

Observer

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How the US Became the Target

Looking at the present via the past

by **Jacob Cottingham**

THE IMMEDIATE RESPONSE after the attacks on September 11, was the sort of knee-jerk response that seems to be human nature – when someone hits you, you want to hit back. This sort of reaction is why, traditionally, America has not been internationally provoked and why nobody picks on the big kid at recess to his face. In the weeks following the attacks, America has been confronted with confusion as the government and people have begun to realize the difficulties in striking back. While it is impossible to say exactly what will happen next, by looking at how America came to find itself in this situation, one can begin to see where we may be headed.

The current problems with Afghanistan, and the inability of the US to effectively deal with the situation seem to point to an over-extension of American might. Other Western empires have seen themselves confronted with the same problem, whether it was the Romans unable to defend against Northern barbarians, the British unable to control native insurrections, or Napoleon's failed attempts to control Russia. By attacking the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, the terrorists seem to be lashing out at symbols of American might in economic and military sectors. It was also an attack against not just the government, but the people of the US who allow and fuel the spread of Westernization. The issue is largely one material and knowledge/technology, and the ability to use those effectively. The real factor in American might, and foreign relations has been driven by our ability to remain on the forefront of technological innovation, and thus offset any lack of tangible material goods.

For better or worse, the last century was marked by the rapid rise of American

power on the international level, both militarily and economically. Coming out of WWII, America found itself with an advantage in regards to both technology and physical

material. The end of the war had essentially come about by our willingness to drop two nuclear bombs on another country, bringing the world into a new age of warfare. It was like bringing a gun to a knife fight. Additionally, the American economy was humming at full wartime production, and there was no damage sustained by the war on US soil. Even the number of lives lost was proportionally small, due to an almost total lack of civilian casualties and our late entry into the war. In the postwar years, the economy was sustained by efforts to help rebuild Europe, and Japan to an extent. By sharing our atomic secrets with our allies, the friendly relationship between Western Europe and the US was cemented, and provided a buffer between us and the

Soviets. The atomic age of power meant that the physical impossibility of stationing troops all over the world in order to secure territory was coming to an end, and a massive build-up of nuclear weapons became the focus of the Cold War.

The American government poured billions of dollars into research in order to stay ahead of the military capabilities of the Soviets. For example, putting a man on the moon was an effective political move that demonstrated a certain degree of accuracy in long range rocketry, negating the need to use bombers to drop nuclear weapons. As these government technologies began to filter into the private sector, especially computing and electronics, they boosted the economy that was quickly losing ground in many areas of manufacturing production. Because foreign labor in developing countries was so much cheaper than in the US, manufacturers began to leave. By putting American factories all over the world, and thus tying those countries to the stable economic success of their US based management, America began to extend its sphere of influence in a non-military way.

Granted, there were military engagements involving the US. The Soviets were also spreading their influence, though they did this primarily by establishing puppet dictatorships, and seizing territory, where the involved countries became essentially extensions of the Soviet military industry. When American troops were used to defend against the spread of Soviet power and the domino theory, there was mixed success at best. We were able to maintain the status of Korea, and Vietnam ended in disaster. The US supported fascist leaders in developing countries such as Nicaragua, giving to these countries technology that was militarily based,

rather than economically based because that was where the power in these places. When the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, the US government could not risk the material destruction necessary for such a battle. The consequences of sending US troops to fight would have taken more deaths and money than America could politically support, and the risk – nuclear war – was too high. Rather than sending troops, we made available technologies developed by the US to fight the Soviets, developing an ally in the manner of giving our nuclear secrets to the NATO countries after WWII. What we did not give were technologies that would foster a non-military relationship with those countries. Stinger missiles and M16s were handed out to regimes willing to fight our enemies,

but improvements in infrastructure or medicine were not.

Our most important allies are aided both militarily and economically, such as Israel. While there are many reasons for the strength of US-Israeli ties, it is not insignificant that strategically, they provide a buffer for US enterprises in the Middle East, and allow for a base of operations that is technologically on par with US standards. Countries like Saudi Arabia are allied with us because of the economic weight we contribute, but are not allies in a strict military sense. The same holds true with many developing nations, and



A century of defeating global power: A captured tank from the British Expeditionary Force during the Anglo-Afghan war of 1919, which Afghanistan won.

this

is

what gives American world trade such an imperialist tone. America needs the material goods, whether labor and manufacturing, or raw supplies like oil, in these countries.

As America has become more reliant on advances in science and technology to propel and sustain its dominance, the limits imposed by material necessity have become significant. It no longer matters who has the most troops, because we can conduct operations effectively with a smaller, better equipped force. A guided missile needs less production than the outfitting and training of several thousand troops, and does more direct damage as well.

It is becoming clear to the US government that the material needs of the country still outweigh the technological advancements. Economically, this was realized with the bursting of the Internet bubble. The hype surrounding the "new economy" really was about the feeling that companies, the outposts of American influence, no longer needed any material presence only the technology necessary for interacting with customers. A company needed only some management and computing equipment in the US, and all material production could be handled elsewhere, to be shipped to the customer. The knowledge of American companies and their ability to use such knowledge became an asset, and the value of software and computing related companies skyrocketed.

The problem with Afghanistan is that our technology is virtually worthless in a fight with them. The modern war that America is prepared to wage does not function in a country with few working infrastructures. A stealth bomber is of no help if there are only four things worth bombing. On the other hand, America has established such a gigantic material presence, i.e. navy ships in the Persian Gulf or huge stadiums and buildings in most large cities, that our technology is unable to adequately defend them. Hence, the over-

extension of American power in the world. The state of American international relations now is an interesting one. The European Union has been slowly establishing itself, in part as a leverage against the American economy. At this point, a US stock crash would ripple across Europe, much like an economic domino effect. And most of Europe suddenly finds itself unable to compete against the technology of America or the cheap material of developing nations. This gives US markets a stability outside the effects of international recessions such as the 11 year slide in

the Japanese Nikki index.

It seems time to reconsider the way America involves itself internationally, and that is what makes the sheer arrogance of the way the Bush administration deals with other countries so frustrating. While having a certain capacity for power enables a country to get away with treating other nations poorly, there seems a new logic at work here. It would seem that instead of focusing efforts on building such grand defensive structures as a missile shield, to guard against rogue nations, there should be an emphasis on not provoking those nations. Perhaps America should reconsider the excessive amount of oil it consumes, and at least invest heavily in alternative energy. It also might be prudent to examine how US-based companies are allowed to operate in foreign countries, where they currently avoid many of the regulations necessary to operate in the US. We should be more proactive in implementing a better quality of life outside of pure monetary value.

The lesson those in the government have not learned in their educational years is one familiar to recent US high school students – don't pick on the kid who might bring a gun to school.

The Bard Space Program

A Voice of Reason in a World Gone Mad

by **Ben Dangl**

DURING THE PAST few weeks the world has been turned up side down, values have been toppled and new ones resurrected. People have been questioning safety, democracy, global citizenship and the concept of reality itself. Things may never be the same. Still, throughout all of the confusion and finger pointing that has gone on, The Bard Space Program maintains a position of hope. As Jamie O'Shea, the commander in chief of the program put it, "We are but ten people. We can put a person in space."

While the rest of the world is talking terrorism, bombs and American flags, O'Shea is going back to the fundamental roots that a democracy is based upon. In an attempt to pool the Bard community's resources together, he and his crew plan to send one person into earth's orbit for an as of yet unspecified duration.

The Bard Space Program is made up of a group of artists, technicians, scientists, musicians,

photographers and visionaries who are dedicated to the development of a space ship called The Orbiter. The first mission will be conducted entirely within the earth's orbit, where the longevity of the propulsion energy and life support systems will be tested.

Information gained from The Orbiter's ascension will hopefully be implemented in further missions, possibly of interplanetary scope. After studying propulsion techniques and biological engineering, they plan to conduct the launch.

Beyond the obvious technical details, the program is deeply rooted in a philosophy of community-based efforts that confront societal issues not just with the creation of a project, but with the means of that creation as well. As O'Shea says, "We are trying to break down community on a national level and bring it back to a more unified smaller level, starting with Bard. Our goal is to promote alternative organizations that are smaller, more humanistic and artistic."

He continues by saying, "I fear the nationalistic response. Nations fight nations and people die, but these nations are made up of smaller institu-

tions. As we move towards becoming a more nationalized conglomerate, it's more important than ever to keep these small establishments intact, preserving their values in the face of the homogenizing majority before it

swallows us up."

Besides the many benefits that space travel may produce, The Bard Space Program also has the potential to establish itself as a new, more accessible art form. "This is a large project involving a lot of people collaborating to create an organization that is similar to the systems created by our society. It is an art form not created alone, like a painting, but is more public based, more ambitious."

One of The Orbiter's engineers, Adam Christopher, commented on his role. "I am really interested in learning about the difficulties of space travel. My job is to not only work on the actual construction of The Orbiter, but to design logos for hats, buttons, shirts, stickers and visors that we hope to use to promote and support The Space Program."

Brian Yanity describes his role as the Director of the Propulsion Research and Development Department, "We are going to use very high temperatures in a chamber. This pressure will provide thrust, like tea kettle - a rocket is just a glorified tea kettle. We are in the process of developing the heat for such propulsion, and are currently thinking of several approaches which I cannot comment on as of yet. As far as the political implications of the program historically, part of the technical definition of a superpower is having a space program that is your ticket into superpower club. So we're going to make Bard a superpower."

The very existence of The Bard Space Program is a type of commentary on the large corpora-

Besides the many benefits that space travel may produce, The Bard Space Program also has the potential to establish itself as a new, more accessible art form.



Jamie O'Shea

The other cover: Commander in chief, Jamie O'Shea in his space suit

tions in society today. As O'Shea puts it, "We are taking ourselves as people, and mimicking the gigantic effect of the outside world in an attempt to expose their motivations and our own."

Does he really believe the space program will be successful? "Yes. But as with any project of this size, there is a possibility of horrible disfiguring failure. The risks are those risks that any project, of any means must understand and accept."

The Bard Space Program Crew

Jamie O'Shea - Space Program Commander in Chief
Jean Pesci - Documentary

Filmmaker
Brian Yanity - Director of Propulsion Research and Development
Ben Dangl - Press Correspondent
Lieth Nye - Head of Orbital Biological Research
Kate Mullen - Head Computer Programmer
Adam Christopher - Head of Orbiter Construction
Lisa Claire - Launch Director
Matt Hopkins, Matt Casuccio, Bjorn Quenemoen - Score Composer

If you are an artist or a scientist interested in altering the course of history through The Bard Space Program, then contact The Bard Space Program Headquarters, at ext. 4745.

The New Face of WXBC

by **Ben Wadler**

WHAT'S THE FIRST thing that comes to mind when you picture your average Bard student? "Music snob," said one undergraduate, "Elitist," said another. And what about Bard's radio station? "Deficient," remarked a third student, "Weak!" belated yet another.

It's no secret that the broadcasting capacities of WXBC, Bard's own 10 watt, student run AM radio station, are less than impressive. However all that is starting to change for the radio station often known as "the little engine that could." The men behind the curtain at WXBC have been working for a long time to try and dig their beloved radio station out from the trenches and put it into the frontline, and they are finally beginning to hit pay-dirt. The Executive Committee is comprised of Jane "The Big Cheese" Gilvin (General Manager), Eli "The Brute" Lehrhoff (Music Manager), Shawn "The Mad" Winter (Program Director), and most recently, yours truly, Ben "The sassy young intern" Wadler. This year, the budget committee allotted a generous sum to the radio station's fund, in recognition of its progressive attitude and the many needs that come with the changes in that attitude.

Some of these changes to the station itself include a new broadcasting booth, recording booth, lounge area, library, and

Executive Committee office. B+G are currently putting the finishing touches on the new studio. The new broadcasting booth is several times the size of the old one. The recording booth is going to be used for live and pre-recorded interviews and performances by both Bard bands and real bands. The lounge space is where you put your friends when they've tagged along to come on the radio as a special guest, wishing they were cool enough to have their own show. The library is where we store the vast archive of old and rare records by bands you've never heard of (we're more underground than you are). The Executive Committee office is where we will keep all of our papers, documents, folders, and papers. In addition, we have secured an I-Mac from the library, and we are buying a G4 Macintosh. With the G4, we will start broadcasting WXBC on the internet this semester. With at least 75 Real Audio streams, listeners will be able to tune in both on campus and off.

