Debate and resolutions

Student Government Forum meeting in review

The Student Forum held last Wednesday, November 3, took over two and a half hours to pass two resolutions and hold one election. Considerable debate was conducted amongst the two dozen students attending the Forum, centering on two resolutions sponsored by the Educational Policies Committee and the nomination of a student reporter to attend Faculty meetings.

The first resolution brought forward by the EPC delineated the need for student representatives on faculty search committees. The Chair of the EPC, Renee Cramer, said that the resolution formalized the process through which students take part in the hiring practice of new professors. "The Faculty Senate asked us for this resolution and will enforce it," she commented.

The resolution stipulates that there must be "a ratio of no less than one student for every three faculty members." Questions about the resolution arose, concerning the manner in which students should be chosen to participate in individual search committees. As the resolution reads, when the EPC learns that a search committee is being formed, they will publicize the need for student members and urge those interested to run for those positions at the next scheduled Forum.

The original draft of the resolution acknowledged a preference, but not a requirement, that students be moderated before serving on a search committee. This was amended when those in attendance argued that students in the Lower College should only be elected if no moderated students were nominated for the position. As Reuben Pillsbury commented, "I don't know if I can trust someone who has only been here for one year." Sally Mehrten responded, "When nominees are hard to find, it's more important that we have students on the committee than whether or not they moderated."

Further complications arose from the resolution's statement that "in the unlikely event the next Forum is too far away to be effective," the EPC will appoint students to the committee in consultation with professors from the search's academic division. Gabor Boglar introduced two hostile amendments to the resolution requiring that these appointees be officially elected at the next Forum, or that an Emergency Forum be scheduled when new search committee members are needed. "The most important thing is that the student body trusts these people who are appointed," he argued. "Unless there is a serious question concerning their appointment, the Forum will ratify the EPC's selections."

Cramer countered that since the members of the EPC are elected officials, "by that we have the confidence of the student body to use our discretion when making these appointments." Other opponents of the amendment agreed and pointed out that Emergency Forums and the like would "disrupt the entire search process."
Kuzniuck stated, "If we hold up student representation, we might lose our participation."

Bogdan's amendments were ultimately defeated and the final resolution was passed unanimously. "We are sending a strong message to those faculty who do not think they need us on their search committees," concluded Cramer.

Anonymous evaluations

The second EPC resolution introduced a policy which would allow students to submit anonymous testimony for faculty evaluations. EPC member Sassa Gorman explained the need for this resolution: "We need to get as much testimony as we can, but many people are not willing to come forward because they are afraid of who the professor might do to them. If the comments are anonymous, the professor can't hold it against you." The resolution stipulates that letters submitted to the EPC for faculty evaluation may have the name taken off the copy sent to the faculty evaluators at the student's request. The EPC would then keep confidential the file of names which are withheld. In the event allegations of criminal misconduct are submitted anonymously, the EPC chair will recommend the letter-written formal charges with the Grievance Committee, and a neutral evaluator could be granted the student's name concerning such charges. No complete anonymous submissions will be accepted.

As Cramer reported, retaliation by some professors for student evaluation comments is a "common enough occurrence to discourage testimony." She argued that this resolution was deemed necessary by the entire EPC, and "any strong action by the Forum will be considered by the Faculty Senate. We made this as good as we can get it.

"I sympathize with the faculty on this issue," countered Kuzniuck. "Do we want to encourage a lack of accountability when we are taking on so many responsibilities as assistant professors?" Greg Giaccolli agreed, "When a professor can identify a student's name and comments, unfair testimony can be thrown out. A good professor still needs protection against a bad student."

Kate McCumber-Goldring, another member of the EPC, said that the resolution was needed so that evaluators can "know the whole story. In the past, I have received positive letters supporting certain professors while I hear many students complaining about that same professor...This is the only way in which we can be fair evaluators and learn how to criticize professors." Dana Silverman stated, "So few people participate in the evaluation process, anything which makes it more comfortable is wonderful."

A straw poll determined whether or not all testimony should be submitted anonymously received little support from those in attendance. As Mehrten commented, "You can't force me to sign my name." She continued, "This is a strong resolution which allows for a very responsible process to submit anonymous testimony." The resolution finally passed with sixteen votes in support and two opposed. The resolution will be forwarded to the faculty, and the EPC will meet with them to bring about the proposed changes.

Who watches the Faculty?

The election of a student representative to attend Faculty meetings was an unexpectedly controversial issue. Upon the request of a student to attend Faculty meetings and publish their decisions in the Observer, the Faculty responded that only one reporter would be allowed if the student was elected by the Student Forum. This report could be asked to leave the meetings at any time, and would be responsible for writing an article that would be available to the entire community.

Jeana Breton was the only nominee for the position, which was met with hostility by the EPC. The EPC already has the option of attending Faculty meetings, and is responsible for reporting important events to the Forum. Questions concerning their working relationship with the faculty, and the rights of the community to public information, were heatedly debated.

Cramer argued that "Students should have access to do this. As human beings the Faculty have a right to be in their own space and conduct their business without being quoted or listened to while hammering out little details." McCumber-Goldring was also opposed to the position. "The EPC was given the opportunity to fill this position and we chose not to. It shows a lack of trust in the faculty."

"I have no idea what goes on at these meetings," said Pilbury. "An article in the Observer seems like a good idea." Giaccolli commented, "This is not because we do not trust the faculty or the EPC. A regular report in the paper benefits the whole community, and continues the Observer's tradition of reporting on things unimportant."

As Jason Poulkes said, "I don't think this can hurt anybody. It's nothing to get angry about."

Ultimately, the Forum divided the question and voted first on whether or not to allow the position—and then who would be elected to fill it. The position was approved and Jeana Breton was elected, promising "an objective summary of the faculty meetings." The next Forum is scheduled for December 8th.

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Classifieds & personal:

Help Wanted! Children's Entertainment Agency Now Hiring local talented, reliable & energetic people. Excellent pay. Must have a car. (914) 728-6004.

ATTENTION LOVERS OF MUSIC! Seeking people with diverse musical backgrounds who want to bounce around ideas—people come together, play and create. Not necessarily looking for virtuosos... Let's jump in and try it all! Interested? If so, let's chat about the possibilities. Drop a note in Box 331 or Box 1239 today.

The international students office is planning a "Buddy System" for international students at Bard. Volunteers are needed from U.S. citizens only. Must be: A full-time Bard student and a United States citizen. Freshman, Sophomores, Juniors and Seniors accepted. If you are interested in being a FRIEND to an international student, please contact Christie Achebe, 758-6822 Ext. 283 or Box 174.

Can you publish a literary magazine? Prove it! And then Maybe we'll submit something.

Do you want to earn extra $$? Bard Grad looking for motivated students with the desire to make CASH and run their own business. Call DAVE 758-6317.

The heroes of the injured borg no longer shop like the wind. They now shop like a tyrannical slug on crutches: Meanwhile back at the farm, Tractor man has begun Friendships...R-US. One beautiful Fall leaf required entry fee, but don't look now or the HOG Factor will get you. Let's duel it out with Chainsaws like our ancient ancestors used to and the winner gets to be my Yoko Ono.

Hudson Valleyopoly Game Tournament to Benefit Toys for Tots. Sunday, Nov.14, from 1 to 5pm at the Skytop Restaurant, Route 28 near Exit 19 of the State Thruway, in Kingston. Cost for a seat at the Tournament is $25. For more information, call (914) 331-1490.

