

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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| | |
|--------|---|
| Page 1 | Student Assaulted at End of Fall Semester Jason Van Driesche Reading: A Skill Literacy Volunteers Can Share Kristan Hutchison |
| Page 2 | No Rest for the Tardy Behind-schedule campus renovations and construction are almost done Jason Van Driesche |
| Page 3 | Demonstrations Abound Across the Nation's Campuses Tom Hickerson Resources for Persons of All Options Bard to Host "Town Meeting" Debate on War Jason Van Driesche |
| Page 4 | Kuwaiti Student Flies Fighter for Country and Family Gulf Crisis Causes Campus Crisis Kristan Hutchison |
| Page 5 | Hendrix and Black Rock: Taking back what was already his Mark Delsing Poem of the Week The Fool He Was Joanna Thandes |
| Page 6 | Outlook From the Editor's Sanctum Dear President Bush Kristan Hutchison A Resolution to Fly the American Flag at Half Mast Jason Van Driesche Now That We're at War Kristan Hutchison |
| Page 7 | Letters Kudos to Chase and Lytle James Mockovciak Bush is Right, Hussein is Another Hitler Tom Hickerson Polish Democracy Faced Power Politics Beata Baczynska Classifieds and personals |
| Page 8 | Calendar |

*I may not agree with what you say, but I
will defend to the death your right to say it.*
—Voltaire

Student assaulted at end of fall semester

by Jason Van Driesche

A female Bard student was assaulted while jogging behind the tennis courts at the end of last semester. According to a letter released to the community on January 25 by Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, the student "suffered contusions and considerable anxiety during the assault," but was not raped or seriously injured.

According to Detective Paul Pastro of the Dutchess County Sheriff's office, the student was grabbed from behind and assaulted at knifepoint somewhere on the trail between Stevenson Gymnasium and Cruger Village. She then managed to escape and flee towards Cruger Village, where friends called Security. The attacker fled towards Stevenson.

Very little is known about the appearance or identity of the attacker. According to Pastro, the student described the attacker as a white male over six feet tall, between 20 and 25 years of age, with no facial hair. The attacker is also believed to be either a Bard student or an area resident who is familiar with Bard students. The Dutchess County Sheriff's office investigated several leads immediately after the attack and disqualified several suspects.

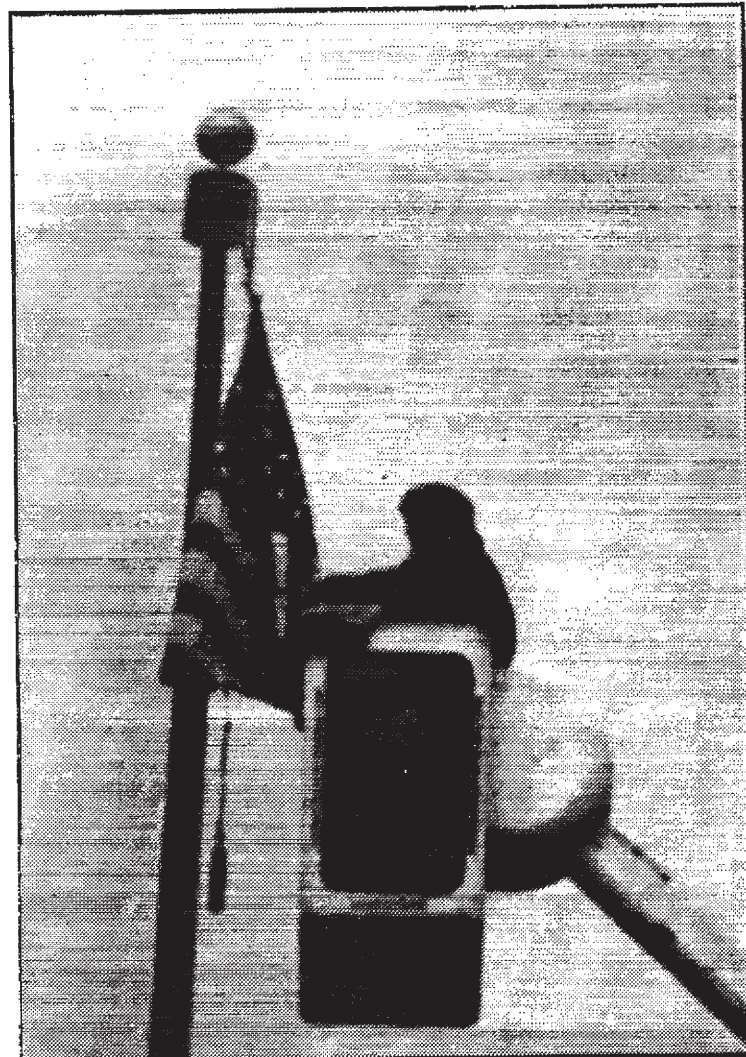
Pastro stressed that the most valuable leads would come from students who may have seen someone fitting the above description in or around

Cruger Village just prior to the time of the assault, as police have determined that the attacker entered the victim's room just prior to the incident. "I need the cooperation and the confidence of the students," he said. He hopes to develop leads based on information gathered from residents of Cruger Village during a meeting held on Wednesday, January 30.

If identified and arrested, the assailant could face charges of assault with a deadly weapon, attempted rape, and unlawful imprisonment. If convicted, he would probably get at least 10 to 25 years, according to Detective Pastro.

In response to the assault, Morgan is forming a college-sponsored, student-run escort service, which will cover the entire campus every half hour from 8:00 pm to 2:00 am. Any student interested in driving should contact Morgan as soon as possible.

In addition, Morgan, Assistant Dean of Students/Director of Housing and Residential Life Gladys Watson, Assistant Dean of Students/Coordinator of Student Alcohol and other Drug Education Beth Frumkin, and Director of Campus Safety and Security Bob Boyce will visit dorms to discuss campus safety in general and answer questions about this incident in particular. The college is also conducting a survey of campus lighting, which Director of Security Bob Boyce hopes will be funded in next year's budget.



War began on January 15,
but conflict at Bard began earlier.

See stories on the Gulf War and Bard's response on pages 3, 4, 6, and 7.

Michael Kaufman

Reading: A skill literacy volunteers can share

by Kristan Hutchison

If you can read this sentence, then this is a week to celebrate, and to consider the plight of those who cannot. The first week of February is National Literacy Week, and the Bard literacy volunteers are already hard at work.

Training sessions for the 15 new tutors began Monday. The tutors received English as a Second Language training. February 9 they will begin Basic Reading training. This semester, 14 students will receive credit for literacy tutoring through one of the four related classes. Several of the 16 tutors from last semester have agreed to continue this

semester as well, without credit.

The literacy program has changed its focus from one-on-one tutoring to group tutoring. "Most college programs do not do one-to-one tutoring because it is so difficult to match a community member's schedule to that of a college student, just the logistics of it," said Karma Kreizenbeck, one of the three Bard Literacy Program student directors.

