

# OBSERVER

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Page 1	Ludlow Occupied Kristan Hutchison and Greg Giaccio
Page 2	Open Meeting Resolves Inner Conflict Greg Giaccio
Page 3	Student Demands To and From Students Against Sexual Harassment Kiera Van Gelder and Jennifer Blank
Page 4	Timeline of Events

# THE BARD OBSERVER

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## Congratulations

Lucy Kidd, on your baby boy. Born yesterday morning at Dutchess County Hospital.

## Ludlow occupied

by Kristan Hutchison and Greg Giaccio

Over 40 students spent the night in the Ludlow administrative building, which they have occupied since 6:45 yesterday morning. Representatives from the group will meet with representatives from the Board of Trustees at noon today to negotiate their demands regarding Bard College's policy and practices on sexual assault.

The preliminary negotiations with the Board of Trustees Chair David Schwab, Board of Trustees member John Honey, and the overseer of Blum, Jean de Castella de Delley that took place yesterday afternoon reputedly were friendly and productive. However the students are prepared for a long siege if necessary. They have open supply lines for food, organized patrols communicating by walkie-talkie, piles of bedding, an emergency supply of candles, and a cellular phone. "This is not over until they meet the demands," says Josh Kaufman.

The original eight demands and statement were written in secret meetings on May 8. They were read several times on Thursday and finally revised in an open meeting before Ludlow at 7:00 p.m. that night. (See article, page 2)

The takeover was originally spurred by a recently publicized sexual assault case (See last *Observer*). However, as the protest wore on students attempted to refocus attention on the broader issues of how sexual assault cases as a whole are decided, and dealt with.

Only three trustees; John Honey, the retired Reverend Paul Moore, Jr., and Chevy Chase; along with Jean de Castella de Delley, over-

seer of the Blum Institute, and Peter McCabe, President of the Alumni Association were deemed acceptable college representatives in the negotiations. The students were "not willing to negotiate with members of the college administration or their employees," according to their statement.

All the potential negotiators, as well as other members of the Board of Trustees, were called by Botstein soon after the takeover was discovered. De Castella de Delley was the first to arrive. He had worked with some Bard students on the Aids Committee. He was also at the lecture by Larry Kramer of ACT-UP on Tuesday night where the people involved in the case had posters up and were gathering support.

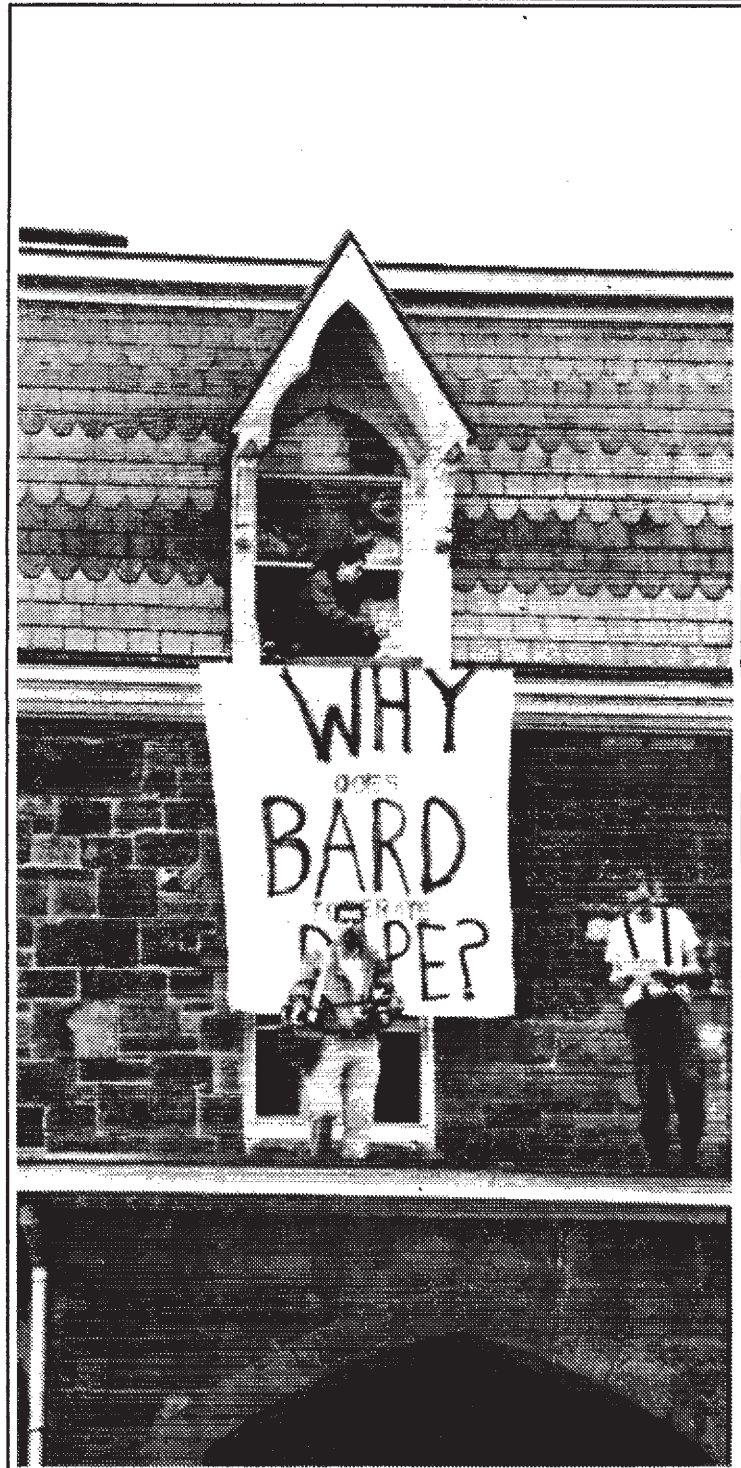
David Schwab, Chair of the Board of Trustees, also came, though he was not on the list of acceptable negotiators. There were many complaints among students of his presence, especially those from Simon's Rock who felt he had taken the side of the alleged harassers in the Defense Guard case last year. At first he was not going to be allowed to the negotiating table, but eventually he was admitted.

