Bard’s drug policy: A matter of personal responsibility
by Beth Hollander and Jane Crichton

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

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

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

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

For women only: Reliable birth control options for female students
by Elizabeth Pomerey Champ

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

For female students, the choices for highly effective, safe methods of birth control have narrowed in the last few years with the removal of the IUD from the market. Many students, especially freshmen, sophomores, and students in steady relationships, tend to go on birth control pills. With a 99% effectiveness rate (when taken correctly), the pill has several advantages: it almost eliminates the fear of pregnancy and adds the ability to be as spontaneous as one would like, as many times as one would like, wherever one would like. The Health Center most often prescribes Ortho-Novum products, which are also used by Planned Parenthood. The pill costs approximately $6 a month, but is cheaper at Planned Parenthood in Red Hook (as low as $6 a month).

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

Food Co-op ransacked
by Janos Van Driesche

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

Although the person or persons responsible have not yet been identified, Art Oney, Director of Campus Security and Safety, said that the room was opened at the request of Whitney Blake, one of the heads of the Entertainment Committee. The new co-op office, which was used until recently for a variety of purposes, including a changing room for visiting bands, a storage area for recyclable garbage, and a space for work on senior projects, was opened early in the evening for the two bands from Boston that played at the party. It was open from then until 3:30 p.m. on Sunday, when Jaya Wittenberg, the head of the co-op, arrived to distribute orders.

The room was totally destroyed when I got there. There were broken beer bottles all over the room, and almost everything was gone," said Wittenberg. Only a few bags of chips, a bottle of juice, and some brie were eaten in the office, according to Wittenberg. The rest of the food was taken away. They even took all of the toast, said Wittenberg. According to Oney, Security was not notified about the change in status of the room. "As far as we know, the Entertainment Committee still had access to the room, so when they asked us to open the room, we did. But when someone asks to have a room opened, it is that person’s responsibility to tell Security when they leave," Oney says. He has been in contact with Brad Rodd and Whitney Blake, the chairs of the Entertainment Committee, to determine who is responsible for Saturday night’s events.

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The best newspaper in Annandale.
Power shortage threatens Bard

by Jason Van Driesche

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

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

Beware AIDS Buzzwords:
They Misinform, Insult

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


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

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

General population: Artificially divides the American people into those who have the disease and those who do not. Everyone who has AIDS on campus, turning off all non-essential lights and appliances. The Computer Center closed early so as to avoid the possibility of a loss of data due to a power failure.

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

Asbestos on campus

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

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

Asbestos on campus

by Edward Eigerman

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

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

He also pointed out that, while it would have been legal, and theoretically safe, for him to merely have the asbestos insulation resealed, he has had it all removed by various asbestos removal firms.

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

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

Claire Bloom to speak on campus

by Edward Eigerman

Actress Claire Bloom will present a dramatic reading on campus entitled, "The Feminist and the Novelist: The Voices of Virginia Woolf." The reading will take place in the Olin Auditorium, December 9 at 8:00 pm and will include selections from the essays "A Room of One's Own" and the novel Mrs. Dalloway. Bloom was born in London and made her first appearance was with the Oxford repertory company at the age of 16 and has been working steadily in the theater and film ever since. She has been seen in the film "The Doll's House," "Richard III," "The Spy Who Came In From the Cold," and "The Cold and the Bride." Bloom is currently visiting professor in theater at Hunter College in New York City. Those interested in seeing the talk should call 758-7425 for more information.

Bard launches mentor program

by Edward Eigerman

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

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

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

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

Cover Story:
Home At Last

Watch Max and Dan drink themselves sick! Kline Coffee Shop, Friday night, 9:00 at door. All proceeds donated to the Salvation Army.
Features

Beth Frumkin: New face on campus

by Andrea Steen

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

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

Before coming to Bard, Frumkin had been employed in a counseling capacity at Grinnell College in Iowa, as Director of Residence Life at Bradford College in Massachusetts. She learned of the position at Bard through an advertisement in the Chronicle of Higher Education. The position interested her as she viewed it as a combination of her counseling duties at Grinnell and her work at Bradford, but without the administrative duties involved in coordinating student housing.

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

Having been at Bard for only a few weeks, Frumkin is still attempting to meet connections with the student body. Thus far, she has been meeting with students who represent particular groups on campus, such as the counselor, members of the Alcohol Task Force, and the Activities Committee. Eventually, she hopes to form a committee of students, faculty, and staff in order to be able to be more responsive to the needs of the campus. As Frumkin explained, "Each college campus is different as far as what activities will float."

Thus far, she has made no concrete decisions regarding her plans as Bard's new assistant dean. In general, she describes her duties as involving collection of survey information, promoting student wellness, student and staff training, and programming of alcohol-free activities. "I hope that the job is one that really is responsive to student need. I really want the student groups as well as individual students to help me shape the position," she explained.

