Knock, Knock...  
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Colleges are places where pebbles are polished & diamonds are dimmed.

—R.S. Ingersoll

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Knock, knock...

Bard College locks its doors at 10 p.m.

You may have to wait near the front door to have your pizza delivered, but the administration of Bard College is extremely serious about the new policy of locking the exterior doors of all dormitories at 10 p.m. In an interview yesterday afternoon, Dean of Students Shelly Morgan explained that the decision was made for "purely safety and security reasons."

"We had to respond quickly to student needs," she commented. "The safety issue was just too important to wait any longer." Morgan said that, for the past few years, her office and student representatives had been trying to reach a compromise concerning the issue of locking the outside doors. The administration wanted individual keys for individual dorms, but students wanted every Bard student to have a universal key to open any dorm. "The question was not whether locks were important," Morgan commented. "Just how to implement them, and who would get the keys."

In the 1992-93 academic year, South Hall and Feitler had their doors locked at the residents' request. Morgan said that more and more similar requests by students had been brought to her attention. Finally, after the most theft-ridden year in Morgan's memory, the administration had no choice but to take decisive action. Like nearly every other college in the country, Bard will have its dormitories locked to the general public (at least during the late night hours).

"A college campus is very inviting for those who would want to steal or endanger persons and property," Morgan said. "If a locked door can be a deterrent to a perpetrator, then that door should be locked." Sally Mehrten, chair of the Student Life Committee and Peer Counselor of the first floor of Tewksbury, sees this as a welcome change. "It's going to be really tough for returning students to get used to the locks, but I think it's a good move," she said. "It's a real safety preventative measure...just like locking the front door of your house."

"We're hoping every student has the outlook that security and safety is everyone's business," said Acting Director of Public Safety and Security Kim Squillace. She explained that a repeat of last year's abnormally high number of thefts of personal items from residential rooms could be prevented by this measure. "You just have to make sure that the door is locked behind you," she said, adding that students locking the doors to their own room is the most necessary precaution. In the future, Peer Counselors may share the duties of locking the dorms, while Security will be ultimately responsible for ensuring that each dorm is locked.

According to Squillace, some dorms on campus will not be locked each night until their locks are upgraded by Buildings and Grounds. Squillace also pointed out the...
Bookstore security steps up

After signing a contract with Bard College in May of 1990 to run the Bard College Bookstore, Barnes & Noble initially renovated the basement of Potter and McVicker in the Stone Row at a cost of about $130,000. After three years of improved security, the Bard College Bookstore, B & N #568, has still not seen the black.

According to Regional Manager Steve Ronson, the Bard Bookstore is one of the smallest in terms of sales in Barnes & Noble's college division and has thus far not profited. Most Barnes & Noble college bookstores averaged a shrinkage percentage of between 2 and 2.4 for the fiscal 1993 year, which began May 1, 1992 and ended April 30, 1993. Bard, on the other hand, had a shrinkage of 5.42 percent, which, although substantially lower than last fiscal year's 12.87 monstrous shrinkage of 5.42 percent, was still among the highest in the Barnes & Noble college division.

Barnes & Noble first instituted security measures in January of 1993 in an attempt to halt the runaway shrinkage at the Bard Bookstore. “Shrinkage” is the difference between the paperback stock—purchases minus sales and markdown in prices—and the physical inventory of items in the store's stock. There are three ways shrinkage occurs: paperloss, discrepancies in paperwork, internal, meaning a Barnes & Noble employee is responsible for theft; and external, theft at the hands of customers. High theft merchandise was relocated to more easily visible areas of the store, bookstore employees were trained to be more aware of people entering and leaving the store, and merchandise was tagged to set off the EAS (Electronic Article Surveillance) machine installed at the entrance to the bookstore. However, Ronson felt that, before last year, security measures weren't effective because of a lack of rigorous enforcement.

