

OBSERVER

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Page 1	Fixing to Go WXBC ready to crash the airwaves at 540 am Michael Poirier
Page 2	The Simon's Rock Incident Bard responds in the aftermath of tragedy Matthew Apple More Thefts No end in sight for Bard crime Matthew Apple
Page 3	Addition Complete Reflections on Bard's new work of art Sean O'Neill
Page 4	Survey Results The changes that seventy of you asked of Faces of Bard Glenn Grasso Kat Foran
Page 5	Dead Goats and Saints The origin of America's lovely little Valentine's Day Matthew Apple Classifieds and Personals
Page 6	Dead Goat Notes Greg Giacco I'll Cry if I Want to Wyman Yell
Page 7	Shameless Filler! Matt Gilman It was SAID, it was LOUD, it was MEANT EphenGlennColterQueer
Page 8	Loaded Weapon 1 National Lampoon's solution to the back to Bard blues Shawn Taylor
Page 9	Coed Vollyball Two women to play on men's varsity Joel Rush
Page 10	A Goodbye to a "pardon me" presidency Matthew Apple "New" all-purpose field? Matthew Apple
Page 11	Letters Femininity Needed Amy Pfeffer In Defense of the New Warriors Ben Schwabe
Page 12	Calendar

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The BARD

OBSERVER

VOLUME 100 ★ NUMBER 15

BARD COLLEGE ★ ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON ★ NY 12504

FEBRUARY 10 ★ 1993

"We're going to have to walk and chew gum at the same time."

—Rep. Dick Gephardt, on the role of the U.S. Congress

★ Inside ★

NEWS

2

Bard and Simon's Rock
Reactions to a tragedy

FEATURES

3

Addition done
Subtraction to follow

5

Forget-me-not
The meaning of Valentine's Day

SPORTS

9

Guys 'n Dolls
Men's v-ball to be coed

WXBC, the student-run radio station of Bard College, has had a sporadic and ill-starred history. First begun in the late 1950s as a senior project, the station has gone through systematic melt-downs and reincarnations over the last forty odd years. The past four semesters have seen the station struggle onto the air only to disintegrate



back into the ionosphere with a mild purring sound. Having to fight against poor management, theft of equipment, the complaints of the neighbor above and finally lack of an audience, WXBC has been a source of constant frustration for aspiring disc jockeys and music enthusiasts trapped here at Bard.

But all of that is about to change. Like a phoenix from the ashes, WXBC shall take wing once more in two short days. After working on the transmitters over intercession and training disc jockeys, this week WXBC is again ready to hit the airwaves. Broadcasting is planned to begin at 4pm Friday, February 12th at 540 on the AM dial. With the exception of the Alumni Dorms, Gahagen and Feitler, every dorm on campus has been tested and should be able to pick up the signal.

Last semester WXBC suffered a series of setbacks, including limited broadcast range to Manor and Robbins, administrative disorganization and finally the breakdown of the distribution amplifier. The station is now under new management with former engineer Emily Glick serving as Station Manager, Ed Slocumb and Chris Steiner as Co-Engineers and Jason Peck as the Program Director. They are assisted by a number of new Music Directors to increase the alterna-



With new equipment, new managers and new DJs, WXBC is ready for action. Again.

Fixing to go

WXBC ready to crash the airwaves at 540 am

tive, jazz and rap music libraries. In order to keep things organized this time around, the DJ schedule has been redrawn, and a series of station rules are being implemented, which include equipment checks and the keeping of play-lists.

Plans for the station to go FM have been shelved indefinitely. Glick explained that the AM carrier current is simply more practical and legal. Work on an FM transmitter last year was apparently a wasted effort, as unfeasible amounts of money would have to be spent with the Federal Communications Commission to find a legal frequency. Every DJ would have to pay for his or her license after being tested by the FCC, while the station would be obligated to follow FCC

regulations. The FCC has especially been looking out for small pirate stations as well, so if WXBC had tried to broadcast illegally, they would have been caught right away. "The AM signal gives us the freedom we want," Glick commented. "And it's the only thing that is going to be possible here for a long time."

WXBC will be requesting a smaller amount of money this semester from the Student Convocation Fund because the officers are aware of the station's past failures. They hope to receive enough money to renew their subscription to the College Music Journal and to purchase another distribution amplifier to keep as a spare. This would prevent the entire station from being com-

pletely incapacitated while waiting for obscure parts if the current amplifier breaks down again.

Broadcasting will commence every day at 4pm and will continue until 2am. In the future, The Chance in Poughkeepsie will be running promotions through the station, and the officers are looking into other advertisers. Despite rampant thefts last year, the music library is growing, and a new piece of equipment has been added to the station, a phone interface which will allow callers to be broadcast on the air. The extension of the station is 374 for all prospective midnight callers. The finalized broadcast schedule for WXBC's spring 1993 semester will appear in next week's *Observer*. ☛

The Simon's Rock incident

Bard responds in the aftermath of tragedy

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.

