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THE BATES STUDENT

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Lewiston, Maine

Volume 123, Number 14

hooks and Marable address the politics of racism during Int'l Celebration of Women

By Ellen McDevitt
Staff Reporter

The politics of racism and the increasing problem of internalized racism were the major topics of discussion at a lecture last Wednesday. Sponsored by the departments of African American Studies and American Cultural Studies, guest speakers bell hooks and Manning Marable shared personal stories and opinions and engaged in dialogue together in the Olin Arts Concert Hall.

Women's Action Coalition (WAC) built the activities for the two-week International Celebration of Women around this lecture. In addition, the group sponsored a wide variety of female lecturers from various international locations, as well as comedians and other performers. Zanny Parsons '96, a member of WAC and an organizer of the celebration, stated that WAC wanted to draw on the fact that this is an internationally recognized celebration, so they have been working for over three months to bring varied, international female speakers to Bates.



Odetta performed a variety of folk songs on Wednesday as part of the International Celebration of Women. She is credited for revolutionizing folk music and inspiring Bob Dylan's musical career. *Page Brown photo.*

The lecture, entitled "Redefining America's Cultural Promise," also brought to light what a black color cast means as black people struggle with internalized racism and its relationship with the conceptions of

beauty. Questions of whiteness and privilege were also addressed.

bell hooks, a prolific author and former professor at both Oberlin Col-

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Anti-Semitism committee recommends action

By Jeremy Pelofsky
Student Correspondent

Following the release of the Council on Racial Relations subcommittee on anti-Semitism student survey results (see The Bates Student, January 28), the subcommittee recently met with President Donald Harward to discuss the committee-written anti-Semitism report, which includes the implications of the survey results and recommended action. Since the anti-Semitism subcommittee was presidentially appointed, release of the report's contents were withheld until the committee had met with Harward.

The report stated that "[while] there are still significant numbers of campus incidents involving anti-Semitic vandalism, many of the most disturbing recent campus events fos-

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Blues Traveler is Allgood as it journeys to Bates' Gray Cage

By Margaux D'Auteuil
Student Correspondent

On Sunday, March 27, Blues Traveler, the New York quartet that has become popular with its funky rock and blues sounds, will be performing at Bates. The concert, which is sponsored by Chase Hall Committee (CHC), was scheduled for first semester but was cancelled when lead vocalist John Popper had a serious motorcycle accident that restricted him to a wheelchair.

The concert will begin with a performance by the Georgia-bred southern rhythm and blues quintet Allgood. Their music has been termed as "Southadelic blues funk" — a cross between Southern and psychedelic.

Under their original name "Blues Band," Blues Traveler first drew a following among the college crowd. Renamed Blues Traveler, the band has increased its base of fans through good word of mouth as a result of the group's development of talent. The band is commonly known for hosting the new "H.O.R.D.E. Tour" (Horizons of Rock Developing Everywhere) with the Spin Doctors, Phish, Widespread Panic, Bela Fleck and the Flecktones, Col. Bruce Hampton and the Aquarium Rescue Unit.

Blues Traveler has released three albums which combine its self-proclaimed "jam-oriented instrumental prowess with deepened songwriting and arranging skills." These include the self-titled 1990 debut, the 1991 "Travelers And Thieves," and their



John Popper (center) has recovered from a motorcycle accident and is back on tour with Blues Traveler.

new release "Save His Soul."

Allgood, itself having released the albums "Uncommon Goal" and "Ride the Bee," has built a loyal

following in the Southeast. "The Allman Brothers,

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A's for everyone?

Over the past 20 years statistics from colleges across the country have reported that the percentage of A's and B's awarded to students has steadily increased. What causes this trend, and how does it affect education? Page 6.

Far from smooth sailing

Don't be fooled by the collapse of communism in Russia. Though communism is dead, reform is not sure to follow. Things are bound to get bumpy worldwide before the road to democracy is paved over. Page 9.

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NEWS BRIEFS

Veteran to speak on gays in the military

In an event that should cause "fireworks," according to Bates College Republicans President Nate Pund '94, Colonel David Hackworth will lecture on gays in the military tonight at 7:00 p.m. in the Olin Arts Center Concert Hall. Hackworth is the most decorated living U.S. veteran, with a career that spans from World War II to Desert Storm. He currently is a contributing editor to Newsweek and the Washington Post. Curiously, although Hackworth is against gays in the military, he was the only senior officer to oppose the U.S. intervention in Vietnam. Regarding his stance on gay military service, Pund remarked that whether you agreed with him or not, Hackworth presents a very convincing argument. "And he's got the knowledge to back it up," commented Pund.

Bates Internet makes international news

Finding itself in the unlikely section of "economic reports" in the March 7, 1994, issue of the Christian Science Monitor, the technological frontiers of the Bates College admissions internet system were laid out for all to see. The short article explains the advantages of computer technology in the admissions application process and quotes Bates Dean of Admissions William Hiss on the specific progress of Bates in this area. "It's very exciting that we got as much recognition in an international publication like that," said Director of Admissions Wylie Mitchell. He said that they are now working on the next frontier for admissions—a computerized campus tour.

1994-95 JA/RC SELECTIONS

Following are the resident coordinator selections for academic year 1994-95. Twenty-four students applied for the 16 positions, down from 29 applicants last year.

Sarah Clark	Marjorie Northrop
Paul Dahlberg	Erica Parthum
Erica Fish	Scott Richard
Matthew Fox	Meredith Ritter
Edmund Gaither	Margaret Schroeder
Sana Ghias	Rebecca Wolfe
Edward Goldin	Najat Ziyadeh
Ruwanthi Gunawardane	

Frye Street Union Coordinator: Meredith Child

Following are the junior advisor selections for academic year 1994-95. Sixty students applied for the 33 positions, down from the approximately 80 applicants last year.

Kevin Ahearn	Mary Moss
Matthew Arsenaault	Shiuli Mukhopadhyay
Bryan Burpee	Kate Munzig
Grace Chen	Jennifer Neal
Kelly Dannahey	Ray Pavlick
Kyle Darling	Myla Paziienza
Dianna Devlin	David Pugh
Jonathan Eden	Beth Sawyer
Sarah Farag	Mary Sporcic
Hilary Holbrook	Leon Susen
Katie Kenneson	Brecken Taber
David Kociemba	Sara Tichener
Laura Lambert	Christopher Tine
Jessica Meerbergen	Molly Walsh
Erica Montgomery	Bor-Wen Yang
James Montgomery	Marc Zuccaro
Jennifer Moore	

REPRESENTATIVE ASSEMBLY

Issues discussed in meetings held on 2/14, 2/28 and 3/7:

Executive Committee Internships— A proposal was brought forward at the February 14 meeting about having internships for interested students with the members of the executive committee. These internships could be very valuable for students who might choose to run for positions on the executive committee in the future. The main goal of these internships is to familiarize interested students with the functions of the executive committee and the resources available to them. Students who choose to take one or more of these internships might put that information on their resumes even if they do not hold a position on the executive board. After extensive discussion on the topic, the house voted in favor of ratifying the proposal. More information on the internships can be gathered from any of the executive officers. (See R.A. Board outside of Commons for officers' names and phone numbers.)

The Smoking Committee— A resolution from the Smoking Committee, which was presented to the R.A. body, proposed that all on-campus housing be divided into two categories. It was proposed that 50 percent of the beds be located in smoking-free dorms and the other 50 percent be located in dorms where residing students will vote at the first in-house meeting to decide the smoking regulations for that building. The objective of this sort of segregation is to gradually move in the direction of increasing the number of smoke-free residences. According to Dean of Students F. Celeste Branham, the approximately 10 to 20 percent of the student body smokes. After a long period of involved discussion, the house voted to reject the proposal. The committee will meet again to discuss the possibility of other options as well as continuing to consider the legal aspects of the issue in relation to Maine state law.

Car Break-Ins in Merrill— The administration has become increasingly concerned with the continuing epidemic of theft from vehicles. Included in their response is the solicitation of bids for the cost of video monitoring. R.A. members suggested several other options including such methods as a "card-gate" in Merrill. At this point the assembly awaits the results of the video option as it offers deterrence as well as direct monitoring of danger areas. It was also suggested that publicizing the problem near Admissions is likely to spur action more quickly than otherwise.

Discussion Board Proposal— A detailed proposal to create a forum (or literally, a space on a wall) for open and relatively spontaneous dialogue was presented by Alex Komlosi '96. As evidenced by the questions and comments sparked by the first reading, this motion should pass with several likely amendments. As the board will be entirely student-run, we invite any comments in the next R.A. meeting.

Freewill Folk Society's Success— The questionable bill of nearly \$700.00 that was given to the group for the repair of the damaged floor of Chase Lounge was rescinded after investigations by the Society in connection with R.A. officers. At this point, Dean Branham has expressed support for a full range of student activities in Chase Lounge despite recognizing the need to discuss options for preserving the lounge's wooden floor.

—Reported by RA Vice President Mark Fournier '95

Correction

In the February 11 edition of The Bates Student, the reported number of students surveyed who were interested in attending a GLBA meeting was incorrect. It should have been 113. Additionally, for clarification's sake, GLBA meetings serve a dual purpose of discussing activist projects and exploring "discussion topics." Finally, Steve Rinaldi '94 does not necessarily believe 11 percent of the population is gay, lesbian or bisexual. He was quoting the Kinsey Report.

In the same issue, the student address change was incorrect. It should have been 56 Campus Avenue.

Blues Traveler to rock the night away in Bates' Gray Cage

Continued from Page 1

Blues Traveler, the Grateful Dead, and Savoy Truffle are all bands to which Allgood has been compared," reported Jane Reuter, staff writer for Summit Newspapers.

Allgood is praised often for giving excellent live performances, as Massey Arrington, assistant editor for Arcade magazine reported: "Although its debut CD, 'Ride the Bee,' is

excellent, it fails to capture the true essence of the band. To really experience Allgood, one should see them perform live."

Paul Rosenthal, coordinator of student activities, remarked that Blues Traveler is a band that Bates has been trying to get for years because of their popularity and wide-spread appeal. CHC is fairly confident the show will sell out; as Rosenthal attested, there has been a good indication that a big constituency of off-campus patrons

will come to the show.

Given the anticipated popularity of the concert among the community, tickets will go on sale today for Bates students, a day or two prior to the commencement of ticket sales for the general public. Tickets will be \$12 for Bates students and \$16 for others.

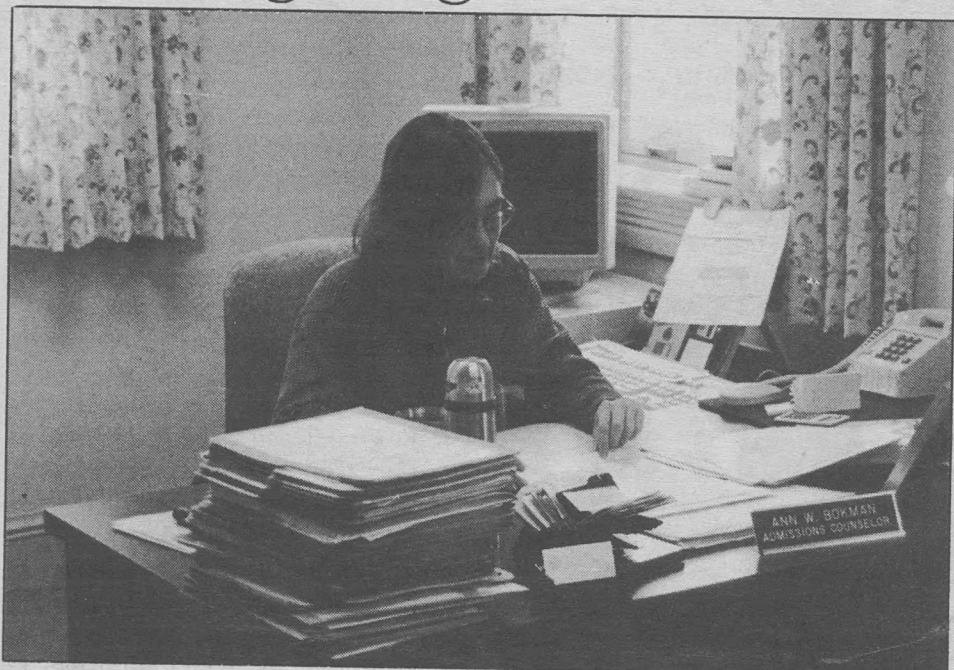
Theresa Evenson '96, general officer in charge of publicity for CHC, verified that as well as being available on campus, tickets will also be sold at all Strawberries locations, as well as

Bull Moose in Brunswick and CD Exchange in Portland. Tickets will be limited to approximately 1,655, due to fire code laws for the Gray Cage.

The doors will open at 7:30, with a concert starting time of 8:00.

As lead vocalist of Blues Traveler John Popper remarked about the tour, "We've really missed being out there for the last six months. We've really got a bad case of needing to play for people."

Bates logs largest number of applications ever for class of '98



An admissions counselor reviews applications for the class of 1998. Admissions decisions will be sent out March 30. *Barney Beal photo.*

By Barnaby Wickham
News Editor

Representing a four percent increase from last year, the admissions office received 3,745 applications for the class of 1998, the largest number of applications ever in the history of the college.

"This is at least the third year [of Bates receiving] more applications than Bowdoin or Colby," said Wylie Mitchell, director of admissions.

According to Mitchell, the fall semester target for the class of 1998 is 415 students, approximately 155 students fewer than the class of 1997.

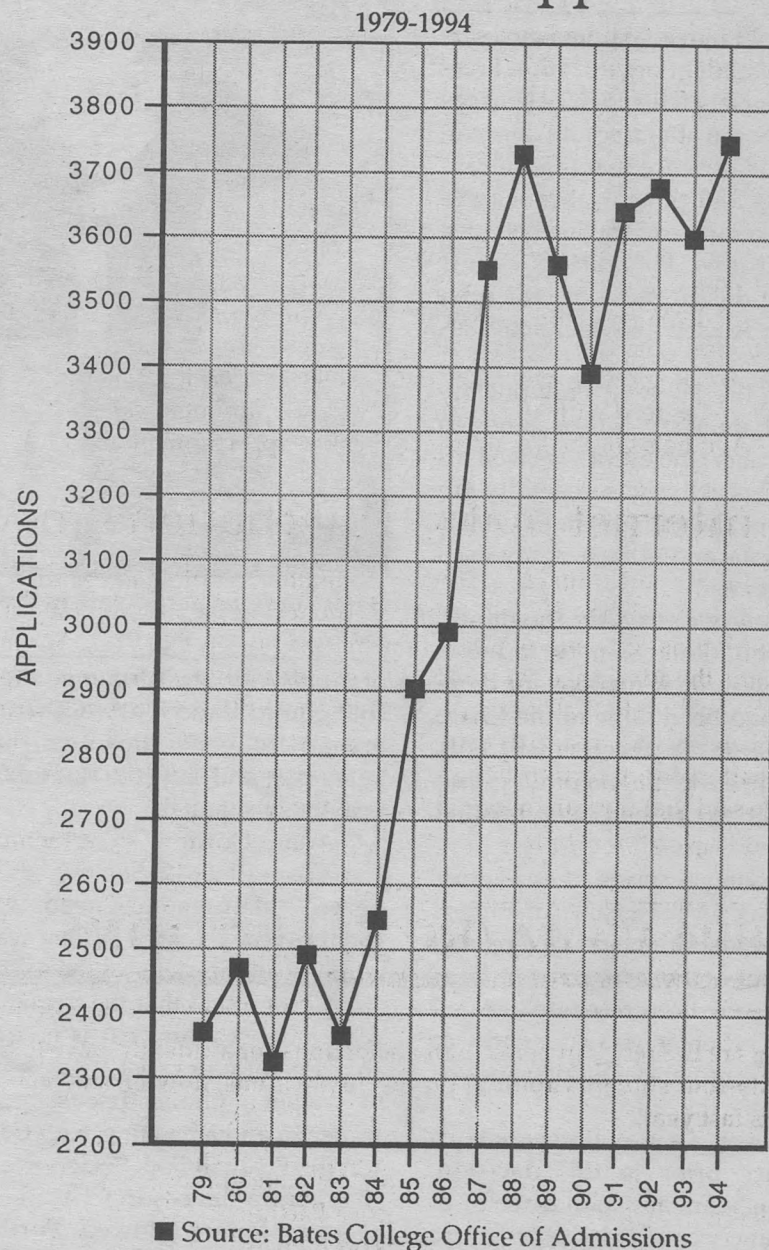
Since 150 students have already

been admitted early decision and 35 accepted students are expected to "melt" during the summer, admissions is aiming to acquire 300 students this round. To achieve this figure, admissions will probably admit 1,100 students, said Mitchell.