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

Currently, Frumkin has three goals in mind. Firstly, she wishes to become more visible on campus. She encourages anyone who sees her to stop her and introduce herself. She welcomes any concerns, questions or comments. Secondly, she wishes to establish a "resource base" through the work of a committee. Regarding this goal, she refers to the Resource Center, which she helped to run at Grinnell College. It encompassed a student study center and library which housed books and articles on a variety of topics including racism, feminism, gay and lesbian issues, drug and alcohol education, and freedom of speech.

Frukmk explained, "The college library has wonderful academic books but nothing which really addresses serious lifestyle choices. We [at the Resource Center] tried to fill that gap." She also explained that the Grinnell Resource Center was a large-scale operation with large funding. The grant that Bard has received will not permit such a great endeavor, but may be used as a stepping-off point.

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

Freshman Seminar planned to expand

by Tom Hickerson

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

"All levels have agreed that there should be a change," said Prof. William Mullens. Starting next fall, Freshman Seminar will no longer concentrate its focus upon 3th-century Greece, instead, from two to seven different cultures will be studied. These may include Chinese, Indian, Israeli, Meso-American and African cultures as well as Greek culture.

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

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

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

The idea of broadening the studies of Freshman Seminar originated from Carl Jaaper's text "The Assyrian Age of History," which proposes that between the 8th and 2nd century B.C., a decisive change took place in different cultures. The goal is to cover a number of the cultures that underwent change. "It's almost impossible to fulfill this goal in a two semester course," said Mullens. However, in a place where all the students have individual wants, where all things cannot be in common, we must, at least, all agree to have a background in common, a background of all the knowledge of different works presented in Freshman Seminar," he hopes that the addition of the "Q-course" will ease the pressures placed upon the expanding Freshman Seminar to impart a common background to all students.

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Ozone in our zone

by Lee Anania

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

Ozone is a pale blue, pungent odor formed by 3 oxygen atoms (O3). It does not occur naturally on the earth’s surface except in some high-altitude areas. Ozone, however, can be synthesized in laboratories and used in some parts of Europe to purify drinking water. It’s most important function, however, occurs 23-30 kilometers above our world.

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

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

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

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

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

Meal exchange problems addressed

by Amy Schist

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

Under the plan, students can use their meal cards in the coffee shop instead of Kline for breakfast, lunch, or dinner. The spending limits are, respectively, $1.80, $2.40, and $3.70. The system can only be used during dining hours, but Huskie is experimentally expanding the hours, which went into effect after Thanksgiving. This will appeal to a number of students who would like to use the meal exchange in the event that they miss a meal.

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

He is making changes in hopes of solving this problem. One extra worker per meal has been added, as has a heat lamp, which will make available hamburgers and fish and chicken sandwiches without the wait. Huskie feels that this in particular will keep the line moving.

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

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

Although most of the campus smokers, the few who don’t find the hazy atmosphere of the Coffee Shop unbearable. Others refuse to be served on the bottom floor, the Coffee Shop uses.

The attitude of the employees turns somewhat off. If, "When it gets really busy in there," one student said, "the [workers] start getting rude."

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

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Classifieds

Dharma center offers opportunity for study

by Meadow Goldman

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

The Dharma Center (Dharma means way to enlightenment in Sanskrit, incidentally) began around 1983 and is an extension of a larger center located in Wappingers Falls. It began when a college student, who is a member, invited the center’s Lama, Lama Norziha, to speak at the college. After seeing that there was enough interest, a Dharma practice group was established. The group is led by other Lama Norziha or a Nun from the main center, Ani Dechi Palmo. Lama Norziha came to the U.S. in 1978 from Tibet, where he received his training — to teach Tibetan Buddhism. The root Lama whose doctrines he teaches is Lama Kulu Rinpoche. The group practices a division of Buddhism called Chentong. Chentong focuses on compassion, specifically the compassion, wealth and wisdom found when one achieves the ability to empty one’s self. As Delchi Palmo puts it “Chentong is a rosisthetic religion of compassion.” This ability of “emptying” the mind and soul is a basic tenet of Buddhism and can be achieved through learning how to examine the nature of one’s mind. The members of the group strive for these ideals through chanting, study, and discussion of the doctrines of Kulu Rinpoche, as well as through meditation. Meetings, which include the chanting and meditation, are at Wednesdays, at 6:30 and last until about 8:00. Afterwards, there is a question and discussion session. The Dharma Center is located on Annandale Road. It is continued on page 5.

Attention: Earn money reading books! $32.00/year income potential. Details. (1) 602-838-3605 Ext. B3, 1862.

