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WXBC ready to crash the airwaves at 540 am

With new equipment, new managers and new DJs, WXBC is ready for action. Again.
On December 14, 1992, Wayne Lo walked around the campus of Simon's Rock of Bard College and opened fire on passersby with an assault rifle. Several were injured and three killed in Lo's rampage. Lo later fled to the college library where he phoned police and turned himself in. When police arrested Lo, he had over 90 shots remaining in the magazine of his assault rifle.

Television on all local stations, the news shocked the Bard Community. According to Bernard Rogers, Dean of Simon's Rock, Lo received the ammunition for his assault rifle from the administration of Simon's Rock. Nate Sayers, a friend of his friend Stefan Petrovsky, a friend of Wayne Lo, who had only recently become extremely racist, misogynist and homophobic, Petrovsky and Lo allegedly bought guns together, and their entire group was influenced by the violent hardcore Connecticut music scene. CNN and other television stations partially blamed Lots that it's my groups of friends. I don't know what to do; I know where the hate comes from. Sayers wasn't surprised that local television coverage of the incidents, by interviewing seemingly random Simon's Rock students, portrayed Lo as a loner who had no friends. "Of course they're reporting, not going to interview his friends," said Sayers. "They were a minority, a group of ten that set themselves against the rest of the student population."

According to Sayers' friends at Simon's Rock, Lo originally planned to enter the cafeteria and simply start shooting. Lo even set a date, but none of his friends took him seriously. Sayers first received word about the shootings when his friend Kelly left a message on his answering machine. "My friend Kelly called...she was hysterical," said Sayers. "It was so mind-boggling when it happened. Those people died for no reason. You see this thing on MTV, CNN, you read it in Rolling Stone, but it was just now that it's my groups of friends. I know why Stefan acts the way he does; I know where the hate comes from."

Sayers expected that the Simon's Rock administration would ask the group to leave for their own protection, in effect distancing the college from the skinheads violent attitudes. But the friends remaining at Simon's Rock are still in shock. "My entire group of friends is divided; they don't know what to do."

Parker Ramsey is among those who attended Simon's Rock before transferring to Bard. "When I first heard about it, I thought, that's it; it's over," said Ramsey, meaning that he expected Simon's Rock, which has always been on shaky financial ground, to fold. Ramsey summed up the emotional state at Simon's Rock after the incident: "Take a population one third the size of Bard. Then say one of us loses it and starts shooting. Now make everybody two to three years younger, physically and mentally. That's what the situation was."

Although many Bard students almost laughed at the seemingly ludicrous measures taken by the administration after the shootings, Ramsey reacted pragmatically. "It's not as if this sort of thing happens all the time. Think about it; Simon's Rock's only got about three hundred students. Hiring two more security guards is a lot." Ramsey visited Simon's Rock over last weekend and was pleasantly surprised at the atmosphere. "Things really haven't changed; they're pretty much the same," despite the addition of an entrance security guard to check identification of those entering college ground. But, as Dean Rogers pointed out, things will never be quite the same at Simon's Rock or Bard. "It's clear that it's going to take a long time to heal," said Rogers. "We're [the administration] going to do everything to make that healing possible."

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**More thefts**

Slight burglaries, two car stereo thefts during broad daylight and four car vandalisms were reported to Security over the past month, continuing the Bard crime wave from last semester. According to Bob Boyce, Director of Security, three rooms in Oberholzer, one in Bartlett, one in Sawhill and two in Sands were burglarized, with computers and stereo being the main items stolen. The most visible of the thefts was the disappearance of the stereo from deKline Cafe, in the basement of the Old Gym. In all instances, there was no evidence of a forced entry.

Professor Romm and Randy Cashmere discovered their car stereo missing after returning to their cars parked in the faculty parking lot behind the computer center. Neither showed damage or a forced entry. Four cars, one each at Robbins, Manor, the main parking lot behind the Old Gym and along Ravine Road, had their windshields smashed on the night of Monday, February 8th. Nothing was taken from any of the four cars, even though there was a wallet on the dashboard.

"It appeared to be a matter of pure vandalism, pure destruction," said Boyce, who is increasingly frustrated by the mounting crime at Bard. "At this point, I'm pleading for assistance from the campus community. Boyce stressed that Security does not want students to expose themselves to risk, but students do need to do their part in exposing Security to mysterious happenings. "Let us look into it. That's what we're here for."

If anyone has any information regarding any of the recent burglaries, thefts or vandalism, they are encouraged to report it to Security at extension 460, even anonymously.
Features

Addition complete

Reflections on Bard's new work of art

Sparky: Hey, Peeky. I feel so incredibly stupid. I've been circling this damn library for half an hour, and I still haven't found the entrance. Peeky: Look on the bright side. It could be worse. Somebody just asked me why there weren't any feathers on the New Wing. Sparky: Geez. Well, can you show me how to get there?

Peeky: Sure. We just go up these steps from Kline cafeteria like always, except before we pass Seymour and Hobson we go down the path on our left. Sparky: This path right here? The one with the broken streetlamp?

Peeky: Right. Sparky. It'll be fixed in no time. Do you see this funky looking thing arching over the hallway here?

Sparky: Yeah. What is it for?

Peeky: It's a part of the artistic design. It cost approximately eighteen thousand dollars. Sparky: You've got to be kidding. For this thing? Why?

Peeky: It's part of the architecture. Sparky. Don't you understand anything? And we're talking 100% Pure Cement here. That doesn't come cheap, you know.

Sparky: Well, if you were so smart, you'd know that it's concrete and not cement. You mix cement to pour concrete, duh.