H. What? Feeling stressed? How about a romantic dinner for two? Or, a short vacation from one another? Whatever it takes to make you happy, but remember it's almost time to celebrate St. George's fall. Love Always, H.

Attention all Film Majors and Photography Students! Bard Observer is willing to pay you to develop pictures for us on Monday or Tuesday. Some Kodafix Solution and 28% Acetic Acid free to whoever takes us up on this offer first. Usually need 3-10 pictures developed per issue. If interested, contact Jeana C. Breton at 758-0772, or drop a line through campus mail.

Free Tarot Readings! (Experienced, but need practice) Box 1238 for appointment.

Friend, How's that story coming? Has the main character told the captivating girl how he feels? Expect me over sometime soon, ok? Need to catch up on my favorite graphic storylines anyway. Until then...Take Care! Love, Me.

Need a ride somewhere for Thanksgiving? Get your classifieds in right away to be in next week's issue of the Bard Observer! Deadline: This Saturday, Nov.13th. Please remember to include your name w/ telephone and/or Box #

Cheer up, fart face

Random Quote: "The two divinest things this world has got, A lovely woman in a rural spot!" —Leigh Hunt
The Bard Observer  November 10, 1993

News

By the numbers

Bard College Crime Statistics for 1992-93

Under the Student Right-to-Know and Campus Security Act of 1990, every college nationwide is required to make public statements about the range of reported crimes and other violations of the law on campus. Yesterday, Bard College Safety and Security provided the Awareness Report for the Fall 1992 and Spring 1993 year (see chart at right).

There were no offenses reported to Security of murder, rape, robbery, purse snatching or aggravated assault in this period. There were twenty-seven reported incidents of burglary, and there was one person arrested on burglary charges. One incident of motor vehicle theft was reported. There were no reported liquor law violations. The only drug violations were two reported incidents involving marijuana which did not result in arrest. Furthermore, there were no reported incidents concerning weapons, bomb threats or other incendiary devices.

"These statistics are important, but they do not reflect the kind of things which actually happen on this campus," said Acting Director of Security, Kim Squillace, in an earlier interview. She has also compiled a table of reported criminal incidents at Bard which are not required for publication by the Right-to-Know law. There were thirty reported incidents of destruction, damage and/or vandalism to property, twenty-nine incidents of theft from buildings, eleven cases of theft from motor vehicles, twenty-three stolen property offenses, and five incidents of trespassing.

B.R.A.V.E. Report

Bard Response to rape and Associated Violence Education also contributed a statistical report over the last academic year. This report is here reproduced verbatim:

"The following is a breakdown of the number and types of cases B.R.A.V.E. handled during the period August 1992-May 1993.

These cases reflect the type of situations students sought B.R.A.V.E.'s assistance in dealing with. Unless specified, these situations may have occurred either on or off campus and may have occurred either during the period covered or in the past.

"The situations are listed as defined by the individual seeking services and therefore may differ from legal definitions within New York State (i.e. a male survivor stating that he was raped would be included under 'rape' even though the NYS penal code calls this 'sodomy')."

"All contacts with B.R.A.V.E. are strictly confidential; no case files are kept and only limited statistical data is available.

"Total number of cases: 23 Total number of situations: 25 (In two cases, the individuals requested services for two separate situations.)

1) 6-Prior sexual assaults (including incest, sexual child abuse, sexual abuse)
2) 6-Secondary survivors (individuals, other than the victim/survivor, (i.e. friend, dorm-mate) affected by a situation.)
3) 5-Relationship Violence/abuse
4) 3-Harassment (including phone, mail, verbal)
5) 2-Rape (1/attempted; 1/completed)
6) 2-Gray Area /sexual ambivalence
7) 1-(Alleged) Perpetrator

"Number of individuals who sought services: 24 (21/F; 3/M) Note: In one case two individuals sought assistance regarding the same situation."
The Bard Theatre's new season is well underway, with all the rawness and richness that has brought the free-wheeling successes and stupendous failures of the past. The talent definitely shone through in "A Family Affair," this past weekend. Although Alexander Ostrovsky's 1849 plot didn't have pace in its favor, her characters were engagingly performed by the entire cast. The actors and actresses gave color to the plodding narrative through tightly argued performances. In short, the production was a marvel.

There are bound to be some sharp elbows thrown when money is at stake in this crude, Russian, lower-middle class family. The pretensions these characters allow themselves are grotesque. The play is a series of clashes that result when their implausible self-images hit against the reality of their meager circumstances. This family forms one of the less attractive manifestations of civilization, and the piece is a cautionary tale.

Zachary Bonnie portrays Bolshov, a merchant and the scolding head of the household, who plots to escape paying his creditors by faking bankruptcy. All the other characters in the first act are in servility to Bolshov: his wife Agrafera (Susan Coedel), who is aggrieved and bitchy; his daughter Olimpiada (Georgia Vorel); and his son, Anton, who is a successful accomplishment to have been born; his clerk Lazar (Evan Sheehy), who is over-obliging and courteous until fortune turns his way; his lawyer Ripsolochovyky (Tibor Saringer), who pitifully lacks dignity until his betrayal; his peasant maid Fomina (Jessica Burr), who suffers in utter bafflement; and his servant Tishka (Matthew Kern), whose bitter remembrance towards his servitude is occasionally unleashed. Bolshov also has a matchmaker, Ustinya (Aurora DeMaria), to help him find a husband for his daughter. Additionally, the invisible protagonists of fear and greed hover over Bolshov and his family, people fated to be ever unsatisfied.

The play begins with the War of 1812, which leads to a really banal Olimpiada, with her flair for the trivial, disputing the orders of her mother, Agrafera, who notes that "decent men are not that thick on the ground." Olimpiada needs a husband, and her father needs someone to transfer his wealth to so he may save himself from prison. The clerk, Lazar, finagles his way into getting this; the interview is so elaborate that the audience feels as if they are adoring Bolshov's property. The marriage is arranged by bribing their matchmaker and their lawyer with future promises that he will "serve." Lazar is proud, cold, and ambitious, and, with stiff shoulders and clenching hands, he becomes what he desires, a lack-luster bourgeois tyrant and petty swindler. As Bolshov said, Lazar "knows the meaning of a nod and a wink alike."

It takes several scenes and three hours to achieve these farcical simple ends, and the audience has to endure the stilted contrivance to get to the lively, but unhappy, solution. There are ample compensations. The stage action is vibrant and smooth, the use of the eyer-collapsing red wall of Bolshov's house lives up to the anachronistic character form of the Bard stage. The play is not as lifeless as one might think from their Moscow neighbors that their "noses will drop off." The competent Ms. Davis quarrels well on stage, except when matched by Mr. Bonnie's fiercely austere Bolshov, who punctuates his invective with frequent spitting. Only Mr. Saringer, as the lawyer, attempts a foreign accent, and his alcoholic uring, pose, and voice provide easy humor to bring the play forward. He is aided also by both Ms. Burr, who is splendid as a hagard, harmless, and pitiful peasant, and Mr. Kern, who gives an effective performance in all of his serv's mad, impotent strivings.