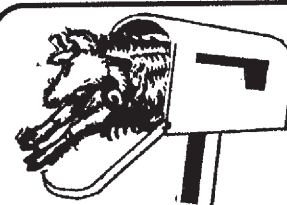
Group tutoring is also easier emotionally, said Melissa Brandt, another student director. "It won't be as traumatic for both the tutors and the learner because they'll get encouragement from the group." The third student director is Judy Nelson.

The Literacy Program has also

revised the procedure for becoming a volunteer. Now students must sign a contract to donate a certain number of hours to certain people in certain places. However, before the time had to be given six hours every week. Now 60 hours are required throughout the semester, allowing students to choose the chunks of time. "It was just too rigid before. Flexibility is really the key now," said Brandt.

Bard students will be working with people through the Literacy Volunteers of America, Rhinebeck Chancellor Elementary School, and the Fishkill Correctional Facility.

The Literacy Program has established its public events for Literacy Week, but it may host a speaker.



The Post Office is moving
this weekend, and they
don't want any extra
baggage!

As a result, we are not
able to distribute the
Observer through Campus
Mail this week. Mail de-
livery will be back in
operation next week.
See related article on p. 2.

No rest for the tardy

Behind-schedule campus renovations and construction are almost done

by Jason Van Driesche

While students were taking a break, the college kept busy with renovations and construction at a number of locations around campus. Many projects that were well behind schedule at the end of last semester are now near completion.

The computer center gets a facelift

The largest of these projects is the renovation and dramatic expansion of the Henderson Computer Resource Center, which is in the process of expanding from one cramped floor to three well-designed levels. According to Dick Griffiths, Director of the Physical Plant, the first floor should be completed by Friday, February 1, and should be open for business shortly thereafter. Though the first-floor lab is designed for use as a model classroom for the Institute for Writing and Thinking, it will be open for use by the community as a whole when it is not being used by the Institute or by computer classes. The first floor will also have several terminals designed for use by handicapped people.

The second floor, which will serve as the primary computer lab, was completed on Monday, January 28. Buildings and Grounds workers have been transferring the computers from the temporary computer center in Olin all this week.

Construction on the third floor will not be completed for about another three weeks. Since the top level will be used only for offices and equipment storage, though, the center's computing facilities will be able to open before the office space is ready.

This expansion was prompted by a grant from IBM awarded to the Institute for Writing and Thinking last fall. The grant will stock the first floor with 20 computer terminals, one networked laser printer, and other peripherals and software. According



All the new computer lab needs now is computers

to Bonnie Gilman, Director of the Henderson Computer Resource Center, the laser printer will probably be available for use to the general public at a per page fee. However, Gilman emphasized that such a decision has not been reached as of yet.

The center has also purchased six Macintosh SE computers, each with an Imagewriter printer, to complement the IBM's already in the second floor lab.

As the renovations to the computer center were not included in the grant from IBM, the college funded the expansion itself. The renovations were supposed to be done at the beginning of last semester.

Bigger and better things for Annandale post office

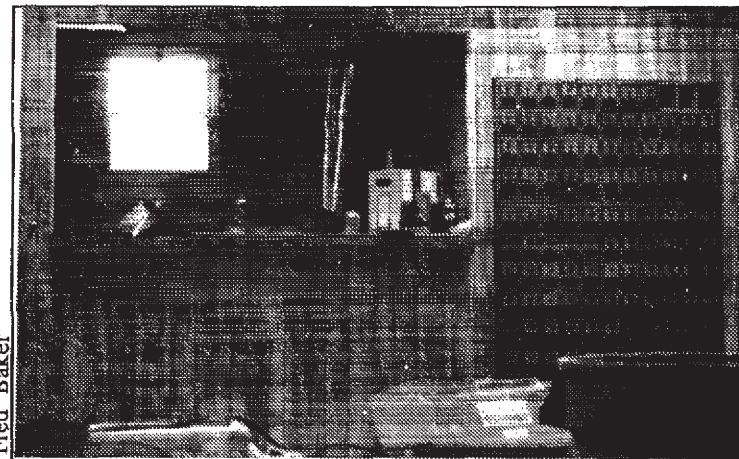
Currently located in the basement of Hegeman, the Post Office is abandoning its old quarters entirely for a bigger and better-designed space in the basement of the Old Gym. The move is scheduled for this weekend, and Griffiths hopes the new facility will be up and running by the time the Post Office usually opens on Monday morning.

The move is designed primarily to give the Post Office the extra space it badly needs to function smoothly. "We've been cramped for years," said Post Office employee Rose Grieb.

The space vacated in the basement of Hegeman will be used as office space for the expanding math department. Professor Mark Halsey, who is currently in Hegeman 103, will take one of the offices. The use of the other office has not yet been determined, but according to Professor Ethan Bloch, it will probably be used to house the Director of the Quantitative Studies program once s/he is hired. Until that time, Professor Abe Gelbart will probably use the office on the one day he is on campus each week.

New names for New Crugers A, B, and C

Though three dorms have been built in Cruger Villages since the summer of 1989, none of them were officially named as of the end of last semester. However, New Cruger A and B, the two built in the summer of '89, already had firmly established identities. They were known by all and sundry as Chase and Fagen, named after two notorious Bard alums. The larger New Cruger C, built in the summer of '90, has been variously named SMOG House, Hagman House, and



Director of the Physical Plant Dick Griffiths is confident the new Post Office space in the basement of the Old Gym will be ready by Monday

Dylan Dorm by students, but nothing has stuck as of yet.

According to the Dean of Students office, Chase and Fagen have been renamed Keen North and South, after a Bard alum who passed away some years ago and left his estate to the college. New Cruger C has been renamed Oberholzer, after another gentleman who left Bard his estate.

However, in an apparent miscommunication between the Dean and Buildings and Grounds, Chase and

North/Keen North, commented that Oberholzer is "too hard to pronounce. Are they going to name another dorm Wienerschnitzel, or something?"

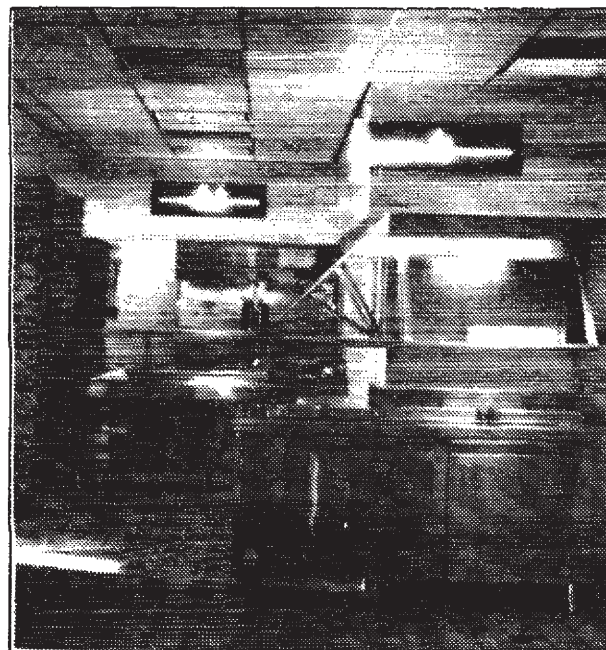
On a more serious note, Berry said he believes "it is the college's responsibility to give buildings names... [but] part of its responsibility is to name them relatively quickly."