Editor-in-Chief

Televised 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 through the mail. The administration had confronted Lo earlier about a rather large package he received through the mail, suspicious that the package contained ammunition, but Lo denied that it did. On the day of the fourteenth, the administration of Simon's Rock received an anonymous tip about a half an hour

before the shootings began. The anonymous caller stated simply that Lo would "do something" the next evening. As local police converged on Lo's dormitory room, the shootings broke out. Killed in the shootings were a gay professor, a woman security officer and a well-known student who was active in several local organizations. Several other students were injured as well.

During the past month and a half, the administration of Bard College has implemented measures to calm the student community. Two additional security guards were hired, a student telephone counseling service set up, and all Simon's Rock students were given a whistle and told to lock their doors.

Bard students had varying reactions to what happened at Simon's Rock. Several students presently attending Bard transferred from Simon's Rock, and many have friends at Simon's Rock. Nate Sayers, a freshman at Bard, knew the group of Simon's Rock students with whom Wayne Lo was associated, and received a second-hand account of the in-

cident from close friends at Simon's Rock.

According to several local newspapers, the only previous indication of Lo's aggressiveness was a class paper, in which he proposed that all individuals diagnosed as carrying the HIV virus be quarantined in Utah and killed. Sayers, however, says Lo's behavior was related to the group of skinheads of which he was a member.

Sayers is close friends with 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 Lo's rampage on his attraction to hardcore music. Sayers, though, put little faith in that argument, saying that hardcore musicians can't be held responsible for Lo's actions. Sayers wasn't surprised that local television coverages of the incidents, by interviewing seemingly random Simon's Rock

students, portrayed Lo as a loner who had no friends. "Of course they're [reporters] 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 and 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 [the shootings],

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."

More thefts

No end in sight for Bard crime

Eight 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,

Editor-in-Chief

three rooms in Oberholzer, one in Bartlett, one in Sawkill and two in Sands were burglarized, with computers and stereos 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 stereos missing after returning to their cars parked in the faculty

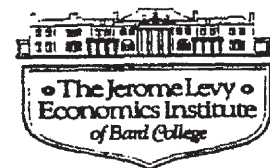
parking lot behind the computer center. Neither car showed damage from a forced entry. Four cars, one each at Robbins, Manor, the main parking lot behind the Old Gym and along Ravine Road, had their windshields smashed on the night of Monday, February 8th. Nothing was taken from any of the four cars, even though there was a wad of cash on the dashboard of one.

"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 inform Security of 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 call Security at extension 460, even anonymously.

Wanted:

An eyewitness who saw the theft of my car stereo from a light blue car parked in faculty parking lot on Tuesday, February 2nd, between 10 am and 4 pm. Send replies to Box 132 through campus mail.



The Jerome Levy Economics Institute of Bard College

SPRING 1993

LEVY INSTITUTE LECTURE SERIES

Thursday, February 11, 1993
8:00 p.m. Lecutre

Geoffrey Heal, Professor of Economics and Vice Dean, Columbia University Business School, will be giving a lecture on "Global Environment Risks in Economic Perspective".

Addition complete

Reflections on Bard's new work of art

(Enter two Bard students, Sparky and Peeky)

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 pathway here?

Sparky: Yeah. What's it for?

Peeky: It's 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.



Left, the "Dogghouse," the entrance to the Venturi Addition; right, the Adult Romper Room and our author in action (far right corner).

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

Peeky: What do you think about the "Stripe" 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 so up 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 roomie.

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 after-life. 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 makes me think 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. Peterburg.

Sparky: Wow! The lights don't buzz. It's really true!

Peeky: All these 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.

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Glenn Grasso, 24 years old, is originally from Westerly, Rhode Island. He graduated from Mitchel College in New London, CT with an associate degree in general studies; he hopes to receive a degree in Political Science from Bard at the end of this semester.

These degrees are not what Glenn would consider his greatest accomplishments. Instead he would suggest: playing "Wish You Were Here" on an acoustic guitar at a high school talent show standing up to the high school V.P. in a room full of people—and receiving a standing ovation.

Performance is something Glenn seems to have a knack for: He is a member *Third Stone*, a band that played at a Robbins party last February. The band hopes to play here again soon, but arrangements have not yet been made with the current en-

tertainment committee. Glenn describes his band's music as "original rock'n'roll — not heavy metal, hard rock, or pop."

Glenn has worked in a cloth factory and as a liquor store cashier, a restaurant cook, an ice cream stand attendant, and a museum curator at Mystic Seaport. The liquor store, Glenn says, "taught me all I needed to know about people and then some."

On Bard, Glenn says he enjoys watching people get excited about trivial things and the fact that you can drink beer in the cafeteria. He wonders why Carol Nackenoff, the one teacher he really hit it off with academically, is still recorded as his official advisor since she no longer teaches here. When he graduates Glenn plans to play Rock'n'Roll and "if that fails — law school."



