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Representatives to the Alumni/ae Association
Shellen Greene

Student Judiciary Board Chair
"Simon Marcus, Mostafizur ShahMohammed"

Planning Committee Chair (uncontested)
Mohammed Toulique Khan

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**The Bard Observer**

**Calendar**

Brought to you by the Dean of Student’s Office

May 3 to May 9, 1995

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**TRANSPORTATION**

**Jitney Schedule:** the Jitney runs Monday through Friday and makes stops at the following places and times:

- **Robbins:** 8:30a, 8:50a, 9:10a, 9:30a, 9:50a, 10:10a, 12:00p, 12:20p, 12:40p, 1:00p, 1:20p, 1:40p, 2:00p, 2:40p, 4:00p, 4:40p, 5:00p, 5:20p, 5:40p

**Tuesday:** Van to the Lycée in Red Hook, 6:30p - 10p.

**Wednesday:** Shop & Save Run, 6p - 9p.

**Friday:** Van to Rhinecliff Station at 4:20p (4:50 train), 6:00p (6:31 train) and 7:20p (7:51 train). Van to Poughkeepsie Station at 5:30p (6:12train), 7:35p (8:20 train) and 10p (10:45 train). Trip to the Poughkeepsie Gallery Mail, leaves at 5p and returns at 9p.

**Saturday:** van to AA Red Hook, van leaves at 6:15p from Security. Shuttle to Tivoli, Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck, 10a - 2p.

**Sunday:** meet at 9:15a to go to various churches in Red Hook, Rhinecliff and Rhinebeck (St John's, St. Chris and St. Paul). Pick up at Rhinecliff Station for trains arriving at 6:07p and 8:55p and 10:06p. Pick up at Poughkeepsie Station for trains at 6:46p, 8:46p and 10:52p.

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**Meet all vans behind Kline**

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<td><strong>Graduate work in Creative Writing.</strong> Informational meeting led by Professor Robert Kelly. Aspinwall 304, 4:30p.</td>
<td><strong>Table Française.</strong> Kline President’s Room, 5:30p - 6:30p.</td>
<td><strong>German Table.</strong> Join us for some conversation. All are welcome to attend! Kline Commons Committee Rooms, 6p - 7p.</td>
<td><strong>American Symphonic Chamber Orchestra presenting the season finale tonight in Olin Auditorium at 8p.</strong> Leo Botstein will conduct works by Emmanuel Chabrier, Joan Tower, Behzad, and Felix Mendelssohn.</td>
<td><strong>Multimedia Presentation by Indian artist/activist Mallika Sarabhai.</strong> Olin Auditorium, 8p. A $2 fee will be charged to students.</td>
<td><strong>Green Coalition Meeting.</strong> Come to discuss campus recycling, composting and other environmental issues. Aspinwall, 7:30p.</td>
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<td><strong>The Women’s Center meets tonight from 8:30p to 10p.</strong></td>
<td><strong>Spring Fling 1995!!</strong> Bungee Run and Gladiator Joust, today from 1p to 4p on the Ludlow Lawn (Old Gym if it rains). French Poet Pierre Martory will read with poet John Ashbery today in Olin 102 at 3:30p. Bard Christian Fellowship Meeting. Bard Chapel, 7p. All are welcome.</td>
<td><strong>Huntington’s Disease and the Human Genome Project: Through the Looking Glass.</strong> A Distinguished Scientist Lecture by Nancy Wexler, Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University. Olin Auditorium, 3p. There will be a pre-lecture talk at 1:30p.</td>
<td><strong>Senior project recital-Part I</strong> Featuring Wendy Carrier, Scott Edwards, and Joani Tyler. Blum Hall, 3p.</td>
<td><strong>Shuttle to Tivoli and Red Hook</strong> <strong>The Bard Music Festival</strong></td>
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**Shuttles to Tivoli and Red Hook**

**Monday - Thursday:**

- 8:15a - 8:45a: Bard-Tivoli-Bard
- 11:45a - 12:45a: Bard-Tivoli-Bard
- 2:45p - 3:15p: Bard-Tivoli-Bard
- 3:15p - 3:45p: Bard-Red Hook-Bard
- 5:30p - 6:00p: Bard-Tivoli-Bard
- 6:00p - 6:30p: Bard-Red Hook-Bard
"Our weekly senior project."

The Bard Observer

Volume 102
Number 23
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson, NY 12504
May 3, 1995

Forum passes election rules
Emergency session proceeds with aplomb

By Pedro Rodriguez
Managing/News Editor

The emergency forum held Wednesday, April 26, went surprisingly well. Students (about 25 of us) were in and out in around half an hour, and voted unanimously to pass a constitutional amendment concerning campus-wide election procedures.

A similar amendment was proposed at the previous forum, April 11. Student Bryan Shelton had written it in response to a public outcry at Bard over the length and publication of election hours and a student's alleged harassment by an unspecified member of the Student Life Committee.

Though a need was generally recognized at this previous forum for a reformed election procedure, the amendment was voted down because of ambiguity.

An ad-hoc committee was formed (consisting of Shelton, Michael Poirier, Secretary Imtaez Mannan, Student Life Committee member Joshua Bell and Student Judiciary Board Chair Andrew Fowler) to rewrite the amendment and present it at a newly scheduled emergency forum, i.e. this past Wednesday's forum.

All campus-wide elections will now be supervised by a resurrected Election Committee; this body should have been active for every previous election, according to the former constitutional procedure. The new Election Committee shall be chaired by the Secretary who will solicit volunteers from the Student Association — this means you.

As for the actual election, the prospective voter must brandish a valid Bard College Student ID card and sign his or her name directly onto the roster of current Bard students, a newly created mechanism for the prevention of fraud.

This voter (we speak of course of the Platonic form of the Bard voter, since we all know that nobody really votes at Bard) will receive a ballot upon signing, and will enter a private booth — i.e., a separate room or some partition like a box or hung curtains, in which he or she can check off the candidate of choice.

Student Government shall also be purchasing a ballot box probably made of metal with a slot on top. If SBJ Chair Andrew Fowler has his way, the box will be decorated with a happy face and a sticker that reads "thank you for voting."

To further guard against fraud, during election hours two members of the Election Committee must be present at the voting site. Sean O'Neill comments, "as Chairperson of the Elections Committee, I think it's going to be damned difficult to get pairs of students to attend the election boxes and make these fine laws work. People have to take action."

Campaigning around the voting area is now prohibited with the exception of posters hung before the time of the election.

For further details, consult an updated version of the Bard Student Association Constitution and/or Secretary Imtaez Mannan.

Brevity is the soul of wit.
—William Shakespeare

Emergency session proceeds with aplomb

How does the press cover rape?

BRAVE sponsors lecture

By Joshua Ledwell

Last Wednesday, April 26, Bard Response to Rape and Associated Violence Education sponsored a talk by the accomplished Helen Benedict titled "Sex Crimes and the Press." The lecture began at 7pm in the Olin Auditorium.