“We hope to drop each person that sets the alarm off to ensure that it's not something they're carrying on them that sets it off falsely, because we don’t want to cause future embarrassment,” said Ronson. “That’s a very difficult part of loss prevention—how you deal with that.”

If a customer sets off the EAS while leaving the bookstore, a manager can ask the customer to open his or her bag to check inside, but cannot conduct a body search. Physical evidence is needed before a customer can be detained, i.e., a bookstore employee must see someone actually steal an item. The bookstore is also considering additional surveillance equipment this fall, which could include mirrors and hidden cameras, as well as the possibility of a security guard for “rush,” the period between August 31st and September 3rd when most students buy their books. Hiring a security guard may no longer be an option, however, as Bard College Bookstore Manager Steve Van Denburgh was depending on Bard College to supply a security officer and no longer has the time to conduct interviews for potential bookstore guards.

Although many Bard students have complained that the bookstore's textbook prices are too expensive, apparently justifying theft at the bookstore, the Bard Bookstore's prices are the same as every other Barnes & Noble Bookstore. "Textbooks are expensive," Ronson conceded. “That’s not a function of Barnes & Noble; that’s a function of the industry.” Of every new textbook dollar earned by a college bookstore, approximately 76% goes to the publisher and to the author. The remaining 24% is divided between freight, bookstore salaries, bookstore overhead and the college. The bookstore, in comparison to the publishing companies, makes very little money on textbooks.

To offset the ever-rising price of books, the Bard Bookstore buys used textbooks from companies like the Missouri Book System and also buys back used books from Bard students at the end of each semester. Buyback is determined one of two ways: reuse in Bard classes, for which the bookstore will pay half of the original new price, regardless of whether the book is new or used; or, if a book is not being used the next semester at Bard, demand and supply of that specific book nationally, with the prices determined by wholesalers, who generally pay "significantly under the value" of the book.

"The availability of the used book is influenced by the timeliness manner of that book order from the faculty member, as well as the supply of that book used on the national wholesale," said Steve Van Denburgh.

Most colleges require their professors to turn in book order forms by the beginning of April for the Fall semester and October for the Spring semester—Ronson estimated that the national average for professors orders in by the conclusion of buyback was around 75%. Bard’s is around 50%.

The bookstore has pamphlets available that fully describe the buyback and pricing processes.

“If a book is being used next semester [at Bard], our intention is to pay 50% of the original new price on every book we possibly can,” said Ronson. “If the book is being used, it’s incumbent upon the professors to get us the book orders as early as possible, because students selling a book back in December, right after they finish finals...if we don’t have the order yet, and the professor waits until January 15th, we don’t know that...

continued on page 7
TheDemand Card/Meal Card

The system and how it works

Around mid-July, Bard College mailed a memo to every student expected to return or come to Bard for the cafeteria, and to begin the usage of only one card—The Demand Card/Meal Card, to be used at the bookstore, library, cafeteria and coffee shop. Although many students and their parents felt this letter was vague and confusing, the college did offer more information through an instructional letter sent on Monday during clearance procedures.

At the bookstore, the card will serve as a charge card through which money is subtracted from a balance pre-deposited into Student Accounts every time a student purchases books or supplies with the card. In order to activate the service, students or their parents must first deposit a minimum of $100 at the Student Accounts office; additional deposits can be made as necessary in the amount of $50 or more. Students who run the balance down to zero will not be allowed to purchase any bookstore items with the Demand/Meal Card until an additional deposit is made.

At the library, a bar code just for library use will be added to the back of the Demand/Meal Card. This bar code will be used with the library’s computers to keep track of what books each student takes out, when they are due and the amount of fines to be charged for materials not returned on time.

At the cafeteria, the Demand/Meal card will be used by students to purchase meals. These meals also must be paid for in advance. The amount to be paid by each student depends on what meal plan the student wishes to have. Once a student has eaten the maximum amount of meals for the week as indicated by his or her meal plan on the card, he or she will no longer be allowed into the cafeteria. In the coffee shop, the Demand/Meal card will be used for purchasing food and drinks just as it is used for purchasing books and supplies. The money, of course, must be deposited into the student’s account beforehand.