Peeky: What do you think about the "stripes" design?

Sparky: Whose idea was it?

Peeky: Mr. Robert Venturi's, I think. His work is on the up and coming edge of design school.

Sparky: Peeky, I asked one of the construction workers building it last semester what he thought of it, and his answer wasn't too flattering.

Peeky: What do you mean?

Sparky: He said, "We just get paid to build them, not to like 'em. Give me some cans of black paint, and I'll be glad to cover it over."

Peeky: I'm sure a lot of people do like it though.

Sparky: I always thought this was just some funky aluminum siding they were going to cover up with bricks later.

Peeky: Surprise. Sparky: Wow. The new addition sure is crowded with students. Peeky: Come on, Sparky. Don't worry about it. By next September, the old library will be open again, and it'll thin out.

Sparky: Good. Because there aren't any good hiding places in here. It's too close and personal, if you know what I mean.

Peeky: But aren't these chairs really great?

Sparky: Oh, puhleeze! What are they going to do with the old library anyway?

Peeky: I think the best part is that they're planning to build a twenty-four hour reading room. Sparky: The library will be open all the time?

Peeky: No. It might be open even less, who knows. The idea is that most students after dinner just come to the library for quiet study time and aren't really using the library's facilities. They would have a separate room where you could bring your own reading lamp to a desk and just read at any time of the night.

Sparky: Wow. I didn't know the people who run this place had that much trust in us.

Peeky: I'm glad they do. I always go to bed early and then get up in the morning to study before class. This way I wouldn't have to wake up my roommate.

Sparky: It's the opposite for me. But during exams, I want a quiet place to study after the library closes.

Peeky: So, what do you think of the inside of the building?

Sparky: It has its own unique style. I don't know. I heard someone call it an "Adult Romper Room." Looks a bit more like what I imagine Purgatory to be like.

Peeky: Yeah, the place where we have to get our reserve readings on the third floor is kind of like a waiting room for the afterlife. Funny, how the modern library still makes us think of life and death, huh? The people who built St. Stephen's would be really pleased to think...

Sparky: And that elevator bell must make the room. I'm in a department store.

Peeky: Yeah, it does. You know, I once read an article on a library that burnt down in St. Petersburg. Sparky: Wow! The lights don't buzz. It's really true!

Peeky: All those Russians came out and mourned for it. They really cared about their books.

Sparky: Where are all the books, anyway? I guess they haven't moved a lot of them over.

Peeky: The way forests cry out in pain to preserve the words of Danielle Steele and Madonna, it's nice to know that people are still building places to house books that really say something.

Sparky: These bathrooms are incredible! I can't believe my eyes! I wonder if people will carve in all that great gossip in the stalls now that it all looks so nice. Did you see the one about the "Top Ten Reasons To Go To Bard College" in Kellogg's? That was hysterical.

Peeky: We ought to throw a party for ourselves. We're building a monument for our posterity here. Now if only I can figure out how to use this new computer system. I wonder if they'll connect it with the bookstore?

Sparky: Thanks for everything, Peeky. I really have to use the bathroom right now, okay, so see you later.

Peeky: Sure, Sparky.
The success of any newspaper largely depends on the happiness of its readers. That is why the Bard Observer decided to run a survey last semester—to see what the students here at Bard would like to see in the paper.

Not every editor had faith in the success of this survey. Some doubted that very many students would take the time to fill out and return the survey, but just over 70 surveys were filled out and returned. This was the greatest number of reader responses ever received on anything ever run in the Observer.

Most students thought the survey was cool, others saw it as a way finally to vote on something that they really didn't like—mainly, "The Beer Column." Survey responses voted narrowly unanimously (60-7) against the continuation of the "Beer Column," therefore, it will no longer be featured in the Observer. This puts a damper on the Observer's current advertising contract with Bev'N'Go, but it is a small price to pay if eliminating the column is what the readers desire.

The two columns "Dead Goat Notes" and "Shameless Fillers," however, will continue to run.

Survey responses show that the readers were quite fond of both columns. There were 47 favorable (and 18 negative) votes for "Shameless Fillers," and 32 favorable (and 35 negative) votes for "Dead Goat Notes." The two this semester, however, will be printed on the Another View page so that more stories can be placed on the Sports and Features Pages. Students should not fear that their chances of being printed on the Observer page will be reduced due to the existence of the columns at all since it is always possible to move more than one Another View page.

On another question regarding columns, survey results showed that the students were not sure whether or not there should be more columns written by campus clubs. The total vote was 39-Yes, and 20-No. Only one club-written column was printed last semester—"The International Review." The club's first column this semester will appear in next week's Observer. Any club, however, would be willing to write a weekly or bi-weekly column, if contacted Matt Apple.

On the issue of giving more attention to sports, there were 22 votes for the idea, but 42 against. The relocation of "Shameless Fillers" does leave more room on that page for stories, but advertisements, and photos will almost certainly assure that there will not be too much "empty coverage" of sports. If anyone is really offended by this, they should write in and let the editors know. If anyone would like to write Sports, or has any story ideas, they should get in touch with Sports Editor Matthew Gilman.

"Person of the Week" has been changed to "Bards of Bard," because the survey showed that at least 40 people thought students should be featured. Since it would be unfair only to interview students who have accomplished something extraordinary, every male and female student will be interviewed each week. This hopefully will give the student the opportunity to find out about some of the people they see everyday, but really know nothing about. Speakers who come to Bard will no longer be picked for "Person of the Week," but will still be given attention in Features or News stories.