Does this sound like an exciting creative outlet with a community that is growing into the 21st century? It is. Are you interested in becoming part of the muscle behind this edgy sub-culture? Good, because this is only the beginning of the end of bad radio at Bard. What is the next



The new digs: the WXBC renovation is already underway

step? FM. That's right, students won't need a special AM antenna to find quality, free format radio anymore. You will be able to tune in as your friends give shout outs, and play all of your old favorites. The new FM radio antenna (projected to be up by winter 2002 at the very latest) will reach all dorms on campus, and even Red Hook and Tivoli.

B&G is expecting to be finished by the end of the first week of October. With the new purchases we are making, we have set the goal of being ready to go when students return from reading week.

This has been an exciting time for WXBC, because it is the first time in a long time we have seen concrete, physical changes to our station. So look for our schedule and other publicity we'll have up. When you see it, tune in to 540 AM, or go to the campus center and demand the cafe put us on (they've got a special line and receiver that bypasses the antenna, and lets them get very, very clear reception.) And if you want to get on the deal, email radio@bard.edu and tell us what you want.

Budget Forum yup yup

by Jacob Cottingham

NOTHING DRAWS A CROWD like money and alcohol, and the Fall Budget Forum was no exception this semester. As proceedings got underway this past September 19, it was announced that there had been no hostile amendments filed. Hurriedly, kids drank their cheap beer and scribbled out requests for money. Eventually, nine clubs asked for money, all but one of them to be taken from the emergency fund.

The Golf Club got things started by asking for \$330 to provide a set of clubs and gas money to drive to a local "golf course." They were denied after the Budget Committee revealed that the club was not much more than Mike Morini and three or so other people. The Dance club asked for \$1,000 to hire teachers for Salsa and Merengue, which they did not receive the money for. Art Freaks United was also denied its request for \$200 to provide for art shows and openings. The Outdoor Club did manage to get its money, an additional \$400 from the emergency fund to supplement its \$600 from Budget defense.

The most divisive amendment came from the Photo Club/Student Darkroom. With the aid of John Kelly, the Photo Club has been growing steadily as a place for non-photo majors to work, and last semester they received \$1,000. This year they got \$2,600 of the \$2,800 they asked for at Budget defense. At the Forum, the club asked for an additional \$1,000 in order to buy two photo enlargers that work. In order that a hostile amendment be passed, it needs the support of at least two thirds of the students voting. After two recounts, the numbers were too close to call by a mere raising of hands, so the room was asked to separate into three sections in order to be properly identified. If only the presidential elections were so easy. After this final count, the Photo Club came within less than two percentage points of getting their money.

By far the most enthusiastic club was the First Annual Men's Co-ed Intramural Four Square League (the FIM-CIFSL). Already having received \$50 in its first year, the League asked for an additional \$64.36 saying in their amendment it was, "not that much money at all, not nearly as much as dance asked for...Plus, the Emergency Fund should be a round number." Despite the best efforts of the red-faced and screaming founders, and their handy pie chart, they were denied their money. Tamara Plummer, one of the speakers against the club's request, pointed out the cost of four square supplies; tape or chalk, and a ball, were all about 95 cents, and closed her arguments saying "Chalk is cheap," which the drunken crowd began chanting until told to be quiet by one of the moderators. Later the League submitted another request, for \$50 saying "Your inner child is dead and Imran killed it. We want \$50 so we can turn our league into a fantastic childhood wonderland complete with a semester's worth of refreshments. It's really not that much money, stop being ridiculous." Sadly, again they were voted down. Dumaine Williams, the Treasurer of the Planning Committee, said of the League, "They were very organized and had by far the best budget defense. They had charts and gimmicks and they tried to bribe us with gifts. It's all funny and we support them but they just don't need money."

Somewhere in the evening the Observer was denied \$200 for gas and pens. The Golf Club also submitted another request, and fared better than the Four Square league. Dismissing

claims that "anything you can do if you're fat and drunk isn't a sport," speakers for the Golf Club invoked the beginnings of the rugby team as a student run club, now part of the Athletic department, as a means for support. By the second time around, it appeared that Bard had a surprising number of golf fans, and the club got its \$330. Mike Morini said, "No one would take me seriously but after three votes they finally did."

In the midst of all the smoking being done in the big Kline room, and the Red Dog 30 rack being consumed, there was a more serious moment. A motion was made by the Arnold Schwarzenegger Club to take \$1,000 from the BSO and put it in the emergency fund. The crowd hushed as people wondered who had the balls to advance such a notion, and whether the Arnold Schwarzenegger Club would be showing Junior. Curran Attschut came to



Lelia Fain

the microphone to speak for the motion and even the Four Square rowdies got quiet. First, he denied the club's association with the movie *Junior* and then he read from a flyer distributed earlier in the year announcing a BSO meeting. At the bottom of the flyer was a section inviting non-black students, although it mentioned that they may be insulted or uncomfortable. Attschut said he merely wanted an explanation as to why the club would say this, and said that he himself was slightly offended, though he hoped that after it was explained he could "vote against this amendment like we all want to." The President of the BSO then got up to speak and apologized for the flyer, saying the person who put them up meant it as a joke, and did so without consulting the BSO beforehand. She made it clear that the club had tried to remove the flyers as soon as they realized what it had said. The crowd showed its own good judgement by seeming to understand the reasons and sincerity of both speakers, and the amendment was unanimously defeated amongst much clapping and huzzahs.

Overall, Dumaine had this to say about the Budget Forum, "I think it went well, it was fairly organized and went smoothly. People listened this year for the most part and even the controversial BSO thing I think was a good thing. Because that's what forums are for, to voice the concerns that affect the whole student body."

One person who was disappointed was Caroline, whose request for \$15 for the Caroline Fun Club was not even voted on. "I was really disappointed at the Budget Forum that the Bard community had no interest in the Caroline Fun Club, but I will persevere" At the end of the night, no club lost money, and \$730 was given out from the emergency fund, bringing the total down to \$4,664.36.

The Pre-Budget Forum Numbers...

FALL BUDGET 2001	SPRING 2001	REQUESTED	ALLOCATED
AASO	\$1,500.00	\$1,880.00	\$1,600.00
Annandale Ale	\$350.00	\$1,100.00	\$450.00
A. Schwarzenegger Film Club	\$0.00	\$60.00	\$10.00
Art Freaks United	N/A	\$350.00	\$50.00
Audio Co-op*	\$500.00	\$973.00	\$800.00
Baardvarks Baseball Club	N/A	\$500.00	\$200.00
BARC	\$450.00	\$485.50	\$450.00
Bard Art Club	N/A	\$344.95	\$200.00
Bard Journal of Social Sciences	\$3,200.00	\$3,300.00	\$3,100.00
Bard Prison Initiative	\$2,800.00	\$2,800.00	\$1,800.00
BEC	N/A	\$200.00	\$0.00
BSO	\$2,000.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,400.00
Chess Club	\$400.00	\$519.00	\$300.00
Christian Student Fellowship	\$350.00	\$825.00	\$250.00
ClubKnit	\$330.00	\$465.44	\$330.00
Creative Music Alliance	\$2,000.00	\$3,000.00	\$1,200.00
Cricket Club	\$400.00	\$640.00	\$350.00
Dance Club	\$2,200.00	\$1,850.00	\$1,550.00
Dance for Non-Dancers	N/A	\$100.00	\$50.00
DeKline	\$500.00	\$1,227.89	\$600.00
Dime Store	\$450.00	\$457.00	\$450.00
EMS	\$1,438.27	\$1,438.12	\$1,438.27
Entertainment Committee	\$10,500.00	\$13,120.00	\$11,000.00
Fantasy Action Experience	\$750.00	\$2,009.10	\$800.00
Feminist Collective	N/A	\$180.00	\$140.00
Film Committee	\$8,100.00	\$8,436.00	\$8,436.00
Four Square	N/A	\$200.00	\$50.00
Free Press	\$2,250.00	\$5,105.00	\$4,300.00
Golf Club	N/A	\$350.00	\$0.00
ISO	\$2,800.00	\$3,300.00	\$2,700.00
JSO	\$800.00	\$1,455.00	\$1,100.00
LASO	\$2,700.00	\$3,350.00	\$2,650.00
Martial Arts Club	\$900.00	\$2,500.00	\$600.00
Medieval Club	N/A	\$350.00	\$200.00
Mid-Hudson Sister City Project	N/A	\$350.00	\$300.00
Migrant Labor Project	\$350.00	\$3,105.00	\$800.00
Minor Demon & Co.	\$610.00	\$745.00	\$610.00
Model UN	N/A	\$350.00	N/A
MSO	\$1,200.00	\$1,700.00	\$1,200.00
Observer	\$5,000.00	\$6,336.59	\$4,800.00
Photo Club/Student Darkroom	\$1,000.00	\$2,800.00	\$2,600.00
Policy Debate Forum	N/A	\$110.00	\$50.00
Pottery Club	N/A	\$350.00	\$350.00
Queer Alliance	\$2,250.00	\$4,130.00	\$2,700.00
Rollerskating Club	N/A	\$350.00	\$0.00
Root Cellar	\$1,000.00	\$1,305.00	\$800.00
Roving Readings	\$125.00	\$1,000.00	\$150.00
SILK	\$500.00	\$1,050.00	\$600.00
Sound Crew*	\$0.00	\$1,893.00	\$1,650.00
SquareDance/ Contra Club	N/A	\$140.00	N/A
Student Association	\$2,745.00	\$2,100.00	\$2,100.00
Student Action Collective	\$4,800.00	\$8,850.50	\$4,900.00
Swing Club	\$650.00	\$950.00	\$650.00
Thailand Trip	N/A	\$350.00	\$200.00
The Outdoor Club	\$350.00	\$3,760.00	\$600.00
Transcription	\$350.00	\$350.00	\$350.00
Trouble and Bass	N/A	\$350.00	N/A
Wind and Water	N/A	\$350.00	\$0.00
Women's Alliance	\$1,000.00	\$2,293.90	\$1,100.00
Women's Rugby	N/A	\$45.00	\$45.00
WXBC	N/A	\$2,400.00	\$2,100.00
Zine Library	\$350.00	\$531.95	\$350.00
TOTAL	\$69,948.27	\$112,766.94	\$77,559.27

March for Peace Counters America's March to War

Bard represents with over 200 students

by **Matt Dineen**

AFTER PREPARING FOR late September protests against the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank for the entire year, movement organizers found themselves faced with a change in plans following the tragic events of September 11th. The IMF and World Bank meetings, scheduled for September 28th to October 4th, were postponed as a result of the recent terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

As the Bush administration promised revenge and the American public rallied around the flag and the once distrusted national leaders, a coalition was formed to prevent a vengeful military response. In addition to advocating a peaceful and intelligent response to the terrorist attacks the coalition, known as ANSWER (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism), also aimed to eliminate the racist backlash against Muslims and people of Arab descent in the US. Many of the activists that supported these efforts were planning on protesting the policies of the IMF and World Bank anyway. Accordingly, a mass demonstration against war and racism in DC was organized for the same weekend that the two global financial institutions had planned to meet.

With only a few weeks of preparation, which included a number of legal battles with DC authorities for protest permits, the ANSWER coalition mobilized thousands of citizens from across the country to rally in the nation's capitol on Saturday, September 29th. The estimated 20,000 demonstrators included 200 students from Bard and between 350 and 400 from the Mid-Hudson Valley. Solidarity demonstrations were held in most US cities and several cities around the world, including Paris, France where according to Bard professor Joel Kovel, who was there for a conference, 5,000 people rallied

against a military response and US imperialism.

The demonstration in DC was lively, diverse, and for the most part peaceful. There was a brief confrontation between police and the Anti-

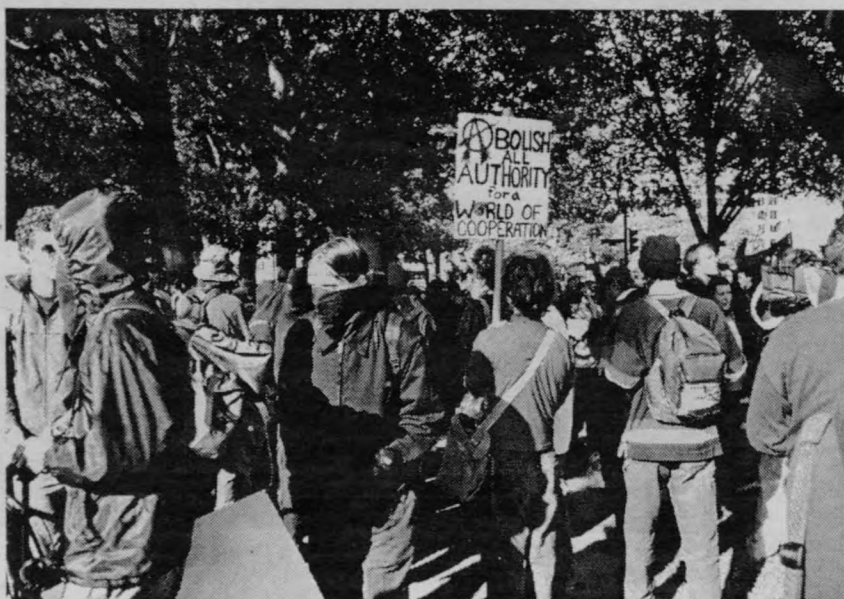


Not an FBI recruiter: Some people misinterpreted the protesters.