Student Nicole Wallenbrock introduced Benedict, an Associate Professor of Columbia University's Graduate School of Journalism. The speaker spent 18 years reporting for newspapers, is trained as a rape counselor, and has written six books, including three on sexual assault.

Apparently, Benedict is also skilled at self-promotion. Before the lecture began, she handed out photocopies that turned out to be order forms for her two latest books. Upon taking the podium, Benedict immediately launched an attack on reactionary intellectuals who be little the impact of rape and tend to blame the victim. "Date rape was not invented by campus feminists," she said. She quoted Federal Bureau of Investigation statistics that count 292 rapes in an average day in America, or about one every five minutes.

Benedict attributed her interest in rape to a series of interviews she conducted with female rape victims, when she was "moved by the courage they carried." Later, when working with the inmates of an English prison for women, she found that about 70% of the prisoners had been raped before their incarceration. The silent damage the rapes had done aroused Benedict. All the women told her that the "worst aspect of the rape, other than rape itself, was how they were treated by the police, courts, and even the press."

To illustrate bias among the members of the press, Benedict created a stereotypical character named "Joe jour-

continued on page 2
Discussion on rape continued

As a typical representative of the majority of crime reporters, Joe is a young white male. He has internalized three myths that hamper his coverage of rape crimes.

First is "the sexist bias in the English language," which Benedict said, "tends to infantilize and sexualize women." In an amusing, yet sobering set of examples, she quoted the descriptions of rape victims from several newspaper articles, but changed their gender to male. Adjectives such as "pett," "vivacious," and even "blonde" somehow did not fit when used to describe men. While writers will use a man's accomplishments to describe them, Benedict explained, "women are constantly described by their attractiveness."

Benedict noted that historically, editors started to consider rape stories appropriate for publication in newspapers only after accounts of lynching had begun to see print. Journalist have never been able to divorce rape stories from these roots, resulting, she said, in racist coverage.

The third myth is that "rape is merely sexual, motivated purely by desire, and women want men to rape them and enjoy it." Benedict mentioned the famous remark by a Texas politician who said that if rape is inevitable, the woman should lie back and enjoy it. Rape does have sexual characteristics, which create special humiliation for victims. But it is primarily an act of violence and dominance. "I prefer to characterize rape as a form of torture," Benedict said.

At this point, the speaker began to exert a subtle, but powerful influence over the audience. Individuals had laughed uncomfortably as Benedict described her pert, vivacious men, and they now unconsiously nodded along with her torture simile. Her liberal use of anecdotes and quotes, along with her sometimes ironic, sometime sharp tone of voice, riveted the attention of all present.

Benedict said that "Joe journalist" tends to classify rape victims with either a "virgin" or a "vamp" image. She identified eight factors that predict which classification will be used, saying that the race and class of the victim and the rapist are crucial to perceptions of the crime.

The key to improving press coverage of rape, Benedict emphasized, is to include analysis in stories that examines societal reasons for rape's prevalence. She asserted that the press "ignores the most glaring reason of all for rape: women and their role as sex objects in society." Benedict believes that the "mainstream press is missing the real story" because it does not go to feminist sources for rape explanations from a societal and cultural view.

Benedict also said that the use of clinical language when describing rape is important. Describe everything that was done, she advised, so that people can understand the severity of the crime. But the victim's name is unnecessary to the story.

As an example of good coverage of rape crimes, Benedict pointed to the systematic rape of women in Bosnia, which "were covered as war crimes." The speaker turned to an earlier theme in stating about rape: "Think of it as an act of torture and the right questions will be asked."

Security update

By Pedro Rodriguez
News/Managing Editor

Tewksbury was subject to yet another fire alarm. Sunday, April 30, at 6:25am, someone used the pull box on the first floor.

The Tewksbury alarm usually goes off at night, leading Director of Safety and Security Kim Squillace to believe the cause might be students cooking improperly or smoking.

As of late, there have been so many alarms that only the PC's are evacuating. "It's going to be a real safety problem because people are not coming out. No fire alarm is a false alarm. [They all] go off for a reason," said Squillace.

A theft occurred in the Wolf Lounge Thursday, April 27. A student had left a CD/cassette player with a radio unattended and returned to find it gone.

Also on Thursday, a security guard discovered some vandalism at McVickar. Someone had spray-painted an "F" on the outside door.

A student was seen this week sitting on a chair on a fire escape. As she has said before, Squillace reminds that fire escapes are for emergency use only.

Finally, someone has smashed the plastic covering of one of the eight posts outside the Ravines. This apparently occurred Sunday, April 30.

Looking at the campus this weekend, students may notice the change in security, as the campus is currently being swept.

Warning!
The Main Campus Parking Lot will be swept.
Saturday, May 7, beginning at 7 am.

Students, faculty and staff may park their vehicles on the Olin Lot behind the post office without penalty from Friday, May 6 to Saturday, May 7.

All vehicles on the Main Campus lot during street sweeping will have to be towed.

BOOK/STUFF SALE SATURDAY, MAY 13
1-4 PM ON THE LAWN IN FRONT OF KLINE (WEATHER PERMITTING)
Anyone interested in selling anything should contact me by Campus Mall. List what you intend to sell so we can get enough tables.

Debbie Shepardson
STUDENT LIFE COMMITTEE
to form a food committee to identify and work with the staff at Wood to make improvements. However, because of the lack of student support, these attempts have not lasted. This semester another attempt to form a food committee has been underway. Any students interested in getting involved with this should contact Marilyn Bernard (Peer Counselor) through the Dean of Students Office.

Also, the staff at Kline does use, and welcomes the comments students provide through the "grapevine" bulletin board.

Question: "How can I find out what my dorm charges are? Sometimes damage in the rooms that exists prior to when a student moves in is not fixed during the year and then if the student squats their room they get charged for the damage that existed before they move in."

A: Unfortunately, Student Accounts does not issue an itemized bill explaining individual dorm damages. However, if a student has questions about specific charges to their account, they can go to Student Accounts and inquire about their bill. It should be noted that when damage occurs within the dorm (ie. missing coffee table, broken furniture...), unless the responsible party is identified, the bill will be divided up among all residents in the dorm.

As to damages within an individual's room, Kenn Hurley, Director of Service Master, inspects all rooms prior to the beginning of the Fall semester and turns in work orders for any damage. However, because students move around so much during the year, it is very difficult to keep track of who did what.

Your best bet is to make sure that whenever you move into a new room you fill out a room inspection form and keep a copy for yourself. This is your proof of what the condition of your room was when you moved in. If you have a serious concern about something, give Kenn Hurley a call at x7471.

Opinion: "The tennis courts need to be repaired."

A: The courts are scheduled to be totally reworked from the ground up this summer.

Opinion: "I enjoy being a student at Bard. I transferred here and feel surrounded by good people. I think that the administration is rather chaotic though. My experiences with Financial Aid, the Registrars office, "Central" Services, and Student Housing have been very frustrating, to say the least. I always dread having to deal with any Bard administration because I know how chaotic it is. I get the impression that there is a lack of centralization. There is a significant discrepancy in the information that each department has on a subject. There needs to be more organization. Also, it would be nice to extend meal exchange to all meals, including Saturday and Sunday.