AIDS: The Plague of Our Generation

by Sarah Chenven

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

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

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

Who gets AIDS? Many people believe that unless they practice "High Risk Behavior," they will never be affected by AIDS. AIDS is not discriminatory. The current statistics on those who have, and have died from AIDS as such: 70-75 percent of people with AIDS are homosexual or bisexual men. 17 percent are intravenous drug users. 3 percent of people with AIDS acquired the disease through blood or organ transplants. 4 percent are children whose mothers were infected with the HIV virus during pregnancy or breast feeding. How can you tell if you have AIDS?

The symptoms of AIDS are similar to those of other diseases. Anyone who is presently suffering from the following symptoms, however, should see a physician and get tested for AIDS. Symptoms of AIDS are:
1) Fatigue for no obvious reason
2) Persistent chills, fevers, or night sweats
3) Feeling of more than ten pounds which cannot be explained
4) Lymph node enlargement in the neck, groin, or armpits
5) A recurring sore throat and a whitish coating on the tongue or throat (thrush)
6) Shortness of breath
7) Brushing easily
8) Purple patches or discoloration growths on skin
9) Unexplained bleeding from any part of the body.

What can be done to prevent AIDS?

Researchers have developed certain drugs that may suppress or delay the growth of the HIV virus in a person's system, there is presently no cure for AIDS. However, preventive measures which might hinder the HIV virus from entering a person's body include the following:
1) Abstention from sex
2) Not using or sharing contaminated needles for any reason
3) Using a latex condom during sexual intercourse
4) Maintaining a monogamous relationship, and avoiding a lifestyle of casual sex. 5) Avoiding toothbrushes, or any item that might be contaminated with blood

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

The Rise and Fall of Bard's Condom Machines

by Sarah Chenven

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

The machines, says Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, were installed "in [the] most convenient spots in residence halls." Condom machines can be found in the laundry rooms of many dorms. The AIDS Committee was (and is) responsible not only for bringing the machines to campus, but also for maintaining their upkeep. In a phone interview Thursday, Bruce Chilton (school chaplain and head of the AIDS Committee at the time of its inception) stated that through the condom machines were "put in for availability and anonymity," the committee's "provision of condoms is part of an overall effort of education about AIDS" for the Bard community as a whole.

The school obtained the condom machines from Check Yourself, a non-profit organization committed to the prevention of AIDS. The Check Yourself organization had access to U.S. made condoms lubricated with Novosynol-9: Such lubrication helps to work against the HIV virus and other sexually transmitted diseases, as well as being spermicidal. Check Yourself was able to provide Bard with Novosynol-9 condoms during a nationwide shortage of the condoms caused by increased consumer demand. Check Yourself agreed to install and maintain the machines at Bard for free, and to return a good portion of profits made from condom sales to the college. According to Chilton, a committee of students was formed to replenish condoms and to collect money from the machines. Around 15 machines were installed at Bard in the Spring of 1988. Bard, says Chilton, has a "higher proportion of condom machines per person and space than any other college I am aware of."

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

One reason is that the Check Yourself foundation collapsed and was unable to provide the college with condoms or to maintain the machines, which were weakly made to begin with. The other reason may be due to lack of efficiency on the part of those responsible for replenishing the condoms in the machines while Bard still retained their contract. Frustrated, or merely interested and inconsiderate students have vandalized in some way, every condom machine on campus. To many in the Bard community this is seen as disappointing and stupid. One student commented, "If Bard wishes to be sexually active, Bard needs to grow up." This seems to be a widespread view at the college. While Chilton said he was "disheartened" at the "extent of the vandalism," he, in the words of "another student suggest that "college is supposed to make students responsible - people need to wake up to the reality of adulthood."

What is in the future for the distribution of condoms at Bard? Several propositions have been made. One suggestion is giving boxes of condoms to the PCs to hand out upon request. This idea has received some criticism however. One student said assuredly, "I think if you cut down on the number of machines, people aren't going to use them (condoms). They're not going to go to a P.C. Another student claimed "it's not any of their [P.C.'s] business and they shouldn't be in control of it." Though it is possible for less modest people to get condoms from their P.C.s, the bookstore, and the health services, a majority of the students interviewed for this article stated that they would prefer to use a condom machine for the sake of privacy.

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

Dharma center

continued from page 4

the yellow house on the triangle formed by the road as one leaves campus headed toward Montgomery Place. Some books suggested by Dashi are available on Tibetan Buddhism and Chogyam are Dharma that Illuminates Imperially like the Sun and the Moon and The Writings of Katu Rinpoche, both by Kalu Rinpoche. Also, there is Spiritual Materialism and Meditation in Action by Chogyam Trungpa Rinpoche. All books are available through the Bard Bookstore.

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

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

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

Concerning John Courage, we were at odds. Jody (Jody) found the ale quite nippy, and overpriced ($5.99 a six-pack).
The ale has a very heavy, bitter taste that left a disagreeable flat in my mouth. (Chris) found John Courage’s aftertaste to be not as offensive as he does. It did not linger too long and I found the overall taste to be satisfactory, although not great.

