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Bard Free Press, Zine (October 26, 2018)

Bard College

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Behind the Screens: When Instagram Brings Us Together

RACHEL HODES

Digital natives. In a piece on the newest generation of college students, The New York Times calls us "a generation that rarely reads books or emails, breathes through social media, feels isolated and stressed but is crazy driven and wants to solve the world's problems."

The world sees young people as a totally unfamiliar animal. Still, the networks we form strive to mimic the small communities that have long enticed everyone. We still like the sense of affirmation that has always come from gathering. Only now, it's on Instagram.

Student-run groups run the gambit from humor to sincere longing. And they have moved from platforms like Facebook and Tumblr to Instagram— which has the advantage of allowing anonymity for the host. As the creator of the popular

When you look out for your homie without a meal plan



page @bardcollegememes explained in a conversation over DM, "I chose IG because, let's face it, Facebook is on life support, and you can be anonymous on IG...IG is the new meme kingdom."

@bardcollegememes has been around for almost a year, and has over a thousand followers. Although in the beginning, the creator found themselves spending a lot of time creating content, now they receive submissions that help fill in when they are out

of ideas. These submissions come from all kinds of Bard-affiliated students, although the creator noted that new freshmen and new graduates interact the most— people are discovering something new and reminiscing, respectively. Submissions have been sent to the page from as far away as the Al-Quds campus.

While it took @bardcollegememes time to find the community and support of submissions, the new page @bard.heart seems to be more immediately popular. @bard.heart, in the vein of the Tumblr platform Like Some Bardian, posts people's anonymous thoughts and feelings about others in the community.

BARD IS NOT A CLOTHING OPTIONAL CAMPUS



Some are specific, some include full names, and some are left vague. When asked over DM about the choice of Instagram as a platform, the creator of @bard.heart noted "Tumblr seems to be dying down as a social network, and Instagram is really vibrant right now."

The rapid success of @bard.heart— over 200 submissions in its mere 3 weeks as an account, and about 25 more daily— shows the Bard Instagram community's ability to rally around new accounts, popularizing @bard.heart and others so quickly that they are a point of cultural reference for people on campus almost instantly. While Tumblr's Like Some Bardian used the same submission-based idea, and

you have a grey book bag and short hair, you're quiet but when I see you talking to other people you don't seem shy, you are so radiant I have a heard time speaking when you're around. I wish you would notice me as much as I notice you. I don't even know if you're into girls, but I just wish you would talk to me.

kept both host and submitter anonymous, the Tumblr page has hardly updated this school year.

The creators of these accounts both see anonymity as a tool that helps them better interact with the community. "Weirdly today (myself included) people feel more comfortable talking to an unknown internet account than a person they know will make eye contact at Kline," noted the

What Donna sees before she decide to ask you for your ID or not



added that their anonymity puts them on the same level as the submitters, who are already in a vulnerable position because they are sharing in a semi-public forum.

The creator of @bardcollegememes described the impact of their page as "comic relief." It brings people a sense of belonging and comfort to know that they are noticing the same situations as others— and it always has. From 1996-1999, the Bard campus paper The Observer printed page long comic strips entitled "Bot-Man," which put our college president in absurd and comical situations— funny to those in the know, and completely nonsensical to those outside it. Shared understanding of specific

Ur hair is always wet... I wanna flirt but I am nervous. I can read your aura

@bardcollegememes creator. The @bard.heart creator agreed, adding "Social media is so much about building and obsessing over your identity, so it's nice to have a place where that doesn't matter. I'm just here in service of the community." They also

FREE PRESS



OCTOBER 26, 2018
ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY

The Days Darken

KEN COOPER

The Bardian Park, located in the Historic Hudson Valley, is now at the entrance to Mother Nature's Colorful Annual Art Exhibition.

Fall creates declining sunlight, cold temperatures, crisp air, a downward slide to academic testing — and an eventual visit from Santa. Each tree leaf morphs into a work of extraordinary color and beauty. As a result, our area becomes infested with "leaf watchers" who drive cars while becoming catatonic as they experience Mother Nature's extraordinary natural art exhibit unfolding before them.

It is a time to be especially watchful as you navigate local roads while bilking, driving or walking. Use your cooper lights and reflective tape- you can grab some at the Old Gym.

As the aging 2018 enters senior citizenship, humans must adjust to the shorter days and oncoming cold. Good time to search Ebay for long johns, wool socks and a decent jacket. Marshals in Kingston sells cold weather undies at very good prices.

Bardian Cars: Bardian vehicles are unique. Many social scientists and cultural anthropologists have petitioned to study these relics to achieve their Ph.D.'s. Piloting 4 thousand pound hunks of rusting metal, rolling on 4 worn, slick and low- on- air aging rubbers...(hmm- that doesn't sound right) is risky during good weather. Once it begins to get cold and slippery, driving on local roadways with these crash boxes become a carnival ride attraction — Bumper Cars. Maybe buy a stylish football helmet this winter

as you drive — just a thought.