Bard Opinion Table
Where: Kline
Time: 12 - 1
When: Fridays May 5 & 19
Please give us your feedback and comments.

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**Philosophy and poetics**

**Leonard Schwartz reads his recent work**

By Linnea Knollmueller

Features Editor

Leonard Schwartz, professor and poet, gave a reading of his more recent work Thursday evening. The poems have been published in various journals, including The Denver Quarterly, First Intensity, and The World; they will be released in book form after a publisher is found. Schwartz explained in his introduction that the poems he was to read "explore the temporal movement of thought."

Though the poems are serious and philosophical in nature, Schwartz conducted the reading in a light tone, joking that his "First Year Seminar Greatest Hits" poems—those with references to the literature read in the Seminar courses—would amuse students. And the classical references poured forth freely.

"Quotations From the Tablets" deals with the epic of Gilgamesh, combining and juxtaposing modern and ancient imagery. "Lives for Aeschylus" and "Nausea and Nausikaa" utilize the Greek mythological tradition. Schwartz's interest in Chinese culture was apparent in "My Dinner with Ming Xia."

Schwartz offered a respite from the poetry by reading an essay about Austrian writer and playwright Thomas Bernhard entitled "Breath: A Decision," which examines Bernhard's conclusion that each breath is a decision to be made to live. Bernhard, Schwartz explained, adopted this philosophy after suffering from pleurisy and tuberculosis as a teenager.

"I'd go to something lighter, but I don't really have anything that light," Schwartz quipped, before launching into his final poems of the evening.

"I am interested in trying to use philosophical language to found my poetry on," he explained after the reading, over refreshments in the Olin Atrium. "Philosophical language is so derided and dismissed. But it is a source of a mythic sensibility. So, I want to resurrect philosophy and poetry by using this language."

While his latest work marks movement from his earlier collections, Exitus: Ends, Objects of Thought, Attempts at Speech, and Gnostic Blessing, Schwartz prefers to consider his works not through their differences, but by what they have in common. "My work is an attempt to use imagination to create a distance from everyday reality. And everyday reality is so amazing!"

Schwartz, a 1984 Bard graduate, lists Robert Duncan and Robert Kelly as two of his influences. Duncan taught at Bard when Schwartz was a student, so "he is a personal influence as well as a work influence."

Though on campus only a few days a week, teaching First Year Seminar and writing classes, Schwartz is keeping active giving talks. In two weeks he will lecture on philosophy and poetics, through the philosophy department.

In the meantime, anyone interested in his intellectual and image filled poetry, can find his books at the Bard bookstore.

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**Career Opportunities**

**Do you want to acquire real world business experience?**

**Do you want to earn money while working in the local community?**

**The Bard Observer needs a new Advertising Manager!**

Interested students should leave a message at the Observer office, 758-0772, or come to our weekly meetings Mondays, 7pm, in Tewksbury basement, Room 84.

There are only two Observer issues left this semester! If you have any writing or advertisements, or know of any news that needs to see print, send it in now.

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http://www.tripod.com
Thoughts on the current events in Washington, D.C.

By Sean O'Neill

A cartoonist recently depicted a man in a diner who exclaims, "I never would have voted for them if I thought they would actually carry out their promises." The character was one of the 20% of potential voters who had actually understood at election time that the Republican party had a specific campaign platform that they intended to implement, and who based his vote upon that information.

Several recent newspaper polls have stated that most Americans have not heard about the Contract for America or, even, about our new Prime Minister, Newt Gingrich.

Upon reading these statistics, I decided to do an unscientific poll of some middle-aged employees who work at our college in various capacities.

Eight of the twelve people I asked claimed no familiarity with "the Contract for America.

When one food service worker asked what it was, I couldn't resist lying. I said that the Contract was a Republican Party plan to raise their taxes.

I recall a trip I took in 1992 to prove a different point, but as the experience with an eccentric remains distinct in my mind, I refer to it again.

Sometimes, democracy is scary.

What's What

An excerpt from Sandeep's just-submitted senior project

My own private fruitopia
akin' for a ride
at the Bard Bookstore
"Eleven bucks a binder?
My arse!"

We will sup on berry loaf and
"jam-bowl-eye-uh"
in the middle paranoiac;
later, beer or coffee at
the Historic Dreamer's Santa Cafe

"In France they call it a
Reuter Royale"
take back the gym and
decline to a brave women's center
proctor arts Shore to "C" you
retina soybean a piscer
at a campus center built elsewhere

Do it for a dime!
Ferg is Forever
Pataki the Fum
work study, oxymoron
Weaver's Gall:
"velocipederast"
Bluntish Rainbow
a Bountiful Crop
Don Juan de Revo

Bard, I said.
He looked me over. "I want the fare paid up front. Not that I don't trust college kids or anything."

I know," I said, stupidly paying with a twenty, expecting change I never got.

"Hear Bard is a fairly liberal place."
"Yeah, you could say that."
"Ever since Kennedy, I don't trust no liberals. They're always liberal with everyone else's money instead of their own."

I never got any of Kennedy's millions. Not that I thought Kennedy should have gotten shot or anything.

"Uh-huh."
"But people always forget the truth about that Eternal Flame. I watched the lighting ceremony in Arlington on television. I'm old enough to have seen it. And I saw it when those Girl Scouts accidentally poured Holy Water on the Flame and extinguished it."

"Really?"
"Oh, yeah. Took 'em two minutes to get it right. I dunno if that's a sign or not. But you don't go seeing that in no history books, do ya? It might have been a sign from above, but it's not my place to say."

John took another puff on his cigar. I noticed the no-smoking sign on the dashboard, but said nothing.

"Ever hear of Jon Thompson?" (I'm not sure if he said "Thompson" or another name.) "He had a panty raid on Bard campus a few years back. Actually, it wasn't a panty raid. He went in alone and ran through the dorms, shouting in different voices. 'Panty raid! Panty raid!' And the next day all of the girls said that there had been a panty raid. That was a while ago. Do they still talk about him? They talked about him for years."

"I don't know."
"He was a funny guy. Married, too. He moved to Woodstock afterward. (Figure.) But he saw no panties, saw no girls, didn't get none, but he called it a panty raid. A real funny guy."

"I bet."
"My wife went to college. Utica, a part of Syracuse. They were the oranges and the Utica teams were the tangerines. Thought it was kind of cute. She's got a real nice pension now. But she doesn't help me any."

This anecdote about John first appeared in the Observer on October 21, 1992 to prove a different point, but as the experience with an eccentric remains distinct in my mind, I refer to it again.

Sometimes, democracy is scary.