Mitchell was very excited about the diversity of the applicants. Applications hail from 49 states, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, District of Columbia, and 64 countries. Twelve percent of applicants are United States multicultural students and an additional 10 percent of applicants are international students.

Admissions decisions will be mailed on March 30.

Bates Admissions Applications



Anti-Semitism committee makes recommendations for action

Continued from Page 1

tering a sense of outrage, intimidation and harassment among Jewish students involved verbal anti-Semitic attacks."

The Anti-Defamation League (ADL) released their annual report with findings from 1993 stating that anti-Semitic incidents had risen on college campuses by seven percent for the sixth straight year, while the national average rose eight percent. At 1,867, this is the second highest number of incidents in 15 years.

As recently as early February, an attack hinting of anti-Semitism was reported on the Bates campus. According to a statement sent to all students from the Dean of Student's Office on February 11, an unidentified person put a threatening photograph of skinheads in a sieg heil salute on the door of a student's residence room door as part of a racial and/or ethnic attack.

Last year, according to the subcommittee, anti-Semitic graffiti was found in the elevator of Ladd Library. In addition, a student was assaulted with a anti-Semitic epitaph for refusing to participate in a group purchase of alcohol.

Part of the challenge of the

subcommittee's task was making recommendations to deal with anti-Semitic attacks, to prevent them from occurring, and to create a comfortable atmosphere for Jewish students at Bates. Their recommendations were broken up into four areas: curriculum, campus climate, conduct codes and organized student response.

The subcommittee recommended a Judaic Studies program be added to the curriculum "with an academic curriculum through which students can explore Jewish history, spirituality, society, culture and language," and the expansion of abroad programs to "greatly increase the courses available in Israel." For the Judaic Studies program, it was recommended that two faculty positions be created: one in the area of history and theology and one in the area of language and culture.

However, the process of adding a Judaic Studies program is a lengthy one and could require many years of study and work. "Just think about how we put together the program for Environmental Studies which is still going through various processes," Harward said. "It has taken several years of very deliberate study and work by an integrated team of faculty, students and staff to work that all through. Lots of issues have to be ex-

amined."

Campus climate also requires improvement, according to the committee. Committee recommendations include: an addition to student orientation which would "include a section on survival skills for those who may face hostilities such as anti-Semitism," the hiring of a Director of Multicultural Affairs "who, reporting to the Dean of Students, will provide leadership in developing educational and social programs related to cultural diversity," and the training of Resident Coordinators and Junior Advisors in areas of diversity. The subcommittee suggested the immediate review of the college's schedule. It also suggested the implementation of the training of all college employees and faculty members in the area of diversity.

In regard to the immediate review of the calendar, President Harward said that steps have already been taken to avoid the scheduling of classes on holidays, or the calendar will provide latitude in allowing students, faculty and staff to be absent in order to observe the holidays. For conduct codes, the subcommittee recommended that student codes of conduct "explicitly prohibit acts of hatred and intolerance such as anti-Semitism."

For organized student response, the subcommittee suggested that each student organization "have a policy prohibiting discrimination on the basis of race/ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, gender and national origin; strive to promote a more multicultural atmosphere at Bates; and appoint a committee that will deal with bias issues across an academic year."

Harward commented that these recommendations will get immediate implementation. Recommendations like the Judaic Studies major and the hiring of a multicultural director would have to be researched thoroughly before they were implemented, he said.

"We're just having a general discussion at this moment on how to proceed from here," said Dean of Students F. Celeste Branham. "We would like a broad discussion with the community and we must include faculty, students and other departments."

Copies of the report are available for the College community to read in Ladd Library, the Coordinator of Student Activities' Office in Chase Hall, the Multicultural Center, the Dean of Student's Office, the Affirmative Action Office or the President's Office. Input from the community is welcome.

Write for *The Bates Student*—

Meetings Sunday at 7:00 p.m., 224 Chase Hall

College pays group's controversial maintenance charges

By Evan Halper
Staff Reporter

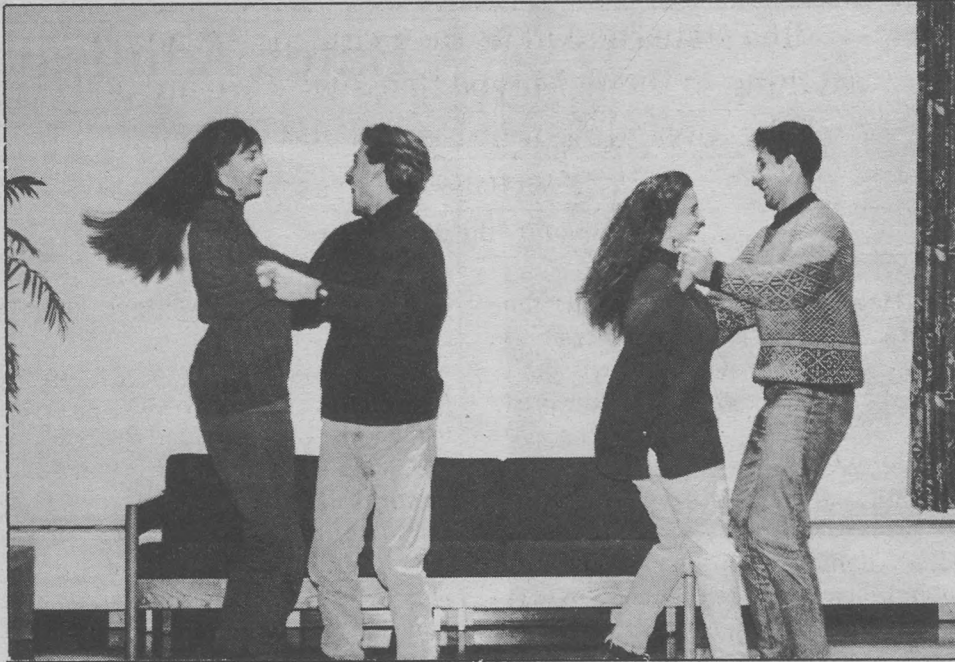
In a bold move, Maintenance surprised the student organization Freewill Folk Society with a \$683.41 charge to their account after a contra dance in Chase Lounge. Since that time, clean-up, damage and general labor charges have been a source of friction between the two groups. This turn of events has raised the question of which facilities can be used for which activities and why.

When the Freewill Folk Society held their monthly contra dance in early February, the event was well-attended. This activity is generally encouraged by the administration as it is non-alcoholic and attracts many local area residents.

But, a few days after the dance, the Freewill Folk Society found a \$683.41 bill in their mailbox for damage that had been done to the Chase Lounge floor. To the Freewill Folk Society's knowledge, no other group in recent memory had been handed such a floor charge.

Following a series of conversations between Maintenance, members of the administration and the Freewill Folk Society, the charges for floor damages have been rescinded, stated Bernard Carpenter, treasurer and vice president for financial affairs, and the college "ate" the bill.

However, a series of negotiations took place prior to this decision. Elaine Freeman, assistant director of Maintenance, contended that contra dancing is especially harsh on the hardwood floors because of the nature



Bates students participate in the Freewill Folk Society's contra dance in Chase Hall.
Rick Magnuson photo.

of the activity. She further pointed out that contra dances are occurring in greater frequency this year than in years past and thus the floor damage is more substantial.

Adam Gordon '95, a member of the Freewill Folk Society, did not agree. "Maintenance needs to get themselves educated if they want to continue in this debate," he said.

Gordon said that the frequency of contra dances this year is no greater than that of years past.

After a phone discussion with Freeman and a meeting with Carpenter, the Freewill Folk Society was told that contra dances in Chase Lounge were no longer allowed. Further, it was explained to them that if a dance were to be held in that lounge, it

would be met with another bill for \$683.41.

More than contra dancing, some say that what is at issue is the use of certain facilities by all organizations. "In my estimation this has nothing to do with the Freewill Folk Society and its use of Chase Lounge. It has to do with the constant use of the facility. To single out one organization is simply not fair," said Dean of Students F. Celeste Branham. "I'm going to work diligently to ensure they have the opportunity to continue in Chase Lounge."

Freeman, a contra dancer herself, is in support of continuing this event at Bates — in the Gray Cage. It is her contention that the partitions in the Gray Cage could be used to create an

atmosphere for contra dances that would be comparable to Chase Lounge.

"They haven't given me an answer as to why it wouldn't work in the Cage," said Freeman. "You can use the partitions in that facility to create a nice, cozy area."

She further argued that fixing the floors after dances has "significantly depleted" the maintenance budget.

The Freewill Folk Society has looked into holding the contra dances in the Gray Cage and concluded that the facility is too large and impersonal. "The Gray Cage would kill a contra dance," said Gordon.

In response to claims that other events are equal contributors to floor damage, Freeman disagreed. Taking up Gordon on a challenge to survey the floor damage before and after Triad to see if damage comparable to that of a contra dance had been done to the floor, Freeman and Carpenter concluded that the floor was not more heavily damaged by Triad.

With the support of Branham and a vote of support from the Representative Assembly, the Freewill Folk Society went ahead and held their monthly dance in Chase Lounge last Friday. Gordon admitted that damage to the floor was done, but that it was kept to a minimum.

Carpenter has now reversed his decision on the issue and now allows the activity to go on in Chase Lounge, but questions still linger. What type of event is acceptable for what facility and why?

Speakers discuss racism and identity in today's world

Continued from Page 1

lege and Yale University, first discussed the impact of white supremacy in the 1960s, a situation which demanded that blacks see themselves differently, and that the lighter one's skin, the greater one's social value. She related that when white women give birth, their first question concerns the sex of the baby; but for black women, the concern is over the color of the skin.

The call to end color cast hierarchies began in the 1970s with the slogan "Black is Beautiful," stated hooks. Black women stopped straightening their hair and lightening their skin. At the same time, hooks pointed out that the way black women wear their hair should not be a political statement, but simply a matter of choice. Still, there persists a "black acceptance of assimilation which was an acceptance of white beauty standards," hooks stated. Essentially, blacks still adhere to racist notions of beauty, she said.

Manning Marable is the director of Columbia University's Institute for Research in African American Studies. His discussion focused on identity, which he described as "the manner by which we come to understand who we are as human beings and how we are perceived by others." The problem he associated with identity is that, although it may be self-constructed within, it is also imposed on people by

appearance.

He continued to say that in the United States, blackness as a form of identity is an absolute condition but is a relative term, and called for deconstruction of what "black" and "white" mean. To make his point tangible, Marable used results from a study which showed that when blacks buy new cars, they are guaranteed to pay more for it than their white counterparts.

"Racism is an invisible tax," he stated. "Blacks pay more and receive less, and whites don't even think about it."

People think that if blatant racism is not a problem, then it doesn't exist, he said.

The discussion involving both Marable and hooks spoke again about whiteness and blackness as a racial construction, not a culture. Together they related that race is imposed on people against their wills. "We face oppression from the outside as well as what we internalize. We are fighting against both as we try to deconstruct it and survive within it," stated Marable.

During the questioning period, hooks discussed the false definition of democracy that we live under today. "If democracy means that we can all have access to resources if we work hard, then there are too many people working really hard who are not getting a fair slice of the democratic pie," she said.

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Debate on the death penalty features visiting Japanese team

By Adam Fifield
Staff Reporter

The hum of conversation and anticipation consummated the formality broadcast by the six robed, stern Quimby debaters as they prepared for a special Quimby Debate Council match featuring student debaters from Japan on Thursday, March 3. The resolution: that the death penalty should be abolished in the United States and Japan.

Evan Halper '95 delivered the government's opening speech advocating the end of the death penalty.

"If a state can kill its own citizens, it can do anything to them," asserted Halper. "Maybe that's why we are one of the most violent industrialized nations."

"If a state can kill its own citizens, it can do anything to them. Maybe that's why we are one of the most violent industrialized nations."

Evan Halper '95,

debating for "the government"

He stressed three main points: the death penalty is state-sanctioned murder, that it brutalizes society, and that it levies an undue economic burden.

Jeremy Brenningstall '97 opened the opposition's argument by emphasizing the need of capital punishment.

"There are murderers who think about their crime beforehand," he explained. "We should value the lives of people who are innocent more than

those who have committed capital crimes."

In addition to capital punishment's alleged value as a deterrent, he also indicated that capital punishment is a "form of self-defense."

Visiting student Eiko Matsubara of Nanzan University supported Halper's arguments and suggested that the existence of capital punishment is responsible for "the personal


guilt of the executioner."

Floor speeches throughout and following the debate served to elucidate further considerations. Seasoned debater Quoc Tran '95 suggested the presence of racial bias in capital litigation.

But, in his rebuttal Chris Tine '96 stated that racial bias does not only plague capital litigation, but that it is "inherent in the judicial system." He offered, "There's racial bias in rape cases. Should we not prosecute rapists?"

Lauren Popell '94 rebutted for the government stating, "There is a philosophical leap between saying a 'person ought to die' and implementing a policy to achieve that."

After all speeches were over, the audience voted in favor of the gov-



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Testing Academia: Rising grades become an issue

By Laura Mytels
Editor-in-Chief

Over the past decade, Bates, as with other colleges across the country, has experienced a rise in the percentage of A's and B's that are given to students, as well as a decline in the percentage of C and D grades. This trend, dubbed "grade inflation" by academic pundits, incites questions of academia's rigor and students' abilities. Are students getting smarter, or is grading getting easier?

"You can't argue that there isn't grade inflation," stated Registrar Meredith Braz, who cited grade disbursements at Bates since the 1978-79 school year. That year, 66.2 percent of Bates grades were either A's or B's. For the 1991-92 school year, the most recent year for which data is available, 81.1 percent of the grades at Bates were A's or B's (see graph).

While this appears to be a dramatic jump, the trend is paralleled across the country, stated Braz. Bates percentages for grades practically mirror grades at neighboring Colby College, she said. In addition, in a recent study in which Bates participated, Bates grade trends were similar to those of approximately 15 other schools, said Braz.

Despite the increase of A's and B's that students earn in their classes, Associate Professor of French Mary Rice-DeFosse, a member of the Academic Standing Committee, stated that in her experience she has not noticed a change in students' overall academic records. "They're the same smattering of grades," she said.

Braz emphasized the same argument: "The faculty takes grading seriously. I don't get any sense that people are throwing out grades without giving it thought," she said.

So, if faculty members continue to hold students to a high standard at Bates and at other institutions nationwide, why this prevalent trend of grade inflation?