What some people may not understand is that the Demand/Meal card is an access card to utilize three very separate accounts. The money a student deposits for use at the bookstore cannot be used for having breakfast in Kline, nor can it be used for getting a bottle of Snapple at the coffee shop. The money a student or their parent(s) have pre-paid for a meal plan cannot be used in the bookstore, etc.

Others are concerned that if they do not have money in their Demand/Meal card account, they will not be able to purchase the books that they need for classes. This is not so. According to the information distributed to each student on clearance day, students can still use major credit cards and cash to purchase all items at the bookstore. Cash can also be used at Kline, but credit cards are still not accepted.

Those who still have an antiquated student identification card can continue using it for taking out books at the library if it already has a library bar code on the back. Demand/Meal cards can be obtained at the offices in Kline Commons, but money deposits to the accounts controlled by the card must be paid at the Student Accounts office. A student’s old meal card, however, can be used now as a Demand card as well. The college expects to have the old identification card completely phased out by next year, but hopes the process can be completed by next semester. To obtain more information on the Demand/Meal card, students should contact the comptroller or Dean of Students Shelly Morgan.

New human for Human Resources

"I want every employee here to have at least one good experience with this office in the next 12 months," said Seth Goldberg, the new Human Resources Manager for Bard College. The Human Resources office in the basement of Ludlow coordinates all of the aspects of Bard colleges employees, from hiring to benefits, pensions to salaries and affirmative action policies. This was a bit different from Mr. Goldberg's former position as Assistant Manager of Human Resources for the Columbia Graduate School which overview more employees, but was more compartmentalized.

"This is a rebirth of the office for Bard," commented Goldberg. The office had been left vacant for about two years after the former director John Secco left in 1991. "Basically, it's like starting a new business from the ground up.

However, Mr. Goldberg has characterized this as "an easy transition" since he had known many Bardians from studying her

The New Demand Card/Meal Card

Pros & Cons

1. Less chance of the Bookstore being jyped
2. No need for $10 minimum charge requirement at Bookstore
3. Partially eliminates paperwork for student accounts office
4. Less chance of students being overcharged due to Bard through bookstore charges
5. Students no longer need cash to purchase food at coffee shop
6. Fewer identification cards to carry around and worry about losing
7. Computerized system makes finding out balance simple and fast
8. Cards can be easily deactivated if lost
9. The replacement fee for $10 is far cheaper than the $50 per semester fee
10. Remaining money will be refunded if requested, at the end of the semester

1. Confusion this semester of which card is to be used where and for what
2. Must have money on fund at Bard charging
3. No way to use money deposited except for books, supplies, and food purchased on campus
4. Set minimum starting balance of $100
5. Set minimum deposit of $50
6. Confusion for students whose scholarships include food and/or books
7. No refunds during the semester
8. Processing delay before one can actually purchase books after deposit is made
9. Inability to use money from Demand account for Food at Kline and vice versa
10. System being phased in instead of instantly applied
Another View
unbard love

Fiction by Sean O'Neill

The bus headed north from Manhattan. Colby Sprague, a returning Junior, mistakenly said "hello" to the fellow seated next to him, a man who refers to himself as "the Romanian from Long Island."

"Where does this guy get off?" Colby Sprague asks himself. He looks out the window from seat 36 as the man next to him in seat 35 tells Sprague his life story. "Co Greyhound, go insane," murmurs Sprague.

"By the way," says the Romanian, "where do you go to college?"

"Bard, in Annandale," says Sprague.

"Why didn't you go to a good college, like Penn State?" the man asks.

Sprague shrugs.

"I can't wait to see my wife again," says the Romanian. From seat 36 as the man next to him in seat 35 tells Sprague his life story. "Go Greyhound, go insane," murmurs Sprague.

"By the way," says the Romanian, "where do you go to college?"

