to invite speakers from various institutions to address students on particular issues, we intend inviting two speakers in each semester, preferably African scholars who were active during the struggle for independence in Africa, who are visiting scholars in America. For this endeavor we hope to spend \$800.00.

As guided by our mission statement, two social events will suffice to cover programs which include dance, music and arts. Each event will provide various African dishes and decorations which will be hired in New York. We estimate to spend around \$400.00.

We would like to present a number of cultural events, but due to time and financial constraints it will not be possible. But we wish to celebrate Kwanzaa, a seven-day African celebration of life and humanity, a time for rededication to a just struggle. This may cost about \$200.00, as we celebrate only two days out of the whole week.

Two historical excursions to Virginia and Chicago to visit the place where the first twenty slaves landed, and a visit to a National Center which Elijah Mohammed bought and envisaged as an education center for African people the world over. Our estimation is around \$1000.00 for both trips.

The total amount is \$2,400.00.

Signed by President Nhlanhla Ndebele, Treasurer Given Mkhari, and Cultural Officer Dumisani Ngcobo.

### MISSION STATEMENT

The African Student Organization (ASO) represent principally, interests of African students at Bard College. It is founded upon the principles of unity in diversity, cross-cultural fertilization, academic excellence, democracy and utmost respect for human rights. Although small in number, it is a foundation for prospective African students at Bard College, and it will also serve as a link with the new program proposal for the African Diaspora Program, particularly in organizing speakers on campus.

In pursuing these principles, ASO shall:

\*Host social events to encourage cross-cultural interaction and introduce students to different aspects of African culture, society, history, politics, etc.

\*Hold debates on cultural diversity and uniformity to enhance cultural understanding and tolerance.

\*Sensitize issues of human rights through exposing their abuse whenever and wherever they occur.

\*Encourage public debates of topical public issues current in African countries, with the goal of enhancing discussion about democracy at Bard.

In advancing the interest of our constituency, ASO shall hold African cultural events, promote African music, dance and art; launch excursions to important historic sites, for example, visiting Jamestown in Virginia where the first twenty African slaves landed. We shall also encourage other students from different historical traditions to partake in such historical excursions and other related activities that could be of interest to them.



# THE BARD observer

## Election for the Representative to the Board of Trustees

### Polling

Thursday, September 19:

12-1 Kline

1-4 Outside Old Gym or Outside Post Office

Friday, September 20:

9-12 Outside Old Gym or Outside Post Office

12-1 Kline

### The Candidates

**Imteaz Mannan**

Statement of Purpose: Representative to the Board of Trustees.

I would like to urge you all to choose me as your representative. I have expressed interest for this position before as well, and I am confident that I will be a good candidate for this position.

Past three years at my residence at Bard, I have actively involved myself in student life and other affairs. I have worked for various departments on campus from B&G to almost everything else available and have gotten the impression that there's a lot of room for improvement that needs to be done, and it's high time the Board of Trustees are informed of the naked truth that lies beneath all the bureaucracy and hypocrisy on this campus.

As a hard working, struggling individual I share all the frustration that you go through and I believe that I can give voice to this concerns, that is if you choose to let me. I would like to bring the mythical Board of Trustees to the student body, and make sure that nobody stays in the high heavens and dictate our life without giving any explanation. I am a person who believes in the earth and the ground that we all stand on, and as your reps Kate Massey, the previously elected rep, and I together can help facilitate the conversation between the four important components of this college, us, us, us and them.

This campaign year, you have heard a lot of gimmicks, a lot of false promises, and I can't say you won't hear more in the future. But for now, for this election, you have the power to accept my simple, straightforward and honest platform as a reflection of your desires, needs, and concerns, and make a change. You are in charge, and I am only your vehicle. I urge you to make the right choice. Thank you.

**Sevil Miyhandar**

My name is Sevil Miyhandar and I would like to be a Board of Trustees representative. For the past two years I have been working with students and the administration as a Peer Counselor. Through this experience I feel I have become an articulate and outspoken student voice and would like to use these skills to represent Bard. As a representative to the Board I would be committed to presenting the diverse body of concerns and opinions held by the student community. I understand that no single voice can truly represent Bard as a whole, however I would make a commitment to being an accurate and effective liaison between the Trustees and all students.

**Bryan Shelton**

A Purposeful Statement

In this election you are voting for a representative to the only body to which Leon must listen. The Board of Trustees holds the purse strings and so to them, and them alone, does Leon defer. I would like to be able to speak for the student body before the Board, to let them know how the students feel about issues like the new campus center, or perhaps Leon's new anti-tenure philosophy. I don't have an agenda. I don't want to hobnob with richies. I simply want to speak for the student body, and speak honestly. I have served on the Student Life Committee in the past, am a current member of both the Planning and Food Committees, am well informed of and active in campus life both inside and outside of student government, and not in the least scared of speaking my mind. Again, I feel no need to be gentle with the Trustees. I am not looking for contacts in the real world. I just want to be able to look Charles P. Stevenson, Jr. in the face and say, "The plans for the campus center, though moderately attractive, are functionally deficient. If you really want to help the student body, and the campus as a whole, just give us the facilities we need."

**CONFUSED?**  
*What's happening on Campus?*

*When is the shuttle leaving?*

**REWILDERED?**  
*Where is the lecture?*

Call the **CAMPUS VOICE**,  
**EXT. 7688** for all the  
**LOST** answers you need now.



# Voter Registration Procedure Causes Stir

By Jeanne Swadosh

November 5 is Election Day but before proudly sporting an "I Voted Today" sticker it is necessary to register to vote. Registration is a simple process and several people at Bard College have been working to make it even easier for students.

Voter registration was included as part of the financial clearance procedure this year and open to anyone, not just New York residents. By law if a student is living in New York state prior to 30 days before elections he/she may register as a resident of New York and will be eligible to vote at the local, state, and national levels. However, a registered New York voter forfeits the right to vote in any other state.

A student who is not registered in New York may vote in his or her state's local and state elections by absentee ballot. This can be done by calling or writing the respective state's Board of Elections and providing 1) a registration address, 2) an address where the absentee ballot should be sent, 3) a signature, and 4) an explanation why the voter is unable to vote in that respective voting district. This information must be received no earlier than 30 days, and no later than 7 days, before Election Day.

Despite the efforts made nationwide to encourage students to vote, Resident Director Allen Josey has warned students of attempts to prevent them from casting their ballots. Students may receive a "supplemental questionnaire" in the mail as part of a campaign to deter them from voting because, although Bard is in a primarily Republican area, students have a tendency to vote on the Democratic ticket.

"While not illegal, it is discriminatory against college students," Josey said, and he advised students to put their names on the questionnaires and send them to the Dean of Students.

On Election Day Bard will offer hourly transportation to polling stations in order to accommodate students' schedules. In previous years the endeavor to keep students from voting has included turning them away from the polls.

"Students have been told, no, they can't vote at the polling station," Josey said. "First-year students have had the hardest time."

In some cases the struggle has involved students contesting their right

to vote, before a judge. Prospective voters are recommended to remain undaunted as  
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## Student Judiciary Board Guidelines

The purpose of the SJB is to enforce, protect, and preserve, within the limits of its jurisdiction, the rights of all Bard students. The SJB hears cases involving alleged violations of the college social and residential rules, including, but not limited to, violence, theft, property damage, public disturbance, alcohol and drug offences, harassment and assault (including sexual harassment and sexual assault).

Any members of the Bard College community may file complaints against students with the SJB.

Members of the 1996-1997 Student Judiciary Board include: Shelley Morgan, Kris Hall, Tom Dandeler, Allen Josey, Muni Citrin, Sadia Talib, Gretchen Wilson, Mahajabeen Padamsee, Andy Small, Chad Waters, and Shumona Goel (chair).

Please do not hesitate to speak with any of the SJB members if you have further questions, and I urge you to speak with me (Shumona Goel) if you would like to file a case. Remember, we are here to protect your rights, to maintain community standards, and to serve you to the best of our capabilities.

### Initiating a proceeding with the SJB

1. A written complaint must be filed with the chair of the SJB: Shumona Goel Box 799, ext. 4205.

Your complaint should contain detailed information regarding the incident, including the name of anyone involved, dates, witnesses, location, etc. You may also include a statement about how the incident has impacted your life.

2. The SJB meets weekly to review complaints. Generally you can expect to hear from the SJB within a week to ten days regarding the scheduling of a hearing. The defendant will also be notified. If you are concerned about the defendant seeking contact with you prior to the hearing, you may request that contact be restricted. This request should also be included with your written complaint to the SJB.

3. Who attends an SJB hearing?

- a) Members of the SJB (Note: In cases of a conflict of interest, an alternate will serve)
- b) Plaintiff (and optional silent support person)
- c) Defendant (and optional silent support person)

4. What about witnesses?

Both parties may request witnesses. A witness is someone who has first-hand information regarding the incident. Witnesses attend only that portion of the hearing during which they are questioned. Questions may be asked by the SJB, the plaintiff and/or the defendant.

