Welcome To Bard

IN THIS ISSUE:

Sex On Campus
How To Get Your
Books For Free
Shoplifting: A Tradition Continues
Your Favorite
Professors Nude
The Bow Tie Comes Off
Sex On Campus
More Of The Same, Because We Know
What You Like
Making Drugs Work
For You
Never Sleep Again
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. ☹
Table of contents

Cover ............................................................Cover
The Front Of The Magazine, With Our Name And The Date And A Lot Of Lies About What's Inside.

Editorial Statement ...........................................Page 2
Who We Are And What We're About. Important Reading For All of You Who Aren't Angry At Us Yet.

A Special Welcome ..........................................Page 4
A Little Heidy-ho From Leon And Stu And Shelly.

A Bard Quiz ....................................................Page 5
Do You Fit In? Pray That You Don't.

A Brief Guide To Housing ..................................Page 6
Which Dorms Are Best? Which Have Vibrating Appliances?

Guide to New York City ......................................Page 8
What To Do, Where To Go, And How To Get There. If You're Like Most Bard Students You're Probably From New York, So Just Skip It.

Politics at Bard ...............................................Page 9
Make Your Stand At Bard, But Do It Right.

Some Popular Majors Compared ..................Back Cover
Deciding What to Major In Is Tough, But We Try To Help Out A Little.
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 trans-
pose through whatever is trying to en-
snare 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 intel-
lectual nirvana so well known to all Bard
Graduates, it is important that you un-
derstand 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, "mar-
jjuana", because I have a visceral knowl-
edge 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... ah... Welcome to... ah...
Bard... ah... ah.. ah. I ah... ah... ah... How
you say, "hope"... that... ah... you... ah...
ah... ah... have... ah... ah... a... produc-
tive, 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... enjoy-
able one... I also... ah... ah... hope...
thaaaaat... 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
Tivoli, New York
(914) 758-3125
Beer, Pool, and That Special Smell
Bard Students Not Welcome

BARDVARK Vol.1 No.1 • 8/5/90 Page 4
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 without costing their parents a single cent. Many of you may have already decided 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 kookiness 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 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 complements 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.

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**Truck Victims Support Group**
**Tuesdays 7-9**
**Feitler Annex**

"You Don't Have To Suffer Alone"
New York City: Bard’s Other Campus

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 banquette 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 joker 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.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Fears</th>
<th>Pastimes</th>
<th>Favorite Vice</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Future</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Might Realize They Have No Talent</td>
<td>Arguing Pointlessly</td>
<td>Self Doubt</td>
<td>To Become a Great Writer</td>
<td>Teaching High School</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music</td>
<td>Others Might Realize They Have No Talent</td>
<td>Not Listening To Pop Music</td>
<td>Beatles Trivia</td>
<td>To Become a Great Musician</td>
<td>Session Guitarist For K-Tel</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama/Dance</td>
<td>Might Develop Sense of Shame</td>
<td>Annoying Others</td>
<td>Being Really, Really Loud</td>
<td>To Become First Performance Artist on Moon</td>
<td>Wandering the Streets Saying, “Gimme a Dolla”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science</td>
<td>Will Begin to Bore Self as Much as Others</td>
<td>Explaining Why They Went To Bard</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>To Get a Real Job</td>
<td>A Real Job</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film</td>
<td>Running Out of Money for Supplies</td>
<td>Disliking Films</td>
<td>Getting In Other People’s Way</td>
<td>To Make the First Worthwhile Film Since 1965</td>
<td>Film Critic For Local Free Newspaper</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art</td>
<td>Might Realize Professors Have no Talent</td>
<td>Discussing Their Art</td>
<td>No Favorites</td>
<td>To Get A Grant</td>
<td>Waiting Tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Classics</td>
<td>Latin Might Become Useful</td>
<td>Avoiding Reality</td>
<td>Used Books</td>
<td>To Never Leave School</td>
<td>Never Leaving Bard</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Psychology</td>
<td>Might Read Something Which Would Apply To Them</td>
<td>Figuring Out What’s Wrong With Those Around Them</td>
<td>Fights With Parents</td>
<td>To Help Little Underprivileged Kids Develop in a Healthy Way</td>
<td>Holistic Social Worker</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Political Science</td>
<td>Might Disagree With Professor</td>
<td>Talking Loudly in The Library</td>
<td>Pomposity</td>
<td>To Return to Native Country</td>
<td>Seeking Political Asylum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sociology</td>
<td>Might Get Something Right</td>
<td>Being More Politically Correct Than Everyone Else</td>
<td>Blood and Sweat of the Urban Proletariat</td>
<td>To Save the World.</td>
<td>Learning to Repair VCRs at Home</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>Might End Up In Law School</td>
<td>Drinking and Falling Down</td>
<td>Brewskys</td>
<td>To Not Go to Law School</td>
<td>Law School</td>
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