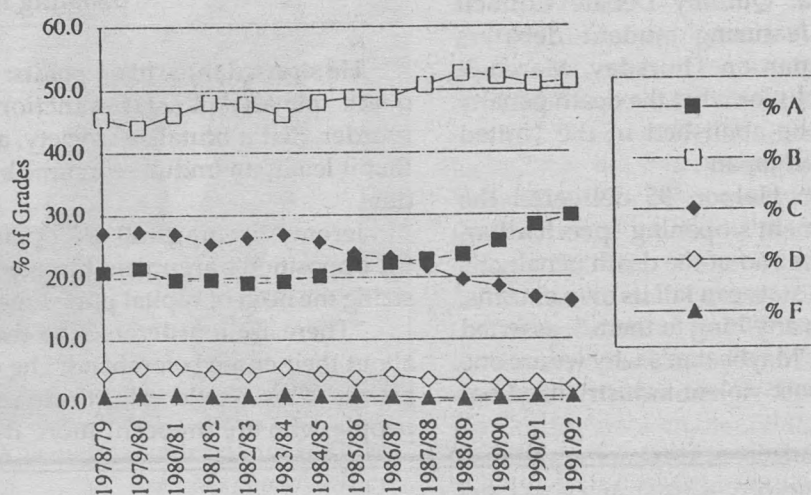
■ Many different reasons

According to Jack Pribram, associate dean of the faculty, grades across the country jumped dramatically upward in the 1960s because of the draft that was enacted for the Vietnam War. "People were drafted according to their grades and faculty didn't want to be the one [responsible for a student being drafted]," he said.

Grade inflation is often attributed to this draft factor, yet the issue proves to be more complex. According to Pribram, a reorganized grading system, a gradual change in attitudes among students, as well as the use of grades to determine scholarships and other "benefits," such as reduced car insurance, have ensured the continual rise of average grades.

In the 1960s, the universal grading system in the United States transferred from a 100-point scale to the A to F scheme that we know today. According to Pribram, this translation of grades forced a realignment in the definition of "average." With a 100-point scale, 75 points, which transcribes to today's C, was considered to be an appropriate award for an average performance. With the 4-tiered

Fall/Winter Grade Distribution



■ Source: Registrar/Universal Grade Report
■ Compiled by the Office of Institutional Research

A,B,C,D scale, however, a C falls in the lower half of the scale, a much lower position than 75 percent.

"When you go to a four-point scale, C can't be the average," said Pribram.

With this realignment of the grading system also came a shifting of student expectations: "There's a real change in attitude among students; [they believe] that a C is a punishment," he said.

Pribram also emphasized that grades now figure into processes for which they were not originally intended — such as a student's eligibility for reduced auto insurance —

therefore placing professors in the position of possibly adversely affecting a student's extra-academic possibilities.

"I think the way grades get used puts pressure on students, who then put pressure on faculty," he said.

Increasingly accommodating drop policies may also lead to overall increases in grades. At Bates, students can drop a course through the seventh week of the semester, stated Braz. Other colleges are even more lenient. For example, at Colby College, a student can drop a course any time before the final exam.

Continued on Page 7, Column 1

Internet promises rude computer responses and wet pants

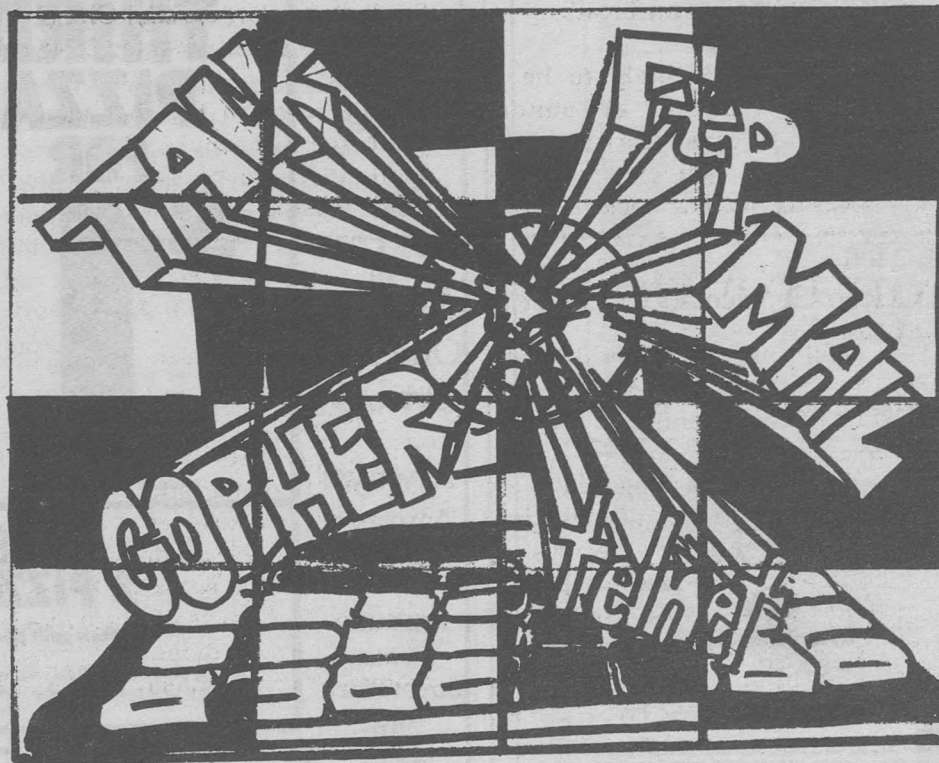
By Jeremy Villano
Student Correspondent

Like sliced bread, the Internet has changed the world. Now we can mail a letter to the other side of the country in 10 seconds, find the lyrics to Fudgetunnel's ballad "tipper gore," banter with a necrophiliac from Australia, play testosterone-based MUD's (Multi User Dungeons) where the goal is, of course, to kill the misunderstood dragon and decimate your grade point average in one sitting. How efficient. How tidy.

So, there's this gray box made of silicon, a few wires, and 13,647 copyright laws. There's nothing mystical here, yet it's difficult to pull yourself away. I've got radiation leaking through my eyeballs, cramping fingers and that familiar damp feeling in the seat of my pants. I fight it all off.

More. I must type more. More letters. I need more letters. More 16-page letters that are full of one-liners about beached whales in the Netherlands. I'm on the information highway. I can do anything if I can only figure out how.

Asking the computer for help is a mistake a rookie often makes. The innocent user will often ask for aid only to be rudely shunned by replies such as, "You silly putz. If you can telnet to Singapore via Botswana's gopher system, then this simple chore should



Kim Gannett drawing.

be cake. Loser." What's with this condescension? I'm the human being here. Somebody like me created the damn thing and I'm the one who can go out and buy the Jaws of Life and use them on you, moron box.

Perhaps this air of superiority would be deserved if the machine actually helped me. Instead it offers useful tips such as, "You have an invalid parameter." Parawhat? Is my name Gottfried Leibniz? As if I had a clue as

to what a parameter is. Truth is that the number of people in North America who know what a parameter is has permanently been set at 126.

It is equally difficult to ask the computer assistant or your digitally inclined neighbor for help. The innocent question, "Um, excuse me. Can you please tell me how I get into the mail part?" will undoubtedly be answered by, "Christ, another damned rookie. Can't you see I've changed the

directory 'users/students/Nimrod' to 'stockpile/of/useless/free/programs' by bouncing my signal through the University of Zagreb, redirecting it through the Sultan of Brunei's private node, relaying the signal through Ball University, and then sending it back through NASA's department of Challenger Scientists Who Have Produced Nothing Really Interesting in 27 Years. Sheesh. Read the help screen, you dolt. That's what it's for."

The moral here is that the Internet stands as the vengeful wrath of the computer geek. Sure, sure, you threw rocks at them in high school, jammed Jell-O in their ears, broke their protractors and the cheerleaders accidentally beat the snot out of them with their megaphones. Now these same digitally inclined power-mongers are calling the shots. Yes, the Internet can be both comprehensible and non-adicting. Everybody knows that.

However, the Net Conspiracy is too strong for the average schmoes to beat once they are sucked in. For those who have already been sucked in by The Conspiracy, the solution is simple: Give up and assimilate. Quiet and peaceful conformity leads to the least amount of spilled blood. Be smart. I'll see you on the MUD's at 3:00 a.m. I may have a 0.14 G.P.A., but I've also got a level 17 elf mage. I'll kick your butt.

Interview blues: Tight suspenders and monkey business

By Laurie Burgan
Forum Editor

The elevator opens its doors on the 80th floor of a New York high-rise in midtown. In the reception area, 250 soon-to-be college grads wait anxiously, dressed in Mommy's and Daddy's finest Anne Klein and Armani business suits. Some students actually have their own suits for this occasion. The occasion is a cattle call — college recruiting job interviews for entry-level positions for the likes of Red Lobster and Toys 'R' Us. Somehow organizations like the prestigious ad firm Saatchi & Saatchi, the Federal Reserve Bank, the Secret Service and the CIA managed to slip in there. Students from colleges across New England — everywhere from Brown to Fairfield Community College — attempt to put their empty, nervous, growling stomachs in check whilst maintaining strict posture and a sober demeanor.

The process goes as such: you arrive and register at the interviewing site at 7:00 in the morning; you then wait for two hours for a 15 minute interview with one company or another — it may be for a managerial position at the Taco Shack or for a mail clerk position with Golden Books. At the same eight-foot table there are four other representatives from the same company interviewing four other college students who have the exact same resume that you do. You then wait for another two hours for your next interview with the next company, occupying yourself by completely rewriting your resume or counting how many stripes are in your suit. This procedure may be repeated up to six times before the day is through.

■ **Waiting, 8:15 a.m.**

Mary Jo, most likely to live with her parents in Connecticut for the rest of her life: You know, my mother said that I've got plenty of time to find a job. My health insurance doesn't run out until next September.

Billy Joe, most likely to become Speaker of the House: I sure hope I

The collage contains several advertisements:

- HELP WANTED (2600):** Magnetic Resonance Imaging Technologist (Brooklyn, NY); Operates magnetic resonance imaging equipto produce cross-sectional images of patient's body for diagnostic purposes. Positions patient on exam table & places can close to area of interest. Enters data, such as patient hist, anatomical area to be scanned, orientation specified & position of entry into aperture of magnetic resonance imaging equipto computer. Keys commands to specify scan sequences & adjust transmitters & receivers, into computer. Operates window of control screen to monitor patient. Views imaged on video display of pictures. Board of camera to 35 hrs/wk, 9am-5pm. Resumes/letter in duplicate to: C-1778, Room 501, One Main St, Brooklyn, NY 11201
- FREE FOOD!** Earn \$1000 weekly in self monthly in management free food. Its simple, fun. No experience necr. First time offered in dollar market! 24 hours
- strategy WINNER:** Commissions + Bonuses PAID WEEKLY! Several positions available. Participate in consumer surveys and opinion polls, earn money evaluating.
- NEW YORK:** A large graphic of the New York City skyline.
- Business:** Vertical text on the right side of the collage.
- Carpets & Rugs:** ALASKAN WOLF RUGS \$3500. Lv msg 914-461-1111
- Computers & DP Equip:** BRAND NEW Mac Powerbook 33 MHz, 4MB memory/120 of software pre-loaded. Price 212-481-9123
- IBM PS/1 486sx, 25 mhz, 5 170hd, 4mb ram, xendbl, m wrrty, 5 mo old. \$1250. 212-481-9123**
- Chickeri:** Merit's Bloc length. Exc at \$500. AS
- Home Fr:** FOR SALE: NY diploma sofa, wing numerous c sh, 3am-9pm call 212-371-1111
- ESTATE SA:** table, vict chairs, kitch set iron folding screen, childre trunk, deco & 30's Wilton 9x12 + more. Sat 12-4, Sun 2-4 End Ave (88th St) Apt 35.

Ian McDonald collage.

can get one of these jobs. New York is such an awesome town! I was out all night last night and spent \$500 on my father's AmEx. I definitely have to live here. Gee, I have a wicked hang-over; I sure hope these people can't smell the alcohol on my breath.

Bobby Joe, most likely to be in charge of Cardinal O'Connor's wardrobe: Jesus Christ! These Goddamned suspenders are pulling my slacks up my butt crack!

■ **The Interview, 10:47 a.m.**

Ima "The Dreama" Stern, representative of Dell Computer Corporation: Please, have a seat. I hope you weren't waiting long.

Student: [smiling broadly] Oh no! Not long at all! (I only counted 2,748 ceiling tiles.)

Ms. Stern: So, tell me, what interested you in our company?

Student: [twisting nervously in the swivel chair that was ever-so-thoughtfully

BUT SERIOUSLY

supplied by the consortium organizers] Well, uh, I feel that, umm, well, your company, err... (What did they tell me to say at the OCS? Well, If you want to know the truth I have absolutely no interest in computers, and corporate America disgusts me. Just put me in a pair of blue jeans and a t-shirt, give me a cigarette, and I'll be happy.)

Ms. Stern: I've looked over your resume and it says that your anthropology thesis dealt with masturbating monkeys in the Amazon basin and their relation to the indigenous people's economy. Tell me more about this and, more specifically, how your study may apply to the position that you're seeking with our company.

Student: [looking down pensively] Hmm... (Great! Finally I can talk about something that I'm halfway interested in, though I have no idea in hell how my thesis could possibly pertain to paper pushing. Oh sh*t! I have a run in my stocking!) Well, you see, the studies that I have done show that monkey semen can be baked down to a crystalline solid that can cheaply replace the computer chip. The indigenous people can collect the semen and sell it to conglomerate computer science labs. These people may then use the profits that they make to promote their own cultural heritage. (That sounded good.)

Ms. Stern: Well! Oh my! Your 20 minutes are up and [yawn] I have 19 more saps, I mean people, to interview before the end of the day. So, don't call us. We'll be in touch. Good luck in what ever you choose to do.

Student: [enthusiastically] Thanks so much for your time! I mean it, really ... thank you from the bottom of my heart, thank you! (Gee, that wasn't so bad after all. I think she actually liked me. I think I got the job! Now I only have five more interviews to go. God, these heels are killing me.)

Do grade inflation trends make A students out of everyone?

Continued from Page 7

"Students will self-select out of [courses they are not doing well in]," stated Rice-DeFosse.

"That's definitely a factor in grade inflation," stated Pribram.

■ **Looking good**

Cynics (or watchdogs, as they would probably call themselves) often argue that there is institutional pressure for faculty members to award higher grades. As the argument goes, students from an institution such as Bates are more likely to be accepted into prestigious graduate schools if they have high grades. Therefore, an institution like Bates has a vested interest in promoting its students by awarding them high grades.

According to Pribram, the administration at Bates is very "hands-off" in grading. If a professor awarded A's to all of her/his students,

"the faculty member would hardly hear a peep from Lane Hall," stated Pribram. "The institutional pressure is very, very minor."

Arguments regarding grades are brought to the Academic Standing Committee, which then decides the issue on a case-by-case basis. According to Rice-DeFosse, contentions from students regarding their grades are only appeased when faculty members feel they have erred, usually because of a numerical mistake.

"There's something sacrosanct about grades," she said. "...It's sort of like freedom of speech, I think."

Despite the emphatic belief that grades at Bates are not dictated by the administration, Pribram stated that individual faculty members "feel there's a correlation between grades and course evaluations. There are faculty who feel that when they gave lower grades, their evaluations went down."

According to some, this correlation may lead to higher grades, particularly among junior faculty mem-

bers whose course evaluations will be used when they are up for tenure.

However, according to Rice-DeFosse, professors are not inclined to dole out higher grades. After all, professors themselves have been awarded for their academic achievements; they have no desire to underwrite the standards of academia by giving unearned grades. "You have to promote academic integrity," she said.

