

# OBSERVER

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# The Bard Observer

VOLUME XCIII NUMBER TWO

FEBRUARY 25, 1988



Shelly Morgan-New Assistant Dean of Students.

## 5 Minutes With Shelly Morgan

by James Meeks

Phones ringing. Stuart bellowing. Amidst all the mayhem Shelly Morgan, the new Assistant Dean of Students, was waging a war with the student filing system, but managed to spare a few moments to talk to an Observer staff member.

BO: What ever made you choose a career here at Bard College?

SM: The key reason for wanting to work at Bard College was the fact that I want to work with students that have the same interests that I did when I was in college.

BO: What do you as the new Assistant Dean of Students feel you can offer the Bard community?

SM: I feel that I can offer my experience in housing and student life to the students here at Bard College, which will enable me to make them feel that I am on their side. I also offer my creative background to the community which I feel will enable me to communicate with the students better.

BO: How do you feel your relationship with the students is at present time?

SM: I cannot really answer that question because I have not met too many students, but the ones that I have met seem to be very genuine and accommodating. I guess since none of the students have left my office slamming doors that you could say our relationship is a good one.

BO: I understand that you are now in charge of the peer counselors and are proposing a new training program for them. Can you tell us about this program?

SM: The training program is just something in the making but when it finally happens, the main goal of it is to enable the counselors to be better prepared for emergencies and crises. They will not get any more responsibility than they have at this time, but they will be better prepared to handle situations.

BO: How do you as the Director of Housing feel that you can solve the current problem in the department?

SM: I feel that I can help the situation if we can get this department to work more closely with security and B&G, and as soon as this happens we can go from there. I want the students to know that I am working for them not against them. We need to start to build

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## Proposed TAP Reductions

by Pete Stone

In his State of the State address on Wednesday, February 3rd, Governor Mario Cuomo proposed that the "upper cut" of the TAP award reduction for juniors and seniors be eliminated. C. Mark Lawton, president of the Commission on Independent Colleges and Universities, said that the organization was grateful to the Governor for recommending the elimination of the long-standing inequity. The CICU represents 118 independent institutions of higher education in New York State.

Lawton is also looking forward to working with the Governor and the Legislature to increase the maximum TAP award and to recapture the needy students who are not currently eligible for the TAP program. "What the Governor proposes is a good beginning. It promotes a firmer base on which to rebuild TAP and meet the needs of today's students," said Lawton. "The TAP program's purchasing power has eroded and, consequently, now buys less education for students, and fewer students are eligible for funds because of inadequate adjustments in years past."

Unfortunately, not everybody is satisfied with the 1988-89 spending proposal. Connie Eno, president of the National Education Association of New York, called the budget a "basically good framework, but one that provides nowhere near the amount of funding required to address the needs of our schools. We need three times what he's proposed."

In an example of imbalance in the budget, Eno called its emphasis "heavy on kindergarten through 12th grade, but light on higher education." Cuomo has failed to mention the state's community colleges, as he has in the past, leaving their fiscal future to the discretion of the legislature. In addition, partly due to the lack of the Governor's support, community colleges have been put at a financial disadvantage in recruiting and keeping faculty. "Because salaries are on such a low scale compared to other occupations, our community colleges are having increasing difficulties attracting personnel," Eno said.

Eno summed up by saying that the spending proposals comprise an "unbalanced budget, heavy in ideas but light in money."

## Black History Month

by Michele Berger

"The Black man must (indigenous African and his descendants--the world) once more write about himself, his culture and his continent. For no one cares to study about another's history to the point where he can feel the emotional values of the inheritors."

Dr. Yoseph A.A. ben, author of The Black Man of the Nile

See how many distinguished African-Americans you can identify without looking at the answers.

- |                     |                       |
|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 1) W.E.B. Dubois    | 9) Huey P. Newton     |
| 2) Katherine Dunham | 10) Shirley Chisholm  |
| 3) Fredrick Douglas | 11) Alvin Pouissant   |
| 4) Marcus Garvey    | 12) Angela Davis      |
| 5) Sojourner Truth  | 13) Cicely Tyson      |
| 6) Spike Lee        | 14) Thurgood Marshall |
| 7) Tony Brown       | 15) Maya Angelou      |
| 8) James Earl Jones |                       |

Black history month is upon us! If the amount of your correct answers was less than half, that indicates how scant your perception of African-Americans in history and popular culture is. If

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# Letters...

continued from page

of your hands. In the first issue I made a promise, and that promise was to deliver an issue every two weeks. As long as the funding holds out, I will stay true to that promise.