Smoking: Bardians smoke I believe they will always smoke — for many who do not smoke, the smoke may cause breathing and other health concerns. Bard asks that smokers stand at least 25 feet from entrances and exits, respecting those who dislike inhaling fellow students bad breath.

As the temperature lowers, smokers become unusually imaginative and inventive.

State law, which is strictly enforced by the NYS Fire Marshall through huge fines, forbid smoking within buildings, no matter how cold, wet or uncomfortable the weather. Smokers who work in hospitals have been known to stand on toilet seats, lifting up ceiling tiles to blow cigarette smoke into the ceiling. Of course, the smoke travels everywhere, including to ICU where patients are in oxygen tents—Please do not blow smoke into oxygen tents, or light up inside Bard buildings.

Halloween: I love and have always loved Halloween. As

an adult, as all who are reading this paper are, we must assist youngsters in safely enjoying this day without scarring the crap out of them. One year, as I was handing out 4000 lbs. of candy to the neighborhood children, two tiny princesses came to the door — I was holding a flashlight under my chin and was wearing a devil mask — the princes dissolved in a puddle of tears — they were too frightened to cry — I felt and still feel so horrible — but have learned where the boundaries are for fun and enjoyment. I ask that all Bardians take responsibility during this time.

Please remember that near the 9G entrance to Tivoli, Sarah and Lina were taken from us by a drunk who was driving a large SUV. You will notice the cross and flowers there — Respect this tragedy — be very careful if you are attending social events at or near Tivoli, or if you walk near that "Rifle Barrel" called 9G, which shoots 4000 lb. metal projectiles at high rates of speed with shaky marksmanship.



Callie Jacks

places and people, the situations they belong to and the absurd humor of putting them somewhere else, was as much a part of the community then as it is now.

Community-based humor and missed connections have historically been staples of the local newspaper and magazine industry— both in general and specifically at Bard. But the world of extensive local publications has long been dwindling. This generation, savvy, but still in search of the same markers of community that were once anchored in the press, has come up with its own solutions through social media.

Instagram, the platform du jour, seems to offer the right mix of communality and anonymity, both of which are essential in their own balance.

We asked for some favorite posts from both @bard.heart @bardcollegememes.

All images come from thier accounts.

sometimes i think about taking up poetry just so i could write poems for you

WXBC Programming Schedule Fall 2018

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
8:00 AM					Taly Sarcumen & Zoe Allen - 257		
9:00 AM							
10:00 AM	DEMOCRACY NOW!	DEMOCRACY NOW!	DEMOCRACY NOW!	DEMOCRACY NOW!	Amaka David - HS-FI FOR SMALL FRY	Steven Helling - IT'S NOT UNUSUAL	Alad Pirmas & Simon Dimock - THE SOAPBOX
11:00 AM							
12:00 PM			Emma Nicole Houston - CARTCAST			Christopher Gallagher - SCORPIED FEELING	
1:00 PM							
2:00 PM				Tummy Pounded - TINY GRASS RADIO		Adan Galloway - EFFRIGY	Dimitri Spiridakis - DIMITRI SPIRIDAKIS
3:00 PM							
4:00 PM		Jess Belardi & WE Sentors - THE BEST DJ SHOW AND PODCAST	Hate Kout & Nic Steedman - LR, RUSSIAN BABY	Charlotte Kaamih & Emma Lee - NERVOUS BELIEF	Anna Hesch - ARE THEY SHOWING?	Annah Heschman & Tyler Williams - BELIEF AND DISBELIEF	
5:00 PM							
6:00 PM	Bel Strak - KNUCKLE TATS FOR THE WORKING MAN	Jula Kunze & Victoria Weyand - THE THINKER LAB	Olivia Berney - FREE SAMPLE	Peter Chung & Jeremiah here - HEYHEY THURSDAY	Nick Florentini & Tasty Intocelli - HEYHEY THURSDAY	Jessack Gammon & Ana Guata - GUAPA AND FRESH	
7:00 PM							
8:00 PM	Talaya Robinson-Dancy - SINCERELY BLACK	Charlie Spencer & Aloni Kamanoff - BASEMENT	Beal Penberton - CLUCKCAST	Harrison Krossler - STANDARD DEVIATION	Djimon Gibson - FOX THE TOILET		Preston Fulka - THE IMMINENT COUNTER-ENLIGHTENMENT
9:00 PM						Samantha Tuncok - B&S	Summer Grace Fleaster & Seal Anzures - OAH
10:00 PM	Arelis Umbanhowar - THE OUT OF BODY EXPERIENCE	Lucy Christena & Lili Klee, Violet Seaton - BASICALLY BFF TIME	ES Weinstein - FOREVER HOURS	Wakar White & Patrick James - SHIPING AMERICAN JARS & CARS			Lulu Muro & Michael Knaz - SPORTS
11:00 PM		Jacob Garza-Bunuel - SLIPPYTIME MIX	Lindsey Shew - LAB RAT TAKES THE AUX				
12:00 AM						Otilias Shenabrook - STUPPSTUFF	
1:00 AM							
2:00 AM						Ruth Kohl & Anna Haley - THOT CONTROL	
3:00 AM							