Capitalist Convergence which held a march without a permit. The primary message of the day was a plea to end the cycle of violence and oppression that culminated on September 11th. There was an expression of sympathy towards the victims of the terrorist attacks along with a critique of a US foreign policy. The demonstrators argued that military retaliation would only perpetuate this violent cycle and potentially make the situation worse.

There was also an extremely small counter-demonstration of people who perceived the anti-war protesters as unpatriotic and sympathizers of terrorism. The voices of the 50 or so counter-demonstrators were drowned out by the thousands who marched from the rally at Freedom Plaza to a park adjacent to the Capital Building.

The mainstream media in the US, namely The New York Times, paid little attention to the first major national antiwar march in a decade. In their article entitled "Protesters Urge Peace With Terrorists," The Times referred to the "few hundred protesters" that "marched in downtown Washington." They concluded the short article with a quote from former President Clinton noting that the demonstrators were, in effect, privileged, because terrorists



• CONSTRUCTION UPDATE by Bart Yates •

Bard Paying For Construction So Environment Doesn't Have To

AT A COLLEGE WHERE the trees outnumber the students ten to one, a clear cut housing shortage has been resolved by clear cutting a little forest. The wizard behind the recent whirlwind of construction is Jim Brudvig. When asked about the environmental effect of the construction Mr. Brudvig replied after a few moments silence, "there have been some plusses and minuses." But before your environmentally friendly, all organic, hemp panties get in a bunch, read about the steps being taken to preserve the surrounding environment.

A sleepy Bard student in the new Green Dorms is stepping out of his blue and grey Sauconys, and putting his bold rim glasses on his bedside table. He has drank enough coffee, and smoked enough cigarettes for one day. As he's drifting off, Afghanistan dancing in his head, he is softly lulled to sleep by a frog's song. This lullaby emerges from among the cluster of one of the various water plants in a new bio-pond. This picture was painted to be both aesthetically and environmentally pleasing. The bio-ponds are planned to prevent water run-off from the new dorms. Instead of erosion, and the displacement of indigenous plant and animal life, we will have a miniature oasis. Hopefully, we will see our first bio-pond soon after the completion of the Green Dorms which is scheduled for December.

The same water retention projects are planned for the Performing Arts Center (PAC) which will be completed in January of 2003, with a grand opening planned for April of

that year. Would you like a brand new 2000 Audi TT? Because with the money used, Botstein could buy one for every Bard student, and still have 300 left over for the faculty. Bard cashed in one tax-free government bond for 75 million dollars to fund the construction. An estimated 52 million dollars is being spent under our very noses on the new Frank O'Gheary Performing Arts Center, and Kline's food still sucks. Actually, we now have the partially completed PAC, the campus road dorms, the Green Dorms, and the New Toasters. The housing shortage was resolved by the eighteen new dorms on campus. Although Mr. Brudvig said that no new

housing projects were planned for next year, there are plans to turn the Studio Temp Dorms into an art history library, and office space.

There are also plans to calm the swell of militant, Annandale eco-warriors. A portion of the money was used to protect our air, and although it was very expensive, our engineers say it will pay itself off in six years. We're planning to dig a bunch of holes. Over 170 deep holes, 250-300 feet, to be more precise. After all the digging is finished, Mr. Brudvig will see to it that they are piped and filled with fluid. This fluid acts as a geothermal conductor, bringing the natural temperature from that depth to the rooms in the Green Dorms and PAC. At fifty-five degrees year round, in the summer it will be used to cool the buildings. In the winter, with a minimal amount of electricity, the heat from that depth will be amplified to heat the buildings. This method is much more expensive than installing heating and cooling systems that burn oil and use lots of electricity. The advantage is that Bard will have to buy almost no oil to control the temperature of these buildings, thus saving on oil costs, and making their money back in six years.

I asked Jim where he thought we'd be in six years, and he told me that he had lots of dreams. Maybe one day



Construction Workers: doing their job on Campus Road Dorms.

we'll cash another bond at Bard. We could have lights and bleachers for the soccer field, an expansion of the aerobics and weights facilities, and all the paths and roadways will be lighted and paved. Life would be just a little more comfortable. For now, we will walk home across gravel parking lots, our bellies full and bloated from another culinary masterpiece at Kline. If your going to Manor, make sure to imagine a wavy, multi-million dollar, titanium roof as you're walking beneath unlit street lamps.

"would not permit" such antiwar protests.

Nevertheless, a new peace movement has been born. The September 29th demonstration succeeded in bringing people together who have become alienated from the overwhelming war fervor that has swept this country in the past few weeks. This is just the beginning of a long struggle. ANSWER has announced that October 12-13 will be International Days of Action Against War and Racism and further actions are being planned for the end of October.



RZA as Bobby Digital
Digital Bullet
Sony 2001

HIP-HOP'S ZIGGY STARDUST strikes again. RZA's alter ego Bobby Digital offers up his sophomore album *Digital Bullet*. Bobby's self-titled first album (soundtrack to the Bobby movie) was a toss up: Some people loved it, some people hated it (a lot of them were critics). Some of the tracks were ill beats and solid vocals; others were sub-par rants about fuckin' hos. Everyone forgave him though, because he remained one of the best and most prolific producers in hip-hop. But if you are one of the digi-heads who bought in from the beginning, and still slips the first album into your CD player every now and then when no one else is around, than this new album is for you. *Digital Bullet* has everything you liked from the first album, and less of the stuff you didn't.

The album is full of tracks which dabble in various manifestations of hip-hop beat crafting. Ranging from the anthems "Brooklyn Babies," a track with an infectious beat that picks up tempo in the beginning to pull you in and then drops you off a few blocks uptown; "Fool" which rides an R&B break and a jazzy organ into the raw vocal lair of Killa Sin; and "Throw Your Flag Up" with a sampled break, Bobby's beeping sound intro, and an appearance by the Black Knights, who also worked on the RZA produced

Ghost Dog soundtrack. These tracks sound like the ghetto flavor that is bumping in the stereos of characters up and down the left and right coasts, except these tracks will probably not rock the Billboard charts.

Contrasted with these tracks are the slower, more emotional tracks that show up towards the end of the album. "Righteous Way" has a solid beat with a hollowed out trumpet and vocals by JR. Reid, who assisted on two introspective tracks off of The W. "Build Strong," with soulful piano and beautiful background vocals by Tekitha, is an inspired track about saving the future of the world and "Sickness" has a ridiculously good beat and vocals which wage war on the wicked society. "Cousin" brings a cheesy after school special flute loop with a soft beat. This emotional side of RZA, which is becoming more and more apparent as he and the Clan get older, is an interesting branch off of hip-hop, throwing a shout back to the soul of the mid to late sixties.

The rest of the album consists of fun, minimal-type RZA beats that range from the vocal loop beats of "Can't Loose," to the strung out six year old Casio constructed beat of "Must be Bobby." From the RZA telltale rising wave violin, chilly piano, and thumping beat of "Do U," to the slowed down, Latin flavored club beat of "La Rhumba," which sounds like RZA stole it from J.Lo while she was busy getting married. Two tracks are sequels to first album tracks. "Domestic Violence pt.2" is a continuation of "Ain't Sh*t," and "Black Widow pt. 2" is a track which is classic ODB shouting about all of his bitches.

Overall, this album is good shit. Sometimes the intros to tracks go on for too long, vocals still end up with Bobby's cock as a rhyme failsafe every now and then, and not every beat is perfect. But if you listen close, you'll understand why this album is much more finished and listener friendly than the first attempt, as well as why RZA has been involved in so many good projects for so many years.

Radiohead

by Matt Casuccio

LET ME START BY saying that I envy Radiohead for many of the decisions they've made since the fateful day that *OK computer* was released.

Not only did I love the position that they took after the release of *Kid A* in October of 2000, where the band did not interact with the media except through email, I found the almost opposite stance that they stood when promoting *Amnesiac* in May and June of this year, (running ads everywhere, giving interview time to almost anyone who wanted it, etc.) to be a thought provoking commentary, unveiling an uncommon sense of how subtly amusing self-contradiction can be.

And the music on *Kid A* and *Amnesiac* is beautiful. To bounce back and forth between ballads full of human emotion and songs made of cold, computerized rhythm and textures is, although not completely new, tastefully executed. Thom Yorke's lyrics, sometimes too continually cynical and pessimistic are coupled so well with his versatility as a singer. There is also a rarely found treatment of many different song forms.

With that said, I went to New Jersey's Liberty State Park with a fifty dollar ticket in my hand and a little less than a high expectation. The idea that these guys who, in theory are very conscientious about a whole array of thought worthy issues (over-population/consumption, globalization, deterioration of environment, etc.) would ask so much and not explain is nauseating. I've taken into account the fact that *Amnesiac* was released a month and a half early via the internet, which very likely stunted record sales, but it still seems a little excessive.



\$50 a ticket: buys a lot of suck.

The answer to why the Beta Band were chosen as an opener was not easily attained either. To put it bluntly, they sucked. In the studio they have produced somewhat likable songs, relying on very repetitive, somewhat catchy melodies, standard pop textures, and little human character. They had no stage presence at all. Not only were they struggling to play what seems like pretty easily reproduced music, but as a whole they had no confidence or sense of awareness, and it was pretty embarrassing for both the listener and the musician.

Next Kid Koala, a three-turntable-slinging DJ came out and played a fifteen minute set. He started by saying, "doctors say I have ADD," or something along those lines. He epitomized happiness in a shortening span of attention, and it was highly marketable. The crowd loved it, but I felt saddened and was soon waiting for the end of it.

Now don't get me wrong, I enjoy their music, and even their ability to entertain a crowd. I had one problem. They took one risk in their set, which was when the piano replaced whatever studio manipulation created the arpeggios played in the song "Like Spinning Plates." Aside from that they took no chances to make a fool of themselves for the sake of the experience, and they showed no ability to interact and work with the completely different palette that is a live concert. Sure, the music was louder and the sound was really clear and clean, but I was left wondering, 'where is the fun?'

Now I'm sure this argument will leave many of you think I'm a jack-ass and that have no idea what I'm talking about. But go watch Marshall Allen's Sun Ra Arkestra, King Sunny Ade (forgive the coincidental similarity in name) or anybody who improvises/changes according to every different audience's energy. Until Radiohead play with the probability of a concert going wrong, I won't pay anything like that to see them again, and if they keep doing things that hurt their record sales, they may need it.

Weezer

by Mike Morini

I SAW WEEZER 2 Tuesday's ago and it was the best. I got picked up by my mother here and she took me home. Then my friend Toni picked me up and took me to the show which was around Boston. Apparently she got the tickets off of ebay and she wouldn't let me pay for them for some reason. She's a real cool chick. I hope she doesn't mind me calling her a chick. So, anyways, Weezer! It was the best live show I have seen in a while. It was definitely the best performance I have seen in such a big amphitheater place ever. I saw Weezer and the Get Up Kids in Albany last semester and that was the best stage set up I had ever seen. It still is. Weezer didn't bring that cool stuff that they brought to that concert such as video cameras next to microphones. That was a really great thing. So Weezer played 3 new ones this time I saw them. They opened with their radio hit "Island in the Sun." It was a good opener and the crowd went wild. Oh yeah, I almost forgot! I bumped into 10 friends from high school there! And it was about 2 hours from my home town! It was crazy. They only played "Tired of Sex" off of *Pinkerton*. I guess Rivers Cuomo, the lead singer and guitarist, really despises that record for some reason. He gets real depressed when they play shit from that album because it did poorly and got horrible reviews. Rivers, also, thinks it is a bad record. He is wrong. I was going to run on stage but I didn't really have a good enough reason to, besides just to possibly get on Weezer's website, so I didn't do it. The last song they played that night was "Surf Wax America." It was amazing and it was a great song to end with.