In order to breath life into this newspaper two things are necessary. The first is credibility. That means promising an issue every two weeks and sticking to that promise. As long as we produce something, the community will see we mean business, and then we can get required funding. For too long the Observer has been a bag of empty promises. The second thing this paper needs is contributions. It is not our policy to refuse contributions of actual news in favor of filler pieces, but we print what we have. It is easy to point a finger and scream bloody murder, but what have you done to help? Will blocking support and funding help to make the paper better? Or are you just out to destroy whatever doesn't agree with you?

To address the issues you raise, I'll take them on one by one. You didn't like the "Fun with Finance" article. That's fair. You have complaints about the moonies article. I'd like you to know that I consulted with the moonie's law firm, Philmore and McBraken in California, before I printed the article. On a college level they had no problem with it, and its follow-up article. I'm sorry you don't think it's funny. As to your story suggestions, they have all been in the works since the start of the year, and I am unsure as to when they will come in. However, I did not feel that it was a good idea to promise a paper every two weeks, and start in April. Waiting for people to deliver was killing the old Observer.

For all the fans of the old Observer, Cormac Flynn will return next semester. But instead of finding a paper gasping for funding and credibility, he will be able to work on a paper that kept its promises, and delivered eight times. From this credible stance he will be able to put together the funding to make this paper great. As we are now, how can anyone believe in a newspaper that can't keep its promises?

Burning a cross outside my door isn't going to help. Only you can help. I will print every two weeks. If your articles are here on time, I will print them. If not, I'll print what is on hand. I'm not going to get bogged down in fighting over who is right and wrong, because doing that destroyed the organization preceding Cormac. Together we can make this paper work.

Another issue I'd like to address is hearing more from the rest of the community. So far the response has been slow, but mostly positive. Unsolicited responses so far show that students are positive about the Observer 10 to 1. However this represents a very small part of the population. Thus I would like to direct everyone to the final page, where they should fill out the ballot asking their opinion. We're all looking forward to finding out.

# Peace Corps

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actively sought by leaders in business and industry. They even quote Lee Iacocca as saying, "If Americans wonder where in the world they can put their energy and talents to work, I recommend they consider joining the Peace Corps." Can you imagine the man who brought us the Pinto, developing and maintaining inland ponds in Angola, then appearing on Henry Ford's steps to become a corporate industrialist? Me neither.

On the bright side the Corps will train you for 8-12 weeks intensively in language, culture, and technical aspects of the job. Free transportation to one of over 63 exciting third world cesspools is provided. During Peace Corps service, volunteers receive a monthly allowance for housing, food, clothing, and incidentals. Free medical and dental care are provided, as are 24 vacation days a year.

Following service, volunteers receive \$175 for each month they spent in the service (\$4200 for a two year stint). Ex-members are eligible for federal employment, and possible graduate school credit.

Certainly the Corps isn't right for everyone. As for me, I stick to the immortal words of Tom Hanks: "It's not that I can't help these people, it's that I don't want to." Sane advice.

However, if the Peace Corps isn't for you after college, you might want to try the Central Intelligence Agency. Fundamentally, the two organizations are very similar. Each will train you for a service career abroad. Each offers challenge and opportunity to ambitious individuals. They also operate in similar parts of the world.

The CIA is responsible for gathering information, evaluating it, and producing finished reports containing accurate, comprehensive, and objective information concerning national security matters.

There are opportunities in domestic as well as foreign fields, such as engineering, computer science, electronic technicians, economic/military/political analysts, imagery analysts/scientists, intelligence operations, security, and administration.

The Agency offers a very comprehensive program of benefits including: life and health insurance; retirement, including voluntary investment opportunities; paid holidays; liberal sick and annual leave; recreational facilities and organizations; educational assistance; and relocation and other allowances for domestic and overseas assignments.

Of course, the type of work may differ between the two agencies. Therefore, this editor does not recommend that these choices are for everyone.

# Events in the Hudson Valley



**Feb. - May:** Kleinert Arts Center hosts the Spring '88 Kleinert Arts Festival. Music, performance, poetry, mime, story-telling, theater, comedy, and science-fiction. Admission \$8.00. Call (914) 679-2079 for information and reservations.

**OPUS 40 INC**  
7480 Fite Road Saugerties, NY 12477

**Feb. 28:** Nancy Willard, poet, novelist, and award-winning children's author, will read from her own work at 4:00pm in the Barbara Fite Room at the House On The Quarry, located at 7480 Fite Road in High Woods, Saugerties. Admission is \$12.50 for members and \$15.00 for non-members. Call (914) 246-3400 for reservations.



