
Bard Free Press - All Issues (2000-2018)

Bard Free Press, 2000-2018

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Bard Free Press, Zine (February 9, 2018)

Bard College

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Freed Speech

NEW FREE SPEECH COLUMN

Heightened political tensions and polarized discourse are the new norm in political culture, and Bard is not immune. Consider the Hannah Arendt Center's recent invitation of controversial speakers like Lucian Wintrich and Marc Jongen for example. Even Berkowitz's most adamant critics cannot deny there is a rift in Annandale on the question of who has the right to speak. As a private institution, we have the right to police what is being said on our campus. But the question remains: should we?

In the interest of addressing this question, the *Free Press* is excited to announce a new ongoing series called "Freed Speech." In every new issue, Opinion Section staff writers will each provide a unique angles on a new free speech-related topic, specific to Bard, the local community, or the world at large.

Part of the goal of this new series is to cultivate an open dialogue within the community about some of the most contentious and hardest-to-talk about issues at Bard. We will select topics where our columnists have diverging opinions, not necessarily in conflict, but carrying a degree of nuance. The topics we select may be specific to Bard, or may be more general, but will always relate to questions of free speech and expression. This week, we meet the current staff of the new *FP* Opinion Section.

MEET THE COLUMNISTS:



Joe Fitzgerald
'18

I am a senior human rights major and the

Opinion Section editor for the *Free Press*. Over the past few months I have developed an irritating sense of pre-emptive nostalgia for Bard.

Upon reflection, I realize that most of what I know about Bard, I heard in Kline, on Facebook, from Ken Cooper, stall seat journals, other [undergrad] emails, or PR brochures. What does free speech look like in this context?

I am skeptical of the image the administration draws of itself. This is why I joined the *Free Press* last semester. The student body should strive to control how information and ideas are generated and distributed in Annandale. I believe speech can only hope to be free if it is well-informed.

I'm a junior philosophy major with a concentration in Africana Studies. This means I recognize the importance of discourse in our lives and how the uninhibited flow of discussion can lead to a better, more fulfilling life for everyone. But I also understand how this important aspect of our lives can be utilized to do the opposite: to oppress, exploit, silence, and directly harm those around us.

Often times I find my views on many issues to be like my racial heritage: Mixed. This along with being bisexual and a political independent lead me to try and avoid total adherence to one side of an issue. Because I know what it's like to exist in an extremely polarized binary and try to advocate for more than one of two views.

It's like an ass: If you're not entirely one side or the other, then you're just seen as that asshole in the middle.



Alyssa White
'20

I'm a Sophomore hopeful Written Arts major

looking to go into journalism. When I think about free speech, I tend to make a distinction between legal consequences and social consequences. I don't think there should ever be legal repercussions against free speech that isn't a clear threat, but social consequences are something else entirely. This line gets blurry sometimes, of course. What about when your job fires you for exercising free speech? Technically this is a social consequence, but it seriously affects your ability to live, and arguably puts the rights of corporations above the rights of people. The point is there are always grey areas, but legal vs. social has been a good baseline for me.

Bard College FREE PRESS

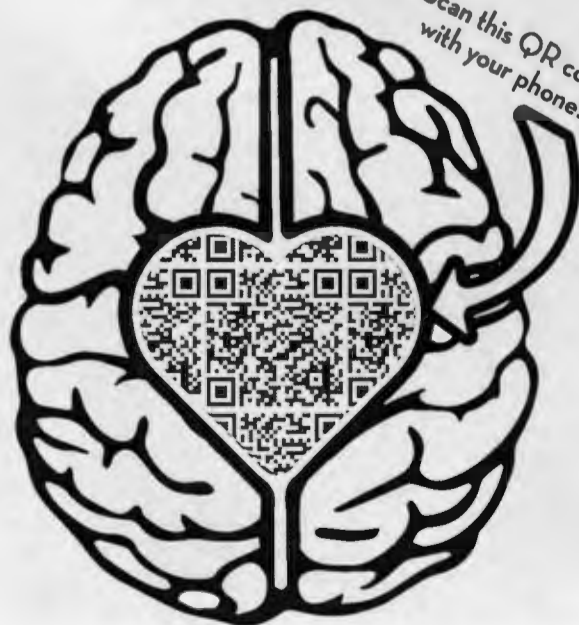


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Bard Has Been Trying to Quit Smoking Since Reagan was President

A History of Campus Smoking Policies

RACHEL HODES

Since I started writing at the *Free Press*, I've noticed a near-semesterly coverage of the dubious smoking policies at Bard. When another such piece was suggested, I began to wonder: how long has the smoking population of Bard been at odds with the restrictions put in place at the behest of the non-smokers? Our archives tell the story of a campus at odds with itself; a divided constituency pushing in opposite directions.

