

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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THE BARD OBSERVER

VOLUME XCVI, ISSUE FOURTEEN
December 8, 1989

BARD COLLEGE
ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, NY 12504

"The best newspaper
in Annandale."

Bard's drug policy: A matter of personal responsibility

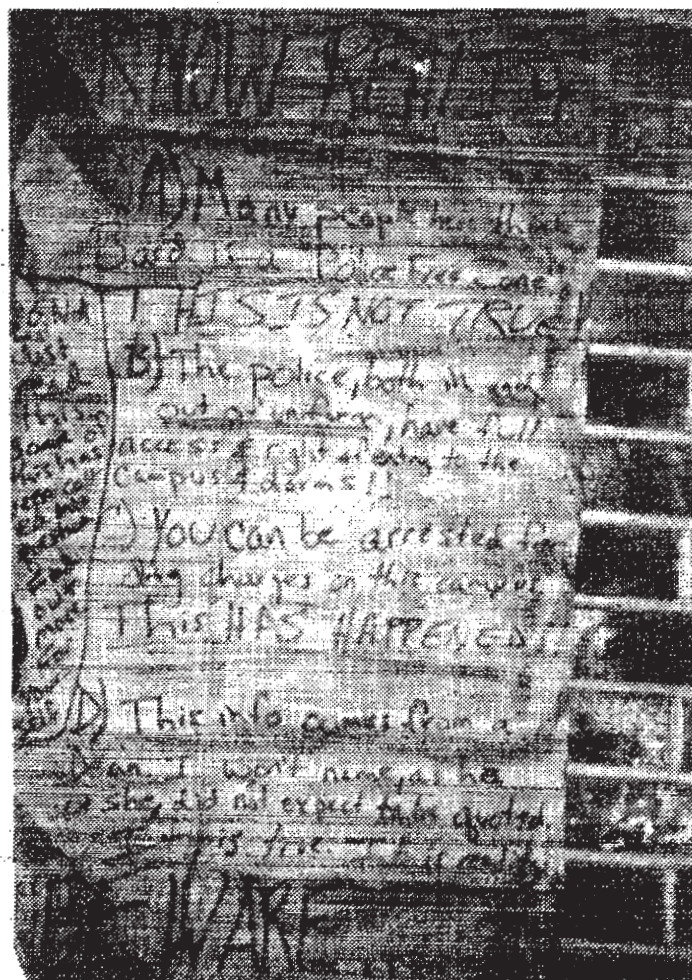
by Seth Hollander
and Jane Glickman

As a companion piece to the recent article on Bard's alcohol policy, and in response to increasing concern about drug problems on campus, here is the official Bard drug policy, as stated in the Student Handbook (page 66):

"As an institution of higher education Bard College has a responsibility to promote an environment that is incompatible with the use of illegal drugs...If such use should occur, the best efforts of the college notwithstanding, such activity must neither interfere with or become the focus of the lives of members of the community...The College is an educational institution. It does not apply sanctions of the law, but it does not ignore the law nor stand between the student and the law."

Legally, what a student does in the confines of his or her own living space, be it a dorm room, a house, or a hotel room, is that student's own responsibility. No one is allowed to trespass or eavesdrop on a student's privacy without reasonable suspicion of some wrongdoing. The exception, however, is called "line of sight."

If a student's door is open, if there is visibility through a window, or if the student is in a place that is open to all (i.e., a dorm lounge, kitchen, or hall-



Many students are worried about the possible presence of local or state police on campus, as shown by this sign posted in Kline.

way), or if B & C or a member of the Administration needs to enter a room "in the course of normal duties," the right to privacy does not apply. In this case, if an illegal substance is found in a student's room, it can be confiscated and the student can be reprimanded or punished.

Marijuana is easily recognized and possession is illegal, and possession of alcohol by those under 21 is illegal as well. However, unless a security officer is given reason to card a student, if that student is in his or her own dorm room, no action will be taken. If the student smokes in public, Security has the option to confiscate the joint and issue a warning.

Security is considered to be an extension of the Administration. It is not a law enforcement agency, and is not authorized to act as such. The college prefers to handle its problems internally, according to both the Student Handbook and Art Otey, Director of

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Food Co-op ransacked

by Jason Van Driesche

Sometime during the night of December 2, the new office of the Bard food co-op in the basement of the Old Gym was entered, and \$164.50 worth of food and \$135 in cash was taken.

Although the person (or persons) responsible have not yet been identified, Art Otey, Director of Campus Security and Safety, said that the room was opened at the request of Whitney Blake, one of the heads of the Entertainment Committee. The new co-op office, which was used until recently for a variety of purposes, including a changing room for visiting bands, a storage area for recyclable garbage, and a space for work on senior projects, was opened early in the evening for the two bands from Boston that played at the party. It was open from then until 3:40 p.m. on Sunday, when Jaya Wittenberg, the head of the co-op, arrived to distribute orders.

"The room was totally destroyed when I got there. There were broken beer bottles all over the floor, and almost everything was gone," said Wittenberg. Only a few bags of chips, a bottle of juice, and some brie were eaten in the office, according to Wittenberg. The rest of the food was taken away. "They even took tubes of toothpaste," said Wittenberg.

According to Otey, Security was not notified about the change in status of the room. "As far as we know, the Entertainment Committee still had access to the room, so when they asked us to open the room, we did. But when someone asks to have a room opened, it is that person's responsibility to tell Security when they leave." Otey has been in contact with Brad Reed and Whitney Blake, the chairs of the Entertainment Committee, to determine who is responsible for Saturday night's events.

Continued on page 9

For women only: Reliable birth control options for female students

by Elizabeth Pomeroy Champ

Female students looking for a better method of birth control than the condom-foam-abstinence route might do well to go to the Health Center; where, after a free internal exam, women can be provided with the method of their choice.

For female students, the choices for highly effective, safe methods of birth control have narrowed in the last few years with the removal of the IUD from the market. Many students, especially freshmen, sophomores, and students in steady relationships, tend to go on birth control pills. With a 99% effectiveness rate (when taken correctly), the pill has

several advantages: it almost eliminates the fear of pregnancy, and adds the ability to be as spontaneous as one would like, as many times as one would like, wherever one would like. The Health Center most often prescribes Ortho-Novum products, which are also used by Planned Parenthood. The Pill costs approximately \$16 a month, but is cheaper at Planned Parenthood in Red Hook (as low as \$6 a month).

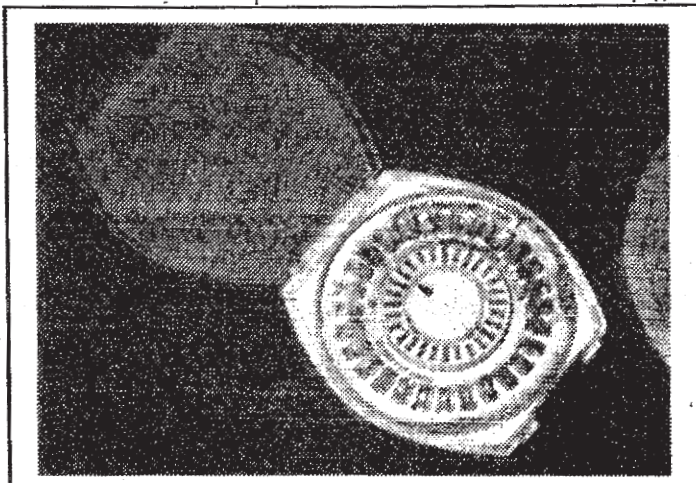
The Pill does not protect

against sexually transmitted diseases, which is a rising concern for many of today's college students. Therefore, Marsha Rial Davis, nurse practitioner at the Health Center, advises using a condom even after starting the Pill. However, since the student usually started using them to escape that method, the idea is generally not met with too much enthusiasm. However, any student who chooses not to use a condom is leaving

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Power shortage threatens Bard

by Jason Van Driesche

On Monday, December 4, Central Hudson Power called Bard at about 6:30 p.m. to warn of a possible power shortage during the evening because of peak demand due to the extreme cold. As a result, Art Otey, Director of Campus Security and Safety, dispatched officers to all the dorms to ask that everyone make an effort to conserve electricity for the rest of the evening.

In addition, Security went around to all the academic and administrative buildings

on campus, turning off all non-essential lights and appliances. The Computer Center closed early so as to avoid the possibility of a loss of data due to a power failure.

This action is known as "voluntary conservation," and is done in order to avoid a "rolling blackout," or complete cutoff of power in selected areas for thirty minutes at a time. There was a possibility of a blackout in the entire area, not just at Bard, but the voluntary conservation efforts worked, and the area experienced no blackouts or brown-outs.

Beware AIDS Buzzwords:

They Misinform, Insult, and Promote Ignorance

Editor's note: This excerpt was brought to you by the AIDS Committee.

From You Can Do Something About AIDS (The Stop AIDS Project, Boston, Mass. 1988).

AIDS victims: People with AIDS are not victims; they are people struggling to live normal lives in the face of a rare disease. We don't refer to people with other diseases as victims. **Most Preferable Phrase:** People with AIDS.

Condoms: Reports recommending condom use to reduce the risk of HIV exposure should clearly state that latex condoms with a spermicide are preferable (natural lamb condoms may not provide the necessary protection).

General population: Artificially divides the American people into those who have the disease and those who do not. Everyone who has AIDS

— regardless of sexual orientation, race, gender, or how they were exposed to the virus — is part of the general population.

High Risk Groups: This implies that some kind of demographic trait, rather than behavioral practices, is responsible for AIDS exposure. **Appropriate term:** High risk behavior.

Innocent victims: A term sometimes applied to children with AIDS or those who contracted AIDS through blood transfusions; a value judgment that implies that some people with AIDS are guilty of something.