Drop the Mic

THEA MCRAE

Ethan Hosta ('21) and Bechet Allen ('21) long for the time when live bands were a presence in the night life entertainment at Bard. This past weekend at SMOG, they hosted "Hang the DJ," an event that they hoped would shift the on campus music venue from its focus on electronic musicians to live student bands. "I feel like everytime I go, I see a lot of DJs or electronic music," Allen recalled. "I was hoping when I came to Bard that there would be more live music, so that's what made us put on this show."

BUMP (Bard United Music Project/Bard Underground Music Prevails) was formed from a joining of forces between SMOG, WXBC, Entertainment Committee, and the Root Cellar in 2014. The group's focus, according to a 2014 Free Press profile of the music scene at Bard, was to "boldly bring Bard's unified 'scene' into the great beyond by offering information on how to book your own show, connecting Bard musicians, organizing funds to bring in outside acts, founding a record label for Bard bands, and creating an all encompassing calendar where anyone can see where the rad music is on any given weekend night." Unfortunately, in the years that have followed, it seems that that goal has been lost.

What has changed in these past several years is the reputation surrounding SMOG, both musically and culturally. The 2014 profile mentions the ways in which



OP ED Apathy in Annandale

CASSIDY POLGA

There is a fairly common occurrence on Bard's campus, one which happens countless times a day in a bevy of circumstances, that pretty succinctly defines a dominant aspect of our student culture: the experience of someone having a great idea for a new club, or an event, or a protest, and almost immediately halting in their excitement to say "Well, yeah, it sounds cool, but you know that no one would show up."

The general consensus about us, by us, is that the Bard student body as a whole suffers from a serious case of failure-to-follow-through-itis, a diagnosis that, while agreed upon and easy to make, has not seemingly resulted in much attempt at treatment. I don't mean to sound like a grandpa screaming at the youth to quit smoking on his lawn, or to suggest that I am not every bit as culpable in

Bard apathy as the next student.

On the contrary, I think much of my frustration arises from the personal experience of being filled with rage or sadness or exuberance at the surrounding world, desperately wanting to do something about it, and then not knowing where to put my feelings and them fizzling out. It is a problem that is shared across Generation Z, who feel that they have been handed the results of the failures of their parents and grandparents on top of the uniquely modern burdens of massive student debt and the Trump administration's policies. When we are constantly being inundated with messages that the world is ending, in every possible sense, it is pretty easy to come to the conclusion that we were born into an unsolvable mess and we should just give up.

This general sense of terror gets translated on Bard's campus into communal apathy, a fact so taken for granted that it has become a joke among the student body. Specifically on our campus, trying to turn awareness into action can feel like running repeatedly into a locked door, just for the fun of it. And the hesitance many otherwise passionate students have to attempt to drum up excitement or support from others is completely understandable, given the low turnout rates of many clubs and activities.

But despite the infamous Bard apathy, students here are constantly being struck with legitimately interesting ideas. You know. You've seen, or perhaps have been, the one trying to get people to listen and do something.

We are a campus of interested, connected students- we've just let our connections to each other get a bit twisted somewhere along the way of striving for that Urban Outfitters aesthetic and the latest

doomsday climate change report.

But look a little harder and it becomes clear that pockets of action spring up all the time: among the students creating Faust Haus and Pippin, the students who fill lecture halls to question political candidates, and all those who run clubs because they just really love D&D or improv comedy or any of a plethora of other things and want to share that love with someone else.

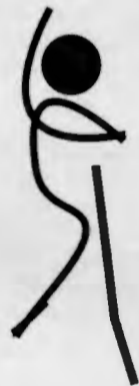
So why not try being a little less afraid of sincerity? Change really does start with you- let's break our self-fulfilling prophecy of apathy down bit by bit. Be the one who shows up.

EDM began to take over the more established rock scene at venues across Bard. "Booty Bangers" were EDM/dance-party oriented shows that developed a reputation as basically being monthly bacchanalian shitshows and spawned a slew of similar events hosted by other groups of Bard DJs. As the BB's reputation grew, the events became wilder, eventually reaching the point at which cases of damage to SMOG's sound system, several alcohol-related hospitalizations, and other such incidents resulted in the BB's being banished from campus."