Honey, who has taught a few classes at Bard in the last few years, also came.

The three of them entered the back door of Ludlow at about 1:00 p.m. for negotiations with the four chosen student representatives, Dan Bohn, Sara Davis, Josh Kaufman, and Erin Law. After nearly two hours in Stuart Levine's office, both sides emerged and the college representatives returned to Botstein's house to await further notice.

"We are still discussing ways of discussing," said Bohn after the

*continued on page 4*



## FORUM

The Forum scheduled last last night will be held *tonight*.

Same elections, same agenda.

Albee Social • 7:00

## Open meeting resolves inner conflict



by Greg Giaccio

An open meeting held outside Ludlow at 7:00 last night was called to clear up any misunderstandings between the group of protesters inside Ludlow and the rest of the Bard community. At the meeting the list of demands released by the students inside Ludlow was revised with the general consent of approximately 150 students who attended the meeting.

The meeting had a rough start with students outside Ludlow staging a counter-protest to some of the methods used by those inside regarding the posted memos. The posters featured a picture of the father of the defendant in a current case and other clues to the identity of those involved in the case. Signs carried by the counter-protesters urged people to "Find out the facts," among other things.

"This is not about one case," Josh Kaufman said to the counter-

protesters, "[The demands] ask for an apology on the way the case was handled procedurally."

Other criticisms from the crowd asked if all the avenues of protest had been expended before the drastic measure of taking Ludlow. "If we disagree with your methods and policies can we take over your dorm?" asked one student. Responding affirmatively, those inside Ludlow said that taking over a building includes having respect for the privacy rights of the usual occupant and not damaging any property.

Many students were concerned about the separation of the student body into different factions. "The administration would love for us to be divided," one student warned.

"Our goal here is to get a general consensus so that we can [negotiate better]," said one of the protesters in Ludlow.

At this point it was decided that each demand should be voted on,

one-by-one, so that the majority of the students would be satisfied. It was agreed that the details of the long-range issues would be hammered out at a later date. The changed demands are printed as they were received by the *Observer* from the students in Ludlow.

The first demand was "The immediate re-hanging of the signs which the administration had removed."

The vote was almost unanimously in favor of striking that demand. The debate centered around the breach of confidentiality and charges of slander. Students also felt that discussion should not just center on one case but on general policies.