Bodily Fluids: Should never be used without an explanation of which bodily fluids actually contain the HIV virus in concentrations sufficient to transmit the disease. Reports on AIDS should make it clear that semen, vaginal fluids, blood, and breast milk are the concern here.



Community members are asked to report any suspected asbestos-covered pipes like this one.

Asbestos on campus

Editor's note: Last week, Edward Eigerman's article "Asbestos on campus" was inadvertently left uncontinued. The Observer regrets this error, and here presents the rest of the article.

of asbestos in ceiling panels and walls. While asbestos was used extensively in those places in the fifties and sixties, there was no new construction at Bard during that period.

He also pointed out that, while it would have been legal, and theoretically safe, for him to merely have the asbestos

insulation resealed, he has had it all removed by various asbestos removal firms.

He insists that any asbestos that remains will not be found in dorms or offices, but rather only as boiler wrapping and pipe insulation in places that should be inaccessible to students.

This reporter was unable to find any materials that resembled asbestos on campus, but if you have seen any insulation that you think might be asbestos (which is white and flaky) contact Buildings and Grounds immediately.

Claire Bloom to speak on campus

by Edward Eigerman

Actress Claire Bloom will present a dramatic reading on campus entitled, "The Feminist and the Novelist: The Voices of Virginia Woolf." The reading will take place in the Olin auditorium, December 9 at 8:00 pm and will include selections from the essay "A Room of One's Own" and the novel *Mrs. Dalloway*.

Bloom was born in London and made her first appear-

ance was with the Oxford repertory company at the age of 16 and has been working steadily in the theater and film ever since. She can be seen in the films *Limelight*, *A Doll's House*, *Richard III*, *The Spy Who Came In from the Cold*, and *Clash of the Titans*.

Bloom is currently a visiting professor in theater at Hunter College in New York City. Those interested in seeing the talk should call 758-7425 for more information.

Bard launches mentor program

by Edward Eigerman

The Office of Career Development has started a new program based on similar programs at schools such as Cornell University and Smith College. The program, called Alumni Career Mentors, will put participating students in touch with Bard alumni who work in fields that the students are interested in pursuing as careers.

Students in the program will go to New York City on January 24, of this year, to spend one day and two nights with the sponsoring alum. They will go to work with their sponsors and follow them through their normal schedule. The program is designed to give students a chance to explore possible careers and make some contacts for the future.

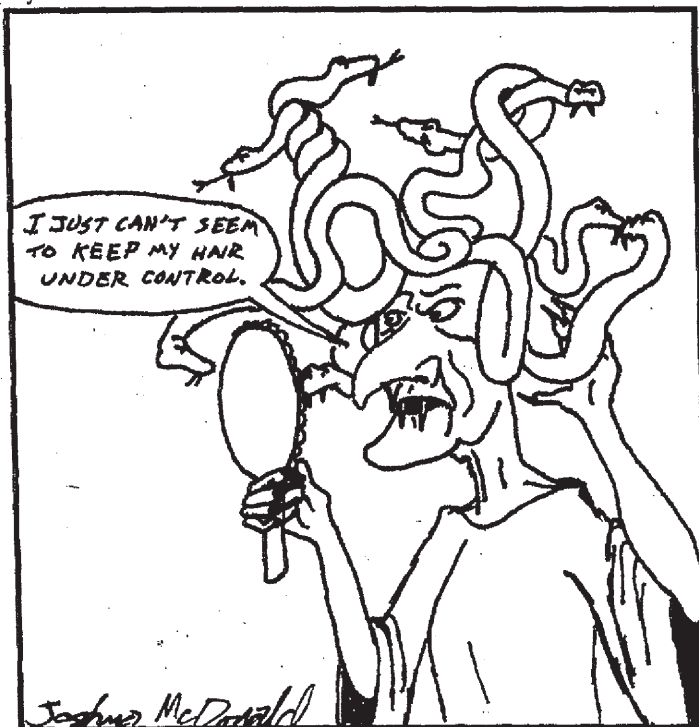
While the program is limited to New York City this year, if it proves successful, the program may spread to Boston and Washington D.C. in the future.

Anyone interested in participating should see Harriet Schwartz in the Career Development office as soon as possible. Student enrollment will be limited by the number of Alumni responses received. Schwartz's extension is 539.

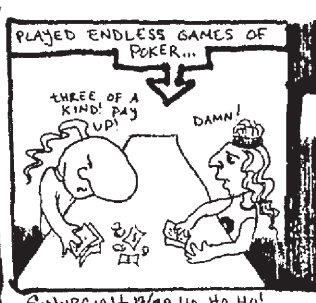
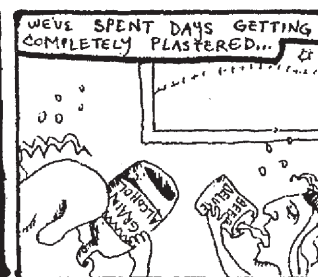
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Features

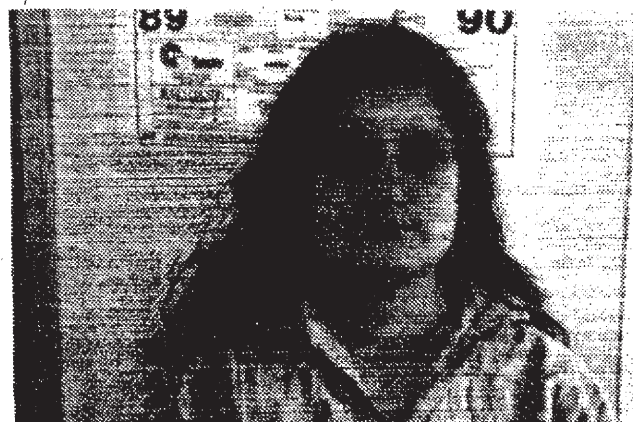
Beth Frumkin: New face on campus

by Andrea Stein

There is another new face on Bard's campus, that of Beth Frumkin, who has been hired as Assistant Dean of Students and Coordinator of Student Alcohol and Drug Education. This position is funded by a grant from the Fund for the Improvement of Post Secondary Education (FIPSE).

Frumkin received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Delaware, and her Masters' Degree from the Teachers College of Columbia University. She has also completed work for her Doctorate at Columbia, but has yet to do her dissertation. Her background has been in student personnel services, with an emphasis on counseling.

Before coming to Bard, Frumkin had been employed in a counseling capacity at Grinnell College in Iowa, as as Director of Residence Life at Bradford College in Massachusetts. She learned of the position at Bard through an advertisement in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The position interested her as she viewed it as a combination of



her counseling duties at Grinnell and her work at Bradford, but without the administrative duties involved in coordinating student housing.

Frumkin explains that, philosophically, the "small, liberal arts approach to education" is that which she agrees with. This, too, was a factor in her interest at Bard. Thus far, she is enjoying the Bard experience. She describes the students as "very academically oriented" and was pleased to find most students she spoke with "vocal about the kind of life issues that cause people of this age concern."

Having been at Bard for only a few weeks, Frumkin is still attempting to make connec-

tions with the student body. Thus far, she has been meeting with students who represent particular groups on campus, such as the peer counselor, members of the Alcohol Task Force, and the Activities Committee. Eventually, she hopes to form a committee of students, faculty and staff in order to be able to be most responsive to the needs of the campus. As Frumkin explained, "Each college campus is different as far as what activities will float."

Thus far, she has made no concrete decisions regarding her plans as Bard's new assistant dean. In general, she describes her duties as involving

collection of survey information, promoting student wellness, student and staff training, and programming of alcohol-free activities. "I hope that the job is one that can really be responsive to student need. I really want them [student groups as well as individual students] to help me shape the position," she explained.

"This office will be another place for students to go to talk about alcohol concerns and other life issues," she continued. Frumkin believes that under the auspices of alcohol and drug education, other life issues can be more adequately addressed. She hopes to enable students to make more informed choices regarding various lifestyle issues.

Currently, Frumkin has three goals in mind. Firstly, she wishes to become more visible on campus. She encourages anyone who sees her to stop her and introduce him- or herself. She welcomes any concerns, questions or comments.

Secondly, she wishes to establish a "resource base" through the work of a committee. Regarding this goal, she refers to the Resource Center

which she helped to run at Grinnell College. It encompassed a student study center and library which housed books and articles on a variety of topics including racism, feminism, gay and lesbian issues, drug and alcohol education, and freedom of speech. Frumkin explained, "The [college] library has wonderful academic books but nothing which really addresses serious lifestyle choices. We [at the Resource Center] tried to fill that gap." She also explained that the Grinnell Resource Center was a large-scale operation with large funding. The grant that Bard has received will not permit such a great endeavor, but may be used as a stepping-off point.

Finally, Frumkin wishes students to understand that there will soon be surveys conducted regarding an array of lifestyle issues. These will be conducted "in strict confidence," and will provide information FIPSE demands regarding what types of behavior are occurring on campus. Thus, later evaluations may be made regarding any changes that have taken place.

Freshman Seminar planned to expand

by Tom Hickerson

During the last Freshman Seminar roundtable on November 16th, ideas were discussed pertaining to changes within the Freshman Seminar course itself. The fall semester seminar will change next year, while the spring seminar will remain unchanged until 1991. There was also a proposal that a required "Q-course," dealing with quantitative studies, would be added as well, but in such a way that it would not affect a student's courseload.

"All levels have agreed that there should be a change," said Prof. William Mullen.

Starting next fall, Freshman Seminar will no longer concentrate its focus upon 5th-century Greece; instead, from two to seven different cultures will be studied. These may include Chinese, Indian, Israeli, Meso-American and African cultures as well as Greek culture.

Many faculty meeting will be held next semester to determine the exact program of the new fall semester seminar. In addition, Mullen hopes to bring in two leading experts on Greek and Chinese politics and culture for several days for a training session for the faculty.