Glenn Grasso

Faces of Bard

Originally from San Francisco, CA, 21-year-old Kat Foran is called a "spirited girl" by her friends. This is probably because of her wonderfully colorful personality and bold fashions. Her left ear has been pierced 5 times, her right twice, and her belly button once. She has three different tattoos (one of which she designed herself) and has colored her hair almost every shade possible. Kat admits that in high school "I liked everybody, but nobody could really classify me."

Kat came to Bard last semester for its pretty campus and the opportunity to expand her horizons on the east coast. "Growing up in California would have warped my reality," she says. Although the East is more conservative than what she's used to, Kat says that her only disappointments with Bard are the lack of color in students' clothing and the inaccessibility of a big city. These two things, Kat says, "are both the charm of and the reason to hate Bard."

Before Bard, Kat attended San Francisco State University for 1 1/

2 years, and supported herself for 2 years after that. She has worked at a variety of unusual places including a bondage shop and the Renaissance Faire in California. The Faire was one of her more interesting employment adventures because it was "historically accurate"—she had to take classes on how to dress and talk as if she were living in the late 1500s.

Kat describes herself as a "regressive" because she has so much interest in the past. She is, as yet, an undecided major at Bard, but is strongly interested in Old Renaissance History, Folk ballads and stories, creative writing, and art. Outside of academics, her interests include writing creative non-fiction essays (which she claims got her into college), and her religion: pre-Christian, old Celtic.

After Bard, Kat hopes to return to California to teach. "Since I got a really good education, which is unusual, and the schools there are terrible now, I would really like to try putting back some of what I got out of high school."



Kat Foran

Survey results

The changes that seventy of you asked for

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 out something that they really did not like — mainly, "The Beer Column." Survey responses voted nearly 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 BevWay, 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 Filler," however, will continue to run. Survey responses showed that the readers were quite fond of both columns. There were 47 favoring (and 18 negative) votes for "Shameless Filler", and 52 favoring (15 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 Another View page will be reduced due to the existence of the columns as it is always possible to have 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 29 No. Only one club-writtten 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, that would like to submit a weekly or bi-weekly column should contact Matt

Apple.

On the issue of giving more attention to sports, there were 22 votes for the idea, but 43 against. The re-location of "Shameless Filler" does leave more room on that page for stories, but advertisements and photos will almost certainly assure that there will not be too much "extra 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 story ideas, they should get in touch with Sports Editor Matthew Gilman.

"Person of the Week" has been changed to "Faces 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, one male and one female student will be interviewed each week. This hopefully will give other students the opportunity to find out about some of the people they see every day, but really know nothing about. Speakers who come to Bard will no longer be

No one is willing to write horoscopes

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* motto, it will remain "News is whatever sells newspapers. The *Observer* is Free," and although 50 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 shall hopefully be shorter and more interesting);

Observer distributed through campus mail? 50-Yes, 20-No (Will continue to be placed in every students' 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);

Eighty-six percent said, "No Beer Column"

Coverage of off campus events? 58-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 Jeana Breton);

Quote of the week? 67-Yes, 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 + Personals? 64-Yes, 7-No (These will remain but in order to have yours printed you must remember to include your name + phone # on submissions. Unfortunately we cannot operate as a dating service, 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 available 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 w/a Canon EOS please contact 758-0772 A.S.A.P.)

Dead goats and Saints

The origin of America's lovely little Valentine's Day

Every February 14th, Americans celebrate a strange little holiday called "Saint Valentine's Day." Millions of dollars are spent on chocolate, candy and cards given to "valentines" as part of a peculiar courting 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.

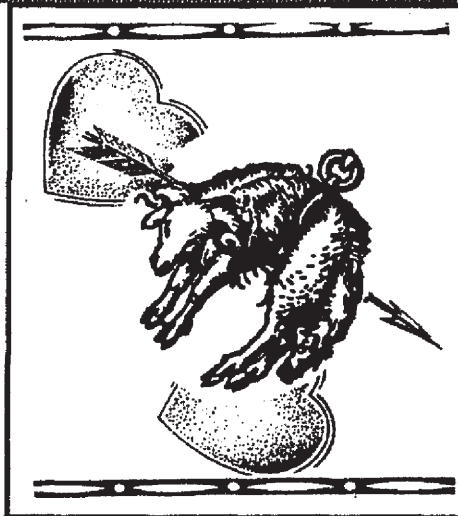
The tradition of sending love notes to sweethearts started in the Early Middle Ages in England and France. As first recorded in the 34th and 35th French "Ballades" of the bilingual John Gower, those who "chose" each other on Valentine's Day called each other their Valentines. Geoffrey Chaucer commented on the art of Valentines in "Parliament of Fowles," writing, "For this was on Seynt Valentyne's day/Whan every foul cometh ther to 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 priests 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 depos-

ited 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 three "colleges," the third of which was created in honor of Julius Caesar and whose first magistrate was Mark Anthony.