Blue neon and more

Kline Commons is now visible from approximately 300 yards away thanks to the vivid blue neon signs Wood Food Service installed above each serving station. This is just the most visible of the many finishing touches Wood and the college put on the ongoing Kline renovations over break. Other additions include self-serve waffle irons, self-squeeze orange juice, and a reorganized breakfast area.

In response to complaints and suggestions from students last semester, Wood has also added 23 new vegetarian dishes to its menu and dropped a number of the more unpopular items. As a complement to its new menu, the food service is also introducing a "recipes from home" program in which students can submit favorite recipes.

Perhaps most significant, though, are the nearly completed bathrooms, conveniently located right next to the dining area.



Blue neon is just one of the many snazzy new features at Kline

Fagen now have signs on them indicating that they are Oberholzer North and South, and New Cruger C is labeled Keen.

David Berry, a freshman who lives in New Cruger A/Chase/Oberholzer

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ELECTION OF STUDENT LIFE CHAIR

The position of Student Life Chair is vacant, and must be filled by a campus-wide election. People who wish to run must submit a statement to Secretary Lisa Sanger through Campus Mail by Wednesday, February 6 at 5:00 PM. Elections will be held at the entrance to Kline on Monday, February 12 and Tuesday, February 13. Off-campus students will be mailed ballots.

Demonstrations abound across the nation's campuses

by Tom Hickerson

Some students believe Bush was considering college schedules when he struck during Christmas Break. Certainly the letter he sent to college newspapers was a request for their support, or at least compliance. Despite the timing and the letter, college anti-war movements activated quickly.

Many rallies were organized before the winter break to oppose the building Gulf Crisis, but they were minimal. On average, only twenty or thirty students showed up. A September 5th rally at the University of Illinois-Champaign drew only 20 students. However, nearly 300 students were present at a rally on the University of California-Berkeley

campus on August 30th.

A month before the war began, campus groups started to get more organized. During the first week of December, over 200 colleges held teach-ins about the Persian Gulf. On December 17th, over fifty college organizations, including Bard's own Students Against Interventionist Policy, endorsed the call for a planning conference of the newly formed National Network of Campuses Against the War (NNCAW), held on January 19.

Among those who helped form NNCAW is Bill Stant, a student pursuing his doctorate degree in political science at Loyola University and an active member of the U.S. Out of the Gulf Coalition there.

The Coalition started at the begin-

ning of the Fall semester, and had a positive impact almost immediately. Loyola students were the largest contingent at a September 20 rally in Chicago. Since then, Stant has attended the Radical Scholars Conference on November 20 and helped organize demonstrations on December 8 and January 15. During the January 15 demonstration, about five to six thousand people were in attendance. The numbers doubled between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. as workers left their offices to join the marching students. "We saw large numbers of people coming out of buildings to join us," he said.

Susan Dwyer, a student pursuing her doctorate in American studies at Northwestern University in Chicago, also became part of the NNCAW

through her involvement with the Northwestern anti-war group Get U.S. Troops Out (GUSTO). GUSTO was formed on October 8th, and their membership of thirty students at the first meeting grew to 130 this spring. Weekly meetings are held, with educational speakers and a discussion of the current issues concerning the Gulf war. One such issue was, "What does it mean to support U.S. troops?" "Our main focus is education," Dwyer said.

At the beginning of the spring semester, GUSTO organized a rally on January 15th that 200 people attended the first day and over 600 people attended the second day. GUSTO also transported 60 Northwestern students and six busloads of people altogether to the Washington D.C. march of January 26th.

"It was extraordinary for a couple of reasons," Dwyer said about the march. "One was that twelve days after the war started there were 250,000 people in Washington D.C." The Vietnam War protests took well over two years to mobilize, she said. She added that the Washington D.C. march took two-and-a-half hours to

pass a given point.

However quickly these protests and rallies have been organized, the media has been very casual about covering them and making their presences known.

"Sections of the peace movement have stepped back into ambiguity because of the propaganda of the corporate media," said Stant. He feels that the media gives disproportional coverage to the pro-war supporters, over the larger numbers of anti-war protesters.

Dwyer commented on the coverage of the Washington march, "For the most part, demonstrations have been mostly ignored or the cameras have been at the end where the speakers are."

But as small a coverage as the rallies and demonstrations are getting, the word is still getting out. "There is a real struggle for the hearts and minds of the American people," said Stant. "Our side is taking the principled side."

Stant also pointed out that opinion polls, which have recently favored the war, often exclude the poor, those

continued on page 7

Resources for persons of all opinions

To write your policy makers:

President George Bush
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

New York State Senator Moynihan
442 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

New York State Senator D'Amato
HS-520 Hart Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Representative Solomon
2265 Rayburn House Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

For information on peace movements or conscientious objector status:

Dutchess County Peace and Justice Center
473-4121

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Box 271
Nyack, NY 10960
(914)358-4601

National Interreligious Service Board for C.O.'s (NIBSCO)
Box 358
Mt. Vernon, VA 22121
(202)483-4510
War Resisters League
339 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012
(212) 228-0450

Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors
2208 South Street
Philadelphia, PA 19146

College Anti-war Groups:

National Network of Campuses Against the War
P.O. Box 87740
Chicago, IL 60680-0740

Bill Stant
U.S. Out of the Gulf Coalition at Loyola
(312) 761-5616

Nancy Maclean
Get U.S. Troops Out (GUSTO) Northwestern
(312) 274-0165

Nick DeGenova
Committee Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East
University of Chicago
(312) 324-5194

For more information on supporting Kuwait:

Solidarity International for Kuwait
1612 K Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 223-4262

Support Group for friends and family of those in the Persian Gulf:

Meets at Fair Street Church, 209 Fair Street in uptown Kingston
Contact: Pam Wheelock 336-4747

To write any of the 470,000 American service men and women deployed in Operation Desert Storm:

Navy and on-board Marines
Any service person
Operation Desert Storm
FPO New York 09866-0006

Army, Air Force and land-based Marines
Any Service Person
Operation Desert Storm
APO New York 08848-0006

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To enlist in a branch of armed services:

Air Force Recruiting Station
454-3985

Army Recruiting Station
452-0155

Marine Recruiting Station
452-1960

Navy Recruiting Station
454-1390

Bard to host "town meeting" debate on war

by Jason Van Driesche

The college has formulated a response to the war in the Gulf remarkably quickly. President Leon Botstein, Dean of the College Stuart Levine and Dean of Students Shelly Morgan came up with the idea of a town meeting-style discussion on the war, and moved quickly to make their plan a reality.

"We felt very strongly that we would like to do something major right at the start of school," Levine said.