It started in 1985, a time when, according to the CDC, a third of adults were regular smokers. In a move that would ignite the opinion pages of the *Bard Observer*, Dean Levine issued a memorandum. He called for



almost every non-dormitory space on campus to include a smoke-free area. The response was uproarious, from smokers and non-smokers alike. A faculty forum was convened, ratifying Levine's edicts. Many felt that Levine's actions were a "power play," designed without any input from the student population.

For a while, the issue went dark. The smoking to non-smoking space ratio was meant to reflect the populations of the two groups, about 80/20. But soon, the population began to steadily shift towards the non-smokers. In 1987, Olin went completely food, drink, and smoke-free. Students held an "Eat Drink and Smoke-In," filling the Olin atrium but taking care to show that they could keep the area clean while enjoying. President Botstein referred to the event as "foolish, childish, and futile."

By 1989, smokers made up only 22 percent of the freshman class. With the ratio from several years earlier almost completely



swapped, smoking became the central debate of the *Bard Observer's* opinion pages. The paper was publishing reports on the fall of the Berlin Wall and the rise of the IUD, but smoking arguments often took up two pages of the six page publication. One columnist posited that smokers on campus were better partiers than their non-smoking counterparts, to which a student replied in a letter to the editor with the challenge "I will drink you under the table. You choose the drink. You choose the table."

In the spring semester of 1993, Health Services held a "smoking cessation presentation and discussion." To the dismay of Health Services director Marsha R. Davis, not one student showed up.

A campus coffee shop banned indoor smoking in 1994, and campus was once again split between the relieved and the upset. Smokers began petitioning for the ban to be reversed. Still, the public outcry was far less

severe than the earlier smoking restrictions of the late 1980s, and for the time, Kline remained a place where smoking was reliably permitted indoors.

Eventually, the *Bard Observer* met its end, and in 2000 so did indoor smoking. But Bard is that old smoker who just can't quit. In the wintertime, he shivers while he has a cigarette, wondering why he just can't shake the habit, and nostalgic for the days when smoking and indoor heating could mix, the days when there was a coffee shop on campus.



WHO'S WHO OF THE DEANS

IN LESS THAN 500 WORDS

LIAM MAYO

It is a little known fact that one of the nicest places on campus is Becky Thomas' office. She has natural light, a library to rival Stevenson, and enough space for both a table and a desk. As the Dean of the College, Thomas is in charge of undergraduate curriculum and faculty, including new hires, and internal faculty evaluation.

So many different people on campus have the title "Dean" attached to them that it's difficult to tell who is actually in charge of what. Since you all asked, here's what's really going on behind Botstein's big velvet curtain.

The Dean system is like Moodle: nobody really gets it. But for the sake of time, let's say it's like a pizza: each topping is a different but equally important office. The Dean of Student Affairs Office is one of these, let's say they are pineapple (con-

troversial, we know). Student Affairs is the primary body for overseeing and enhancing student life on campus. They supervise campus resources such as Health Services, Counseling Services, and Resident Life. Student Affairs is overseen by the Dean of Students, Bethany Nohlgren. Under Nohlgren are Assistant Deans of Students, Timand Bates and Kevin Dean (Dean Dean). The office is loosely hierarchical, so that the deans with "associate" or "assistant" in their title operate in an office headed by a full dean.

The Dean of Studies Office, directed by David Shein, is the pepperoni. These folks help students navigate the academic side of their time at Bard. Sometimes this means crafting a unique program of study. If you're a joint major, or you have exemptions from curricular requirements, maybe you've dealt with



Rebecca Thomas, Dean of the College

Deans wear many hats, just like pizza.

them. They can also help you with study abroad programs and scholarship applications.

Deans wear many hats, just like pizza. In addition to their capacity in an organized office, some serve as Class Deans under the Center for Student Life and Advising. You probably know your Class Dean, who's there to offer guidance in times of need. While Kevin Dean and Kaet Heupel are devoted to the first years, everyone else gets assigned one of the other three class deans: Jen Triplett, Dorothy Albertini, or Timand Bates.

While deans acknowledge the hierarchical system, according to Dean Thomas, much of their work comes from collaboration and discussion between offices. Some deans have

more unique responsibilities. In this pizza metaphor, our anchovy must be the Dean for Inclusive Excellence, Ariana Stokas. She promotes "diversity, inclusion and equity" around campus. Within the faculty sphere, this takes the form of revised hiring practices and training in inclusive pedagogy. For students, she leads efforts to include historically marginalized groups in the student body and to ensure their voices are heard.

Finally, our crust, cheese and sauce: all of you. Bard students are the base on top of which it all operates. Some deans report to vice presidents, and some to Botstein himself. But all of them are here because of you.

TODAY IN HISTORY — February 9, 1998

Drugs, Fraud, and Vandalism: Official Numbers

Since 1992, the reported number of incidents of harassment on the Bard campus has been steadily rising; there were only 13 reported in 1992 and a relatively whopping 42 last year. The latter figure was one of the most surprising in Bard's 1997 Safety and Security Statistical Report.

This report is released annually in accordance with the 1990 Crime and Awareness and Campus Security Act.