5. Statements for the record

Character witnesses may not attend or testify at SJB hearings. However, statements concerning matters of character that do not constitute first-hand testimony related to determining responsibility for alleged actions may be submitted in writing to be entered into the record of the case. The SJB may consider such evidence in their determination of an appropriate sanction.

6. Decisions and sanctions

A written statement is issued within 72 hours of the Board's rendering a decision. The SJB determines sanctions. Plaintiffs may request that the SJB consider particular sanctions (i.e. restrictions regarding contact between the parties involved). All parties involved will be advised of the SJB's decision and the availability of appeals within the college. (Note: use of the SJB does not preclude the filing of criminal charges).

SJB members do not reveal details of any closed SJB proceedings. Reports to the student body about adjudications are limited to the charge, the verdict and the sanctions imposed, if any.

For more information about the SJB, please refer to the current Student Handbook or contact the chair of the SJB, the Dean of Students Office (Ext. 7454) or Brave (Ext. 7552 or 7557).



## Questionnaire Incites Controversy

By Muni Citrin

In order to register to vote locally, college students in Dutchess County are expected to fill out a supplemental questionnaire, in addition to the New York State voter registration form, and then await the Dutchess county election commissioners' ruling on their eligibility.

Many community members, including Allen Josey, residential director at Bard and Joe Ruggiero, the Dutchess County Democratic Candidate for the state assembly, doubt the legality of this questionnaire.

The suggested function of the questionnaire, which is sent to Vassar, Marist and Bard College students, is to provide the Dutchess County election commissioners, Democrat Bill Egan, and Republican Bill Paroli, with information they can use to determine whether the college students are permanent residents of the county.

"We are not trying to bar students from voting, we just have to determine whether they are transient students, or permanent residents," said Bill Paroli.

This process of determination risks being discriminatory to college students, according to Allen Josey.

"They don't send it to other people, only students," Josey said.

### Legal questions

At stake are varying interpretations of an imprecise New York State Election Law.

"The law mandates that you can neither gain, nor lose residency by being a college student," said Paroli, "and the questions in the survey are based on the content of the election law."

Yet, Section 96 of the NY State Election Law raises questions concerning the validity of the particular survey in use.

The section states: "it is perfectly proper to deny students the right to vote in their college communities if, by applying the same indicia to determine residency to them as are applied to others seeking to vote, it is determined that such students are not bona fide residents of their college communities."

According to the election commissioners, the survey is used only for college students, and not for other potential voters in the Dutchess county area.

In response to this section of the law, Bill Paroli said that the survey "might not be precisely the same" as the means used to ascertain the eligibility of other possible voters, "but that is because you are relating this to a student applicant."

His Democratic counterpart, Bill Egan, acknowledged, "there can be inquiries put forth as to whether the questions on the survey are the right questions to be asked."

Joe Ruggiero, candidate for Dutchess County State Assembly, sees students as victims of "age discrimination." He said "they [the election commissioners] are disenfranchising young people, it is unconstitutional."

What to do

Allen Josey has asked students who receive the survey to put their name on it and send it to the Dean of Students Office. "I think we will find some inconsistencies," he said.

Ruggiero suggested a more direct approach, "I'm hoping that a bunch of

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### SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONNAIRE—REGISTRATION

Name of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_

Address D. \_\_\_\_\_ E.D. \_\_\_\_\_

1. Is your present residence claimed as a student or as an institution of learning? Yes ( ) No ( ) Other (describe) \_\_\_\_\_

2. What year are you in college? \_\_\_\_\_  
How long do you expect to live at present residence? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What is your parents' home address? \_\_\_\_\_

4. To what extent do your parents contribute to your support:  
All or nearly all ( ) More than half ( ) Less than half ( ) None ( )

5. Where did you live during the past summer vacation? \_\_\_\_\_

6. Where do you expect to be during:  
Next winter vacation \_\_\_\_\_  
Next summer vacation \_\_\_\_\_

7. Do you keep some of your possessions at an address other than your present residence? \_\_\_\_\_ If so, give address \_\_\_\_\_

8. If you have a bank account:  
Give name and address of bank \_\_\_\_\_  
Give address you use on bank account \_\_\_\_\_

9. If you have paid income tax:  
Address on last return \_\_\_\_\_ Year \_\_\_\_\_

10. Address on driver's license or motor vehicle registration: \_\_\_\_\_

11. Any additional information to substantiate your claimed voting residence: \_\_\_\_\_

I, the undersigned, do hereby solemnly swear (or affirm) that the answers to the questions above were given by me and that they are true answers to such questions.

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Signature of Applicant \_\_\_\_\_



## Case Closed on Open Container

by Stephanie Schneider

On an ordinary weekend not too long ago, Bard students trekked over to the main campus in search of some amusement at another Bard Old Gym party. But as they approached the familiar sight of the crowded steps out front, the music was not the only sound getting louder. Rumors were spreading about some "new" alcohol policy.

"They made what's-his-name pour out all his beer."

"They're carding at the door."

These were just a few of the phrases that could be overheard, usually followed by gripes about this "new" rule. But as Dean of Students Shelley Morgan explains, there is nothing new about this policy.

She said that the policy is explicitly described in last year's student handbook. The only change for this year is the way of enforcement. In the past, she remarked, "We relied on students to respect and enforce it."

The tightened security is the result of numerous incidents which have already occurred, Dean Morgan said. She cited that already four students have gone to the Emergency Room due to alcohol poisoning this year.

Coordinator of Safety and Security Lisa Sadowski relates the tightening of security as beneficial to everyone's safety. She also cited reasons such as increased trips to the hospital and described students coming home from parties, "staggering down Annandale Road. There's a lot of threats with that."

Dean Morgan sent a memo to all students through Campus Mail on Tuesday, September 10, explaining the policy. The letter read: "Weekend trips to the Emergency Room and vandalism each week is antithetical to our goals, and we must respond."

"My letter is very honest. I'm not trying to shield anything," Dean Morgan said. The purpose, she explains, is "to set a tone. I don't think this is very heavyhanded." She also noted that it was discouraging to see students bring alcohol, and to "see student leaders doing the same," when she attended the Budget Forum on Wednesday.

At the Forum, Josh Bell announced to the students that he would meet with Dean Morgan to discuss the policy. He said that he understands the administration's position but is not "one hundred percent sure what are the actual concerns." He said he suspects ulterior motives and the reasons given for the policy were not specific enough.

He said he will try to gain "full clarification of the issue" and try to attain more

information for the students.

Bell said he recognized the fact that the policy is bound by the limits of the law. Nevertheless, he would like to receive more information and to see more contact and communication with students, instead of just being mailed a memo.

Dean of First Year Students Erin Canaan said that many students have already come to her with concerns and questions. She said she is glad for this because it has "created a lot of discussion."

She went on to explain that this particular issue is tough, it being legal for some students to drink, while for others it is not. She also brought up the point that some students don't agree with the law altogether, which is yet another issue in itself.

Communication is priority when it comes to enforcing the policy. Sadowski explained how security guards will be going

through more training on the handling of enforcement. In the training, Sadowski explained, communication skills between the guards and the students will be reinforced. "We try to be educational in our approach," she said. Communication skills will alleviate confrontations and make the situation more comfortable, she said.

"We're not going to go out looking for you," Sadowski stressed. She explained that if an officer, while going on routine rounds, sees someone with an open container of alcohol, "they'll be asked to get rid of it." And if the students refuse, she continued, "it certainly will not be snatched out of their hands," but also will not be the end to the situation.

She said that further steps will be taken, perhaps a meeting with the Dean of Students, she suggested, or facing some sort of judicial board further down the road if necessary. But she stresses that that will be a resort only if the problem seems to remain or increase. "We're not gonna push the issue," she said.

## Facts and History of the Alcohol Policy

by Sean O'Neill

The Bard administration said in a campus-wide memo last week that its alcohol policy will be enforced.

In previous semesters, two state laws were widely flouted at parties in the Old Gym. The Ludlow offices heard complaints that students under the legal age of 21 sampled the beer kegs and that students of all ages brought open containers of alcohol.

One staffer at Northern Dutchess Hospital told the Observer that, among those Bard students previously admitted to recover from drinking too much, many were underage. Administrators found open containers discarded on the steps of the Old Gym after parties had ended.

Now, security officers who catch any student giving alcohol to an underage drinker can bring the student to administrators who are obligated to turn him or her over to the police. The fine is \$500 and/or six months in jail. Officers can confiscate any open containers of alcohol carried by anyone on campus.

Administrators expect that their effort to punish lawbreakers will succeed because of a recent innovation in their policies: an aggressive push to register all partygivers in advance.