The format of Freshman Seminar classes will also

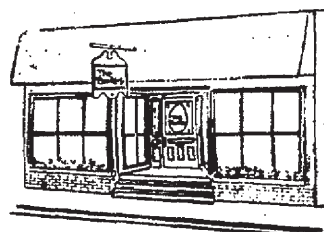
change to include more than one culture. Lectures will be included in the seminar program, given by Bard faculty who are experts in a specific culture. "Obviously, students came to Bard to avoid lectures," Mullen said, "but it would be insured that the seminar component remains a major part of the program."

Another course may soon become a requirement at Bard as well; a "Q-course," dealing with quantitative analysis and statistics. However, the "Q-course" will have a departmental function—in other words, it will be taken in the place of one of the required divisional courses, like natural or social science. Thus, the courseload will re-

main the same while increasing the number of required courses.

The idea of broadening the studies of Freshman Seminar originated from Carl Jasper's text *The Axial Age of History*, which proposes that between the 8th and 2nd century B.C., a decisive change took place in several different cultures. The goal is to cover a number of the cultures that underwent change. "It's almost impossible to fulfill this goal in a two-semester course," said Mullen, "However, in a place where all the students have individual wants, where all things cannot be in common, we must, at least, all agree to have a background in common, a background of all the

knowledge of different works presented in Freshman Seminar." He hopes that the addition of the "Q-course" will ease the pressures placed upon the expanding Freshman Seminar to impart a common background to all students.



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Our environment

Ozone in our zone

by Jen Anonia

We have all heard the concern over the ozone layer, and for good reason. Reduction of the ozone in the earth's atmosphere leads to increased skin cancer, reduced crop yields, and severe damage to the eyes and to the immune system. Destruction of the ozone layer could potentially force all of us to remain indoors, and how could we enjoy the beauty of the Bard campus from inside dorms and classrooms?

Ozone is a pale blue, pungent odor formed by 3 oxygen atoms (O₃). It does not occur naturally on the earth's surface except in smog-polluted areas. Ozone, however, can be synthesized in laboratories and is used in some parts of Europe to purify drinking water. Its most important function, however, occurs 25-30 kilometers above our world.

At this altitude, electrical storms cause oxygen molecules to combine in order to form ozone (3O₂ → 2O₃). The ozone forms a layer around the globe which creates a sort of shield against ultraviolet rays. The sun gives off the ultraviolet rays which are dangerous radiation. Ozone absorbs the radiation and transforms it into heat, protecting the earth's surface from the harmful rays. For hundreds of millions of years, the amount of ozone in the earth's atmosphere remained constant and absorbed 99% of all ultraviolet radiation.

In the past few years, however, actual holes have been discovered in the ozone layer over the Antarctic and Arctic poles during the summer.

Growing evidence exists of a thinning of the ozone layer around the entire earth as well. This ozone reduction is due to human activities, particularly the use of chlorofluorocarbons (CFC's).

Because of CFC's are easily condensable gases, they are used in refrigerators, car and home air conditioners, and small fire extinguishers. They are also used to blow up certain kinds of styrofoam products. By the use of these products, we dissipate CFC's into the atmosphere. When the CFC's combine with oxygen, chlorine atoms are released. These chlorine atoms are the major enemies of ozone. They combine with the ozone and break it down into oxygen atoms before the ozone can absorb the ultraviolet radiation. One chlorine atom can destroy 100,000 ozone molecules! The unchecked ultraviolet radiation then reaches the earth's atmosphere.

The greatest threat UV radiation holds for Bard students is in increased possibilities of skin cancer. According to the National Academy of Sciences, a 1% reduction in ozone, would cause 10,000 more cases of skin cancer in the U.S. Even more worrisome is new evidence that UV radiation can seriously effect the human immune system, which protects us against infectious disease. UV radiation also has the power to destroy plants, reducing crop yields. All evidence points to the scary concept that a world without the ozone layer would be unsuitable for human life as it now exists. The world will continue adapting and thriving, but will we be a part of it?

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Meal exchange problems addressed

by Amy Sechrist

The new meal exchange at the Coffee Shop, now in its third week, has been the subject of much discussion and controversy lately. The exchange was set up mainly by former Food Service Director, Donald Bennett, but is now the project of his replacement, Jim Huskie.

Under the plan, students can use their meal cards in the coffee shop instead of Kline for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The spending limits are, respectively, \$1.80, \$2.40, and \$3.70.

The system can only be used during dining hours, but Huskie is experimentally expanding the hours, which went into effect after Thanksgiving. This will appease a number of students who would like to use the meal exchange in the event that they miss a meal.

Other complaints voiced by students are that dollar amounts are too low and lines too long. Huskie admits that lines do get backed up. "I think [the system] works if students want to wait in the lines," he said, "since they do get long." One woman complained that she waited fifteen minutes for a "mere burger and soda," and that she hadn't enough credit to purchase anything else. Others have had similar experiences.

He is making changes in hopes of solving this problem. One extra worker per meal

has been added, as has a heat lamp, which will make available hamburgers and fish and chicken sandwiches without the wait. Huskie feels that this in particular will keep the line moving.

As to the spending limits, Huskie said they were set before he arrived. In their defense he explained, "Students can get as much food as they can eat at Kline, and go back as often as they wish. There's no way the Coffee Shop can compete with that."

Student reactions to the meal exchange are mixed. For those with lighter appetites and some patience, the system works fine. But a host of factors prevent many students from using the Coffee Shop at all, let alone the exchange program.

Although most of the campus smokes, the few who don't find the hazy atmosphere of the Coffee Shop unbearable. Others refuse to be served on the styrofoam the Coffee Shop uses. The attitude of the employees turns some off also. "When it gets really busy in there," one student said, "the [workers] start getting rude."

These complaints, combined with the high prices, tend to drive some away. But most students grin and bear it, patiently waiting for a better system. The meal exchange shouldn't even be necessary, for as one student put it, "If Kline cleaned up its act we wouldn't even have to have it."

Dharma center offers opportunity for study

by Meadow Goldman

If you've ever had an interest in Buddhism, or are a practicing Buddhist or perhaps you were just strongly influenced by Herman Hesse's *Siddhartha*, a unique establishment for practical Buddhism exists here in Annandale: The Dharma Center.

The Dharma Center (Dharma means way to enlightenment in Sanskrit, incidentally) began around 1983 and is an extension of a larger center located in Wappingers Falls. It began when a college community member invited the center's Lama, Lama Norlha, to speak at the college. After seeing that there was enough of an interest, a Dharma practice group was established. The group is lead by either Lama Norlha or a Nun from the main center, Ani Dechi Palmo. Lama Norlha came to the U.S. in 1978 from Tibet, where he received his training, to teach Tibetan Buddhism. The root Lama whose doctrines he teaches is Lama Kalu Rinpoche. The group practices a division of Buddhism called Chenrezig.

Chenrezig focuses on compassion, specifically the compassion, wealth and wisdom found when one achieves the ability to empty one's self. As Deichi Palmo puts it "Chenrezig is a nontheistic religion of compassion." This ability of "emptying" the mind and soul is a basic tenet of Buddhism and can be achieved through learning how to examine the nature of one's mind. The members of the group strive for these ideals through chanting, study, and discussion of the doctrines of Kalu Rinpoche, as well as through meditation.

Meetings, which include the chanting and meditation, are on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 and last until about 8:00. Afterwards, there is a question and discussion session. The Dharma Center is located on Annandale Road. It is

Continued on page 5

Classifieds

Personals

To the person who wanted the Public Relations job on the *Observer*: Please contact us through campus mail before the end of the semester.

Trimfest, where are you? We're waiting under the covers! —Jennie and Jeanie

To the *Observer* birds: Can't wait for DG next spring —the girl who misspells her name

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AIDS: The Plague of Our Generation

by Sarah Chenven

What causes AIDS?

AIDS (Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome) is a fatal disease. A retrovirus, HIV (Human Immunodeficiency Virus) or HTLV-III (Human T-Lymphotropic Virus-III) after entering the body, causes the body's immune system to break down. Once a person's immune system is broken down, a person becomes highly susceptible to death from diseases which would normally have no effect on a person not infected with the HIV virus.

How is AIDS transmitted?

AIDS can not be transmitted through casual contact of any sort. AIDS is transmitted from person to person through blood, semen, vaginal fluids, and breast milk. Such transmission occurs in the following ways:

- 1) Homosexual or heterosexual intercourse with someone already carrying the HIV virus.
- 2) Sharing infected needles with a person infected with the HIV virus.
- 3) The transfusion of HIV infected blood from one person to another.
- 4) Passing down of the virus to children by a woman carrying the HIV virus during pregnancy or while breast feeding.
- 5) Getting artificially inseminated with sperm from an HIV infected man.

Who gets AIDS?

Many people believe that unless they practice "High Risk Behavior," they will never be affected by AIDS. AIDS is not discriminatory. The current statistics on those who have, and have died from AIDS are as such:

- 1) 70-75 percent of people with AIDS are homosexual or bi-

sexual men.

- 2) 17 percent are intravenous drug users.
- 3) 3 percent of people with AIDS acquired the disease through blood or organ transfusions.
- 4) 3 percent are children whose mothers were infected with the HIV virus during pregnancy or breast feeding.

How can you tell if you have AIDS?
The symptoms of AIDS are similar to those of other diseases. Anyone who is presently suffering from the following symptoms, however, should see a physician and get tested for AIDS. Symptoms of AIDS are:

- 1) Exhaustion for no obvious reason
- 2) Persistent chills, fevers, or night sweats
- 3) Weight loss of more than ten pounds which cannot be explained

- 4) Lymph node enlargement in the neck, groin, or armpits
- 5) A recurring soar throat and a whitish coating on the tongue or throat (or thrush)
- 6) Shortness of breath
- 7) Bruising easily
- 8) Purple patches or discolored growths on skin
- 9) Unexplained bleeding from any part of the body

What can be done to prevent AIDS?