Bard Spring

An excerpt from Sandeep's just-submitted senior project

By Sean O'Neill

Past Eleven, the archetype
steps from Steinway's shower,
towel hung loosely,
cigarette drooping,
dist rapping on the door

Larry's love Linda
locked him out
of the double;
Now he's a tragic figure in
Bard mythology
to be deconstructed in
Annandale,
the annals of pretension,
by two egos
in open concert
in closed quotes.

Yes, the bleeding ponytail
knocks and knocks
calculating the Q-course
of his existence

"1.2 million new grad
minus 675,000 new jobs"
Gee, are ye despairin'?

No mo' bunkin' in Watson's closet

e cannot stop
From the Scene Shop More-Ass
to the Manor alarmed
doin' the campus shuttle
at Bard
"a place too think"
too drab a place to drink
Tivoli —
a different kind of ghost-town

this ain't a poem, you see
since there's no Christ imagery
or the customary
exploding vaginas or spleen
or a wry self-seriousness
that's avant garde routine

"Driving on the Parkway
All along the Thruway
Parked in the Driveway
At the Blazer Dome!"

Free East Townsky!
Helms agast
"fifty foot woman" Big Fun's ice cream
with his M&B nipples and
those scapulas propitiating Elvis
at biltmore's bluffs
manage a tois coupling

constipression gaydar
UpState Liplick
"O" won't get you on the Dean's List
bow tie pasta on Nightline
with David's or Evan's score
played by Gabriel or Grace,
Scott, Jill, or Emiko.

one Rose in the Post
is worth two doans in Ludlow
and e-mail maniacs are
the unbard side sprung

me, me, me
please let it be me
who frolics in the honor of the
Brandon Bognar Scholar Award!

the early riser gets the
the international meal exchange student
commencing to project a
moderated admission
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"Hurrah for Karamazov!"
**Blazers dominate Polytechnic**

**Tenisc team prospers under new coach**

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

Mens's Varsity Tennis scored big this weekend at Flushing Meadows, where the Blazers dominated Polytechnic College. The Blazers won seven out of nine of their matches against the greatly inferior Polytechnic. Everyone performed amazingly, defeating their opponents with speed and precision.

The victory signifies two major events in the Blazers' season, first, this win brings an end to their three game losing streak. Second, it marks the first win for acting coach Charles Riedinger. The Blazers will have another chance to show their skills Saturday, at Stevenson Gym, against the Jersey City State College.

With several games left, there is still a chance that the team could pull out a winning season. Good luck to all the players and coach Riedinger, we wish the best, and total humiliation of all other teams.

In non-tennis news, this Friday, there will be an In-Line Skating Clinic held behind the Old Gym. This demonstration will begin at 2:00 p.m. and everybody is encouraged and welcome to come. This clinic is free to all Bard Students and will involve a lot of great rollerblading action.

Furthermore this weekend is the Spring Fling. On Saturday, May 6, at 1:00 p.m., there will be a Sand Volleyball Tournament. Organize your co-recreational team now and come and play. Just call 738-7550 to register and have fun. Also, at 2:00 p.m., there will be an open swim at the Stevenson Pool. Again everyone is encouraged to attend and "make it a splash."

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**Intramural softball heads into playoffs**

By David Hyde
Staff Writer

Despite the warm spring weather and the large number of new softball fields, several longhorn homestands were hit in last week's games. The warm sun and the sudden surge of power in both leagues came just in time for the playoffs, which are scheduled to begin later this week. According to Kris Hall, team captains should have playoff schedules in their mailboxes today.

The new Athletic Director emphasized that every team qualifies to play in at least one playoff game. Every team, that is, except for the Khegards, who were in the West Division but dropped out of the league last week. The top eight teams remaining in the RIC League will compete in the A Tournament beginning this Friday. The other teams will play in Tournament B, which begins on Monday. Seeding for the playoffs is determined by team record and the difference between runs scored and runs allowed by a team during the regular season.

Hopefully, weather for the playoffs will be better than it was for the last three weeks. Despite chilly conditions Tuesday night, the final games of the regular season were scheduled to be played in what was supposed to be a doubleheader. Unfortunately, the Zebras did not show for the first game and forfeited to the Naked Ice Borers.

The second game, which had already been postponed three times, was called due to rain. Unfortunately, the Zebras did not show for the second game and forfeited to the Naked Ice Borers as well.

The victory improved the Naked Ice Borers' record to 4 and 0. On Saturday, they crushed Superdive 25 to 5. The star of Saturday's game was PLAYER OF THE WEEK Cree Nevin who took time off from writing his senior project to hit two home runs in the same game. The first shot rolled to the fence on Nevin's own home run; the second home run, in his next at-bat, was a blast over the centerfield fence. The Naked Ice Borers, seeded first in the A Tournament, are obvious early favorites in the playoffs.

Despite the loss to the Naked Ice Borers on Saturday, Superdive (3-1) makes the A Tournament playoffs with a hard fought victory--a first for the team. This victory could not have come at a better time for the Zebras, who have been struggling lately. Unfortunately, the Zebras did not show for the third game and forfeited to the Naked Ice Borers as well.

Two runs in the first inning, 2 in the second, 5 in the third, and one more insurance run in fourth as they beat the Tony Danza Bonanza 10 to 2. The Tony Danza Bonanza were humbled by the pitching of Mimi Williams and Eric Keller who allowed more than one hit in five innings. The lone bright spot for the Tony Danza Bonanza was coach Captain Soh Travaglia who had two of the four hits.

The next day, the Gym Rats doubled, scored on a hit by Ron Reece. The victory was the first of the year for the defending champions.

While the Gym Rats have yet to lose a home game this year, their strong pitching and consistent hitting has helped them to a 3 and 0 start. In their game Thursday, the Gym Rats scored 2 runs in the first inning, 2 in the second, 5 in the third, and one more insurance run in fourth as they beat the Tony Danza Bonanza 10 to 2. The Tony Danza Bonanza were humbled by the pitching of Mimi Williams and Eric Keller who allowed more than one hit in five innings. The lone bright spot for the Tony Danza Bonanza was coach Captain Soh Travaglia who had two of the four hits.

The next day, the Gym Rats won again, this time by a score of 15 to 3 over the Dirty Dogs. The Gym Rats scored eight runs in the third inning to put the game out of reach. With the victory, the Gym Rats scored a first place finish for the regular season; they will play the #3 seeded Dirty Dogs (6-3) in the first round of the playoffs. The Tony Danza Bonanza (2-1) will play the American Dream (1-2) in the other first round playoff game in the Athletic League.

In other softball news Kris Hall has informed the Observer that the first ever Bard Softball All-Star Game will be scheduled before the end of the academic year. Captains will be asked to select at least one player for their team to play in the game. See you at the playoffs.

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**Real World Sports**

By Joshua Bell
Sports Editor

The umpire strike is over. The owners finally made a deal for a five year contract giving the umpires at least a 25 percent raise. The umpires will also be receiving their full salaries instead of two-thirds during games.

Under the new contracts, an umpire starting salary will begin at $10,000. So, for now, everything is back to normal in the new corporate world of baseball. Go players, owners, umpires, and fans.

