"The work of great institutions is mainly the result of a vast mass of routine, petty malice, self interest, carelessness and sheer mistake. Only a residual fraction is thought."

George Santayana (1863-1952)

Welcome To Bard

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More Of The Same, Because We Know What You Like

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Editorial Statement

You hold in your hands the premier issue of Bardvark, Bard College's newest publication. This first issue represents over two weeks of hard work by as many as three different people. Each page has been carefully structured to bring you the very best in journalism. It is our intention, as the Editors of the Bardvark, to put out a second issue as soon as possible, which will not be nearly as good as this one, then put out a decent third issue a long time after the second, and finally to fizzle out completely after our fourth issue which will be done by a completely separate group of people. In order to accomplish these goals and to insure that our reading public is completely fulfilled by Bardvark we, the Editors, make the following promises:

**One**- To never publish anything which for any reason does not meet our standards of publication.

**Two**- To annoy, confuse, and enrage as many people as possible.

**Three**- To provide a forum for ideas that, because of their complete invalidity, might not otherwise be heard on campus.

**Four**- To promote unhealthy, irresponsible, and inconsiderate behavior among the students, staff, and faculty of Bard college.

**Five**- To overreact to all criticisms, regardless of how well meaning or valid.

**Six**- To help circulate malicious rumors and lies about members of the Bard community.

**Seven**- To be particularly vicious when attacking in print those whom the editors dislike on a personal basis for whatever reasons.

**Eight**- To never give the administration credit for anything. We promise to take the hard-line: the administration is evil, no ifs, ands, or buts.

**Nine**- To always go for the cheap shot or the easy laugh when available.

**Ten**- To never, ever, sell out to Rupert Murdoch.
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A Special Welcome

Some very special members of the Bard community would very much like to extend their happiest greetings to everyone entering Bard this fall.

Leon Botstein, President

Welcome to Bard. I know you will all profit from your coming experiences with the educational muses. There may be times when you will tire of wrestling with the aboriginal diadem of the strewn records of the cultures of the world, but even then you must persevere and transpose through whatever is trying to ensnare your inner powers, because it is only through continued labor that you will finally arrive at that most coveted success, the success of mind over reality.

You are all adults now, so there will be distractions to distract you from that hard worn and vainglorious road to intellectual nirvana so well known to all Bard Graduates, it is important that you understand that drugs are an empty and pointless detour from that road. I am not a moralist. I do not condemn drugs out of some moral predilection. I even pay lip service to the legalization of marijuana, what you people call "pan", or "fern", or "doop", what we called, in my day, "marijuana", because I have a visceral knowledge that it will never happen. You must always remember that drugs are like a pan with frying eggs in it. I made that up. Keeping in mind, of course, that of the many things I am, a moralist is not one. Oh, I like an occasional glass of wine with my dinner, but that's another thing. My drinking has nothing to do with you erisian children of our blanched and tired society. I deny outright the clearly groundless accusations that I'm a harmless wino. I also deny that I am a moralist, because if there is one thing that I am not, it's a moralist.

Stuart Levine, Dean of The College

Ah... Ah... ah... Welcome to... ah... Bard... ah... ah.. ah. I ah... ah... How you say, "hope"... that... ah... you... ah... ah... ah.. have... ah... ah... a... productive, not to say, "happy"... ah... ah... time... here... ah... ah... ah... at... ah... Bard College. I... ah... ah... hope... ah... that... you're stay... ah... shall we say "career"... ha... ha... ah... here... ah... ah... at Bard, that is... will be a... ah... ah... productive... and... ah... ah... enjoyable one... I also... ah... ah... hope... thaaaat... ah... you will all... ah... ah... come... ah... ah... to see me... ah... ah... ah... in the Icecapades... ah... this winter.

Shelly Morgan, Dean of Students

Look I'm really, really sorry. Whatever it is, I'm really sorry. I'm sure it was just a simple mistake and, as soon as I can, I'll look into it. But I am really sorry. I just can't tell you how sorry I am about this. You are a top priority. Please get back to me in a week or so. And ask your dad to stop calling me. My office tries to take everyone into account when making decisions and we can't always make everyone happy. So, anyway, I'm sorry. Next semester this won't be a problem anymore.