■ **Rising grades: effects and changes**

As a national trend, the issue of grade inflation, despite its varied causes, does have a marked effect upon academic institutions and their students, stated Pribram: increasingly higher grades have limited the possibility for professors to distinguish and award exceptional students.

"It gives less room to reward really good students," he said. "The only option you have is to give an A+, and, to me, that person is a good grade above [an A]."

"I think if grades keep getting much higher, I think places are going to have to find other ways to recognize" their students, he said.

With the trend occurring nationally, Pribram stated that Bates as an institution is essentially incapable of reversing rising grades. "I don't think Bates can solve the problem. I think it has to happen nationally..." he said. "If you try to go it alone, you hurt your own students."

Institutions of higher learning across the country are quite aware of the trend of rising grades because employers and graduate schools are asking professors and administrators, through personal recommendations, to differentiate among students despite their successful academic records, stated Pribram.

As a nationwide issue in academics, however, no real significance has yet been placed upon grade inflation. "I don't know the answer and I don't see anyone leading the way," said Pribram.

FOOD SERVICES

Cooking up a storm in Commons

Kudos to Robert Volpi, director of food services, for the week-long culinary seminar that he organized through the New England Culinary Institute over this past February break. As part of the program, Commons employees were educated in specific areas of food preparation. A brunch was served to students on February 24 that included escargot appetizers, lamb entrees and a variety of excellent desserts, among other superb selections. Prior to the brunch, awards were given to a few workers who had studied outside of class and had applied their reading to their work.

Obviously this program will enhance the quality of the food that we are served in Commons. Beyond this advantage is the fact that this seminar is a job-training program. This contact with respected instructors will provide Commons kitchen workers with valuable experience that will provide greater job security and more freedom to move on to culinary positions elsewhere if they should choose to do so.

In his speech before the brunch, Volpi stated that the seminar was a success and that he hoped to make it an annual program. We think this is an excellent idea.

INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATION OF WOMEN

Congratulations on a job well done

This weekend marks the conclusion of the two-week International Celebration of Women, which was sponsored by the Women's Action Coalition (WAC). Included in the program were speakers of international acclaim as well as student performers, all of whom offered insight and enjoyment. We appreciate the extensive efforts made by members of WAC in organizing these events. Without these women, the program would not have been as expansive nor as exciting as it was. It's simply a disappointment that more students did not participate in the variety of events that were offered. In order to end the Celebration with a bang, we encourage participation in tomorrow night's event — a performance by the band "Perfect As Is" in the new student center. It is our hope that more students and organizations will participate in and organize events that are both entertaining and beneficial in broadening our perspectives and experiences.

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The Bates Student is published weekly by the students of Bates College when the college is in session. All Letters to the Editor must be received by noon on the Wednesday prior to publication. The newspaper will print only signed letters. Letters should be submitted typed, single spaced, or preferably saved on a 3.5" computer disk in Macintosh WordPerfect format. *The Bates Student* reserves the right not to print letters and to edit letters for length and clarity. Letters may be delivered in person to Room 224, Chase Hall. Address all correspondence to *The Bates Student*, Bates College, Box 309, Lewiston, ME 04240, or telephone (207) 795-7494. Subscription rates are \$18 for two semesters and \$10 for one semester. Checks should be made payable to *The Bates Student*.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Student motorists have no heart

To the Editor:

A few weeks ago I approached my car in a Bates student parking lot and noticed that, while either entering or exiting the next space, someone had succeeded in denting my car and removing the side bumper in the process. Coming from a city of nearly 3 million residents, I was less than shocked by the failure of the vehicle's driver to leave me a note or try in any way to contact me. However, I was certainly disappointed. So, it is the concluding Sunday of February break and again I approach my car, now parked in another student lot, only to find an identical dent on the opposite side of the car and yet another missing side bumper.

I realize that this experience may not seem detrimental to one's general

existence, yet I feel that the issue here is far more serious than several hundred dollars damage to a car. I am most disturbed by this lackadaisical attitude toward the destruction, even if inadvertent, of another individual's property.

As common an occurrence as this may be in a large city, I am saddened by the indifferent reaction of these students who simply vanished. By damaging my vehicle, these individuals have entered a situation in which they are solely responsible for the reconciliation of their own doings. I am sorry that these members of the Bates community lack the maturity to accept their responsibility.

Kevin Rodriguez '94

Wine me, dine me, but don't define me

To the Editor:

I recently attended an event sponsored by the Office of Career Services which was advertised as a workshop to teach students how to "Wine, Dine and Act Fine." This was advertised in the Bates Daily, with personal invitations sent to seniors. I figured cocktail party and interview etiquette might be useful skills, so I replied in the affirmative. I was informed that I was one of the select few — 50 in total — who would be allowed to attend this dinner.

We were told to dress in "professional" attire and were given some guidelines as to what that meant for men and women. A fashion show was designed as part of the evening's entertainment to show us appropriate and inappropriate dress and behavior for an interview. The show was narrated by an M.C. who helped us to determine what was "proper attire" and why.

The performance began with a demonstration of how we should look. Men in suits and ties, short hair, and no earrings. Women in skirt-suits with as much leg showing as possible — well above the knee. We were then told what not to do: don't wear winter boots, a ski jacket, or anything too bright — and, for God's sake, if you're a woman, don't wear trousers.

The last comment was the one Karen Sternfeld '94

that really got me. It seems to me that feeling comfortable is the most important thing at an interview. Sure I want to sell myself and tell people how wonderful I am. Shouldn't they be looking at my accomplishments rather than at my legs? But, they reply, it is only for the interview. Once you have the job it is okay to wear trousers. What message does this give to me as a woman? Men must look as clone-like as possible, wearing a suit and tie and a conservative haircut. It is men's accomplishments which distinguish them. But for me as a woman, it doesn't matter what my resume looks like; I'd better have nice legs.

Bates is a liberal arts institution. I came here to receive a broad, liberal-minded education. This says to me that it is fine and dandy to be liberal here, but as soon as you leave, you've got to assume a more conservative air.

Are my college years merely a timeout from society, or are they a time to learn and grow and enter society ready to bring about change? It saddens me to think that anyone should graduate with a Bates degree and assume a place in corporate America without questioning and challenging some of the conservative traditions.

More Letters to the Editor, Pages 11 & 12

Russia suffers as it tries to define democratic identity

By Jeremy Breningstall

For those who thought that with the collapse of communism, our problems with Russia were over, think again. As recent events have indicated, Russia is having a great deal of difficulty transforming itself from the former Soviet Union into a democratic nation with a capitalistic economy. Unless some sort of real changes are made, there is great potential for turmoil ahead. In terms of the interests of the United States, the U.S. needs to take a greater degree of responsibility in encouraging reform within Russia.

At the moment, the tides within Russia are beginning to shift away from reform and towards policies likely to expand Russia's financial difficulties, leading to further domestic discontent. This in turn leads to negative consequences not only for the people within Russia, but also for those nations likely to be affected by Russian foreign policy.

A large part of the problem of Russia's transition has to do with the current political atmosphere within Russia. In order to push through his program of economic reforms, Boris Yeltsin has had to take almost autocratic control, sacrificing democracy for the sake of reform. In his refusal to acknowledge any opposition, he has disbanded Parliament, dissolved the constitution, stifled the free press and interfered with opposition parties' ability to run campaigns. In doing so, he attempted to get out of the quagmire presented by a Parliament refusing to consent to any sort of reform. The nation has responded by voting in an assortment of hard-liners and

The U.S. should also differentiate between Russian attempts at peacekeeping and Russian attempts at imperialism, and act based on that differentiation.

We cannot continue to condone every Russian intervention in "the near abroad."

communists, who are opposed both to democracy and to capitalism.

Throughout all this, President Clinton has maintained his support for Yeltsin, largely because he believes that Yeltsin is the only true path to economic and democratic reforms. For a time, Yeltsin seemed set on a path of radical economic change. With economic change, it was hoped that democracy would naturally follow.

However, Yeltsin is now faced with the fact that he has neither the support of his constituents (his support ratings are hovering around 30 percent) nor the support of his Parliament. In fact, his reforms don't even have the support of his cabinet. Reformers such as Yegor Gaidar and Boris Fyodorov have resigned, leaving a cabinet made up largely of hard-liners. His future potential as the leader of Russia, as well as his health, are under question.

In reaction to this lack of support, along with the predominance of nationalists such as Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, and the release of Yeltsin's foes of the October rebellion, such as Aleksandr Rutskoi (the former Vice-President), Yeltsin has embarked on a policy of rolling back reform efforts, acceding to the demands of the conservatives.

The privatization drive has been halted, while at the same time the central bank of Russia continues on with policies reminiscent of the Communist era. Subsidies to bankrupt factories and state farms have continued, sending the ruble into hyperinflation.

Unless inflation of the ruble can be brought under control, it will be difficult to achieve the monetary stability needed to support and expand a free-market economy. As long as these policies continue, as well as the corresponding policy of free-spending on the military-industrial complex, it will be almost impossible for the Russian government to bring its economy under control. Seeing as the desire for improved economic conditions were what motivated the reconstruction of the Russian government, the fact that improvements are not being achieved could have drastic consequences. This potentially includes a reversion to communism or nationalism, although a reversion to a conservative, socialist government would be more likely.

A policy of radical reform, accompanied by substantial amounts of Western aid, may have been sufficient to bring Russia's economy under control. However, while the West has promised Russia large aid packages, very little of this aid has actually ar-

rived in Russia, and Russia never fully overhauled the remnants of its communist system. Now that Russia is beginning to roll back its reforms, it is questionable whether Western aid would actually promote a free-market economy, or whether it would just subsidize misfinance within Russia.

Russia's reversal in economic policy has been accompanied by a corresponding shift in foreign policy, one that does not spell well for the stability within the region. While the United States has sort of winked and looked the other way, Russia has returned to many of its imperialistic policies. Russian armies have been interfering in Georgia and Azerbaijan, while in Moscow, Yeltsin and others have been proclaiming the necessity for a better and stronger army. Russian troops have refused to evacuate many of the "independent" republics, and Russia has begun to assume a sort of veto power over these nations.

The policy of the U.S. government of Russian appeasement has led to negative consequences for these newly-freed republics, as well as for the countries of the former Warsaw Pact, such as Poland and Czechoslovakia, which have embarked on true reform. In trying to avoid angering the Russians, the U.S. has declined to allow these nations to enter NATO, declined to guarantee Ukraine's security (at a time when we've been attempting to convince them to remove their nuclear weapons), and has paid little attention to retaining the democratic and economic improvements within these nations, making reform within them dependent on the upheaval in Russia.

Continued on Page 12, Column 3

Speakers deliver unclear message on multiculturalism

By Francisco Ugarte

On Wednesday, March 1, bell hooks and Manning Marable symbolically commenced the advent of multiculturalism at Bates College. As foremost scholars and cultural critics, hooks and Marable were appropriately chosen for accomplishing the task. Their insights into the nature of racism, sexism, and classism have profoundly influenced many within and outside of their academic fields.

Wednesday's lecture, however, posed a recurring problem for academics and political activists. The lecture was intellectually and spiritually rewarding but practically frustrating. While both hooks and Marable offered profound insights, their political message was ambiguous.

As I left the lecture, I felt illuminated. The two speakers left the audience with fascinating ideas and an overall sense of social "goodness." hooks' ability to uncover some of the subtleties in American race relations was uncanny, and Marable's precise analysis of institutional racism provoked rigorous thought and discussion.

hooks' discussion centered around the idea of "internalized racism." She rightfully argued that we, as cultural beings, both consciously and unconsciously have accepted racist attitudes, and these attitudes pervade and guide our social conscience. Even the people who consider themselves to be free of racism often maintain negative racial stereotypes without being aware of it. The barrage of racist ideas perpetrated through cultural mediums (TV, cinema, literature, jokes, etc.) exemplifies the forces that make us accept these ideas as true. Most importantly, though, our objective is to destroy these typecasts, prejudices and bigotries.

Instead of dedicating so much scholarly time to understanding "blackness" in a white-dominated culture, we need to understand "whiteness" in a racist and racialist culture.

Running with hooks' point, Marable stated, "[Instead of deconstructing blackness,] ... what we need to do is deconstruct whiteness!" That is, instead of dedicating so much scholarly time to understanding "blackness" in a white-dominated culture, we need to understand "whiteness" in a racist and racialist culture. Whites must understand and acknowledge their white-skin privilege as a translation of institutional power. Whether we think it or not, whites have a twofold privilege: a) we do not have to cope with a constant barrage of negative imagery against our own "ethnicity," rather, we indulge in cultural self-praise; and b) because we do not have to cope, we ignore that others do, thereby further establishing our own privilege.

These types of insights were intellectually stimulating. But as I thought further about them, problems arose in my mind.

For example, when we consider Marable's plea to "deconstruct whiteness," implicit questions arise, questions that neither he nor hooks addressed. Who is going to "deconstruct" whiteness? The "oppressed"? Corporate executives? Or the intellectuals? The term "deconstruction," though theoretically useful, is an ambiguous scholarly term which reflects a terribly deep class difference, the same

class difference to which Marable is theoretically struggling against. Indeed, the only ones who can actualize Marable's plea are the intellectuals themselves. It is they who use the word "deconstruct." The socially oppressed, typically undereducated and poor, do not.

Marable's plea creates an isolated forum of discussion where only the educated class may participate. The intellectuals are the only ones who can be self-aware of internalized racism. Marable and hooks would probably disagree, but their implicit message on Wednesday did not. Marable's choice of the word "deconstruct" immediately reflects class privilege. Thus, the objective to free human beings from racial and classist stereotypes is apparently nullified by the classist nature of his alienating theoretical language.

This particular problem blossomed into others. What was I, for example, going to do tomorrow about the "internally racist" establishment? What could I do to fight it? Write a paper? Discuss with others about the pressing issues? I felt equipped to write a thoughtful paper, and even speak with others, but when it came to the question of political action, I had no real purpose or objective. I was certainly not ready to attack capitalism, or the internally racist American government. As a matter of fact, neither hooks nor Marable argued that these two entities should be overturned, even though they agreed to their oppressive and stifling nature.

hooks and Marable did not give their audience the tools to struggle against the establishment of power. Perhaps they gave us a critical mindset, a mindset in which the individual could later build a realistic political objective. But even though the discussion was inherently political, they did not offer a

Continued on Page 12, Column 3

We all must ensure freedom for the thought we hate

By Derek Scheuerell

Having received the campus-wide mailing informing me of openly racist opinions via photos displayed recently on some student's door, I was alarmed. Not so much by the racism, but by the direction our administration takes repeatedly when responding to such expression. What is to be done about speech acts, however disgusting, inflammatory and rawly divisive that speech may be?

At more and more colleges, administrators — with the enthusiastic support of black students, female students, and liberal students — have been answering that question by preventing or punishing this free speech. In public universities this is a clear violation of the First Amendment.

If students are to be protected from bad ideas, how are they to learn to identify and cope with them? Are not administrators getting confused when they act as censors and try to protect students from such undesirable ideas?

However, in private colleges, such suppression of speech mocks the secular religion of academic freedom and free inquiry. In *Chaplinsky vs. New Hampshire*, the Supreme Court announced that acts of speech, "those which by their very utterance inflict injury..." constitute a class of speech protected under the First Amendment, even if the acts of speech inflict injury "on the basis of race, color, creed, religion or gender."

In *Chaplinsky*, the decision reflected two premises: first, that the

First Amendment protects speech because of its instrumental role in ascertaining truth; and second, that the government has a legitimate interest in promoting civility. The exception exists for speech acts that tend to incite a "breach of the peace" in common law sense, not for acts of speech that are apt to inspire retaliatory violence nor, as the concurring justices said, "for expression that causes only hurt feelings, offence or resentment." Outstandingly just and fair, right? So what does the esteemed academy

think?