"Bard, in Annandale," says Sprague.

"Why didn't you go to a good college, like Penn State?" the man asks.

Sprague shrugs.

"I can't wait to see my wife again," says the Romanian.

"You're like a gypsy, and I hate gypsies. I spit on them. But for you, I'll make an exception. I want you to call me when we reach Manhattan. Do you understand?"

Sprague nods his head. The man goes on.

"I want you to live with us. I'm a cook at the Sheraton. I earn seven-hundred a week. That's good money. If I had a college diploma, I'd earn better. College is a good thing. You sacrifice four years of your life, but it's worth it. I met a girl who went to college, once. She was from Sweden."

For the first time, Sprague thinks of Bard as an oasis of sanity.

Meanwhile, on an airplane heading north from Washington, D.C., Nadine Seefelt is flying coach class for the first time. (Her father had failed to be re-elected to the U.S. Senate.)

"Where are you going to?" asks the stranger seated next to her.

"Bard College," says Nadine.

"Oh, really?" he says. "It sounds expensive. It must be good. What's your major?"

"I'm a pianist, but I like to write fiction," Nadine says.

"Oh, you're a writer! So am I."

"What were you doing in the nation's capital?" she asks.

"I wanted to see the Director about my problem," he says.

"The Director of what?" she asks.

"What problem?"

"The CIA," he says. "The French government is using satellites to drain the story ideas from my mind. They can do that, you know. Truly. The French love satellites. And they can publish my stories in French, and I'll never know since I can't read the language. How am I ever supposed to make it in the industry?"

"Where did you go to college?" asks Nadine.

"Hampshire."

"Oh," says Nadine, empathetic. "Nuts?" She offers him a package.


Nadine lapses into reverie. She had played on a Steinway, once. Her father owned a Yamaha, but sold it last year, and that drab college where she is heading simply has no proper pianos. The only time that a decent piano is available for her to play is at midnight. Yet, a Steinway. Oh, its graceful octave range!

"How old is it?" she asks.

"Old enough to have real ivory," he says.

Nadine's fingers tingle. Real ivory. Back when people knew what the only worthwhile part of the elephant was. And they say you can't tell the difference but, oh, she could! The touch, the tone, the resonating sensation from her fingertips up the length of her arm.

He kisses her.

"I'm twenty, and you don't know my name," she says.

"I'm thirty-six, and I don't know your name," he says.

"Nadine," she says.

"Rosco," he says.
Dead Goat Notes
The reader of this column is advised to take a
dose of one (1) grain of salt with each joke.
Read three times daily and let slowly dissolve
under the tongue. May cause nausea in suspec­
cious-minded people.

How I spent my summer vacation, by Greg Giaccollo.

I applied for a myriad of jobs. They were mostly
"poor jobs," jobs that you didn't need any skills for. I had
plenty of basic skills, like fork lift or floor-buffer opera­
tion. There was much calling for Latin-speaking floor-buffers, especially when people
need any skills for. I had plenty of basic skills, like fact,
and the "excellent." Other people were struggling to get
jobS; jobs that you didn't need any skills for. I had
plenty of basic skills, like fork lift or floor-buffer opera­
tion. There was much calling for Latin-speaking floor-buffers, especially when people
need any skills for.

There isn't much calling for Latin- speaking floor-buffers, especially when people
can only hold the job for three months.

I tried lying my way into jobs ("Vascular surgery! Sure I can do it. Done it a million times.
That didn't get me anywhere. I even put down that I spoke Latin as a
language. It may seem obsolete, but what if
the Pope passed through my town on the
way to Denver? Latin would have been
darn handy then. All I have to say to those
scoffers is "Latin makes one's brains bleed
to the job: if too boring. It's mind-numbing."
No joke. I read two books at work in
two weeks. However, when I wasn't
reading I was hearing about Anthony's sexual experiences. He
talked without any sign of embar­
rassment and in graphic detail about
having carnal knowledge of a 300
pound woman, a 15-year old girl, his
girlfriend's mother, hiring himself out
to 40 year old women. His dream was
to buy a $2,000 weight set so he could
work out and get a job as a male
stripper. You have to chase your
dreams sometimes.