With the season well underway, teams in both the American and National leagues are demonstrating the ability to take early leads in their respective divisions. In the A.L., the Yankees lead the division with four wins and one loss. The A.L. Central division has the Twins leading with five and one, and in the Western division Seattle has held four and one. Over in the National league, the Eastern division is being led by the Braves who are one game ahead of the Expos. The Cubs in the Central division, with a little help from a higher source, lead St. Louis by one and a half games. And, the Rockies lead the Padres by one game with a record of five and one.

Yet, as they are only one game behind, it is still safe to assume that the Red Sox are going to win the entire thing this year. But, of course, it is still early in the season, so all bets are off. We don't make assumptions. Go (place the name of your home team here).

For all of you Knicks fans, the Knicks are leading the Cleveland Cavaliers two to one in a five game series. They have a chance to advance to the next round this Thursday when they play the Cavs at Madison Square Garden. Go Knicks.

Senior Projects are due today. So let's get the advisors. According to the Knicks, he didn't like the format of the sports page, especially Real World Sports. Well, to him say, "Go and graduate."
You have worked wonders earlier this semester by electing me as your secretary. Now I urge you all to let me serve you as an Educational Policy Committee Chair for the next academic year. You students have prepared me to handle this in the most efficient manner. I was interested but inexperienced and you taught me everything that was needed to serve you. You voiced your concerns over the campus and community issues and let me channel them to the appropriate sectors for you. It is you who made sure that the duties that you assigned to me were executed to everyone's satisfaction. I am proud to say that I kept my promises and never let you down. Our understanding of democracy and freedom has reached a new landmark through your participation in the last few student forums, and I am glad to be a part of it. Together we have advanced another step forward in reaching our goal, a free and healthy community. I want you to make up a part of the Educational Policy Committee because I believe that every question has its solutions, and together we can find solutions to all our discomfort on the academic issues. We as students work on this sector and achieve the glory that Bard students never desired for. I promise nothing now because it is you who decide what you want and what you want I can't do anything without you by my side. I only promise that I will not stop fighting until all your needs have been met. Let me fight for your rights, our rights, the rights of the student body. Let me do it for you. After all, why would you settle for anything less?

Imeaz Manan

My name is Shellem Greene, and I am running for the position of Chair of the Educational Policies Committee. As a third-year literature major, I have served on a student committee that has successfully filled the position for a professor in Afro-American literature. I have also recommended changes to enhance the curriculum and broaden course selection. I believe that we, as students, should know as much about changes and developments in our curriculum as possible. As a member of the Bard community, we also have the right to know the decisions of the faculty and students. If elected chair, it will be my utmost goal to ensure that the voice of the student body be heard.

For the past four years I have served as a representative to the SPC. During this time, I have taken oral testimony from students for faculty up for re-appointment, promotion and tenure. As part of the parallel process, I along with the other divisional representatives have made the faculty as well as the administration aware of students' desires. Having participated in this process, I have seen how your comments and opinions have had crucial bearing on decisions of rehiring and tenure.

However, there is more for students to have more say about decisions in the hiring of new faculty, as well as in the making of final decisions, which has for the most part been handled exclusively by faculty and administration. Working with the committee on vacancies, as well as the faculty evaluation committee, I hope to find ways in which student representatives can have more of a say in the decision making aspect of this process.

My experience, understanding and dedication have prepared me for this position. A vote for me is a vote to enhance our academic programs as well as to assure that we have a greater say in decisions concerning the faculty and administration. With your help, I will continue serving in the student body's best interests. Thank you.

Shellem Greene

Student Association Treasurer

Justice Platt

A Slight Statement of Purpose for Treasurer of the Student Association

I am Bryon. I be 5'11. What I want to do is make sure that no one gets shafted on and that everything is by the books. Competence, that is the goal. That's what I will provide. Gabor has been competent but he has also been an asshole. I will not be an asshole.

I've asked him how sure things, he gave me the whole nine, and I now feel I have a good grip on the duties of the office and how to fulfill them. I have visited the new assistant comptroller and she further explained the process to me in detail. As a club head, I have had to submit requests and I understand the frustration that can arise from late checks. I fully intend to continue the policy of you tell me what you need and I'll get it to you Tuesday and I get you your business by Friday. Quickly is the program which is now used by the Treasurer to keep accurate records. Quickly is also the program I have used to keep records for the Bard Society of Folke. I am also aware that the Planning Committee now functions in secrecy, with no explanation or justification for their decisions. To alleviate this I would be willing to discuss the reasoning behind any decisions on allocation of Student Association funds with anyone that asks. I will also make announcements at the Forum that explain, in brief, the Planning Committee's reasons for all allocations made since the last Forum. I think that nothing is more important than understanding we would to be every club to submit an extra copy of their budget proposals and Emergence and ICH requests to be placed in the Student Association reserve folder in the library (an idea originally proposed by Michael Poirier).

In the past year, I have changed from a somewhat apathetic non-participant to a Forum-going happy boy because I realized that I have a responsibility to participate. I feel that the office of the Treasurer is the place for me to fulfill my obligations. I am able and I have prepared myself well. I am dedicated and have proven it with my work in those new electoral procedures passed in the Forum on April 26th specifically designed to prevent fraud and misrepresentation. Vote for me and I'll do good, as opposed to bad, which is something completely different.

The Bard Observer

Student Life Committee Chair (uncontested)

Alright, there is all of that stuff about how the Student Life Committee acts as a liaison between students and the Administration, Security, and Buildings and Grounds, and I will do that. But the real thing Student Life Committee is supposed to do is to be there for all student complaints, suggestions, and concerns. There is nothing too small for the committee to ask for, and try to make happen. I believe that everything can be talked about with the administrators. I also know that there have been some complaints about the committee being "administration toadies. " So, I will set the record straight from now on; I believe that you have to work with the administration. They are not the enemy. But, the Student Life Committee is not part of their staff. The committee works for the students, and even though we, as students, will always have to compromise, I will always keep it clear who I work for.

Alright, so there is my preachy section, now here is some of the things that I have heard students want and will try to get, if elected. I think that there should be a few more change machines on campus, so if I have an urge to wash my clothes at 4 am, I can do it. I think that we could use a little more parking. I think that there should be emergency call boxes everywhere, now, not later. I think that there should be some nice places to hang out by the Ravines, because they look like shit, and that's not very fun. And, I want to put a cigarette machine somewhere on campus, because it is needed. These are just a few things that I have heard about. There is a lot that can be done, or at least tried. I know this committee and its activities very well, after having served a semester on it, the Library Committee, the Campus Center Committee, the Jeff Huang Search Committee, and the Election Reform Committee. So here's my motto, it comes from a little pop idol named Vanilla Ice, "If there's a problem, yo, I'll solve it." So vote for me. Bell.