Though researchers have developed certain drugs that may suppress or delay the growth of the HIV virus in a person's system, there is presently no cure for AIDS. However, preventive measures which might hinder the HIV virus from entering a person's body include the following:

- 1) Abstinence from sex
- 2) Not using or sharing contaminated needles for any reason
- 3) Using a latex condom dur-

ing sexual intercourse

- 4) Maintaining a monogamous relationship, and avoiding a lifestyle of casual sex
- 5) Avoid sharing razors, toothbrushes, or any item that might be contaminated with blood

AIDS is not a selective disease. Everyone is affected by AIDS in some way. In an attempt to understand AIDS as a disease and the ramifications of the AIDS epidemic on our society, a course titled "AIDS: VIEWS FROM SEVERAL ANGLES," is being offered at Bard next semester. This two credit course, taught by Professors Chilton, Halsted, Ferguson, and Churchill will be on Mondays from 5:00-6:00 p.m. The first part of the class will focus on the biological and psychological aspects of AIDS. The second part will focus on the ethical and moral aspects of the disease. □

The Rise and Fall of Bard's Condom Machines

by Sarah Chenven

Condoms have been available to Bard students through the bookstore, the health center beside Robbins, or by trekking into Red Hook or Rhinebeck for a long time. Obtaining a condom became easier when the AIDS Committee, created in February of 1988, implemented a proposal to place condom vending machines in various dormitories across campus. The fate of those machines is coming into question again.

The machines, says Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, were installed "in [the] most convenient spots in residence halls." Condom machines can be found in the laundry rooms of many dorms.

The AIDS Committee was (and is) responsible not only for bringing the machines to campus, but also for maintaining their upkeep. In a phone interview Thursday, Bruce Chilton (school chaplain and head of the AIDS Committee at the time of its inception) stated that though the condom machines were "put in

for availability and anonymity," the committee's "provision of condoms is part of an overall effort of education about AIDS" for the Bard community as a whole.

The school obtained the condom machines from *Check Yourself*, a non-profit organization committed to the prevention of AIDS. The *Check Yourself* organization had access to U.S. made condoms lubricated with Nonoxynol-9. Such lubrication helps to work against the HIV virus and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as being spermicidal. *Check Yourself* was able to provide Bard with Nonoxynol-9 condoms during a nationwide shortage of the condoms caused by increased consumer demand. *Check Yourself* agreed also to install and maintain the machines at Bard for free, and to return a good portion of profits made from condom sales to the college. According to Chilton, a committee of students was formed to replenish condoms and to collect money from the machines. Around 16 machines were installed at Bard

in the Spring of 1988. Bard, says Chilton, has a "higher proportion of condom machines per person and space than any other college I am aware of."

The campus was very receptive to the machines. According to Shelley Morgan, they were widely used. That, however, was before every condom machine on campus save two (one in the women's and one in the men's bathroom in Kline) was vandalized. There has been much speculation as to why vandalism of the machines on campus has occurred. Chilton attributes it to two reasons.

One reason is that the *Check Yourself* foundation collapsed and was thus unable to provide the college with condoms or to maintain the machines, which were weakly made to begin with. The other reason may be due to lack of efficiency on the part of those responsible for replenishing the condoms in the machines while Bard still retained their contractor. Frustrated, or merely immature and inconsiderate students have vandalized in

some way, every condom machine on campus.

To many in the Bard community this is seen as disappointing and stupid. One student commented, "If Bard wishes to be sexually active, Bard needs to grow up." This seems to be a widespread view at the college. While Chilton said he was "disheartened" at the "extent of the vandalism; [because] anyone who would destroy a condom machine is anti-social," another student suggested that "college is supposed to make students responsible - people need to wake up to the reality of adulthood."

What is in the future for the distribution of condoms at Bard? Several propositions have been made. One suggestion is giving boxes of condoms to the P.C.s to hand out upon request. This idea has received some criticism however. One student said assuredly, "I think if you cut down on the number of machines,

people aren't going to use them [condoms]. They're not going to go to a P.C." Another student claimed "it's not any of their [P.C.'s] business and they shouldn't be in control of it." Though it is possible for less modest people to get condoms from their P.C.s, the bookstore, and the health service, a majority of the students interviewed for this article stated that they would prefer to use a condom machine for the sake of privacy.

It is highly likely that a few condom machines will remain on campus. The plans for maintaining new machines are still in the works, though an entire overhaul of those already in place must be made. Says one student, "The condom machines take a lot of pressure off of my sex life. They make things a lot easier. Why would anyone want to go knocking on their P.C.'s door at 3:00 in the morning looking for condoms?" □



Dharma center

continued from page 4

the yellow house on the triangle formed by the road as one leaves campus headed toward Montgomery Place.

Some books suggested by Dechi for more information on Tibetan Buddhism and Chenrezig are *Dharma that Illuminates Impartially* like the

Sun and the Moon and *The Writings of Kalu Rinpoche*, both by Kalu Rinpoche. Also, there is *Spiritual Materialism and Meditation in Action* by Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche. All books are rumored to be obtainable through the Bard Book Store. □



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Beer Column

by Jody Apap and
Chris Hanczewicz

Our beers this week are Guinness Gold, a light beer with a pleasant bite that does not even faintly resemble the better known Guinness Stout, and John Courage, an Irish ale with a very distinct hoppy and woody flavor.

We both enjoyed Guinness Gold for what it is, that is, a light beer that is not meant to be compared with Stout. It has a strong taste with a pleasant, mellow aftertaste. Bonus points were given for its consistency in taste as the bottle warmed, i.e. the last few sips of the bottle don't remind one of the lounge in Robbins on a Sunday morning.

For \$4.99 a six-pack, Guinness Gold is a reasonable beer, perhaps slightly overpriced, but if its flavor strikes your fancy, few beers in its range will be cheaper.

Concerning John Courage, we were at odds. I (Jody) found the ale quite nasty, and overpriced (\$5.99 a six-pack.) The ale has a very heavy, bitter taste that left a disagreeable film in my mouth.

I (Chris) found John Courage's aftertaste to be not as offensive as he does. It did not linger too long and I found the overall taste to be satisfactory, although not great.

Guinness Gold: Jody: 7 1/2

Chris: 5

John Courage: Jody: 3

Chris: 5 1/2

As far as we're concerned, even if you think you want to try a strong ale, John Courage is not worth the money. You'd be better off buying Newcastle Brown Ale, which has a much smoother and more pleasant taste and texture.

P.S. We dare you to try the Coors beer for the holidays. Ha! There's a advertising scam to sell off the bad beer from the bottom of the barrel.

by Robin Cook

Formed three years ago within Tewksbury's cinderblock confines, Velcro Dildo has become a staple in Bard College's music scene, and bassist and co-founder, Ross Shain says, "We're the oldest Bard band."

In the Kline Commons lounge, the band reminisced about their history. Shain and singer Roy (who chooses to remain evasive about his surname) recalled their first gig.

"It was in the Tewks bathroom, wasn't it?" asks Roy.

"Yeah, probably...It was all acoustic," answers Shain.

There has been speculation over the years that the band's name is intended as a sendup of Steely Dan, which features, of course, Bard alumnus Donald Fagen. (The name Steely Dan comes from the name of a dildo in William S. Burroughs's novel *The Naked Lunch*.) Any connection, the interviewer asks the band?

Guitarist Stephen Sollins responds by shaking his head.

"We came up with 'Velcro'...we wanted it to mesh," Shain explains, and according to the band, Roy's mother thought of the "Dildo" part. So Steely Dan doesn't come into the picture?

"I dunno if their moms like the same things as Roy's mom," Shain replies. In their long (by Bard band stan-

Velcro Dildo Speaks Out

dards) existence, Velcro Dildo has seen their fair share of band members come and go. Their original guitarist remained for a year, to be replaced by Sollins who says of his predecessor, "He got the metal boot."

What was it which made Sollins such a logical candidate as the new guitarist for the band?

"We liked his big guitar playing," answers Shain.

"To be specific, his big guitar," adds Roy.

The most recent members of the band are the horn section, consisting of trumpeter Fran Soosman, and saxophonist Mike Allison. Soosman, Allison, and another student, Derek Brain, were performing under the moniker Six Feet of Intestines, when they "merged with Velcro Dildo," says Soosman.

"We're really just doing them a favor," she says.

The band took time to address the controversy involved in them and another Bard band, Liquid Wrench, who alleged in the November 17 issue of the *Observer* that Velcro Dildo was planning a "rumble."

"They started all this controversy! We're challenging them to Wrestlemania V," Shain says.

"In a couple of years, we might let 'em open for us again," Sollins adds. Continu-

ing, the guitarist says, "They can outdrink us, but we're not impressed."

"But we can watch more TV than they can!" answers Roy.

Asked about other bands at Bard, the group's response is likely to be, "Never heard of them," or, "There are no other Bard bands besides ourselves and Liquid Wrench." 1973 is "the greatest band Bard ever had except for us," but then again, with Bard grads in the outfit, they're defined as "post-Bard." Dave Tarica, the group's drummer, is a member of 1973 as well as Velcro Dildo; how does the group feel about that?

"I love it. I love sharing Dave," Soosman says.

Life on the concert trail has been eventful for Velcro Dildo. Take, for instance, the Coalition for Choice benefit the band played last semester. "They gave Roy a hard time about paying to get into his own show," Shain recalls. Did he pay? "We all did," Shain replies, "but..."

"I refused," insists Roy.

The band also played Vassar College several weeks ago. "Our shit's played on Vassar radio!" Shain boasts.

"They hate Bard students, but they love us," says Sollins.