And major it is. The meeting will consist of three parts, each with a group of moderators. The first segment will run from 4:30 to 5:45, and will be moderated by James Chace, Joel Kovel, Mark Lytle, Karen Greenberg, and possibly Richard Gordon.

The meeting will then adjourn until 6:30 for dinner, after which it will reconvene with a student panel. Though the members of this panel had not yet been selected as of press

time, Levine indicated that they would probably be students involved in organizing the panel discussions on the crisis in the Gulf that were held last semester.

The group will break again at 8:00, and will reconvene at 8:30 for another faculty panel featuring Professors Sanjib Baruah, Carol Nackenoff, Otto Pflanze, and Gennady Shklierovsky.

Residents of local communities are strongly urged to come to the meeting as well. "We want a whole range of views to be aired," said Levine.



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A number of students who opposed the resolution opened a U.S. Consulate and issued temporary visas for those who wanted to remain American citizens for the day. From L to R: Jim Trainor, Scott Licamele, Dave Steinberg, Matt Lee and Fred Baker.

Gulf crisis causes campus crisis

by Kristan Hutchison

A symbolic secession meant to protest the policies of the Bush Administration in the Persian Gulf spawned a debate over Bard student government late last semester.

In "a symbolic protest of the current trend toward bloodshed in the Middle East," the Bard College student body (as represented by those at the December 6 Forum meeting) seceded from the United States and removed the flag on December 7, Pearl Harbor Day. Signs were posted with anti-war slogans. Students opposing the secession set up consulates in their dorm rooms and issued U.S. visas.

The resolution passed by a 67 to 13

vote near midnight at the final forum meeting on December 6. It read in part: "For the day of December 7, the community will repledge its allegiance to a peace-seeking world. The symbolic secession will symbolize our hopes to put a national interest behind the global interest of the whole world and its inhabitants."

The flag was removed as a "physical, symbolic manifestation of the secession." Buildings and Grounds personnel pulled down the flag at 8:55 a.m. on Friday after calling Stuart Levine, Dean of the College, who approved the action. Dean Levine said, "The students feel that this will become a catalyst for debate on campus... I think that is a wonderful

continued on page 7

Kuwaiti student flies fighter for country and family

by Kristan Hutchison

I met Karim in a coffee shop on January 15, and he was very eager to talk about the Kuwaiti situation. I interviewed him and took his picture. Two days later he called and asked me not to publish his photo or name. He was very afraid that there would be reprisals against his family. I have left out details which might identify or endanger him.

—Ed.

Karim called home three times on August 2, 1990. "I was studying and I called my family at night to say 'hi'. Then my mom picked up the phone and she was crying. I asked my mom 'Why are you crying?'"

"She said, 'Your brothers, they left the home and they dressed in military uniforms and they went to the military base.'"

"I said, 'What's happened?'"

"Iraq, they invade everywhere in the Kuwait City," she said. "They are jumping from parachutes and shooting. We see the smoke all the way from Kuwait City. We do not know really what's happened."

That was at 2:00 a.m. in the Persian Gulf, just as Iraq invaded Kuwait. Karim's four brothers had been called up by the military at 11:00 p.m. When

Karim called home again ten minutes later, his mother said that his brothers were stuck inside the military base, which the Iraqis had besieged with tanks and artillery.

work for Kuwait Airlines. Now he is going back to the Middle East to fly fighter planes for the Kuwait army.

"Already my friends, they left and they are heading to the Middle East.

We will put the Kuwait flag in the middle of Kuwait again and we will never forget the American people for their help.

-Karim, Kuwaiti student

Last call home

At 5:00 a.m. Karim called again, but communication had been cut. He has not heard from his family since.

They are in Kuwait still, three hours from the border with Saudi Arabia. Karim does not know if his brothers ever made it home. "I cannot sleep. I still am confused and I don't know what I'm supposed to do. The only thing on my mind is to go to the Middle East and fight," he said.

A change in flight plans

For two years Karim has been studying to be a pilot on American airfields. Originally he was going to

I also am heading very soon. I am just waiting to get the ticket from the embassy," said Karim. "People, they volunteer, between six and seven thousand. They are heading for the Saudi desert. Probably they came from America and they are training."

Karim will join the Kuwaiti army on the border to Saudi Arabia. "I will go to Saudi Arabia, because you can't get in Kuwait. There are many forces there. I will try to get as close as I can to the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," he said. His first wish is to go to the village where his family lives, three hours from the border, and see if they are alive.

Like all Kuwaiti men, Karim has been through military training. Two years of training are required to

graduate from high school and another two and a half years of service are mandated after graduation. "They trained us how to use weapons, any kind of weapons, to protect my country," he said.

Raised for revenge

As an Arab, Karim was raised with a belief in defending and revenging his country and people. "If my family gets killed by Iraqi soldiers, I swear to God if I see any Iraqi I will kill him to revenge. That is the Arab way. I will never forget that."

"This is my country, the country I was born in, and I have to protect my family because they are still inside Kuwait where there is fighting. They are trying to survive but there is no food, no medicine and no medical supplies, nothing. There is no choice. I have to go and fight, at least to get inside Kuwait to see my family."

The enemy is Israel

Though he will defend his country against Iraq, Karim feels that it is wrong for Arabs to be fighting Arabs. "The enemy for me is not Iraq, is not Iran. Still my enemy is Israel. I know now that we have a bad leader with Saddam Hussein, but the enemy is still Israel," he said. "We are 20 Arab countries, big nations with more than a 100 million people. All that is missing is the technology. If we had the

technology, I swear, Israel would disappear."

The military machine

Iraq has explained the invasion of Kuwait as an effort to even the economic disparity between war-torn and impoverished Iraq and oil-rich Kuwait, which has one of the highest per capita incomes in the world.

Karim doesn't buy it. "They [the Iraqis] have oil more than Kuwait. If you go to the university and open a book and look how much oil they have you will see. But these people, the Iraqis, they are just building weapons and hurting people, not helping people. They have more than 5,500 tanks. They have aircraft. Do you know how much it costs? I don't feel sorry for the Iraqis being poor. Look at all the weapons. Where does all their money go?"

American military force is crucial, says Karim, because Kuwait is a small country with a tiny military. "If you have a machine gun and I have a knife, I cannot fight with you. I will ask my friend who has weapons and he will help me so you will stop threatening me... It is the same as Kuwait, they don't have that many soldiers."

Stranded in a strange land

The first two months after the invasion, Karim and his friends had to struggle to survive. "Sometimes we sleep without food because in America is very expensive, and also we are students and we have no support. I left my home and started living with my friend," he said.

After two months, the Kuwaiti Embassy began to support Kuwaiti students in the United States. "It is very important that the Kuwait people left the money outside. I swear to God that if we had left the money inside, or if we were a poor people, we would not survive."