**March 13:** The Germania Singing Society and the Bardavon Opera House combine forces to present a concert and dinner with the Vienna Boys Choir. Concert begins at 3:00pm. Tickets available from the Bardavon Box Office at 35 Market Street in Poughkeepsie, or by phone, (914) 473-2072. Ticket prices range from \$16.00 to \$18.00.





## History Month

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all you know of black history is a cross between Martin Luther King and Diana Ross, then you are truly in a sad state of affairs.

Don't be idle this month. Take pride in the achievements of fellow African-Americans. Sit down and argue with us on campus. Learn, grow, and in that process of growing become enriched. Attend BBSO's sponsored affairs.

Whites can no longer expect and rely solely on black students, citizens, or organizations for their enlightenment. They must actively seek out and think about race relations, the black experience in America, and racism.

Black history is too voluminous to be contained in one month. It is a constant search and process of self-analysis. More importantly it is a history to be revered and shared.

### Answers to Black History Month Quiz

- 1) civil rights activist/creator of American sociology theory
- 2) presenter of African/Caribbean dance
- 3) founder of first black newspapers/prominent abolitionist
- 4) leader of back to Africa movement/developer of black nationalism
- 5) outspoken woman fighting for women's rights/helper of the Underground railroad
- 6) recent promising filmmaker
- 7) has social commentary show on PBS: Tony Brown's Journal
- 8) famous actor--recent acclaim in "Fences"
- 9) involved with the Black Panther Party/helped develop free lunch and breakfast program for inner city children
- 10) congressman
- 11) leading psychiatrist on African Americans/consultant to Cosby show
- 12) civil rights activist
- 13) actress
- 14) Supreme Court Justice
- 15) poet, novelist--"I know why the caged bird sings"



Peace Corp or CIA: Your Choice.  
Corp or Company, your choice.

You know the Peace Corps has been successfully helping people in underdeveloped countries for over twenty-five years. But did you know that a stint in the Corps can help reduce college loan debts? Due to the Student Loan Forgiveness provision of the Higher Education Act of 1986 (effective as of July 1, 1987), authority for the Peace Corps and VISTA to authorize cancellation of National Direct Student Loans was established.

For each of the first and second years of Peace Corps service, 15% of a volunteer's loan, including interest, is cancelled. For each of the third and fourth years of service, 20% of a volunteer's loan and interest is cancelled. In addition, payment on many federally funded student loans are deferred for the duration of Peace Corps service.

So why on Earth would a student want to postpone a conventional career by spending two years in the Peace Corps? According to the Corps, it's because volunteers develop skills and abilities

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## Missing Students Return

by Christopher Martin

Annandale-on-Hudson. Students missing from Bard College for over two weeks began to return to that institution this weekend. The first to show up were freshmen Ola McPhearson and Joshua Rubenal. When questioned about their whereabouts over the past fortnight, they replied, "We went to Boston for Chinese food."

A total of one hundred thirty-seven students disappeared during or shortly after a snowball fight on February 2nd. It was thought by some that the students might have been kidnapped by Moonies, followers of the religious sect founded by the Reverend Sun Myung Moon in the late sixties. The sect is based at a compound in Barrytown, which is down the road from the college.

The college was just about to begin the tremendous job of notifying parents when Ola and Joshua showed up. "We had put it off as long as possible," stated a Bard staff member who wished to remain anonymous. "We didn't want to cause undue alarm. It worked out alright anyway." As of this morning, all but eleven of the missing students had returned. Only one student, junior Ben Icing, claimed to have been kidnapped by Moonies. It was later discovered that he had read about the allegation in a Boston newspaper.

"Most of them are back and they're going to classes and I see them in the commons and stuff, but they seem different," said sophomore Caterina Punt. "My roommate, Terry, is especially weird. She's really quiet and she spends a lot of time looking at nothing at all. When I asked her if anything was wrong, she just said, 'Too much Chinese food.'"

Bard faculty are of the opinion that if there is indeed a change in the attitudes of the previously-missing students, it is a change for the better. "Those particular students are much more attentive in class," said philosophy professor Alfred Hitchbox. "They are a pleasure to teach. It makes one wonder if disappearance might be beneficial to the intellect."

Apparently the one hundred thirty-seven students all stayed together at a Ramada Inn just

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## Civic Center Hosts Humperdinck

The "King of Romance", Engelbert Humperdinck, will appear for one night only at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center on Tuesday, March 15 at 8:00pm. This show has been rescheduled from September, and all tickets from that show will be honored.