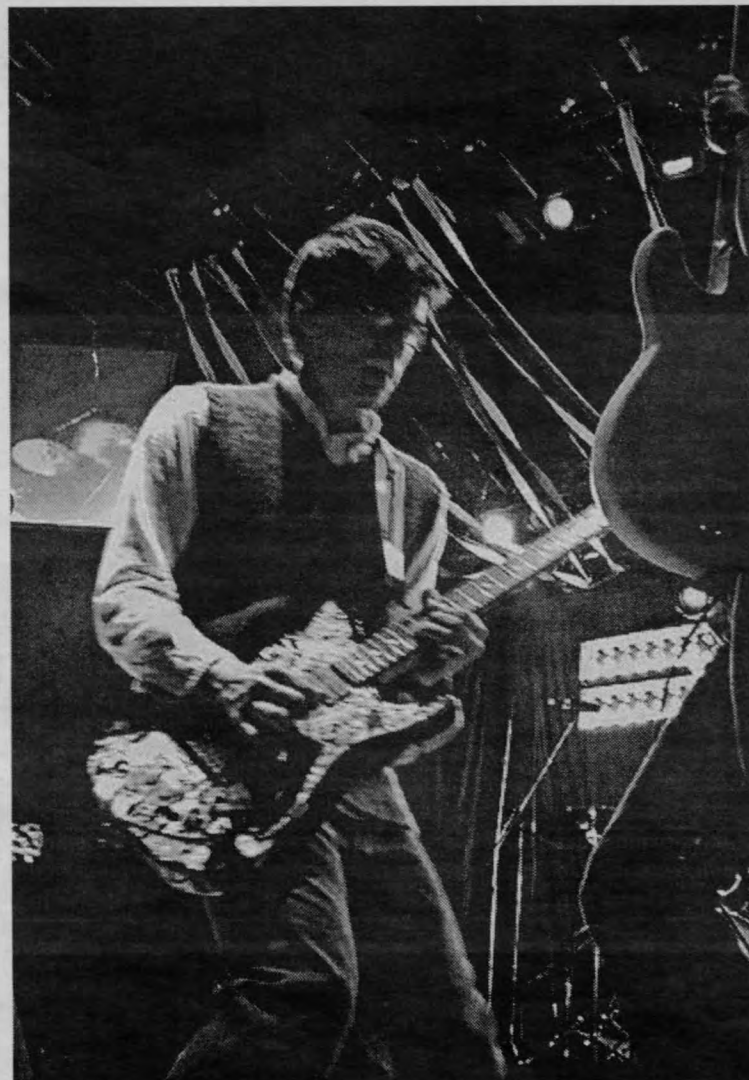


Photo Moderation Show

by Jack Lewis

"It's kind of like that piece, you know," the guy says to the girl staring at the photograph, "the one with the Virgin Mary." I think he's going to talk about the piece at the Brooklyn Museum, the photo where the artist placed herself as Christ at the Last Supper, naked, but I can't remember the artist's name and he said the Virgin Mary, not Christ. "The one of the Virgin Mary, with shit all over it. It was in that show, what was it called?? Damn, I can't remember."

At the time I thought it was funny, amazing even, that this student could not remember the title of the show that was more famous, then the actual art in it. I think it's great that the show (at least in this guy's mind) was gone, nothing left but the idea of some work, with shit on it. Not that I found any connection with what he was saying and the photo he was looking at that moment, but I liked that attempt at pretentious name-dropping and completely failing at it.

As I was walking through the Photo Moderation Show, now up at Proctor Art Building, I felt there were a lot of photo projects that tried to achieve a certain level of pretension, but ended up being just beautiful, honest pictures. I walked around the show with a friend of mine visiting from another school and he asked me "what makes a great photo?" I said whatever looks good to him. That's how I judge most of the pictures I see, I know little to nothing about technique, good print

quality and so on.

I liked Sergei Tcherepnin's work. I could tell he was having fun with it, or trying to at least. A friend sprawled out in the snow; I almost knew what he was feeling right then. Another friend said he was into Jon Feinstein's work, portraits of fellow Bard boys. I know what he was saying, even though portraits can get old, I liked the work. There was something about the pose the guys took in each piece, both natural and artificial; I could almost hear Feinstein telling them to try to not do this or that. It was beautiful work to look at, the people and the space they took up. A guy standing next to a radar dish, strange, unnatural, calm, collected, cool, legs spread. It surprised me.

When I walk down the street sometimes I see a scene that I want to take a photo of, but I know it won't capture what I'm seeing exactly so I try to just enjoy that image. Sam Morgan doesn't feel that way. He takes the photo I want to, but instead of simply hoping his viewer will feel what he's feeling, he uses a stand in for the viewer, a figure in the photo, their back turned from the camera, looking at something big and mysterious before them. It's experiential photography.

Lindsey Hoffman's 4" x 5" work is similar in that I can really feel what the hands and feet and faces are experiencing in her photos. Mud squeezing through my toes, pulp and seeds from a fresh pumpkin-juice running down my arm, and the little tearing sound when I separate two halves of a pink grapefruit. The colors are off the hook (to quote another friend of mine) and she has the amazing ability

to make a picture of a hand scooping out the insides of a fish, lovely to behold.

There was another group of photos, about five or six 8" x 10" black and white shots of a figure

what is created is this rhythm of movements, so casual and yet, calculated at the same time. The name on the wall only said L Steele, and I'm not sure if that's the



Bard boys looking surprisingly good: One of the portraits exhibited by Jon Feinstein at the moderation show.

dressed in a what looked like a home-made costume in front of a flat background, shifting. I say shifting because it looks like the figure is dancing or just moving about. The camera captures the figure's movement and it feels like documentation of a performance piece. It is a performance, but for the camera. Because the camera can only take so many shots and weave them together,

whole name or if letters had fallen off. However, the ambiguity of the author's name matches my feelings about the work. All I can say is that they are worth experiencing.

As for myself, I'm looking forward to seeing the entire show again and spending some time walking, looking and experiencing.

• SPECIAL BONUS SECTION! •

I was brave enough to ask most of the students exhibiting in the Moderation show a very important question—a question that has been on the mind of many people for many years:

WHO IS THE PICASSO OF PHOTOGRAPHY? ...

Some students answered this very important question. Some answered it with another question. Others just slapped me around. Hey, it wasn't my question - it was just a thought. Here are some of the answers I pulled out of these fuckin' kids:

- 1) "All photographers." The student then asks, "Who was Picasso?"
- 2) "Here [at this show] or in general" (I got tired of getting this answer so I said "in general") "The Holy Naj [spelling, anyone?]"
- 3) Two students responded at the same time "That's not fair - what does that mean - the master or the Picasso?" One of these students found me later (response #7)
- 4) "Gregory Crewdson" Finally, my first real answer (big insight!)
- 5) "Maybe Ansel Adams"
- 6) "Can I think about it?" (Thinks for a moment) "Cartier Bresson"
- 7) (#3 continued) "Jamie O'Shea"

8) My pen was stolen when I questioned Mr. O'Shea himself, but I think he said something to the effect of "I don't know any photographers"

9) "Who do I think most resembles Picasso?" one drunk photographer replied. Khalil Huffman responds by telling him/her his response and he/she responds, laughing, "Barbara Ess"

10) "Oh god I don't know - Stephen Shore - no just kidding - don't say that."

I think we've all learned something, don't you?

By Jack Lewis

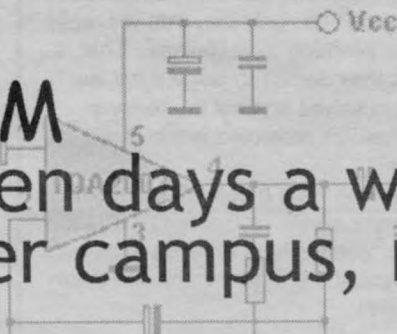
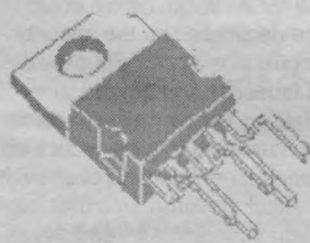
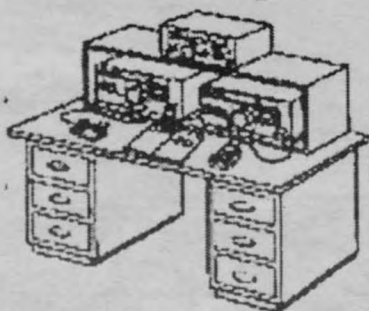
***Special Thanks to Will Fenton for editing both parts of this special article.

bard's radio station

WXBC

540 AM

on the air seven days a week
tune in all over campus, really.



America's Response to Terrorism

Protecting Democracy

Aggressive Tactics Equal a Secure Nation

by **Micah Noble**

There has been much talk about how the Bush administration should, or is, handling this conflict with terrorism. Much of it leads directly to a sort-of "bomb the s--t out of 'em mentality." This type of feeling is common with how the media portrays general public opinion, and with many of the people I have talked to about this in-your-face issue.

It's best to avoid killing thousands of people in retaliation for these terrorist attacks. (Remember your mother when she told you that an "eye for and eye makes the world go blind?") Well this holds true today. But consider the ease of entry for these 20 some odd terrorists to gain entrance into airports with weapons, board planes, and re-direct them. It seems that most people feel that it is almost suicidal to simply impose political demands on top of obviously raising the standard for immigration and travel security measures.

Many conversations about the matter had led me to believe that the only way on top of these aforementioned responses is to bomb the F--- out of any

known Bin Ladin compound, and any government that is responsible for protecting him in any way. Bomb them into fearing not only the US, with our seemingly infinite military budget and massive fleet of planes,

ships and a jump in FBI and CIA applications, but also any other major industrialized democratic nation on the planet. The idea would be to keep these tragedies from happening time and time again, and the hope that NYC will never have to face the horrors of terrorism like we see almost daily in the news from Israel.

It is hard to convince people that this type of killing is almost necessary. But consider the educational system amongst Palestinians in Israel, for example. They are taught that any American death is one step closer for the coming of Islam. In an article published in the *Wall Street Journal* September 20, 2001, Norman Podhoretz writes:

"When in textbooks published by the Palestinian Authority's Ministry of Education, and in use this very school year, seventh-graders were being taught that Islam 'will defeat all other religions and it will be disseminated, by Allah's will, through the Muslim jihad [holy war] fighters?' So, too, 11th-graders were taught that Western civilization 'has begun to collapse and to become a pile of rubble.' A pile of rubble: the sight of the World Trade Center reduced to endless tons of debris must have seemed the fulfillment of a prophecy to young minds poisoned by such teachings."

We then must ask ourselves, that in an impoverished country with virtually few targets for American bombs (and mind you, a county where American involvement in the civil war going on in Afghanistan for years has led to extreme hatred for our 'righteous' nation): would severe decimation, including loss of many civilian lives, due to an undefined enemy really go over terribly well with the consensus of the local populations?

The only option to fight this kind of irregular warfare is with innovative tactics of our own that surpass just limiting trade with nations that harbor terrorist groups. Months ago, and against the liberal agenda in America, the Bush administration wanted to expand our oil and power industries by building pipelines through, amongst other places, the Alaskan wilderness and to build many more oil refineries and power plants, whereas the Liberals wanted to solve our energy crisis with alternate means for energy. I propose that we invest greatly for the short term into Bush's long-term energy expansion plan to become more independent from these middle-eastern oil-producing nations, while, in the mean time provide incentives for automobile companies and related industries for pursuing alternate-energy consuming vehicles and putting them on the market as soon as possible, say 2006. Allow Big Oil to

gain interests into these markets in order to keep our big businesses as they are, in business, and to eliminate the possibility of these industries going bankrupt in the long term

as oil will become an 'ancient' industry. First, money and laws should be put in effect to make hybrid cars standard. Then either research alternate-energy vehicles, or simply make straight electric cars a standard, thus making our energy production and consumption a solely independent venture.

We cannot feasibly fight a traditional ground war with Afghanistan. Firstly, as an inland nation, we cannot without the help of neighboring countries land an invasion of ground troops directly, as there are no ports. As far as coming in from the north or east, the mountainous regions there prevent any advantage for invasion, as we could feasibly be decimated by the security that the mountains and caves provide for rocket launcher and ground to air missile wielding troops that will reside there. So normative military tactics will not hold up against this kind of enemy. We must attack governments that harbor terrorism economically, and devastate them in the only way that we really can, by pinching their lifelines. That is, unless they decide to wage a full war for them selves against the terrorist child that lies protected within their wombs.