Harry's Redneck Bar
Twomo, New York
(914) 758-3125
Beer, Pool, and That Special Smell
Bard Students Not Welcome
The Official Bard College Compatibility Quiz

Choosing the right college is a laborious and difficult process and you've probably already spent a long time thinking and rethinking your decision to come to Bard. Even so, some times people make mistakes. The Language and Thinking Workshop fills many useful and needed roles at Bard; it gives students a chance to get to know their new home, the beautiful and exciting town of Annandale, it generates thousands and thousands of dollars in grant money for the college, it employs many otherwise useless members of society, such as English graduate students and poets, and it gives incoming students a final chance to drop out with out costing their parents a single cent. Many of you may have already made the decision to leave Bard, but most of you probably won't make up your minds to drop out until the middle of the year. After costing your parents almost $10,000. To help you decide to drop out now we've prepared this little quiz. Just try to answer all the questions as honestly and truthfully as possible.

1) How would you best describe the way in which you dress?
   A) Conservative
   B) Casual
   C) Depends on how I feel
   D) Black and plenty of it

2) What is the most important thing in your life?
   A) My family and friends
   B) Being the best I can be
   C) My art
   D) The Coalition for Choice

3) What is the greatest gift a parent can give a child?
   A) Life
   B) Love
   C) Cash
   D) A Saab

4) How Many Members of the Grateful Dead can you name?
   A) None
   B) Some
   C) All
   D) All of them, if I read from my tattoo

5) Do you take illegal drugs?
   A) Never
   B) Occasionally
   C) Often
   D) I did not understand the question

6) Do you believe in God?
   A) Yes
   B) No
   C) Not Sure
   D) I believe that the entire universe and everything in it is infused with the matrix of life, which unites us all into a single entity through the bonds of love.

7) How sexually active would you say you were?
   A) Not at all active
   B) Active
   C) Promiscuous
   D) I am exploring the full realm of my sexuality as part of my becoming a complete person

8) Under what circumstances would you have premarital sex with another student?
   A) Never
   B) After dating for a while
   C) If we both wanted to
   D) If we both happened to be naked at the same time

9) What is the one thing all students will take with them when they graduate from Bard?
   A) A solid liberal arts education
   B) The ability to reason soundly
   C) A diploma
   D) Chlamydia

10) How do you feel about spending four years on a campus where the nearest large town is Rhinebeck?
    A) Claustrophobic, I think I may go crazy
    B) Slightly Claustrophobic, but I can manage
    C) No problem, I grew up in Red Hook
    D) I plan to spend all my free time stoned in my room, so I guess it doesn't really matter

Scoring
Give yourself 0 points for each question you answered A, 1 point for each B, 3 points for each C, and 5 points for each D.

Score:
0-10: Bard is not the place for you. You'll probably think all the other students are ridiculous self-absorbed weirdos. You should consider transferring somewhere like SUNY Albany or Rutgers.
11-25: You might be able to survive for a semester or two, if you can manage to completely suppress your own personality in favor of something that might fit in a little more. You should probably consider dropping out right now to avoid the difficulty of doing it later.
26-49: Well, you'll probably manage to drag yourself through a year of Bard before realizing that you don't fit in at all. Then you'll drop out and live with your parents while you apply to state schools for Winter admissions. Better leave now.
50: You fit in perfectly at Bard, but unfortunately you are completely unable to function. You'll end up spending six years here, because between flunking classes and summer treatment programs you'll always be a few credits shy of graduation. Why bother? Why not just drop out now and learn a useful skill like tie-dyeing tee shirts or face painting. You'll be better off in the long run.
A Brief Guide to Housing

Bard College is known across the country and around the world for many things, the quality of its education, the beauty of its grounds, the kookieness of its president, and, especially, the quality of its housing. Few, if any, other schools offer the kind of dorm life that students can expect here. For example: at most other schools maid service and valet dry cleaning cost extra. That's not a problem here at Bard.

Of course, though, you can't be all things to all people. Some of you may get assigned to dorms that aren't quite suitable. If that's the case then you will probably want to consider moving to another room. To do this you will need to go to the office of Lisa Raible, Director of Housing, and ask for a room change form. After you fill that in and hand it to the ever-smiling Ms. Raible, it should be only a matter of days before you are standing, suitcases in hand, at the threshold of your new digs.

But, as with all things at major colleges like Bard, the sooner you get started the better. If you wait until the middle of the semester, when Lisa's really swamped with free Icecapade ticket requests, you might have to wait as long as a week for your new room assignment.