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Hendrix and black rock: *Taking back what was already his*



Hendrix at his debut Experience performance with Johnny Hallyday at the Paris Olympia, 1966

Crosstown Traffic: Jimi Hendrix and the Post-War Rock 'n' Roll Revolution by Charles Shaar Murray
New York: St. Martin's Press, 1990

by Mark Delsing

This decade has seen many black rock artists and groups such as Bad Brains, Fishbone, 24-7 Spyz, and Jon Butcher undeservingly fall into (or never make it out of) relative obscurity. But with the ascension of Living Colour to Best-Band-to-Come-Around-in-a-Long-Time-Cause-Boy-Did-We-Need-'Em status, the idea of rock as a "black" music has, begrudgingly by some, been revitalized.

Vernon Reid, founding member of Living Colour and head of the Black Rock Coalition, has, by his example, initiated a reexamination of the roots of modern rock music. It is he to which this book is dedicated.

Crosstown Traffic is not merely a *Hammer of the Gods* about Jimi Hendrix. Rather, it is Charles Shaar Murray's study of the music which influenced Hendrix and that of those who were influenced by him. By extension, then, it serves as a reminder as to just who showed Elvis how to sing and Led Zeppelin how to bash riffs.

Murray begins with an assessment of the sixties as an era and follows it up with a biographical sketch of Hendrix. He then writes in depth about the life and music of such legends as Robert Johnson, John Coltrane, Miles Davis, Bo Diddley, Chuck Berry, James Brown, and Muddy Waters. The goal of Murray's work here is to outline the sources, the musical styles and the people who crafted them, upon which Hendrix drew to create his own; the music he effectively re-invented to produce a brand of rock that is still ahead of its

time.

From this springs a discussion of those artists, both black and white, who adopted Jimi's vocabulary and adapted it to their own needs: Living Colour, Parliament/Funkadelic, Prince, Stevie Ray Vaughan, Van Halen, and countless others.

"Nostalgia is a filter for history operated partially by the architects and gardeners who tend what J.G. Ballard calls *The Media Landscape*," Murray explains in the introduction to *Crosstown Traffic*. This filter is the primary cause of the distorted image most have of Hendrix and other black musicians in the history of Rock. "It is designed to remove history's nasty, inconvenient lumps... The 'authorized version' of the Jimi Hendrix experience [*sic*] is that Hendrix was a crazy black man who did funny things with a guitar, had thousands of women and eventually died of drugs, which was a shame because he was a really good guitarist, and he could play it with his teeth, too."

This filter has served to disassociate Hendrix from his status and identity as a black artist. His role in the development of rock, not to mention of the black community, has been obscured by "The Media Landscape."

Murray goes on to delineate, with air-tight argument after air-tight argument, Hendrix's ties to both rich blues, jazz, and soul traditions that preceded him and the black and white rock (and funk and jazz and blues, too) that were to follow. Jimi Hendrix is not an anomaly, no "crazy black man," but a prolific and virtuoso musician whose true place in the history of modern music has been denied him.

Crosstown Traffic appealed to me initially as a rock historian and an avid fan (read worshipper) of Jimi's work. After reading it, however, I came just this much closer to under-

standing him as an inheritor of black musical traditions and as a major figure in a larger black musical community. In fact, the portions of the book which bear directly upon Jimi's life are relatively few. Instead, Murray does focus on a few central figures in black music which gave Hendrix the building blocks he needed to create his castles made of sand. I've never seen more material about the near-mythic Robert Johnson and Charlie Christian in one volume in my entire life.

The extensive discography provided is enough to keep me going to NRM every week for the next decade.

I do have one minor problem with Murray's assessment of black music: he believes white people can't play them. I do agree that the Delta Blues of Robert Johnson and Son House is a style tied so intrinsically to a certain lifestyle that there was no way any middle-class urban white from New York or pimple-faced Blues purist from England could have never played it with the same conviction or authenticity. It is also true that white Heavy Metal artists like Great White, Whitesnake, Ted Nugent, and, yes, even Led Zeppelin (and the Yardbirds, and the Rolling Stones) have taken everything but the phallic-masturbatory images out of their "blues" songs. But to call Stevie Ray Vaughan Hendrix's "greatest imitator" is not giving enough credit where credit is due.

In all, Murray provides a much-needed re-assessment of Jimi Hendrix's role in rock music and as a black artist. Black rock, two words the music industry seems to consider "unsellable" when put together, was not invented by Living Colour, or Fishbone, or 24-7 Spyz, or any other black group now practically shut out of the public eye. It was born from the likes of Robert Johnson, Wes Montgomery, Little Richard, Chuck Berry, Bo Diddley, Muddy Waters, Sonny Boy Williamson, James Brown, Wilson Pickett - and Jimi Hendrix.

Black rock isn't 'black' rock, it's rock. Jimi Hendrix didn't borrow from white musicians like Elvis or Clapton. He was taking back what was his in the first place.

FORUM MEETING
Tuesday, February 5, 8:30 pm,
Albee Social

Don't miss it!

Poem of the Week

The Fool He Was

by Joanna Thandes

*And softly weeps the widower
With memories best forgotten;
Oh yes, he will always love her
With words that were never spoken,
Lost among his own fairy tales
To find not sunset but shadows,
To see not the first, boxed with nails
And not the last, that much he knows;
Though the lesson is put to use
He'll not discover what to do,
Shrouded in armor-covered-truths
That time pays no attention to.*

POETRY CONTESTS AND PUBLICATIONS

National College Poetry Contest

Open to all college students desiring to have their poetry anthologized. Cash prizes will be awarded to the top five poems. Deadline: March 31, 1991. For Contest Rules send SASE to: International Publications, P.O. Box 44044-L, Los Angeles, CA 90044

New Bard French Magazine

Students, Faculty, and Staff are invited to submit poetry, short fiction and essays in French to Bard's new French Magazine, *Papier Maché*. Submissions should be mailed to Prof. Brault or Prof. O. Chilton by March 15. The writer's name should not appear on the work; instead, an index card should be attached to each submission with the writer's name and phone number and the title of the work. Bon courage!



In Celebration of Black Week VICE presents

WYNTON MARSALIS

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1991

In the Vassar Chapel 8:30 pm

Advance tickets \$12

\$14 at the door

UPSTATE FILMS

BERKELEY IN THE SIXTIES Jan 31- 8:00, Feb 2- 4:00, Feb 3- 5:00



Vincent & Theo
Feb 1 & 2- 6:45+ 9:30, Feb 3- 2:00+7:30,
Feb 4, 5, 6, 7 at 7:30

28 MONTGOMERY STREET, RHINEBECK 914/876-2515



Dear President Bush,

I must admit to being a little insulted by your recent letter to college newspapers. You have by now received an entire semester of the Bard Observer and should realize we are a bit too smart to buy the excuse that the Gulf War is a simple issue of "right vs. wrong."

You wrote, "If armed men invaded a home in this country, killed those in their way, stole what they wanted and then announced the house was now theirs—no one would hesitate about what must be done, and that is why we cannot hesitate about what must be done halfway around the world in Kuwait. The facts are clear. The choice is unambiguous. Right vs. Wrong."