Administrators and chancellors such as Sheila Kaplan of the University of Wisconsin often claim that "institutions are not lampposts standing on the street corners of America" that are often thought to belong to everyone.

If students are to be protected from bad ideas, how are they to learn to identify and cope with them? Are not administrators getting confused when they act as censors and try to protect students from such undesirable ideas? Shouldn't students be able to determine for themselves what ideas are bad? Our actions are sending such ideas underground, thereby making them stronger and more dangerous.

What is intellectual freedom then?

Continued on Page 12, Column 1

Mating habits at Bates: When raw animal instinct takes over

By Amy Geller

Courtship ceremonies are often complex, devised rituals performed by members of the same or different sexes in order to attract a mate. Many different groups and cultures enact various mating rituals, often appropriated unknowingly or stolen directly by western civilization. For example: "One sex performs step one, then the other responds with step two, then step three and so on; in a sequence of a few steps, or a dozen, one sex performs all the odd-numbered ones. If either partner makes a mistake, the ritual is broken off and must usually resume again from step one. After several repeated failures, the courtship may be broken off permanently..."

Many of you may recognize this as an integral part of your time at Bates. This quote comes directly out of that dreaded "Evolutionary Biology" textbook written and used by Professor of Biology Eli Minkoff in his class of the same name. Ironically, this ritual occurs among animals in nature, but it seems all too familiar to me. Recalling Saturday night, the annual Triad dance here at Bates, I witnessed these mating performances occurring frequently.

Much like animals, many of us dress ourselves up in our most attractive attire in an attempt to lure a mate into our domain. Like a beautiful, vibrant peacock we "plump our feathers," so to speak, and then "strut our stuff" on the dance floor.

In the cases that I saw, the male performed the first sequence of steps, moving in the direction of the female. Then he moved away and waited for her to respond with all the "even number" steps in a sequence. Once she responded, if she did, the steps would then often be repeated, but this time the partners would touch each other. Moving away once more from each other, then closer again, the two would embrace and perform the third set of steps linked together. Upon completion of this ritual, some couples return to one of their dens or simply mate or "hook up" anywhere they find privacy. This ritual does not just take place on the dance floor; it can occur standing in the beverage line or even waiting to go to the bathroom.

Humans employ other techniques similar to those of the animal and plant kingdoms, as well. Included in Minkoff's textbook is a description of "Batesian mimicry," a process that was named after a British naturalist, Henry Walter Bates, not Bates College. Batesian mimicry is often applied in re-

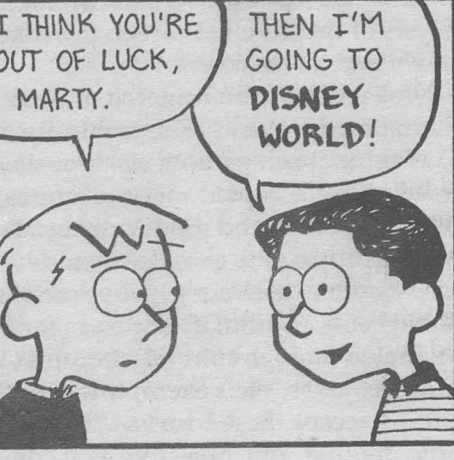
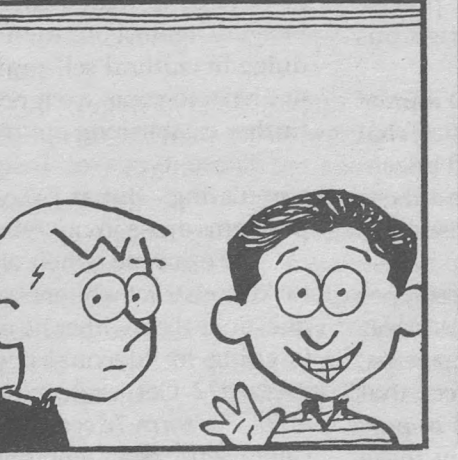
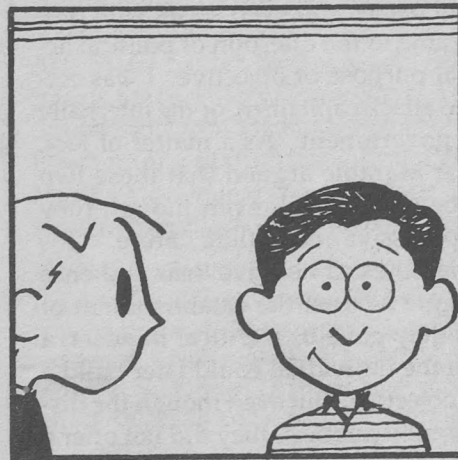
verse by women who may want to attract rather than avoid men. For example, women often dress similarly, wearing tight-fitting black dresses, in order to attract men. They use this clothing as a universal luring device, rather than as a camouflage like other animals. Women often falsely believe that by dressing like others, they can attract the ideal mate, when usually they are simply intriguing a predator. This could be true for men, as well.

Finally, reproductive mimicry is sometimes used by a man or woman who is particularly sexually frustrated. By camouflaging himself as the ideal male, for example, a man can attract and lure a woman into bed with him. In science this man would be known as a "copulation dummy," mimicking other men for the purpose of "pollinating," according to Minkoff's text. This time, however, the camouflage is not simply proper dress, but smooth talk and an intriguing personality. Once these fakers get what they want, the camouflage is often discarded and the true "insect" becomes evident.

It is apparent that many of us borrow some of our mating rituals and techniques, whether subconscious or instinctual, from nature. So, let's stop pretending that we are so sophisticated and civilized when we are all animals at heart.

THE COLLEGE DAYS

by Greg Stones '96



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Rethinking daily life: Living simply to let others simply live

To the Editor:

Brace yourself for a letter wrought with banal, overworn and undereffective slogans, cliches and facts. The U.S. comprises five percent of the world's human population and uses 30 percent of the world's resources. "Live simply, that others may simply live." Human population grows by about 10,000 people per hour. Over 300,000 people have starved to death in the past three years. By the time we retire, the planet's human population will have increased from 5.5 to 9 billion people. A fourth of all Americans live in cities which don't meet federal air quality standards. "Think Globally, Act Locally." Forty percent of all the lakes, rivers and streams in the U.S. are unsuitable for fishing, swimming, etc. Chemical use in the U.S. has doubled since the publication of Rachel Carson's landmark book, "Silent Spring." "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

No doubt you have heard facts and sayings of this kind at some point in your life. It is not enough to hear them and weep, much less to hear them and shrug. I write this letter, and include this string of admittedly

less-than-new-and-riveting word constructions with the hope of reactivating, if only slightly, this "environmental rhetoric." It is too common to become hardened to such inexcusable realities in all their complexity just because they are oversimplified for public access. I ask, simply, that you take a moment right now to consider the facts in the above paragraph thoughtfully and consciously.

I welcome responses from people who feel that resource squandering and grave inequalities are not problems that this planet currently faces. I am curious. I welcome letters from those who see no reason to be concerned about the fact that the average American 10-year-old makes more money per year in allowance than 500,000,000 (yes, five hundred million) people around the world earn as an annual working wage. And, if this does strike you as a problem, or even as merely odd, I am curious about what you plan to do about it. Call to mind the slogan, "Think Globally, Act Locally." The word that hits me hardest is "act." We all do quite a bit of thinking here at Bates, but ask yourself how much of that thought you re-

ally act upon. It is not enough to have a multicultural, gender-inclusive, ecologically sensitive "perspective": thinking about an issue does not make it go away. We must extend our daily actions beyond the realm of our own physical, emotional and intellectual needs. We must recognize that as people in positions of educational, international and financial privilege we have a responsibility to *act*, even if that action entails only slight alterations of our own currently over-consumptive lifestyles. Again, I welcome input from those who have lucid reasons why our action may be unnecessary.

Take as a meager offering the following suggestions for how a person might very simply, very immediately, live and act more consciously:

(1) Slow down — Leave your car at home when you go to Commons or Quality. Instead of cramming in an extra stress-filled hour of studying for your "Theoretical Applications of Theory" class, write a long letter to an old friend or read a poem.

(2) Simplify your surroundings — Give your extra clothes or appliances to Goodwill.

(3) Learn from nature — In a non-

human ecosystem there is no such thing as waste: one organism's "waste" is another's food. What kind of waste do you produce?

(4) Think twice about buying junk and extra packaging, and then don't buy it.

I suggest these actions as local, personal, habitual ways of responding to what you may note as a global problem. They may seem insignificant, but if 5 of your 10 sweaters will make someone who needs them warmer, I would reconsider the term insignificant. This is a simple formula for action.

Please, pause for a moment and read the first paragraph once more, considering each "overrated, over-used, cliché" sentence with open senses. Think about each one and ask, how does this apply to me? Where do I fit in to the picture of privilege and poverty in this world? What are my responsibilities?

Recall the words of Plato: "The greatest wealth is to live content with little." Simplicity does not mean living with less.

Amy Powers '94

Women's Action Coalition let down as hard work goes unappreciated by both Bates students and faculty

To the Editor:

As three of the organizers of the International Celebration of Women, we realize that there are a lot of responsibilities and activities (such as jobs, work, etc.) that prevent college students from experiencing all that could potentially be on our respective agendas. We, too, found this to be the case as we set out to plan the International Celebration of Women. However, we are deeply troubled by the lack of participation of fellow students and faculty members in many of the functions over the past two weeks.

On Monday night, March 7, 1994, Ratih Hardjono, an Indonesian/Australian journalist, was willing to bring a new perspective the Bates community. But only a handful of people attended in the new student center to learn about a subject they would otherwise not be exposed to here at Bates. Why is this? Why was there an unwillingness to see and learn of a new perspective of life? This ideal is so easily discussed in social science classes, but when it comes time to act on it fewer than 30 people attended the call. What is insulting about the lack of support for Ms. Hardjono is our claimed interest in other people's cultures and lifestyles. As an Indonesian/Australian international journalist, Ms. Hardjono offered a real chance for us to discuss the problems, issues and cares facing women around the world.

The reaction to Ms. Hardjono is not an isolated incident. Another example is the embarrassing number of people who attended the world-renowned performer Odetta. There was pitifully small turnout by both stu-

dents and faculty members to many of the events which featured intelligent, diverse, and quite famous women.

There is no excuse for this lack of support. Posters advertised the upcoming events all over campus. Both student and faculty boxes were stuffed with schedules. We profess to be such an intellectually enlightened campus, yet when offered a chance to experience the real "stuff" of the world, we do not have the time.

It is quite frustrating to bring innovative and fresh speakers and performers to this literally grey campus and for the general reaction to be one that reinforces and reflects the dismal environment in which we inhabit. And it would be unfortunate, but hardly surprising, if performers blacklisted Bates as an unresponsive campus.

We do not mean to be nasty or unsympathetic. It is very easy and comfortable to get caught up here in schoolwork, work-study jobs, teams, and clubs. We just believe it is sad on a campus so focused on intellectual growth that when insightful women come to share their wisdom there is little action outside keeping one's eyes locked onto a page of academic readings.

A lot of time and effort was put into the International Celebration of Women. It is upsetting that at the close of the two weeks, when we should feel invigorated and excited, we simply feel discouraged and worn out.

Sincerely,
Jessica Christie '96
Ruby Shamir '96
Alex Socarides '96

Students demonstrate lack of respect at recent WAC concert

To the Editor:

I was going to send a childish, angry little letter about the apparent disregard the administration has for the student body. I had a draft of a letter about the prostitution of intellectual skills and the concurrent forsaking of beauty. The idea that the readers of The Bates Student might get a kick out of reading a letter which contained the sentence, "We must not cave into wealthy alumni because they cannot possibly understand the day-to-day needs that we the adults enrolled at Bates have," had entertained me briefly. Then I went to see Odetta at the Chapel this past Wednesday.

Her beautiful, impassioned performance moved me, thrilled me, saddened and gladdened me. Her voice cried out with sounds I'd never heard before while her hands chunked away on her guitar, complementing her voice strangely at times, but never lapsing into vacancy. Were it not for the fact that she held my undivided attention from the moment she emerged from the sanctuary until she returned there an hour later, the audience would have angered me to no end.

Bates College exists for one reason and one reason alone. Students. The admissions office and the news bureau paint an incomplete picture of

Bates to the outside world so that students might want to attend this institution rather than another one. The senior class seems to think that soliciting money for the young alumni fund is a good idea because that money will go to help students. The endowment is growing because everyone who isn't a student seems to think that they know what is best for the people who are still students. All of this attention is focused on us, and what do we do?

We act like spoiled little brats who, for one reason or another, have to get up at every single chance to leave this show which we didn't even have to pay to see. I flinched a little every time one of my schoolmates got up to put a coat on and a bag over a shoulder, though I confess, I flinched less when it was at the completion of a song.

The people of the Women's Action Coalition worked damn hard to bring this Celebration of Women to us. If not for Odetta's sake, then for theirs, I wish these people who couldn't commit to a full hour of their busy schedule to see a free show hadn't shown up at all so that those of us who were willing to put in the time could have had their seats.

Respectfully submitted,
Matthew S. Orr '94

EXERCISE

Does Your Heart Good.

American Heart Association



Being sick at college: Where's the chicken noodle soup?

By Anne Macomber

It's just no fun being sick anymore. Not that spending a week hocking up great green globs of sputum was ever my idea of a good time, but things were definitely different back in high school. I think somewhere around the age of 19, being sick becomes a pain in the ass instead of a recreational activity. When I was younger, being sick meant that you got to spend the day curled up on the couch watching game shows and soaps while eating chicken noodle soup and drinking vast quantities of ginger ale.

Being sick meant that Mom would rub your back and pick up your homework. Being sick meant all your friends would call after school to see where you were and to fill you in on

the day's gossip. Being sick was, all things considered, not the worst way to spend a day. Or at least it beat going to algebra class.

Not so in the life of a college student. Here, being sick is a colossal inconvenience. After a day's worth of illness I decide to hike cross-campus to go to the Health Center. After running several highly-specialized tests like taking my temperature with that ear thing and checking my blood pressure, they inform me that yes, I am sick, but no, I am not sick enough to warrant a dean's excuse. Apparently someone has instituted an illness hierarchy where only the truly deathly and vomitously ill will be awarded the privilege of obtaining an oh-so-coveted dean's excuse.

It's like florescent green phlegm makes the cut but your everyday, run-of-the-mill yellow stuff just isn't toxic

enough. So, they send me away with these big blue horse pills for my sinuses and a bottle of cough syrup that tastes like motor oil, all to the tune of "why don't you come back in a few days when it gets worse."

As if that's really an option. You don't have any time to be sick here. It's just not possible to take three days off to sit in bed and piss and moan. The world still goes on and all that happens is you fall behind in your classes and miss sports practices. No one brings you good eats or rubs your back. No all-day game show watching or heating pads. And your chances of finding a bath tub on this campus are slim to none. Besides, mothering yourself just doesn't have the same soothing effect.

So, following my cruel rejection at the Health Center, I trudge off to class where my professor takes one look at

me and decides he doesn't need any infectious diseases wafting around the classroom and sends me back to bed from whence I came. I return home, stress about missing hockey practice and feel the lumps on the side of my throat. Severe self-pity sets in around dinner time as I sip feebly at instant chicken noodle soup that bears a striking resemblance to the liquid matter that forms in the cup where we all keep our toothbrushes.

