

OBSERVER

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The Bard Observer

Vol. 3, No. 2

Serving the Bard College Community

Annandale-on-Hudson

Strike Promotes Change

By Cormac Flynn

On Thursday, April 24, the Forum of the Student Association voted to strike in a week if their demands were not met. The demands were basic, that fire alarms work, that phones be fixed, that security be available. But even these essential things were not what the strike was about. Simply put, the student body was striking for respect.

The ultimatum of the Forum was not issued in the name of luxuries or "country club amenities", to use a favorite phrase of President Botstein's. Nor was it issued for ideological or political reasons. Indeed, the ultimatum and strike authorization were passed by a consensus of the Forum rarely seen in recent years. But while there was consensus, and understandably, much excitement, there was no joy or jubilation in the Forum's action. Some, admittedly, were happy that action was finally going to be taken, but all regretted that such action should be necessary.

or called for frivolously, and it wasn't. The demands put forward in the ultimatum were not unknown to the administration, often they had been in negotiation for months, many had been agreed to and promised for as long. The threat of a strike was not the first option reached for, it was the final one. As strike committee member Todd Johnson told the administration when the ultimatum was first presented "We are not here to open negotiations, we're here to close them."

The students have always sought to work with the administration for a better school and not against it. The safety of the community and the quality of college life should be everyone's concern. By taking the action it did, the Forum was not rejecting the tools of cooperation and negotiation, but rather announcing their failure, failure for which the administration, by its inaction on matters of student concern, must take responsibility. The actions of the administration have aver-

ted a strike, but if it is left at that, and there is no attempt made on the part of the administration to find new ways to respond to the legitimate concerns of the students, then the future can only hold more discontent for the students and more conflict for the administration. In the final analysis, the strike was not about phones or escorts or even fire alarms; the students were prepared to protest the fact that they should

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Confrontation Predicted

By Nancy Galvin and Peter Holland.

A great deal of confusion was generated this April over terrorist incidents involving Americans overseas. One incident was the TWA bombing; the other the West Berlin discothèque incident in which an American serviceman and a Turkish woman were killed, and over 200 people, many American servicemen among them were injured.

The reports of the White House were very ambiguous prior to our raid on

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Editor's Note

The Budget Committee allocated no funds to the Bard Observer at the Budget allocation this half semester. This budget was ratified by the Forum. It is for this reason that our format has been changed to one of lesser cost and greater flexibility. Because we are relieved of the restrictions of the past format, we believe that we can now spend more time on the true substance of the paper; reporting and writing.

Rachel and Nancy.

The Probing Inquirer

By Peter A. Holland

My probing feelers are out! I am back to uncover more of the inherent contradictions of the Bard campus! After my last letter to the editor, I received several questions and comments on a whole range of topics. The one I liked best was why the heck I, a self-proclaimed feminist, a true MALE OF THE EIGHTIES didn't give equal column space to a comparable women's bathroom in last month's article. Anyway, on a recent visit to the library, I heard my pseudonym

called out. "Prober?" the voice inquired. I knew right away that it was in regard to another article. "PROBER" the editor said, "are you going to submit another ruthless criticism of a problem at Bard for our next issue?" Needless to say, I was flattered.

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Concerning Abortion

By Faith Feuerman

"The right of privacy...founded in the Fourteenth Amendment's concept of personal liberty...is broad enough to encompass a woman's decision whether or not to terminate her pregnancy."

U.S. Supreme Court Roe vs. Wade, 1973

The 1973 decision by the Supreme Court to legalize abortion provided a major victory in the struggle for women's rights. Unfortunately, since Roe vs. Wade, our reproductive freedom has been under constant attack from antichoice factions. These groups want to see the fetus declared a legal "person" and want to protect its "life" by making abortion, even when performed to save the life of the mot-

her, murder and a punishable offense. Certain types of birth control (in fact, some of the most effective forms like the IUD) would also be outlawed because they disrupt the pregnancy after fertilization has taken place. These factions have a dedicated spokesman in President Reagan who has vowed to see abortion made illegal before he leaves of-

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Strike

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even have to threaten a strike to force the administration to redress such basic concerns. Let us all work to insure that action of this kind will not be necessary again, but let us do so secure in the knowledge that the student body and the student Forum are prepared to take such action if it is.

Abortion

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fice and who has recently published a book which compares abortion to genocide.

On March 9, 1986, 47 women and men from the Bard community participated in the largest march for women's rights ever held in the United States to show our support for safe and legal abortion and birth control. The National March for Women's Lives, held in Washington D.C., was a prochoice march and rally organized by the National Organization for Women (NOW). NOW estimates that 125,000 persons attended the march, outdrawing the largest action by the opposition (in January of 1979) by 65,000 persons. This march

was scheduled to be followed by a west coast counterpart in Los Angeles, California on March 16.

The Bard delegation, organized by The Women's Center, marched behind a tri-color banner as a part of Campus Campaign, along with 232 other east coast colleges and universities. Many wore white, a reference to the tradition established by the Suffragettes. The delegations of marchers assembled at the Mall and continued down Pennsylvania Avenue past the White House. Fists were raised and chants were shouted such as, "Not the Church, not the state, women must decide their fate" as we made our way to the Capitol for a three hour rally in which Bella Abzug, NOW President Ellie Smeal, singer Holly Near, others voiced their outrage at the attacks on our reproductive freedom being made by the Vatican and the Reagan Administration. Perhaps the most inspiring message that afternoon came from two nuns (part of the vocal and prochoice Vatican 24) who vowed to continue their struggle for reproductive rights even though they have been threatened with excommunication from the Roman Catholic

Church.