### History of the Policy

Back in 1985, the Bard administration published a student handbook that did not refer to any alcohol policy. To arrange a party, a student had to tell the peer counselors of their dormitory in advance, who would tell a dean, who would tell Security. Then, the handbook reported, a party might be stopped if, "in the judgement (sic) of the Security Officer, it is to (sic) disruptive."

By 1992, Assistant Dean Jeff Huang had helped revamp the college's policy to get students to register parties at a semester's start rather than on the night of celebration. His emphasis on compiling a list of registered parties was meant to emphasize personal responsibility and encourage self-regulation by students.

The 1992-93 Safety Awareness Report cited no liquor law violations due either to good behavior or poor enforcement.

In 1995-96, the college highlighted a new part of state law. The new handbook included a ban on open containers of alcohol. Sources at Servicemaster, whose custodial contract is up for renewal, complain that post-party litter remained a scourge for its clean-up crews, and that they found many bottles and cans on many Monday mornings. Partygivers were often fined if they did not collect all the trash after a party.



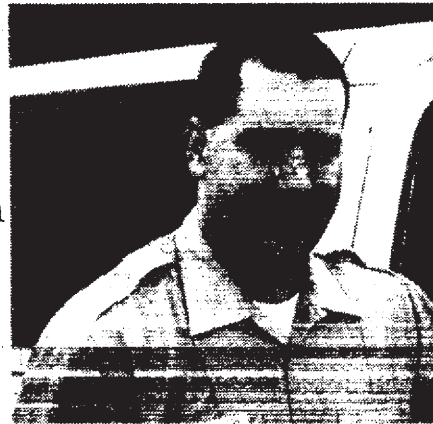
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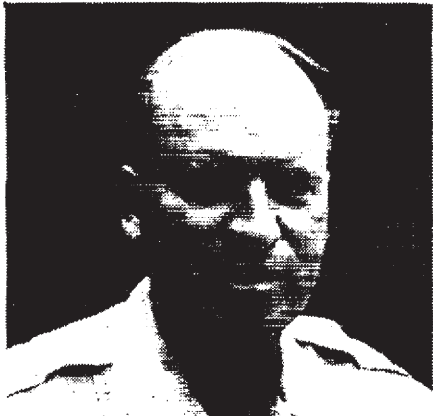
Bob Gillon



Ken Anson



Ken Kellenbenz



Tom Hughes



Chris Stier



Max Dube



Gilbert G. Baker



David Witherwax





## The Bard Sports Report

by Chris Van Dyke

Notre Dame. Duke. Georgetown. These names conjure up pictures of large, proud men in uniforms running onto the football field, about to win another game for the Gipper. But who is it that makes all of these schools tremble in fear? Which football team is it that sends these giants crying back to their homefield, beaten and defeated? Why the Bard Blazers of course! What's that? Bard hasn't even won the Rose Bowl? Hmmm. . . we don't even have a NCAA football team? Well, well, well. Whoops.

But that's not the point. Just because Bard isn't in the top ten, okay, top 100 schools in sporting events doesn't mean that it's not a great place to stay in shape and have fun. Sure, we haven't won a Bowl, let alone competed in one, but there is more to sports than Coca-Cola promotions and high-schoolers donning garments with your school mascot on them. We at Bard have many awesome opportunities to get into athletics. The best part of it is that without the pressure to win every game, anyone can get involved and have some of the most fun to be found this side of Rhinebeck.

For all of you who haven't seen the fliers plastered to every square inch of this campus, let me run through some of the many sporting clubs that you can get in on. Right now there is the Rugby club, the Equestrian club, the Martial Arts club, and the Ultimate Frisbee club. Intramural Basketball and Flag Football are just around the corner. If any of these activities are just what you've been waiting for to give meaning to your life, or if they sound like something you'd like to check out, give the Department of Athletics and Recreation a jingle at 758-7531 for times, dates, and where to meet.

All right, lets say you show up to the Rugby practice, and decide physical violence isn't your thing. Are there any other options? Of course there are; glad you asked. For any of you that haven't seen a copy of it, the "Instructional Class Listings - Fall 1996" is out, and you can pop by the gym and pick up your very own copy. It has everything from yoga to Tai Chi, and if you want something more than meditation, but less than basketball, there is fencing, Kendo, as well as many other classes. So give this little book a flipping-through. You might find something cooler to do on Wednesday nights than ironing your socks.

Okay, so those are the clubs and instructionals. However, you could be one of those people who says "Intramural shmural, club shnub. I want a real sport. Where is the Varsity stuff?" Never fear, because the Gym

has a little flyer talking about the upcoming Varsity season: soccer, volleyball, cross-country, and tennis. If real intercollegiate sports are what you need to get a good workout, Bard has them, so stop by the gym for more information.

So let's see. . . we've covered clubs, we've talked of classes, and we've even told of the Varsity sports. Some of you out there I know aren't team players. Or maybe you are, but you like your games wild and free, and not under any sort of organization. Perhaps you've called Stevenson, and everything you are interested in conflicts with something else you are already doing. Whatever the reason, some of you want to just use the gym, for gosh sakes. The pool is open from 7:30 in the morning to 9:30 at night every weekday, and from 8:30 to 9:00 Saturdays and Sundays. Some of the time slots are reserved for specific groups, so swing by and pick up a schedule to see when you can get in there. Also, there is Thursday Night Madness! Oooh, I get shivers! What is Thursday Night Madness you ask, a little apprehensive about such a wild and crazy

name? Well, the name is so wild and crazy because those wild and crazy staffers over at Stevenson keep the gym open until 1:00 AM every Thursday! That's right...you can swim laps, shoot hoops, or lift weights after midnight.

If for some reason your club or sports organization didn't get mentioned here, I'm really sorry. However, I will be the "Sports Correspondent" for The Observer this year, so I'll fit it into next weeks issue. I'll be attending as many games as I can, reporting and taking pictures and such, but if your group is hosting a tournament, wins a vital game, or sponsors anything you think newsworthy, drop me a note, e-mail, or call. My name is Chris Van Dyke, box 513. E-mail is cv888, and my number is 4452. Keep in touch, because I want this to be as complete in coverage as all of you do.

As you can see, whether you have barely enough athletic talent to tie your shoes each morning, or have to keep beating off the NBA contractors with a stick, or if, like the rest of us, you fall somewhere in between these two extremes, the Stevenson Gymnasium is here to make sure that you make the most of your college experience. Who knows, the Blazers at the Rose Bowl? Watch out Notre Dame, our Flag Football team is coming for you!

## Bulletproof Riddled with Plot Holes

by Abigail Rosenberg

If you subscribe to the idea that every movie needs a car chase, you might like *Bulletproof*.

Then again, the car chase isn't even that good. Adam Sandler (*Saturday Night Live*) and Damon Wayans (*In Living Color*) team up for this action/comedy flick that completely destroyed my respect for either actor.

The opening scene introduces Moses and Keats, the bad-ass, interracial boy wonders. Not only are they best friends of the "I'd take a bullet for you" variety, they are professional car thieves with a lucrative operation. They prove it to us in the opening scene when Moses and Keats steal a \$100,000 Ferrari in the dark of the night.

"I thought you said no one was home!" yells Keats as the first of many chases ensues.

As they dodge pedestrians and cop cars, we learn that Sandler is the brains of the operation and Wayans is his toady. This is the first of many plays on the black/white stereotypes that the movie is based on. As the two part company, Wayans is thrown down on the hood of his car and handcuffed by two police officers. The tension builds as they bring him to the precinct, but we soon find out that he's a cop!

The rest of the movie revolves around Wayans's busting of Sandler and the emotional roller coaster that this severing of trust produces. There's plenty of shooting and explosions, but unlike a Van Damme flick, *Bulletproof's* bad acting cannot be saved by any amount of special effects. Even the hot babe that gets kidnapped can't rescue the plot.

The script is embarrassingly bad and revolves around racial stereotypes (although reversed sometimes), gay bashing, and poo and dick jokes. I'm all for toilet humor, but when the best gag of the movie is Adam Sandler peeing on himself, I gotta call it quits.

After I finished my box of Junior Mints, I bailed. All it took was a nod to my co-conspirator, and we were in the lobby groaning.



# Gastr del Sol Shines on New Release

## THE BARD Observer

Gastr del Sol, *Upgrade & Afterlife*. Available on Drag City Records.

by Joel Hunt

Gastr del Sol's recent release, *Upgrade & Afterlife*, marks a new direction for the Chicago-based experimental group. Gastr del Sol consists of David Grubbs and Jim O'Rourke, both of whom play guitar, piano, and electronic instruments. Their past albums (*The Serpentine Similar*, *Crookt Crackt or Fly*, *Mirror Repair*, and *The Harp Factory on Lake Street*) combine guitar workouts with moderate experimentation.