Joshua Bell

The Bard Observer

Statements of Purpose requested for: - Film Committee - Board of Trustees - Alumni Association due to Sean O'Neill by Friday 5pm through campus mail
Hello, my name is Wendy Grunseich and I am running for Student Representative to the Board of Trustees. As a member of the Student Life Committee it is my obligation to bring the needs and grievances of the student body to the attention of the administration. With the experience gained in representing you through the Student Life Committee I believe I will be an effective and knowledgeable representative to the Board of Trustees.

I know how it feels to live without a job, to be in "monastic seclusion" in those cold days of winter due to lack of transportation and limited choice of entertainment, to drive on the Manor road; I exactly know how it feels to live without a house, to cook in the miasmic atmosphere of Albee basement, to walk alone home at dead of night. I have gone through all this. I can imagine the feelings one may have delivering pizzas at Broadway, or doing construction jobs or waiting tables at Pongo after graduation. I have dined in Kline Commons, I have lived off-campus. I have worked for minimum wage, unable to do anything about the monoply power of the bookstore I have refrained myself from buying books and daily necessities. Besides, my active involvement in various clubs and activities and any sound interaction with different personnel at Bard made me aware of the pressing needs, necessities, priorities and concerns of the students.

Because I am very concerned about the students and I have a great deal of interest to voice their needs to the Board of Trustees who are ultimately responsible for making critical and crucial decisions on various aspects of student life, I would like to ask the students to consider my candidacy as a representative to the Board of Trustees.

The board comprises alumni and business people who are concerned with the finance and management of the school. It is essential that the Board knows Bard life from its students. And it is the responsibility of the students to choose those people who can articulate their problems in the best possible way and who can pursue the interests of the students most vigorously to convince the board. The position of student representative can also be important in representing a good image of Bard to the Trustees who influence the financing of the school.

I believe I am an excellent candidate who can fulfill all these requirements. With this position, I would be able to demonstrate both my dedication and the need for service to the students, as well as my refreshing capacity to take bold initiative as a vocal advocate for their interests for fulfilling their needs. If elected I will make myself more accessible to the students so that they can discuss their concerns with me any time to share with the Trustees. I will also try to use the Trustee's resource to the students.

Sincerely,

Mostafizur Rahman
ShahMohammed
How safe are we?

Let's quote some statistics. All figures are taken from the Statistical Abstract of the United States 1994, the County and City Data Book 1994, both issued by the U.S. Department of Commerce, and the 1994 New York State Statistical Yearbook, put out by The Nelson A. Rockefeller Institute of Government at State University of New York in cooperation with the New York State Division of the Budget. The numbers represent only those crimes reported to police.

Bard is situated in a rural area. In the United States at least, rural areas are subject to the least amount of crime; metropolitan areas, the most. A total of 1,932 violent crimes were committed in 1992 within the United States. ("Violent crime" includes murder, nonnegligent manslaughter, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault.)

1,759,000 of those were committed in metropolitan areas. By contrast, 220,000 were committed in rural areas.

For the sake of argument, let's examine some metropolitan areas—New York and my hometown, Miami—and pit them against a rural area, Dutchess County. Note that Dutchess county includes the city of Poughkeepsie. I will neverthe­less use the entire county as my rural area.

New York City had a 1990 population of 7,323,000. For 1992, the following crime statistics (each per 100,000 people) apply:

- violent crime—2,164/100,000
- murder—27,110/100,000
- forcible rape—38.2/100,000
- aggravated assault—861/100,000.

I made some calculations based on 1990 populations and 1992 crime figures by dividing the population by 100,000, and multiplying that quotient by the index figure x (from x/100,000). In New York City I estimate there were over 1,984 murders, 2,797 forcible rapes and 65,051 aggravated assaults.

My hometown, Miami, it seems, fared worse per capita. It's 1990 population was 359,000.

Miami scored:
- violent crime—3,371/100,000
- murder—34.2/100,000
- forcible rape—72.8/100,000
- aggravated assault—1,734/100,000.

Using the same process as I did for New York City, for Miami, I estimate 122 murders, 261 forcible rapes and 6,224 aggravated assaults.

Dutchess County with its 1990 population at 259,462, had a total of 1,017 violent crimes in 1992. These were: 9 murders, 40 forcible rapes, 306 robberies and 662 aggravated assaults.

Reversing the calculation to find index figures (since totals were given for Dutchess County rather than indices) I reached these numbers, each per 100,000 people:

- violent crime—391.96/100,000
- murder—4.24/100,000
- forcible rape—15.42/100,000
- aggravated assault—260/100,000.

Dutchess County has less crime, violent and otherwise. When Poughkeepsie is taken into account, the figures for Bard's area drop further. Dutchess County also covers a greater area, at 866 square miles, than New York City's 309 and Miami's 25.6. This means that Dutchess County's much lower crime rate is also more spread out. This also means that you should give thanking daily you don't live in my hometown.

To imply that Bard is just as dangerous as anywhere else is utterly invalid. Anyone can be assaulted anywhere, but this is a half-truth. We as students are safer at this campus than in many other places. By this I do not mean to imply that our safety should be taken forgranted. However, Bard Security and the Bard Administration have the proverbial golden opportunity here.

Securing our campus is far easier than securing its equivalent in a large city. An extra boost could make this campus virtually free of violent crime. This is not an indictment; this is an incentive. Though nothing is foolproof, it could prevent another tragedy. What better argument?
Unto every person there is a name

On Thursday, April 27, 1995, many Bard students and faculty observed Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Memorial Day). This is a day set aside for remembering the six million Jews (one and a half million of them children) and six million others who were systematically murdered because they did not fit the criteria of Hitler's Third Reich. As a part of the international program "Unto Every Person There is a Name," the Jewish Students' Organization arranged for people to read names of Holocaust victims. Also the JSO distributed yellow stars, with the slogan "Never Forget," so that people could identify themselves as Jews (which Jewish people were forced to wear under the Nazi regime) or so that people could express their solidarity against the Holocaust.

Stationed outside of Kline, Bard students and faculty (both Jewish and not Jewish) read 15,513 names in nine and a half hours. Reading the names was meant to give the names back to those who were forced to wear them before they were murdered. By reciting the victims' names (ages and birthplaces where available), the readers and observers could remember that each victim was an individual, a son or daughter, a sister or brother, a child or a parent.

In the Jewish religion, it is customary to light a Yarzheit candle every year on the anniversary of a family member's death. Because many whole families were killed, most victims do not have anyone to mourn for them. Accordingly, the JSO lit six Yarzheit candles in memory of the six million Jews who died in the Holocaust.

This year communities also observed the 50th anniversary of the liberation of the death camps. The BBC journalist Patrick Gordon-Walker went to the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp after its liberation. He described, "One woman came up to a soldier who was guarding the milk store and doing the milk out to children and begging for milk for her baby. The man took the baby and saw that it had been dead for days, black in the face and shriveled up. The woman went on begging for milk. So he poured some on the dead lips. The mother then started to cry with joy and carried the baby off in triumph. She stumbled and fell dead in a few yards." This story reminds people that liberators witnessed some of the results of the Nazi atrocities and that the liberators can add to the testimony of survivors.