Engelbert has tackled many parts of the entertainment business with guest starring roles on Hotel, Fantasy Island, and the immortal Love Boat, where he may or may not have appeared with Charo.

Following the Schwarzenegger approach to Hollywood, Arnold George Dorsey changed his name to Engelbert Humperdinck in an effort to immortalize the composer of "Hansel and Gretel". Good thing he didn't name himself after the Brothers Grimm. His big break came in 1967 when his just released version of "Release Me" knocked the Beatles out of first place on Hit Parade. The Beatles would later be quoted as saying that this event made them realize that they were an insignificant part of the music world. This event would also be cited as one of the reasons the Beatles broke up. George Harrison would experiment in the song style of Humperdinck for years to come.

"I like meaningful meaty songs that tell a story. I lean towards more romantic tunes because they inspire a more intimate response with an audience," says Engelbert. His current single reaffirms his taste in music.

In addition to his new sound, Engelbert has a new look. He now sports a mustache and favors a classier, more dressy style of clothing. He certainly maintains his stage presence as his 250 fan clubs could attest to.

Reserved seating tickets are \$21.00 and \$19.00, and are available at the Mid-Hudson Civic Center Box Office, any TicketMaster location, or the Chargeline at (914) 454-3388.





Shelly with Students.

some trust between the housing department and the community.

BO: How would you say you and Stephen Nelson get along as deans?

SM: "So far so good." I have not been here at Bard College for that long so that is hard to answer, but we work together very well. We are helping each other reach our goals that we have set for ourselves.

BO: How would you describe the position of Assistant Dean of Students?

SM: It is a very tough job yet it is a job that is very much so bound by system. I am here for the students mainly, to help them with any problems in their campus life. I am also here to help achieve a better residential life as well as campus life. That is the best way to describe the position.

BO: Tell us something about Shelly Morgan that will help the students get to know you better as a person and an administrator.

SM: I really don't have an answer for this question but I can say that I feel that I have been matched with the kind of students that I want to work with.

BO: What are your views on the current policies that effect student life here at Bard College?

SM: When it comes to this area of Bard, they are no different from any other school in their policies concerning student and campus life.

BO: Are there any policies that you would like to see changed?

SM: The one policy that I would like to see get changed is the idea of giving fines to students for things that they have done. Nothing is learned from a fine; Bard needs to take some other sanctions to correct these problems with students. You simply just do not get the message across with a little fine; you need to take more action.

BO: What should the Bard College community be looking for in the future here at Bard?

SM: Changes are taking place here almost every day and they will continue to take place; for example, we are building a new gym, student center, and I am trying to start a resident life program to complement academic programs.

BO: What can we students do to help you as the Assistant Dean of Students?

SM: The students can start by telling me what they want to see happen here at Bard College. They can get more involved in committees and organizations, and most importantly they must give me input; otherwise, how am I going to know what the students want to happen?

BO: In closing, Shelly, do you think that you are going to be happy here at Bard College?

SM: It is going to be a challenge but I can do it and I think it will be a fun one at that. With lots of help from the students we'll make it work.

## Comedy Creates Cash

by Pete Stone

For all those of you who still think that the best comedy clubs are only in the city, or for those of you who think that the Hudson Valley is a very unfunny place, proof that you are wrong has arrived. The time to prove that you are one of the funniest people in the Hudson Valley has finally come into the reach of your grubby little paws. The Bananas Comedy Club, located at the Holiday Inn in Poughkeepsie, is presenting the 2nd annual "Funniest College Student in the Hudson Valley Contest." The contest is open to all full-time college students and each student will perform approximately three minutes of stand-up comedy. The winner will receive one hundred dollars, but there will be prizes for all the performers. The contest finals will be held on Friday, February 26th after the regular shows at Bananas.

To enter the contest, simply call Bananas reservations/information number (471-5002) and mention the contest. Leave your name and a number where you can be reached and Bananas will contact you.

For those of you who suffer from stagefright, fear not. Bananas is also offering another contest, "The \$1000 Joke Contest". As the contest name implies, the prize for the funniest joke is one thousand dollars. The joke can be new or old and should be mailed with your name, address, and phone number to:

\$1000 Joke Contest

WCZX-Classics

319 Mill Street

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

The entry deadline is March 14th and the winner will be selected from 10 finalists on Friday, March 18th. Weekly prizes will also be awarded on WCZX's "Miller in the Morning."

## Pope visits Bard in Ice



Ice Artists on the Move.