After several mopey hours, my roommates come home and feed me frozen cheesecake and tea, two of the few things I can eat that don't feel as though I'm swallowing razor blades. They put sweats and fuzzy socks on me and send me to bed. After marveling that I am in bed by 11:00 for the first time in years, I realize that while being sick isn't particularly fabulous, it could be a whole lot worse.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Intervention may start world war

To the Editor:

Yugoslavia has been plagued with virulent ethnic conflict for more than six centuries. The Croats, Bosnians, Serbs and Muslims have always represented violent conflicting interests.

Today's situation is analogous to pre-World War I Yugoslavia. The addition of further violence, in the form of U.S., U.N. and/or N.A.T.O. military intervention could be the '90s equivalent to World War I as a result of the assassination of Archduke Frans Ferdinand.

The military escalation in the beginning of the 20th century resulted in a world war that killed millions and millions of people. Escalation in the end of the 20th century could yield the same result.

We are opposed to military intervention at this time for the following reasons:

1. According to a majority of military leaders, air strikes will not stop the fighting around Sarajevo.
2. Mortars are highly mobile, and eas-

ily hidden, and thus make poor targets for strategic air strikes.

3. Dropping more bombs in the area only increases the threat to innocent civilians and U.N. peacekeeping forces.

4. Serbians have threatened to expand the war into the Balkans and possibly the rest of Europe if bombed by N.A.T.O. forces as a result of this recent ultimatum.

5. The Serbs are not the only aggressors in this war — the Croats, Bosnians and Muslims have all contributed to the merciless bloodshed in the region.

6. Historically, military intervention has proven incapable of ending century-old ethnic conflicts.

7. Serbia and Russia have long standing ties, and there have been threats of Russian military intervention to support the Serbians.

We have a moral obligation *not* to start World War III.

ABACUS/New World Coalition

All types of speech should be free speech

Continued from Page 10

Remarks directed at another's race, sex, religion, nationality, age or sex preferences as determined by and enforced through some due process as ordered by the Student Conduct Committee? (Orwell would have loved this.) Could this wholesale cleansing of bad speech at Bates then indict students on charges of "aggravated insensitivity by association" simply for playing Andrew Dice Clay, Lenny Bruce or "hate rap" in their room?

Is there then a "right" attitude to adopt here at Bates during our four-year stay? The pressure to have such a correct attitude — as proved by having the "right" language in and out of class — is the stifling of the right of inquiry. A student who then might oppose affirmative action, for example, would likely be branded a racist.

These watchdog committees and

generally hostile classroom receptions of students' comments that are politically right of the center are symptomatic of a prevailing spirit at Bates (and elsewhere) of academic and social intolerance. Yes, Virginia, there are racist assholes. And you know what? The Constitution protects them, too. Not necessarily when they engage in violence, but when racist assholes speak or write, they fall right into Oliver Wendell Holmes' definition: these people are highly unpopular among bigots, liberals, radicals, feminists, sexists, and college administrators.

Barry Endick, a professor at the law school at New York University, said it best: "If there is any principle of the Constitution that more imperatively calls for attachment than any other, it is the principle of free thought — not free only for those who agree with us, but freedom for the thought we hate."

hooks speech spurs confusion

Continued from Page 9

plan of political action.

I thought to myself, "We, Bates students and professors, are theorizing about political struggle while we, for the most part, are not the strugglers. Are we questioning the establishment, or are we reinforcing it?" We, of course, represented the essence of class privilege. Affluence radiated from the audience, and from hooks and Marable.

Ironically, the lecturers never discussed this important element. They practically ignored the nature and consequences of their own class privilege.

Paradoxically, hooks and Marable profit from the same system that they vehemently criticize. By not offering an option of political action which would seriously challenge the institutional power structure, can hooks and Marable responsibly speak of political struggle? (This remains an open question.)

As much as I felt spiritually and intellectually rewarded from the lecture, I felt confused and indecisive. The two did not offer a means of bridging academic inquiry with political action. Can students and professors on the political left become true activists? Perhaps, but often not. While the potential for political action certainly exists, the Academy presents a limitation that is just as certain. Tenure, "publish or perish," and elitism are established institutions that pose obstacles for professors, while the grind of papers, exams and rigorous course work stifles students.

This paradox is very real and pervasive. The intellectuals speak of, and in fact dedicate their time to, theorizing the nature of power and oppression. Yet, they rarely part from their strictly academic essence to form political parties or any other directive against the "Institution."

Perhaps there is no exit from this paradox. But I would like to think otherwise. I hope that Wednesday's lecture moved us towards radical change, not steady paralysis.

Russian reform slides backwards

Continued from Page 9

All this leads one to question just where the U.S. is attempting to go with its policy towards Russia. Yeltsin has been supported as the only leader capable of bringing about true economic and political reform. However, as of yet, he has not come close to bringing about either. This reality may necessitate a change in the U.S. attitude towards Russia.

Support for the reforms that are supposedly going to occur in Russia should not be given while blindfolded. The U.S. needs to recognize the reality that first of all, Yeltsin may not be the sole path towards reform (achieving democracy through autocracy does not seem that plausible), and that secondly, support for Russia does not mean approval of all its policies.

The U.S. obviously does not have the ability to dictate how Russia's

government should act; however, the U.S. does have the right to voice its strong language its disapproval of certain acts (such as spying on an ally sending you \$14 billion in aid). The U.S. should also differentiate between Russian attempts at peacekeeping and Russian attempts at imperialism, and should act based on that differentiation. We cannot continue to condone every Russian intervention in "the near abroad."

Also, it would be best if the U.S. would divert some of its emphasis on economic reform towards achieving some measure of democracy in Russia. There has been a failure on the part of the Russian government to convince its people of the potential reform brings. This would probably be eased if people could see the real benefits of a democracy. As is, the democracy the Russian people see is one that is neither democratic, nor economically self-sufficient, and so the next election results should come as no surprise.

Defying labels: Greg Brown blends folk, blues and jazz

By Mark Erelli
Student Correspondent

Most people who had reservations for the latest Freewill Folk Society concert on Wednesday, March 9, in the Olin Arts Center Concert Hall probably did not know what to expect. Greg Brown was billed primarily as a folk act, but from the opening chords of "Just By Myself," it became quite apparent that it's not so easy to peg a definitive label on this artist.

The music was rhythmic, percussive and strangely seductive. The lyrics flowed, moving, darting back and forth between images. And then there's the voice. With one of the deepest voices you will ever hear, Brown proved capable of molding it to the need of every song. In a perennial favorite, "Good Morning Coffee," Brown's voice percolated like the first cup of the day. This song also gave Brown a chance to stretch with one of his vocal improvisations. Experimenting with jazz scatting, storytelling, or subtle social commentary, the improvisations never seemed to fail to elicit laughter from the crowd.

Brown also spiced up his sets with stories about his childhood and his travels on the road. Because he is such a good performer and musician, it was easy to overlook the simple truths expressed in these between-song tales. In his first set, there seemed to be even more stories than there were songs,

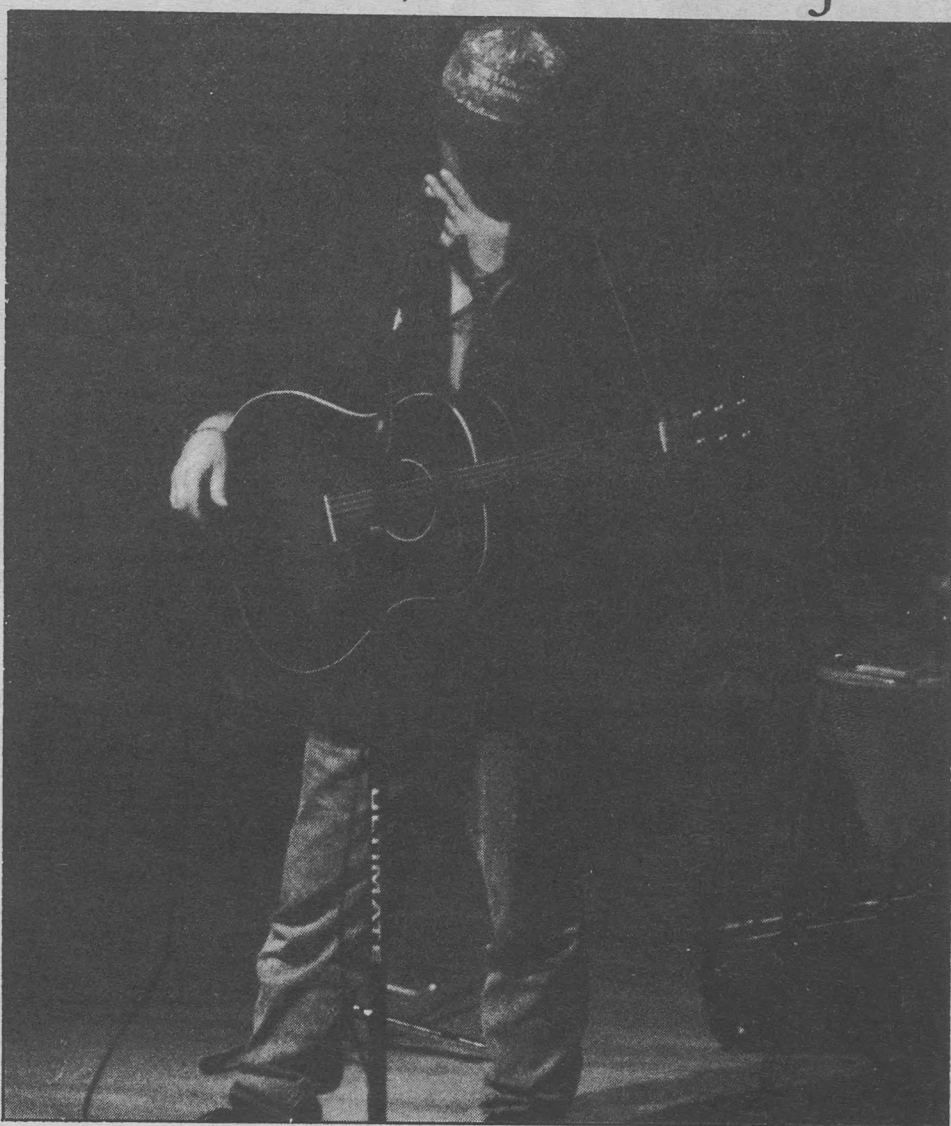
but by the middle of the second set, Brown had made a few hundred new fans.

One of the highlights of the second set was a version of "Motherless Child" into the Brown-penned favorite "Who Woulda Thunk It." Two songs later he played what he termed his "vehicular medley," which consisted of his own "64 Dodge" and a cover of Richard Thompson's "1952 Vincent Black Lightning." Medleys such as these left the audience wondering if there was anything Brown could not do.

Apparently not, judging from the territory he covered by the set's end. A song about counting baseball hats with seed and feed company logos in a midwestern cafe, multinational corporation diatribes, Elvis and Jesus songs and traditional blues pieces were all represented.

Brown's encore capped off this showcase of songwriting prowess. "Walking Down to Casey's," the only encore, was a song about two young brothers on an errand to the local general store. Written in "kidspeak," Brown captured a kind of twisted youth wisdom so well that one got the impression that despite the years, he is still a kid inside.

For those of you who missed Brown's appearance at Bates, you can still catch him at the First Parish Church in Portland on Friday, March 11.



Greg Brown brought his guitar, prolific songwriting talents and improvisational skills to the Olin Arts Center Concert Hall on Wednesday, March 9. His down-to-earth appearance accompanied his music, which has been called "tales of bravado, loss, love and the grind of living the American Dream."

Shawn Colvin concert displayed best of acoustic's crossovers

By Laurie Clark
Arts Editor

MUSIC REVIEW

Introduced as the "reigning queen of contemporary folk," Shawn Colvin brought her appealing blend of acoustic guitar, good-natured humor and limpid vocals to an enthusiastic, sold-out crowd spattered with Bates students and alumni at Portland's First Parish Church on Saturday, February 20. Having received a Grammy for her first album "Steady On," Colvin was also a recent contender at the 1994 Grammy's last week for Best Female Vocalist with her follow-up "Fat City." With her effervescent stage personality and songwriting talents, Colvin exemplifies the best of acoustic's crossovers to folk, alternative and contemporary pop music audiences.

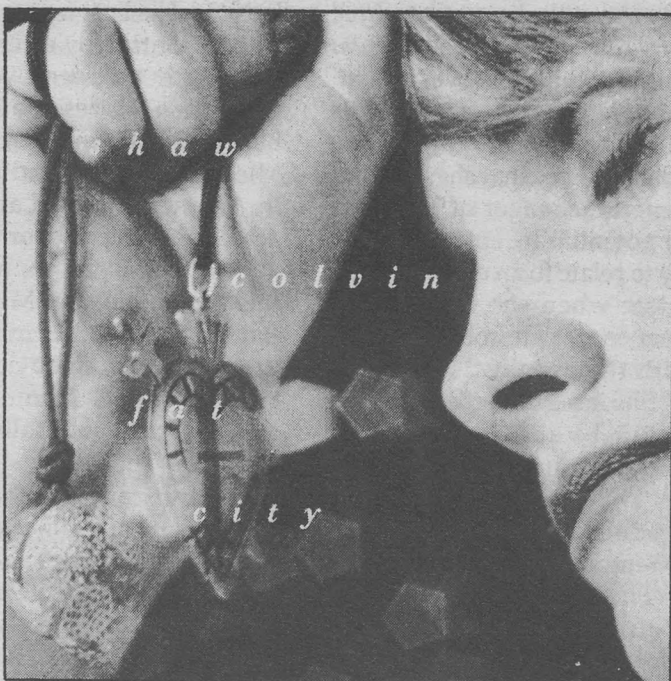
After a belated first appearance on stage, Colvin opened up to a restless though receptive crowd with Crowded House's "Four Seasons in One Day," followed by "Another Long One," which amply demonstrated her distinctive, rhythmic guitar stylings. The poignant "Polaroids" was a standout with such heart-wrenching lyrics as "And the letters I wrote you of/ Were those of the desperate stuff/ Like begging for love in a suicide threat/ But I am too young to die/ Too old for a lullaby/ Too tired for life on the ledge."

But ever-hesitant to remain too serious, the highlight of this live rendition was Colvin's playful explorations of a variety of random lyrics

from other songs tagged on to the end of her own. Colvin's teasing vocals sampled from popular songs spanned the respectable to laughable spectrum, including: "Put a Little Love in Your Heart," Paul McCartney and Stevie Wonder's "Ebony and Ivory," Bob Dylan's "Like a Rolling Stone," an Eagles number, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers' recent hit "Soul to Squeeze."

This imaginative break from herself set the tone for a spirited show marked by Colvin's energetic stage presence and warm rapport with the audience despite a cold picked up along her tour from Maine and Washington, D.C. In fact, she transformed her continual cough drop-popping throughout the performance into understated erotic commentary on it as a cool, oral fixation without the commitment that gum requires. Colvin's embarrassment at her own suggestion was later mirrored in her encore number "Set the Prairie On Fire," which she referred to as "that skanky number" after it was requested by the audience.

"Object of My Affection" was another crowd-pleaser along with a successful, folk-style sing-along to "Steady On." While she performed a noteworthy acoustic rendering of the popular single "Round of Blues" off her second album, her performance of "Tennessee" was one of the more earnest endeavors with the telling lyrics: "Oh you kissed the soul of a rebel in a



Shawn Colvin's latest Grammy-nominated album, "Fat City," was featured in her February 20 concert at the First Parish Church in Portland.

Yankee girl/ You got to me... Somebody took a hope lock from my heart and threw it down your back roads Tennessee."

Throughout the evening's performance, Colvin's crystalline voice alternately quivered and rose, effectively conveying emotional introspection and attaining powerful vocal heights, punctuated by her characteristic little yelps.