By remembering those who died, readers were able to defy the Nazi's wish that nobody would remember, believe, or care. Many thanks to Andrew, Dana, Luke, Melanie, Holly, Zack, Josh, David, Esteban, Michael, Ben, Nick, Laura, Tracy, Chris, Sarah, Robyn, Rachel, and Suzanne for showing they care and making the project successful.

Sandy Kalm

Volunteer transportation

Dear editor:

I am happy to see the recent emphasis placed by the administration on volunteer opportunities in the community. Rich Kelley's weekly articles in the Observer and the possible addition to the curriculum of the Workshop in Social Action are both positive steps that help to encourage increased student involvement in the community around Bard. I myself have recently started volunteering two days a week at the Astor Home for Children in Rhinebeck.

The Dean of Students has always said that the administration will support students interested in volunteering by providing transportation. Unfortunately, this offer of help has not come through in my case, forcing me to rely on the generosity of friends or the loop bus for rides to Rhinebeck and back. While I understand that there was never a guarantee of transportation, the lack of it has curtailed my involvement, and I have no doubt that it has limited the activities of other students who would also like to participate in other volunteer activities. I realize that there are many reasons for the lack of transportation, some of them beyond the control of the administration. I write to express the hope that the administration will be able to remedy these problems by the time next semester starts, and thus show the seriousness of its commitment to assisting students taking part in volunteer activities.

A note to all Bard students: the children at the Astor Home are currently engaged in studying different cultures for a cultural fair that they hope to hold in June. The culture that they are studying are: Egypt, Puerto Rico, US Virgin Islands, Eskimos, American Indians, India, and Mexico. They would welcome the opportunity to talk with anyone who belongs to or has experienced any of these cultures. If you are interested in spending an hour or two of your time sharing your culture with these children, please call me at X7534.

On a totally unrelated topic, I would like to thank Gilda Lyons, Erin Tedesco, Laura Gaugh, and the other great musicians who performed in the old gym on Thursday night. They were all wonderful, and I hope that there will be many similar concerts in the future.

Malia DuMont

Smoking dorms

To the Bard Community,

On Thursday, April 27, I attended a meeting with Dean of Housing Gladys Watson and the remaining Potter first floor residents in order to discuss the fire of Wednesday the 19th. During this meeting we were enlightened by the fact that smoking in all resident lounges is illegal. This is printed in the midst of the Student Handbook. Unless a floor or dormitory agrees to have smoking in the lounge at some point it is to remain a non-smoking area. Also, if it unanimously agreed to designate the lounge as a smoking area, the large sand-filled ash tray cans can be obtained by the Peer Counselor. Gladys Watson made a special effort to point out that the small "flyaway" ash trays placed in some lounges were not provided by college housing and that her allocations had not helped to purchase them. It turns out that it was precisely one of these ash trays that was the cause of the fire. (It blew off the window sill). Therefore it is strongly recommended that if your dorm chooses to allocate its lounge as a smoking area, that a large sand ash can is obtained.

Kristin Oland

Lyme disease info on reserve

To the Bard Community,

The library has been approached by faculty to put on Reserve a collection of articles on Lyme Disease. There are apparently a lot of people who are concerned or show symptoms.

The articles are in a binder and are placed as a folder item on Reserve titled LYME DISEASE. It is retrievable to the public on the online catalogue by its title. It will circulate for a three hour period but also as an overnight item as of 10 pm in the evening to be returned by 10 am the next morning. Any additional material will be added on as it is brought to the Reserve office.

Monique Tambini

Notice to all Bard students

The last day for charging medications at the Red Hook Drug Store this semester will be Wednesday, May 10, 1995. There will be no exceptions!

If you have any questions, please call the Student Health Service at 758-7433 (x-7433)
Yarden protests Tomson firing

To the editor,

The sudden and unexplained erasure of a presence from a community is an act of violence against that community. On Friday, April 21st, an act was perpetrated against the Bard community. The wound is unlikely to heal properly until it has been opened, explored, and cleansed. The unjustified summary dismissal, the sudden firing, the removal of Joel Tomson, Director of Athletics, from Bard College is the kind of action that might offend supporters and adherents of Amnesty International, of “Take Back the Night!” or other interested persons of liberal persuasion who think that violence is much more than physical violence. But working people know that arbitrary, summary dismissal is, not only a well defined form of violence, but respond to it as such and have developed various means, including legislative, to protect themselves from injury.

Of the many wounds caused by violence, especially the chronic low level violence that is endemic in bureaucratic, hierarchical, institutionalized structures the most damaging is the failure to recognize the condition, leaving it untreated. An the reason’s for failure to protest the violence are many: I-risk-my-own-job; They-won’t-tell-me-play-on-the-team. Fear is not my business; I just work here; I care about my family; if I complain it will just make things worse; ya-win-some-ya-lose-some. Indifference. Remissiveness. Paralysis may be pleased by the fallout; life is a contest; may-the-best-man-win; Kris Hall will make a much better Athletic Director; I-prefer-to-look-at-the-good-side-of-things; Only ignorance of history suggests that violence can never have positive results; that good things have never happened as a result of wars, assassinations, or other forms of terror: ethical objections to violence are not made in ignorance of history. Many of us are happy to see women in positions of genuine authority at Bard College, and especially when they have new and alternative values to offer. But the arbitrary act of violence which thrust the [sic] Kris hall into her new position can, as conveniently and obscurely, be followed by another which will eject her.

The perpetrators of this particular act are at great pains to obscure their motives, their purposes. But let us be clear. Terminations of contract, replacement of employees by more skilled or cheaper ones, superannuation, reorganization, retribution are all common occurrences in the labor market. A decision not to renew Joel Tomson’s contract would have been as uninteresting and inexplicable an event as would be a tale of endless and unproductive conflicts surrounding his work that led to a negative decision about renewing his contract. Nothing of the sort. The timing, the sudden shock to the community, the manner, the disregard for the feelings of the persons involved, the students, the players of the tennis team, the lack of respect for the fifteen years of well-regarded positive presence, the denial of any possibility of dialogue, the privileging of the subjectivity of one person in the community over that of all others, all bear the marks of calculated and deliberate violence, of intent to injure.

A sense of community, as well as ethical impulsion, is violated in the regarding of persons as means. The ethics of the action, as well as the ethics of concealment and perspicacity of rational demand our scrutiny—philosophical differences (unnegotiable fractures develop in the fifteen year, of course, like all philosophical or marital differences) result in sudden firing of a mainstay of the Bard Athletic Program? ? ? ? ?

Our present picture of what happened is based on three documents, the Sunday Kingston Freeman of April 23, 1985, the memo to the community from the Dean of Students of Tuesday afternoon, April 25, and the Bard Observer of April 26. This picture is remarkably incomplete, and the first task is to reduce our ignorance. But this cannot be done without engaging in a protest of the intention to keep us ignorant, the intention to stifle fear. Let us find out whatever we can and share our knowledge, both factual and theoretical, test hypothesis, examine evidence, treat the matter as suitable for serious research. Do not let our feelings of sadness at the behavior of some of us, or the ugliness of what we discover, deter us from speaking. Developing an understanding of the roots of violence is a good place, perhaps in our society a necessary place, to begin a liberal education, an education for living.