On all but two questions the Observer staff plans to heed to the results of the survey. Despite the 40-26 vote favoring the change of the Observer's name, it will remain "News is whatever sells papers. The Observer is Free." and although 83 people would like to see a weekly horoscope in the Observer, no member of the current staff is willing at this point to do the work it would take to write an authentic horoscope.

The rest of the issues were answered as follows:

"Highlights of Local and National News?" 42-Yes, 25-No (Will continue to run, but will hopefully be shorter and more interesting).

Observer distributed through campus mail? 50-Yes, 20-No (Will continue to be placed in every student's box).

"Bard Statistics?" 62-Yes, 6-No (Will continue as long as staff is capable of gathering, exclusively

Bard-related statistics).

Coverage of "Distinguished Scientists + Levy Economics Lectures?" 31-Yes, 31-No (Will not be regularly covered by current staff, but anyone who wishes to submit an article on such events will have their article printed).

Coverage of off campus events? 55-Yes, 9-No (Off campus events will be covered if the current staff are aware of them and are able to attend them; anyone who hears of an event that they think should be covered may contact Jean Heaton).

Quote of the week: 67-Yen, 2-No (The quote of the week will stay on the front page).

More comic strips? 60-Yes, 9-No (The staff, as well as the readers, would obviously love to see more comics in the paper; if anyone is willing to consistently submit a strip, he or she should contact Matt Apple)

Movie Reviews? 61-Yes, 8-No (There will always be movie reviews as long as there is someone to write them; anyone who has seen a movie and submits a review will have it printed).

Classifieds + Personal (64-Yes, 7-No) (These will remain but in order to have your print you must remember to include your name + phone # on submissions. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee a daily print, so if you want people to respond, give them an address in the text of your personal).

Should clubs be able to advertise events in the Observer? 43-Yes, 21-No (It has always been possible for clubs to advertise for free in the Observer; this can be done through personals, the calendar, or Public Service Announcements. The possibility of a PSA depends, on space availability and priority is given to those who contact us well in advance. Anyone wishing to have their event placed on the calendar should contact the Dean of Students office.)

More photos? 43-Yes, 21-No (The staff agrees there should be more photos and will do their best to make sure that there are, although their camera is missing; anyone who finds a camera bag will receive a Canon EOS please contact 738-2772 A.S.A.P.)
Every February 14th, Americans celebrate a strange little holiday called "Saint Valentine's Day." Millions of dollars are spent on chocolate, candy, flowers and greeting cards, which are affectionately referred to as "valentines" as part of a peculiar courtship ritual. For the most part, Valentine's Day is a rather benign, cute little festival, entirely different from the pagan festivities it replaced in the Middle Ages.

The tradition of sending love notes to sweethearts started in the Early Middle Ages in England and France. As first recorded in the 34th and 35th French "Ballades" of the biling­ual John Gower, those who "chose" each other on Valentine's Day called each other their "Va­lentine." Geoffrey Chaucer commented on the art of valentines in "Parliament of Foules," writing, "For this was on Seryn Valentine's day/Whe n every foul cometh hereto choose his mate." The holiday supposedly followed the medieval belief that February 14th marked the beginning of the mating season of birds. How­ever, the customs of St. Valentine's Day have no connection with the Saints or any events in their lives. Instead, the holiday appears linked to the ancient Roman Festival of the Lupercalia.

The Festival of the Lupercalia was a series of purification and fertility rites performed by the priests of the Luperci on the 15th of February. To begin the rites, the Luperci sacrificed goats and a dog. Two young girls approached the altar, touched their foreheads with a bloody knife and then wiped off the blood with wool dipped in milk. Then the priests had to laugh to complete the ritual. The sacrificial feast followed, with the Luperci cutting the skin of the sacrificial animals into thongs and running around the walls of the old Pala­tine city in two groups, smacking everyone they saw. A blow from one of the thongs supposedly cured sterility. As part of the Festival, the maidens of the city wrote love messages and deposited them in a large urn. Men who drew out a love message were required to court the maiden whose note they had drawn. It is also interesting to note that the Luperci were divided into "Feces," the third of which was created in honor of Julius Caesar and whose first magistrate was Mark Antony.

The celebration of the Lupercalia persisted until 494 A.D., when Pope Gelasius I ordered it changed into the Feast of Purification. As was the case with St. Patrick's Day, Easter Day, Christmas and Valentine's Day, the Roman Catholic Church arranged for their religious holidays to coincide with pagan festivals. It was hoped that by doing this, people would forget the pagan rituals and celebrate the Catholic ones instead, many of which adopted elements of the pagan celebr­ations. St. Valentine's Day replaced the Festival of the Lupercalia by celebrating the deaths of two martyrs, both named Valentine. According to ancient Roman Catholic historical documents, the two Saint Valentines lived in Italy in the latter half of the 3rd century A.D. Although the documents are disputed by historians—some claim that only one Valentine existed and different cults arose after his martyrdom—legend has it that both the Valentines were martyred in 270 A.D. in Rome.

Valentine, priest of Rome, was thrown in chains by Claudius the Goth and handed over to Calpurnius, whose man Asterius attempted to persuade Valentine to worship pagan idols. Rather than fight Asterius, Valentine handed the blind daughter of Asterius by sending her a card signed "from your Valentine." In gratitude, the father immediately had his entire house converted to Christianity. However, Asterius apparently couldn't help Valentine, who, after several more years of imprison­ment, was beheaded along the Flaminian Way and beheaded.