It is in Mr. Sheehy's Lazar, ultimately, that the audience places its hope in some redemption of human dignity. Can the clerk find tenderness when the roles are eventually reversed in his favor? No. Lazar is an ingrate, and not even an endearing one at that, because he stoops to conquer. It is unfortunate that this adaptation by Nick Dear denies Mr. Sheehy's character an opportunity to choose between humility and humiliation. The play has an increasingly daffy conclusion that opts for an amusing, but out of place, circuitous shouting match between the triumphant married couple and the pustule they betrayed to gain success. The clerk opens a department store called Laz-Us, Bolshov is exiled to Siberia for paying the debts Lazar won't assume, and money falls from the sky to the greedy Russians below. This is a comical, but thin, resolution. Nevertheless, Mr. Markle's last season as a director has been good, and they've got a different actor playing Robocop (who supposedly landed his role primarily because he looked so much like Peter Weller, the original Robocop, who has apparently moved on to bigger and better things since Naked Lunch). On the other hand, the movie was written by Frank Miller (Batman: The Dark Knight), who wrote Robocop 2. Basically, if you think you want to see a movie you're probably right.

Another recent one is Fearless, starring Jeff Bridges, which is a vehicle for the really close-to-death-is-now-trying-to-gain-a-new-appreciation-of-what-it-means-to-be-alive sort of movie (that's all I've been told about it, anyway). Coming up in the next few weeks we have the release of The Three Musketeers, a Disney version of the Alexandre Dumas swashbuckler story, the ads for which don't much resemble the book I read, but there you go. Anyway, it's been some pretty good people in it (Kiefer Sutherland, Charlie Sheen, Rebecca DeMornay and Tim Curry, most notably and most published and least accented, if at all creepy. Playing in the city at this very moment (but as yet nowhere nearer) is the new Robert Altman film, Short Cuts, which looks to be a really amazing film. It stars everyone from Buck Henry to Lily Tomlin to Huey Lewis and Tom Waits, and a bunch of other folks as well. It promises to be a really impressive movie.

Probably the best big release of the moment, and also the hardest to see, the new Adams Family movie will be out in a mere ten days. The previews look good and they managed to keep all of the cast members that made the first one so good (Raul Julia, Anjelica Huston, Christina Ricci, Lloyd). So far, I've been told that if you liked the first one, you'll like this one better. If you didn't like the first one, you probably won't go to this one anyway, so what does it matter? On the smaller screen, Upstate is bringing two movies that are bound to be packed with crowds of Bard students. The first is Baraka, inspired by the works of myth-master Joseph Campbell, and which looks really impressive in its preview. The second is Dazed and Confused, the much awaited new film by Richard Linklater (of Slacker fame), which looks like an attempt at a contemporary version of American Graffiti. So there you go. These are the most noticeable things to be on their way out, at least that I'm aware of, and those are the ones most likely to appear in this column as the semester continues. If anyone has a lead on a really good movie, send suggestions to the Observer.
Dead Goat Notes

If the following column is not up to par, please keep in mind that the Observer was fighting a serious chemical fire at the time it was written. Anyway, if your looking for funny stuff, try reading Garfield.

In the past, the Observer has been pretty critical of Leon Botstein, leaving it up to the New York Times to praise him. I am as guilty as anyone of this trend. Looking over my past columns and editorials, I find that I have been unkind to the president, mostly because a slightly eccentric intellectual is a pretty easy target. True, I have disagreed with some of his decisions, but I recognize that we have the same goal: the well-being of the students and the college.

Years ago I asked an upperclassman why he thought Leon Botstein was so great. He responded, "Olin, Cruger Village, Oberholzer, the new Henderson, Stevenson Gym, Stevens Library, and the Toaster dorms." When the young, innocent, quixotic Leon Botstein came to Bard, we were in the red. Now we're in the black. I'm talking about finances here, not clothes that students wear to show how they want other people to think that they're feeling.

Without knowing it, Leon Botstein taught me one of the greatest lessons of my life, just before the graduation of 1991, a student committed suicide. In his suicide note, he challenged Leon to mention his death, which rocked the entire campus, in his graduation address. As editor-in-chief, I soft-peddled the issue. It was the biggest news that Observer has probably ever seen, but I was afraid to touch such a thorny matter. Rather than back down as I did, President Botstein rose to the challenge. I take the risk of sounding like a sappy, drool-happy, easily overwhelmed chump by saying that I have never seen such eloquence, such rhetoric, and such a courageous display of virtue as that speech. However, I don't think a person in the audience that day would disagree with me.

Leon taught me that we must take responsibility not just for the easiest thing to do, but when it is the hardest thing to do. As president of the college, he is responsible for every crummy little detail here, from kids taking over Ludlow to leaky faucets in the Rivas. He is responsible for our comfort, our education, even our very lives. However, the content of his speech was that we are all the highest authority in our lives, and we must all face up to our responsibilities bravely.

Botstein impressed me again recently with his remarks in Harper's. He proved himself to be above the kind of overhyping that pollutes his profession, like the reprehensible Professor William "I'm rescuing young virgins from a life of virtue" Kernigan.

He said that "The most important element of a university is honesty." He also said that "When you make legislation that can not be enforced in human communities, you undermine the law. And on the campus, this distorts the fundamental integrity of the university, which is self-regulation, and respect for truth." I agree wholeheartedly. A true law enforces itself by reason and nature, while unjust laws we create anachronisms.

I realize that President Botstein was talking about professors having sex with students, but can't those ideas also be applied to locking the dormitory doors? Is it right to make a pretense towards safety while creating a community of doorway scholars and portal vandals? Are we not asking to try on "the clothes of adulthood" by having the dorms unlocked? To take responsibility for our own safety and our possessions?

At Bard, one can take responsibility for one's well-being and for one's possessions merely by locking the door to one's room. The voluntary creation of a student foot patrol is another opportunity for "trying on the clothes of adulthood." Locking the dorms infringes upon the wishes of the vast majority of the student body and, in doing so, begs students to mock the law and to force entry into the dorms.

Dean Morgan should listen to her boss. Allow us to accept the responsibility that we seek. Allow us to grow up.

Unock the doors.

Shameless Filler!

When I think back on all the crap I learned in high school, it's a wonder I'm here at Bard. Not to say that I've been Community College fodder due to the inadequate learning facilities and narrow views on historical context. That's not the crap I'm talking about. The crap I learned at high school mainly consisted of things which would further my progress through the public school system without any actual effort on my part. Things like skipping classes, cheating on tests, lying to my parents, my teachers, my administrators and myself. Selfishly spaced through a system geared towards the commonplace and far-sighted simply because I knew how to make waves.

How I managed to get into a prestigious school such as Bard seems to be a minor miracle. That I'm still here is a major one. I could have spent the beginning of my college career repeating the same awful, self-denying things that I did to myself throughout high school. But somehow I've been able to make the right choices.

In which we wake up and smell the decaf

I have been considering working after school instead of the obvious choice: returning home and living with their parents for a few years before running off with the first person of complimentary gender they happen to hook up with. One of my friends is considering going into advertising. To me, advertising seemed like the ultimate cop-out career for someone who spent time in an academic setting studying anything BUT advertising. It takes some rudimentary knowledge of television and film techniques, some knowledge of mass psychology, some writing capabilities, creativity and cynicism. All of which can be picked up by people who attend a four-year college, or who watch a lot of television commercials.

However, it's nice to think that the prospect doesn't seem so shabby. There is a piece of the personal creativity thing that makes some sense. I mean, the person who is going to trade away the "where's the beef" thing that must have come from some personal brainstorm, some reflection of a facet of the one's own unique mind which came shining forth in a thirty-second Wendy's spot. No team of corporate suits could have come up with it.