The second demand read as follows: "The immediate hiring of a new full time dean or students' advocate. This person should be on campus 24 hours a day during the school year to respond to student needs, particularly those relating to sexual assault, sexual har-

assment, and sexual discrimination."

One of the students at the meeting brought up the fact that Dean Elaine Sproat was being let go for financial reasons and that hiring a new dean could be hampered for the same reason. Kaufman responded that they already had an offer from someone willing to work for free room and board. This applicant will not necessarily get the job according to Kaufman. "If the college grants this [demand] it will be an open search." The vote for the demand of creating this position passed by a large majority.

The third demand was for "The immediate abolition of appeals to the president in disciplinary cases and a restructuring of the appeals process."

In the ensuing discussion one student present said that there was a committee in the past made up of trustees and faculty members which handled appeals. The de-

## Student 1

The following is the revised list of demands received them.—ed.

At 6:30 A.M. this morning, a group of students gathered outside Ludlow Hall, Bard's administration building. We did this to protest the administrative disciplinary sanctions and to protest the final authority to the President. Our demands are:

- 1) The immediate hiring of a new full time administrator should be available 24 hours a day to respond to student needs, particularly those relating to sexual assault, rape, incest, and sexual discrimination.
- 2) The immediate abolition of appeals to the president and a restructuring of the appeals process, including the creation of a committee that will serve as the final authority. This committee will consist of students, faculty, and trustees.
- 3) The immediate institution of a CARES program, or similar hotline to respond to cases of sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape.
- 4) That the College issue a formal apology for the fact that it has mishandled many cases of sexual harassment.
- 5) That adequate information (i.e., information about the College's policies) be provided for first year students during orientation by the President and the Board of Trustees. This information should include Language and Thinking to integrate learning with sexual harassment, and diversity with a multicultural program.
- 6) That all students involved in the case be granted amnesty, and that no disciplinary action be taken against students or their supporters among the Bard College.

These demands were thoroughly discussed at a meeting of over 200 concerned Bard students.

The demand was accepted by another nearly unanimous vote in the amended form which included a provision for a similar committee with the addition of students.

The fourth demand called for the "immediate institution of a CARES program, or similar hotline to respond to cases of sexual harassment, sexual assault and rape." This demand was passed quickly and without significant debate.

The fifth demand was that "a letter of apology, signed by the Dean of Students and the President of the College, be issued to the student whose free speech rights were violated."

This demand met heavy opposition. People in the crowd were still unwilling to tie in the specific case with general reform. There was also a question as to whether the free speech rights of the student had actually been violated and whether an apology was required. The demand was struck from the list by the vote.

Along the same lines, the sixth demand asked that "a letter of apology for the way this case was handled after the initial Student Judiciary Board decision, signed by the Dean of Students and the President of the College, be issued to all the members of the community."

This demand was amended through a vote to the issuing of a statement that acknowledged a mishandling of sexual assault cases on the part of the administration and a commitment to resolve these issues.

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## Demands

issued by the protesters in Ludlow as we

approximately 30 students entered the building, and barricaded themselves inside. The protesters' repeated refusal to enforce its own disciplinary system at Bard, which gives the following demands:

1) The dean or student's advocate. This is a full-time position during the school year to respond to sexual assault, sexual harassment,

2) The President in disciplinary cases, and the student's advocate, but not limited to the established judicial process. This position should be subject to Forum approval; a disciplinary program, or a similar hotline to deal with sexual assault and rape;

3) A program of acknowledgment that they have caused harm, sexual assault, and rape;

4) A list of names, referral sources, etc.) be included in the Language and Thinking program. The program should also strongly urge the center for Language and Thinking with themes relating to sexuality, and the anthology use for the three week

5) The administration of Ludlow be granted complete autonomy. No disciplinary action be taken against these demands by the student body, the faculty, or the staff of

6) The demands be read and approved by vote at a mass meeting on Thursday evening.

7) The future. The amended demand was discussed by the people present at the meeting.

The seventh demand read as follows: "That an investigation be conducted of the administration's handling of the case after the SJB decision. This investigation should be conducted by a joint committee of students, faculty and trustees."

This demand meant the same opposition before on the grounds that it focussed too much on one specific case. The initial vote was discounted because of the large number of abstentions. A recount later resulted in a majority decision to have this demand stricken as well.