Guinness Gold: Jody: 7/1/2
Chris: 5
John Courage: Jody: 3
Chris: 5/1/2

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

P.S. We dare you to try the Courage beer for the holidays. Flat! There’s a advertising sign to sell off the bad beer from the bottom of the barrel.

Velcro Dildo Speaks Out

by Robin Cook

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

In the Kline Commons lounge, the band reminisced about their history. Shain and singer Roy (who chooses to remain evasive about his surname) recalled their first gig: “It was in the Tewks bathroom, wasn’t it?” asks Roy.

“Yeah, probably... it was all acoustic,” answers Shain.

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

Guitarist Stephen Solins responds by shaking his head.

We came up with “Velcro,” we wanted it to mesh,” Shain explains, and according to the band, Roy’s mother thought of the “Dildo” part.

So Steely Dan doesn’t come into the picture?

“Don’t know if their moms are the same ones as Roy’s mom,” Shain replies. In their long (by Bard band standards) existence, Velcro Dildo has seen its fair share of band members come and go. Their original guitarist remained for a year, to be replaced by Solins who says of his predecessor, “He got the metal voice.”

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

“We liked his big guitar playing,” answers Shain.

“Be specific, his big guitar,” adds Roy.

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

“We’re really just doing them a favor,” she says.

The band took time to address the controversy involving Shain and another Band band, Liquid Wrench, who alleged in the November 17 issue of the Observer that Velcro Dildo was planning a “rumble.”

“They started all this controversy! We’re challenging them to Westheimeria V,” Shain says.

“In a couple of years, we might let ‘em open for us again,” Solins adds. Continuing, the guitarist says, “They can outdrink us, but we’re not impressed.”

“But we can watch more TV than they can,” answers Roy.

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

“I love it. I love sharing Dave,” Soosman says.

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

“I refused,” insists Roy.

The band also played Vassar College several weeks ago. “Our show’s played on Vassar radio!” Shain boasts.

“They have Bard students, but they love us,” says Solins.

“I’ve seen girls give Velcro Dildo their numbers.” Soosman adds.

The band even played at Dartmouth last summer.

Candlelight, music to figure in Christmas chapel service

There will be a Christmas Candlelight Service this Sunday, December 16th at 6:30 p.m. in the Chapel. The program includes music by J.S. Bach, Christmas Carols and Renaissance music. Performers include: Jenny Diamond, mezzo-soprano; Carol Nachtman, soprano; Kelly Eldridge, celso; Jerrry Sore, flugelhorn; Christopher Gillett, flutist; Grayce Nicholson, organist; Catherine Kleczkowski, flautist.

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Looking back to the "Good old days"

by Amy Sechrist

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

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

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

16 Years Ago Today — In 1971 the Bard Co-op published their prices in the paper. Some examples:

- 1 pound raisins 48c
- 1 pound carrots 20c
- 1 pound brown rice 22c
- 1 pound whole wheat flour 19c
- 1 pound granola 60c

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

14 Years Ago Today — In 1975, Bard welcomed 28-year-old president-elect Leon Botstein to its campus. Botstein was met by a parade of students in costume in front of Stone Row, Bard's marching football band, "Sugaito's Swingin'" (4 saxophones, 3 melodicas, and the Mormon Tabernacle Choir) marched their new president to the old gym to a roaring version of "Glory, Glory, Hallelujah.

After addressing the students and faculty, Botstein dined in the Commons and answered student questions.

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

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This is the Sports Page, Kind Of

by Judy Appel

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

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

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

“One last time, your faithful Observer staff brings you, with copious amounts of pride, THE WEEKLY CROSSWORD PUZZLE!!! You never had it so good.”

The Weekly Crossword Puzzle

ACROSS
1. Year
2. Starship with four wings
4. Lift with wide sills
5. Story
12. Shoulder
14. Axe
16. Inserted above
18. Small
24. Chair
25. Child around
27. Ocean
29. Arrow,射
31. Pipe upon words
32. Pilot
33. Palate
34. Under
35. Deputy
36. Benign
41. Apartment for multitude
42. River Island

DOWN
1. Symbol for barium
2. Pressure
3. Hand-made tree
4. Strip of latex
5. Female cat
7. Swine potato
12. Tin
16. Spanish and German
18. Gold medal
21. Certain golf
22. Certain golf
24. Male
25. Bike
26. Broad of chopsticks
27. Kneads of dough
28. Skid mark
29. Hotel sign
31. Hot dog
32. Shovel
34. Shoe
35. Bread
36. Megabyte
37. Water shoe
38. Stall or horse
39. Stop of Ark
40. Gals
41. Petition
42. Pith
43. Pleasure
44. Consoling

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Saturday 12/9
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1:00 HOME

Sunday 12/10
Men’s Basketball at Yeshiva
6:00 AWAY

This Week in Sports

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

Sports shortcomings at Bard

by Jason Van Driencze

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

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

But even with all these improvements, Bard still has a long way to go. The college has no facilities whatsoever for track and field, which is a serious deficiency. An outdoor rubberized track would be relatively inexpensive (compared to the cost of Stevenson), and it would serve a variety of purposes: a practice track for the cross-country team in the fall, a conditioning area for almost any of the intercollegiate teams, and most importantly, a first-class competing surface for the (as of yet nonexistent) Bard track team.