## Return

continued from page 3  
outside of Boston. According to Ola, they "shopped" and "sang a lot."

"We decided we were a sort of team. We all bought orange uniforms and sang team songs in the subways. We even met a couple of people who wanted to join the team, but when they found out they had to shave their heads, they went away."

Why did they come back from such an idyllic existence?

"For one thing, we got kinda bored," replied Joshua. "There's only so much Chinese food one can eat. Besides, it turned out there was this other group of people who wore orange uniforms and sang and stuff, so we sorta got disillusioned. We realized education was important anyway, and so we came back."

He chuckled. "I can't believe you knuckleheads thought we were kidnapped by Moonies!" He paused reflectively. "Hey, would you like a flower?"

### How to Find Chinese Food in Boston

Take the Taconic north to the Mass. Pike. Take the Mass. Pike east until you hit Boston. Keep going. Keep going. See the sign that says "Chinatown"? Turn now!



Wash Him — Washer.

# Sex or Laundry: Good Clean Fun

Long before the advent of Maytag, Virgil anthropomorphized, "O tyrant Love, to what dost thou not drive the hearts of men!" The answer remains the same.

### Laundry.

In college years the privileges and responsibilities of "adults" are suddenly thrust upon relatively impressionable adolescents. Often the individual has not experienced such independence, and for the first time must balance the delicate relationship between those things one wants to do and those things one wishes they've already done.

### Sex. And laundry.

In order to determine which one of these activities is actually considered more important in the Bard community a statistical analysis was performed on the relationship between gender and whether "it's easier to sleep with someone or get them to do your laundry."

### RESULTS

58.8% of males and 89.5% of females indicated that it was "easier to find someone" to have sex with than to get someone to do their laundry. However, having laundry done for oneself was deemed "more worthy of one's while" in 52.9% of responding males, and 63.2% of females. Statistically, males found it easier to get their clothes done (as opposed to themselves), whereas females suffered the contrary. One male wrote, "Two women have done my laundry here. One has made my bed. None have made me. Took me two minutes to get them to do my laundry, taken me about 25 weeks to get to third base..."

### ANALYSIS

Society often influences our behavioral responses. Obviously thinking about more than suds, a respondent remarked, "When one stares at the blonde in physiological psychology class, one is indeed contemplating a four-letter verb, but 'wash' isn't it." Quite true. During the initial sexual encounter one tends to be more concerned with putting their best...uh...foot forward, adapting to their partner, and exhibit-



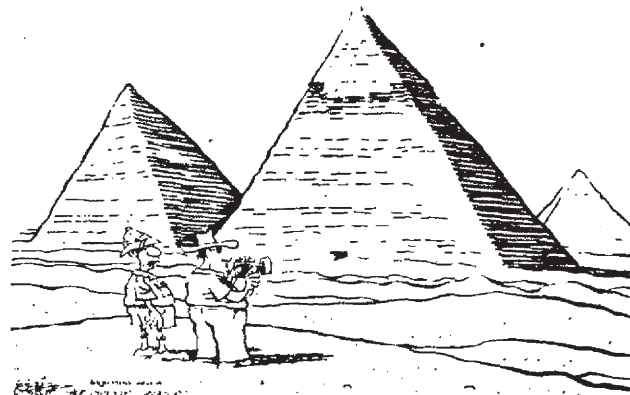
by Dan Hillman, Science Editor  
ing the persona of their choice. In a laundry room setting, however, one must deal with more personal matters, specifically whether changing the sheets once a semester is too often. One might wonder if there is a correlation between one's sexuality and personal habits.

From a certain viewpoint one could assert that the data indicates males tend to be superficial, regarding sex and laundry as necessities of life that have approximately equal importance, and that females, relatively sure of sexual success, harbor a desire to reveal the more intimate details of themselves, i.e., their laundry. On the other side of the coin, females may simply be more honest in revealing their priorities. A female participant in the survey mused, "I can do myself but I'd rather not do my laundry." Perhaps a volunteer would like to test this hypothesis by offering to be either a confidant or a laundry service for female subjects. Naturally this would be a very dangerous experiment, and the subjects must accept all risks.

Sure, there are risks involved. Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer AIDS (or the next trendy sexually transmitted disease), or have some weirdo steal your clothes is a personal decision that must be made by you and you alone. The Bard Observer shall take no responsibility for your actions. Both interpersonal relations and laundry are dangerous and should only be undertaken by professionals. Do not try this at home. Be sure you know the subtle difference between removing someone's pants and washing 'em. As an anonymous contributor observed, "If you do your own laundry, there is less risk of losing socks and no chance of others laughing at your stupid, ripped underwear with the purple hearts on them."