For myself, as a working person in the Bard community, I know violence when I experience it. I also know from personal history the consequences of failure to protest it. The ceremonial pomp and ritual of graduation will obscure this event (as others before it) in a colorful cloud of good wishes to graduates leaving the scene and high-toned avowals by our community leaders of the importance of enlightened action, of the need for greater support of ‘higher education,’ will add another feather to the cap of the cynic’s indifference to violence which we all carry.

Elle Yarden, Thesis Professor Emeritus of Music, Bard College

No love at Bard?

Written on the bathroom wall in Kline are the words, “There is no love at Bard.” To this I would reply in the affirmative, however I would add that most are too self-indulgent to notice.

I sat in the coffee shop this morning, in that empty room full of people gathered around me, watching CNN press conferences and debates between hate mongers, militia right-wing fascists, and other right-wing zealots. FBI kissing protect-me-from-harm-weirdos. Limbaugh act-alikes, ACLU protect-me from the politically incorrecters, and several others who I won’t bother to describe with such euphemistic fervor.

I thought to myself—where does mutual respect fit into the “American,” whether mainstream or avant-garde, way of life? When do we take the time to notice with deference the plethora of personas that surround us daily—the diverse hopes, insecures, condolences, intellects, creativity, aspirations and dreams of fellow humans that surround us all? Why is it that when so many of us take a stand we have to be supported by a soapbox ‘just a bit’ higher than those of our peers. All of us experience existence at Bard and in this world, whether willingly or unwillingly, simultaneously. Do you yourself a favor and leave the false-securities of self-righteous conviction and feel, search and respond to those around you. Say hello, ask questions, care, be enthusiastic—in essence transcend the self and bond with as many humans as possible. I guarantee your life will change dramatically, and I also predict a world less quick to stigmatize those with differing opinions as deviants from a philosophical norm that does not exist.

Paradoxically self-righteous, absurdly idealistic and most assuredly yours, Shawn Milburn

Editorial Policy

The Bard Observer is an entirely student-run publication. Submissions from the community are always welcome.

Letters to the editor should be under 500 words, and may be edited for spelling or grammar. Pieces for the Opinion page will not be edited without the consent of the author. Only this which is slanderous or libelous will be denied publication. Anonymous submissions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for publication—but we prefer them to be signed.

Campus organizations are also invited to publicize their events free of charge in the Observer. Space on the Calendar Page is provided through the Dean of Students’ Office. The Observer is published every Wednesday while classes are in session. Only those items which arrive in campus mail, or to our office, the Friday prior to the next issue will be guaranteed immediate publication.
More Security needed on campus

Dear Executive Vice-President,

The rape that occurred here at Bard is still very much on my mind. Being the victim of sexual abuse, I am particularly sensitive to this matter, and I feel that this matter has not been satisfactorily addressed. The young lady who was raped is not only a victim, but we, as a community, are all victims of Bard's constant disregard of the plans for an adequate Security force.

In response to my question concerning the matter of the Union and Security, you said it was irrelevant and had no bearing on the current situation. I beg to differ. Given that a job position guarantees job security, fair wages and benefits, it will attract and retain qualified and dedicated employees. In my short time of being a dispatcher for Security, I have seen five guards leave the College. I'll retire from including in this number the guard hired who quit before his first day on the job, because the essentials of job security, fair wages and benefits are missing. With our revolving-door Security force, how is it possible to keep enough people adequately trained for an important position?

Security is a service, much like Service Master and Buildings and Grounds. The College cannot function without the presence and assistance provided by Security. Yet, Security is not even on an equal footing with these other services. For example, both Service Master and B&G have unions. Furthermore, a starting grounds man at B&G makes $9.82 an hour; an employee for Service Master working midnight to seven and receiving a shift differential makes $9.23 after a three month probation but sadly, Security officers only make $8.27 after a three month probation.

It seems the College is most concerned with those services which have immediately tangible effects. Clean buildings and well-kept grounds have an immediate appeal to prospective students and their paying parents. After all, it's a business as well as an institution of learning. Consequently, we have an aesthetically pleasing wall in front of Security and newly painted white doors on the Ravine dorms. But somehow the services provided by Security aren't as readily perceivable, except in emergencies. And no Security takes a back seat to those other selling points of the College. It seems the College would rather have their buildings clean and painted, even if it can't protect the students who utilize them. In the College's efforts to attract students, it has neglected an essential service that would retain them. The aesthetically pleasing wall and the newly painted doors could have done nothing to prevent the rape, while it is a security force adequately trained that might have.

How many current students will not return after this semester, or how many prospective students will not attend Bard because of this grave misfortune? I agree that more Security may not have prevented the rape from occurring, but with more Security, the likelihood of such an event in the first place would have been decreased. Now the College finds itself in a position of damage control. But has Security been stepped up, in view of this event? No. There is a patrol at large. He is not identified as yet, and may be a resident of the area, or even a student. He could be watching and could strike again at any moment. This sort of circumstance would seem to necessitate an immediate response on behalf of the College to increase Security. Over the summer, the College reacted quickly to rumors that concert-goers might clash Bard. An outside security force was brought in to protect the College against a seemingly imminent threat. But the gate crashers of Woodstock '69 never arrived and Bard was safe and sound. But in light of an actual threat, no such short term reinforcement of Security has occurred to ensure the safety of students until the end of the semester, or until the rapist is apprehended. Why?

It's now 7:00am, I started writing this letter at 4:30am after my shift at Security; as of late, I've been suffering from insomnia. But I'm sure my lack of sleep is nothing compared to the pain the raped victims feel and will feel by having her life irrevocably altered forever by this terrible event. Speaking from experience, I assure you, her perception and actions will be tempered by this single act of aggression which could have been prevented. I am indignant at the College's lack of concern for its students and employees. Why must such an extreme event occur to precipitate necessary changes that could have been implemented as preventative measures? I say you have a moral imperative to dos all that is within your power to ensure the safety of the students currently attending and those who will attend in the future. Even if this means being a little extravagant with the budget in regards to Security, I think we are all worth it.

Sincerely,
Matthew Johnson

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Career office's books stolen

To the Bard Student Community:

During the current semester, we have been experiencing a rash of book thefts from the Career Development Office. Among the books which are missing are Peterson's Directory of Overseas Jobs 1995, Peterson's Summer Jobs in the USA 1995 (on the shelf less than one day) and, most recently, the 1995 edition of the National Directory of Arts Internships. All of these texts are used with great frequency by your fellow students. If you have found any of them, please return via campus mail. No questions will be asked.

If this situation continues, the Career Development Office will be forced to take measures to ensure that the materials in our library are for the use of all students, will be protected.

Sincerely,

Maureen Forrestal
Director