Perhaps you see the world so simplistically. I do not find the facts clear. The choice seems very ambiguous.

The only clear thing about the war is that it involves "vital interests," America's and yours. I was alarmed by your first television address to the nation just after American bombs were first dropped in the Middle East. The announcer said you had been writing and revising the speech yourself since December 15. That suggests that you knew you were going to attack, had your mind made up far in advance, and just went through the motions of conciliation for the sake of world opinion.

Some public opinion polls put support for you at the highest level ever, higher even than Franklin Roosevelt the day after Pearl Harbor. I am stunned that anyone would even attempt a comparison.

I am also suspicious. The country is in a recession. It is a year before the next election and your term will be up. When Kuwait was invaded on August, were you secretly happy to have a "good war?"

A war to direct the attention outward, away from our own problems. A chance to wave the flag, serve a heavy dose of patriotism, and puff our deflated American morale with hot air. Your chance for re-election and a place in the history books. Is that why you took such care with the speech for January 16?

As for America's vital interests, oil is clearly at stake, if not for us then for those we depend on economically. Also at stake may be the future of the American military machine, threatened by the end of the cold war. St. Louis unemployment lines swelled as McDonnell-Douglas laid off workers. The same thing happened to the other arms manufacturers. Now they can call the workers back because orders for fighter planes and Patriot and Tomahawk missiles are pouring in from around the world. War news clips sure are a great advertising gimmick.

But seriously, Mr. Bush, war is never clear and unambiguous. It is painful. It tears families apart. It divides friends and it divides souls. I am sorry for the Kuwaitis, but I'm no sorrier for them than I was for Nicaragua or Grenada. I dislike what I hear about Hussein, but I also wonder about the American propaganda machine.

I know you will receive this letter, because every week we send you *The Bard Observer* and will continue to do so. I believe it is important for you to keep in touch with the thoughts and opinions of college students. The students of today are not the citizens of tomorrow—we are already citizens and voters. To quote your own State of the Union address, think of it as an "investment in our future."

I am also asking other Bard students and faculty to write you via the paper. I am sure someone in your secret service reads it, if nothing else. I promise to make letters to you easy to find. I wouldn't want you to miss what we have to say, because like it or not, what we have to say counts.

Cordially,
Kristan Hutchison
Editor-in-Chief, *The Bard Observer*

A note to our readers: In an effort to make this community's opinions known to the country's political leaders, we will print up to one letter to the President on the front page each week. Submissions are strictly limited to 300 words and must be signed.

Observations

A Resolution to fly the American flag at half mast

by Jason Van Driesche

The American flag is flown at half mast as a sign of sorrow in times of disaster or tragedy. Both for those who revere the flag and for those who do not, a flag at half mast is a potent symbol with universally understood meaning.

In times of war, disasters and tragedies abound. Many view war in general, and the war with Iraq in particular, as a disaster and a tragedy, and even for those who do not, the deaths of many brave people serving in the Persian Gulf are ample reason for sorrow. By the time this conflict has ended, most of us will know someone who was injured or killed in the war with Iraq. Regardless of whether or not each of us supports the aims and the actions of the Bush Administration in the Middle East, it is time for us all to show our respect for those who have already died and those who will soon die by flying the flag at half mast.

Such an action is a powerful symbol, and like all symbols rooted in strong emotions, it has the potential to be forgotten as soon as the emotions that fueled it fade. But this action is not meant to be taken as an isolated incident, complete in and of itself; rather, we hope that the flag flying at half mast will serve as a daily, visual reminder that tens of thousands of young people not too different from you and me may soon make an unparalleled sacrifice, one that few of us will ever have to face. They may soon give up their lives fighting for a cause in which they believe. Such a sacrifice commands respect, regardless of whether one agrees with the motives behind it.

I propose that the students of Bard College request that the college fly the American flag above Kline Commons at half mast for the duration of the conflict in the Middle East. I will present this resolution at the Student Forum meeting of Tuesday, February 5.

Now that we're at war

by Kristan Hutchison

Bombs have fallen on Baghdad. Scuds sear Israeli skys. What we feared most has begun. Momentarily paralyzed, we must now shake off the fear, define our positions, and find our voices. Through action we can find peace, first for our minds, then someday for the world.

For days after the war started, people I knew wandered around in varying states of depression. Tempers shortened. Some could not trace the reason for their feelings, but inside their intestines twisted.

People watched CNN constantly. At work no one could concentrate. At home no one could relax. Live broadcasts let us know, though the suffering was censored, that at that instant, while the sun shone in the blue above, people were dying in the dark.

The presence of war is immobilizing. It makes us feel powerless because it is controlled by forces bigger and richer than we are. It is run by people we may not trust: the President, the congress. And by a far away leader from a culture we don't understand.

To release ourselves from the grip of war, we must take action. As with any traumatic life experience, we must begin by talking. Expressing an opinion is cathartic, if nothing more. Whether for or against the war, it helps to have an outlet for your thoughts.

My hometown is decked out in yellow ribbons. When stores ran out of ribbons, the people used surveyors tape. Tying the tape to trees made the war visible, tangible. The horrors of war were admitted into the daylight of sleepy town reality. It put the fears of children and the sorrow of parents into their own hands where they could deal with it.

Yellow ribbons also tied the community together. Peaceniks and warhawks all agreed that they must support the troops. Everyone wants the service people home alive.

Action is more than a mental salve. As individuals, we cannot end the war immediately, either by winning it or pulling out. But together we can at least influence its course, if we are vocal.

On page three there is a list of addresses and contact people. Use it. Elected officials must pay attention to public opinion. Their jobs depend on it. Bush is up for re-election in 1992, and so is Senator D'Amato.

Don't give up and don't be quiet. The war has begun, but it is not out of our hands. At least we can tell the world how we feel.

The Bard Observer

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Editorial policy is determined by the Editor-in-Chief in consultation with the Editorial Board. Any opinions which appear unsigned are those of the editorial board and not necessarily of the *Observer* staff.

Letters-to-the-Editor should not exceed 300 words and must be signed legibly. All articles, cartoons, and photographs that are submitted by deadline will be considered for publication. Turn all material in at the front desk of the library by noon Friday a week before the publication date. The Editor reserves the right to edit all articles (except those intended for the *Another View* page) for style and length.

Classifieds: Free for Bardians; \$5 for all others. Personals are free.

Display ads: \$5.00 for local. \$10.00 for national.

Bard College
Annandale, NY 12504
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Kudos to Chase and Lytle

Editor's note: This letter was received after the publication of the last issue last semester. It refers to a panel held at the end of the semester.

To The Bard Observer:

On behalf of myself, and I'm sure not a few of the other students who attended Tuesday evening's panel discussion concerning America's involvement in the Persian Gulf, I would like to commend and to thank both Profs. Chase and Lytle for their role in organizing and participating in this informal forum.