"I've seen girls give Velcro Dildo their numbers," Soosman adds.

The band even played at Dartmouth last summer.

"They like Bard students; the frat we were in treated us nicely, free drinks, the whole bit," says Roy.

The band landed the Dartmouth gig through "connections." "We have connections all over the place," Soosman explains, and there was talk during the interview of attempting to get a gig in Virginia where a friend of Soosman's attends graduate school.

Velcro Dildo has opinions on life at their own school. Take, for example, Saferides.

"It's a nice idea. People should drive safely," replies Roy.

"I haven't heard their music yet, but I heard they're pretty good," Tarica says.

The bookstore: "We love the bookstore, 'cause everything's free," Sollins says.

Kline Commons: "It's a nice place to visit, but you wouldn't want to live there, or eat there, unless you're Dave Tarica," says Roy.

The Student Center: "We need video games," Tarica says.

The Stevenson Gymnasium: "They need video games too," Tarica says.

Wardens Hall: "They should move students back into the faculty offices, and they need video games," Tarica says.

Final comments: "My favorite animal is a ground sloth," Roy comments. □

A special thank
you to the stu-
dents of Tewks-
bury's first
floor for taking
our phone calls
this semester.

Candlelight, music to figure in Christmas chapel service

There will be a Christmas Candlelight Service this Sunday, December 10th at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. The program includes music by J.S. Bach, Christmas Carols and Renaissance music. Performers include:

Jenny Diamond, mezzo-soprano
Carol Nackenoff, soprano
Kelly Elderidge, cello
Jeremy Soule, Flugelhorn
Christopher Gilbert, flutist
Grayce Nicholson, organist
Catherine Kleszczewski, flute



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Entertainment



Pussywillows to Play at Student Center

by Whitney Blake

On Saturday, December Ninth, the Pussywillows, Cordell Jackson, and the Reverb Motherfuckers will play for you at the Old Gym.

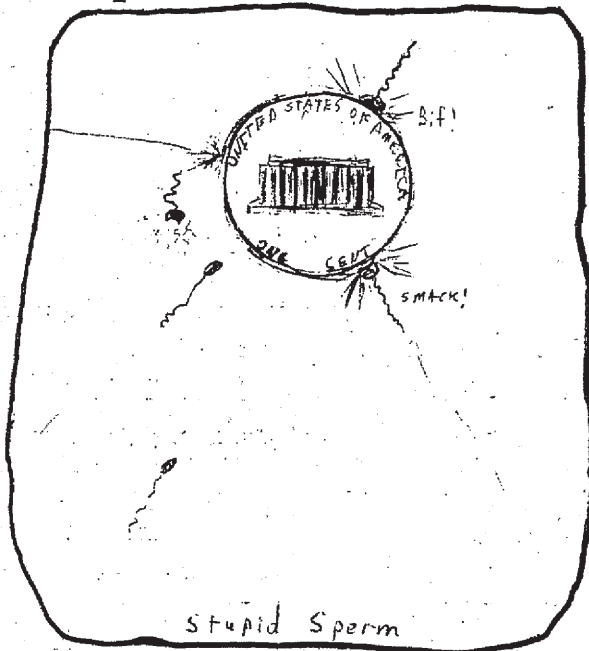
The Pussywillows are three squeaky sirens from the New York City scene. Backed by a rockin' underground combo, they describe their lobe of sixties girl groups as "a slumber party that got out of hand." Their record *SPRING FEVER*, has met with much success, being played on KKOC in LA, and attracting the attention of music lovers all over the nation. They have opened for Redd Kross, the Buzzcocks, and are cur-

rently recording with Ronnie Spector.

Cordell Jackson is a 66 year old woman who's been in the rock and roll business for as long as the business has been around. She lives in Memphis, runs her own MOON record label, and has written songs for Alex Chilton, Marshall Crenshaw, the Gibson Bros., Tav Falco's Panther Burns, and the Cramps. This is someone with a lot of stories to tell, and she'll be testifyin' after the Pussywillows. (Backing Cordell up will be New York City's A-Bones).

And then... the Reverb Motherfuckers will do their best to drive the sheep herd out with a noise that soothes the savage.

Sperm Art Vol. I



Looking back to the "Good old days"

by Amy Sechrist

Piles of dusty *Observers* stacked carelessly in the basement of the library seem worthless at first glance. But upon opening the crumbling pages, one finds tons of stuff; odd cartoons, pictures of how it "used to be," heated debates about issues that mean little or nothing to us now. But these old pages are not totally irrelevant. The grumblings and complaining of students have not changed since those days. So here in this column, the old *Observer*, also called *The Bard Times* for a while, will get a second chance. Here is what was the talk of the campus:

21 Years Ago Today — In 1968, the issue of the hour was a set of rules for the dormitories, called the Social Regulations. Co-ed dorms did not exist, and two sets of rules existed; one for female and one for male dorms. In previous years, the women had an earlier curfew than the men, and certain dorms were closed, or not open to visitors. The Board of Trustees made the final decision about such rules. They decided in '68 that:

1. All men's dorms are to be open 24 hours a day.
2. All women's dorms are to be closed 24 hours a day, except for social rooms.
3. There will be no curfews for men or women.

18 Years Ago Today — In 1971 the Bard Co-op published their prices in the paper. Some examples:
1 pound raisins 40¢
1 pound carrots 20¢
1 pound brown rice 22¢
1 pound whole wheat flour 19¢
1 pound granola 60¢

Also, a paper recycling system was set up by the Zen Group and the Natural History Course people. They put containers in each dorm for paper and cardboard, which was then stored in a shed by B&G until at least twelve tons were accumulated. A company would then come and collect it, paying seven dollars per ton. Some good reasons listed for recycling were air pollution by paper mills, stream pollution, destruction of pulpwood land by cutting and erosion, land pollution by disposal of garbage, and mercury contamination of waterways.

16 Years Ago Today — The Bard Bestiality Club was founded in 1973. Their aim, "to promote a more perfect union betwixt man and his

menagerie." The club requested funds from the Senate Budget committee in the amount of \$175; \$125 for a goat and \$50 for upkeep and medical expenses. Their request was unfortunately turned down; the reason, "for one thing, it's illegal, and second, what are we going to do with a goat when these fellows discover women!" (And you wondered where the *Observer's* dead goat came from!)

14 Years Ago Today — In 1975, Bard welcomed 28 year-old president-elect Leon Botstein to its campus. Botstein

was met by a parade of students in costume in front of Stone Row. Bard's marching football band, "Sugatto's Swingers," (4 saxophones, 3 melodicas, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) marched their new president to the old gym to a rousing version of *Glory, Glory, Hallelujah*. After addressing the students and faculty, Botstein dined in the Commons and answered student questions.

At 9:00, many migrated to Tewksbury for beer, pretzels, and Botstein. The pretzels, it was reported, were good. □

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This is the Sports Page, Kind Of

Bard Basketball Back to Normal

by Jody Apap

After jumping out of the blocks to start the season 3-1, the men's basketball team has slowed, losing their last two.

On Tuesday, November 27, the Blazers dropped one to King's College 115-56. No, that isn't a typo, King's did double Bard's score.

Coach Bob Krausz isn't too worried, claiming King's to be one of the strongest teams they will play this year.

"This game was a learning experience, particularly for our freshmen. They were embarrassed having this happen in front of our home fans. Our older players weren't. They've gone through this before." I'll say they have.

On Saturday, December 2, the Blazers lost to Utica, 114-72, with 67 of their points coming from only four players, Price Mason, 14 points, and Chris Hancewicz added another 12.

When asked about the sea-

son, junior forward Noah Samton, at 6'6", replied, "New York is truly an international city, it is the only one of its kind in the Western Hemisphere. We're doing better than ever."

"What we really need is support from our fans at home. Our fans are the sunshine that will help the seed, our team, blossom into the tree that we will someday be." He's been hit in the head with basketball a few too many times I'd say. □

This Week in Sports

Saturday 12/9

Men's Basketball vs Vassar

1:00 HOME

Sunday 12/10

Men's Basketball at Yeshiva

6:00 AWAY

That's all for Sports this semester. Be ready for intramural indoor soccer and full court basketball when you return in February. Have a good vacation.

One last time, your faithful *Observer* staff brings you, with copious amounts of pride, **THE WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE!!!**
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ACROSS

- 1 Inlet
4 Stupely
8 Lift with lever
11 Fondles
12 Story
13 Meadow
14 Above
15 Heraldry abbr.
17 High regard
19 Stitch
21 Once around track
23 Ocean
24 Narrow, flat board
26 Play on words
28 Short jacket
31 Obstruct
33 Pekoe
35 Declare
36 Exist
38 Experts
41 Jymbol for tellurium
42 River island

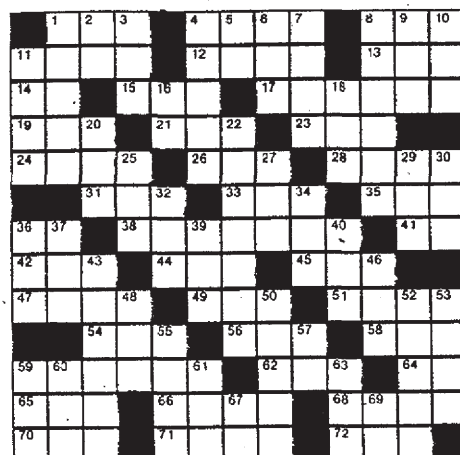
- 44 Baker's product
45 Measure of weight
47 Walked on
49 Attempt
51 Direction
54 At present
56 Behold
58 Tiny
59 Bread makers
62 Priest's vestment
64 Sun god
65 Actor Wallach
66 Diving birds
68 Sea in Asia
70 Lair
71 Saucy
72 Unit of Portuguese currency

DOWN

- 1 Repulse
2 Pronoun
3 Hard-wood tree
4 Strip of leather

- 5 Symbol for tantalum
6 Rubber tree
7 Promontory
8 Folds

The Weekly Crossword Puzzle



COLLEGE PRESS SERVICE

- 9 Female ruff
10 Sweet potato
11 Kitten
18 Spanish article
18 Golf mound
20 Small lump
22 Certain golf clubs
25 Scottish cap
27 Born
29 Grain
30 Brood of pheasants
32 Chart
34 Skill
36 Cudgel
37 Goddess of healing
39 Pose for portrait
40 Female hog
43 Gulf off Viet Nam
46 Flaccid
48 Female deer
50 Bread ingredient
52 Caravansary
53 River duck
55 Envelop
57 Spanish article
59 Plot of land
60 Saloon suds
61 Petition
63 Prohibit
67 Symbol for krypton
69 Concerning

Sports shortcomings at Bard

by Jason Van Driesche

The athletic program at Bard has seen many improvements in recent years, most notably the construction of Stevenson Gymnasium. The new gym changed Bard from a basically non-athletic school to one with at least the facilities to play many sports, if not the interest.