(Those who want a copy of the Norman Podhoretz article, "Israel Isn't the Issue: Islamic fanatics hate America in its own right," email me at formicahjones@hotmail.com)

9/11 – Emergency Uniting America without War

by **Lola Pierson**

At Bard College, in the middle of Kline's lobby there are two tables set up. One has a Bard student sitting behind it with flyers that say things like, "Want to go to D.C. this weekend?" Behind the other table are two young men in uniforms with pamphlets about joining the military and they even have free pencils. They are clearly and understandably uncomfortable as most of us push our way around them to get to the "right" table. With polls indicating that almost 14 to every 1 American is in favor of taking military action you would think statistically most of us Bard Students would be running to the table on the right to defend our country, but you'd be wrong. In fact, if you were to

think that even at recruitment centers around America people are lined up around the block, you'd be mistaken again.

Nearly all of the recruitment centers around the U.S. report no increased interest in joining the military. A far cry from December of 1941,

when after Pearl Harbor young men were lined up around the block to serve their country. Who is the American public expecting to go "defend" them as they bomb not only those responsible for this act, but also anyone harboring them?

If there was, however, the expected rush to run and join the armed forces, it would almost be less comforting than our present condition. Perhaps it is easy to sit here in Annandale-on-Hudson, NY and preach of peace with no real concept of imminent danger, but should the draft be reinstated it is our generation that will be fighting this war. Violence only begets more violence. True peace and security can only be achieved through tolerance and understanding. But evidently 14 to every one American wants blood, wants revenge, and wants to feel like our government has done something-anything. War in general is a counterproductive concept, and in this particular case we don't even know whom we would be fighting.

As Mumia Abu-Jamal reminds us, "America exists in a virtual sea of materialism. Here, one sees material excess in the midst of utter poverty. Here, in the cradle of global capital power, one finds more food, more clothing, more creature comforts, more material wealths than almost anywhere on this planet. Ironically, the lives of many surrounded by opulence are awash in unhappiness. This nation eats most of the world's food. It consumes most of the world's energy. It treats the vast lands and seas of the earth as if it were a toilet bowl. It gains its material wealth from the theft of other people's lands and the exploitation of other people's labor."

While millions are mourning for this national tragedy Americans are calling for violence and more pain because this is our mentality. We are somehow entitled to more than everyone else. The American lives that were lost were worth more than the lives of other people around the world that we exploit daily. The American lives that will be lost if we go to war will be worth more than those of our opponents. We are under the misconception that because we are Americans we somehow deserve more than everyone else. In short, we are the bully on the school playground that wants sympathy when someone finally hits him with a rock. September 11 did mean something- no one is debating that. It was a call for America to reevaluate itself and begin again. It was not a call to war or violence. It is not a reason for bloodshed. It is a golden opportunity for the American government and general public to look beyond our defined judgments of race, gender, age, socioeconomic class, and whatever else we can dream up and unite in our pain in a productive way. It is

America's time for an internal revolution; it is time we looked at ourselves instead of placing blame.

A war at this point is not even for the benefit of American's peace of mind. Bush's administration is using this entire issue as an excuse to push for a bigger

defense budget and as a distraction from the other issues in our country that are becoming more prevalent every day. It is, indeed, time that we start rewriting our history. Let America question its motives for going to war and we will see that it is only out of pride and arrogance that we are forcing Bush to believe he is justified in his violent strategy. Let's be humbled by the events of September 11 and grow from them as a nation. Let freedom truly ring in America for the first time in its existence by allowing yourselves to mourn for our loss in a productive way. We must stand up for the revolution by saying we don't require blood for healing and we will unite to get through our pain in a peaceful way, and be much stronger because of it.

Normative military tactics will not hold up against this kind of enemy. We must attack governments that harbor terrorism economically, and devastate them in the only way that we really can, by pinching their lifelines.

It is a golden opportunity for the American government and general public to look beyond our defined judgments of race, gender, age, socioeconomic class, and whatever else we can dream up and unite in our pain in a productive way.

First Year First Impressions

Learning and Thinking or Smoking and Drinking?

A Bard Student's Response to a Shortened Summer

by **Sasha Rosenfeld**

I must say that Bard College offers a much different answer to the typical administrative question of, "How are we going to get the first years settled in?" Most colleges simply ignore the question, and the other typical response is to hold poorly managed orientation sessions that leave the freshmen bored and uninformed. So what is Bard's response to this dire situation?

Let's get 'em drunk.

You can almost hear Botstein thinking that during his opening speech to the first-year class. L & T gave us three weeks of free reign on campus, with as much alcohol as we could get our little underage fingers on. And it's not hard, no matter what New York State law dictates. I would in fact put money on the fact that "BevWay" depends upon the underage business to reach that profit margin that I'm sure they're going for. So the six first-years

with enough common sense to get a fake ID before coming to school got conned time and time again to go on these monstrous beer runs that left half of South Campus in a stupor and security with a long list of names to "report" to John Kelly. And I believe JK when he says that he has to report all of us; I do. Sometimes I even in some small way, feel bad for JK and the other administration that have to be out here for L & T as well, I mean shit, they lost a month of their summer too. And I'm sure they really just don't want us to hurt our selves, right?

Now all this does not mean that we were given open license to just out and out get drunk, and Bard's proud sober population should not be under-represented. We at Tewksbury were first to find out that the Bard administration would not tolerate out and out drinking on campus by being the first house to be put on "probation." Some of us even believe that we may be the first house ever to be put on double secret probation, but that is mere speculation. We were given a full range of evening and outdoor activities organized by our wonderful PCs that provided a full range of events that one could participate in, if you wanted to stay away from the drinking and smoking, or if you

just wanted to have fun with the toxins in your body.

And that brings me to the bugs. Time and time again I have come across this question in my head and still no answer, so maybe someone else has an idea. What in the world prompted the founders of Bard to build a school on top of a marsh? I mean were they trying to make it uncomfortable for everybody? Maybe they thought if peo-

founders on upholding that rich tradition in their own quaint way by placing us, the student body, at the mercy of more little critters than I have ever seen in my entire life. Creepy ones, crawly ones, and not a single plastic one that didn't bite. It was horrible. But we survived. All in all, L & T was a lot of fun. I don't know too many first-years that would disagree either. It was really a lot like glorified summer camp, but it was just a

tease. Some said that the learning had to come in somewhere and others said that it was never meant to be. My favorite response to date goes verbatim, "L&T was great, but it was a huge cocktease." That from a Keen resident

L & T gave us three weeks of free reign on campus, with as much alcohol as we could get our little underage fingers on.

ple were busy scratching their bug bites they might concentrate more on school-work? This is the logic that makes America great, the same logic that told Americans it was ok to build entire cities on hills or that Arizona was a good place to live. The logic that gives us license to ignore nature and say that we are better than our surroundings.

I must commend the Bard

who is none too happy with regular school. I know personally that after L & T I expected something different from Bard. I don't know what though and it makes me slightly unnerved that the only thing that I can think of is something I was told on the second night of school by a Robbins house senior, namely, "Moderation means many things."

Surrealism and Bard

by **Joel Clark**

"What did I tell you? All gots and dykes." This I heard from number 16 of the Sacred Heart Rugby team, addressed to his teammates after he had received a mooning from the Bard fans. I love that I didn't go to a place like Sacred Heart, and that I came to a place like Bard. There's something odd about a place called Sacred Heart playing at Bard College. I wonder what a rugby game at Sacred Heart would be like for Bard. It would probably be just as surreal for us as the game here was for them.

That's a good word to describe my time here at Bard: surreal. From the first day of L & T to today, I haven't had many "normal" experiences. I was so relieved at the sight of Old Navy in the Hudson Valley Mall; it was the first normal thing I had seen in a month and a half. That's not to say I don't like the relative craziness of this place; in fact, I love it. I am completely out of my element, and it feels really good. I don't know what to think of my classes; I don't know what to think of the people; I don't know what to think about anything. I am a freshman; it makes sense. After

I heard a poem about what I think was lesbian sex (I couldn't be sure, it was a very good metaphor), I remember thinking, "Holy shit, I am made very uncomfortable by that." I was so happy. I came here thinking that I was wicked alternative, (excuse the "wicked," I'm from New Hampshire) but it turned out that I had previously had no experience whatsoever with real people and real views. I thought I would be chill with anything, but it turns out that I am not. But I'm learning to be, and that's a great feeling.

Well, now it's 2 am. For some reason I keep thinking about how cool it would be if I could have breakfast with Friedrich Nietzsche and Rivers Cuomo. It's probably because I'm hungry, and the Nietzsche doll that I got as a graduation present from my sister is sitting on the printer, directly in front of my Weezer poster. They're both looking at me. I stare back, wondering what I would say to them when there was an awkward silence in our morning chitchat. "Freddy, what did you think of Pinkerton?" No, that seems a little inappropriate. "Rivers, don't you think Friedrich should lose the bushy mustache look? I think it's getting a little too Burt Reynolds." Now that's just downright insulting. It's 2 am, and I keep thinking about philosophy and Weezer.

I really should be sleeping or reading, but I'm always sleeping or

reading; I think that's all that college really entails. I read all day, sleep for as

long as I can, then get up and read some more. In between all that, I am hanging out. Hanging out is the only thing to do here, I guess, but that's cool with me. Hey, it beats sleeping and reading. The thing that's great about this place is the fact that I can stay in my dorm and have a good time, or I can go anywhere else and have an equally good time. There are options. Weekends, however, are tricky. It's hard when you don't drink or smoke pot, because they're boring as hell. There is really

nothing to do except hang out. Which is okay I guess, but getting off campus just

needs to happen sometimes.

I have a girlfriend. Back home. This creates a problem for me: I miss her. This is a major bummer. If you have a significant other back home, you can empathize. If you don't have a significant other back home, you can imagine. This is probably the hardest part of freshman year so far. I guess that's a good sign, because it isn't impossible. Therefore, nothing is impossible here at Bard, right? Except for breakfast with

Nietzsche and the front man of Weezer, that would be way too surreal.

I'm Going to Moderate in...Friendship

by **Queenie Nohl**

I've been at Bard for one month and two weeks, and while I'm not quite sure which academic subject I'd like to study (they all seem so F.U.N.) I definitely want to concentrate on making new pals. It's been wonderful meeting new teens from all across New York, and while everyone is special and unique in their own way, they all share one thing in common: they all hate me. Well, no, hate is a strong word, but the boyz and girlz here are certainly apprehensive about being friends with yours truly. But yours truly isn't taking it personally. These past couple weeks, many have just been wandering the campus in an impenetrable malaise, too shocked and upset to be civil to others. Indeed, Aailyah will be missed, but this is not a time to shut others out. Rather, we must come together as brothers and sisters to celebrate her music and *Romeo Must Die*. It has also occurred to me that many here are less fortunate than I am and are probably jealous of my new K-Swiss sneakers. I guess I can't blame them.

Back in L&T, my approach was

to scoop food onto people's trays as they brushed past me in Kline, but sadly, this kind act was not the conversation-starter I had anticipated. My other tactic, however, good old-fashioned sharing, has been working pretty well. So far, I've managed to loan out my notes, my stereo and printer, all my CDs, my Ritalin, my prescription for Ritalin, and my social security number. People are always floating in and out of my room, and though I have yet to see any of them again, I'm confident that they're probably off telling the rest of the campus how wicked-generous I am.

Some people are more approachable than others, and because I seem to make a better impression when there's some form of language barrier, I've been getting quite chummy with a lot of the international students. Last Friday, in fact, I threw a party I called "Global Goodtimes," for which two people showed up. This was for the best, though, because intimate

gatherings always turn out better. I just wish I hadn't made so many treat bags.

For "Global Goodtimes," everyone was to bring a dish from their neck o' the woods. Sune from Turkey had prepared a large plate of sweet,

Companionshipville. My social life isn't quite as vibrant as I'd like, but I'm definitely making myself known on campus; when people glance at me before hurrying off quickly, I can see that hint of recognition in their eyes. With home-

work beginning to pile up, it's getting harder and harder to devote time to this concentration of mine, but thankfully, Reading Week will be offering many opportunities for fun with others: a time-management workshop, a viola recital by *the* Marka Gustafson, and a field trip tour of Bard with Professor William

Maple. (I was just say-

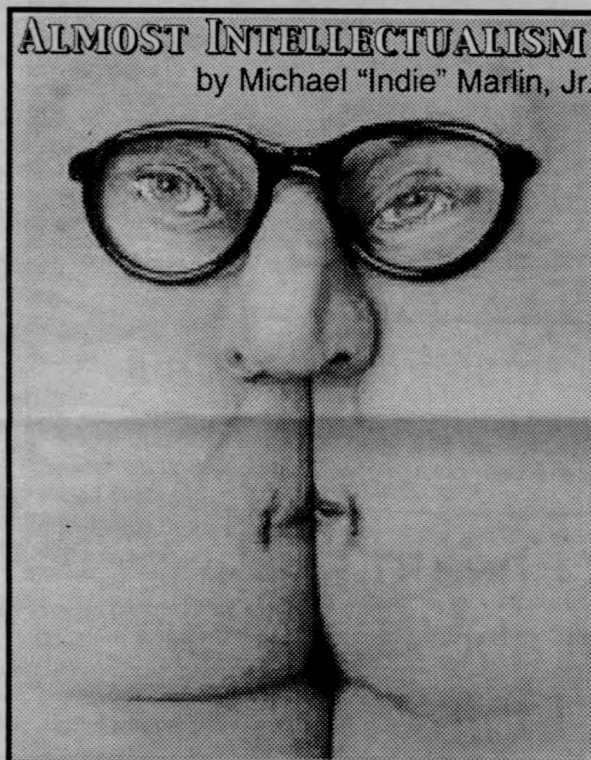
ing to my advisor the other day how I needed to catch up on the flora and fauna of Annandale-on-Hudson...) "We will not be deterred by light showers and cool breezes," the professor states in the flyer. Mr. Maple, I've got my galoshes ready!