Notably, some of Colvin's most shining moments stemmed from her comical, personal storytelling between songs. She detailed compli-

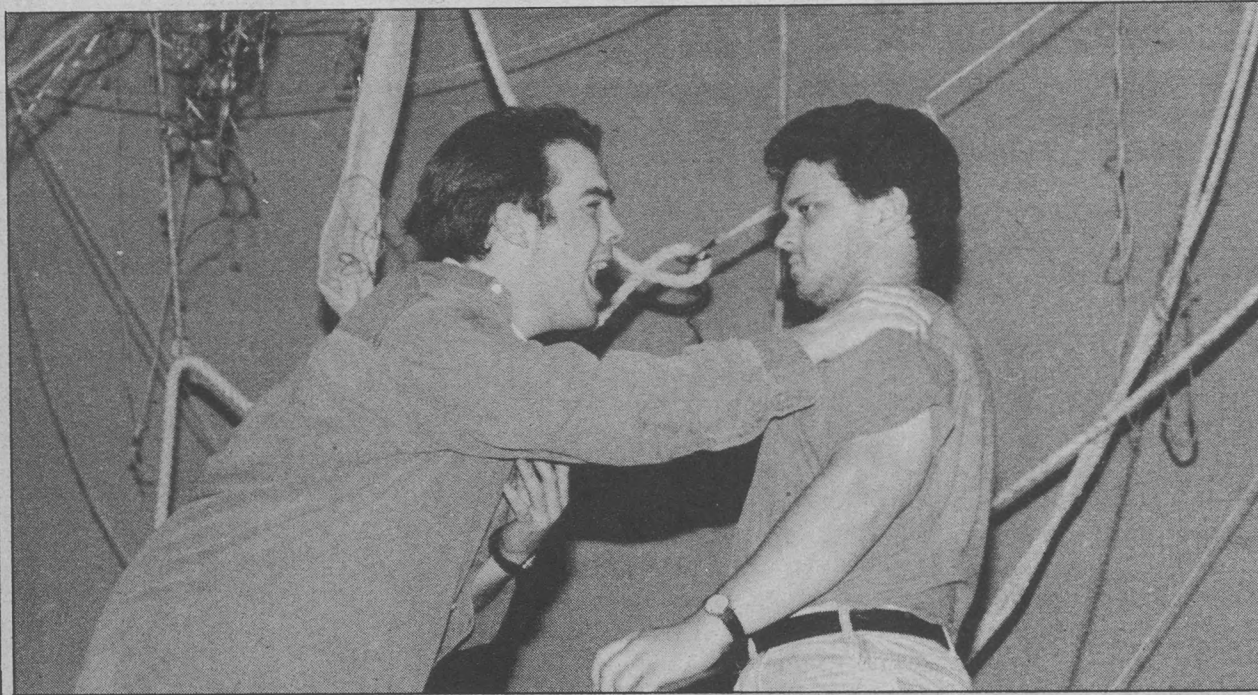
cated, animated tales of her South Dakota upbringing, recent invitation to White House consultant George Stephanopolous' birthday, a humorous meeting with First Cat "Socks," and the shoulder-padded bra of friend Mary Chapin-Carpenter's Grammy outfit.

Other concert high points included a touching rendition of "Monopoly" and a standard cover of Mark Knopfler's "Romeo and Juliet," with Colvin adding her own individual touches to one of the

best-written love songs ever. Colvin closed her encore with her most recent single, a cover of the Police's "Every Little Thing She Does is Magic" (with the disappointing gender switch to "he" in Colvin's version). The single comes from her soon-to-be-released collection of covers.

Vermont performer Michael Veitch, bearing a sound and look similar to that of popular rock musician Matthew Sweet, opened up with a 40-minute set that included songs off his album "Down Deep."

Let's play master & servant . . .



Jeb Wilson '95 and Louis Carbonneau '94 appear in "Uncle Vanya," a contemporary interpretation of Anton Chekhov's classic tale of love and class conflict. The performance runs through March 13.

Movie bites back at realities facing MTV generation's recent graduates

By Gael Hines
Staff Reporter

"Reality Bites," a Ben Stiller film, is a love story for the '90s. The movie, starring Winona Ryder and Ethan Hawke, takes a bittersweet look at the lives of the "twentysomething" generation. Geared toward the MTV audience and all of us who grew up on the "Brady Bunch," the film looks at the issues and emotions of college graduates attempting to get their lives together.

The movie revolves around Lelaina Pierce (Ryder), the valedictorian of her graduating class, who films a documentary about the lives of her three close friends. In the process, she is forced to deal with the hard realities of the minimum wage existence plaguing many of today's graduates. Ryder's performance is believable and enthralling as she struggles with her ego and realizes that she does not want to end up as a general manager of The Gap. Her efforts to realize her potential are entertaining as well as realistic. It's easy to relate to an embarrassing moment on her first date when she responds to Michael Grates' (Stiller) comment about being a non-practicing Jew with the insight that she is a "non-practicing virgin." She faces the agony of being overqualified for certain jobs and the horrifying prospect of packing chili dogs at a fast food chain, where she is trained by "Weiner Dude," ("Saturday Night Live's" David Spade). Lelaina deals with the vacuum of unemployment and the pain of a love triangle while continuing her video documentary on the trials of her friends' lives.

A strong emotional and sexual tension was evident between Lelaina and Troy Dyer (Hawke) throughout the movie. Troy is the unemployed, misunderstood, philosopher/musician who fights with Lelaina as he denies his own feelings about her. He is the stereotypical quick-to-insult, slow-to-open-up male that has been turning up in movies since James Dean made his presence known. Hawke plays the rebel without a cause to perfection while allowing shades of a human side to occasionally peek through. He escapes his true feelings by hiding behind a thick mask of indifference and mainstream philosophies. He suffers through all the existential angst while enjoying the simple pleasures in life, such as two all-beef patties with special sauce.

Stiller, acting in and directing the film, completes the love triangle as Michael, the sensitive yuppie who attempts to win the affections of Lelaina. To Troy's dismay, Lelaina appears to like the BMW-driving interloper. Stiller's portrayal presents Michael as valid competition for Lelaina's af-

Lelaina (Winona Ryder) complains about how her life is not like the "Brady Bunch" and nothing ever works itself out in half an hour . . . Nobody can live the G-rated existence without being heavily sedated.

fections. His best moment comes in a scene in which he confronts Troy after Lelaina has left them both standing in the street. No matter how much this new generation desires to avoid their parents' ideas and behaviors, they must face similar fears and emotions. Michael tells Troy and the audience that remaining in "Clever Clever Land" will not allow him to achieve any security or happiness.

"Reality Bites" confronts the commodification of this generation, and Michael's job is the quintessential example of this in the movie. He works for In Your Face TV (an obvious stab at MTV) which corrupts Lelaina's documentary with bizarre editing and cheap commercialism.

The problem with this attack on commodification is the irony of the fact that this movie is itself a commodity that seeks to appeal to the very same target audience. Also, underneath the wit and insight, the film follows the classic love story format and offers few surprises on that front. However, this is not necessarily a bad thing.

The film is enormously entertaining and brings back many memories. The entire movie is a childhood television flashback. The characters are constantly quoting commercials and television programs. Even the actors themselves dress in Salvation Army, "Brady Bunch" outfits. The director contrasts the ideologies shoved down the throats of this generation through hours of sitcoms and cartoons with the reality of the now typical dysfunctional American family. Lelaina complains about how her life is not like the "Brady Bunch" and nothing ever works itself out in half an hour. Troy dispels the "Brady Bunch" myth by pointing out that Mr. Brady, king of cool Dads, died of AIDS.

Stiller's directing is brilliant in its ability to bring out the simple truths and emotions of everyday life. First dates are awkward and people are not always nice. Life is a messy thing that takes a lot of work and nobody can live the G-rated existence without being heavily sedated.

Arts Calendar

■ **Lecture: Susan MacKenzie**, lecturer in political science at Bates, presents a brief and informal talk on "The Environmental Picture" as part of the Friday afternoon lecture series "Public Policy Potpourri." Muskie Archives, Friday, March 11, 4:15 p.m. Free admission.

■ **"Uncle Vanya":** A contemporary interpretation of Chekhov's classic drama of love and class conflict, directed by William Pope.L of the Bates theater faculty. Schaeffer Theatre, Friday and Saturday, March 11 and 12, 8:00 p.m., Sunday, March 13, 2:00 p.m. Admission \$4.00/\$2.00 for students.

■ **Concert: Perfect As Is**, a New York City-based group performs "R & B with a hip-hop twist" as part of "An International Celebration of Women," sponsored by WAC. Village Center, Saturday, March 12, 10:00 p.m. Admission \$3.00.

■ **Concert: an all-Bach program** of organ music presented by Craig Cramer, associate professor of music at the University of Notre Dame, performing on the college's celebrated tracker-action organ. Bates College Chapel. Sunday, March 13, 4:00 p.m. Free admission.

■ **Lecture: Author Stephen D. Grubman-Black** discusses the sexual abuse and rape of men in his talk "Broken Boys, Mending Men." Chase Hall Lounge. Monday, March 14, 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

■ **Concert: The Bates Noonday Concert Series** presents associate professor of music Mary Hunter on baroque violin with music majors John Kramer '95 and Heather Josselyn '95 on viola da gamba and harpsichord, respectively, in a performance of Handel's Sonata in D Major and other baroque music. Olin Arts Center Concert Hall. Tuesday, March 15, 12:30 p.m. Free admission.

■ **Lecture: Artist Faith Ringgold**, whose work is included in the Bates Museum of Art's current exhibition, "Black Dolls, Memorabilia and Children's Literature," discusses "Thirty Years of Making Art." Olin Arts Center Hall, Thursday, March 17, 7:30 p.m. Free admission.

Anger is a gift: Rage Against the Machine's political agenda

By Tania Davenport
Student Correspondent

I was lying in the bathtub in a suite at the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City, wondering whether the searing pain in my chest would cause my untimely demise within the hour, when I first decided that I needed to meet Rage Against the Machine personally. My injury that evening was the result of the most intense mosh pit I had ever been in (and I've seen quite a few), and yet the show had been so amazing that I began to have the feeling that Rage was not the typical we-don't-know-what-we're-yelling-about-but-the-crowd-seems-to-like-it hardcore band.

Rage Against the Machine is a band with more than just contagious hardcore/funk rhythms, psycho guitar solos and a possessed-looking, albeit charismatic, lead singer who can wail like no one else. Their music speaks of anger and fury in a general sense, attracting the stereotypical "angry young man," the one in the mosh pit. But it also serves an entirely different purpose — to spread a very powerful, very disturbing, and very strong message to society as a whole. With titles such as "Take the Power Back," "Freedom," and "Bullet in the Head," and the militant lyrics that accompany them, the band envelops its audience by first attracting them to the music and then slamming in the message.

Rage Against the Machine is from Los Angeles and consists of four members: guitarist Tom Morello (Harvard '88), drummer Brad Wilk, bassist Timmy C., and lead vocalist Zack de la Rocha. They present a powerfully ferocious picture on stage, with every instrument perfectly synchronized and every face full of complete concentration. It is this same determination which allows the band to pursue their activism in other areas.

I had a chance to interview the band during their "Black Sunday Tour" with Cypress Hill, on November 4, 1993, at Roger Williams College in Bristol, Rhode Island. According to Morello, "On each tour we have a different agenda. On our last European tour we brought the anti-Nazi league with us, and the tour culminated with the largest anti-fascist demonstration in Europe since World War II, in England. This time we have two issues — the Leonard Peltier case and the censorship issue, both of which are of the utmost importance."

Their first MTV video for the song "Freedom" deals exclusively with the American Indian Movement and with Peltier, who allegedly was falsely convicted of killing two FBI agents and is awaiting executive clemency from President Clinton.

The band makes a case for its causes both on and off the stage. Besides organizing letter-writing campaigns on behalf of Peltier and fighting censorship on

all levels, the band takes their activism to the stage. Morello said, "Because our music attracts a diverse group of listeners, and has a rather radical lyrical content, we hope our audience will be exposed to some new ideas. We have tried to keep in close contact with both the hip-hop community and the hardcore community for precisely this reason, to cast the nets wide."

The radical lyrics primarily created by de la Rocha, the self-proclaimed "militant poet," are enough to make almost anyone want to rage or cry, depending on how much frustration concerning societal injustice stagnates inside. In "Wake Up," amidst the funkier hardcore beat possible, de la Rocha proclaims: "Networks at work, keepin' people calm/ You know they went after King when he spoke out on Vietnam/ He turned the power to the have-nots/ And then came the shot." In "Take The Power Back" he asks, "I'm inferior? Who's inferior?/ We need to check the interior of a system who cares about only one culture and that/ Is why we gotta take the power back."

Radical? Maybe. Uninformed? Absolutely not. This is a band which has done its homework, and has done it well. Morello, the child of a black father who was a member of the Mau Mau guerrilla army in Kenya and a white mother, remembers quite vividly the racist remarks and actions toward him as he grew up in a predominantly white Chicago neighborhood. He chooses to study and educate through his music as a course of action against them. De la Rocha, of Chicano and Aztec descent, is the emotionally charged member of the group, using his lyrics to delve into his life without a father and attempt to understand the wrongs committed against his people throughout history.

The band has received much criticism for signing with Epic, a major label in the industry, undoubtedly being well-paid while at the same time criticizing the corporate and capitalist system. Morello explains that Epic guaranteed Rage complete artistic freedom over every aspect of their careers. He says, "We are accomplishing things on a political level that no band on any independent label has ever done. We want to be able to operate behind enemy lines in all parts of the country and in Europe ... We do not have an elitist artistic agenda, we do not have a merchandiser. And, sister, talking coin, Madonna's record label wanted to sign us and there was a dragon's horde on the table. If this was about coin, I'd be scrubbing Madonna's back right now."

To fully appreciate the true experience of Rage Against the Machine, it is imperative to see them live. Besides being exceptional musicians, they personify the intellect and influence which can be asserted through a musical medium. Speaking from personal experience, to pass up the opportunity to see Rage or to forego a purchase of their self-titled album is to miss out on truly eye-opening lyrical genius.



Reading between the lines: The art of the subliminal

By Mike Sklar
Student Correspondent

Placement of subliminal messages in our everyday lives has become commonplace. Actually, how would we know if they were commonplace? That would undermine their whole purpose.

Some people will say song lyrics contain hidden messages. Another excuse for murder, if you ask me. Jude and all his "na, na, na, na's" have never had an effect on me other than nausea. And, if you want to find something in song lyrics, you can. Kids these days listen to the most diverse music.

Dinner in a restaurant can also be fair game for the subliminal message pirates. Other situations in which you will find subliminal messages are elevators and grocery stores. Even in doctor's offices you will find such messages to the

subconscious. Simple as it may seem, the making of a subliminal message is quite difficult.

New theories from research have surfaced and indicate that these messages are actually working. On certain occasions they make us buy more and on others, as in the case of sales, make us buy less. The scariest part about the messages to me is their undetectability.

With use in grocery stores and restaurants, it is only a matter of time until these coded demons of the airwaves hit academia. Every college and university coast to coast could already be using subliminal messages. Actually, I have been feeling lately that I should make a large donation to the school after graduation. Reaping the benefits of subliminal fund-raising would be something I believe the school would not frown upon.

Under the current circumstances of Bates' fiscal health, I would not be surprised if a conspiracy was afoot. New security phones have been popping up all over campus. Determined to sucker us in, the administration has obviously been placing loudspeakers set on very low volume inside these boxes. Even Commons is not protected from this evil hand of domination. Recorded messages have been placed in the toasters on each line. When students use one of these toasters they are being bombarded with sine waves filled with messages from the development office. Either asking for money or reminding seniors of unsatisfied physical education credits, such messages can be played through the soft-serve ice cream machines. And worst of all is the fact that all of this goes on behind our backs. Rebel, my fellow

students, and do not let them get the best of you.