The eighth demand had been added since the first copy of the demands had been circulated. This new demand required that a card with information regarding sexual assault issues and where to turn for help with them be issued to all incoming students during the Language and Thinking seminar. The demand also encouraged that works regarding issues of sexuality, diversity and sexual harassment be included in the L&T anthology within the next two years. The group in Ludlow said that they were willing to be somewhat lenient about the latter part of the demand since the college has no real authority over the Language and Thinking Institute and cause the anthology requires a significant amount of time and effort to put together. This demand was accepted by the meeting.

## To and from students against sexual harassment

To the Bard community:

As this is being written, Ludlow is still occupied by protesting students and their demands have yet to be met. This letter is being written in the hopes that, no matter what the outcome of this present situation, the concern that is being raised can now be channelled into direct action. I am addressing those of us who feel helpless and are willing to take action concerning the issues of sexual harassment, assault, and rape. This does not concern those of us who act merely from spite, vengeance, or the need for power. For those of us who seek to educate, assist and rehabilitate, we must also do the same for ourselves. In this sense, it is vital that hidden agendas and ulterior motives be put aside. Our concern is for a disease, and for those of us who are afflicted by it or are prey to its infliction. Perpetrators and survivors alike deserve

help, education and concern. This is not a women's issue, but a human issue. In light of this, the following information is offered.

1) C.A.R.E.S. (Counseling and Assistance in response to Rape and Exploitive Sexual activity)

a) the proposed program will be a rape crisis and sexuality counseling center/phone hot line run by students.

b) We will be given a room on campus in which meetings and counseling will take place.

c) A campus phone hot line will be installed and a counselor will be available to answer questions, give referrals, and most importantly to listen, not just to give advice. Callers are anonymous unless they choose not to be.

d) C.A.R.E.S. counselors will take turns being on-call, and will have a beeper connected to the campus switchboard. If the center is closed, students will be able to contact a counselor via the switchboard/security.

e) Three members of S.A.S.H. have been trained in emphatic counseling and have participated in Vassar's C.A.R.E.S. training program. Our own program is far from complete. At this point in time, students are needed in preparation for September training. This entails working at Bard over the summer. There is the possibility that housing will be provided.

We will be gathering information, writing pamphlets about the program, and training for counselling and crisis situations. This includes working with security, the hospital, the police, and the Tivoli Rescue Squad. We will also be doing a lot of work on our own issues so that when we are in the position to help others, we will have the strength to do so.

f) Those who aren't available over the summer can be trained in September. For those who don't feel ready for active counseling, there is also the option of being

trained and participating administratively.

2) L&T programs on date rape, sexual assault and harassment:

a) Three formal workshops will be conducted over L&T: One on sexuality awareness, one on date rape and sexual harassment, and a third that has yet to be determined. The first two workshops will be separated by gender.

b) In addition, every Wednesday during L&T, freshmen and women will have the opportunity to participate in student run workshops, exploring these issues in a smaller setting. It has not yet been decided whether these will be gender specific.

c) Meetings in residence halls will also be taking place, in order to introduce new students to the C.A.R.E.S. program and to encourage participation in student workshops.

d) Students who wish to participate in L&T programs will have room and board for the month of August.

3) Regional conference on sexual harassment and rape within higher education:

a) This would include mainly administrative work and organizing. Regional schools will be contacted and will hopefully work together on staging this event.

b) The goal of the conference is to create a dialogue between administration and students, to raise awareness, and to create an educational community.

4) Revising Sexual Harassment Board policy and rewriting the student handbook:

a) As this topic is included under the demands of the student take-over, there is not much to be presently said.

b) Meetings on revising current policies and procedures take place on Thursdays at 5:00 in the committee room of Kline Commons. If you are concerned about this and are unsatisfied with the results of the demands, whatever they may be, please come to the next meeting on May 17.

There will be a campus wide meeting on Sunday, May 19 at 9:00 p.m. in Albee Social. This meeting is for anyone who is interested in the following programs. Also, if you have questions, suggestions, ideas, criticism, etc, please come.

Sincerely,  
Kiera Van Gelder  
Box 1149 757-3506  
Jennifer Blank  
box 541 758-2297



The ninth demand was concerned amnesty for all of the people involved in the protest. Unsurprisingly, this vote passed with little dissent.