In the face of almost certain American military action, and in light of our government leaders' difficulty in adequately defining and explaining in clear apolitical terms our nation's motives and the intentions behind

our policy in the Gulf, they deserve high marks as members of Bard's faculty for their initiative to participate, and their effort to interact directly with the student body on this major national issue by lending their individual expertise and personal concern, thereby actively sharing in an already on-going dialogue here on campus. Given the seriousness of these issues - the ambiguous nature of our leader's actions, the imminent and real threat of gross human sacrifice - and the direct and indirect consequences their actions might bring to many, many lives, this gesture of interaction with the student body is gratefully acknowledged.

James Mockovciak



Bush is right, Hussein is another Hitler

Dear Editor,

People are complaining that it is wrong for the U.S. to be fighting Iraq, that we are the wrong-doers in this entire situation. The following reports are taken from the Voice of Kuwait, a journal edited and published by Kuwaitis in exile:

—On August 8, 1990, Iraqi soldiers reportedly fired on 35 women and children who were peacefully protesting against the annexation of Kuwait in Kuwait City. A witness said two teenage boys and a 20-year-old girl died, shot in the heart and head.

—All Kuwaitis injured in defend-

ing their country are barred from being treated in hospitals; instead, only Iraqi soldiers are being treated there.

—21 Kuwaiti professors were executed because they refused to resume teaching at Kuwait University.

—Hundreds of people in Kuwait are believed to be arrested for possession of the Kuwaiti flag or pictures of the Emir.

—All sorts of items are being taken or stolen from the nation of Kuwait, including everything from all kinds of Kuwaiti military equipment and ammunition and all furniture and equipment at local schools to street

lamps in the highways, telephone extensions and concrete bricks that form the sidewalks for pedestrians.

—The burial of of Kuwaitis is forbidden by the Iraqi regime. However, the only major cemetery has been converted to a military base.

President Bush may not be too far off base when he describes Saddam as another Hitler. I ask the community of Bard College, who are the wrongdoers, we who are reclaiming Kuwait or the Iraqis who have oppressed her?

Sincerely,
Tom Hickerson

Polish democracy faced power politics

Dear Editor,

First of all I want to wish you good health, a lot of smile, happiness and "fulfillment of all your dreams" (that's what we usually wish each other in Poland.)

My brother, Jacek, bought a personal computer and video set. Terrible! He no more needs to go outside.

I deliberately didn't start from a word of our present political situation. The word is paranoia.

It's ridiculous. He came (Mr. Tyliniski) and made clear that our nation is totally stupefied. This is our Polish democracy. It turns out that these were usually young teenagers, as well

as wealthy people, who supported Stan. Mazowiecki lost, but it's not only that people didn't want to vote for him. Some of them couldn't. Reason: There was a great mess with lists of voters. Some of them were on lists in their home places, some others in the places of their temporary stay. Most students supported Mazowiecki, but for some of us it turned out impossible to vote simply because of these lists. We weren't properly informed where we could vote and later on that Sunday it was impossible to home. (I, for example, have to travel 7 hours. Some people must travel even more.)

Now we have Walesa. We have to

accept it, but it's really hard. It's amazing that in such a short time, such a leader managed to destroy his myth. Fewer and fewer people like him. O.K. We'll see.

Thanks for the Bard Observer,
Yours,
Beata Baczynska

Demonstrations

continued from page 3

who are not at home, and all high-school and college students. "The real map of the American population overwhelmingly opposes this war," added Stant.

"People have become more aware of what is going on," said Dwyer. "The truth is coming out about Panama, that there were many more people killed than the Pentagon said. People are less gullible."

The NNCAW not only organizes rallies and demonstrations, but en-

courages other colleges to have their own activities about the Gulf War. Stant says that campuses should "set up freestanding, independent and new committees of people that want to do work against the war. I would advise those to have no illusions about their government... We need to pay attention to the politics of disruption." Dwyer added that today's protests are more active and effective than before. "It's not the things that were going on in the early 80's where people were preaching to the converted and sending petitions to no one."

Secession

continued from page 4

thing to happen."

Debate swiftly turned from international politics to campus politics. Many students opposed the resolution because they felt it had not been properly publicized. The resolution was left off the agenda distributed in Kline a few days before the meeting. Therefore, opponents said, students skipped the forum meeting, which was just before finals week, and were denied the opportunity to voice their positions on the resolution.

"Many people are upset that this was decided without the knowledge of the entire student body," said Lisa Sanger, Secretary to the Student Forum. The omission on the agenda was her mistake, Sanger said. The resolution was included on her official agenda.

"This proposal was submitted last Thursday [Nov. 30]. The lack of publicity for the proposal has nothing to do with the proposers," said Gillian Huebner, who co-sponsored the resolution with Renee Cramer, both first year students.

Regardless of publicity, the final forum meeting filled the Albee Social Room to capacity, making it one of the largest meetings this semester. "The forum debate was very heated and that is what is needed," said Cramer. Junior Dave Rolf agreed, and added, "I think the vote is probably representative of student feeling on the gulf crisis."

However, petitions passed around the cafeteria on Dec. 7 gave a different count. Secession still had the majority, with 75 students signing their approval of the resolution to 41 against. But more students, 80 in all, signed a petition saying they disagreed with the procedure by which the resolution was adopted.

Past forums have barely had the 20 students needed for a quorum. "God forbid if this makes them stand up

and come to the meetings," said Michael Kauffman, a first year student. Several students hope the secession will become a symbol of the importance of the forum and the need to attend.

Debate continued all day in the cafeteria and culminated in an open mikediscussion at dinner, which was covered by a local television station. At moments, the debate became abusive, as audience members threw food at a student attempting to speak.

Much of the discussion centered upon the utility of the symbolic secession as a form of protest. "Normally I get disgusted by symbolic gestures," said Fiona Lawrence, a junior, "but this one has potential for creating informed discussion."

The self-declared United States Consular Official, Fred Baker, a junior, disagrees. "I don't know why it would make people think any more than sending 3,000 troops would," said Baker. He had processed about 18 temporary U.S. visas for "people wishing to hang on to U.S. citizenry" by noon. Baker also painted American flags on people's faces.

Several students opposed secession because they felt it implied disagreement with the entire spectrum of rights and responsibilities implicit in American citizenship. "Membership in the Union comprises a lot more than just the United States policy in the Middle East," said Jason Van Driesche, a sophomore. "It confers a number of rights and privileges that we have as American citizens, which are symbolically rejected as well with a symbolic secession."

The sponsors consider secession to be a confirmation of the rights given through the American Constitution. "We are really only seceding from the unclarity of the U.S. position in the Middle East," said Huebner. "We hope to repledge our allegiance to the U.S. tomorrow with more strength and conviction and knowledge of what our flag is and what it is doing."

Classifieds & Personals

CARFORSALE: 1987 Toyota Ter-cel, silver-grey. Two door, Automatic, Air conditioning, Stereo, Power steering. 24,000 miles. \$4,000 or reasonable offer. Call Linda Anderson, Bard Alumni (212) 645-5442 after 6:00 p.m.