Stevenson has also involved the local community in the life of the college much more than before through its community membership program. It provides students and community members with the opportunity to keep themselves in shape even if they do not want to be part of an official team.

But even with all these improvements, Bard still has a long way to go. The college has no facilities whatsoever

for track and field, which is a serious deficiency. An outdoor rubberized track would be relatively inexpensive (compared to the cost of Stevenson), and it would serve a variety of purposes: a practice track for the cross-country team in the fall, a conditioning area for almost any of the intercollegiate teams, and most importantly, a first-class competing surface for the (as of yet nonexistent) Bard track team.

An area for field events would be even less expensive. Besides the grading of the land, the only construction that would need to be done would be to lay rubberized runways and pits for jumping events and set up areas for javelin, discus, and shot put. Equipment of sufficient quality and quantity to properly fit out the track team would not be cheap, but it would not cost

any more than the equipment bought for Stevenson (consider the cost of the Nautilus equipment alone).

A track and field team would probably get many more Bard students involved in sports, since the wide variety of types of events would attract a wide variety of people. With all the effort the Stevenson staff seems to be putting into increasing usage of the gym's facilities, a track would make their work a lot easier.

In addition to the lack of any facilities for track and field, Bard does not have sufficient space for other outdoor sports. The single playing field behind Kline is not nearly enough practice space for all the intercollegiate and intramural teams that compete for the field. The college needs at least two more fields for soccer and for intramural sports such as ultimate frisbee and flag football.

Of course, all these improvements will require money. While they will not cost nearly as much as Stevenson, it will probably be necessary to find a rich alumnus who wants to support sports at Bard. There must be one out there. □

Village Pizza III

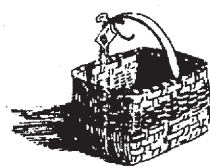
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Drugs

continued from page 1
Public Safety and Security. If a security officer encounters drug use or evidence of drug use in a public situation, the officer has the option to file an incident report. Incident reports are filed with Otey and Dean of Students Steve Nelson simultaneously, and at their weekly meetings, Otey and Nelson decide whether or not to take action on the report.

If Otey and Nelson decide to take action, they have a variety of options. According to the Student Handbook (page 67):

"Violations of the spirit and intent of this [drug] policy will be responded to by disciplinary action after the college has been notified through normal complaint channels. Within the life of the community, penalties for violation may include warnings, probation, suspension, and expulsion."

According to Otey, the only time internal action is taken over by the local police is when off-campus dealers come onto campus. "Due to the threat of violence and fire-arm involvement, in this case, we do call in the local police." Bard does not supply the police with the names of stu-

dents using drugs, although Bard does "share much information." Otey said that it is more common for the police to tell Bard when dealers are selling off campus; when this occurs, Bard has the option of letting the State Police step in or of enforcing its policies on its own.

Bard cannot stop the placement of undercover operatives, and does not have to be notified when such an agent is on campus. As to rumors of "real police" on campus, Otey claims that the higher visibility of local and state police is in response to both the rash of car vandalism and the recent activities of the Ku Klux Klan in the local area. The police are not at Bard in connection with campus social activities; according to Otey, they "simply stop in at the security office to chat."

In addition, Bard has a security officer who is also a local deputy sheriff, and while his duties do not overlap, he has "worn pants with a stripe on them with a Bard Security uniform."

With a little restraint and caution, though, students can safely do whatever their judgment tells them is acceptable. The only thing students have to remember is that they are responsible for their own actions - and for the consequences of their actions. □

The Pill and such

continued from page 1

him- or herself open to a very real risk for a number of STD's which are circulating on many campuses, including Bard.

Other drawbacks to the Pill include a greater risk for smokers of vascular constriction and stroke, and a variety of possible side effects for non-smokers, ranging from headaches to depression to slight weight gain. But the only real complaint Davis has heard at the Health Center is mid-cycle spotting (bleeding) that can occur when a pill is missed or taken even a few hours later than usual.

Yet the responsibility of taking a pill every day when sexual activity may be once a week, or less often, influences many women to choose the diaphragm, which is another option open to women today.

The diaphragm, when used correctly (with a contraceptive foam or jelly) is 96-98% effective for birth control, and can also protect against some STD's. It requires an internal exam as well, and has an initial cost of \$10-\$15 for the diaphragm itself, which can be purchased at the Health Center. The Center generally uses the arching-spring diaphragm, but will arrange for any other kind to be procured through Red Hook Pharmacy.

There is an increased risk for Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS) and urinary tract infections with the diaphragm, but "unless you leave it in for a week-end, risks of TSS just aren't

very large" says Davis. What the diaphragm does require is "a mature, relaxed attitude about your own body, a spirit of communication with your partner, and a sense of humor. I mean, inserting the diaphragm shouldn't be something done in the bathroom, by yourself. It can be a very enjoyable part of foreplay. Men are benefiting from the use of the diaphragm, let them do their part." The diaphragm can be inserted up to six hours in advance, and must be left in at least six hours afterward to ensure effectiveness. Used correctly, the male partner should not be able to feel the diaphragm being used.

Another drawback to the diaphragm is the somewhat medicinal taste of the spermicidal jelly used with it, which can prove slightly hampering to aspects of oral sex. One male Bard student said, "It tastes like insecticide. It is insecticide. It tastes like Raid mixed with toothpaste." However, use without jelly greatly lowers the reliability of this method.

What Davis tries to do when students come to the Health Center for birth control is "lay out the advantages and disadvantages of each method, and let the student come to their own decision. I can't make those choices for a student." A rare sight at the health center is a male student coming in with a female partner, to decide on a meth-



od together.

Davis remarked that when she worked at Rutgers University, "It was much more common to see men come in with their girlfriends, making a conscious decision to be informed and involved. It was really nice, and I'd like to see more of that on the Bard campus." What may happen, she surmises, is that "when women initially start using a method of birth control, it's before they're involved in a serious relationship. By the time they are in a relationship, it's already been taken care of."

As Davis said, though, "a larger degree of communication with your sexual partner is the only sure method for both protection against conception and sexual satisfaction." □

Co-op troubles

continued from page 1

Blake believes that the situation was the result of a "lack of communication between the administration and Security. I can't babysit the bands, but I'm really sorry about what happened." As far as Blake knew, the Entertainment Committee still had free access to the room. Reed refused to comment on the situation.

"Ultimately, the Entertainment Committee will probably end up paying for the damages, since they asked to have the room opened," said Otey. However, that decision will be made by the Dean of Students office.

In the meantime, students who ordered items through the coop will have to wait for a refund. "It's really sad that people would do this to the coop," said Wittenberg. "B&G has been really great, though. I want to thank them for cleaning everything up so quickly without my asking them." □

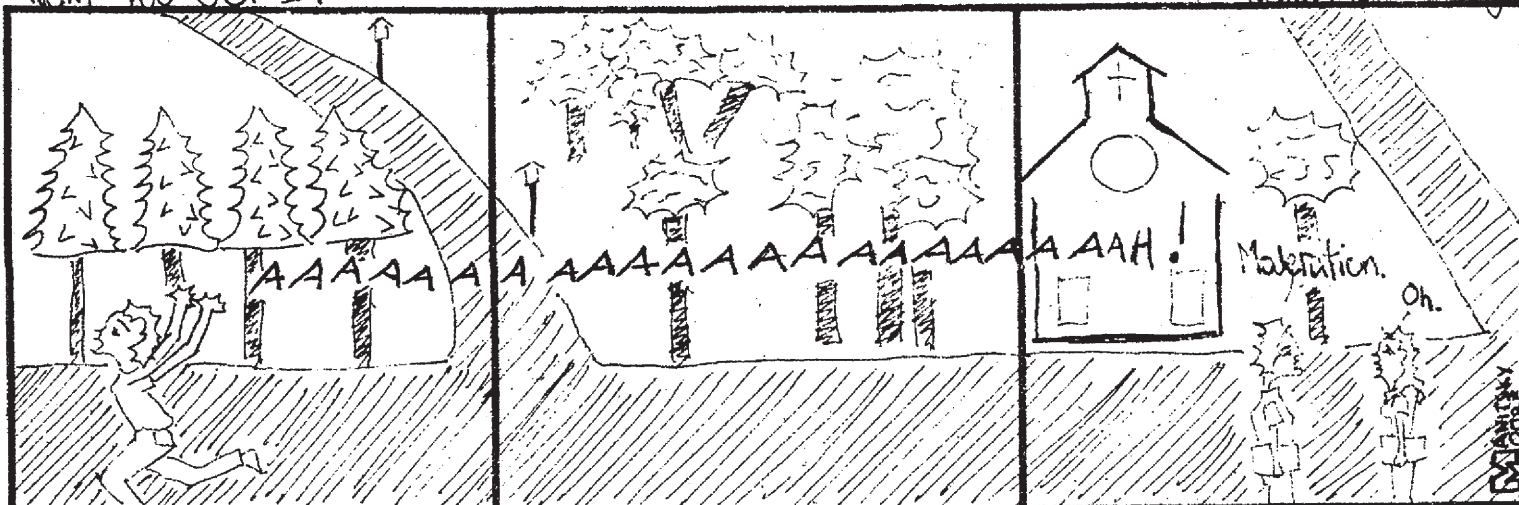
ADVERTISEMENT

Housemate wanted (male or female) to share lakeside house in Elizaville next semester with 2 females. \$175 per month plus utilities. 12 mins. from Bard. Pre-built loft included. Contact Deena 756-



Well, You Get It

Welcome to College



Opinion

Ahhh! The last issue of the semester. Well, no one thought we could do it, including us at some points. A weekly newspaper at Bard! Un-

"I got some really good practical experience out of the Observer. Working on a staff is interesting. You learn a lot about communication."