The celebration of the Lupercalia persisted until 494 AD, 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 Halloween, the Roman Catholic Church arranged for their new 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.

Valentinus, priest of Rome, was thrown in chains by Claudius the Goth and handed over to Calphurnius, whose man Asterius

attempted to persuade Valentinus to worship pagan idols. Rather than fight Asterius, Valentinus healed 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 Valentinus, who, after several more years of imprisonment, was beaten with clubs, dragged along the Flaminian Way and beheaded.

Bishop Valentinus of Interamna, now the modern city of Terni, healed Chæremon, the deformed son of a Greek rhetorician who along with several other prominent Romans converted to Christianity. For perverting figures of the Roman state to Christianity, the good bishop was brought to Rome and there beheaded. This St. Valentine is invoked in Italy and Germany under the name St. Velten in the cases of epilepsy and cognitive disorders. The Roman Catholic Church celebrates the

feast of St. Valentine on February 14th, the traditional date of the martyrs, but does not dictate the sending of candy and flowers to loved ones as part of the feast.

Despite its 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 holiday of St. Valentine's Day became etched in stone on February 14th of every American calendar. The notoriety 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. ♣

Classifieds & personals

Interested in submitting to *Papier Mache*, the French literary magazine? Send your poems, short stories or essays to profs. Herve Campagne or Odile Chilton by February 28th. The author's name, phone# and title of the work should be written on an attached index card. A vos plumes!

"Anything Short of Feces" My best friend needs dancers for his techno-alternative show at Worschester Poly Tech's upcoming Music Festival on 2/20. He has given me total artistic license. He wants OUTRAGEOUS-NESS, readings in between songs and objects to throw at the audience. Help me, give me ideas, give me poetry, come along. Contact Anna at box 44 or 752-7065 for further details.

Do you have a Physiology, Anatomy, Molecular Bio or Cell Bio text that you want to sell? I'll buy anything in good condition. Contact box 1079.

Adoption—Loving Mom (a school teacher) professional devoted Dad yearn to share our lives with newborn.

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The International Relations Club will be representing France at the Model NATO conference this Feb. 24-27th in Washington, D.C. If you are interested in attending the conference or want to learn more about the club, come to our weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 6pm in the Committee Room or contact Malia DuMont at 752-7345.

Missing: a blue-gray camera bag containing a Canon EOS with tele-

scopic lens. Left in Stevenson Gym last Thurs. (2/4). Substantial reward offered. Call 758-0772.

Mint. Still out there... M

Amanda G—don't forget to check your box on Saturday.

Keightie—shesaysyes. Oh, Happy Valentine's from me. Miss you!

Hey, Dad, happy b-day. From your star pupil.

Happy Be-lated Birthday to Lynda Fong!

Happy Birthday to Greg Giaccio this Sunday!

Honey—I love you, but stay away from Cruger Island for awhile PLEASE! Thanks. Yours Always, Sweetie Pie.

Happy Birthday to Gloria Gomez next Tuesday!

Dear June—I hope school is still

doing ok and that you're being nice to Woody. I love and miss you. Write again soon! Your sister, Jeana.

Dear Jolean—I hope you are having an ok time at the Colvins. Please write soon because I miss you and want to hear how you are doing. I love you. Your sister, Jeana.

Whosaysyoucant'teachawind-up dog new tricks? Free Kennel service and obedience training. Learn to purr, sit up beg, fetch, squeal like a pig. Special Valentine's day rates for unique grooming services (up to three colors!). Dial Scum!

Sha-la-la, Caitlin's in lo-o-o-ove with a Jer-sey guy! (everybody, now!)

Sorry, Keri, couldn't think of one for you... (not even sure how to spell your name!)

Attention Cruptic Cruciverbalists! Interested in trying out some free cryptic crosswords produced by a student? Send campus box number to Alphabits, care of the *Observer*.

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 to study the decline of morals in Western Civilization and to make a few bucks. One of my co-workers just walked by with his girlfriend. He's thirty, she's sixteen and has a rapsheet as long as your arm.

I've seen it all from behind the disguise of a gas station attendant. I've seen Union goons toss a railroad tie through a guy's windshield. I've seen guys doing every kind of drug while driving, from drinking a beer (which violates the state's legal code), to snorting coke and shooting up. I've seen hookers leave their pimps, and I've seen them riding around with them again with black and blue marks all over. I even saw a guy willing to stick his knife in your gut for the roll of bills in your pocket.

I'm just a private dick. I can't change this crazy mixed up world we live in. I can't stop every type of sleaze that crawls along the gutter of life. I can't reform every two-bit scumbag into a Sunday school teacher. I can't write without cliches. The way I figure it, God is dead. Or Nietzsche is dead. Either way, Western

Civilization is heading down the tubes like a quart of 10w30 in July. Which is to say pretty darn fast.