And unless you're gonna write a massive novel, the best way to be creative is to show creativity in small doses (witness Shameless Filler—that's really some small doses).

But then I think about the creativity this particular friend shows at times, and I wonder. Is the world ready for a Colt-45 commercial featuring a Jean-Paul Sartre look-a-like sipping down a malt beverage on a black-top basketball court with his chums, telling the viewer, "It's all about respect for Simone de Beauvoir." I certainly hope not.

Perhaps the nastiest revelation in my recent bout of Senior Geebee's is the fact that, if I could swing it, I wouldn't mind writing Shameless Filler for a living. Not in the Observer, of course. But if I could do it in some magazine or newspaper somewhere, I would pursue this single-purpose existence and a word processor, week after week, writing about whatever strikes my fancy. Anything. And then there'd be the book-collections of past columns selling in millions. And then I'd get a sit-com about my life on CBS starring Harry Anderson which wouldn't last a season. Yeah, somehow, all that sounds attractive right now.

The best part is I'm leaving all my avenues open right now. If all else fails, I can still run off and join the Mccoyes.
unbard love
by Sean O'Neill

"Hey, hey, hello, Nadine," says Colby Sprague, standing in her doorway. "I saw you pestering people outside the post office today. What were you up to?"

"I was conducting a survey," she says.

"Men got a blue paper to fill out, women a pink paper, and the gender non-specific got a grey sheet."

"Very clever," he says. "What are you taking, a psychology course?"

"I did it on my own," she says. "I've had to fill out so many of these damned surveys that I thought I'd do a bit of some people filled out a few for me."

"What questions did you ask?"

"Only two. 'What is your major?' and 'What do you think love is?'"

"What were the results?"

"I got two political science majors to answer. One wrote that, 'Love is like the dogmatic theory, if you don't contain it, love will spread like communist contagion until one has to completely surrender one's independence and common sense."

"And what did the other one say?"

"Love is like massive retaliation. If you decide to love someone, you have to go to war, you have to make 'em, you have to screw 'em, every time, as soon as possible, all the way.' And at the bottom the creep wrote, 'Are you busy Saturday night?'"

"Well, that's great," says Colby. "Maybe people can't write out what they think love is and they need a whole night to demonstrate it with you personally.

"I don't even want to know what that guy's idea of love is. I mean, really, why does everyone always have to be sick or silly when they fill these things out? This Physics major wrote, 'Love is filling out one of these surveys when I'm in a hurry.'"

"Sound like someone who associates 'commitment' with 'love,'" says Colby.

"Oh, give me a break. This religion major wrote, 'The greatest love is to lay your life down for a friend.'"

"Pretty clever," he says.

"This English major wrote out a list of words: affection, sympathy, tenderness, fondness, fancy, regard, admiration, yearning, fervor, frothage, enchantment. How cute."

"What did an economist say?"

"Love is a service to commerce unless marketed properly."

"Did any philosophy majors respond?"

"One wrote, 'I think, therefore I am single.' The other wrote nasty comments hoping that I die before the end of the semester."

"Anybody else?" he asked.

"This sociology major says, 'Love is an instrument of society. It's as oppressive or liberating as its societal context."

"Mind if smoke in your room, Nadine?" he asks.

"No, but how can you do it in your condition?"

"It's a terrible necessity," he says. "I could quit if I wanted to, but I don't want to."

"Why don't you fill out one of these surveys, Colby?"

"I can't. I'm still undecided."

"Undecided about love?"

"No," he says. "About my major."

"Oh, just tell me what you think love is."

"Love! You're asking the wrong question."

"Darn that what you think, Colby."

"Love is..." he starts. "Uh, why don't you ask my roommate instead of me? He's had more experience."

"I know what Basili's experience is, and I'm not asking him. I'm asking you, Colby Sprague, the guy whose name sounds like a good beer."

"He laughs, nervously. "What did Minh say?"

"She said it's a chemical imbalance."

"And James Beale, the potential psychology major."

"Neurosis. Especially when the object of love is out of shape and doesn't exercise. Now, you've dodged the question enough. What do you think love is?"

"Colby looks at Nadine hopefully."

"Colby?"

"Love is when you can't stop thinking about someone you care about, and you hope everything is alright for them," he says.

"Love is when just being around a person makes you feel incredible and when you're not next to them you're making plans about how to be with them again."

"Colby looks at Nadine hopefully, raising his voice. "Love is how I feel about you."

"About me?" stammers Nadine.

"Look, I'm sorry," he says, upset. "It's probably that beating on the head you gave me that knocked out all my senses."

"Oh, Colby, please," she says. He opens the door, choking back tears.

"But I know that you don't feel the same way about me," he says. "I know you're really in love with Basil. That's okay."

"Aw, Colby, sit down. Let's talk."

"I don't want to talk anymore," he says, leaving. "I've said too much already."

"She tries to follow him, but he runs away."

"Colby!" She gets no reply. "Shit, shit, shit. Damn these stupid surveys! Shit! Nadine Seefeldt, you really know how to...

International News Review
by Shawn Millburn

When analyzing international relations through the eyes of American foreign policy, perception of the global situation can fluctuate between administrative ideologies. Following World War II, this government recognized the Department of Defense and developed the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). The agency grew out of wartime office for Strategic Services and was then formulated through congressional legislation in 1947. A primary function of the CIA is to gather foreign strategic intelligence and counter intelligence information.

The popular agenda today clearly includes a move towards the isolationist end of the foreign policy spectrum. The CIA was partially developed to covertly enter and alter foreign governments strangling from the American capitalist ideology. The Clinton Administration's emphasis upon domestic policy is a direct reflection of the people's desire for a more productive structure upon American soil. In other words, as we move away from a group of leaders left over from the second world war, new generations of Americans cannot see the lack of enthusiasm of both the administration and the American people? There are no concrete policies (causing members of the state department to resign) and a full in the assertion of democracy abroad (before democracy at home). The only mention of country's present today are when the media scorns at the CIA for not being able to assassinate leaders such as Saddam Hussein or the Somali "Warlord" General Farah Aaidid. Ahh! But how will the world survive? How will the international environment possibly survive without an aggressive campaign by this government to spread democracy abroad (in order to plow the socialist weeds so that our own capitalistic flowers may grow)?

I have a suggestion, and it is my drawn out point. Shift foreign policy interest onto that of a global organization with true power. The United Nations needs reworking, and the United States is in the position to make this happen. We have witnessed the emergence of peace-keeping troops downing "cute blue helmets" in Somalia. This is simply the beginning of a potentially active international force, one able to assure individual rights to simply live, regardless of political government or ideology. An environment of mutual respect can exist in this world, if an organization dedicated to the education of all humans, and to the importance of cultural sovereignty is realized.

I know, I know...take a reality pill. But, I think that because there is this shift in interest away from American direct interference in international affairs, concentration upon a new, Wilsonian, insurgent, but truly culturally aware international organization will provide a fresh, productive path for American foreign policy.

We only need to worry about what CIA members, they might try and take over the world...

Aries (Mar. 21-Apr. 19): Your appetite for your studies will decrease this week, but not as much as your appetite for cateringa food.

Taurus (Apr. 20-May.20): When love gets you down, don't dwell on it. Think instead of a good night's sleep with the bed all to yourself.

Gemini (May 21-Jun.20): If you kissed any strangers last week; don't hold your breath waiting for them to turn into princes because they won't, but, if you like frogs, who cares?