An area for field events would be even less expensive. Besides the grading of the land, the only construction that would need to be done would be to lay rubberized runways and pits for jumping events and set up areas for javelin, discus, and shot put. Equipment of sufficient quality and quantity to properly outfit the track team would not be cheap, but it would not cost any more than the equipment bought for Stevenson (consider the cost of the Nautilus equipment alone).

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

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

Of course, all these improvements will require money. While they will not cost nearly as much as Stevenson, it will probably be necessary to find a rich alumnus who wants to support sports at Bard. There must be one out there.
Drugs
continued from page 1
Public Safety and Security. If a
security officer encounters
drug use or evidence of drug
use in a public situation, the
officer has the option to file
an incident report. Incident
reports are filed with Oney and
Dean of Students Susan Nel-
son simultaneously, and at
their weekly meetings, Oney
and Nelson decide whether or
to not to take action on the re-
port.
If Oney and Nelson decide
to take action, they have a varie-
ty of options. According to the
Student Handbook (page 67):
Violations of the spirit and
tenets of this drug policy will be
responded to by discipli-
ary action after the college
has been notified through nor-
mal communicative channels.
Within the life of the com-
munity, penalties for violation
may include warnings, proba-
tion, suspension, and expul-
sion.
According to Oney, the only
time internal action is taken
over by the local police is
when off-campus dealers
come on campus. "Due to
the threats of violence and
arm involvement, in this case,
we do call in the local police.
Bard does not supply the po-
lce with the names of stu-
dents using drugs, although
Bard does "share much infor-
mation," Oney said that it is
more common for the police
to tell Bard when dealers are
selling off campus. When this
occurs, Bard has the option of
letting the State Police step in
or of enforcing its policies on
its own.
Bard cannot stop the place-
ment of undercover opera-
tives, and does not have to be
notified when such an agent is
on campus. As to rumors of
"real police" on campus, Oney
claims that the higher visibility
of local and state police is in
response to both the rash of
vandalism and the recent activ-
tives of the Ku Klux Klan in
the local area. The police
are not at Bard in connection
with campus social activities,
according to Oney, they "sim-
ply stop in at the security of-
lice to chat."
In addition, Bard has a securi-
ty officer who is also a local
deputy sheriff, and while his
duties do not overlap, he has
"worn pants with a stripe on
them with a Bard Security uni-
form."
With a little restraint and
caution, though, students can
safely do whatever their judg-
ment tells them is acceptable.
They just have to remember
that they are responsible for their
own actions - and for the conse-
quences of their actions.

Co-op
troubles
continued from page 1
Blake believes that the situ-
ation was the result of a "lack
of communication between
the administration and Securi-
ty. I can't babysit the bands,
but I'm really sorry about what
happened." As far as Blake
knows, the Entertainment
Committee still had free access
to the room. Reed refused to
comment on the situation.
"Ultimately, the Entertain-
ment Committee will probably
end up paying for the dam-
ages, since they asked to
have the room opened," said
Oney. However, that de-
cision will be made by the
Dean of Students office.
In the meantime, stu-
dents who ordered items
through the coop will have
to wait for a refund. "It's
really sad that people would
do this to the coop," said
Wittenberg. "B&G has
been really good, though. I
want to thank them for clean-
ing everything up so
quickly without my asking them."