In order to help you make the decision to move as early as possible we've put together this little run-down of the all the dorms on Campus.

Singles vs. Doubles: Since most students prefer the relaxed companionship of a double to the loneliness of a single, there may be a shortage of doubles in some of the dorms listed below. For those rare students with sleep disorders or who practice unusual sexual acts, who prefer singles, there is usually no problem getting one in any of the dorms.

Stone Row: Because most of the rooms in the dorms in "Stone Row" (called this because the buildings are themselves made out of stone, despite appearances), North Hoffman, South Hoffman, McVicar, and the other one, are singles, there is little demand to live here. Though the rooms are spacious and well furnished, the complimentary television in each is only 17" diagonally and there is only basic cable service.

Alumni Dorms: Roevere, Steinway, Gummo and Zeppo are called the alumni dorms because any alumni of Bard college is allowed to spend the night in any room in any of the four dorms. This is seen by many residents as the
primary draw-back of living in these otherwise warm and friendly buildings. The indoor pool in the basement compliments the roof-top tennis courts admirably.

South Hall: South Hall quickly became the most popular dorm on campus a few semesters ago when the college installed “Magic Fingers” coin-operated vibrating mattresses in every room. Because of this it is uncommon for incoming students to be able to get a room in South Hall. All the proceeds from the beds go to a special fund which helps to feed the children of faculty members.

Cruger Village: Located in convenient and scenic North Campus, the next town over from Annandale, along with Manor and Robbins, Cruger Village is definitely the Westchester of dorms. The Village is comprised of several rows of trim Early American cottages. Most residents like it for its pleasant homey feeling, while others make it their own because of the quiet, relaxed, “Sunday Afternoon” atmosphere.

Feitler: No one knows anything about Feitler.

Robbins: Few people can remember back far enough to recall the days when Robbins was the fanciest bordello in Dutchess County, and those who can rarely care to. The six story brick dorm still sports red velvet wall paper and beds in the halls.

Manor: Manor is one of the most beautiful dorms on campus, it has finely detailed wood paneling and ironwork that would make your pants cuffs wheeze. The only major drawback to living in Manor is that all 310 student residents, both male and female, have to sleep barracks style in a single room on the third floor and have to use the bathrooms in neighboring Robbins.

Tewksbury: Because of it’s beautiful architecture a six page article with over twenty color photographs was published about Tewksbury in Contemporary Shelter only last winter. Since then spaces in this Victorian gem have been in short supply. If you get one, hold on to it.

Ravines: The Ravines are a hideous bug infested death trap with tiny cramped rooms and they are frequently without electricity or water or both and there is little point in trying to cover this up.

Sands: The building that is now Sands was posthumously donated in 1976 by Fred Sands. Up until his death Mr. Sands had lived in the house while holding the position of Dean of Leaving Transfers. His wife, Anne Sands, through a clause in the deed, still lives in the dorm, where she is seen as a kind of den mother by the student residents, many of whom call her “Aunty” and say her pancakes are the best.

Gahagen: Gahagen is, as many of you probably already know, the mythical home of the Gods of the Finnish Pantheon. Because of this it is not one of the better dorms.

Usher: Usher House is, by far, the nicest dorm on Campus. It has large airy rooms, all with spectacular views of the sunsets over the glorious Hudson river from their floor to ceiling windows. The maid service is not what it once was, but most students still find that they can get a decent cup of coffee and a couple of freshly baked croissants in their rooms in the morning. Usher is the only dorm with king sized beds in every room and private bathrooms.

Truck Victims Support Group
Tuesdays 7-9
Feitler Annex
"You Don't Have To Suffer Alone"
New York City: Bard’s Other Campus

We at Bard look on New York City as merely an extension of our campus. It’s only 150 miles away and after all, we share so much: a commitment to liberal theory no matter how badly it works in practice, a staggering diversity in race, religion, and personal grooming habits, and above all what native New Yorkers call “attitude”. Bardvark offers the following as a guide to the best of the “big Apple”—don’t mind the mealy worms.

What to Take
Blood Plasma, TOW missile, dental dams, trading beads, two million yen, name and phone number of your next of kin typed or neatly printed on a 3”x5” index card.