Now, I'm back at Bard. I'll be
graduating this semester. In three
months I'll be unemployed with stu­
dent loan sharks asking me if I use
my legs much. I'm afraid because my boss
at the gas station said that I would be
excellent management material.

A page of unedited observations by guest writers

Shameless Filler!

Well, now that we're all settled, what's been
happening lately? Anything new to report?
How did the summer treat you, any wonder­
fully exciting things? No, not really...nothing
too great happening...I suppose I'm just one of
those guys who indisputable. New dorm, but
more interesting project of course.

And that seems, uh, be...all...whatdaya star­
ing at?

"Oh, yeah. The board.

The board was first set up at Warren
County. It was at a table with some
friends enjoying a dance. It was
sitting alone at the bar nursing
agin and coke. I admired the
deepness of the, how it didn't
make me feel bad, and cer­
tainly didn't do. As I noticed
me watching it, It downed the
remains of the cold drink and
steered right back at me.
Eventually, I turned back to my
companions and contin­
ed talking. However, I made
sure to let it know I was
watching it all slippped out of the
bar. I made idle chat for a
while longer, then made it
up some excuse about leaving
my money in the car.

As I rounded the side of the
building, I saw the beard lean­
ing up against my two-door,
sidewalls folded across itself,
waiting. I unlocked the car
and lied-straight. Once we began our corre­
spondence, we discovered we had so much
in common. Things began to get
serious. I sent a photo of me with my
older brother. Instant love. I was flippin' myself. We
even met once, at a New Year's Party in Orange,
New Jersey. We talked all night, hitting it off.

Beard was the one who suggested we spend
time together on a regular basis. I tried to talk
around it, but he was too. He piled on.
Beard was, as I had hoped, insistent. I knew eventually
it would happen. But I wasn't sure how.

One day, I came home to my apartment, and
the door was unlocked. Caustically, I opened
the door. There, in the hallway, stood beard.
Looking just like he did that New Years past,
may be less subtle. Life with beard, and I
flushed with emotion. I closed the door
behind me and said, "Well, make yourself
at home."

I realized how beard would take that, so I
quickly appended my comment with, "But
you can't stay."

"I think you want me to", it replied.

"No, I'm afraid of becoming too at­
tached."

"How ironic," it said, as it eyed my chin,

"That's precisely what I intend to do."

by Matt Gilman
Sports

The Bard field

If you build it, who will come?

If you have been walking aimlessly around campus lately, you might have heard the soft murmur of activity emanating from the bowels of the Stevenson Gymnasium. That's because Tomson has been

over there, and with good reason. Right now is, last minute scheduling, planning, and making sure every decision is set. And when that's done, some practices will be held behind Kline and varsity on down to recreational. And now it can be safely practiced upon. But, all is not peachy keen on the soccer front; women's soccer, specifically! Coach Tomson said that there wasn't enough interest in Women's Varsity Soccer this year. When asked how many players show up reliably for practice, Tomson replied "only ten. We need about fifteen to have a strong, consistent team."

As a result of this decision, some practices will be held behind Kline and varsity on down to recreational. And now it can be safely practiced upon. But, all is not peachy keen on the soccer front; women's soccer, specifically! Coach Tomson said that there wasn't enough interest in Women's Varsity Soccer this year. When asked how many players show up reliably for practice, Tomson replied "only ten. We need about fifteen to have a strong, consistent team."

With all these concerns for the safety of the players, as well as the health of the field, Tomson decided to mix the new home field for the fall season. It remains to be seen whether the spring sports will be held there or not.