—Julie Carter

heard of. Absurd.

Well, many headaches, sleepless nights, and mistakes later, we've done it.

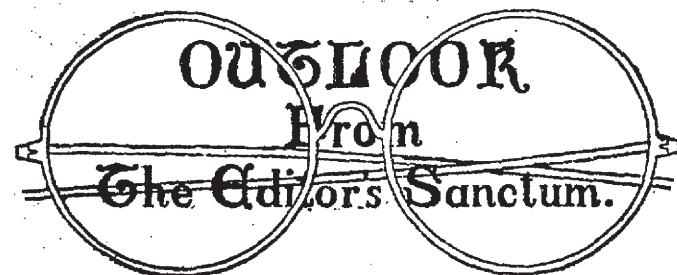
Despite many complaints, or perhaps because of them, we feel we've done a pretty good job. We've been weekly, we've annoyed many people, we've accomplished our goals.

Smoking policy at film showings changed after the long and energetic discussion in

It's the end of the semester, Folks

our pages. Our articles are often referred to during Forum meetings and in private interviews.

All right, so our goals weren't to annoy many people. We apologize. We are doing the best we can.



But we want to do even better. There is always room for improvement. If you are one of the ones who complained, put your money where your

mouth is next semester and help out. Even if you didn't complain, you are welcome on the staff. We assume Bard students can write. Our only criteria are your willingness to work and your responsibility to deadlines.

We plan to be more aggressive and thorough in our news coverage next semester, and we are going to need help. If interested in news reporting

or helping to start a guide to courses taught at Bard that compiles student opinion, contact News Editor Ed Eigerman.

Next semester we also plan to do more in the way of education. Trips to the Kingston Freeman, the New York Times, and the New York State Museum in Albany are underway as well as workshops on design and investigative reporting and several films.

Getting involved in the paper is a lot of fun (and can't hurt your resume). We aren't by any means desperate for newcomers. The present staff works hard and is quite talented. But as the old saying goes, the more, the merrier. The more people we have working

for us, the more news we can cover and the easier it gets for everyone involved.

We are always open to ideas; bring yours and come on down.

"The paper? It's a way to get free pizza. Well, seriously I had a true learning experience this semester while our Editor-in-Chief was away because of a family emergency. As Managing Editor, I had to assume the role of responsibility and be the head of the paper. My job wasn't that difficult though because I had such a great staff. I am proud of the job we did."

—Brenda Montgomery

Letters

Condom policy editorial riddled with inaccuracies

To the Editor:

Your editorial of December 1st, "Change is needed in the Bard condom policy," is so riddled with inaccuracies and misconceptions that one hardly knows where to begin. Putting aside your childish comments on the color of the recently installed machines, you claim that they were neither well-built nor well-maintained. In fact, the machines were rather standard and even sturdier than most. Maintenance was, as you propose it ought to be, the responsibility of a private vending machine company. However, they became understandably reluctant to continue expending money on maintenance after 14 out of 16 machines were vandalized and smashed within four months of their installation.

I visited a dorm at the end of last semester where one student was considered something of a hero for having broken into, and removed all the condoms from, two machines. By emptying the machines this student, and others like him, are not just making things difficult, they are endangering the lives and health of their fellow students. And yet these same students lionized him! In addition, many have broken into machines to steal the accumulated change

in them. This despite the vendor's eschewing a large share of his profit, and its donation instead to AIDS research. (As is clearly labeled on the machines). It is hard to understand how decreasing the number and accessibility of the machines, as you propose, will solve such problems.

Currently, the AIDS committee is moving to have ALL the machines repaired or replaced. Contrary to your assertion, the issuing of condoms to Peer Counselors is not a distribution policy designed to take the place of the machines, but has been instituted as a stop-gag measure to make condoms as available as possible while the repairs are being arranged. I am given to understand by members of the AIDS committee that they are also considering the possibility of continuing to use peer counselors to augment the machines, not replace them.

Whether or not such a policy is implemented, I feel I must respond to your comments about peer counselors. If someone receives a condom from a peer counselor they DO NOT need to worry that "the P.C. might gossip." Peer counselors have "an understanding of confidentiality" when they deal in such ways with their fellow residents. It would be unethical of them to speak such confidences without the approval of the resident. Your implication that they would, despite all evidence to the contrary, is gratuitous and insulting. There are reasons of modesty and

availability for questioning the effectiveness of peer counselor integrity.

You are also greatly misinformed in your belief that peer counselors must front the money for the condoms they have available. In fact, these condoms are provided to the P.C.'s without charge. They are then asked to collect money if they can to help defray the AIDS committee's costs, but it is left to their judgment. It might be noted that the administration is covering any financial loss this incurs, and not the P.C. This is far preferable to your suggestion that it be taken out of the Convocation Fund (perhaps at the expense of the Observer budget?). As a member of the budget Planning Committee, I must tell you that offering to use student funds for something the administration already pays for is not our policy. How condoms can be seen as a legitimate Athletic Department expense is quite beyond me. As is how such an expense could be absorbed by a budget which is already so strained that a prohibitive 25 cent fee must be charged for the use of towels.

You have achieved the dubious distinction of being a student-run newspaper which has proposed a condom policy far less ambitious than the one already adopted the administration. In doing so, you have done a disservice to them, yourself and to the entire student body. You have also missed the more salient point. While the College should, and does, endeavor to encourage responsible behavior and make condoms readily

available, the final burden of individual sexual practices must rest on the individual themselves. In the last analysis, it is they alone who are responsible for procuring condoms and other protection demanded by their decisions.

Sincerely,

Cormac Flynn

P.S. Only some, not all of the machines are pink. Cruger Village, by the way, is spelt with a C, and it's Gahagan House.

It's the Cormac and he's leaving. We'll all miss you here on the paper. We'll need some new rabble-rousers next year. Anyone interested in the job? Seriously, though good luck. You'll need it.

Thanks from AIDS Committee

To the Editor:

On behalf of the Bard Committee on AIDS, I would like to thank the many members of the Bard community who recently contributed money for the care of people with AIDS in the Hudson Valley. May I thank also those of you who contributed your time and effort for the benefit, raffle, and video screenings. At the drama and dance performance on November 27, the total was \$163.38; during this week, raffle tickets brought another \$105. In the past five years, the number of cases of AIDS in the Mid-Hudson Valley has doubled each year; obviously, support from the surrounding community is increasingly vital. Thank you.

Jean Churchill

In the pursuit of correct references

To the Editor:

Just a very brief note in response to the Letter to the Editor Attila Yesilada of the Jerome Levy Institute wrote concerning her right to smoke and which appeared in the November 17th issue. She wrote: "My right to smoke...is explicitly guaranteed in the Constitution. It is called the 'pursuit of happiness' clause." Well, Attila, it is obvious that, when teaching you economics, they certainly didn't teach you any civics. There is no mention of the "Pursuit of Happiness" in the Constitution; that phrase comes from the Declaration of Independence.

David Biele

President,

Nitpickers of America

Worried About AIDS?

For referral or assistance, call the N.Y.S. Health Department's AIDS Hotline

1-800-462-1884

TOLL-FREE & CONFIDENTIAL

Speaking of rights, please don't kill me with your smoke

To the Editor:

Hopefully you are still running letters concerning smokers and non-smokers opinions at Bard, because I have some things to say on the subject that I hope will inspire some, infuriate others, and basically make some of the more knob-headed individuals at this school think.

I'll start off by replying to Atilla's letter. Ma'am, if any person on this campus is in dire need of a brain massage, it is you. I haven't read such a lame argument since junior high school. The fact that you know, have seen & experienced how smoking can destroy someone's health, and still continue to do it for "the enjoyment I get from nicotine" instantly brands you as an idiot, but the real idiocy is your attempt to justify it by saying that you would stop smoking "...the day our air is only polluted by cigarette smoke. There are corporations out there which pour millions of tons of pollutants into our air, water and soil. Even if everybody quit smoking, our air won't be an iota cleaner or fresher." This is kind of like me going out with my shiny new handgun, blowing a few people away, and in my defense claiming that I shouldn't be prosecuted because of all of the people being murdered with over-the-counter assault

rifles. It is an attempt to divert the issue and the blame that is as insipid as it is contemptible. And by the way, if the millions of people in the world suddenly did stop smoking, I think the air would be a hell of a lot healthier — if not in the all-around atmosphere, at least in public buildings such as Kline.

Yes, it is your right to smoke, as long as you're willing to admit that doing so makes you a fucking pig. I'm not talking about what it does to you, but to others around you. I myself am addicted to caffeine, and drink enough of it a day to kill any number of large mammals, but while I admit I'm no saint, I'm not a moron, either. Caffeine does little more than raise one's blood pressure, and I have low blood pressure. Drinking a lot of caffeinated beverages is hardly offensive, either — unless I happen to piss all over you — and the thought has occurred to me. Loud music is offensive, but it can be turned off. Smoke lingers and damages, and is no less offensive than walking up to someone and farting in their face. If non-smokers tried this on smokers as a policy, maybe they would get an idea of how disgusting it really is.