The thing that really gets me about subliminal messages is the fact that you never know when you are being bombarded. As you read the last six paragraphs, you

ARTS COLUMN

were subjected to a subliminal message of the worst kind, a sort of literary hijacking. To see what your subconscious already knows, take the first letter of the first word in each sentence and form words from those letters. The letters are in order and each paragraph forms a different word to be read in order. The words combine to form a subliminal sentence. This last paragraph is not involved. The question I have is, what about Vanna?

En garde! Bates continues tradition of foiling foes

By Gabriel Fried
Sports Editor

It's been touch and go for the Bates fencing club this season. Competitions have been few and far between and the group has had to function with a lack of equipment, funding and coaching. Nevertheless, Bates' resident swordsters continued to make strides towards regional prominence, as they put in an appearance at the men's and women's New England Tournaments on February 19 and 20.

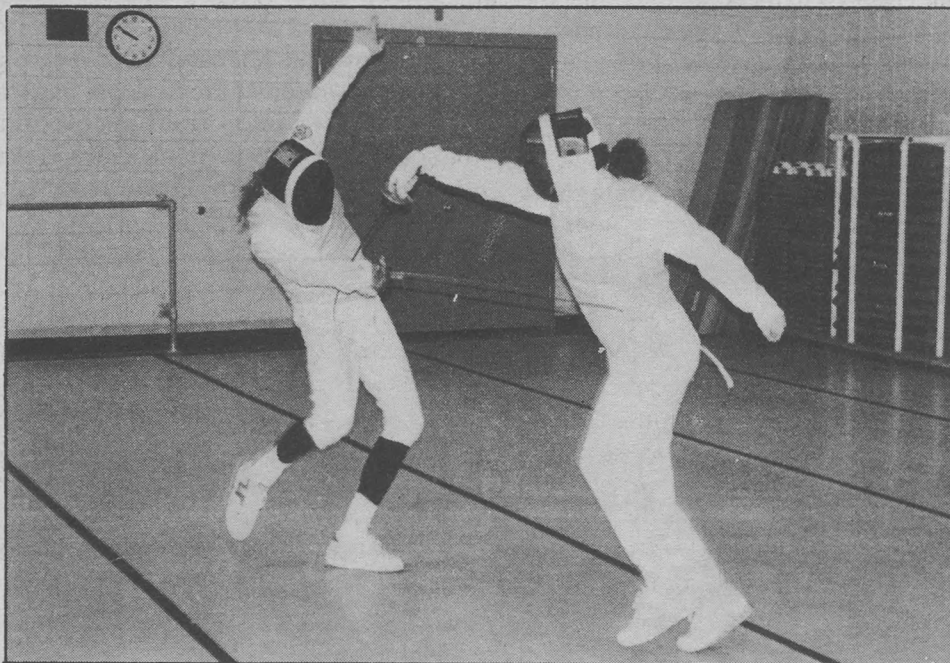
FENCING

This was the first time that Bates had sent a team of women to compete at this event, which took place at the University of New Hampshire, according to team member James Sanborn '96.

"We have a very strong women's team, hopefully a tradition we can keep up," Sanborn said.

At this point in time, women fencers participate only in foil competitions, while the men use foils, epees and sabers. Sanborn commented that in the next few years, the women's field would likely be expanded to include the other two weapons as well.

At UNH, 12 teams sent forth four foilists to compete in one of four brackets of varying competitiveness,



Who are these masked marauders? The Bates fencing club recently competed in the New England tournaments at UNH and Brown. *Alex Hahn photo.*

listed as A, B, C and D, in descending order of ability and experience. Kristen Puryear '96 finished ninth among the A fencers, while Phoenix Wilson '96 finished seventh in the B group, Jen Moniz '95 placed tenth in C, and Laura Christensen '97 placed second in D.

Christensen's record at the New England tournaments stood at 9-2, equal to that of the overall winner in her bracket. However, due to a tie-breaking method known as indicator points, which is based on touches received

subtracted from touches made, she finished a close second in the event.

The men's tournament took place at Brown University, where 14 clubs from various colleges and universities were set to duel for the New England crown.

Standouts for the men included Jason Toluba '96, who finished seventh in the A bracket among fencers in epee competition, Toby Haug '94, who placed seventh in the A slot in foil, and Sanborn, who ended up fourth overall among 3 slot foilists.

Sanborn said that the Bates team works at a distinct disadvantage at team events because they prepare without the benefit of a coach. "In competitions, teams are amazed that we can compete without [one]," he said. "But there are really no coaches in Maine."

Instead, the upperclass students on the squad train the newer fencers, who often have little or no experience.

There is some hope, however, at least on a short term basis, that the team will receive some expert tutelage next season, according to Sanborn. The club has been in touch with a fencer in southern Maine who is prepared to lead the team in workshops once a month.

The team is looking to further establish itself in another sense as well. The Bobcats hope to join an organized league next year, in conjunction with UNH and other New England schools. The conference would include a post-season championship, in addition to the New England tournament.

Although fencing is not one of the most prominent sports at Bates, it is one of the most established, having existed in some capacity since around the turn of the century. Now, after years of waiting in the wings, the club is bearing arms and fighting its way to the forefront of the New England scene.

Bobcat Steinrauf '96 is off to the races

By Jason Schauble
Staff Reporter

At the close of this year's women's indoor track season, Alexis Steinrauf '96 has emerged as the only NCAA finalist despite several other strong Bates performances in the East Coast Athletic Conference (ECAC) Championships last weekend at Smith College. Steinrauf qualified for the 14-person field in the 5000m national competition in Oshkosh, Wisconsin this weekend with a time of 17:48.68, better than her career best by nine seconds.

This achievement didn't surprise Steinrauf nor did it surprise her coach, Carolyn Court, because she has been running at consistently superlative levels all season. "I like to improve every race," Steinrauf commented. "I just work on keeping a consistent pace in the long distance events like the 5000m and then I try to improve on

my split times from the last race."

Steinrauf is shooting for the All-American status that would be achieved should she finish in the top

W. TRACK

six in Wisconsin. She is a first-time qualifier and is currently ranked as the eighth best runner in her event nationally in Division III.

Coach Court's praise for her runners, however, extends past the obviously tremendous achievements of Steinrauf. Faye Holmes '95 also put in a lifetime-best effort at the ECAC's and finished second with a throw of 46'11.5" in the 20-pound weight competition, three feet beyond her previous high. Additionally, Shannon Walker '97 ran a season best 9.03 in the hurdles trials, even though she didn't place high in the finals. The 4x200 re-

lay team of Holmes, Walker, Sarah Goff '95 and Sara Gill '97 also ran a season best time of 1:53.84 and finished eighth. The Bobcats finished 12th overall out of 36 teams.

Court said that she had reason to be very content with the way Bates' season has come to a close and she expressed her pleasure with Steinrauf and her other tracksters.

"I was very happy to have one of my runners [Steinrauf] come within 10 seconds of a school record and to have season or lifetime bests in three other events," she said. "We peaked at the right time and I wish Alexis the best of luck. If she can get out there and improve on her own personal best as she has done in most races this year, I think she has a good shot at getting All-American. However, I am happy that she just made it to national competition and that is a tremendous accomplishment in itself," Court stated.



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Columbia, Wesleyan fall to Bates' forbidden fruit

By Tom Falby
Student Correspondent

The men's squash team wound up their season on the last weekend of February at Yale University, finishing with a record of 10-11. While at Yale, the squad faced three tough opponents, two of whom had beaten them previously. However, the Bates team managed to come out with a 2-1 mark.

M. SQUASH

Bates first faced off against Columbia University, one of the opponents who had handed them a loss earlier in the season; a "key match" according to Jackson Marvel '95. The two big players in this match were Case Newberry '96 and Pat Cosquer '97, who both overcame 2-0 deficits to win their matches by scores of 3-2. Without these two critical wins the Bobcats would have lost the match, whereas with these two impressive performances, they won 6-3.

The team then moved on to face Wesleyan University's team, another group that had previously given them difficulty. Learning from their mistakes, the squad extended its winning streak to two for the weekend by beating their Connecticut adversaries 6-3.

The two wins against these opponents showed that, despite Bates' losing record, the season had

been a progressive one. "It was good to beat both of those teams" commented Mike Silverson '94. "It showed our improvement."

Unfortunately, the team's streak was squelched the following day as they fell to a rugged Vassar crew 6-0, ending Bates' season. This defeat did not seem to dismay Head Coach George Wigton, however. "I was delighted with the outcome [of the season]," said Wigton. "Everyone moved up... especially Case Newberry, Preston Carey and Ari Friedlaender. They spent a lot of time lifting their games. Everyone moved up at least three spots from last year and we finished 20th in the nation, the same as last year."

Though the team's season came to a close at Yale, two Bobcats still had another match left on their schedule. Following the matches at Yale was the National Individual Tournament at Brown University on March 4, with both Marvel and Silverson in attendance. However, the two were immediately matched up against two of the best players in the nation, to whom they promptly lost 3-0, respectively.

Silverson, however, managed to find a bright side in these losses: "It's an honor just to go and play with people who compete on this level. The top 20 players in the nation were there," he said.

Perhaps because of attitudes like this, Silverson was presented with the Individual Sportsman Tro-

"I was delighted with the outcome [of the season]...

Everyone moved up at least three spots from last season and we finished 20th in the nation."

George Wigton, head coach

phy at the Yale competition, rounding out the end-of-season festivities. This honor is awarded to any senior squash player in the National Collegiate Athletic Association, albeit usually a high-profile Division I player.

Coach Wigton commented that, despite playing for a small school, Silverson's achievement seemed natural. "Mike is a model competitor, exceptional in sportsmanship," he said. "His winning wasn't a surprise to me. He's a model of how the game should be played."

Coach Wigton added that it was the only time to his knowledge that the trophy hasn't gone to an All-American.

Silverson commented that his award was merely a reflection of the setting in which he plays. "Two years ago our team won the Team Sportsmanship Award and this year I won. It says a lot about Bates and the coach and his program," he said.

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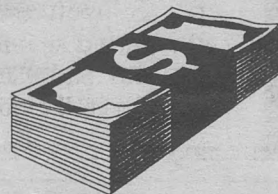
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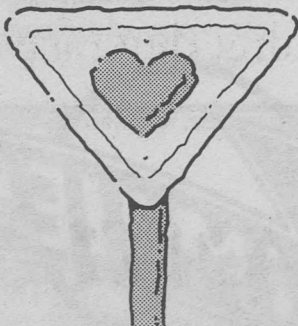


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On the road again: two men head to nationals

By Gabriel Fried
Sports Editor

For two senior members of the men's track and field team, there will be an opportunity for one last hurrah this coming weekend. Though Bates officially ended its season at the Open New England tournament at Boston University on February 25-26, both Joe Welch and Pat Sullivan will be representing Bates in Oshkosh, Wisconsin at the Division III NCAA championships, in the 35-pound hammer throw and 800 meter race, respectively. The two seniors will try to take their places as the best in country in their events.

For Welch, a two-time All-American, the trip to Wisconsin marks his third consecutive year in attendance at the Division III championships. Two years ago, he placed sixth in the event, while last year, in nearby

Brunswick, Maine, he finished fourth overall with a throw of 56'5".

Welch has already topped his NCAA throw from last year's tour-

M. TRACK

ney, qualifying with a mark of 58'7.5" earlier this season. The toss earned him a ranking of fourth in the upcoming nationals and puts him in good position to again come away from the event with an All-American ranking.

Sullivan, on the other hand, is making his first appearance at the NCAA's, after gaining a berth with an outstanding qualifying time of 1:54.60 in the 800 meter, granting him an eighth-ranked position in Wisconsin. The backbone of the track team's long distance attack, Sullivan has a solid chance of establishing All-American status, according to his coach, Walt

Slovenski, which would entail finishing among the top six runners in the championship meet.

Although Welch and Sullivan were among those who were supposed to represent Bates at the East Coast Athletic Conference Championships on March 5 at the Coast Guard Academy in Annapolis, Maryland, the two did not make the trek, choosing to take the time to rest and prepare for the NCAA's. Additionally, other Bobcat qualifiers opted not to make the long trip down to Long Island to take part in the event.

But, for the two NCAA participants on the men's team, the best is perhaps still to come. Beginning on Friday, these proficient performers will take their marks alongside the best Division III competitors in the country, with dreams of national recognition foremost in their minds.

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In the big dance that is the NCAA's, Bates is off and skiing...

Six Bates skiers are competing in the NCAA Championships at nearby Sugarloaf mountain from February 9-12. Participating in the Alpine event will be Heidi Bishop '94 (pictured below), Sean Clark '96, Kitty Northrop '95, Jon Sawyer '95 (pictured at right) and Alison Stout '95. The sole Bates participant in



Franziska Moravec photo.



Franziska Moravec photo.

the Nordic event will be Ben Dunlap '94. As a group, this talented bunch of snow 'Cats look to establish themselves among the best skiers in the nation as they plant, plow and parallel their way down the snowy trails of the familiar Maine slopes en route to victory, as shown in last Wednesday's opening day races.

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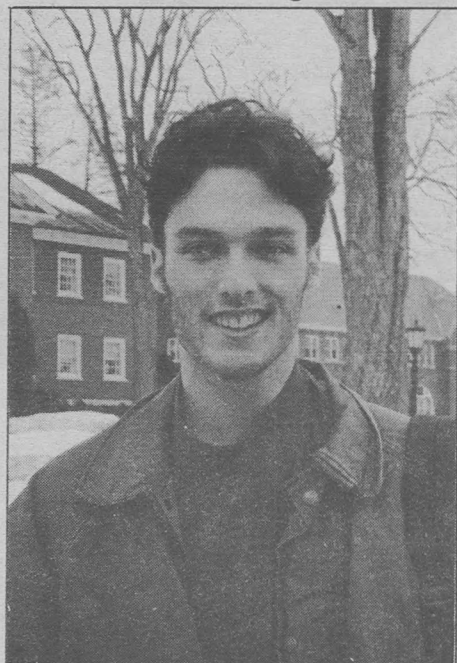
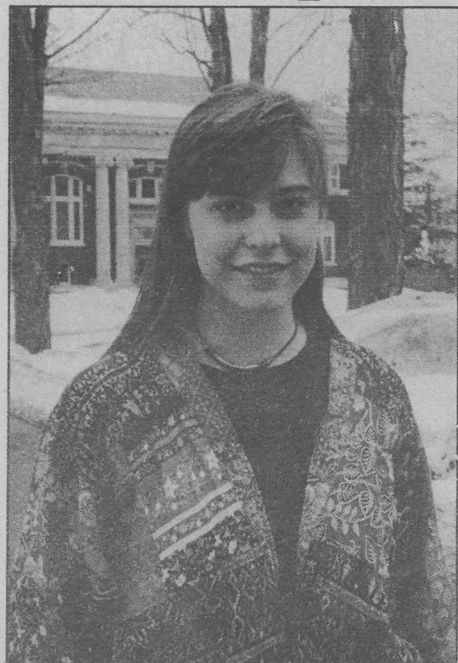
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QUESTION ON THE QUAD

At this point, would you rather be Nancy or Tonya?



"I would be happy not to hear their names ever again."
—Krista Crabtree '95

"I'd rather be Nancy because I look better in a gold skirt."
—Josh Vallee '96

"Nancy who?!"
—Becky Allen '94

"Tonya ... in a heartbeat."
—Carrie Jewell '97

Reported and photographed by Jessica Christie

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