Same day. 4:15 a.m. My faith in Western Civilization has been restored. After the shift change, my other co-workers called in Thor (not his real name) to talk to him about his under-aged, criminal historied girlfriend. Well, Bilbo, Frodo and Gandalf (not their real names) went into the back office with Thor while Casey Jones and I worked out front.

In the back, Bilbo threw Thor into the chair, pulled a .25 caliber pistol out of his bag and pushed it into Thor's temple while Frodo blocked the door.

"You see this gun? I'm going to blow your brains onto that desk if you keep messing around with that chick!" Bilbo was quite angry. Not only had he, Frodo and Gandalf talked to Thor about this before, but the girl's mother had actually stopped into the station to complain about Thor.

Thor received a stern lecture on morality from the barrel of a gun before Bilbo revealed that it wasn't loaded. Laughing nervously, Thor went home to change his underwear.

Does this one incident refute the entire decline of Western Civilization? No, not really. Did it keep Thor from dating Lolita? Nope, they're still going out. However, it did reaffirm my personal faith in Western Civilization. There may be people scummy enough to stick up 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 toeing 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.



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 belittling 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.

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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 "oblivi-ons". I found the piece very funny, and I had thought about writing a response in which I proposed a variant of the oblivi-on, 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 "oblivi-

ion," an oblivi-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 crappy mood), whether or not I know them.

And now I'm noticing their responses. Some of them bewilder me. Most specifically, what I've come to think of as the "tight 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'd say "yes," or "that's correct" back at them. They were confused. But the message of the tight nod comes through loud and clear. The shake of the head one might find passing between two spies in on the same operation. The eyes narrow, to prevent anyone being confused as to who the nod is directed towards. This tight 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 risks of allowing him into their lives just yet. He could be boring and lonely, and saying "hi" is his way of opening up a potential long-winded

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'll give him a nod.

It's possible that there's a level I'm missing with this tight nod thing. I asked Jason Foulkes what the tight 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.'" Irrefutable 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.

When saying "hello" is just too strenuous

by Matt Gilman

It was SAID, it was LOUD, it was MEANT

by Ephen Glenn Colter
Queer+

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 Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall and Black Lesbian Feminist Mother Warrior Audre Lorde. They are both landmarks and leaders in America for African-Americans, Caribbean Americans, and white Americans alike. They are history for some, culture for others, and still others see the color of their skin as the color of money, part of America's ideology obsession. Despite the fact that their experience of America is mere recreational reality for many people, I appreciate them as fighters, angry black men and women intellectually fed up with sophisticated racist bullshit, but spiritually nourished by the fertile soil of this country worked by so many black hands, crossed by so many black feet, and resting place to so many black bodies. Thinkers in the tradition of Malcolm X and Martin Luther King. 'Cause there is a war on black folks in this country, and we got battles and skirmishes right here on Bard campus to prove it, or we would be hiring a African-Americanist in the Lit department, and we would be re-hiring Leo Smith, and we would not have folks afraid of a Black Alumni/ae Association or uncomfortable with *Infrastructure: Journal of Bard Black Intellectual Thought*. (If you are nervous now, chile you bes put this essay down).

At Bard black people have to listen to a lot of self-identified white people who are full of shit. These people expect to be needed and told what to do in the fight against racism when they themselves don't even have the courage to stand up and speak to their own experiences of these issues and ambiguities. White people still have the nerve and the privilege to expect black folks to make it easy on them. They

want to be friends and point a finger at those "other" white people "out there," you know, their parents, their colleagues, their friends "back home" or off-campus. They want us to believe they grew up in racist America—just like we did—and escaped racism unscathed, pure as angels, while we endured, ignored, internalized, and negotiated it. Bullshit. They want black people to explain themselves, to teach them, to make them feel as clean as chitlins. But they—I mean Y-O-U—want to understand us in their own terms in addition to the blaring fact that as blacks in college we already doin what we have to do—to get here, stay here, and get outta here in one piece—within institutionalized racism on their grounds.

I still make the mistake of doing white people's work for them. I forget and do things like have sympathy for their pathetic displays of denial and childish remarks of embedded racism that is done purposely to test me and see how "political" I am. My intelligence and experience are constantly in question and marginalized. In 1993 I'm still either the *best 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

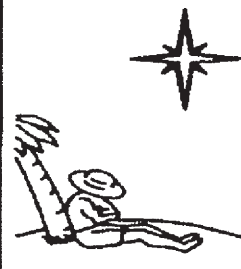
"Those children who learn the prejudice of our society are also being taught to gain personal status in an unrealistic and nonadaptive way. The culture permits and at times encourages them to direct their feelings of hostility and aggression against whole groups of people perceived as weaker than themselves.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

"The impact of racism and segregation on children of the majority group" in an Appellants Brief to Brown vs. Board of Education decision of 1954 prepared by Kenneth B. Clark and other social scientists and submitted to the court by the NAACP lawyers. Newsweek, January 11, 1993.

(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 uncle Tomming or aunt Jemimaing exacted of blacks by most whites at Bard, rather they justify it, ignore it, reify it, or use it toward their political agendas or personal gains in view of the "big picture".