Bishop Valentine of Interamna, now the modern city of Terni, healed the son of the Roman maiden who had been struck blind in childbirth by the Emperor Constantine. Valentine then healed the daughter of a Roman senator who was struck blind by the Emperor Maximinus the Thracian. Later the bishop is said to have come into contact with the son of Emperor Diocletian, who was cured of his troubled eyes. Despite his popularity in Europe, Valentine's Day was a relatively uncelebrated holiday in the United States until the 1840s, when Esther A. Howland introduced America to Valentine's Day cards. After making over $5,000 the first year, Howland decided the business was profitable enough to encourage maintaining the tradition, and with the addition of the sending of bouquets and chocolates, the holy­day of St. Valentine's Day became etched in stone on February 14th of every American calendar. The reality of the infamous "St. Valentine's Day Massacre" in Chi­cago during the 1920s further added to the presence of St. Valentine's Day in American minds. With the help of large corporations such as Hallmark Cards, American Greetings, Hershey's and FTD Florists, who have made Valentine's Day into a multi-million dollar industry, it appears that the tradition of St. Valentine's Day in the U.S. will continue for quite some time.
Dead Goat Notes

The following column was written by a trained professional. The Observer assumes no responsibility for its content.

The following story is true. Only the names have been changed to protect the guilty.

January 14, 1993. 2:13 a.m. I stayed up all night doing research again. I was working on a big case. I had to find out if Western Civilization was in a state of moral collapse. The only civilization I know of that has certainly collapsed was the Romans. So I rented I, Claudius and Caligula. I watched Caligula twice, purely for research purposes, of course. I compared this with our civilization. There certainly is lots of sleazy sex. Not that I know from first-hand experience. A private dick's life is a lonely one. Maybe it's time for more research. Where is that Caligula tape?

January 15, 1993. 1:36 a.m. I am working under cover as a gas station attendant. I've rented a gas station attendant. I've seen Union goons toss a railroad tie through a windshield. I've seen gas station attendants, beat up hookers and date people who still think that Bon Jovi are cultural icons, but there are enough of us who don't that we can gang up on the people who aren't teeing the morality line and pistol-whip them.

I'm not recommending this treatment for every ethical transgression, just a few to keep those of us on the good side of the force from joining Darth Vader's evil minions. As you can see, immoral acts will keep happening, but they will also make for interesting television movies starring Drew Barrymore.

Another View

I'll cry if I want to

by Wyman Yell

In the eyes of the world today, the definition of a man takes on an infinite number of characteristics. Unfortunately an overwhelming part of society seems to be blinded by an illusion of man in general. He is apparently an individual who has exceptional qualities considered to be superior in both mind and body to all living things. However, at the same time, man is expected to hide his feelings and emotions to live up to society's expectations of him as a man.

Society has raised men to believe that it is neither proper nor masculine to show their emotions. It is perceived as a sign of weakness. I, personally, do not agree with this perception. I feel that it is perfectly normal, as a man, to show my feelings of love, hate, anger, sorrow, happiness, or any other humanly created emotion. If I were to have a death in the family, I would not want to feel like I couldn't release my feelings of grief. I don't think it would make me any more or less of a man whether I physically displayed my feelings or not. I believe I can be understanding, compassionate, caring and sensitive without belligerent or demeaning my character as a man.

Nowadays, I think society's perception of man and his masculinity has improved tremendously from what it once was. Society today seems to be much more flexible with its interpretation of man and his expected role in life.

Calling all performers

The Baccalaureate Service will be held this year on Sunday, May 23rd, 1993. The service is an interfaith gathering, attended by the Senior Class and the faculty, which marks and celebrates the upcoming graduation of the Senior Class. We are looking for creative contributions to our program. This could be a marvelous setting for the presentation of some of your work. If you have composed a piece of music, written a poem, or created a dance which you feel could be incorporated into the service, we are eager to include you. Your piece need not be of a "religious" nature.

Also, we would like to include in this service prayers, blessings and readings from all religious backgrounds represented on campus. If you would like to present anything from your religious tradition, we are also eager to include you.

Please contact Rabbi Jonathan Kligler through the campus mail or at his office in Hopson 203 if you are interested.

In honor of Black History Month B.R.A.V.E. wishes to acknowledge our thanks to those Black women and men whose courage in the struggle for human rights and dignity has inspired us.

We recognize that oppressions exists in many forms and that it must be opposed in all of its manifestations. If we are to achieve the goal of ending sexual violence we know that we must also add our collective voice to the struggle to end other forms of oppression, including racism.

We recognize that the achievements of Black activists help sustain our own commitment towards the creation of a more just society.

B.R.A.V.E.
Bard Response to Rape & Associated Violence Education 758-7552 or 758-7553

A page of unedited observations by guest writers
It was SAID, it was LOUD, it was MEANT

Shameless Filler!

A little while ago, Tom Regner wrote a humorous article that appeared in the Another View pages of the Observer. It was a mock proposition for a physics senior project, concerning the study of tiny particles which are invisible, yet grab the attention of people and hold it, causing them to stare blankly into space and ignore everything around them. Tom wrote that this usually happens when two people who are unfamiliar with each other pass while walking across campus. Tom called them "obliv-on." I found the piece very funny, and I had thought about writing a response in which I proposed a variant of the oblivious, which normally turn up when two people who are acquainted, yet do not want to speak to each other, are forced to pass in proximity of one another. This would be, of course, the "obliv-i-on," an oblivious-on with an electrical charge, always negative. I never got around to writing it, probably because the joke ended with the name. But the intent of Tom's article was to point out that people at Bard go to some odd lengths not to disturb a status-quo as silly as not staring a stranger in the face. It got me thinking about manners and greetings, friends and strangers. I now smile broadly and say hello to most people I pass (except when I'm in a crampy mood, whether or not I know them).