These parties grew to be such an issue that in an email to the entire student body in 2011, Ken Cooper, former Director of Security, announced that the administration was "strongly considering the space's closure." Although this controversy took place less than ten years ago, it seems that any trace of its cause has vanished. Today, SMOG shows are quite tame compared to what they once were, with the occasional

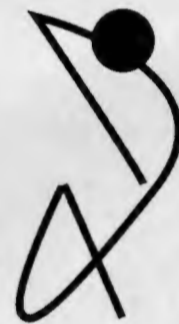
shoving and light moshing depending on the act or even the particular song.

SMOG was also once a place that many considered unsafe, so much so that when visiting SUNY Purchase, Bard student Bella Mazzetti ('15) noticed that each of their music venues had signs emphasizing that each is designed as a safe space and thought "I'd like to see those at all our spaces at Bard," she said. "But it's harder to do than you think, like with SMOG having kind of a predatory image, it can be hard to dispel. But I hope we can do it."



SMOG certainly seems to be making steps to change this. Within the venue there are explicit community standards of consent in this newly annointed safe space. Just this past week, members of BUMP received bystander intervention training from Phoebe Brand, an intern at the Office of Gender Equity, to, according to their Facebook page, "maintain the safety of our space! If you plan on hosting or teching a show in the future, it is crucial that you attend this training!"

Facebook is BUMP/SMOG's main mode of event coordination. In their most recent post concerning shows for the upcoming Halloweekend they explicitly outline their expectations of those who enter the performance space. "Exercise consent in everything you do and ALWAYS ask for consent before you put your hands on anyone. ANY UNCONSENSUAL OR DISRESPECTFUL BEHAVIOR WILL NOT BE TOLERATED. If you touch someone without consent or



break our guidelines you will be asked to leave."

Not only have these cultural and musical values shifted, but the once idealistic and accessible procedure of booking and hosting events has seemingly changed as well. "When I actually went to book the show," Hosta recalled, "it was weird." While at SPARC, Hosta was suggested that he actually go to a BUMP meeting, or that he just host the show at the Root Cellar.

"So I figured if there are maybe only four or five people a semester trying to book a show that's not the main BUMP thing, most people would be

discouraged by that. So I asked point blank, 'can I not book this show?' and they were like, 'no you can.' So the whole process is very open and very easy, but when I did it was not clear that it was that easy."

This issue of misinformation, or just a lack of information, seems to be pervasive throughout Bard's organizations and administration in general. While larger organizational bodies like SPARC fail to make this information accessible, it seems that most students lack the initiative needed to plan and coordinate events, or like Hosta suggested, get discouraged by the lack of clarity in these processes.

Despite these difficulties, the follow through was worth it. When asked why they planned "Hang the DJ," Allen remarked "I think what I really wanted to do with it is get the music scene going again at Bard, and have us like, go to different colleges and have other college bands come here and perform at other places besides Bard."

Hosta agrees, "There are a lot of good musicians around here, but its been years since Bard has seriously tapped into that."

What they want you to do is call your friends at Vassar and book SMOG more. "SMOG shouldn't just be about booking outside artists, or outside DJs," Hosta concluded. "It should be as much about bringing the people playing up as it should be about bringing students in."



HOROSCOPES

OCTOBER 2018



Scorpio: You've been thinking about joining a coven, haven't you Scorpio? Well youtube tutorials aren't getting you anywhere. This halloweekend kick it into high gear by hosting your first exorcism.



Sagittarius: Uh oh sag, looks like you've been cursed! Keep that garlic and cross on hand this week just in case.



Capricorn: Save money and just stay in. No need to go out for scares when you've got Monster Mash on repeat.



Aquarius: Your creative spirit beckons you this halloweekend, Aquarius, so follow it. TP is your medium the house, your canvas.



Pisces: Turn the beat around, Pisces, love to hear percussion.



Aries: Ditch the party and join the youth for a night out on the town trick or treating. Dont be afraid to elbow your way to the front bc butterfingers r worth it. F the age cap.



Taurus: While that sexy devil costume may be calling your name, its time to just be you.



Gemini: Getting abducted by aliens won't be the weirdest thing that happens to you this weekend.



Cancer: Yes you should be a ghost for halloween. That way you can hide all that cool merch you got from the Sheep and Wool Festival last weekend and stay warm at the same time.



Leo: Dont feel torn by all those Halloweekend invites you keep getting. You wont have to decide if you just go for a nice night on the town with da 'rents.



Virgo: Monopolize your time by making a costume that works for all seven nights of Halloween with a, you guessed it, reversible sweater vest.



Libra: Skip the gym and carry around a 28 lb pumpkin instead. That way you can hit the candy and you won't be skipping arm day you hunky monkey.

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