Cancer (Jun.21-Jul.21): You've got an incredible creative mind. Use it to plan something exciting, but do so wisely because a great mind should not be wasted. 

Leo (Jul.22-Aug.22): You'll be forgiven for your grumbling, you'll be forgiven for all your short-comings, save one. Refrain from it or else you'll hear others grumble.

Virgo (Aug.23-Sept.22): After giving it all for others, it is time to sit back, relax, and think of yourself for a change, but don't stay too long or else you'll be missed.

Libra (Sept.23-Oct.22): You've been feeling Tuckered out lately; this means that it's time for a change in your life. Try exercise.

Scorpio (Oct.23-Nov.21): This week you'll have a fondness for hot chocolate. Find someone with marshmallows and it should make for a very warm evening.

Sagittarius (Nov.22-Dec.21): Your good fortune won't last long so enjoy it while you can. Remember, all good things must end, but that doesn't mean they'll be good for good.

Capricorn (Dec.22-Jan.19): When something starts to seem like they're closing in on you, it's time to get away. If you can't, resort to a mindless flack.

Aquarius (Jan.20-Feb.18): With love comes great feeling. In the months ahead try not to squash the feelings of the one you love; in return, they will extend eternal gratitude.

Pisces (Feb.19-Mar.20): They thought you wouldn't last, but you did. They thought you wouldn't do it, but you did. Time to stop listening to "them."
Why we need Student Empowerment

by Amy Byrne

Last week I attended an informal meeting called to discuss student empowerment and solidarity. After some initial discussion of the problem, I brought up some issues I felt were important.

The main concern I have centers around the social isolation of students here on campus. It is my opinion that until we begin to acknowledge each other (as students), attempts at gaining acknowledgment from the administration will continue to fail. So then, the initial problem to be addressed is a lack of acknowledgment of each other.

How do we improve this situation?

EYE CONTACT, EYE CONTACT, EYE CONTACT

How many times have you walked down a path and found something so incredibly interesting on the ground to look at that you fail to glance at the person coming towards you? Or perhaps it is the approaching person who first spots this glorious thing and you are forced to find something equally interesting so as not to feel jeopardized in any way? Through this, the vulnerable person will be to the side. I have begun to trace the path this “eye contact deficiency” takes. In the initial weeks of school everyone seems fairly open to the new faces entering the campus. The new students, too, are eager to meet people. Most everyone is extending themselves through eye contact, friendly greetings, and open discussions. As time goes on, however, some people begin to “close off” for reasons I cannot explain. The friendly contact that prevailed begins to diminish and some students begin to wonder “is it me or are people avoiding looking at me?”

After eliminating all the possible socially constructed reasons we find to avoid people (i.e. various body odors, broccoli in teeth, etc.), students begin to feel the toll of extending themselves and the rejection that follows. Eventually most people respond to this in a defensive manner by closing themselves off. They stop looking at faces and begin to study the cracks in the sidewalk, the spot on their shoe, or the half squashed earthworm that was forced up from the earth by the recent rain and run over by an escaping bicycle thief.

The importance of human communication and contact cannot be emphasized enough. The degree of unpleasantness associated with social isolation can be illustrated by pointing out that solitary confinement is considered the severest form of punishment in prison.

Some may find themselves wondering “what difference does it make that this campus is not open?” It’s too late because I’ve been here a long time and I won’t have to deal with it then.” I don’t feel it’s that simple. If we don’t use this time to develop good communication skills, what do you think your chances are of attaining the goals you’ve set for yourself, whatever they may be? In addition, the more isolated we become as a society, the more vulnerable we will be to the society.

If you are still with me, I thank you. I guess my main concern is facilitating discussion about this problem. Even though I have many thoughts on the subject, I don’t claim to have all the answers. It was agreed at the end of the meeting that a characterized positive multi-faceted approach to this would be most effective and everyone was going to begin whittling away at it through their individual forms of expression. The above thoughts are my contribution, but in recognition of the importance of this to an on-going discussion/action, I encourage others to begin thinking, and talking, and above all, greeting the eyes of humanity.

WE LIVE WHERE

We live (in fact, the say) in what our school decides and is like. And besides that, wouldn’t it just be nice to feel a stronger connection with the people around you?

I’ve been questioning lately why things are the way they are here, and it’s something I think we all need to do. Why can’t the administration see that no matter how many good reasons they put out about locking doors, it doesn’t change the fact that we were as usual excluded from the decision making process? Why were none of us included on Leon’s Presidential Commission that blew up in our faces last year? Why are there things like corporate bookstores and dining services in an institution of learning? Why should someone be making a profit off of us? Sure, there’s a co-op order form, but if you live on campus you still have to pay for (Kline). Why Freshman Seminar? Who decides the content? Why fail people in moderation? Who should decide? Why do we fight about a few dollars when student representation rather than outright votes and discussion and decisions by every single one of us—was at the forum, and I heard all the divisive comments about students we “trust” more than others. Why need we compete? Why is the Student Forum not taken seriously by the administration? Why is the design of this school so antithetical to community? Why is experimental learning not considered legitimate? Why aren’t there student murals up all over Olin or the library? Why are the spaces where we learn so removed from who we are? Why can’t Leon see that it’s not about “hotels,” it’s about community and that makes a lot of difference in our academic atmosphere? Why do we have such little say in who teaches us and what we want to learn about? Why is the administration so concerned about this school’s appearance, even at the expense of what we want? What is Bard without us? Why are we not the most important reason that everyone is here?

One reason that I stayed at Bard is that I realized how much time I spend in my life looking for a brighter day just around the corner. Staying doesn’t mean giving up, it means making Bard all we want it to be. Is there really any reason it should be otherwise? It’s about choosing what kind of education and community we want, rather than picking from given catalogs and compromising on the one we like best. But it only works if we do, together. We must concentrate on building a real community here, of knowing and caring about each other, then we can follow through on concrete steps to create real student power—like establishing co-ops, real democratic decisions, using student strikes if necessary, and researching other schools. I believe we owe this to ourselves, but not only that. Perhaps our struggle can become an example to the world outside of the forging of an education that is truly democratic, to benefit more than those of us who can afford this school or are lucky enough to get a scholarship.

Please come to the next meeting on Tuesday, November 16th at 9:30 Aspinwall 3rd floor. This is not a club, but the only way it can be about all of us is if you come.
Bob Marley's Revolutionary Music

The "Natural Mystic" Way

by Lionel Zion Wadada

Bob Marley reached the height of his career on earth with the completion of the album, "Survival." Words, sound, and power were manifested through an intense form of music which would come to be known as reggae. Through this medium, Bob sang of the "half that's never been told." This half was an authentic oral interpretation of what worldwide war and racism reaped for the "sufferers." Yet Bob Marley offered us seeds of change.

Let us take a closer look at what the song "Zimbabwe" symbolizes. This is important because it was created specifically for the inception ceremonies of Zimbabwe. On April 18, 1980 the government was handed over and the name of the country changed from Rhodesia to Zimbabwe. Bob Marley then rented a plane to fly The Wailers, I-Threes and the band's entourage to the official Independence Day ceremonies to perform the song "Zimbabwe" before the new Prime Minister, Robert Mugabe, and a representative of the former colonial government, Prince Charles of England. Fate took an ironic twist that night for the new government. The event was marked by the surprise visit of "Dready," who demanded to be allowed in to the concert to see the "musical prophets from Jamaica." The "real revolutionaries," as Bob's lyrics go, were denied entrance to the concert. Marley's biographers have interpreted "Survival" as an album which best showed the Band's attempts toward the liberation and unification of the African continent and all African's around the world! Other songs on the album include "Ride Natty Ride." "Africa Unites," "Wake up and Live," "Ambush in the Night," "the chant," "Babylon System," and "Survival!"