On *Upgrade & Afterlife*, experimentation plays a larger role and at times, becomes quite aggressive. This is due partly to the high number of guest musicians on the album.

Side one of the four-sided release (one disc plays at 45 rpm, the other at 33.3) contains a piece entitled "Our Exquisite Replica of 'Eternity'." A slow, droning crescendo of organs begins the piece. Soon the lucidity offered by the organs is shattered by bursts of prepared guitar played by Mr. O'Rourke's roommate Kevin Drumm.

These bursts, which sound somewhat like a broken radio, drop in intensity as the organs continue their attack. Steve Braack and Tony Burr contribute horns and clarinet, respectively, until an intense break in the music occurs. Organs and horns drop away, and a sample of an orchestral piece dominates the mix. This slight aural humor accompanies the sound of subtle, yet piercing electronics until both are eliminated, and the piece ends with a somber piano loop.

Side two dispenses with aggression, beginning with the song "Rebecca Sylvester." Here Grubbs and O'Rourke play guitar while Grubbs sings lines like, "The wind had picked up/ Where it left off the night before." Terri Kapsalis, Sue Wolf, and Gunter Muller play subdued violin, cello, and percussion. An instrumental called "The Sea Incertain" follows, avoiding the accessibility of the second track. Piano performed by Grubbs, flageolet played by Mats Gustafsson, and bass clarinet played by Gene Coleman combine with the sounds of water boiling, and of "cracked" electronics.

Side three begins with the song "Hello Spiral," which could be described (like one verse of "Rebecca Sylvester") as a guide to the streets of Chicago. A few minutes of noisy tape manipulation by Ralf Wehowsky falls away into the guitar meanderings of Grubbs and O'Rourke. As the song progresses, the guitars fall in line, producing a wonderful repetitive effect which changes slightly with time. As the gui-

### Dear Abby,

Are you sick of the Entertainment Committee's choice of bands? Are you curious about cunnilingus? Are you pissed at an administrative policy? At important dinner parties do you get your soup spoon stuck embarrassingly up your ass? Are the anal's of your relationship growing sore? Need to know how to get laid? Need to know how to lay? Where is that special button anyway?

Questions? It doesn't matter how stupid, whiny, misinformed, dirty, graphic, immature, basic, ignorant, rhetorical, or ridiculous they are. I'll answer them because I know everything there is to know about stupid, dirty, graphic, immature, basic, ignorant, rhetorical, and ridiculous things. Even if I don't know the answer I can make it up or ask my stupid, ignorant, graphic friends. Anecdotes? As long as there's even a glimmer of a point to your spiel, I'll answer them. If it's a busy week, we might just print them because being stupid, dirty, and graphic always helps circulation.

Write them down, drop them in campus mail, get your name in print. Box 1163.

tars continue, the percussion of John McEntire and Gunter Muller enters, first playing in time with the guitars, then speeding up the entire piece until it reaches its crescendo.

Next is "The Relay," possibly the most obtuse "song" on the album. Piano accompanies Grubbs' lyrics about "Corn Flakes/Under glass" and O'Rourke's musing that "A new sun was/Discovered on May 21." Jerry Ruthrauf also contributes subtle saxophone action. This piece was most surprising to me because the first time I heard it played, Grubbs, McEntire, and O'Rourke performed it on electric guitar, percussion, and Farfisa organ.

They shifted the tempo of the song when McEntire hit a bell.

The album's version is something entirely different from that performance, but nonetheless totally satisfying.

The last side begins with a short piece entitled "Crappie Tactics" which employs the organ drone from "Our Exquisite Replica of 'Eternity'" and the voice and guitar of David Grubbs.

The bulk of the last side is occupied by Gastr's cover of "Dry Bones in the Valley (I Saw the Light Come Shining 'Round and 'Round)" by John Fahey. This instrumental consists of O'Rourke's masterful finger picking technique and the violin of Tony Conrad (an early member of the Velvet Underground and mentor to John Cale). Like most of Fahey's work, the song contains folk elements, bluesy overtones, and classical compositional skills. Gastr del Sol pulls off the instrumental with the same style and tone of Fahey's pieces. It is wonderful. The notes flow from O'Rourke's fingers straight into my brain, providing a temporary epiphany.

Fans of experimental music will be caught slightly off-guard by the inclusion of "Dry Bones..." on this record, but in certain ways its inclusion makes perfect sense. All in all, this album is rewarding in its challenge both to the serious and non-serious listener. Gastr del Sol consistently provides music that is substantial, entertaining, and essential.

Call for Auditions

Sondheim Revue

Instrumentalists and  
singers wanted.

Bring your ideas to  
Elizabeth Gerbi (x4471)

Bring your tunes to  
Pedro Rodriguez  
(x4527)



# Our Voices Are not Being Heard

by Stacey Meadow, Alison Burrows, Eugene Kublanovsky, Christa Parravani, Cara Parravani, Laura Gaugh, Beanie Watts, Manasi Tirodkar, Matthew Turgeon, Ruby McAdoo, Lisa Romesser, Suzanne Becker, Paul Rich, Terence O'Rourke, Dawn Ritchotte, Catherine Holt, Wendy Raad, Angela Bardeen, and Jeff Salsburger

Imagine a professor who has really touched you... a person to whose classes you are excited to go, who is always available for outside conversation about course work, intellectual and even personal roadblocks. Imagine a professor who brings hands-on experiments into the classroom, who doesn't only tell you how things work, but who shows you with engaging activities.

Imagine a professor whose office door is always open, who will sit you down in a comfortable chair with a cup of tea and talk to you until you have resolved whatever you came into the room worried about.

Imagine a professor who loves what they do, who comes into class with a smile, who leaves you feeling motivated about the work you have to do that week, and in whose classes you constantly and consistently amaze yourself with your own level of intellectual response.

Kathleen Barker is the professor we are describing here, and she is leaving Bard. This talented, intelligent, respected member of the community was denied tenure, and we, her students, want to know why. We've heard the story that is being told, but we do not accept it; and we should not accept it because it is not accurate. To set the record straight, here is what we have been told, and here is the truth as we see it.

The tenuring of a professor is contingent upon many factors, one of which is outside research. It has been asserted that the field of research within which Kathleen Barker concentrates is narrow. As a scholar in the area of women and the workplace and a pioneer in the research on contingent workers, one would need to ask the question: which part of the dyad in particular is being classified as narrow? Perhaps it is the same element in her course offerings that is under scrutiny. It has been said that the professor of social psychology should offer a greater variety of courses. With 'General Introduction to Psychology,' 'Introduction to Social Psychology,' 'Research Methods in Social Psychology,' 'Psychology of Women,' 'Theories of Injustice,' 'Women and Work,' as well as various related tutorials and independent-study classes under her belt, and as the co-director of the Gender Studies program and as a professor whose classes are often multidisciplinary in scope (inclusive of such fields as economics, political science, governmental structure, American history,

# Opinion

and multicultural and ethnic studies), are there many other topics that one human being could realistically cover?

Kathleen Barker's role as an educator outside of the classroom has also been the subject of debate. She has written more than eight chapters and articles that have appeared in leading APA-approved journals across the country (one of which she co-authored with Bard undergraduates). She also has several projects, books, and articles currently under contract. World-renowned scholars like Michelle Fine have come onto campus to give lectures as a result of Kathleen's initiative, from which the "New Scholars in Gender Studies" lecture series also originated, a series designed to give students a chance to see what graduate-level research can amount to. She has hosted and participated in a number of student events including, but not limited to, an annual "Psychology of Women Day" and guest appearances in several student-facilitated panel discussions. She has done all of this, yet something is still missing; there's something more she should or could be doing for the college.

We have tried desperately to find out what that thing could be. The faculty handbook delineates four categories under which a professor is evaluated for tenure. They are the work done with students, within the academic discipline, with colleagues, and with the college in general. We challenge anyone to find an area she has neglected.

As students on this campus, we are concerned. We know our voices are not being heard. We know that the voices of the faculty are not being heard. Kathleen Barker had the unanimous support of her eight-person Faculty Evaluation Committee (FEC) as well as that of the entire Division of Social Studies (another 22 scholars). Her outside evaluators supported her tenure as well. Whatever the problematic nature of tenure may be, it still exists at this college (as opposed to other schools who simply have a system of rehiring) and qualified faculty members must be allowed to function safely within its constructs. Faculty members must be reassured that the opinions of their colleagues carry

some weight and that there is the possibility of attaining job security and "academic freedom" (as described in the "Statement on Academic Tenure" in the Faculty Handbook).

Why are we, the students, asked to evaluate our professors? Why are we asked to write letters of recommendation and give oral testimony if what we say carries no weight? The very lowest of the student evaluations of Kathleen Barker's courses were still above average, and the testimony given for her was among the most impressive any faculty member could possibly receive. Many students have told us that the words "best teacher I've ever had" recurred throughout the letters and evaluations in her support.