And now I'm noticing their responses. Some of them bewildered me. Most specifically, what I've come to think of as the "right nod." I do it too; a slight shake of the head to indicate to someone that their presence has been noted. Usually accompanied by a tightening of the lips into a long, pseudo-smile, and a creasing of the eyebrows. What is this supposed to tell me? I say, "hello," and they answer with "yes." I actually tried that once when people said "hello" to me. I said "yes," or "that's correct" back at them. They were confused. But the message of the right nod comes through loud and clear. The shake of the head one might find passing between two spires in on the same operation. It's narrow, to prevent anyone being confused as to who the nod is directed towards. This right nod is like the inter-office memo of personal greeting. It's a shorthand for people who think saying "Hi" to someone is too much of a commitment to make. Understandable, I suppose, for someone who may never have seen me before. After all, they don't know who the goofy fat guy saying "hello, there," is. They don't want to run the risk of allowing him into their life just yet. He could be boring and lonely, and saying "hi" is his way of initiating a potential long-worlded conversation. Maybe he's an axe murderer, there's always a possibility. I don't want to provoke him. And, of course, maybe he's not saying "hello," to me. Maybe his brother is behind me, and he's saying it to him. If I responded and he turned out to be talking to someone else, I'd look like such an imbecile. But if he's actually trying to be friendly, I don't want to come off as the distant sort. I'd give him a nod.

It's possible that there's a level I'm missing with this right nod thing. I asked Jason Finishes what the right nod meant when he nodded at me once. He said, in his inimitable way, "Well, it's like, 'Hi, I'm ac­knowledging that you exist.'" Irresistible proof of existence! The philosophical implications are staggering. And all I said was Hi! Now I feel like the uncommunicative chump. But somehow, I can't picture Henry Kissinger greeting foreign dignitaries with a knowing shake of the head.

by Ephen Glenn Colter
Queer+

Another View

When saying "hello" is just too strenuous

Those children who learn the prejudice of our society are also being taught to gain personal status in an unrealistic and nonadaptive way. The culture permits and at times encourages them to direct their feelings of hostility and aggression against whole groups of people perceived as weaker than themselves. Confusion, conflict, moral cynicism and disrespect for authority may arise.


by Matt Gilman

THE BARD Travel

Joan L. Howe
Manager
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Red Hook NY 12571

A page of unedited observations from guest writers

In the fight against racism, white people have the most to lose. For white Americans to think of African American history as part of their history--American history—is a contradiction in terms, or, if you can dig it, counter intuitive. Not counterculture.

As black Americans our reputation for frustration proceeds us in the forms of white privilege and discomfort. Journal of Bard Black Intellectual Thought.

We need to understand that there are black people who are not just against racism when they themselves don't have the nerve and the infrastructure: Journal of Bard Black Intellectual Thought.

I'm still either the first black, the first black, or the only black Y-O-U can talk to—to be your friend and entertain your foolish, racist, ideas & identities. A black girlfriend of mine broke it down the other day, right here on this campus (she wasn't the first and she wasn't the last). She said "Ephen, if you hang around with white people too much they'll make you crazy." And she was serious. There is still a certain degree of black consciousness that permeates the student body. It stops at the door and it's from the campus to the world.

Bard is not just a snapshot of society. Don't be afraid of racism and/or or required the motion picture of it yourself. Or you would have immediately stopped the situational power dynamics that perpetuate racist stereotyping, filling, and xeroxing. What am I talking about? What you really want to know is who don't you? Well, all of Y-O-U. That's why black people need the continued and applied pressure of a Black Movement, to listen to the silences and mirror the invisible.
For those of you who thrilled at the mention of such classics of film humor as Airplane! and Animal House (and who own your own copies of at least the first two VHS movies for your VCR), National Lampoon has done it again. National Lampoon's Loaded Weapon 1 is a hilarious send-up of all the mystery-suspense slash-buddy-cop movies of the last several years. This wacky slapstick has all the bad puns and sight gags you've come to expect, plus a list of cameo appearances that rival The Player. The premise hinges mainly around that of Lethal Weapon, with the crazy cop/straight cop pair set to crack a ring of evil-doers smuggling drugs inside boxes of Girl Scout cookies. The villain, played by William Shatner (Star Trek) and his evil henchman (played by Tim Curry) will stop at nothing to see their plan succeed, but here come the good guys...

Okay, so the plot is nothing to write home about, but if you're looking for plot this is the wrong film to see. This is the film for people who enjoy cop movies, mystery movies, "suspense thrillers." If these kinds of movies leave you cold, you probably won't get much out of this satire. Similarly, if almost 2 hours of sophomoric sight gags don't sound like your cup of tea, stay away. This is definitely not humor for the highbrow. I would also warn that anyone who doesn't go to movies regularly, within the last four or five years, anyway, will probably be left in the dark by much of what this film spoofs. If you're not sure about this one as a wise investment of five hard-earned work study dollars, you might want to watch for an ad or a preview first. You should be able to tell from that whether or not this is a movie for you. So if you are seeking intelligent, socially relevant humor with rich literary undertones, avoid Loaded Weapon 1 likeDenis Leary avoids Richard Gere. But if you're crying in your Kline food because this Bard thing just doesn't seem to make sense anymore, and you want something to take your mind off the pathetic, swizzling creature that your undergraduate career has degenerated into, this may just be the escape for you. Also appropriate for your senior project dodgers out there. Playing at the Lyceum. Political Correctness Alert: this movie isn't.
Two women to play on men's varsity volleyball team

This year the Bard "Men's" volleyball team will have something different—women! Since September, when the women's volleyball team was withdrawn from the Bard sports agenda due to lack of participation, two former members of the women's team, Holly Sindelar and Dana MacDonald, have ardently awaited the arrival of the men's season. The two are competing under an NCAA rule which allows women to play on a men's team if the college does not field a women's team in the same sport.