Bard is not just a snapshot baby. Don't play yourselves. You've seen racism and/or required the motion picture of it yourself. Or you would have immediately stopped the situational power dynamics that perpetuate racist stereotyping, filing, 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.

to be continued next issue.



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Loaded Weapon 1

National Lampoon's solution to the Back to Bard Blues

For those of you who thrill 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 *Vacation* movies for your VCR), National Lam-

poon 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 witty slapstick has all the bad puns and sight gags you've come to expect, plus a list of cameo appearances that rivals *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* like Denis 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, snivelling creature that your undergraduate career has degenerated into, this may just be the escape for you. Also appropriate for you senior project dodgers out there. Playing at the Lyceum. Political Correctness Alert: this movie isn't.

Performers wanted

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Coed volleyball

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 anxiously 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.

Staff
Writer

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 team as "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



Holly Sindelar, left, and Dana MacDonald

grueling two day period, winding up with a 2-2 split. On Feb. 6, they defeated George Washington State 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 Columbia 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 women lost to all three challengers by scores of: West Point 6-10, Stevens College 4-12, and Boston College 7-9. Samara Grossman,

Amy Pfeffer and Angela Janicus all performed well in a losing effort. The men lost both their matches in each weapon class to Boston College (epee: 3-6, sabre: 0-9, foil: 2-7) and Stephens (epee: 4-5, sabre: 1-8, foil: 4-5). Todd Hefner 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 watched from the bleachers; only the men competed. The epee and sabre teams finished early, with both teams losing to Yeshiva 6-3 and 5-4, 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 Hefner, who had won one and lost one, against Yeshiva's Shawn Azari. Hefner 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 Hefner finally came under Azari's guard, hitting Azari's chest. Hefner 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!

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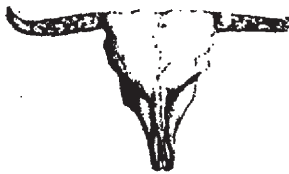
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Sports Schedule

Volleyball

Thurs., Feb. 11th - at Ramapo
Sun., Feb. 14th - IAC Tourney at NJ Tech

Men's Fencing

Sat., Feb. 13th - at Vassar
w/NJ Tech and SUNY Purchase

Men's Basketball

Sat., Feb. 13th - home v. Steven's Tech 2pm

Men's Squash

Sun., Feb. 14th - home v. Army
and Haverford noon

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 for pardons of every single person who had anything remotely to do with the arms-for-hostages deal. Through the efforts of the lobbyists, certain politicians wanted to prove that special prosecutor Lawrence Walsh was overzealous and that he was wasting tax-payers' money on a fruitless endeavor. William Bennett, attorney to the now-pardoned Casper Weinberger, threatened Walsh that if he persisted in his case against Weinberger, "we'll be at nuclear war with you." At the same time, the lobbyists attempted to take the same approach that Oliver North's attorney's 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, spat 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 no less 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 "couldn't 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 the U.S. desperately 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 to support a government or establish a new one; the re-emerging threat of Saddam Hussein, intent upon tilting the balance of power in the Middle East. Even the START II treaty, a landmark reduction of nuclear weapons, completely overlooked the Ukraine, which now has more nuclear warheads than anyone but 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 heal the racial division of American society. Some say Clinton's promises are just that, campaign promises. Some say Clinton is too idealistic. Still others are afraid Clinton will pull a Mark Anthony: "Friends, Americans, countrymen, lend me your pocketbooks." One thing is certain—Clinton does not have it easy.

But he doesn't have to go at 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 for the U.S. during the next four years, something in which we can all participate to realize the 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™:

- 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 Stevenson donates some more millions—a real, live Student Center!

Nah.

To those concerned

If you really like the S.M.A.C.E.S. posters you can come talk 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 altruistically helping the Bard community by sheltering them from our smut please come talk to me. I've got big hoopey earrings and pomaded hair. If you have no life and are just proving how cool you are to yourself by censoring our means of outreach to the student body then I feel sorry for you and your parents. Leave the flyers on the walls. Let people make their own decisions. If you're afraid to talk feel free to mail me your concerns or comments.

Sebastian Quezada
Box 470
S.M.A.C.E.S.

Call for budgets

Dear Editor,

Anyone who wishes to receive Student Convocation Funds must send 7 Copies of an itemized to Dara Silverman by Thursday February 10th, through Campus Mail, or delivering it to Bartlett 103 by Midnight (no exceptions). The Planning Committee according to the Student Constitutions has no set rules as to what can be funded. Clubs requesting funds should adhere to the following format:

—All clubs should include a Statement of Purpose outlining the goals of the club, including a brief review of the club's activities last semester.

—Any club planning to enter into a contract with an outside organization (such as a speaker's bureau, printer, or film distributor) should include an estimate of the cost of the service from the service provider with their budget proposal.

—Xerox costs, transportation costs, entertainment costs, etc. for speakers, bands, etc. MUST be included in the budget.