### CONCLUDING NOTES

52.9% of responding males and 63.2% of females deemed having laundry done for themselves more worthy of one's while than sex. Think about it. And don't wash red socks with white shirts.





## Raising Monetary Awareness



Stairway to Heaven???

Are you in a constant state of indebtedness? Do credit card companies have hitmen after you? Do you owe money to long-toothed men with names like Guido and Cheech? If so there may be help for you. Although they won't give you money to support your credit lifestyle, the Self-Help Clearinghouse in Ulster County is interested in starting a support group for anyone who has a problem with money. The group will be based on Debtors Anonymous model and will adhere to the Alcoholics Anonymous 12 Steps and 12 Traditions.

A meeting time and place has not been set, but interested persons should contact Linda Cooper of the Self-Help Clearinghouse of the Mental Health Association in Ulster County (914) 336-4747

Alternatively the Observer would like to extend its helping hand to anyone with this problem. Since the root of the trouble is money, we suggest that said funds be sent directly to us. Money in the wrong hands can be a dangerous thing, so trust an expert to deal with it.

The Mental Health Association also announced that County Treasurer Lew Kirschner will be the honorary chairman of the MHA's second annual Mile of Quarters fundraiser. The drive will culminate on Saturday, April 23rd with an evening of music and entertainment at Kingston High School. All proceeds from the event are earmarked for the MHA's programs for youth depression and suicide prevention. The agency hopes to raise the equivalent of a mile of quarters which is \$16,500.

Unique fundraising events like this can also work for Bard clubs and groups. A mile of beer bottles (approximately 25,344) might even work better. At a case and a six for every student, by the end of the event the participants will be so crocked they won't notice how much money they've donated.

DEADLINE FOR THE OBSERVER ISSUE THREE  
MARCH 1

SEND SUBMISSIONS TO BOX 635

## Observer Classifieds

SEND TO BOX 635

Dear Land's End Lady: That guy sounds like something from a bad 70s movie. Try him.

Wanted: same as "optimistic" two weeks ago, but two (2). Send all stuff to "Insanely Optimistic".

Attention, ladies! Want to work part-time for no money? Bleucher is looking for a floozie. If interested, call John at extension 310 to arrange an interview/audition.

Redhead: Get a haircut; you're making me look bad. -- The ex-president of your fan club.

Dear "not really my sister," I hate it when that happens. Don't you? -- Just look alike.

Dear all-knowing, most omnipotent "observer", you should try the abyss sometime; it's really quite nice down here. -- over-the-edge.

Dear Norman Bates, keep the Guttenberg Bible. Will give you \$20 for the Monet originals, but can I have the car too? --

Ernest & Trevor, how does it feel to have the wind whistling across your naked scalp? -- Just curious.

Dear Masked Observer, if you don't go to your grave with that flower I'll hate you forever!! (harsh, huh?)

To whom it may concern: I'm fed up with your silly lies. I'd rather die alone.

Miss February: Hope you enjoy your reign and the quirks that go along with the extra size.

Flat-top girl: classified romance is decidedly tacky, but perhaps this message could prevent future transgressions. It's your watermelon; you can drop it from a great height, or you can eat it. -- CSCM.

Michele, you gorgeous woman you, I think I want to know you better, but I can't get near you. What do I do? There's only one worm.

*What's it like to be part of  
the Observer staff?*

**It's an adventure!**

**It's expense accounts, business lunches, exotic travel,  
meeting attractive people, accumulating experience  
and being a working part of the world's best  
little newspaper.**

**ALL THIS PLUS**

**State of art facilities, access to celebrities and  
world leaders, the news helicopter, high salaries, paid  
vacations, automatic prestige and the instant  
respect of your peer.\***

*Life's an adventure — Live It!*

**Join the Bard Observer Staff**

**CONTACT BOX 635**

\*Does not imply contract or guarantee. Statement of one slightly deranged and deluded staff member.



# Editorials

## Letters, we get letters

I was going to write an editorial about the lack of response the Observer had had over its first issue. Luckily I was spared from the task by three critics who had the gusto to respond. Before we get into it, I'd like to thank the three critics for having an opinion. By having opinion, whether it is good or bad, these people have contributed to the Observer, and in the final analysis they help to broaden its appeal.

Two of the criticisms came in the mail, and one I found posted in the commons. The more creative of the three was an issue of the Observer, redone in red over the areas that expressed his/her gravest concern. Of the three I feel that Mike Katell showed the best, no nonsense approach. His criticism is honest as well as accurate, and does not seem to stem from a personal vendetta.