*Or a vegan! Ho ho ho!

It's been wonderful meeting new teens from all across New York; and while everyone is special and unique in their own way, they all share one thing in common: they all hate me.

syrupey baklava, and Oscala from Africa made dirt-wiches. And what did I make, you ask? Why, Wisconsin's taste sensation - peanut butter and celery sticks! (I didn't want to call them by their proper name, "Ants on a Log," in case either of the girls was a vegetarian! ha ha ha!)

Well, it's taken a lot of effort, but I, Queenie, am on the fast track to



Welcome back, everybody, to Bard's favorite place for quasi-intellectual discussion and debate. Fortunately, I, "Indie," am your host once again as I shall guide all of you through today's current events and answer some of your intelligent questions later on! But first, I have a confession to make. As some of you may know, this is the second semester of "Almost Intellectualism" and in past installments I have indeed given my own advice and opinion to some of "your" questions. Well I think it's about time for me to admit that not one person sent me a goddamned question last semester! That's right...I made it all up! Every damn question, even the ones that I said were ridiculously stupid and naïve, was created by yours truly.

So why did I decide to come back for another semester? Frankly, I have no idea. It probably has something to do with my narcissism, in that I just love to see my name in print and act like people actually care about what I have to say even if I *am* pretending to be a pompous pseudo-intellectual. Also, some fans actually

really don't think that will ever happen. So for now, I'll just have to settle with seeing my name in print.

Anyway, let's get to work. You know the drill...news first then questions. (For now...just humor me and act like you have *some* idea what the fuck I'm talking about.)

-America Under Attack!

I actually have nothing to say about this because I am not nearly witty enough to saying something funny without every person on campus getting offended and pissed off at me. Don't get me wrong...it's not a laughing matter in the first place! But it's news and I would have felt stupid not mentioning it. Oddly, I feel stupid already, so what's the difference?

-Danza Dead?

Sad but true, one of America's most loved sitcom stars is rumored to have been killed recently by a runaway rhinoceros. Some witnesses report that the head-on collision was gruesome and horrifying and that mysterious sounds came from the rhino as it ran off. One witness was certain that he had heard the words: "Who's the boss now, Tony!"

-Penis Punch. A Colorado "machine-operator" found something "solid and opaque" in his 20-ounce bottle of "Ora Potency Fruit Punch" last Thursday. Officials later clarified that the object was indeed a 3-inch member of the male genitals that had been found in the drink. Authorities are still uncertain as to how the small penis got into the bottle, but most people generally agree that it must not have been *that* great of Fruit Punch.

-Game Room Highs and Lows. The campus center game room saw plenty of abuse and vandalism during the summer months. On the other hand, it also saw the addition of some much-needed coat-hooks and Tekken Tag Tournament! Amen.

Okay, that's news. Now to the questions. Unfortunately we only have time for one, so I'll just pick one randomly from the many that I got in my box over the summer. (Yes, lying again...you're quick.)

Dear Indie,
What did you do over your summer vacation?
Sincerely,
Your Mom

Dear Mom,
Thanks for writing! I won't get into the details, but all you have to know is that I have a newly found obsession with Ralph Macchio. I managed to get his AOL screenname and it's been nothing but "Karate Kid" and "My Cousin Vinny" ever since.

Love,
Indie

Sorry, kids; we're out of time. Be sure to write though, so that I don't have to humiliate myself like this again in the future. Send your questions, comments, or concerns to mm374@bard.edu or by campus mail to Michael "Indie" Marlin. Until next time, I'm a bastard. Good night.

The Bard Observer Staff Fall 2001

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The Media is the Opium of the Masses

by **Katie Jacoby**

With every late breaking weather warning and crucial top story break down it seems there is no hero but the media. They swarm and salivate over the juicy details of your cities number one crisis, trying to get one more tidbit just to stay out front of the "other guys." But they are not heroes, merely victims of us, the masses. We (some of us) have grown comatose attitudes about news-gathering.

It was quite disconcerting to see the replays of the ghastly footage of the World Trade Center building's demise on CNN that morning. Worse still, the images of workers leaping from their windows. I would understand if that is considered vital footage.

However, once CNN or any other station plasters a title to the given tragedy and splits the TV screen into a plethora of correspondents repeating the same facts, I begin to wonder.

There is a strategy involved here. It doesn't matter what topic is being reported on, it should be done meticulously and with as little bias as possible. Assumptions can cause too much damage to innocent parties. The media has the ability to alter the way news is portrayed. And why shouldn't they; they have ratings to consider.

As Jello Biafra reminded me, doesn't it bother you when the news reporter flashes the same smile as the woman on the following toothpaste commercial?

And here we are anyway with

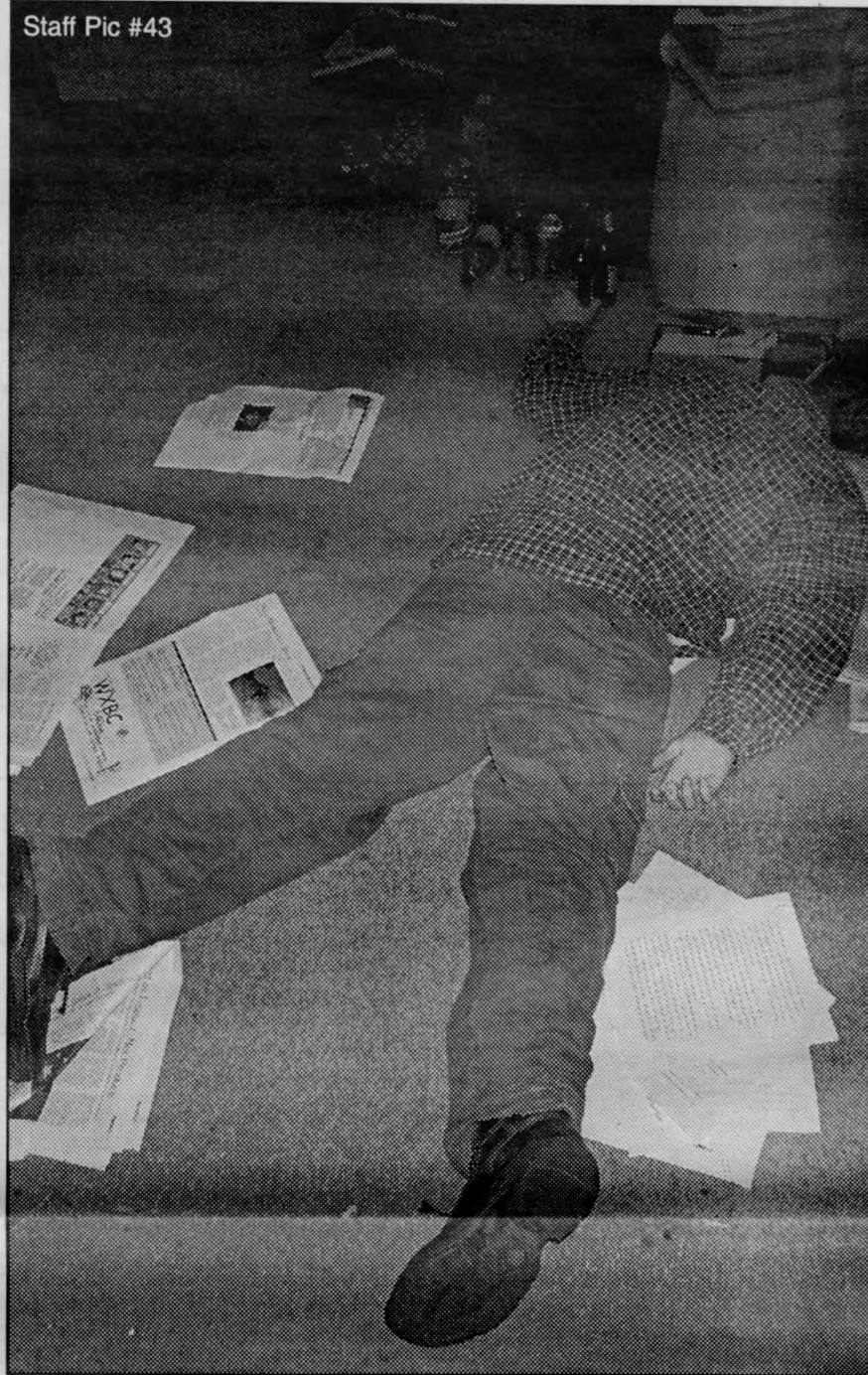
our eyes glued to the screen waiting for that next juicy detail. Is it possible to obtain the very same information without having to go through this trauma? Of course there are other sources of media to consider besides the television, or perhaps I mean to say, please consider other media than television.

The newspapers are not as bad as they seem. They are jam packed with essential information, more so than any other live television report. And even if you claim you are a visual learner, there are more diagrams, maps and pictures in the last couple of weeks New York Times than imaginable. But as objective as these reporters try to be, sometimes American opinion leaks out

The media has the ability to alter the way news is portrayed. And why shouldn't they; they have ratings to consider.

and shields the actual news trying to be reported from the readers. With this, even the newspapers become frustrating.

And that's why I say, Independent Media. If you haven't heard of the Independent Media Center, get ready; its underground; its grass roots and there are finally centers all over the world. "Indymedia" is a democratic media outlet for the creation of radical, accurate, and passionate telling of the truth. Finally, for anyone who has had it with the media, there is a place to turn.



To be or not to be? Another rough all-nighter for Michael at the Observer office.

Have an opinion?

Send it to us and we'll print it!!

observer@bard.edu

or directly to the *opinions editor*:

mm374@bard.com

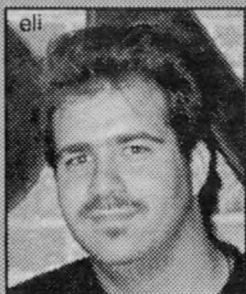
via campus mail to: **Observer**

or call us! (we're lonely)

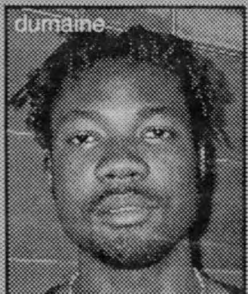
x7131

the Guy@KITCHEN

What would you do if you found Osama Bin Laden lying next to you in his underwear one morning?



I'd probably go back to sleep.



Call security and then my mommy.



I would use my powers and skills as a future secret seductive agent to turn him over to the secret organization more powerful than the FBI, CIA, and the KGB.



I'd first make sure the underwear wasn't mine.



I'd give him a BJ and bite hard!



I'd become a Muslim.

Men's Soccer Ranks 10th in Regional Division 3!

by **Michael Morini**

THIS YEARS MEN'S SOCCER TEAM is off to an amazing start. The team, who had only 4 wins all of last season, has an 8-1 record and it looks like it's only going to get better. The team's only loss this season was against Elms College where they lost 2-1 in overtime. Last year Bard lost to Elms 5-1. They have already beaten SUNY Old Westbury who, last year, won the Hudson Valley Men's division, and the beginning of the season was predicted to win it again. Old Westbury beat Bard 5-2 last season. And in one of their most recent wins, Bard beat Polytechnic

again on Parent's Day, Saturday, October 13th.

Head Coach Scott Swire commented that this team is significantly stronger than years past and that the whole team was doing well. "Many key roles have been filled with this years freshmen class. Sho Spaeth and Dave Martinez have been doing a great job up front. And Andriy Bubny and Max Leer have been doing great at midfield." Swire also said that both this year's freshmen class and last years freshmen class has been very strong and the team's overall mental focus is much better than last year. More than half of last year's team was fresh-

men and the team is much more coherent says sophomore midfielder Bart Yates, "Last year's freshmen class was made up

"The nicest thing about this year is that more and more people are showing up to our games. The more support we have, the better we play."