As a result of this decision, all home games and some practices will be held this season at the Rhinebeck Fairgrounds. Of course, transportation for the teams will be provided. Most practices will be held behind Kline on the abbreviated field. Luckily, when construction for the library was completed, K & G quickly reseeded and smoothed out the field, and now it can be safely practiced upon. But, all is not peachy keen on the soccer front; women's soccer, specifically! Coach Tomson said that there wasn't enough interest in Women's Varsity Soccer this year. When asked how many players show up reliably for practice, Tomson replied "only ten. We need about fifteen to have a strong, consistent team."
Knocking some more

An exotic man, Nadine reflects. A rare specimen among non-sensitive men. She deserves a cordial affair, a filing after all that she was through, and in dark of where she is heading. They could wake up and eat croissants after a night on top of the piano! No, the croissants might frighten him.

"Where is your Steinway?" she asks.

"Is that all you care about, whimperers.

Oh, no. Nadine. The Men’s Movement must have visited Hampshire, too.

"No," she says. "I want to see your writing."

"You mean, you’re a spy? You’re one of them?"

Nadine begins to protest but the notion, she thought it was strange that Bard did not lock the dorms like most other colleges do. "I’ve seen how the first-year students..."

"It is going to be hard to make the switch," commented another Peer Counselor, Dana Silverman. "This has the potential to be a good thing if everyone cooperates."

Mehrens continued that dorms which host officially registered parties will not be locked for that evening. Morgan promised that her office, in conjunction with student committees, will be conducting intensive research and surveys into possibilities for the future such as phones outside the dorms, interes...
**Wednesday, September 1**

- **Scottish Country Dancing.** Even the inexperienced non-Scot can learn jigs, reels and even strathspeys and have fun doing it. Soft soled shoes helpful, but not required. **Manor Living Room 7:30-9:30p.** Contact Carey Griffin through campus mail for more information.

- **Classes begin.** Set those alarm clocks, kids! It's time to seek wisdom once again. In **various places around the campus,** 9a.

**Thursday, September 2**

- **Keep your Italian language up to date!** Join **LA TAVOLA ITALIANA! Kline Commons President's Room, 5-6 p.** Italian conversation follows in the **President's Room,** 6-7 p.

**Friday, September 3**

- **Observer à go-go.** Find out how this wacky publication works. All are welcome to the introductory meeting. **Third floor of Aspinwall,** 7p.

**Saturday, September 4**

- **Preston Film Review.** Join the best film publication at Bard College. I hear Siskel and Ebert started out this way. **Kline Wall, Noon.**

- **Sit down for some Stand-up.** See John Henson, stand-up comedian for a night of guffaws. **Old Gym,** 8p.

**Sunday, September 5**

- **Community Eucharist.** Spiritual fulfillment at the Bard Chapel, 7p.

**Monday, September 6**

- **Observer Staff Meeting** Want to feel loved, needed and appreciated? Then come on in and get involved. **Third Floor of Aspinwall,** 8p.

**Tuesday, September 7**

- **Do something.** Be Creative! Fill up your free time. **All over, anytime.**

**Wednesday, September 8**

- **Recess.** Dodge-ball, kick-ball, jump rope, freeze tag. **All over, anytime.**

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**Hey Club-heads!**

Kids are out there looking to help you out. Advertise your club's events and meetings in the weekly calendar and they will come. Just drop a note with a description of the event you have planned to the Dean of Student's Office.

Deadline are Fridays, at 5p.

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**Remember, our professors' kids are on Annandale Road waiting to go back to school as well. So drive carefully!**

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**Want to buy/sell/find something? The Observer classifieds can help.**

Drop a note to the **Observer** through campus mail. Free for Bardians, $.10/word for local ads, $.20 for national. Must include name and campus address.

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**Transportation**

- Red Hook Taxi, Red Hook: 758-1478
- Horseless Carriage Cabs, Rhinebeck: 876-2900
- Rhinecliff Train Station: 876-3364
- Amtrack America: 1-800-USA-RAIL
- Metro North, NYC-Poughkeepsie: (212) 532-4900
- Trailways Bus Station, Kingston: 331-0744