Another myth that has been floating around is that the Division of Social Studies is not discriminating in whom it recommends for tenure. It is common knowledge among the faculty of that division that if a professor is thought to be unfit for tenure, he or she is told so in their first or second rehiring, so as to allow him or her the opportunity to leave on his or her own, without the mark of a denial of tenure on his or her employment record. This is not a lack of discrimination, this is humane and respectful. Kathleen Barker passed both rehiring easily and without incident and should have done the same in her tenure evaluation. With the solid support of both the students and faculty, there should have been no question as to her tenurability.

Even the United States Government has within its structure a system of checks and balances — why is that not true for Bard?

Imagine a professor like Kathleen Barker (if you don't already know her). Imagine that professor was your advisor, your teacher, your mentor, or your colleague. Imagine that professor receiving the harsh injustice Kathleen Barker has been subjected to... because someday he or she will be. What are you going to do about it?

## The Name Game

Rumor has it the Athletic Department wants to change the name of the Bard Blazers. Now, although we don't doubt the creativity of the Gym, we'd like to help out. If you can come up with anything better than the Blazers, write it down and send it to Abby, Box 1163. In the next issue of the Observer, we'll list the top ten suggestions. Oh, and don't bother sending for a list of local animals. You can do better than that.



## Alcohol and the Age Law: What's the Message?

By Eli Andrews

The law that sets the legal drinking age at twenty-one is not effective in that multitudes of "minors" do not adhere to it. The penal threat of confiscation, fines, or probations may teach us at a young age how to drink in secrecy, but it does little to deter 'underage' drinking.

"In middle school," one Bard student recalls, "there was a gas-mart that we went to a lot. One of us would go in with a backpack and wait in the middle aisle while the owner glanced past his gas pumps to check for any law enforcement type of person lurking about. Then he'd take the backpack, put a case of beer of choice in it, and we'd pay him at the register. Simple as that."

"The gas mart was called Jackpot. We knew we were lucky. Eight more long years 'til twenty-one, and we already had a dependable beer supply. It didn't even matter what else we had planned for a particular

night. The point was, having beer meant we would get wasted, we could get wasted. It was a big deal, totally exciting just to know that it was in that backpack, and that soon we'd find a dark place in the park to get wrecked."

By law in this country, at precisely twenty-one years of age, one becomes a fully-developed adult. This growth is acknowledged by granting the privilege to drink alcohol legally. Other traditional privileges of adulthood, such as voting, marrying, and fighting in wars, are granted earlier. The final privilege, the one which single-handedly elevates the minor into adulthood, is that of alcohol consumption.

The law, allowing only those twenty-one and over to drink, sends a very clear message. It is of no surprise that people are infatuated with, and excited by, alcohol. The law does not inform us of the frequency and severity of chemical dependence on alcohol. It does not suggest that drinking need not involve drunkenness. It does not discourage drunk driving. The law equates adulthood with alcohol consumption. This equation makes alcohol consumption an event to be pursued with great fervor and expectation.

This short opinion is inspired by the hope that Alcohol Policy enforcement at Bard reflects the final statement under the General Principles of Bard College Alcohol Policy in the Student Handbook (p. 116): "Bard's Alcohol Policy is intended to encourage safety and moderation, maintain a healthy environment, and promote individual responsibility regardless of age."

## Uh, Houston, We Have a Problem...

By Meredith Yayanos

So. I'm sick of floating in my tin can and I have something to say. I'll try to be terse. I'm not very good at that, but at this point there's no choice. I only have twenty minutes to write this because the rest of the layout crew is waiting for me over at Publications. Tomorrow morning, we'll drive out to the printer and within hours, a copy of the newborn Observer should be in your hands.

Initially, all I wanted to write was that I don't believe that the other opinion pieces in this paper concerning last Wednesday's Budget Forum, specifically the ASO incident, reflect a majority of opinions. Since nobody else is offering rebuttal, I figured I would. (Sorry about that).

First, I think I'll commend the chair members, because that has got to be the most thankless job this side of Blithewood. Kudos, guys. But I gotta say, you committee people sure made a stinky. Big stinky. And instead of just softly saying, "Sorry, that was me," and diffusing it with a wave of the hand, you waited until it was much too late. The stinky, of course, was your initial decision not to give the ASO any money. Granted, the club was asking a ridiculous sum. But you didn't give them any. Not a penny! Is it any surprise everyone went melon-balls at the forum?

What bedlam it was! Everything got much too emotional. Everyone there knew it, I knew it, yet when the time came to vote in the ASO's Hostile Amendment, I was one of a large, loud majority of yeas. I even cheered a little when it passed. You know what? I emphatically refuse to believe I did so because I was laboring beneath the burgeoning bulk of The Great White Guilt. Actually, I think The

Great White Guilt theory as pertains to this situation is a sterile, over-intellectualized pile of dog poop, but I'll stow it.

Know why I raised my hand? It had nothing to do with guilt, nothing to do with the mob mentality, and everything to do with this vulgar, embarrassing problem I have, where I occasionally get the urge to bestow faith upon fellow human beings. I hope you don't think I'm a hippie or anything. Really, I'm just as mean and apathetic as everybody else here pretends to be. I adore the word "surly." I kick dachshunds, I laugh cruelly when someone gets caught picking their nose in public. But that night, I didn't want to be surly. I raised my hand and voted yea because some nice guys were getting completely shafted, and I wasn't going to stand for it.

The African Students Organization hails from a very far away, different and tumultuous place, and they want to tell us about it. They have a lot of big, bright ideas that all of us could benefit from. Okay, the Jamestown pilgrimage is totally stretching it, but don't you want to hear their speakers? Wouldn't you like to party down African style during Kwanzaa?

Well, whatever your opinion, the crux of this matter is \$\$\$money\$\$\$, even if the ASO president claimed that it wasn't. I won't argue semantics on that, but I do think, now that they've got all the dough, they should prove their claim. Considering the other two dozen fledgling clubs who got scrawny allotments, ASO should return a substantial portion of their cash to the fishbowl, thereby acknowledging last Wednesday's victory without depriving anyone. Maybe their field trips are out of the picture, but I bet they could deal with that.

So. There, I've said my peace. I'd better sprint over to Publications before they kill me. See you again in a couple of weeks. If they let me write more journalism. If you could call this journalism. Oh, toss it! I'll shut up now.

I mean it.

Really.



# Mass Demagoguery and the Bard Body Politic

By Anonymous

What occurred at this year's first budget forum (the granting of 2,400 dollars to the new African Students Organization) says a lot about the phenomenon of mob psychology and its effect upon politics in general, and Bard politics in particular. I would hope that by now most students reading this article can perceive the absurdity of Wednesday night's action. Now let us look at the objective facts.

This is a first year organization which demanded (and received) 2,400 dollars (which makes this club the fifth best funded organization on campus and third best funded club on campus). Their budget (if any of the screaming and yelling mass even took the time to read it) was extremely vague. They allocated 800 dollars for "speakers from various institutions." There are no confirmations, no names, no dates, and no specific expenses listed. One big block grant to cover "speakers." Four hundred dollars will be allocated to fund two "social events." Once again — no specifics. The Kwanzaa celebration (although obviously something of merit which will improve cultural awareness) was already being planned by the BBSO. And, my personal favorite, the two "historical excursions" to Virginia and Chicago. As important as these areas are for people of African descent and for Americans in general, and as much as I would personally enjoy visiting these historic areas, let us examine the facts of the matter. The Bard student body (supposedly a well-educated and discerning group of individuals) granted 1,000 dollars for these trips — 1,000 DOLLARS (a sum which is more than all but 15 clubs on campus received this semester by itself). And, remember, I am not criticizing the merit of visiting these historic places, but let us consider the fact that this club once again submitted no definite plans: no dates, no specific expenses, no mode of travel, and most importantly — no specifics on how many people can go or who will be allowed to go.

If the nebulous nature of the budget wasn't enough to disqualify it after any serious and rational discussion, the underhanded (or high-minded — depending upon your interpretation) manner in which it was presented leaves much to be desired. The whole debate over the amendment reeked of demagoguery. The assertion that "anyone can attend the trips" when simple arithmetic would show you that this is simply impossible along with the claim that "anyone can join" when we have 3 — THREE students who are actually from Africa. Don't get me wrong, I am not saying that there should not be an African Students Organization. But I believe that rational reflection should tell any intelligent adult that this organization, despite any merit it might possess, does not deserve more funding than the Central and Eastern European Students Organization, the Jewish Students Organization, and the Muslim Students Organization combined. That is preposterous. CEESO is a case in point. When CEESO was a new club three years ago it received funding in the two to three hundred range — the traditional norm for new clubs. And no one made a big deal about that. The argument that it is apparent the budget is racist is absurd when exactly 23.3 percent of all student club funds go to clubs which are exclusively ethnic special inter-

est clubs. Such an allegation can only be seen as misinformed at best, and, at worst, as downright deceptive. And after this allegation of racism, for lack of a more politically correct term, the ASO played the "race card," comparing their struggle (however inept) to obtain their funding to the "historical struggle of my people." In retrospect, I

think we can all see the hyperbole of such a comparison. Another one of my personal favorites is the statement "this is not about money." WHAT!!! Not about money. How could anyone buy this? The sad fact is that it IS about money. The student body swindled itself out of one-third (ONE THIRD!) of its emergency fund on a new club with unclear goals, limited membership, and extremely sketchy plans on how to spend this money.