Holly Sindelar is the team's starting setter, and will be distributing the ball for the Blazers. Sindelar seems very relaxed with her role on the men's team, and doesn't seem to feel that it will require much of an adjustment on her part. "Playing with the men is more the same than it is different," said Sindelar, with a slight hint of Zen. When asked about the attitude of the Bard men, she answered, "They have been great!"

The other woman on the team, Dana MacDonald, also seems to be looking forward to competing with the men once she recovers from a recent ankle sprain. MacDonald, a defensive specialist, thinks her biggest adjustment would be to the men's net, which is 8 inches higher than in the women's game. She also looks forward to playing where, "the level of play is higher because the men hit harder."

All indications from the men on the team are positive. They seem to have no problems at all sharing the court with two talented volleyball players who also happen to be women. Jason Thompson, in response to the question of how he felt having women on the men's team, said, "It's great because they are both great players."

The season, which begins for the Blazers at Ramapo on Thursday night, promises to be entertaining. Coach Carla Davis characterizes her two "hard working," and is excited about the potential which she feels her team has. Coach Davis expressed some concern about her team lacking experience with only a few returning players and a new offensive scheme, but nevertheless she is looking forward to a great season.

A quick rundown

The Bard Men's Squash team recently played four matches in a grueling two day period, winding up with a 2-2 split. On Feb. 6, they defeated George Washington handily, 8-1, then lost 1-8 against a strong Wesleyan team. The next day, Bard was shut out at home by Vassar 0-9, and then recovered to defeat Colombia 8-1. This brings the men's season record to 3 wins and 5 losses.

In the recent fencing tournament held at Bard, the men's and women's club teams both fared poorly. The men lost to all three challengers by scores of: West Point 6-10, Stevens College 4-12, and Boston College 7-9. Samantha Grossman, Amy Pfeifer and Angela Janicak all performed well in a losing effort.

The men lost both their matches in each weapon class to Boston College (epée: 3-6, sabre: 0-9, foil: 2-7) and Stevens (epée: 4-5, sabre: 1-4, foil: 4-5). Todd Heffner defeated his opponent 5 of 6 times in the foil class over both matches.

Then, on the night of Tuesday, February 9th, Bard hosted Yeshiva University. This time the women were brought from the teachers, only the men competed. The epee and sabre teams finished early, with both teams losing to Yeshiva 3-6 and 3-4, respectively. But since meets are decided from the combined scores of all three weapons, and since both scores were fairly close, the meet was still open.

Everyone gathered around the foil matches. Paxton Winters had come back twice to win two of his bouts, while Kapil Gupta had won all three of his bouts. The match totals were now tied at 13. The final bout pitted Todd Heffner, who had won one and lost one, against Yeshiva's Shawn Azari. Heffner started strongly, swiftly scoring four points against Azari. But then he faltered, and Azari fought his way back for four points. Both struggled for long moments over the deciding touch, until Heffner finally came under Azari's guard, hitting Azari's chest. Heffner took the bout 5-4 in a dramatic finish, giving the foil team a 7-2 victory.

This victory gave Bard its first fencing win ever by a score of 14-13. Congratulations!
A goodbye to a "pardon me" presidency

by Matthew T. Apple

On Christmas Eve of last December, President George Bush pardoned six government officials suspected of involvement in the Iran-Contra scandal. The pardoning of these men raised new questions about Bush's involvement as Vice President under Reagan and cast an even harsher light on the notoriety of the Reagan-Bush years. Clinton attacked Bush for the pardons, saying that such an action tells the people of the United States that members of the federal government are above the law. I could not agree more. Bush's tactics are unpardonable.

Bush didn't simply pardon the suspects out of the blue. There actually was a lobby in Washington trying to push pardons of every single person who had anything remotely to do with the gun-for-holdage deals. Through the efforts of the lobbyists, certain politicians wanted to prove that special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh was overzealous and that he was wasting taxpayer's money on a fruitless, though unnecessary, investigation. William Bennett, attorney to the new-pardonee, Caspar Weinberger, threatened Walsh that if he persisted in his case against Weinberger, "We'll hit him at nuclear war with you." At the same time, the lobby attempted to take the same approach that Oliver North's attorney did: that Weinberger, and others like him, were national heroes.

Oliver North, Caspar Weinberger and others who were involved in the Iran-Contra scandal circumvented the law and, in effect, at the Constitution. They overstepped their authority, swindled the U.S. public out of billions of dollars and then lied about it. They are definitely not heroes; if anything, they are traitors and, as such, according to the Constitution, should be hanged. Presidents Reagan and Bush are not legally guilty—they were supposed to be in charge, not North and Weinberger, and deserve at least a prison term.

President Bush refused to turn over notes regarding his involvement in the matter; President Reagan claimed he "could not remember" if he gave the okay or not. What kind of leaders were they? The kind who lead America into near oblivion during the past twelve years by abusing their powers and silver-coating their difficulties.

The kind who favor their rich friends and throw the poor a bone. The kind who deserve to be punished but never will be.