F A S T Fundraising Program

\$1000 in just one week. Earn up to \$1000 for your campus organization. Plus a chance at \$5000 more! No investment needed. Call 1-800-932-0528 Ext. 50

Dear Gang: (You know who you are.) Hey Guys! What's up? How was the break? I surely hope you tell me how rotten and lonely your lives were without me around!!! Well, anyways I MISSED YOU! No matter if you didn't miss me! Looking forward to our tea rituals. Love you all, Celeste

Blondie: Some day you'll learn the truth about blondes!

—A real Blonde

C.Ndy: Stop it! I don't wanna hear how wonderful the weather was down in P.R.! All I know is that the snow was great up here!

Hon: You were the only one who wrote me on the regular basis. Thanks! I guess you didn't have much to do, just like me! Sigh! C.C.

To my Conscience: Where the hell were you all break? I have nothing else to say to you Missy!

—Your Conscience!

To C.C.: I hope you can register this semester... Maybe the nurse got a map and now knows where Thai-

land is! Love, C.C.

Rizal: I look forward to another semester! You're a great pal. Celeste

Hurry Up—M.K.

I'm coming.—Stan

To my HB—

It is (or will soon be) absolutely cool to have you back. The SA terrorists can't have you! Oh, and by the way, I didn't forget your birthday this year.

—Your SP

Arsien is just about the only person who wrote to me over break, and for that I will be forever and eternally grateful.

—Me

Chick pea, chick pea, legume...

BARD COLLEGE FEBRUARY 2 TO 8, 1991

WEEKLY COMMUNITY INFORMATION NEWSLETTER

Brought to you by the Dean of Students

Music of the Russian Avant-Garde:

A recital will be held on February 1 at 8:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium. Pianist Sara Rothenberg will play works of Lourie, Mosolov and Roslavets. Free of charge.

Calendar Deadline:

The next deadline for the Weekly Community Information Newsletter is **Friday, February 1** at 12 Noon in the Dean of Students Office. This issue will cover February 9 through 15.

Dance:

The first dance of the semester will be held on February 2 at 10:00 PM in the Old Gym. It will feature a karioke singalong, in which members of the audience lip-synch to a video and win cash prizes. \$2.00 cover charge.

Forum Meeting:

The first Forum meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 5, in Albee Social at 8:30 PM. As of press time, the agenda included: committee reports, election of a new Entertainment Committee, and a vote on a resolution requesting that the college fly the American flag at half-mast for the duration of the Persian Gulf conflict.

Peer Counselor Selection:

On Monday and Tuesday, February 4 and 5 at 7 PM, Dean of Students Shelley Morgan will hold an informative meeting for those interested in becoming peer counselors next year. The meeting will be held in one of the Kline Committee Rooms.

Scottish Country Dancing:

Scottish country dancing is scheduled for the 1st, 3rd and 5th Wednesdays of each month, beginning on February 6. 7:30 to 9:30 PM in Manor House. New dancers welcome. For further information, call 876-3341.

Bard College/Community Chorus:

The chorus is, as always, open to all members of the community. Rehearsals of Bach's motet "Jesu, Meine Freude" and his Cantata No. 4, entitled "Christ lag in Todesbanden," begin Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Bard Hall. Students may obtain 1 credit. Vocal scores are available prior to 3:00 p.m. on Feb. 7 or at the first rehearsal in the bookstore. No audition is necessary. If you think you'd enjoy singing, come!

Meditations for Peace:

6:00 PM in the chapel. Contact Bruce Chilton for more information.

Yoga Courses:

Ben Vromen will offer an introductory Yoga course Thursday nights from 6:00 to 7:30 PM in Olin 204, starting February 14. This course is open to the entire Bard Community. It will meet for 8 sessions, and the fee is \$20. Continuing Yoga will be taught on Tuesday nights 5:30 to 7:00 PM in Olin 204, starting February 12. It is for those who participated in the Introductory course, or have similar experience. It will meet for 10 sessions, and the fee is \$35. Vromen received teacher training at the Kripalu Center, and has been teaching at Bard since 1985. Anyone who is interested should contact Vromen through campus mail at Box 118. Ben will be available in Olin 204, on Thursday, February 7 from 6-7 PM to answer questions and to register students.

Movies:

These films are shown in the Student Center at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. The first showing is always non-smoking.

February 7: *In The Heat of the Night*

February 14: *Lean on Me*

Calendar of Events

| Saturday 2 | Sunday 3 | Monday 4 | Tuesday 5 | Wednesday 6 | Thursday 7 | Friday 8 |
|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|
| <p>Morning Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, & Rhinebeck</p> <p>5:45 — 10:30 PM Trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston</p> <p>10:00 PM DJ dance Old Gym</p> | <p>6:00 PM Ecumenical Worship Service Chapel</p> <p>7:00 PM Alcoholics Anonymous Aspinwall 302</p> <p>7:19, 8:20, & 9:30 PM Van meets trains at Rhinecliff station</p> <p>7:43 PM Van meets train at Poughkeepsie station</p> | <p>4:30 PM to 10:00 PM "Town Meeting" on the Persian Gulf war Olin Auditorium</p> <p>6:30 PM Environmental Club Committee Room Kline Commons</p> <p>6:00 PM French Table Committee Room Kline Commons</p> <p>7:00 PM Observer Features/Arts staff meeting Preston 127</p> <p>7:00 PM Women's Center Meeting Student Center</p> | <p>6:00 PM Amnesty International Olin</p> <p>6:00 PM Observer News staff meeting Kline</p> <p>8:00 PM Observer Photo staff meeting Albee lounge</p> <p>7:00 PM Meeting for PC candidates Kline Committee rooms</p> <p>7:00 PM French Film Series <i>Au Revoir les Enfants</i> Olin 107</p> <p>8:30 PM Forum Meeting Albee Social</p> | <p>5:00 PM Spanish Table Kline Commons</p> <p>5:30 PM French Table Committee Room Kline Commons</p> <p>7:00 PM Al-Anon Aspinwall 302</p> <p>7:00 PM Christian Meeting Bard Chapel Basement</p> <p>7:30 PM Scottish Country Dancing Manor House</p> | <p>6:00-7:00 PM Registration for Yoga Olin 204</p> <p>6:30 PM BBLAGA Meeting Albee Social Room</p> <p>7:00 & 9:00 PM Movie Student Center (See Above)</p> <p>7:00 PM First chorus rehearsal Bard Hall</p> <p>7:30 PM Narcotics Anonymous Aspinwall 302</p> | <p>4:25 PM, 7:25 PM, & 8:40 PM Bard vans to Rhinecliff train station</p> <p>5:00 PM General deadline for submissions to <i>The Bard Observer</i></p> <p>6:30 PM Bard van to Poughkeepsie train station</p> |
| <p>Please let us know about changes and additions in club meeting times!</p> | | | | | | <p>12:00 NOON Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering February 16 through February 22 due in the Dean of Student's office</p> |