—New clubs, according to precedent, can only receive up to three hundred dollars (\$300.00) their first semester. Exceptions are sometimes made for clubs that have been active without receiving Convocation funds.

—According to the Constitution, the Convocation Fund cannot fund activities for specific academic departments or pay for classroom materials. This restriction does not preclude the many clubs formed around academic interests from receiving funds, it merely stipulates that those club activities be oriented towards the student body.

—Budgets should be signed (with the telephone number) of at least one responsible club member. The Planning Committee can recognize several people as "club heads." There should, however, be only one treasurer per club (this can also be the club head.) The treasurer will be the only person authorized to request checks from the Central Committee via the

Treasurer, Matt J. Lee. Clubs should also identify the club head(s) who will be authorized for xerox privileges by the library staff, with a limit of two people per club.

Those wishing to have interviews with the Planning Committee before we meet to allocate funds should indicate so on their budget. A schedule of available appointments for Friday afternoon/evening will be posted on the Student Government Office door on the 11th.

Sincerely,
Dara Silverman
Planning Committee Chair

Thank you, Walkers!

Dear Editor,

The staff and clients of AIDS-Related Community Services (ARCS) would like to thank the entire Bard Community for raising almost \$2,000.00 during the Bard AIDS Walk-A-Thon on October 4, 1992. ARCS has used this money to establish the "Mom's Make A Wish Fund," which has enabled parents infected with the AIDS virus to create long-lasting memories with their children. The money is being used for birthday parties, holiday gifts, and other special events. This year many of our families will have a more joyful holiday season, thanks to the generosity of the Bard Community. Thank you very much.

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 to 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 their self-centered, needy, immature desires masquerade as honesty and openness. [sic]

Sense some hostility here? Yes, there's hostility and I'm giving 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 help create, you have an arsenal of words to help you deny responsibility.

"It's not me, it's the culture I live in," "It's my inner child" "It's just my 'stuff', baggage", etc." "You can't give me that, it's not my truth."

Time to spank the inner child.

I take umbrage at your treatment of anger. "I need to express some anger" disassociates you from this anger — you aren't angry, you're merely participating in some random

anger, which is floating around you. And if you're not angry, why should I be angry? But if you should "seek to honor" my anger, I feel frustrated and even more angry because you haven't confronted me, or the situation, you've simply acknowledged there is anger. You aren't even acknowledging ME, you're only recognizing an emotion. This gives you the 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 and still are entirely valid." Listen, Scurries With Weasels, 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 their 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 or 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 and 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 feminine/woman's influence on your life that helps to create the wound? By shutting yourself off from women and their influence you perpetuate 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.

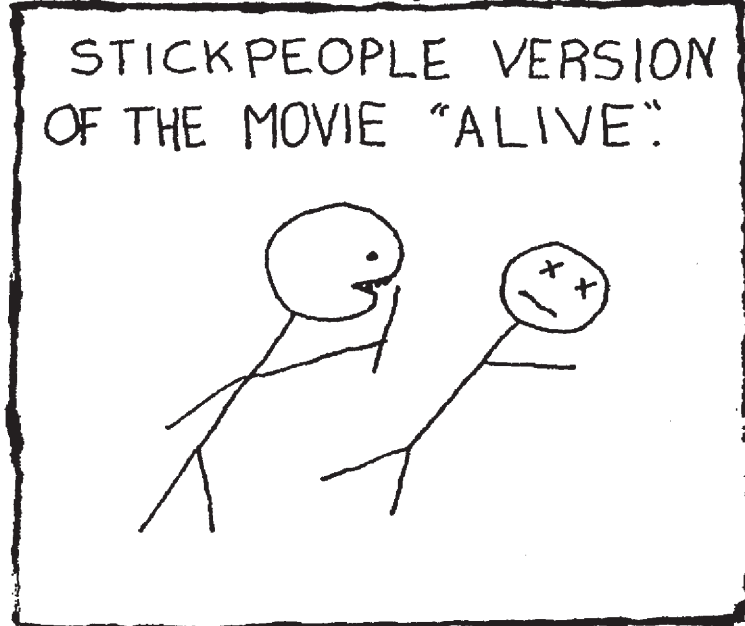
Amy "Speaks With Smith Corona" Pfeffer, Aged 25 (no longer new)

In defense of the New Warriors

Dear Editor,

I would like to respond to the letter written by Gabor Bognar (*Bard Observer*, Dec. 9, 1992) regarding the men-only meeting sponsored by the New Warrior organization. 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 separatism, 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 aren't dedicated to the re-oppression of women, 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

The Bard Side by Sean O'Neill



would find the training appropriate. It would do a woman little good to go to one of these trainings.