Although there are more pending court cases against the previous administration, America thankfully has Bill Clinton to look ahead to. We now have a new presidency, a new administration with a new agenda which U.S. domestically needs to get the economy going and to come together as a people. President Bush left Clinton a mess abroad: the atrocities in Serbia and the possibility of UN (U.S. intervention; the "Peacekeeper" humanitarian force in Somalia, who must decide if the U.S. should withdraw or establish a new one; the reemerging threat of Saddam Hussein; Israel's upholding the balance of power in the Middle East. Even the START II treaty, a landmark reduction of nuclear weaponry, completely overlooked the Ukraine, which now has more nuclear warheads than any other country in the U.S., and has threatened to put its arsenal up for bidding. Clinton also faces the enormous task of improving the sagging economy while reducing the trade deficit. He promised to protect the environment while improving our national resources; he promised more jobs and a more extensive health care system; he pledged to support women and gay and lesbian rights. Most importantly, he promised to lead the racial division of America.

Some say Clinton's promises are just that—campaign promises. Some say Clinton is too realistic. Still others are afraid Clinton will pull a Mark Antony: "Friends, Americans, our women, lend me your pocketbooks." One thing is certain—Clinton does not have it easy.

But he doesn't have to go it alone. The people of America can help their new president and their country just by changing their attitudes. Consumers already boosted the economy by producing the best holiday shopping season in over five years. And that was before Clinton was even inaugurated. Thinking positively will be the key to the U.S. for the next four years, something in which we can all participate to realize one promise that has already begun to be fulfilled: change.

"New" all-purpose field?

by Matthew Apple

The New Library Addition™ has finally been completed, and the fences and other materials around the construction site have been cleared away. This leaves Bard with the remains of a soccer/softball field and apparently nothing to do with it. The field is actually still big enough for a soccer game—except Bard has already built another field behind the Stevenson Gymnasium. It's also still big enough for softball, if you use the side of the field closest to Kline Commons, providing nobody is strong enough to hit the "Curtain" side of the Library. But the new soccer field behind the Gym will also serve as the new softball field. So what do we do with the old field? Since leaving the field abandoned seems inappropriate for a college that always finds a way to recycle its old, decrepit, worn-out items, I have a few suggestions as to what good we can put the Old Soccer Field™ to:

1) Play Ultimate Frisbee all day long (course, people already do that)
2) Cricket, anyone?
3) Hit the Wickets
4) Bocci

Of course, the use of the Old Soccer Field™ need not be limited to sports. There are plenty of other things we could do out there:

1) All-natural amphitheater for the Prez.
2) Great place to litter during Earth Day clean-up weekend.
3) Kegger!

Last, but not least, we might actually build something there, eventually, when we could do out there: Of course, people already do that)
2) Cricket, anyone?
3) Hit the Wickets
4) Bocci

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1) All-natural amphitheater for the Prez.
2) Great place to litter during Earth Day clean-up weekend.
3) Kegger!

To those concerned

If you really like the S.M.A.C.E.S. posters you can take them to me and I will splurge the $0.10 and Xerox one for you. If you are offended by them and feel that you are victimizing the Bard community by刊登ing them from our smut please feel free to mail me your concerns or comments.

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Letters

February 10, 1993

The Bard Side

by Sean O'Neill

STICK PEOPLE VERSION OF THE MOVIE "ALIVE!"

Femininity needed

Dear Editor,

To Mr. White Stag and all the other quasi-Native Americans out there and to every reader of Mr. Stag's letter in the Dec. 9 issue of the Bard Observer who felt furious and couldn't pinpoint exactly why.

I worked for a New Age publishing house for a year and a half and encountered more people and bullshit like Mr. Stag's than I care to see or hear in several lifetimes. Desperate for salvation yet unable or truly take responsibility for their lives and what they've created, they pillage other cultures, taking what's fashionable and passing over the tricky parts.

Intrinsic to this salvation without personal responsibility is a system of language which allows one's self-centered, needy, immature desires masquerade as honesty and openness. [sic]

Sense some hostility here? Yes, there's hostility and I'm going ANY of it to you, Mr. Stag. Care to know why? Because no matter what I say to you, no matter how I try to make you see your part in the hell you've roused for, you deny responsibility. And you're entitled to that. So be it.

"It's not me, it's the culture I live in," "It's my inner child." One's only chance to express "free will" and "personal responsibility." [sic] Of course, that's not the only way one can express oneself. And that's no reason to ignore the possibilities. But that's another story.

I take umbrage at your treatment of anger. "I need to express some anger" dissociates you from this anger — you aren't angry, you're merely participating in nonrandom anger, which is floating around you. And if you're not angry, why should I be angry? If you should "seek to honor" my anger, I feel frustrated and even more angry because you have not confronted me, or the situation, you've simply acknowledged there is anger. You aren't even acknowledging ME, you're merely recognizing an emotion. This smug luxury of feeling you've "moved through" your anger (and mine) when in fact you've only denied it and solved nothing.

As for "honoring", I've found this is a lovely way to keep control and power at all times (the moving force behind the New Age movement, and, I suspect, the men's movement). Instead of saying "thank you" and showing the proper respect, humility and openness that comes from sincerely thanking another, "honoring" allows you (and the recipient) the illusion of being humble and open without really letting yourself in for all that entails.

"Though we may not have agreed with judgements about our organization, your feelings would have been so still and entirely valid." Listen, Sirens With Wands, I know my feelings are valid, I don't need you to validate them. Stop offering open arms when your heart is closed. Why should anyone approach you with "valid feelings" in an effort to change things when all you are going to do is agree with your anger and keep things exactly the way they are? This doesn't sound like "honoring anger" to me, it sounds like turning the other cheek and offering passive resistance. Noble, yes, to stand firm in the face of unbelievers, but hardly worth the effort of anyone interested in real change.