When I say smoking brands you as an Idiot, I mean it. Our parents and older folk smoked simply because they didn't

know any better at the time, but doing it now, with the knowledge that smoking kills a thousand people a day — and not all of them smokers — is inexcusable. Therefore, you will simply not be treated as a mature adult. A woman or man who spouts off about abortion rights or environmental concerns — two very important issues as we head into the next decade — while dangling a cigarette from between two fingers is someone I am not going to take too seriously at all.

Moreover, I defy any person reading this, smokers or non — but especially smokers, to come up with a decent, logical argument supporting cigarette smoking, that's not as tattered as Ms. Yesilada's. As far as I'm concerned, NONE of you have got a logical leg to stand on when it comes to justifying what you do to yourself, but especially to others, by smoking. So hey, prove me wrong.

I am now going to get really preachy on y'all, and tell you a

story that may explain why I am so adamant about this topic and not others. I remember being on a road trip with my family when I was about twelve years old: My older brother and sister were in the back seat with me, and my father and little brother were in the front seat, with my mom driving. My father smoked two packs of Lucky Strikes a day, and at this time he had just lit up. He then discovered that the car's ash-tray was missing. He looked into the back and sure enough, my older brother Jim had the ashtray in his hands. My father asked for the ashtray for what seemed like a week, his patience wearing thinner and thinner as my older brother refused to give it to him. Finally, he turned and lunged for him, and Jim threw the ashtray into my lap. I was sitting directly behind my dad, and no matter how he tried to turn, he could not reach me. However, knowing how much more spineless I was compared to Jim, Dad said, politely and sternly, "Gordon, give

me the ashtray." I looked at him, then my older brother, then back at him, weighing in my mind who I was more afraid of at the time. Then Jim turned to me and stated:

"Gordon, if you want to see him dead, give him that ashtray."

I didn't give it to him, and my dad finally settled for flicking ashes out the window. Never once did he decide to stop smoking.

So maybe this is why I'm screaming at you all today. I don't want to see you all dead. I know this story will generate a great deal of psychobabble if anyone replies to this letter, but such examinations into my character would be misplaced. In short: I am not the problem, smoking is. And if I find, ten years down the line, that I've contracted lung cancer from the omnipresent so-called "secondary smoke" at this school, I'd trade places with one of you zipperheads in a minute. You deserve your fate.

Gordon Noble

What's your bitsche?

by Max Guazzoni

I would like to share the words of Neil Nussman, Sophomore. He writes:

"These buttheads run cross country, and trashed the woods with graffiti-like sayings (Go Bard!) on wooden footbridges, and left in their trail as well, Bard athletic calendars, which they've used to post directional arrows. Since there is dissenting opinion as to whether the Liberal Arts Institution of Bard College should promote athletics in the first place, if these fucks would just leave, go to Penn State or something... we could get a lot more work done."

In conversation, Neil tells of the cloppety-clop of the runner's shoes early in the morning outside his window, he briefly notes the erosion problems of these used and over abused paths, then he focuses his descriptions on the calendars now fallen down, and which lay shredded, scattered all over the forest floor. "I don't want to be walking in the woods and see this shit," he says. "That's why I go in the woods in the first place."

I have seen what has happened. Living, young saplings have been completely covered with a coat of heavy, latex spray paint. They won't

survive, they'll suffocate for months. They'll try, and try, until they don't have enough of the right chemicals in their bodies to pump through their veins. They'll die standing and remain there for hundreds of years, in the exact same spot marking your stupid fucking trail. Once perfect Hudson Valley granite has now been decorated for everyone's entertainment, with arrows, pointing directions, in the woods.

And by woods we're talking about the Tivoli Bay Recreation Area, as well as parts of this campus. What I would like to know is where any one gets the gall, the arrogance to put their need of the woods ahead of everyone else's, and then to go ahead and destroy these woods that are part of a wildlife preserve for everyone, for people, most of whom have no affiliation with Bard, but simply live around here, and obviously get more out of a nice hike in the woods than any of these scrawny little speed demons could ever hope to, Damn!, I hope your knees come unsewn.

Neil concludes:

"This fucking nonsense is making the already overwhelming task of recycling that the rest of the community is trying to adopt, all the more difficult."

You're probably right, and I'm glad you bring this up, because I want to say something about those new trash cans. Whoever motivated it, what ever forces brought these new laws down upon us, deserves a pat on the back. I think the trash cans are a little weird looking, and they take up a lot of space, but I am thanking the heavens that the not-so-much-higher forces have acknowledged the fact that this is what we have to do, what we have to suffer through living with, because this planet we're inheriting has been so fucked up by them... I say it's great. Let's work on the nuclear bombs, next. □

**Don't forget
to turn in
your course
evaluation
sheets to
Stuart's
office before
the end of
the
semester.**

THE BARD OBSERVER

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Classifieds: 25 cents for Bardians; \$5 for all others.
Display ads: Contact Business Manager.



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The Dean of Students

DECEMBER 9 through DECEMBER 15, 1989

Weekly Community Information Newsletter

Registrar's Office:

Foreign Students leaving the U.S. for the Winter Intersession are reminded that they will need an I-20 to reenter. Please request your I-20 before you leave and give at least **TWO DAYS** notice so that we can prepare it.

Music & Carol Service:

There will be a service of music, carols and reading in the chapel on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 PM. Performers will include Jennifer Diamond, Catherine Klegzczewski, Carol Nackenoff, Grayce Nicholson, Jeremy Soule, and Holly Yarbrough.

Public Relations Department:*******A Final Reminder*******

The public relations office will publish 12,000 copies of a spring 1990 "Calendar of Events at Bard College" to be distributed throughout the college's mailing lists and at Hudson Valley tourists sites. The publication date is mid-

January, and the submission deadline is **Friday, December 15**. Contact Jamie Monagan in Ludlow 310 for more information or to list an event.

Club Art:

Club Art will meet every Monday at 7:00 PM in the Proctor Arts Center to discuss various art-related topics. Anyone is welcome, it is not necessary that you are an art major or have any artistic ability, just an interest.

Blum Gallery:

"The Parade of Crafts from East to West," an exhibition of Japanese works of art spanning the 17th to 20th centuries and borrowed from the collections of three prestigious Japanese colleges is currently on display at the Blum Gallery.

Claire Bloom Reading:

On December 9, Actress Claire Bloom presents: "The Feminist and the Novelist: The voices of Virginia Woolf." At 8:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium.

Drama & Dance Department: Top Girls

On October 9 through 12 at 8:00 PM the Bard Theater of Drama and Dance will present *Top Girls*, directed by Deborah Nitzberg. A matinee will be held on December 10 at 3:00 PM. Avery Arts Center.

Community Acknowledgements:

To: The residents of the "Rhinebeck House" for carrying on the tradition of hosting fellow students for Thanksgiving dinner.

To: Dick Griffiths, Chuck Simmons, Shelley Morgan and the students of the Environmental Club for their work in establishing on-campus recycling.

To: Susan Van Kleeck and her staff for reinstating and publishing the Student Directory. *Should you wish to suggest a Community Acknowledgement, please send names/situations to the Dean of Student's Office.*

Classified:

Food Coop will sell organic fruits and vegetables every Thursday 12:30-1:00 PM and 5:00-6:00 PM in the Student Center, across from the security office.

Friday's & Sunday's Movies:

Friday, December 8-*Matador*, directed by Pedro Almodavar.

Sunday, December 10- *Zabriske Point* directed by Michelangelo Antonioni. Showings are at 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM in the Student Center. The 7:00 PM showings are non-smoking.

Deadline for the first issue of next semester (2/2/90) is Friday, January 26.

Calendar of Events

Saturday 9	Sunday 10	Monday 11	Tuesday 12	Wednesday 13	Thursday 14	Friday 15
10:00 AM Trips to Rhinebeck and Red Hook	5:30 PM Bard Observer-Features Section Aspinwall, 3rd floor	6:00-6:30 PM Bard Observer-News Section College Room Kline Commons	12:15-1:15 PM China Table College Room Kline Commons	6:00-7:00 PM Dr. Seuss Club Committee Room Kline Commons	12:15-1:15 PM French Table Committee Room Kline Commons	12:30 PM The Rabbi's Table Committee Room Kline Commons
11:00 AM Torah Study Group Committee Room Kline Commons	7:00-10:30 PM Vans to Rhinecliff Station	7:30 PM BLAGA meeting Aspinwall 300	5:00 PM Spanish Table President's Room Kline Commons	5:00-6:00 PM Environmental Club Committee Room Kline Commons	5:30-7:00 PM L.A.S.O. Committee Room Kline Commons	4:00-9:30 PM Vans to Rhinecliff Station
5:45 PM Hudson Valley Mall Trip	7:36 PM Pick-up at Poughkeepsie Station	8:30 PM Bard Observer Arts Section Coffee Shop Kline Commons	5:00-6:00 PM E.P.C. Committee Room Kline Commons	7:30 PM Alanon-ACOA Aspinwall 3rd floor	6:00-7:00 PM Amnesty International College Room Kline Commons	6:30 PM Van to Poughkeepsie Station -7:36 Train
6:30 PM Ecumenical Services Chapel	7:00 and 9:30 PM Movie in Student Center FIRST SHOW IS NON-SMOKING		5:30 PM Learning Differences Support Group Admissions Office (Ext. 472 for more information)		7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Aspinwall 3rd floor	***** LAST DAY OF CLASSES *****
			7:30 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Aspinwall 3rd floor			