Some people got everything
Some people got nothing
Some people have hopes and dreams
Some people have ways and means

In the early days, The Wailers changed the face of the popular music of their time, which was Ska. Through the use of the natural rhythm of the beating heart they instilled "earth-force" into the music to create a deeper, more meaningful sound, on which to carry their messages. Technically, on Carlton Barrett's trap set, the "one drop" rhythm was created by a synchronized tapping of the rim and of the snare drum over the deep percussion of the base drum. A trance state could be induced this way. Actually, this rhythm had been passed down to the Kasta's. It had survived through the work-songs rituals of the free Africans, and slaves in the Caribbean during the African Diaspora 18th and 19th centuries. Bob Marley and the Wailers used this beat to effect change in the world through music and the inspiration of their songs.

In Africa, the drum provides the rhythm of many of life's activities. The work song, thus was set in the "call and response" mode, symbolizing the relationship between us and God's work. "I am a man of God and me come to do God's work," said Bob.

There is nothing on earth like music that can go out. It has a different touch...Anything the radio play, that's what me hear. I wasn't really into them thing, I was really into what you call 'spiritual music', 'cause it get more revolutionized. In Trench-Town we learn by acoustic guitar. And we go over to where westray, you know, inner 'yard' we smoke herb and think, and everyone is there. Music start playing...everybody's influence come into it. A man might hear you sing something, who is a stranger, and him tell you, 'sing this word, put this word to it,' you know.

Many of the "teachings" that the "sufferers" reasoned about came from the Bible. "The teachings of the Christian Bible were conceived in the gestalt of those cultures which dramatically understood "earth-force." Rasta's believe that organized religions were then formed around this "earth-force" and the physical power manifested within "Wo-Man." Yet this is still related to the "natural mystic" way. To Rasta's it was revealed that the spirit personage of Jon Rastafari had come not "to bow, but to conquer" "wickedness" (see in the King James Bible, Psalms 68:4, 31; Songs of Solomon - Chapter 1, Isaiah 11:3, 10-13; Jeremiah 8:1, 21; Daniel 7:9; Revelations:5:5, 19:16). Rastafari say that in the present Haile Selassie, I, the Negus Negast of Ethiopia, is one of the many manifestations of the "natural mystic" way. This way is monophysial in nature, and it was to have been imparted to His Majesty through a prophetic lineage established through King David and Solomon. This es- term for the natural mystic way empowered the Rasta's to build Zion in their minds and his life. Bob saw these things through the phenomena of the "natural mystic" and recorded them in his songs, just like Kahlil Gibran and David and Solomon, both singers and weavers of verse. In an audience with Selassie's son and heir, Osfa Wosen, Bob was given the official ring of the King of Kings with the emblem of the Lion of Judah. This was significant because Bob had become the spokesman of Rastafari.

After Selassie was refused help that was promised to him by the West, in the face of the rages of an Italian invasion, he foretold of the beginnings of an age characterized by the brutality of humanity against itself. He concluded his speech by saying that he was "confident in the victory of good over evil." This is why Bob says that Selassie is "Ever Faithful, Ever Sure." To him this speech was evidence that, "He don't make war, instead it's a teaching" that's being offered here. Thus when Marley turned his eyes to the east and sang about "War," he was further revealing what had been prophesied in Matthew 21:2-46:

And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars: be not troubled.

In the beginning...the way we worked the land became the steps which first inspired us to dance. While Bob Marley continues to ascend HIS mountain, his words still resonate: "Eman- cipate yourselves from mental slavery..." To- gether with band members, Bob Marley was able to resonate with the music of the spheres and "put some water back in the well." And these songs of freedom are still resonating from the earth. Who will hear these songs, and who will put some water back into the well, only time will tell.
The Bard Observer
November 10, 1993

Sports

The winter sports are still a few weeks away, but that's not too bad. Bard Fall sports still have a few things to say. The most important being the post-season play of the women's varsity volleyball, and the men's and women's cross country squads.

Last Saturday, Bard hosted the NAIA District 31 women's volleyball tournament. All six teams in the division met up at Steven- son for an all-day affair which would help determine this year's champion. The teams were given rankings based on their regular season play, and then were divided into two pools, Pool A featuring ranks 1, 4, and 6, and Pool B featuring 2, 3, and 5. Each team would face the other two in their pool, and the other two teams from each pool with the best performance would move on to the semi-finals. Bard was ranked #2 for the tournament, and their first match was against #3 seeded St. Joseph's college. It took some time for the Blazer to warm up, but when they found their groove and beat St. Joe's 7-5, 15-7, 15-6, Bard then defeated #5 ranked Dominican 7-15, 15-3, 15-11. This 2-0 performance placed them atop the rankings.

Kris Hall, NAIA District 31 Coach of the Year Pool B, which meant they would face the second-place team from Pool A in the semi-finals. That team turned out to be Bloomfield, the sixth-ranked team coming into the tournament. Bloomfield had upset fourth-ranked Nyack to reach the semi-finals, but they posed no problem to the Blazer, who won 15-6, 15-6. Meanwhile, #1 ranked St. Thomas Aquinas College (STAC) were defeating Dominican College to reach the final game, so it came down to a battle between the top two teams in the tournament.

While Bard had been playing well all day long, at times it seemed like the team were not completely "up"; like they were only going through the motions. All that changed in the final match, where veterans Misti Williams and Dana Mac Donald stepped up their performance and led the team against a very tough STAC squad. Bard took the first game of the best-of-five match 15-7, but then dropped the second match 4-15. At times during the season, losing one game had given the Blazer a chance of getting back into the groove. But thanks to the superb play, and expert serving by Erin Tedesco in the last two games, Bard came back and dominated STAC in all areas of play. Bard put the last two games away and won the match, 15-7, 15-4, 15-8, 15-4.

Among the honors garnered from the match, Dana Mac Donald was named Tournament MVP, as well as ACCCC player of the week, and got named to the All-District team (in addition to being named Bard's Co-Female Athlete of the Week!). Misti Williams was named to the All-District and All-Tournament teams, and Shiloh Burton was named All-Tournament as well. And finally, our own Kris Hall was named NAIA District 31 coach of the year! Congratulations, Kris.

All this leads to the sad fact that, due to divisional rules, this does not automatically place Bard as the district winners. They won the tournament, but still had to face STAC once more, since they were the regular season champions. They did so on Monday night, at Nyack College, picked because it was a neutral college site. The Blazer played fiercely, but unfortunately could not capture the title. At the end of the physically and emotionally draining match, Bard wound up on the losing side of a 13-15, 7-15, 16-14, 3-15 match score. In the match, Mac Donald scored 16 kills, 3 aces, 4 blocks and 9 digs. Misti Williams had 19 assists and five kills, and Shiloh Burton had 8 kills and 6 digs. The Blazer end their season with a record of 17-10, certainly the best performance in a long time.