My chief complaint with the men's movement is that it's born of fear and insecurity. We've been living under a "men's movement" for the past several thousand years. I don't see it working, do you? You "own" the fact that you are wounded, too. Can't you see that it's the denial of the power women's influence on your life that helps to create the wound? By shutting yourself from women and then self-fulfilling the system that has "wounded" you. Maybe if more men stopped being warriors and started being listeners and learners we'd see a lot less wounded stags limping around.

Amy "Speaks With SmithCorona" Pfeifer, Aged 25 (no longer new)

In defense of the New Warriors

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the letter written by Cabr Bognar (Bard Observer, Dec. 9, 1992) regarding the men-only meetings sponsored by the New Warriors. I did not attend that meeting, though I did attend the open meeting the next night. The New Warriors are not an organization based on fear, hatred or separation, but on the development of the self as a whole being. They feel that this development is a differing process for men and women, thus the men only meetings and trainings. Did not the women's movement have such single sex meetings? I have read of the power created by such things. I know about the power of spiritual awakening, which is the goal of the New Warrior training. A single sex environment does not necessarily produce negative energy for men or for women. The New Warriors are not dedicated to the re-empowerment of men, but to the healing of men's souls, damaged by the patriarchal system in ways different from the damage done to women, therefore I doubt most women would find the training appropriate. It would do a woman little good to go to one of these trainings.

In regard especially to the single sex meeting held on that Friday, I would like to point out that an atmosphere in which men can talk about their weaknesses is a hard thing to find. Men have been trained by our society to have a hard exterior, and to always act in control. We are taught that vulnerability must be especially hidden from women, and we must be "strongest" in front of them. I understand why that meeting was held in the manner it was. The all-male environment was conducive to healing, growing and bonding in a manner that doesn't include competitive sports, drunkenness or the death of defenseless wild animals. The founders of the New Warriors (who used to be called the Peaceful Warriors until they found out that was the title of a book on Akido) learned the power of this type of environment from the women's movement, a source of much early inspiration. This meeting may, in fact, violate some civil rights law; however, I feel that it does not violate the spirit of any true law, which is maintaining equality, safety and property.

Sincerely,

Ben Schwabe

The Bard Observer

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The Bard Observer is published every Wednesday while class is in session. Editorial policy is determined by the Editorial Board under the direction of the Editor-in-Chief. Any editorials which appear unsigned are those of the Editorial Board and not necessarily the Observer staff. All opinions which are signed do not necessarily represent the views of the Observer or its staff.

Letters to the Editor and Personal or Classifieds must not exceed 500 words and must be signed legally. All articles, cartoons, and photographs that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the Observer office in the basement of Tewksbury or through Campus Mail by 5 p.m. Friday one week before the publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit all letters and articles (except those intended for the Anvil or the new page) for style and length. Classifieds: Free for Bardians, $5 for all others. Personal ads are free.

Send all your letters and comments to the Bard Observer through Campus Mail, box 185.
**Panel Discussion.** An interdisciplinary exchange of ideas about African-Americans with Black professors and historians, moderated by Jodi Cornish in Olin 104 7:00-8:30p.

**What's an installationist do?** Find out when Vito Acconci, Milton Avery Professor of Art here at Bard, lectures on his work. Olin Auditorium, 8p.

**Bard's Little Hollywood.** Ben McClure presents his senior project films: "What I Want To Do" and "The Perils of Spencer: Death by Shapie." In the Preston Film Center, 7:00p.

**Kill of Sheep.** A video brought to you by the B.B.S.O. In honor of Black History Month. In Olin 203, 7:30p.

**Can't Dance?** Than watch the experts in Seascape with Sharks and Dancer by Don Nigro. This performance is directed by Sarah L. Smith. Bard Theater, 8:00. Matinee at 3:00


**A William Randolph Hearst in the making?** You'll never know if you don't attend the Observer's staff meeting. Positions in all departments readily available. Observer Office in the Tewksbury Basement, 6p.

**TUESDAY. FEBRUARY 16**

**The Revolution will not be televised.** The revolution will be live when B.R.A.C.E. (Bard Revolutionaries Against Capitalist Exploitation) discusses topics on political economy in Kline’s Committee Room from 12:00-1:30p.

**Yoga till you drop!** An 8 session course in yoga taught by Ben Vromen begins tonight in Olin 204, 6-7:30p. There is a $20 registration fee. Registration Information is available from Ben Vromen via Campus Mail. All are encouraged to join & attend.

**Open Discussion.** "The Oppression of Black Women" Olin 102 6:30-8:30p. An event sponsored by the Women’s Center for Bard Black History Month.

**WEDNESDAY. FEBRUARY 17**

**Panel Discussion.** An interdisciplinary exchange of ideas about African Americans Olin 104 7-8:30p. Moderated by Ephen Glenn Colter

**SHUTTLE VAN SCHEDULE**

**Friday:**
- Rhinecliff: Leave at 7:05p., for the 7:41p. train
- Roughneck: Leave at 6p. for the 7:18p. train

**Saturday:**
- Rhinecliff, Rhinebeck, Red Hook and Tivoli: Leave at 10a., return at 2p.
- Hudson Valley Mall: Leave at 5:45p., return at 10p.

**Sunday:**
- Roughneck: Meet the 7:38p train
- Church: Leave at 9:45 return at noon. (St. John’s)

If you wish to see your event or speaker in next week’s Calendar, then submit a note to the Dean of Students Office with a description of your even by 5:00 pm. Friday