I believe that this case illustrates several fundamental truths about politics in a "democracy." Besides being a brilliant example of why the Founding Fathers looked upon direct democracy with disdain, it also shows the power of demagoguery. The fact that a mass of very intelligent and usually clear-thinking college educated people could throw the facts out the window, be bought over by simplistic arguments (none of which had any basis in fact), and not just concede but actually hand over their money (2,400 dollars of it) with loud shouts of approval and self-righteous claims displays how easy it is for a very few people to control a crowd if they simply touch the correct moral strings. The Bard student body simply got played like a cheap guitar. This a case of Hitlerism at its greatest. Hitlerism, McCarthyism, ASOism...all similiar phenomena. The bard student body essentially prostituted itself for 2,400 dollars simply for one night of pleasure (even if they called this self-righteous pleasure "justice").

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## A Comment on No Comment

By Shawnee Barnes

I realize that when reading a college newspaper, magazine or what have you, what catches the reader's eye, other than the word sex, is a catchy title and the added bonus of the article only being two or three paragraphs long. Well, I guess I'm at a slight disadvantage because what I am going to introduce doesn't have the infallible word sex in the title, though it does have the advantage of being in the quick-and-easy-to-read range.

You are now witnessing the inauguration of a column called No Comment, a running commentary on things that have been lying around in my head or in my neighbor's. I'm going to throw out thought-provoking sayings, ideas, or whatever. Then I'll comment on them, or then again I might not, and finally I'll wait for some feedback. Then, if I don't get any feedback, I'll just write for my own narcissistic gratification. For those who love interactive T.V. and computers, just think of this as an interactive column.

Well that's it. Having inaugurated No Comment in a very undemocratic way, shall we get started?

For this first and most important issue, I'm tossing out a twist someone told me the other day that's been bothering me ever since. The twist goes: "You are what you attract." I pondered this thought deeply and figured that it must mean that you reflect your friends/lovers etc. It bothered me because it made me reevaluate destructive friendships and relationships that I have had for which I now blame myself and that pisses me off 'cause I'm really not into the self-blame thing.

To better understand the cliché I had to back it up with another cliché, since that's the only way to understand them: "You Are What You Eat." Is that true? In a sense we are made up of the things we eat and we are those things we've somehow attracted. I guess that leaves us with our identity in question and a lot of white bread and tuna fish leaking from our bones; or if you eat at Kline you're full of a lot of fiber filler which I guess would translate into bullshit! Anyway it's all a scary reality to me as I look back on my life and remember certain people whom I had once befriended; the idea makes me shudder a little. But why? I think it is true that when we send out positive vibes, we are received positively. Yet if I sent out positive vibes all the time the only friend I'd have would be myself, and maybe Martha Stewart. Well, the power is in our hands...Any comment? (Comment to No Comment @ Box 598. I take no clichés.)

—Shawnee

## The Somnambulist

*It's Not All Here in Black and White*

By Pedro Rodriguez

Things have happened to me that no one on this campus knows about. Thoughts have occurred to me that just as many know of. I have taken no action to hint at what they might be for any outside observer. What they are doesn't matter. No one could know about them unless someone asked me. But how would anyone know to ask? If anyone has invented a foolproof thought-divining machine, she has not revealed it to the world.

Last Wednesday, I sat in Kline Commons, nursing a friendly gift of Sam Adams Cream Stout and attending the fall 1996 budget forum. During the debate over the African Student Organization's hostile amendment to the Planning Committee's proposed budget, a woman behind me rose, stood on a chair, and accused me, and everyone else who didn't support her cause, of racism.

The ASO's amendment asked that the \$2,400 of its original budget request (denied in full by the Planning Committee) be lopped off the Emergency Fund.

After the woman's speech, the ASO members' speeches adopted her racism theme, albeit with greater humility. The rhetorical device was simple and effective: reduce the many possible reasons for disagreement (which include the size of the request) to one, namely racism.

Most of my noble peers in attendance, who had joked with their friends, booed, or cheered during all of the other speeches, sat quietly as stones when the black guys got up to speak. An unbiased observer might call this "racism disguised as the great white guilt."

The crowd ignored obvious shortcomings in the ASO budget. At the forum, for example, the club implicitly invited all students on its trip to Chicago. Their \$2,400 allotment would theoretically fund this and the other activities planned, one of which is a trip to Virginia.

The hostile amendment passed to the sound of loud cheers. This was racism defeated.

I was among the few who opposed the amendment. One of my fellow opposers later said to me, "Did I feel bad raising my hand against it? Yes."

Although he opposed, he succumbed. I refuse.

Reality is not black and white; it is a seamless shading of color. There is no blue; there are only darker and lighter shades of bluish stuff.

My motivations are in my head. Any number of them could cause me to take the same action. The deciding motivation is known only to me. My workings are probably not unique.

Racism, like anything else, is easily identifiable only in the most blatant cases. The budget forum debate did not provide such a case.

The ASO's budget is as nebulous as a London evening. The woman, self-named diviner of human thought, accused on cursory and specious grounds. The possibilities are never one in number. That 45-minute debate was a witch hunt, based, like all witch hunts, on the apprehension of only one possibility.

Those of you who in the name of righteousness voted for the amendment, and glared at the witches and warlocks who dared oppose you, defeated rational debate, not racism. You do not know me. You do not know what I'm thinking. Get yourselves another diviner, because your shepardess is mistaken.

Those of you who voted yea for other reasons, I must disagree with. But your vote is your prerogative.

Those of you who based a nay vote on skin color are fools. But again, your vote is your prerogative.



## Bagatelle for a Bug

By Charlotte Jackson

There comes a time late in August when one no longer wishes to kill insects. Yesterday, on the thirtieth of August, I swatted a tiny, innocuous fly — a “cute” fly, if one of the six-legged persuasion can ever truly be termed cute, with little round wings like a pair of Lilliputian Mickey Mouse ears — in the bathroom of Annandale House. It never flitted at me, never even buzzed; I killed it on sight, out of what Robert Musil called “...this attitude towards the living, moving, silently rolling or flitting fellow creature enjoying its own existence that suggests an innate aversion to it.” I repented just as immediately, muttering “Why the hell did I do that?” as I swept its mortal remains into the dustbin, and repressing the urge to apostrophize it as “little bug.” For it would never have invaded my own snug quarters down the hall, and given a couple weeks it would have died anyway, snuffed out by a morning of frost.

Solitude, whiskey, and a certain cast of light in the afternoon breed a gently apocalyptic sense, a kind of epiphany that brings the great, rustling, vegetating world to the forefront while simultaneously banishing the “Where’s Waldo” backdrop of campus life with its gaggles of cafeteria faces. At roost on the concrete ledge by the library, one is seduced by the warmth locked into the stone and, drifting away from some inconsequential book, one’s head seems to droop ever closer to the adjoining bed of greenery and purple blooms.

At such a moment each individual vine, leaf and stalk that meets the gaze stands out in its particularity, entering forth in an intensely three-dimensional life. The rays of the sun gild even pithy stems with an urgent, near-incandescent light, and the breeze whisks the silver underbelly of the treetops up towards the sky; the trill of the cicadas too resonates with this subdued urgency, and the passing sundresses hang with poignancy on the brown bodies of girls. The sandals that gird my toes, the Frisbee game on the field below, the easy eroticism of a couple nibbling each others’ lips on a noon-baked bench: all this is living on borrowed time, subject to the fickle indulgence of an Indian summer, and when the ants that creep up our pant legs are dead then all the rest will pass into November as with them, for the creeping fauna are part and parcel of our idyll. However reassuringly cyclical and however temporary Persephone’s passage into the underworld, Demeter never ceases to grieve, nor those of us mortals who do not live for ski slopes and the snarl of snowmobiles.

Vouchsafed this vision of insects as fellow denizens of an idyll, I found myself regarding them with the same impassive wonder as a drunk who finds herself on a level with the purely objective world, entering into a kind of kinship with the insentient. I tried to descry compound eyes or the minute barbs of their legs as they scurried over my kneecap. I discovered the stutter of a bluebottle stuck in a storm window no longer inflamed my nerves, for we grant indulgence to a swansong, and faced with six months of pallid, welt-free legs, I felt I might not begrudge the mosquito its drop of blood. My friend Mohammed comes to mind: when I once tactfully interrogated him about the roaches living in the fridge of his Brooklyn flat, he shrugged

with Ghanaian equanimity and said, “What do I care? They do their shit, I do mine.”