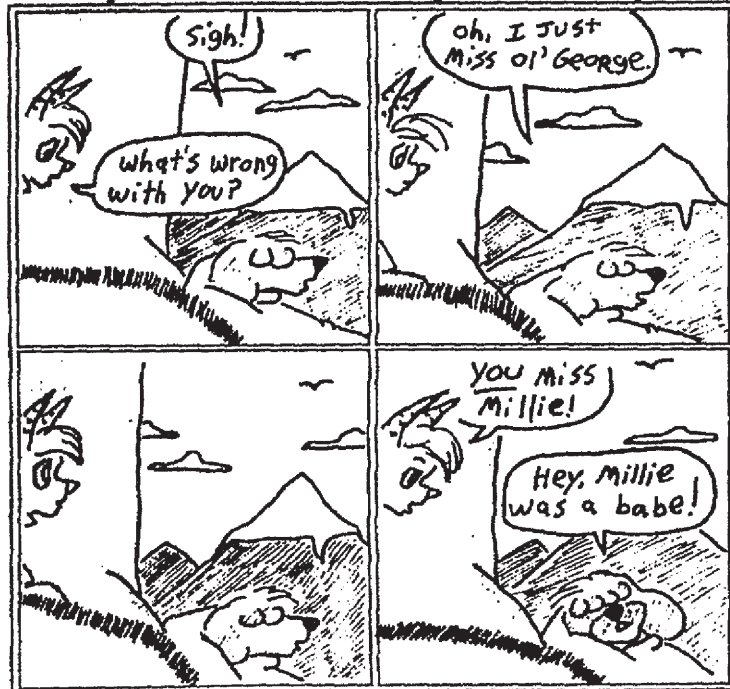
In regard especially to the single sex meeting held on that Friday, I would like to point out that an atmosphere in which men can talk about their weaknesses is a hard thing to find. Men have been trained by our society to have a hard exterior, and to always act in control. We are taught that vulnerability 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 copywrited book on Aikido) 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

A Dog's Life

By David Draper



Send all your letters and comments to the **Bard Observer** through Campus Mail, box 185.

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 of 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 Personals or Classifieds must not exceed 500 words and must be signed legibly. 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 articles (except those intended for the *Another View* page) for style and length. **Classifieds:** Free for Bardians, \$5 for all others. Personals are free. **Display ads:** contact the Ad Manager.

Bard College
Annandale on Hudson, NY 12504
(914) 758-0772

CALENDAR

PRESENTED BY THE DEAN OF STUDENTS OFFICE

SEPTEMBER 16 TO 23 * 1992

What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

★ WEDNESDAY. FEBRUARY 10 ★

★ **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.**

★ THURSDAY. FEBRUARY 11 ★

★ **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.**

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

★ **It's not the Watusi** Sign up **in Kline today** to learn Afro-Cuban dance. Just \$10 for this workshop. Contact Robert Frazier for more information now.

★ **It's the economy and the environment.** Geoffery Heal, Vice Dean of Columbia University Business School, will lecture on "Global Environmental Risks in Economic Perspective." **In the Levy Institute, 8p.**

★ **Groupies not provided.** But you might get some if you join the Bard Community Chorus. Music is available in the bookstore or at the practice if you show up a half hour early. **Bard Hall, 7-9:15p.**

★ FRIDAY. FEBRUARY 12 ★

★ **Caribbean writer--** Don't miss a unique experience to hear Michelle Cliff, a Caribbean woman writer, read from her work **In Olin 102 7:30-9p.**

★ SATURDAY. FEBRUARY 13 ★

★ **Time for Love.** Jazz and R&B music set the mood for you and your sweetie at the Valentine's Day Formal **Location to be announced 8p-2a.** Sponsored by LASO, ASO and ISO. \$2 donation at the door will go towards educational programs for Bard Black History Month.

★ **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**

Special Message

The staff and clients of the AIDS-Related Community Services (ARCS) would like to thank the entire Bard Community for raising almost \$2000.00 during the Bard AIDS Walk-A-Thon on October 4, 1992. ARCS used this money to establish the "Mom's Make-A-Wish Fund," which has enabled parents infected with the AIDS virus to create long-lasting memories with their children. The money is being used for birthday parties, holiday gifts, and other special events. This year many of our families who have been painfully affected by the AIDS epidemic will have a more joyful holiday season, thanks to the generosity of the Bard Community. Thank you very much.

★ SUNDAY. FEBRUARY 14 ★

★ **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**

★ MONDAY. FEBRUARY 15 ★

★ **WORD.** Senior Projects in progress by Bard Black Students **Olin 204 7:30-9:30p.** Presented by *Infrastructure: the Journal of Bard Black Intellectual Thought.*

★ **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 til 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

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 event by 5:00 pm, Friday

SHUTTLE VAN SCHEDULE

Friday:

Rhinecliff: Leave at 7:05p. for the 7:41p. train
Poughkeepsie: 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:

Rhinecliff: Meet 6:05p, 8:15p, and 10:29p Trains
Poughkeepsie: Meet the 7:38p train
Church: Leave at 9:45 return at noon. (St. John's)
Meet all shuttles behind Kline