The Pill and such
continued from page 1
keenly be open to a very
real risk for a number of
STD's which are circulating
on many campuses, including
Bard.
Other drawbacks to the Pill in-
clude a greater risk for smok-
ers of vascular constriction
and stroke, and a variety of
possible side effects for non-
smokers, ranging from head-
aches to depression to slight
weight gain. But the only real
complaint Davis has heard at
the Health Center is mid-
cyclical spotting (blooding) that
can occur when a pill is
missed or taken even a few
hours later than usual.
Yet the responsibility of taking
a pill every day when sexual
activity may be once a week,
or less often, influences many
women to choose the dia-
phragm, which is another op-
tion open to women today.
The diaphragm, when used
correctly (with a contraceptive
foam or jelly) is 96-98% effec-
tive for birth control, and can
also protect against some
STD's. It requires an internal
exam as well, and has an ini-
tial cost of $10-$15 for the dia-
phragm itself, which can be
purchased at the Health Cen-
ter. The Center generally uses
the arching-spring diaphragm,
but will arrange for any other
kind to be procured through
Red Hook Pharmacy.
There is an increased risk for
Toxic Shock Syndrome (TSS)
and urinary tract infections
with the diaphragm, but "un-
less you leave it in for a week-
end, risks of TSS just aren't
very large" says Davis.
What the diaphragm does
require is "a mature, relaxed
attitude about your own body,
a spirit of communication with
your partner, and a sense of
humor. I mean, inserting the
diaphragm shouldn't be some-
thing done in the bathroom,
by yourself. It can be a
very enjoyable part of
foreplay. Men are bene-
fiting from the use of the
diaphragm, let them do
their part. The dia-
phragm can be inserted
up to six hours in ad-
vance, and must be left in
at least six hours af-
terward to ensure effec-
tiveness. Used correctly,
the male partner should not
be able to feel the diaphragm
being used."
Another drawback to the dia-
phragm is the somewhat
medical taste of the spermici-
dal jelly used with it, which can
prove slightly hampering to
aspects of oral sex. One male
Bard student said, "It tastes
like insecticide. It is inse-
cide. It tastes like Raid mixed
with toothpaste." However, un-
less jelly greatly lowers the
reliability of this method.
What Davis tries to do
when students come to the
Health Center for birth control
is "lay out the advantages and
disadvantages of each meth-
od, and let the student come
to their own decision. I can't
make those choices for a stu-
dent." A rare sight at the
health center is a male stu-
dent coming in with a female
partner, to decide on a meth-

Well You Get It
Welcome to College

Wittenberg said. "B&G has
been really great, though. I
want to thank them for clean-
ing everything up so
quickly without my asking them."
Ah, the last issue of the semester. Well, no one thought we could do it, including us at some points. A weekly newspaper at Bard! Unheard of. Absurd.

Well, many headaches, sleepless nights, and mistakes later, we've done it. Despite many complaints, or perhaps because of them, we feel we've done a pretty good job. We've been weekly, we've annoyed many people, we've accomplished our goals. Smoking policy at film showings changed after the long and arduous discussion in our pages. Our articles are often referred to during forum meetings and in private interviews. All right, so our goals weren't to annoy many people. We apologize. We are doing the best we can.

But we want to do even better. There is always room for improvement. If you are one of the ones who complained, put your money where your mouth is next semester and help us. Even if you didn't complain, you are welcome on the staff. We assume Bard students can write. Our only concern is that you fight to work and your responsibility to deadlines.

We plan to be more aggressive and thorough in our news coverage next semester, and we are going to need help. If interested in news reporting or helping to start a guide to courses taught at Bard that compiles student opinion, contact News Editor Ed Eigerman.

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

Gaining involved in the paper is a lot of fun (and can't hurt your resume). We aren't by any means desperate for newcomers. The present staff works hard and is quite talented. But as the old saying goes, the more, the merrier. The more people we have working available, the final burden of individual sexual practices must rest on the individual themselves. In the last analysis, it is they alone who are responsible for procuring condoms and other protection demanded by their decisions. Seriously.

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

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

Thanks from AIDS Committee

To the Editor:
On behalf of the AIDS Committee, I would like to thank the many members of the Bard community who recently contributed money for the care of people with AIDS in the Hudson Valley.

I thank also those of you who contributed your time and effort for the benefit of the community, the AIDS Hotline.

I also thank you for your support and encouragement. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jean Churchill

Condom policy editorial riddled with inaccuracies

To the Editor:
The editorial of December last, "Change is needed in the Bard condom policy," is so riddled with inaccuracies and misconceptions that one hardly knows where to begin. Furthering your childish comments on the color of the recently installed machines, you claim that they were neither well-built nor well-maintained. In fact, the machines were rather standard and even sturdier than most.

Maintenance was, as you propose it ought to be, the responsibility of a private vending machine company. However, they became understandably reluctant to continue expending money on maintenance after 14 out of 16 machines were vandalized and smashed within four months of their installation.

I visited a dorm at the end of last semester where one student was considered something of a hero for having broken into, and removed all the condoms from, two machines. By emptying the machines this student, and others like him, are not just making things difficult, they are endangering the health and personal safety of their fellow students. And yet these same students justified him! In addition, many have broken into machines to steal the accumulated change in them. This despite the vendor's eschewing a large share of his profit, and its donation instead to AIDS research. As is clearly labeled on the machine, it is hard to understand how decreasing the number and accessibility of the machines, as you propose, will solve such problems.