Not that I suffer from any sentimentality towards creatures low down on the evolutionary totem pole; after all, I guzzle hamburgers, and I know no flea will invent an Art of the Fugue or a cure for AIDS, nor even experience pain or fear as a warm-blooded creature knows it. Yet still, it is a life: a hot chemical spark of being that seeks radiance and self-propagation, and to extinguish it when so few days remain to it seems ungenerous.

Needless to say, epiphanies on this order themselves describe a mayfly lifespan, perishing with the solitude, whiskey, and cast of light. Summer seems here to stay; it shoulders once more the burden of reality attendant upon repetition, and the swarms in the bathroom strike up a banal drone. A swansong lacks something of its pathos if it drags on for weeks, and then too a mosquito is horrible in its gauntness, with the phallic needle of its proboscis hovering at the ready — not aesthetically pleasing like the little fly. A swarm lacks the pathos of singularity, for one cannot muster any feeling of “I and thou” and hence forge even an illusory “relationship” with a myriad; to use the trendy terminology it can only be “I and other.” On September second, with an intimation of something lost, I am flushing chitinous corpses down the drain.

### *Observer Editorial Policy*

The Observer is Bard College’s student-run newspaper. It is published bi-weekly during the semester. Everyone is welcome to write for it. The deadline for submissions, be they stories, cartoons, poems, photographs, statistics, letters, or advertisements of any kind, is 7 p.m. on the Friday before publication. Send them via campus mail to Meredith Yayanos. Submit all writings on disk, preferably Mac format, saved as TXT files, or as the simplest file available, and in hardcopy form. Submit developed photographs if possible, preferably in the commercial 4x6 print size. Shoot in color or black-and-white; but remember, the Observer is published in monochrome.

It is the responsibility of the writers to contact Lilian (752-4344) before the Saturday after deadline to speak with her about their submissions. Otherwise their submissions will face editing pencils alone. The Observer reserves the right to edit for spelling, grammar, and length.

The Observer discourages anonymous submissions. If you must submit anonymously, you must reveal your identity to the editor.



## News from Nicaragua

[eds. note: The following is a letter from Eric Schwartz, who is currently working on an internship with the program coordinator for a consortium of 5 Sister Cities projects in Nicaragua. Anyone who is interested should come to meetings of the Mid-Hudson/Larreynga Sister Cities group on Thursdays at 7:00 p.m. in the Olin Moon Room or contact Beth Coakley.]

Hello all,

Elections are coming up here in two months—October 20. I don't know how much, if any, coverage you get of the Nicaraguan elections up there in the New York Times, or if any of you keep up with it on NicaNet or in the magazine Envio, so I'm sending you a basic, brief summary of the electoral situation here.

Most of this is from the August issue of Envio, and from some local daily papers, and my own observations. If you want a real in-depth look, try to get a copy of Envio. I'll try to keep you informed about what's going on with the campaigns and any other big events every week or so.

Three and a half weeks after the official start of the Nicaraguan presidential race, campaigning activity in the country is reaching a

feverish pitch. New political bumper stickers and campaign graffiti crop up on cars, walls, trees, and sidewalks every day. Just on the way from the Consortium de Ciudades Hermanas Office in Leon, walking up the street to a restaurant, I pass spray painted signs that say "Daniel: Everyone's Government," "Vote in Box #14 on October 20," "Leon is Liberal," "FSLN," and "MRS."

On t.v., political commercial follows political commercial—more of them every day. Even when I'm not in the room with the T.V., I know which party is being advertised from its distinctive, happy-go-lucky little campaign ditty.

Nationally, there are 24 parties competing for the presidency, but the only real candidates left are the Sandanistas of Daniel Ortega and the Liberal Alliance of Arnaldo Aleman.

Aleman, former mayor of Managua, undoubtedly represents the right. As mayor of Managua, he had several of the Sandanistas' revolutionary murals painted over, and he has publicly praised Somoza's economic policies. He also has ties to some of the Nicaraguans who took "refuge" in Miami after their lands were confiscated in the 80's. Aleman is calling for greater deployment of industry and foreign investment to create jobs, which are desperately needed in this country, where the unemployment rate hovers around 70 percent.

The Sandanistas, as the traditional party of the left, are billing themselves as "Everyone's Government." Their campaign slogan is, "Jobs, education, and health: all of these good things will return." However, it is surprising how close they are moving to the center in their pursuit of broader public support. At their 17th anniversary rally in Managua, Daniel Ortega and the other Sandanista commanders left behind their usual guerrilla fatigues. They talked about the U.S. as their "Grand Neighbor," and about the need to forget the "resentments of social classes of the past." It seems that even the Sandanistas aren't "The Sandanistas" anymore.

Of the other 22 parties, many are busily jockeying to present themselves as "the party of the center"—the alternative to the Sandanistas on the left and Aleman on the right.

In the most recent poll, the Sandanistas held 30 percent of the vote, and the Liberals 38 percent; the other 22 parties fall far behind. With the elections scheduled for October 20, it's very possible that neither will win the 45 percent necessary to win in the first round. If this happens, another round will be scheduled, probably sometime in December.

Many of the people I've talked to here who plan to vote for the FSLN are people who had positive experiences with the Sandanistas during the 80's and have remained loyal through the 90's. The people I've talked to who plan to vote against the Sandanistas have given me a variety of explanations for their position, but most stem from personal experiences under the Sandanista government of the 80's. Men who were forcibly drafted or who had to hide in their houses during the day and sleep outside at night to avoid the draft hunters have still not forgiven the Sandanistas after six years. Others complain that the FSLN is corrupt. Others simply don't believe the FSLN is capable of helping the country.

The biggest reason people give me for voting for Aleman is that they believe he's the only candidate who can bring jobs to Nicaragua. Unemployment is undoubtedly the country's number one concern. Many of the other parties are highlighting their ability to create jobs as a main drawing point.

Candidate Haroldo Montealegre promised to create 500,000 jobs—quite a feat in a country where the total population is 4 million.

Right now, it looks like Aleman will probably take the presidency, if not on October 20, then in the second round during December. The effect of a Liberal victory on the people of the communities we work in is uncertain. Aleman has promised not to reverse the Sandanistas' Agrarian Reform. But, on the other hand, he's not likely to put as many resources into health care and education as the Sandanistas would.

More later,  
Eric Schwartz  
Leon, Nicaragua

PS: If any of you get email coverage of the U.S. elections, I'd be deeply grateful if you forwarded me a copy...or any U.S. or world news at all, really. Thank you.

### The Bard Observer

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## A Vote for the Selfish

by Jeremy Dillahunt

So, like the rest of you, when I got back here I did a lot of shit-shooting. "How was your summer?" "What have you been up to?" "Good to see you again." Because we are getting closer to a presidential election I shot the shit about politics, too. In doing so I came to understand that there are quite a few people on this campus who feel no obligation to get involved in this year's election. I heard "Who cares" and "Why bother" and "What's it got to do with me" repeatedly. This piece is dedicated to you who feel this way about government and politics:

You're a bunch of fucking morons.

Aside from the ideological reasons for being involved in politics and government, there are physical ones. You know those tires that you drive to school on? Those are provided for you because of international trades agreements that your government made possible. Why is a cup of coffee so cheap in this country? Because price control afforded to you by a government that knows the difficulty of early mornings. Whatever your poison, be it Twin Peaks, The Simpsons, Star Trek, Martin, 90210, or Seinfeld, you could kiss your love good-bye without government regulated air waves. Those little plastic grocery bags, computers, morphine, Top Gun, satellites, Buzz Aldrin, and shatterproof glass were all provided to you by your government.

The fact is that government makes your life easier. Whether it be by financial aid or cheap beer, our government helps you. Maybe you feel that government does the opposite, that it makes your life worse. Well then, what better reason do you have to get involved than self interest? "What's it got to do with me?" you ask. I'll tell you. If you feel that your government is unfair because it won't let you fry your brain on pot and acid all day long, then go out, get a peice of paper, fetch a pen, write "Initiative 420" across the top, get your friends and their friends and their friend's friends ad infinitum to sign it, go out and vote with your friends when "Initiative 420" comes up, and voila, you can fry your brains without worry.

If you are afraid of illegal immigrants, or legal ones, stealing your job, I have a name for you: Pat Buchanan. he wants to build a fence across the bottom of the United States. If you vote for him you won't have to worry aboutnot getting a job, you can go help him dig post holes. If have any interest in yourself, then by default you have interest in our government.

Government is important, even if it just keeps the price of hot dogs down, it matter to you and to me.

The Bard  
Papers

art and phtography to Seze Devres  
writing to Ashley Crout

all worked judged  
anonymously,  
box # only, please.

submit.