TO: The Bard Observer Staff  
From: Michael Katell

I read the latest issue of the "Bard Observer" and I would like to offer my opinion.

I considered the editing of the paper to be highly irresponsible and childish. The first story on pg. 1, "Fun with Finance" is a fascinating bit of literature on how to move "yup" in the world through the practice of saving money--wow this is news to me.

The second article, "Aftermath of a Snow War", is a most irresponsible work of fiction which has no place on the front page of a newspaper, any newspaper, and certainly nowhere else without a fiction disclaimer. If you were out in the "big world" the moonies could sue you for aggravated libel. They could sue you now, if they were stupid enough to read our poor excuse for a newspaper and crazy enough to care...I just don't get the joke.

Who do you people think you are? Children? The Bard Observer is a newspaper; its responsibility to the Bard community is to offer news, any news to a community of people who may not know what is going on right around them. What's that I hear you say? What is there to cover? I admit there is a severe lack of exciting news here. On the other hand, there is a new administration member, the former director of security quit only to be picked as a candidate for the vacant position, vacated student offices were filled at the last forum meeting, and finally the housing crisis has been abated, with the new dorms opening incomplete. There are an incredible number of stories that are going uncovered. It's not funny; it's irresponsible.

There is a vast difference between journalism (the fourth estate) and public masturbation. I found nothing but the latter in the Observer's last issue. I find the paper to be an example of naive apathy, and to possess a blatant disregard toward its readers.

I've read "The Bard Observer" for four years. I've seen it slanted to the left; I've seen it reformed under Gavin McCormick; I've seen it act as a blind deaf and dumb mouthpiece to the administration and I've seen it run by Cormac Flynn. I have never been as sorry as I am now to be a Bard student when I read your paper. On top of its irrelevancy as a newspaper, it's also just plain boring.

I am not alone in my opinion. My roommates commented that they are disgusted that our convocation money paid for this trash, a friend's father, who is a professor at Holyoke College, commented on his boredom with this issue and a student was witnessed burning a stack of Observers in the Commons to the cheers of many others.

You disagree with me? Tough shit, the Observer is not your paper; it belongs to the students and we the students are far from satisfied. I have immediate plans to generate support and block funding of the Observer until a new editorial policy, i.e., NEWS is adopted by the Observer staff.

In the past, even when the news was boring or

slanted, at least it was there.

Yours truly,  
Michael Katell

I'm glad you're upset. Kurt Vonnegut once wrote that he loved living in New York City. Not because it was a great place to be, but because it made him mad. From his anger he found the inspiration to write. This is what issue one was all about.

The Observer was a dying newspaper. Not because of improper editing, or lack of news, but because the students lacked faith. If no one believes in a newspaper, then it cannot exist. It is hard to rally support for the Observer because it lacks one basic instrument: credibility. Over the past four years the Observer has published a total of twelve times. In that time it has never published on a regular schedule, and it missed every deadline it set for itself. On February 11, a miracle happened: the Observer was in the mailboxes 8 days after the start of the new term, and one day ahead of schedule. As you read this a second miracle is in the palms

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## More letters

Dear Editor,

I feel the need to protest the new direction of your newspaper. The only thing larger than your lack of talent seems to be your ego. The entire campus does not revolve around your newspaper, and your newspaper should not revolve around you. Don't you take anything seriously? A newspaper is one of the most powerful instruments of expression. Why not put it toward a good endeavor?

Sincerely, Arnold Matlott

Newspapers are powerful indeed, but what power does this newspaper have? There has not been a serious driving force behind this paper in years. As the Editor, I think it is important to have an opinion, and be able to express it. You may not like mine, but you don't have to. I don't like yours, but I am willing to publish it because I feel it is important to represent all opinions. If I seem egotistical in my approach, it is because this is not an easy job. It requires a lot of patience and administrative skill to put the paper out on time. That is our goal this semester. A regular paper every two weeks. We may not have the most relevant news, and I may become sidetracked in areas of no interest to you. However, we are not trying to impress the intellectual side of your brain, we are trying to prove that this mountain we are at the base of can be climbed. By day six of the new term the first issue of the Observer was at press. A regular schedule had been set up, and issue two was being assembled.

If this paper has any hope, it is in its ability to know its limitations. No one will stand behind empty promises. They will stand behind an organization that has room for improvement. Improvement is always necessary, but we feel it can be more relevant if the product is distributed regularly. Once this paper builds credibility, then it can reach toward higher goals.