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

Whether or not such a policy is implemented, I feel I must respond to your comments about peer counselors. If someone receives a condom from a peer counselor they DO NOT need to worry that "the P.C. might gossip." Peer counselors have an "understanding of confidentiality" when they deal in such ways with their fellow residents. It would be unethical of them to speak such confidences without the approval of the resident. Your implication that they would, despite all evidence to the contrary, is gratuitous and insulting. There are reasons of modesty and availability for questioning the effectiveness of peer counselor integrity. You are also greatly misinformed in your belief that peer counselors must front the money for the condoms they have available. In fact, these condoms are provided to the P.C.'s without charge. They are then asked to collect money if they can to help defray the AIDS committee's costs, but it is left to their judgment. It might be noted that the administration is covering any financial loss this incurs, and not the P.C. This is far preferable to your suggestion that it be taken out of the Convocation Fund (perhaps at the expense of the Observer budget). As a member of the Budget Planning Committee, I must tell you that offering to use student funds for something the administration already pays for is not our policy.

How condoms can be seen as a legitimate athletic Department expense is quite beyond me. As is how such an expense could be absorbed by a budget which is already so strained that a prohibitive 25 cent fee must be charged for the use of towels.

You have achieved the dubious distinction of being a student-run newspaper which has proposed a condom policy far less ambitious than the one already adopted by the administration. In doing so, you have done a disservice to yourself, and to the entire student body. You have also missed the more salient point. While the College should, and does, endeavor to encourage responsible behavior and make condoms readily available, the final burden of individual sexual practices must rest on the individual themselves. In the last analysis, it is they alone who are responsible for procuring condoms and other protection demanded by their decisions. Seriously.

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

In the pursuit of correct references

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

David Bole President, New Yorkers for American Freedom About AIDS?

For referral or assistance, call the N.Y.S. Health Department's AIDS Hotline 1-800-462-1884

TOLL-FREE & CONFIDENTIAL
Speaking of rights, please don't kill me with your smoke

To the Editor:

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

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

Yes, it is your right to smoke, as long as you’re willing to admit that doing so makes you a fucking pig. I’m not talking about what it does to you, but to others around you. I myself am addicted to caffeine, and drink enough of it a day to kill any number of large mammals, but while I admit I’m no saint, I’m not a moron, either. I can’t think of the way I eat blood pressure, and I have low blood pressure. Drinking a lot of coffee will not do my heart any harm, but I have to get used to it. Smoke fingers and damages, and is no less offensive than walking up to someone and farting in their face. If non-smokers tried this on smokers as a policy, maybe they would get an idea of how disgusting it really is.

When I say smoking brands you as an idiot, I mean it. Our parents and older folk smoked simply because they didn’t know any better at the time, but doing it now, with all the knowledge that smoking kills a thousand people a day — and not all of them smokers — is a whole nother ballgame. Therefore you will simply not be treated as a mature adult. A woman or man who spoils off about abhorrence of rights or environmental concerns — two very important issues as we head into the next decade — while dangleing a cigarette from between two fingers is someone I am not going to take too seriously at all.

Moreover, I defy any person reading this, smokers or non — but especially smokers, to come up with a decent, logical argument supporting cigarette smoking, that’s not as tattered as Mr. Yendlak’s. As far as I’m concerned, NONE of you have got a logical leg to stand on when it comes to justify smoking, not even used to protect my lungs, and not even used to protect my lungs.

I am now going to get really preachy on ya, and tell you a story that may explain why I am so adamant about this topic — and not others. I remember being on a road trip with my family when I was about twelve years old; My older brother and sister were in the back seat with me, and my father and little brother were in the front seat, with my mom driving. My father smoked two packs of Lucky Strikes a day, and at this time he had just lit up. He then discovered that the car’s ashtray was missing. He looked into the back and sure enough, my older brother Jim had the ashtray in his hands. My father asked for the ashtray for what seemed like a week, his patience wearing thinner and thinner as my older brother refused to give it to him. Finally, he turned and lunged for him, and Jim threw the ashtray into my lap. I was sitting directly behind my dad, and no matter how he tried to turn, he could not reach me. However, knowing how much more spineless I was compared to Jim, Dad said, politely and sternly, “Cordon, give me the ashtray.” I looked at him, then my older brother, then back at him, weighing in my mind who I was more afraid of at the time. Then Jim turned to me and stated, “Cordon, if you want to see him dead, give him that ashtray.”

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

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

Gordon Noble

What’s your bitsche?

by Max Guazzoni

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

“Those buttheads run cross country, and trashed the woods with all their colorful sayings (Go Bard!) on wooden footbridges, and left in their trail as well, Bard athletic calendar, which is often mistaken to be used to direct traffic. Since there is dissenting opinion as to whether the Bard Athletic Institution of Bard College should promote athletics in the first place, if these fuckers would just leave, go to Penn State or something...we could get a lot more work done.”

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

I have seen what has happened. Living, young saplings have been up-rooted, blindly covered with a coat of heavy, latex spray paint. They won’t survive, they’ll suffocate for months. They’ll try, and try, until they don’t have enough of the right chemicals for their bodies to pump through their veins. They’ll die standing and remain there for hundreds of years, in the exact same spot marking your stupid fucking trail. Once perfect Hudson Valley granite has now been decorated for everyone’s entertainment, with arrows, pointing directions in the woods.