## What's Planned for Student Activities

The Dean of Students office provides a variety of substance-free activities and events each weekend throughout the year. Below is the Fall schedule. Some weekend nights have yet to be planned. If you have any suggestions, requests, or input, come by the Dean of Students Office and talk either with Erin Cannan or Allen Josey (x7545). Also, call if you are interested in obtaining a work-study job helping with student activities.

Attention club heads and event sponsors...to avoid scheduling conflicts, please make plans and reservations now for dates that you might want to use spaces like the Old Gym, DeKline, etc. Keep an eye out for weekly advertisements for specific information on times and locations or call x7454.

### September

- \*Fri. 20th—Lyceum Theater Trip
- \*Sat. 21st—Open Mike Readings in the Root Cellar
- \*Fri. 27th—"Hawk Project": Celebrate Native American Day
- \*Sat. 28th—"Bard House of Pleasure"

### October

- \*Fri. 1st—Jay Unger: Musician
- \*Sat. 19th—Student Performance: TBA-Parents Day
- \*Fri. & Sat. 25th/26th—Student Planned Weekend: (money available to interested students)
- \*Thur. 31st—Halloween Story Teller

### November

- \*Fri. 1st—Halloween movies w/ Film Committee
- \*Sat. 2nd—"Bard House of Retro Pleasure" (Best of the 70's and 80's)
- \*Fri. 8th—TBA
- \*Sat. 9th—"American Pictures": photo exhibition of poverty in America
- \*Fri. 15th—TBA
- \*Sat. 16th—"Carnival!": (Latin American music/bands)
- \*Fri. 22nd—Free Haircut and Wardrobe Night with free Pizza
- \*Sat. 23rd—TBA

### December

- \*Fri. 6th—TBA
- \*Sat. 7th—Cartoon Festival



## Leon's Lawn

cont'd from page 2

at Bard 26 years, and this has been the second time when students took action. Remember, you students are the college ... you don't realize the power you have."

When Botstein later spoke, he first corrected many statements that had been made earlier about his opinions and actions. He repeated that "Kathleen Barker is tenurable," and added that "a reasonable person could also make a reasonable decision not to [tenure Kathleen Barker]." Botstein's four-page explanation to Barker explaining his decision has not been made public by her, and she did not appeal the decision over the summer. Then he said that the social sciences was the only division for twenty years "that has always recommended its candidates for tenure." He mentioned Jean French, Joan Tower, and Michele Dominy as examples of the high standard of excellence necessary to deserve tenure at Bard. He said that proof that he had made a "mistake" would only be "visible after ten or fifteen years." He referred to his decisions not to grant tenure to Carol Nackenoff six years ago, who recently received tenure at Swarthmore College, and to a similar case

## Voter Registration

cont'd from page 6

this is an "extra hassle that students shouldn't have to go through."

Although there is no guarantee that everyone will vote, the number of Bard students registered to vote has increased by making voter registration a step in the financial clearance procedure. Resident Director Leah LaValle hopes to begin "doing things actively to educate people, providing information about the elections themselves." Possible events include hosting speakers and a Presidential Election Night Party.

If students have any questions or concerns regarding the registration and voting process they can contact either Leah LaValle or Allen Josey at ext. 7692 or 1-800-FOR-VOTE.

## Questionnaire

cont'd from page 7

college students come together and defeat this."

According to Ruggiero, a lawsuit in Ulster County, initiated by a group of SUNY New Paltz students, determined that the use of similar questionnaires by the Ulster County election commissioner was unconstitutional. The decision does not directly affect Dutchess County.

Bill Paroli invites questions about the Dutchess County student registration policy, and can be contacted at (914) 486-2473. "We are not trying to preclude students from voting, but if they are not Dutchess County residents by law, they cannot vote."

# THE BARD observer

fifteen years ago.

Botstein said he sat with members of the senior faculty who were reviewing Barker's case. Sanjib Baruah and Myra Armstead, as well as Arthur Burrows were among those, Botstein said, agreed that his decision not to grant tenure was not "unreasonable" and was "based on the evidence in [her] file." He said, "I would not have an opinion on Kathleen Barker if it were not for the files [composed of faculty and student assessments]."

Botstein denied he had any "clique in the faculty," and said that granting tenure is not "an election" nor "a short-term popularity contest."

In Barker's case, Botstein cited his concerns with the narrowness of her work in her field. He said that enthusiasm in the classroom is often bolstered by pride in one's own

work in one's field, and that if a candidate did not have the most breadth and highest excellence in the work in their field, the candidate would be less likely to be a good teacher in twenty years because of a frustrating private career.

Botstein spoke about other tenure cases as well. He said tenure was denied to Daron Hagen mostly because, although he was "a very gifted teacher and a very gifted composer," he was like "many part-time artists" in that he commuted from New York, where he worked elsewhere. "There is a time and continuity problem," Botstein said.

Botstein said that in the case of Chris Callanan, a professor of ancient languages, he had received low ratings from the faculty regarding his "collegiality" with them.

Botstein insisted, though, that the evaluation forms students fill out for each class that they take with a professor are read and considered seriously. The more carefully they are written, he said, the more heavily they are weighted.

Botstein reminded students that Ms. Li-HuaYing was granted tenure last year. He promised to operate the tenure system in good faith, although he would consider student suggestions about how the process could be reformed or replaced.

## Flik

cont'd from page 3

between conflicting instructions. In addition to management indiscrepancies, there are contractual problems as well. Although the administration surely wanted the transition to be as smooth as possible, there was only a verbal understanding that Flik would hire back all of the former Wood employees at the same wages. This occurred, yet it does not seem there were written guarantees of job security and benefits.

One of the biggest losses to these workers was their seniority and the vacation time it secured. While this may not be uncommon in the business world, Wood took seniority into account when they first came to Kline six years ago. Many workers were receiving three weeks paid vacation time with Wood and now must work a full year until they are entitled to one week. Employees are currently allowed fewer and shorter breaks. Another disconcerting condition of the switch is that workers are without medical insurance for their first three months under Flik employment. While discussing the difficulties of opening the new account at Bard, one Flik manager acknowledged the stress of a quick transition on workers and said that "after all, shit flows downstream." Although things have been difficult for them, employees feel good about the quality of food, which they too agree has improved. Flik was chosen to replace Wood after students and faculty dissatisfaction peaked last semester. Shelley Morgan and the Student Life Committee visited the dining facilities of several nearby colleges to investigate possible alternatives. Wood was made aware of the administration's dissatisfaction and notified that a search for another food service was underway.

At lunch one day toward the end of last semester, a coalition of clubs sponsored a boycott of Wood and distributed free Domino's pizza in front of Kline. Many were angered by an alleged quote of Papadimitrius that stated he would accept the lowest bid no matter what the quality of food. The administration claims that this quote is inaccurate and was taken out of context. Surprising everyone, including Kline workers and managers, Wood made a last-minute decision not to bid at all. Strangely, Flik offered the higher bid out of the two final proposals that Bard received. On separate occasions, both Shelley Morgan and Jim Brudvig emphasized that the quality of food, not price, was first priority in the final choice.

The results of our survey show that students have few complaints about the service. No one would argue that the people who work in Kline are unfriendly or unhelpful. We see more of them than we do of our professors. After all, few seniors would say that Arvie's retirement went unnoticed. Yet student respect for these people has never been as vocal and organized as was student dissatisfaction with Wood. Easy things, like clearing our trays, would begin to communicate that respect. Flik has arrived because we the students were unhappy with Wood. And while things still seem less than perfect at Kline, let's not forget those for whom the change has been the most difficult.



# THE BARD observer

Josh Bell pleads for order. Photo by: Caroline Burghardt



## Budget Forum

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"The funding of the Bard Journal of Social Sciences is based on longevity and an institution of false values," Olsgard said. She also made a statement

that she was willing to step down from her position if the EC did not receive funding.

The EC withdrew its hostile amendment.

The last amendment of the evening was submitted by S/M Aces. Representatives requested an additional \$250 for the publication of a safe sex and safe s/m light booklet which would be distributed free-of-charge. This money would also be contributed for what representatives felt to be their share for their part in organizing the Drag Ball.

One speaker on behalf of S/M Aces stated, "S/M Aces has been persecuted by the administration and has had to turn to students for support." This was in reference to a past incident in which an attorney recommended Bard College withdraw its funding for a speaker because of legal reasons.

Other hostile amendments were submitted by the Entertainment Committee, the Martial Arts Club, the Short Wave Radio Listeners Club, and the Big Brothers-Big Sisters Club whose amendment failed by one vote. This warranted a recount involving students moving to



The real shocker of the evening came when committee members Eva Olsgard, Imteaz Mannan, and Bryan Shelton spontaneously stood on chairs and did the Macarena.

Photo by: Caroline Burghardt

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