Getting There
Forget all you’ve heard about the need to take public transportation. The best way to get to New York is in the biggest, slowest, and heaviest car you can find. Head south until you see the signs for the Colonel Kurtz Expressway, then follow the burned-out helicopters and spear wielding tribesmen. Parking is never a problem in New York; just drive to the free underground parking lot at 666th Street and Aleister Crowley Place. Don’t be alarmed if the attendants look like the flying monkeys in The Wizard of Oz—they’re just survivors of an insignificant toxic waste spill on the on-ramp of the Warren Harding Bridge. Enjoy a complimentary cup of chicken consomme on your way to the surface.

Museums
The Museum of Viral Pathology (891 5/16ths Ave.) Rows on rows of poorly sealed tubes that summarize the history of mankind in terms of extremely infectious diseases, from the Black Death to the Swine Flu. Look, listen, and smell—but for heaven sake, don’t touch!

Sights To See
Crackville (East side, West side, all around the town) Scruffy but attractive neighborhood, especially if you went to high school in New Jersey. Carry lots of cash or none at all. You’ll come back again and again.
Rump Tower (Bialystock Ave. and Bloom St.) Two symmetrical mounds of pink marble rise hundreds of stories above the street. Features a ten story portrait of builder/owner Donald Rump’s face done in tattoo ink. Bio-architectural masterpiece or symbol of rapacious capitalist greed? You make the call!
Statue of the Unknown Republican (Entrance to Abe Beame Municipal Putt-putt Golf Course) A touching tribute to New York’s forgotten politicians and all they symbolize—throwaway candidates, cross-endorsements, and shoulder-shrugging.
Finnishtown (North of Little East Prussia) The center of the city’s thriving Finnish community. These sturdy, thrifty immigrants have enclosed their neighborhood in a huge plastic climate-controlled dome. Inside, its always a calm winter night with moonlight shining among the fir trees. The scent of lingonberries lingers in the crisp air. A refreshing change of pace year-round.

Restaurants
Illuminati’s Bavarian cuisine cooked by chefs adept at the culinary and esoteric arts. No fixed address: scratch your name on the sidewalk with a chunk of the philosophers stone and they’ll get in touch with you. Maybe.
Wild Things (Holland Tunnel Service Center #2) The only bistro in New York serving the flesh of endangered species. Relax on a banana banquet and enjoy some smoked humpback whale for starters, The small darters on the half shell and southern-fried spotted owl make fine entrees. Or just grab a take-out dolphin salad sandwich and relax in Wild Things' captive big-game shooting gallery.

Nightclubs
Mr. Chuckleberries (1980 “Oh Rochester!” Blvd.) A comedy club with a unique twist. If you don’t like the schtick, hit the button on
your table and the offending jokester gets a shot of mustard gas in the face. Bring the family!

L’Insane So hip it exists only in the minds of its habitues. To get in, just wear cut-off bits of Girl Scout uniforms and wander the streets, clutching a paper bag of dirt and muttering, "I told the Pope the electric machine would make those boys disappear." You'll have plenty of company.

Politics at Bard

Like any other college Bard is a hotbed of political activity. There are few evenings when you can walk into the three-story Student Center Complex and not find a rally going on or some political meeting. One night it might be the Democratic Socialists of America, the next night the Coalition for Choice, the night after that some nuts asking a bunch of questions about dancing.

If there's one thing we have at Bard, it's variety. No matter what your views are, we have at least one campus group for you, because at Bard we have both kinds of politics: liberal and leftist. Whether you hate Bush because he's against abortion, or because he has supported American intervention in third world countries, or just because he's a total capitalist pig who feeds off the fatless bones of the suffering underclass, you'll fit in fine.

Bard's scenic campus has been a platform for political debate ever since Matthew "Diesel" Hamshire said, "Hey, you know this Viet Nam war thing might not be such a good idea," way back in 1972. Ever since, students with opposing points of view have been hashing it out in the dining halls, in their dorm rooms, on the commons, and in the 24-hour coffee shop on North Campus; basically all over. Calm, well reasoned, and good natured arguments can be heard at almost any time covering issues like, "What the real reason why all Republicans should be killed is." And there's plenty of disagreement too.

So whether you're a socialist, a liberal, a leftist, a communist, an anarchist, or just a plain old Jesse Jackson Democrat, you'll fit right in here at Bard and you'll find there are plenty of people out there willing to hear what you have to say, no matter how close to center it might seem.
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