Cross Country

Last week, the men's Cross Country team captured the IAC tournament, and this past weekend they raced in the District 31 Tournament Championship. Bard's own Brad Richman came in sixth place, a mere two seconds behind the fifth place runner. Unfortunately, that two seconds means he did not finish high enough to qualify for the NAIA championship race on November 20th. The time of 28:27 for the 5 mile race was a personal best for Richman, who was named Bard's Male Athlete of the Week. The other Bard runners performed excellently as well, earning the Bard team a second place finish behind St. Thomas Aquinas College, who fielded five runners in the top five. Evan Rallis finished 8th with a time of 30:11, John Hannon placed 9th at 31:12, Seth Travers placed 11th at 33:39, and Bill Yankel finished 12th at 36:10.

Dawn Gray of the women's field did place high enough to qualify; in fact she came in first. Her time was 20:26 for the 3.1 mile race (personal best), and this qualifies her for a trip to Kenosha, WI on the 20th to run for the championship. In addition, she was named (along with Dana Mac Donald) Bard's Female Co-Athlete of the Week. Also running a personal best time was Jennifer Matthews, who finished with a time of 24:55.

Soccer

The men's soccer team finished its long season against Polytechnic University this past weekend. Despite a halftime tie, Polytech went on to score three goals in the second half to win by a score of 3-0. The Blazer finish their season with a record of 2-13-1 over all.

Attention: All interested in competing on a Women's Squash Team

There will be an informational meeting at the squash courts.
Friday at 4pm
Interested? Questions?
C'mon by!
If you can't make it, contact Kris Hall at ext. 530.

Intramural Quickie

This week the intramural department announced the winner of the Men's Intramural Tennis Tournament (not to be confused with Bard's community tennis tournament). Despite an incomplete season, the winner is Freshling Ben Gooley. In addition, the Intramural Overlords deemed it proper toward Josh Ledwell the coveted Sportsmanship award. Congratulations!
Don't lock the doors (yet)

by Michael Poitier

Last week, Dean of Students Shelley Morgan finally responded to the resolution passed by the most attended student Forum of this year so far. Her response arrived two months after the Forum overwhelmingly demanded that the administration repeal the doorlocking policy until the needs and opinions of students are considered. Dean Morgan essentially said, “No way.”

I do not mean to question Dean Morgan’s sincere concern for students’ welfare that underpins this policy. Rather, I think that the logic of her arguments needs to be reevaluated, and more importantly, what we as students need as far as our safety and convenience are concerned must be taken into account.

Dispelling a few myths

First of all, very few people seem to remember the survey Dean Morgan cites. When I was a first-year student, questions concerning door locks were asked on election ballots. I reported upon a Forum meeting where the chair of the Student Life Committee, Erin L. Law, announced that “an overwhelming majority of students were opposed to the locks.” (Observer, March 11, 1992) The fully tabulated results of this survey were never published, but since everyone at the time was almost locked out, nobody wanted the doors locked, the entire matter was forgotten—until now, when Dean Morgan apparently has misinterpreted the results of this survey. (The final results should still be on record in the student government office.) I wish anyone trying to evict them luck—even the Treasurer’s account book from the last year has yet to surface.)

More recently, a informal poll conducted by the Observer received absolutely no support for locking the dormitories. Clearly, only a minority of students are devoted to locking the doors, which casts doubt on the “overwhelming majority” Dean Morgan talks about. The voice of the majority spoke loudly at the Budget Forum, demanding the policy be rescinded.

As for the “myth” that students do not steal from one another, I find it hard to believe that anyone at this college could have been naive. The increase in theft did not dispel this purported myth—that misconception was never there to begin with. However, the actual myth in play here is that locking the front door will prevent student-to-student theft. Reporting on campus crime for the last few years, I can attest to the fact that virtually all thefts from dormitories has been the result of people leaving the door to their room unlocked, or leaving their possessions out in a common area. Either that, or the thief involved the use of a master key (for which a locked dormitory door is hardly a deterrent.)

If you leave your room unlocked, a locked door will not stop them if they can force you to use your key. The most horrific part of this incident is that none of the victim’s fellow residents either noticed or reported the crime, an option I think everyone has.

A locked door will not keep someone out, especially if they have a weapon. Imagine being pursued by a dormitory patrolman at night, then fumbling to use the right key to open the door. Imagine trying to turn your keys a apart if it is dark and you have been drinking. Imagine that the assailant has a knife or, worse, a gun, and those moments you struggle at the door put your life in even more danger. If the doors weren’t locked, you would have a better chance of getting help from your neighbors, and your Peer Counselor, once you were inside. The crime cited by Dean Morgan does not illustrate the need for Bard to lock its doors, it only demonstrates the College’s fear of being held financially liable for such crimes. One might ask who this policy is actually protecting: the safety of the students or the pocketbook of the College?

The only people that these locked doors actually hinder are food deliverers and fellow students. More practical concerns at Bard are trying to visit friends after the hallowed hour of ten o’clock. Has anyone considered the needs of the people who are unlucky enough to live near the doors? The needs of those who have to hear the incessant pounding of those demanding entry, or be frozen because someone has left the door open? How about the residents of the Alumni dorms who must trek across the waist-

I'm going to leave aside Dean Morgan's blatantly baseless remark about student hypocrisy. I will say only this: none of us opposed to the door locks assume that Bard is immune to crime and violence. Rather, we question the practical utility of these locked doors and don’t see how it will actually prevent such crimes.

Some practical suggestions

Dean Morgan does ask the student body to form a committee to examine this issue. This seems like what she has been designed to undermine student opposition and drag out the process until we are too sick of the whole thing to put up much of a fight. This committee will look into alternative solutions to locking the doors, but if the administration cared that much about our suggestions, the doors would never have been locked in the first place. While a “discussion” puts on a show, the doors stay locked and the problem, in typical Bard fashion, does not get resolved. Most of us at college don’t even have enough time to write a letter on Kline’s food committee, let alone a door-locking committee; so what I suggest is that everyone who wants this policy repealed send a letter to the Dean of Students or the Student Life Committee. If you don’t have time to write a letter, just mail them this editorial.

In any event, it seems like the wishes of the majority of students are ignored by a policy which was created behind closed doors. I’ll end this with a couple of suggestions of my own:

1. Let the resident of each dormitory hold a meeting to decide whether their doors should be locked. If we can determine our own quiet hours and smoking policies, the College should grant us the respect and responsibility to see to it and when our doors should be locked. Or, as a last resort:

2. If the administration is truly serious about the “intercom system” (more likely in the form of campus phones located outside the dormitories), then the door locking should be held off until the dorms are in place. Judging from the swift construction of sidewalks, cross-walks and other projects not funded by alumni or the Olin foundation, this might happen sometime in the next century.

THE BARD OBSERVER

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Locking without representation

Dear Editor,

"Either I’ve been missing something, or nothing’s been going on." —Karen Elizabeth Gordon

Over the past few weeks, since the beginning of the semester, really, members of the Student Life Committee have insisted that a survey taken of Bard students’ opinions concerning dorm locks indicated a positive response. Shelley Morgan, in her letter in last week’s issue, “verified” this (and also underlined the word “students.”) Fact: The tabulated results of said survey, taken during the spring 1992 semester, were never revealed. The SLC Chair at the time, Erin Law, was quoted in the March 11, 1992, issue of the Bard Observer as saying that “the overwhelming majority of students were opposed to the locks.”