A suggestion for a new demand was made by some of the Simon's Rock contingent regarding the installation of a "defense guard" program. The "defense guard" is a group of people that verbally confront people thought to be perpetrators of sexual harassment, racism, or homophobia. This proposal was rejected by a large majority of those voting.

At this point Kaufman asked all those interested in joining the group in Ludlow for the duration of the protest to discuss the option in front of the Olin building. The group met at about 8:50 p.m.

"The more people we get in the building the better," said Kaufman, "but we're asking you

to stay for the duration."

Kaufman stressed the need to keep the building undamaged. He asked that no notes be left inside Ludlow and that no illegal substances, such as drugs or alcohol, be brought inside. He also asked that smoking be restricted to the windows and the roof.

"We really need a commitment that people will not damage the building," said Kaufman.

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# Timeline of events

<p><b>Tuesday, May 7</b> 4:30 p.m. Meeting with Shelley Morgan to discuss case.</p> <p><b>Wednesday, May 8</b> 12:30 p.m. First meeting to plan Ludlow takeover on Kline lawn. 5:30 p.m. Second meeting to plan Ludlow takeover on third floor Albee, moved to Dekline. 10:30 p.m. Third meeting to plan Ludlow takeover on third floor Olin, moved to Aspinwall. <b>Evening</b> Students at Simon's Rock are contacted, particularly members of the defunct "defense guard." (See <i>Observer</i> February 23 and March 9, 1990)</p> <p><b>Thursday, May 9</b> 6:15 a.m. Students arrived on campus. 6:45 a.m. A few students entered Ludlow, found two cleaning ladies in Dimitri Papadimitriou's office and a faculty secretary. The women left the building after relocking</p>	<p>Papadimitriou's office and a security officer warned the students that they could be arrested for trespassing. Leon Botstein was woken, along with many students. 7:00 a.m. Gabriel Miller read a written statement, including eight demands, from the roof of Ludlow. The statement included the protester's reasons for the occupation and the three Trustees' and two college representatives with whom they were willing to negotiate. They specifically stated that they would not negotiate with the administration. Meanwhile, a group of protesters made up of Bard students and students from Simon's Rock of Bard marched and chanted slogans. Other students posted flyers across campus stating that Ludlow had been taken. 7:15 a.m. Botstein arrived at the front door of Ludlow and attempted to enter. He was turned away and returned to his home for the rest of the day. 7:20 a.m. Dan Bohn planted an Ameri-</p>	<p>can flag on front of Ludlow. 7:30 a.m. Dean Stuart Levine arrived, but did not attempt to enter. 7:34 a.m. The statement was reread and given to Levine. Other students went to the main entrance to greet the off-campus media. 8:00 a.m. The statement was reread. 8:15 a.m. Students inside Ludlow reported that the phone lines were cut and the power was flickering. 8:45 a.m. Jean de Castella de Delley, overseer of Blum and one of people students wanted to negotiate with, was called. 9:45 a.m. The power to Ludlow was turned off. 10:30 a.m. Students Against Sexual Harassment group read their own statement. 10:00 a.m. Jean de Castella de Delley arrived at Bard and met with two students on the front steps of Olin. They gave him a copy of the state-</p>	<p>ment and demands. 11:55 a.m. David Schwab arrives at Ludlow. The students refuse him entrance because he is not among the original list of acceptable negotiators. John Honey and Jean de Castella de Delley and he meet briefly with students behind Ludlow in pre-preliminary negotiations. The Trustees return to Botstein's to wait until afternoon meetings. 12:30 p.m. Students in Ludlow obtain a bucket and rope with which to pull up supplies. Until then food had been thrown up to them or carried around to the back window. 12:45 p.m. The power came back on. Students allow Board of Trustee Chairman David Schwaab into Ludlow by backdoor to talk. 1:00 p.m. Students allow Board of Trustees member John Honey and the overseer of the Blum Institute Jean de Castella de Delley in for preliminary negotiations. 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Students reread demands. 3:00 p.m. Meeting ends and the college representatives returned to Botstein's house to await a call from students about when the next talk will be. Most of the off-campus press left already. 6:50 p.m. Three negotiators for college arrive at Ludlow asking that a time be set for meeting on Friday. They agreed to meet at noon in either Ludlow or Olin. 7:00 p.m. An open meeting of students began with much debate of the issues and finally voting on all the demands. 8:00 p.m. Candles were passed around and the gathering became a candlelight vigil. 8:30 p.m. The meeting ended and some of the vigilers went in front of Olin where Philip Roth was reading from his book <i>Patrimony</i>. 8:50 p.m. Josh Kaufman invites supporters to spend the night in Ludlow. The number of students in Ludlow reaches about 40.</p>
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## Ludlow occupied by students