The March for Women's Lives was followed on March 10 by Lobby Day in Washington. Lobby Day was dedicated to showing support for the Civil Rights Restoration Act presently in front of Congress and to defeat the Tauki-Sensenbrenner Amendment, an antiabortion rider attached to the bill by the opposition. If passed, the Civil Rights Restoration Act would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, race, age and disability on the part of any institution receiving federal funds. The Tauki-Sensenbrenner Amendment is an example

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Inquirer

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I felt like, here is a guy who really appreciates me for my journalistic qualities, and not just for some of my more obvious ones. He told me that he was thinking about printing my article in the space especially reserved for "politically significant" articles. What an honor, I thought. At last, I could expound my views on Hobbes, Locke, and Rousseau. But then I got to thinking, what could be more "politically

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Inquirer

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significant" than one of the more recent controversies at Bard: the MEDIA CRISIS. It seems that you can't pick up an issue of any leading newspaper at Bard without running into...the conscious attempt of THOUGHT CONTROL. Almost every Bard paper that you read, on both the right and left, is trying to attract students to their rigid written stone ideology. It is true that many of these ideologies were new-found only in the "Writing and Thinking Program," but no matter. They represent THE TRUTH. For those people who haven't yet observed the way in which some of Bard's top journals manipulate language and events, let me, a perceptive guy, be your guide.

First of all, there is the BARD WEEKLY, which is unofficially the official voice of the LEFT. The BARD WEEKLY contains some of Bard's really hardcore Progressives." Many of them read, in its entirety, THE COMMUNIST MANIFESTO in Freshman Seminar! The BARD WEEKLY has suggested that progressives offer an introduction of its

philosophical roots to young people, college students, and those who for whatever reasons are unable to attend college. Since most people don't have the enlightened background of a BARD progressive, I think that the BARD WEEKLY should also educate those people who merely think that they are progressive. My favorite BARD WEEKLY article was the one which showed that "football, beer, and Jesus" are mere veils of the alienation of "the Pittsburgh steelworker." Obviously

Abortion

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of the current legislative tactic being used by the New Right to defeat or delay the passage of bills in Congress which deal with women's or civil rights issues; over 400 antiabortion riders such as this one have been introduced in the last nine years.

Although I was elated by the overwhelming turnout of prochoice supporters for the march, I must admit distress at the dearth of Persons of Color represented in the Campus Campaign. Antichoice legislative victories thus far, like the Hyde Amendment (which prohibits federal funding for abortion unless it is necessa-

that reporter has spent some time talking to Pittsburgh steel workers. I was upset by the fact that they failed to mention that "the Pittsburgh steelworker" drinks capitalist BUDWEISER beer and thinks he likes it! This is what truly shows his alienation.

Next, we have the BARD OBSERVER, which prides itself on offering only "news about Bard." My favorite article of theirs was the feature they did last year on the RED HOOK DINER complete with photographs! "News about Bard" is a to-

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ry to save a woman's life), have mainly discriminated against Women of Color by making ability to exercise reproductive freedom dependent upon income. I am not sure why Persons of Color were so poorly represented among the college campuses. There were many minority organizations and Women and Men of Color who marched in other delegations. It is possible that many college delegations did not offer financial assistance to their student marchers, making those who would be most affected by anti-abortion legislation the least able to attend.

Confrontation

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*some responses were in favor of multiple sanctions.

3) Do you foresee further military confrontation between the U.S. and Libya?

YES: 91%
NO: 4%
UNDECIDED: 5%

4) In the event that you were drafted into military confrontation with Libya, would you go?

NO: 87%
YES: 5.5%
UNDECIDED: 7.5%

5) Do you think that the U.S. operations in Libya have been partially used to draw attention away from the situation in Nicaragua?

YES: 43%
NO: 33%
UNDECIDED: 6%.

Inquirer

cont. from pg. 5

tally misleading statement, since we all know that the OBSERVER officially represents the RIGHT at Bard. This is evident from their articles in which they have been known to quote administration officials and from the nature of the layout of the paper

fancy titles and... advertising! Rumor has it that they have had to change their "soft on communism" editorial viewpoint several times on account of complaints from FAIRGROUNDS PIZZA, one of their capitalist coconspirators. I guess I don't even need to mention OBSERVERGATE, in which they tried to seize control of the very last remaining bastion of free expression at Bard.

Then there is my favorite publication, the BARD LEFT PRESS. The BARD LEFT PRESS performs the thankless, neverending, selfsacrificing job of carrying on the true Socialist struggle. Using graphic metaphors, such as "trudging through the Louisiana swamp water", the BARD LEFT PRESS brings home to me what it would be like to be a socially conscious person. The BARD LEFT PRESS is one of the few journals in the Bard media that promises not to edit submissions. As was recently pointed out in a classic confrontation of RIGHT vs. LEFT at Bard, the liberal (or is it radical?) policy of the BARD LEFT PRESS is especially noticeable in the unique style of spelling which they employ. The references that the RIGHT made to "spelling errors"

just shows how obsessed with APPEARANCE they are. As if the dictatorial capitalists had something to hide!

I hope I have been able to get across one main point: that there is a MEDIA CRISIS at Bard. "Gee Prober" you say, "what can I do?" Realize one simple fact: the entire "media" at Bard is controlled by about 10 people. If you don't want to read about THE RED HOOK DINER, the true reasons why the Pittsburgh steel industry is stagnating, or why you must "trudge through the Louisiana swamp waters", stop making it so easy for these people! Submit revisionist articles to their rigid ideological newspapers! BE A MUCKRAKER!

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