University 10-0.

On September 25th Bard beat Albany College of Pharmacy 6-0. This was the teams' first win against the Pharmacists in 8 tries. Bard will face them

of players from all over the world and they were all playing different types of soccer. Over the past year and into this season all the returnees have improved and learned how each other plays, and we have



Andres Zambrano

become more coherent as a whole. The freshmen have been a shot in the arm. They have filled all the roles that last year's graduating seniors had left."

This past week the team was placed on the 2001 NCAA Division 3 Metro Division's top ten list. "We are definitely going to win the conference this year. We're just rolling over teams," Yates had to say in a phone interview. He also stated that the Hudson Valley Conference doesn't have a seed in the tournament at the end of the season so they were trying to get together some type of smaller tournament with Manhattanville College (who is ranked 9th in the Metro Division), Vassar, and Elms. Hopefully if this happens it would give the team more of a challenge and improve the team so it does even bet-

ter next season.

"The nicest thing about this year is that more and more people are showing up to our games. The more support we have, the better we play. We play off the crowd. The more people at our games the better." You heard the man, guys! Go support Bard soccer! They're your friends and they are damn good!

Sully's Eye On Sports.

by **Sean Sullivan**

IN BASEBALL, the New York Mets seemed to have a

streak of luck for a little while. That, however, came to a halt with their loss to the Atlanta Braves. In the National Eastern League, the Mets are four games back, after losing to the tough Braves. Bard student and accomplished film maker/actor, Franco Bulaon (pronunciation undetermined), said, "I think the Mets are great because I live in Flushing and Flushing is where the Mets play and Flushing is where I live. Mike Piazza has muscles. I hate Derrick Jeter."

Also Barry Bonds is within one home run of equaling Mark McGwire's record of 70. That would be an amazing feat, however some baseball experts are hesitant about this impending accomplishment. They feel it is too soon for McGwire's record to be broken, since it was only made in 1998. Breaking this fairly new record won't be as significant, if, for instance, it were to be broken twenty or thirty years from now.

In regard to women's soccer at Bard, the team seems to be very talented. I've witnessed some pretty crazy defensive moves on the field. Their record, so far, is 3 wins and 2 losses, with a win coming in the most recent game on Saturday, the 29th. They faced the yellow-coated women of Pratt and won a decisive victory of 3 to nothing. An unidentified member of the team informed me that, "People don't know where the soccer field is," and that the "fans are awesome at the games." Last Saturday's game had a substantial amount of supporters urging the team on, however, so the word as to where the soccer field is located seems to be spreading.

In the game before last, the Wednesday game, Bard faced off against a bunch of Pharmacists. Before the game, team member, Jackie Laduke seemed optimistic about winning, which, of course, they did, 5 to 3. "We're playing Albany College of Pharmacy so I hope [we win]. Are you quoting me? I'm gonna kick their fuckin' asses, so they better watch out." I inquired this enthusiastic young lady as to why Pharmacists would want to play a game such as soccer. She replied, "Oh hold on...(long period of silence)...I imagine studying pharmacy is pretty boring and you know they just sit like at the desk all day and like when they're done they want to exercise so I guess soccer is a good answer." Her favorite part about

soccer is "...um being able to beat people up and not get in trouble for it." That's the spirit!

Men's soccer is also on the upswing. A former member of the team had this to say about the team's status, "Men's soccer? Well, what do you mean 'what's up with men's soccer?' They're doing very well. They're awesome. They beat Albany Pharmacy, which is like Bard's biggest rival, by 6 to 1 or nothing."

In professional Basketball, it is almost confirmed that the great Mike Jordan is set to return to the NBA. There are those who are skeptic about his abilities, returning at the age of 38. He is signed to play for the Washington Wizards for two seasons. He will donate his first season's salary of one million dollars to the victims of September 11th.

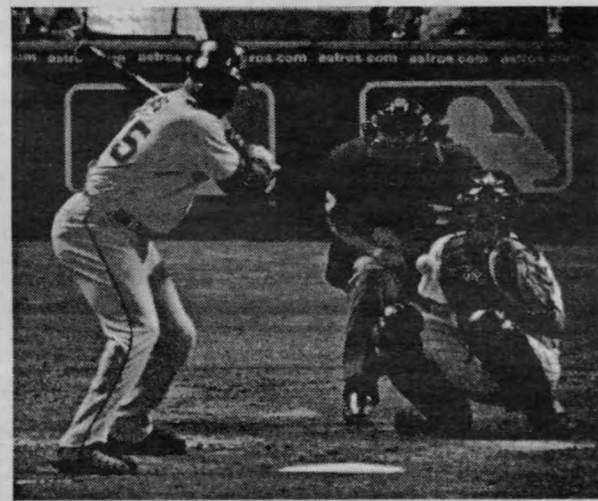
In equally important news, yet another comeback has been on the rumor mill as of late. There has been increasing speculation that the return of the once great, Franco Bulaon, to the Bard Raptors men's basketball team, is imminent. Nothing is confirmed at this date and time, however. Ian Schaff, another former talented Bard basketball player, believes that with the return of Franco, "we are gonna go undefeated. We are gonna spice up the competition like a good ol' Red Hook Chinese food take out place." Franco is confident that the new coach will bring the team lots of success. "I hope this new coach is very nice because the old coach was really mean to me. One time, during the Vassar game, we were losing by 65 points, and he didn't even put me in the game because he was a mean guy."

Men's Rugby is also feeling very confident about forthcoming success. In their first game of the season, the Raptors lost to Sacred Heart. However, Sacred Heart is one of the best teams in the league. Bard will have many chances to improve on that loss with games every Sunday. John Biando commented that Sacred Heart "has their shit together and might have even won the title last year." There are a lot of new freshmen on the team, who will surely bring the team a sense of vigor. Rugby is a fairly new sport to Bard, as not too long ago, it was a club sport. Now the team has new uniforms, a new coach, and, according to Biando, more "discipline." John said the new coach "played in South Africa, which is a bad assed place to play," so he is sure the experienced coach will be overwhelmingly beneficial.

There is still a yearning for many more players. Biando said the team "needs some hard dudes that are willing to

suffer concussions for us." They would like to have a full roster as well as plenty reserves. Anyone can come out for the team. All one would have to do is show up at a practice and say, "Yo, I wanna be parta dis, you know." Practices are held every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday from 5pm to 7pm on the rugby field behind Kline.

P.S. The alleged chair bandits all proclaim their innocence as well as extend their apologies for any misconduct and wrongdoing.



Baseball or Golf anyone?

if you would like to take part in either of these clubs please e mail me at mm952 and we will put you on the e mail list!!!

Air Jordan Will Fly Again

Hey guess what folks, we are going to see my all time favorite basketball player on the NBA courts once again. This time however it will be in a new uniform and now this guy is 38. Despite all the negative hoopla regarding Michael Jordan's possible return to the NBA, Jordan is coming back. "Everybody was so negative about what I was trying to do," Jordan said. "If I read every newspaper about negative things that I was trying to do, I swear I wouldn't live in America. America's supposed to be the free will to do whatever you choose, do whatever you want to do." He will play for the Washington Wizards, coached by Doug Collins, who had a pitiful 19-63 record last year. Jordan said that he would be "surprised" if the team won 50 games. They opened training camp this past Tuesday and the team's first game is on October 30 against the Knicks. "It's an itch that still needs to be scratched here, and I don't want that itch to bother me for the rest of my life," Jordan commented (on why he was coming back to play professional ball once again after a 3 year "retirement"). Jordan also commented that he wasn't coming back for the money (no shit, the doode is worth trillions) he's coming back for the love of the game. Jordan said in a press interview, "I'm not about the money. I don't care if I get

paid a dime. I've said that many years. ... I'm going to play the game of basketball because I love it. That's all I'm doing. I'm not committing a crime here. I'm just trying to play a game of basketball." Jordan also said this, "The young dogs are going to chase me around. Well, I'm not going to bark too far away from them, either. I'm not running from nobody. If anything, it'll be a great challenge. I'm not saying that I can take Kobe Bryant, that I can take Tracy McGrady. You guys are the only ones saying that they can take me. All good and fine. I'm pretty sure they're sitting back welcoming the challenge. Guess what - I'm sitting back welcoming the challenge, too."



In Step With Bard Sports!

Freshmen are kicking some serious Butt in Women's Soccer, Women's Tennis, and Men's Cross Country

THE WOMEN'S SOCCER TEAM is off to a wonderful start this season with a 4-2 record. I'm not sure what the team's overall record was last year but I bet this is better. In their most recent game the team crushed Pratt 3-0. The leading scorer for the team thus far is Freshman Phenom Carrie Keith, who has scored 8 goals in 6 games. WOMEN'S TENNIS pulverized Mount Saint Vincent College yesterday 7-2 to earn the team's third win. The team is currently 3-4. Lauren Johnson won at 1st singles, Freshman Chiara Issa won at 2nd singles, and Freshman Kendra Rubinfeld won at 3rd singles. WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL, powered by co-captains Veta Allen and Emma Kreyche, won their last match 3-1 against Mount Saint Vincent to bring their record up to 6-5. They have a game today in the gym against Cooper Union, so head on over to the gym! . David Dash became the first Bard CROSS COUNTRY runner to break the 30 minute mark in an 8 kilometer race ever. Dash clocked in at 29:31. The last Bard runner to come close to that record was Zachary Watkinson in 1886. Yes, 1886, not 1986. Nice job, David.

2001 National League Wild Card Standings

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Houtson	91	67	.576	-
St. Louis	91	67	.576	-
San Francisco	88	70	.557	3
Chicago Cubs	86	72	.544	5

Staff Pic #17 Michael Morini



Upcoming Events in Sports!

Wed, Oct. 4 Women's Volleyball vs. Cooper Union

Sat, Oct. 6 Men's Soccer vs. Cooper Union
Women's Soccer vs. St. Joseph's College

Sat, Oct. 13 Men's Soccer vs. Albany College of Pharmacy
Women's Soccer vs. City College of New York

Wed, Oct. 17 Women's Tennis vs. Mount St. Mary College
Women's Volleyball vs. SUNY New Paltz

Thu, Oct. 18 Men's Soccer vs. Mount St. Vincent College
Women's Tennis vs. Russell Sage College

(all games are Home. Check the Stevenson Gym for times)



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\$1.50 for one, \$2 for two
(these suckers are huge!!!) send
some real nice kids to Thailand
(they will have a great time help-
ing
build a
school
for
kids)



HOPKINS WHOOPS TRINIDAD!!!

by Sean Sullivan

LAST SATURDAY, IN...damn it, let me take off this band aid so I can type better...New York City, at Madison Square Garden, Bernard Hopkins, of Philadelphia, administered a systematic beating on the Puerto Rican sensation, Felix Trinidad, to become the undisputed middleweight champion (160 lbs.). Over twelve one-sided rounds, Hopkins outboxed Trinidad, repeatedly tagging him with sharp right hands and making him miss wildly with looping hooks all the while. In the twelfth and final round, Bernard easily blocked a Trinidad left hook, with his right glove, and almost immediately retaliated with a sharp right cross on Trinidad's chin, causing him to crumble to the canvas. Trinidad tried valiantly to rise and beat the count of ten, but was waved off by the referee. At the same time, Trinidad's trainer and father, Felix Sr., rushed into the ring to save his defeated son from further punishment. With this win, Bernard Hopkins becomes the first

Bernard easily blocked a Trinidad left hook, with his right glove, and almost immediately retaliated with a sharp right cross on Trinidad's chin, causing him to crumble to the canvas.

undisputed middleweight champion since Marvelous Marvin Hagler, who ruled the weight class in the mid-eighties. The undisputed title is achieved when one boxer attains all three belts of the major sanctioning bodies; the WBC, WBA, and the IBF. He also tied the historical record of Carlos Monzon, the great Argentinean middleweight champion, for the most successful title defenses in the 160 pound weight class of 14. This win brings Hopkins' record up to 40 wins, 2 defeats (with his last loss coming in 1993 to the incomparable Roy Jones Jr.), and 1 draw, with 29 knockouts. This was also the very first defeat of Felix Trinidad's illustrious career, as he falls to 40 wins and 1 loss with 33 wins coming by way of knockout. He has made 21 appearances in title fights, moving from his original weight class, welterweight (147 lbs.), to junior middleweight (154 lbs.), and most recently to middleweight, knocking out many talented champions and former champions in the process. So, the manner in which he was

defeated was definitely unexpected. The fight had been previously scheduled to take place September 15th. However, it was postponed due to the recent horrendous terrorist attacks. In other boxing news, the one and only Iron Mike Tyson will be back in action very soon on October 13th. His opponent is "Super" Brian Nielsen, 62-1 (43ko's), of Denmark (Hi Vibel). This non-title fight is

scheduled for ten rounds and will take place at the Parken Stadium in Copenhagen. It will be televised by Showtime, with the undercard featuring super middleweight (168 lbs.) champion Joe Calzaghe, of England. This expected win for Tyson will get him one step closer to once again challenging for and regaining the Heavyweight Championship of the World. His record stands at an incredible 48 wins 3 defeats with 2 no contests, and 42 of those wins ending in a brutal knockout.