The following is a partial list of categories of incidents and the number of complaints that were made to Bard Safety and Security for 1997. To obtain the full

report, contact Robert Brock at the Security Office.

Brock, the director of Safety and Security, pointed out that one of the most disturbing aspects of the report is the rise in the number of incidents of harassment reported. Most of these 42 incidents came in the form of verbal harassment with an estimated 90% in the form of phone calls. Cases of harassment in other forms including sexual and written are less prominent, but still reported.

According to Brock, when a harassment report is made, the perpetrator is usually unknown. The complainant is given the option of bringing in outside law enforcement, agencies such as the New York State Police or the Dutchess County Sheriff's Department. Because the majority of complaints came in the form of phone calls, Brock pointed out phone traces as a way of locating the perpetrator. If Bard Safety and Security deems phone traces to be necessary, out-

side agencies must be notified. Because technology is so advanced, Brock warns that any on-campus call can be traced.

A few cases of harassment have been solved, but the majority have not. Once a perpetrator has been identified, the Dean of Students office is notified. In some cases DOSO will either handle the punishment or the case goes before the Student Judiciary Board (SJB).

In what may have been a change of policy, this year's statistical report included the two rapes that happened in the Tivoli Bays area in the summer of 1997. Unlike previous reports in which the other well publicized rapes at the Annandale Triangle (1995) and Tivoli Bays (1995) were not mentioned owing to the fact that they did not actually happen on campus, this year's report lists all the rapes that have occurred on campus, followed by asterisks. Near the bottom of the report, the asterisk explains that rapes occurred "adja-

cent" to Bard campus. Brock points out that other schools might not report these incidents because they happened off-campus, but Bard has chosen include them.

Another notable increase has come in the form of medical calls. In 1992 Security answer 9 medical calls; there were 137 in 1997. It is not clear if Bard EMS was called to all of these incidents, but it is a policy to dispatch a Security officer along with every Bard EMS call, since the calls go through the office of Security and Bard EMS equipment is stored in Security vehicles. In recent months, the confidentiality of Bard EMS has been questioned, but according to Brock, Bard EMS is confidential to a "great degree." While no names are given out to the public, every Bard EMS call is accompanied by a Security officer who writes up a Security report separate from the Bard EMS patient care report. When asked about the confidentiality policy,

Chris Tignor, head of Bard EMS, replied that "Bard EMS is 100% confidential." In further explanation, Tignor said that a copy of the Bard EMS patient care report is sent to Barbara Jean Briskey, head of Health Services for the college. This report is put in the student's medical records. Tignor did say that although Bard EMS words closely with Security, there have been times when Bard EMS has asked the Security officer to leave the scene. Tignor points out that under certain circumstances, because students are not comfortable with disclosing their medical problems to Security for fear of punishment, serious medical conditions are not reported.

The confidentiality of Bard EMS is crucial to making students feel comfortable enough to call for help. [...] The rest of this story will be available in the *Free Press* digital archive, which we will become available later this semester. This story originally appeared in the *Observer*.

Safety and Security 1997 Stats

Offense	Number Reported
Assault (simple)	20
Drugs	3
Fraud	1
Harassment	42
Thefts (from buildings)	36
Thefts (from motor vehicles)	15
Thefts (other)	14
Vandalism	58
Weapons Violation	1
Off Campus Rape	2
Burglary	20

HOROSCOPES

FEBRUARY 2018



Aquarius: If you recently quit smoking, you're gonna start again. Sorry. If you don't smoke, make sure to watch out for your other vices.



Pisces: You may be busier than usual so take the time to nap and dream of spring break.



Aries: There is no full moon this Feb, but go out any way! Start a project and meet new people, it will be sure to solve your mid winter blues.



Taurus: It's time to leave the comfort of your dorm! Venus enters Pisces on on the 10th so you will have luck in love and friendship.



Gemini: Do something for you, expect everyone around you to be a bit more active this month. Mercury conjoins Neptune on Feb 25th, so along time dream may come true.



Cancer: Take time to self reflect and listen to others. Drink more tea from Kline. It's got something magic in it. Don't ask me what.



Leo: Mid Feb is gonna be boorring. You may feel a little burnt out. It's hard to be back after break, but the new moon on the 28th will brighten your spirits.



Virgo: It's time to change your routine. So, walk a different way to class, take the scenic route. You might find something that improves your daily schedule.



Libra: The end of the month may be a bit wild for ya so buckle up. On Feb 21 the Venus-Neptune conjunction in emotional Pisces could revive an old passion. Explore it with an open mind.



Scorpio: Call someone close to you. Your parents, or maybe even a long lost cousin. Just do it.



Sagittarius: Take a break. You may be stressed about a new challenge and the Moon-Jupiter Quincunx of Feb 24th may cause you some self doubt, but you are powerful and capable.



Capricorn: Follow the advice of that one friend who encourages you to do weird stuff because you have nothing to lose, and if you do lose something it will be replaced with something better.

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