First of all, I would like to finally see the results of this survey. Secondly, somebody explain to me why the SLC thinks that this survey, in which students vehemently opposed locks, supports the locking of dorms. As I recall, there was a recent Forum vote on a resolution to overturn the current policy contingent upon the Forum itself passing a real locking policy. There were over a hundred people at that Forum, and, as reported in the September 22nd issue of the Observer, they voted overwhelmingly to overturn the current policy. It makes no difference whether or not there were only 100 students at the Forum—the “silent voices in the community who feel safe having their residence hall locked at night” obviously were not there. I dare anybody to calculate exactly how many of these “silent voices” there are. The only ones that count are the loud ones. If you want to express your opinion, then express it—that’s what the Forum is for; it is the government of the student body and what it says goes.

Therein lies another problem. There are several possibilities as to why the SLC is not properly representing the interests of Bard students. 1) They ignored the survey to suit their own needs, for example, to kiss up to the administration and beg to lick their boots clean. 2) They made up another secret survey without telling anybody else about it. 3) They doctored the current survey results, not knowing that Erin Law had already made a statement about its contents. 4) They made up an informal survey of their friends, who all happen to be PCs under the domination of Shelley Morgan. Does this sound harsh? You betcha. Why? Because it’s true. The SLC is lying through their teeth, and they’ve been caught in the act.

What, then, is to be done? One option is to redo the survey, which, being a year old, is obsolete anyhow. The alternative is to accept the findings of the survey as stated by Erin Law: Bard students don’t want locks. It’s either/or. The Bard community already knows my position on this idiotic, illogical policy, so I needn’t repeat myself. Instead, I ask you all to wonder why it is that the members of the Forum are abusing their power as student representatives to the Bard administration, substituting their own interests in place of the interests of the students they are supposed to be representing, and ask me to consider what actions may be taken to ensure that the interests of Bard students are upheld.

Sincerely,
Matthew Apple

Movies being presented this weekend by the film committee in the Old Gym:

Friday
Auntie Mame

Sunday
Nothing But a Man

Come to the Movies!

The Bard Observer

November 10, 1993

Questioning Bard’s heritage

Dear Ma’am,

I was browsing through the Nov 8 issue of Newsweek and found an advertisement that says: "Newsweek: A Place to Think" I used to think only Bard claimed to be a place to think. Could it be that Bard College borrowed the motto from Newsweek? (Or is Newsweek taking advantage of Bard’s reputation?)

I would like to know...
1. Who introduced the Bard motto?
2. From where was the motto taken/borrowed?
3. What does the monogram of Bard represent?
4. What is the name of the designer of Bard’s monogram?
5. How long have the motto and the monogram been used at Bard?

As a freshman and as an international student I would expect that the Bard Observer would answer these questions and help us to be in close proximity with the traditions of Bard’s community.

Thank-you sincerely,
Imtiaz J. Mannar
Freshman from Bangladesh

Dear Mr. Mannar:

I am sorry, but I do not know off hand the answers to all your questions. I am, however, intrigued by them and will do my best to find as much information as I can on the motto and monogram by next week’s issue of the Observer.

Sincerely,
Jean C. Breton
Editor-in-Chief

Bard Observer Editorial Policy

All submissions must be turned in to either campus mail or our Tewksbury office no later than 5pm the Friday before the issue for which they are intended. Space on the Another View and Letters pages works on a first come basis; if we cannot fit your submission in one week, it will be guaranteed space the next week. We do not exclude any material unless it is slanderous, or does not include the name of the author. Classifieds are free to Bardians and cost $0.70/word per issue for all those in our local region. For more information on our policies or advertising rates please call (914) 758-0772 or write: Bard Observer Bard College Box 185 Annandale, N.Y. 12504
What to See, Buy, & Do at Bard

☆ WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 10 ☆


☆ Table Francaise. Berets and Baguettes required. Kline Committee Room, 5:30p-7p.

☆ Chinese Table. Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.


☆ THURSDAY. NOVEMBER 11 ☆


☆ Tavola Italiana. Kline President's Room, 5-6p. All Welcome; join us for conversation 6-7p.

☆ Bard College Folk Society meeting in Kline's Committee Room, 6:30p.


☆ German Table. In the Kline College Room, 6p.


☆ Bisexuals, Activists, Guys, Lesbians, Et al. B.A.C.L.E. will meet this Thursday Club Room in the Old Gym, 7p. All interested are welcome.

☆ Alcoholics Anonymous Meeting. Thursday nights, 7:30p.

☆ FRIDAY. NOVEMBER 12 ☆


☆ SATURDAY. NOVEMBER 13 ☆

☆ Trip to New York. The Dean of Students is providing a van to the Big Apple. Nine students maximum. Please register in advance. $5 fee. Van leaves Kline parking lot at 10a, returns at 7p.

☆ News videos. Videos of the arrest of Clifford Dann, Native American activist, will be shown. Preston, 2p.

☆ Lecture on Indigenous rights. Carrie Dann, Western Shoshone rancher, and Rip Loneson, Nez Perce leader, will be speaking on issues of indigenous sovereignty, land rights, and their battles with the U.S. government concerning these rights. Old Gym, 7p and 9p.

☆ WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 17 ☆


☆ Table Francaise. Berets and Baguettes required. Kline Committee Room, 5:30p-7p.

☆ Chinese Table. Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.


☆ SUNDAY. NOVEMBER 14 ☆

☆ Anyone for cricket? Cricket, lovely cricket... every Sunday inside or near Stevenson Gym, 2:30p. Contact Damith (752-7348) or Shepray (752-7273) for more information.

☆ Holy Eucharist at Church of St. John the Evangelist, 10a.


☆ MONDAY. NOVEMBER 15 ☆

☆ Body Image Support Group for students dealing with issues of weight, appearance and body image. Come to talk or listen. Upstairs in the Student Center, 7:30p.

☆ Peer Tutors in the Stevenson Library. Room 402, 10-noon, and 8-10p and every night except Friday and Saturday. 8-10p.

☆ MESIS Lecture Trip. The Multicultural and Ethnic Studies group is sponsoring a van ride to Vassar to hear Yale professor Leonard Thompson talk on "Racism, Ethnicity, and Nationalism in Southern Africa." Van leaves from Kline Parking lot, 7:30p.


☆ TUESDAY. NOVEMBER 16 ☆

☆ Art Lecture. Elizabeth Sussman, Curator of the Whitney Museum in New York, will speak about the Whitney's retrospective of the LA artist Mike Kelley. Olin 102, 4:30p.


☆ WEDNESDAY. NOVEMBER 17 ☆


☆ Table Francaise. Berets and Baguettes required. Kline Committee Room, 5:30p-7p.

☆ Chinese Table. Go and talk in Chinese in the Kline College Room, 6p. You will meet a lot of new friends there.


Don't forget to register in advance at the Dean of Students Office for the Presidential Forum at Botstein's house this Saturday, noon-2p. The topic is "National Service." A light lunch will be served.

Weekend Transportation

FRIDAY: Rhinecliff: Leave at 4:20p for the 4:31p train; leave at 5:50p for the 6:19p train; leave at 7:00p for the 7:19p train.

Poughkeepsie: Leave at 5:20p for the 6:19p train; leave at 7:45p for the 8:35p train; leave at 10p for the 10:45p train.


Hudson Valley Mall: Leave at 8:30p, return at 10p.

SUNDAY: Church: Leave at 9a, return at 1:30p for St. John's (Barrington) and St. Christopher's (Red Hook).