*continued from page 1*  
meeting. He described the trustees as nice, polite, and reasonable. "All they said is here's what we've been thinking about and let's hear your demands," said Bohn after the meeting, "We told them basically our demands as best we could and they said they needed to talk about it."

The students said they were trying to call the National Organization for Women, a labor union negotiator, and Dr. Bernice Sandler, who debated Botstein about sexual harassment.

At 6:50 p.m. the college representatives walked to Ludlow to get a time set for negotiations the next day. Apparently the students had not called them to set a time yet, but had offered to call at 9:30 a.m. the next morning. "I've waited 5 hours," said Honey, "I've missed an important meeting in Poughkeepsie." Noon was set as a time with no set place.

"We aren't very happy with the

building [being held] which is our property and particular interest," said Schwab. Davis replied, "That's pretty much our only leverage."

The students took over Ludlow prepared for a strong response from the administration. In pre-takeover meetings, they discussed the possibility of being arrested or forced out by other means. At 7:00 a.m. other students went through the dorms waking occupants and calling for their support outside Ludlow because they feared the state police had been called.

Apparently the fear arose from the warning of a security officer that the trespassing students could be prosecuted. Security Director Bob Boyce said he had not and did not expect to call in any outside forces. "Our concern is the safety of the people and the building, in that order," said Boyce. "We just don't want to see anyone hurt. Other than that it is business as usual for security." He did have one extra security guard to monitor the activities at Ludlow all day. "We are not in the business

of meeting violence with violence," said President Leon Botstein later. "[Calling the police] never even occurred to us."

However, at about 8:15 a.m. the students inside Ludlow reported that their phone lines were not working and that the power had flashed on and off. The phones presented little problem, since the students inside Ludlow were equipped with two-way radios and a cellular phone.

An hour and a half later the power went out permanently. This caused some concern, as some of the food the students brought needed to be prepared, which could not be done without power. Also, without lights the steep, inside staircases of the building became difficult to navigate.

When asked about the power, Boyce said, "It was a surprise to me that it was being done." Later on, Physical Plant Director Dick Griffiths admitted that he had cut the power. "We cut it off for safety reasons," Griffiths said. He also added that he put it back on as soon as he was guaranteed the safety of those inside. The elec-

tricity was put back on after the Board of Trustees representatives arrived and negotiated for it to be switched on again. It had been off about three hours.

Griffiths also stated that the switchboard was turned back over to security from Ludlow soon after the takeover, causing some of the unexpected phone problems.

The students inside also suspected that their phone lines had been tapped and began making important calls by sending someone outside the building.

Outside the building, the usual occupants of Ludlow were concerned about the safety of their offices. Anny Wilson, the Registrar, whose office is on the second floor of Ludlow where most of the student activity was centered, was concerned that the private records of students might be violated. In their prepared statement, the students inside Ludlow promised that they would "not damage the contents of the building, and we shall not read or copy any confidential information. We have brought no weapons, alcohol, or

drugs into the building." So far as a reporter within the building could tell, they were abiding by that promise.

Wilson also expressed concern over the work hours which would be lost. She said that while "Ludlow has never been closed before, we have had students parked up and down the stairs." Most administrators were able to do little work all day, having only what they had taken home the night before. Some work was done in other offices, including Botstein's house.

Supporters for those inside Ludlow gathered outside in numbers fluctuating throughout the day from 5 to 150, depending on meals and activity. Some of them marched and chanted slogans such as "Women at Bard are under attack, what do we do? Act up, fight back!" and "Whatever we do, wherever we go, yes means yes and no means no." Signs and spray paint questioned "Why does Bard tolerate rape?" among other things. Many students simply stood back and watched.