My Brain on Sports

by Dave Tramonte

IT'S KIND OF HARD TO BE FUNNY after all that's happened in recent weeks. I had a whole column laid out about summer sports, but I decided not go with it. It just seems too easy and unimportant to poke fun at the Red Sox, Mike Tyson, and the NHL. The usual butt of my jokes is going to get the week off, and I want to turn my attention to something more serious. On this campus and in my classes everyone is screaming about being more tolerant of the beliefs and religions of others, as if that is such an easy thing to do. I'm not even going to try to tackle that issue, but I will talk about tolerance and acceptance on a sports related level.

I don't like NASCAR and I don't really think it counts as a sport. I know it's challenging but I want to put it in a different category along with the X GAMES, something like "adrenalin pumping entertainment." In racecar driving I don't find that much athleticism involved besides a little hand eye co-ordination. Now with that said that doesn't mean I don't find something in the whole idea of it. There has to be something good about it, after all the Indy 500 brings in more people than the super bowl does. America is speaking out and it is saying it likes watching guys drive around in a circle. To each his own, or as my Italian grandmother used to say, "sauce each hiz own"

If they wanted to attract my attention the first thing they could do would be to get rid of the car sponsors. I just could never get excited

about a Texaco sponsored team of any kind. I wouldn't mind seeing a car being from a certain state or city. If each city had its own car and some sort of mascot, that might raise my interest. Who wouldn't root for a car named the Brooklyn Bulldog, with a big bulldog face on the hood? I think one huge monthly race would be pretty cool with some sort of season finale in December, maybe even on New Years Eve so the alcohol will make me enjoy it more. To make it more athletic, maybe even have the drivers sprint 40 yards to their cars to start the race. Then if you want to get just plain silly have all ties be decided in a pit fight. This is just my imagination running wild. Since none of this will happen I want to deal with reality.

So I have decided I'm going to make a conscious effort to not make fun of NASCAR and the people who enjoy it, because who am I to tell someone what they should and shouldn't watch on TV. If I were in charge "Survivor" would still just be a word used to describe Red Sox fans (couldn't help it). If I were in charge wholesome family sitcom's like Full House would still be as popular as they once were. (How old are the Olsen twins now? not that I'm curious or anything). But I'm not in charge and neither are you. Yes you! It seems as if the average person enrolled at this college and other "elite" colleges look down upon NASCAR fans.

I can't even count how many times I have walked with someone to Kline past a random car in the parking lot with a sign of remembrance for Dale Earnhardt and the person I'm

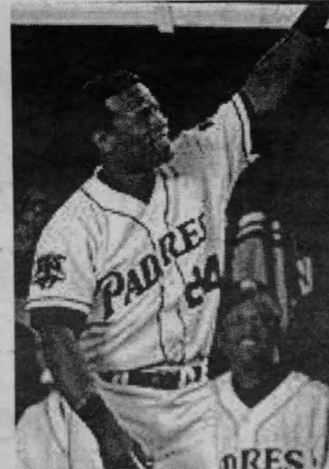
with feels the need to make a joke about it. The funny thing is, the day Bob Dylan dies Bard College will probably have to shut down for atleast a week. So where the hell do any of you come off making fun of the death of someone else's role model? I myself look up to Dave Thomas, founder of Wendy's, for reasons unknown even to me, so why can't people show their appreciation for a guy like Dale Earnhardt? Here's a guy who provided people with years of entertainment on the track.

The funny thing is, in Greek society, which is probably one of the most talked about and studied societies in academics, (I've always yearned for a class on midget society), the chariot race was one of the most popular events. The drivers of the chariots were considered closer to gods than any other mortals. So apparently the same society that produced Socrates and Plato looked up to chariot drivers, who are the equivalent of our NASCAR drivers. Simply amazing. Maybe now the average Bard student can stop and think about the way they look down upon an innocent game such as racecar driving. I know it's no interpretive dance and even I get annoyed when I have to watch the highlights on sportscenter but, hey, shouldn't that "tolerance" thing be applied everywhere?

Sports! Rap-Up

In MLB News... good olde Barry Bonds still hasn't broken McGwire's home run record yet. Bonds has 69 and needs 2 more shots to take the crown. My used-be-favorite-player at one point, Rickey Henderson, just tied Ty Cobb's all time run scoring record of 2,245 yesterday in the Padres' 12-5 loss to the Dodgers. Atlanta beat the Phillies 8-3 and Glavine got his 16th win of the season. The Mets beat Pittsburgh 3-0. The Mets still have a chance, a very small chance but a chance none the less. they are now 4.5 games behind Atlanta.

In NFL News... this past monday night match-up was a real close one between the 49ers and the Jets but San Francisco came out on top 19-17. In Other... I look real funny in my staff picture. It's all digital and shit and so it makes me look shiny. I want to go see Unwritten Law but I don't think I'm going to. They are opening for Sum 41. Do you know the band SR-71? Boy are they great. Hey everybody is 8am and I've been up for a real long time so I'm sorry that I can be looked at as boring in this Rap-up. I hope the rest of them don't suck as much as this one. Well then. Have a great Reading Week! Take care, eh?



-Mike Morini

Comics

the back page Horoscopes

MERICA by Jed Clarke & Adam Christopher

by Joel Clark



I want to blow my brains out. ————— why? ————— Because of you-hoo. —

Apostrophe by Braden Lamb



Bard Daze, by Clayton Finch.



Aries

I'm getting a really strong feeling about something that would be funny. You should probably go into a Dunkin' Donuts this week, and when you get your coffee and doughnut, you should put your coffee on a table and start walking away. Then, when everyone is confused, spin around and slam dunk your doughnut into the coffee just like a basketball and say, "Take that, you corporate fat cats!" You will probably burn your hand pretty badly.

Taurus

There's an aura of suck with you this week. Try to avoid it, because frankly, it sucks. This is a minimalist horoscope. Deal with it.

Gemini

I promised my girlfriend that I'd make this one real so here goes: I'm getting a strong feeling that something is going to happen to you very soon. Be ready for it, and deal with it when it comes. It could be a pizza. You never know.

Cancer

Whenever you see a poster with someone on it, I want you to kiss the person and say, "Oh, Charlotte, didn't you know I could never leave you?" I think it would be funny if the person on the poster was like, an old man or something.

Leo

If you couldn't tell, I really am not writing "Horoscopes" as they are usually thought of. You probably couldn't tell if you're a Leo, because this is the first one you're reading! You might be really confused right now. You might instead be like, who is this asshole and what the hell does he think he's doing. I'm writing a horoscope you insensitive bastard.

Virgo

I'm so proud. Bard is all about challenging the status quo, and here I am totally fucking with horoscopes. I hope all you squares out there are like, freaking out. Oh yeah, good luck will be yours this week.

Libra

Wait a minute. The end to that last one was like a real horoscope. I'm not screwing with the norms of our society; I'm enslaving myself to them! Uh, fuck Elvis and all his silly-ass costumes. There, I feel better.

Scorpio

But if Bard is all about challenging the status quo, then by challenging it, I am prescribing to the Bard philosophy, which is the status quo that we, the students, live with. Uh, fuck the Sex Pistols; Blink 182 is what all punk should aspire to be. Put that in your alternative pipes and smoke it.

Sagittarius

Wow, it's been a trip on these horoscopes, eh? Well, let's get back to it, shall we? If you don't shower, you will smell bad. If you smell bad, no one will like you as much as they would have if you had only showered. Now that's a horoscope!

Capricorn

Hey, remember transformers? I would have to say that they definitely rocked the house. You know what I suggest? Why don't you transform something, and then rock it. Rock it to the max, man.

Aquarius

It's really late at night. All these horoscopes that I'm writing are really funny to me right now. If they aren't funny to you, you should try staying up really late and read them, and then maybe they will be funny. Or you could smoke some marijuana, and then I bet they'd be fucking hilarious.

Pisces

This is the last horoscope, and therefore it's going to be the crappiest one. That's what you get, Pisces.

Classifieds/Personals

SWF. Very mattached. Interested in photography, bagels, Robert Downey Jr., and happy fun. Looking for a boy to experience...you know...stuff with. Send letters of interest to Campus Mail 841.

Tall bueking girl seeks single girl.boy (preferably with boat) to enjoy beer and horses and listening to Johnny Cash. Campus Mail 748

Total Slut will sleep w/ virtually anyone; my apologies to those few people who do not fall in this category. (1078)

Edgy Nice Girl - Looking for a guy who has a true sense of irony and kindness. Along with an affinity for B Horror films (and movies in general). Contact by leaving letters of interest on the 'work study' bulletin-board in Fisher. Write ZOOM on the outside.

Single Gay Boy searching for other boy (hence the homosexuality). Interests include: wine, the moon, gray, and Dawson's Creek. Campus Mail 1185.

Polygamous Man seeking another 'woman on the side'

for sexual fulfillment and random favors. 757-2286

I have a pair of semi-used GAP heavy duty flip-flops, all black, with rubber not foam souls. Very stylish. Best Offer. Please send all inquiries to Box 983.

Selling something?
Looking for that special person?
Trying to find a rare album or movie?
Post it on the Bard Observer's new Classified/Personal section!
Send submissions via campus mail to: **Observer**

Freshman Fun Page

a fun and educational supplement for the class of 2005

Spot the Frosh!

Can you tell which person in this picture is a first-year student?



Using your head, try to figure out if the following things are...

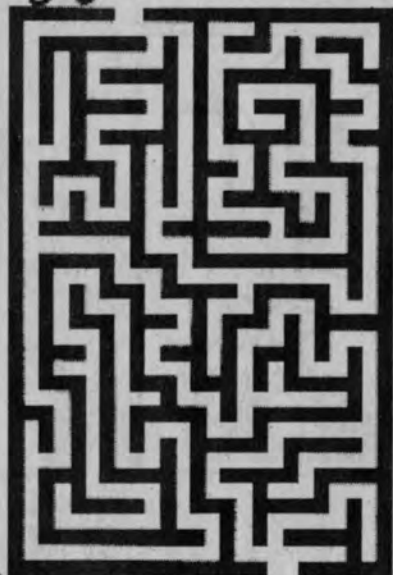
GOOD or BAD?

- Free Beer?
- Free Trade?
- Free Mumia?
- Free Press?



A-MAZE-ING JOURNEY!

Kingston Bus Station!



You are the only freshman with a car, and your annoying friend wants you to pick up her annoying friend at the Kingston Bus Station at 12:45 a.m. Go through the maze and find it!



Bard College of Liberal Arts and Sciences!

Helpful Hint: Start planning your dramatic haircut now -- it will save you time over winter break. (You may want to ask a grown-up for help!)

DID YOU KNOW...

- Bard has a basketball team?
- Girls don't care that you play the guitar?
- Leon Botstein is a conductor or something?



UNSCRAMBLE THE WORDS!

Here are some words you will want to use when having an intellectual discussion at Bard College. Get to know them well, and you will always be the smartest person in the room.

- 1) emoenhgy _____
- 2) estnezhci _____
- 3) atacmiispl _____
- 4) sncoinoast _____
- 5) uded _____
- 6) ydithmcoo _____
- 7) tuliyxs _____

WORD BANK (not "World Bank," silly!)
sanctions, dichotomy, sexuality, capitalism, hegemony, nietzsche, dude

concept -- jesse novak. art -- caitlin plovnick.

interested in submitting anything to the Observer?
articles, reviews, cartoons, photographs, are all welcome.

email observer@bard.edu
or call x7131

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Putting the terrorist attacks in a context of some sort.

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March for Peace Counters America's March to War, by Matt Dineen, p. 5
Demonstration in the capital against war draws a couple hundred from Annandale.



ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Photo Moderation Show, by Jack Lewis, p. 7
Does away with pretension and tells it straight. With special bonus section.

Music Review, by Patrick Rodgers, p. 6
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Courtesy Michael Marlin, Jr.

America's Response to Terrorism, p. 8
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Cover Photo: <Jamie O'Shea>