Incidentally, 90% of the mail we received about issue one was positive:

Dear Editor,

Although I am skeptical about your ability to produce an issue every two weeks, I like your off the wall style, and your move away from the normal stuffy kind of newspaper you were last year. In my three years here I don't think I received eight issues of the Observer total, but if you think you can do it, more power to you.

(name withheld as requested)

We must be doing something right. However, we'd still like to hear from the rest of the community. If you have an opinion, let us know.





# Dormmate Revenge: A User's Guide

by Dan Hillman

College is a traumatic experience. If you "decide" to live on campus, they'll ensure you share the building with a bunch of psychopaths cleverly disguised as your dormmates. Without fail, you won't get along with or even like everybody. It may be their dumb tapestries or AM-radio musical taste. Perhaps it's their high-decibel "conversations" at three in the morning, their frantic fornicating at four, or the phone calls at five. Regardless of the reason, at some point you will want to vent your wrath. This article describes 26 ways to do it right, all the while avoiding extraneous property damage and a possible jail sentence.

1. Give their illegal pet an Ex-Lax "treat".
2. Put your stereo speakers against the wall and crank up the Slim Whitman.
3. Tape record the Bard dogs having sex. Play it on repeat mode all night when you're away. (Use interchangeably with #2).
4. Stuff tuna fish under their door. Fetch the dorm cats.
5. Lee Press-On Nails make great doorknob accessories. Be creative!
6. Leave a message on their door that their parents died. Conversely, leave a message that their parents are coming to visit.
7. Fill a trash can with BBs, ice cubes, or marbles. BBs work best, but they're expensive. Lean it against their door.
8. Fill a record jacket (Van Halen works just fine) with shaving cream. Shove the business end under the door and apply body weight.
9. Scour 9-G for a roadkill. Bluetack it to their door. If roadkills are scarce it's okay to use a dinner entree or Madonna poster.
10. "Borrow" some bricks from the construction sites. Wall up their door and window(s).
11. Wait until they're in the shower. Take a bite'outta crime and lock their door.
12. Paint their windows black in the middle of the night. You might consider hiring a professional for third floor enemies. This works best if they do a lot of drugs.
13. Replace their laundry detergent with Folger's crystals and/or cement mix.
14. Leave lust notes on their door from imaginary one-night stands. (Use only if they have a steady lover who comes by their room.)
15. Send deodorant, mouthwash, soap, or any hygiene aid anonymously through campus mail. They'll wonder for weeks...

16. Get 'em all excited for no reason. Send them a useless, oversized package through campus mail. Those ol' Whitesnake albums work just fine. If you bought the Whitesnake CD through the mail, you can also send along those silly styrofoam packing things.
17. Campus mail them an "assignment list" from one of their professors. Or a comptroller "pay-or-leave" note. How about something "neat" from the registrar? Be creative.
18. Get together with your friends! Stuff eight pounds of campus mail under their door.
19. Give 'em a good name with security. Call up seven times a day saying that "you're" locked out.
20. "Write" their name in the snow next to the commons. (This will involve some practice, especially if you're a female.)
21. Have "them" ask Leon and Stuart to lunch on the Invite-a-Professor-to-lunch Plan.
22. Put "For Sale" signs in Jamesway and Grand Union. Anything really good really cheap. Use their name and number.
23. At dinner, have the Commons Crier announce a party in their room with free beer.
24. Be generous. Order a pizza for them. Or two. And remember, no party's complete without lots of gross diet soda.
25. Ensure they sleep through the big exam. Cut the power to their alarm clock by means of the handy hallway fuse box.
26. The Wrath of Grapes. Get really drunk and puke outside their door on the way to the bathroom. Twice. (Accidents will happen.)

[The Observer does not condone such activities. They are meant for entertainment purposes only.]

## The Bard Observer Established 1895

Michael Damato  
Editor-in-Chief

Pete Stone  
Managing Editor

Michele Norris  
Managing Editor

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Production Editor

Christopher SC Martin  
Photo Editor

Daniel CA Hillman  
Science Editor

James Meeks  
Associate Editor

### OBSERVER BALLOT AND OPINION POLL #1

Did you like the 1st issue of the Observer? Y/N

Do you like the second issue? Y/N

What type of material would you like to see in the next issue?

\*\*\*\*\*  
**GAF** *uninc.* an alternative  
to starvation  
TEWKS 219, OPEN MOST EVENINGS UNTIL MIDNIGHT  
\*\*\*\*\*