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

Neil concludes: “This fucking nonsense is making the already overwhelming task of recycling that the rest of the community is trying to adopt, all the more difficult.”

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

Don’t forget to turn in your course evaluation sheets to Stuart’s office before the end of the semester.
Registrar's Office:  
Foreign Students leaving the U.S. for the Winter Intercession are reminded that they will need an I-20 to reenter. Please request your I-20 before you leave and give at least TWO DAYS notice so that we can prepare it.

Music & Carol Service:  
There will be a service of music, carols and reading in the chapel on Sunday, December 10 at 6:30 PM. Performers will include Jennifer Diamond, Catherine Kiegcezevski, Carol Nackenoff, Gracey Nichollem, Jeremy Soule, and Holly Yarbrough.

Public Relations Department:  
*****A Final Reminder*****  
The public relations office will publish 12,000 copies of a spring 1989 "Calendar of Events at Bard College" to be distributed throughout the college’s mailing lists and at Hudson Valley tourists sites. The publication date is mid-January, and the submission deadline is Friday, December 15. Contact Jamie Monagan in Ludlow 310 for more information or to list an event.

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

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

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

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**Calendar of Events**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Saturday 9</th>
<th>Sunday 10</th>
<th>Monday 11</th>
<th>Tuesday 12</th>
<th>Wednesday 13</th>
<th>Thursday 14</th>
<th>Friday 15</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td>5:30 PM</td>
<td>6:00-6:30 PM</td>
<td>12:15-1:15 PM</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 PM</td>
<td>12:15-1:15 PM</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trips to Rhinebeck and Red Hook</td>
<td>Bard Observer-Sections</td>
<td>Bard Observer-News Section</td>
<td>China Table</td>
<td>Dr. Seuss Club</td>
<td>French Table</td>
<td>The Rabbit's Table</td>
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<tr>
<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td>7:00-10:30 PM</td>
<td>College Room</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>Committee Room</td>
<td>Committee Room</td>
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<tr>
<td>Torah Study Group</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>Spanish Table</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
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<tr>
<td>Committee Room</td>
<td>BLAG meeting</td>
<td>President's Room</td>
<td>5:00-6:00 PM</td>
<td>Environmental Club</td>
<td>5:30-7:00 PM</td>
<td>Committee Room</td>
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<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>Aspinwall 300</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>Committee Room</td>
<td>Committee Room</td>
<td>L.A.S.O. Committee Room</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
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<td>5:45 PM</td>
<td>8:30 PM</td>
<td>9:00-9:30 PM</td>
<td>5:00:6:00 PM</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 PM</td>
<td>12:30 PM</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hudson Valley Mall Trip</td>
<td>Bard Observer Art Section</td>
<td>Movie in Student Center</td>
<td>E.P.C.</td>
<td>Altamont-ACOA</td>
<td>Amex-eye International</td>
<td>4:00-9:30 PM</td>
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<td>6:30 PM</td>
<td>Coffee Shop</td>
<td>FIRST SHOW IS NON-SMOKING</td>
<td>Committee Room</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>College Room</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecumenical Services Chapel</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>9:30 PM</td>
<td>Learning Differences</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
<td>Van to Rhinecliff Station</td>
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<td>6:00-6:30 PM</td>
<td>Support Group</td>
<td>Alcott Commons</td>
<td>7:30-9:00 PM</td>
<td>6:30 PM</td>
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<td>Admissions Office</td>
<td>Aspinwall 3rd floor</td>
<td>Aspinwall 3rd floor</td>
<td>Van to Fougkeepsie Station</td>
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<td>7:30-9:00 PM</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Aspinwall 3rd floor</td>
<td>7.36 Train</td>
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</tbody>
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Drama & Dance Department:  
**Top Girls**  
On October 9 through 12 at 8:00 PM the Bard Theater of Drama and Dance will present **Top Girls**, directed by Deborah Nitzberg. A matinee will be held on December 10 at 5:00 PM. Avery Arts Center.

Community Acknowledgements:  
To: The residents of the "Rhinecliff House" for carrying on the tradition of hosting fellow students for Thanksgiving dinner.  
To: Dick Griffiths, Chuck Simmons, Shelley Morgan and the students of the Environmental Club for their work in establishing on-campus recycling.  
To: Susan Van Kleeck and her staff for reissuing and publishing the Student Directory. Should you wish to suggest a Community Acknowledgement, please send names/situations to the Dean of Student's Office.

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

Friday & Sunday's Movies:  
Friday, December 8: **Matador**, directed by Pedro Almodavarr.  
Sunday, December 10: **Zabriskie Point** directed by Michelangelo Antonioni. Showings are at 7:00 PM and 9:30 PM in the Student Center. The 7:00 PM showings are non-smoking.

Deadline for the first issue of next semester (2/29) is Friday, January 26.