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Student assaulted at end of fall semester

by Jason Van Driesche

A female Bard student was assaulted while jogging behind the tennis courts at the end of last semester. According to a letter released to the community on January 26 by Dean of Students Shelley Morgan, the student “suffered contusions and considerable anxiety during the assault,” but was not raped or seriously injured.

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

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

Plastro stressed that the most valuable leads would come from students who may have seen someone fitting the above description in or around Cruger Village just prior to the time of the assault, as police have determined that the attacker entered the victim’s room just prior to the incident. “I need the cooperation and the confidence of the students,” he said. He hopes to develop leads based on information gathered from residents of Cruger Village during a meeting held on Wednesday, January 30.

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

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

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

Reading: A skill literacy volunteers can share

by Kristan Hutchison

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

Training sessions for the 15 new tutors began Monday. The tutors received English as a Second Language training. February 9 they will begin Basic Reading training. This semester, 14 students will receive credit for literacy tutoring through one of the four related classes. Several of the 16 tutors from last semester have agreed to continue this semester as well, without credit.

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

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

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

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

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

War began on January 15, but conflict at Bard began earlier. See stories on the Gulf War and Bard’s response on pages 3, 4, 6, and 7.

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

As a result, we are not able to distribute the Observer through Campus Mail this week. Mail delivery will be back in operation next week. See related article on p. 2.
No rest for the tardy

Behind-schedule campus renovations and construction are almost done

by Jason Van Driesche

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

The computer center gets a facelift

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

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

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

This expansion was prompted by a grant from IBM awarded to the Institute for Writing and Thinking last fall. The grant will stock the first floor with 20 computer terminals, one networked laser printer, and other peripherals and software. According to Professor Ethan Block, though, the grant will probably be used to house the Director of the Quantitative Studies program once s/he is hired. Until that time, Professor Abe Gelbart will probably use the office on the one day he is on campus each week.

New names for New Crugers A, B, and C

Though three dorms have been built in Cruger Village since the summer of 1989, none of them were officially named as of the end of last semester. However, New Cruger A and B, the two built in the summer of ’89, already had firmly established identities. They were known by all and sundry as Chase and Fagen, named after two notorious Bard alumni. The larger New Cruger C, built in the summer of ’90, has been variously named SMOG House, Hagman House, and North/Keen North, commented that Oberholzer is “too hard to pronounce. Are they going to name another dorm Wierschemized, or something?”

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

Blue neon and more

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

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

Perhaps most significant, though, are the newly completed bathrooms, conveniently located right next to the dining area.
Demonstrations abound across the nation's campuses

by Tom Hickerson

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

Many rallies were organized before the winter break to oppose the building Gulf Crisis, but they were minimal. On average, only twenty or thirty students showed up. A September 5th rally at the University of Illinois-Champaign drew only 20 students. However, nearly 300 students were present at a rally on the University of California-Berkeley campus on August 30th.

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

Among those who helped form NNCAW is Bill Stant, a student pursuing his doctorate degree in political science at Loyola University and an active member of the U.S. Out of the Gulf Coalition there. The Coalition started at the beginning of the Fall semester, and had a positive impact almost immediately. Loyola students were the largest contingent at a September 20th rally in Chicago. Since then, Stant has attended the Radical Scholars Conference on November 20th and helped organize demonstrations on December 8 and January 15. During the January 15 demonstration, about five to six thousand people were in attendance. The number doubled between 5:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. as workers left their offices to join the marching students. "We saw large numbers of people coming out of buildings to join us," he said.

Susan Dywer, a student pursuing her doctorate in American studies at Northwestern University in Chicago, also became part of the NNCAW through her involvement with the Northwestern anti-war group Get U.S. Troops Out (GUSTO). GUSTO was formed on October 8th, and their membership of thirty students at the first meeting grew to 130 this spring. Weekly meetings are held, with educational speakers and a discussion of the current issues concerning the Gulf war. One issue that was, "What does it mean to support U.S. troops?" "Our main focus is education," Dywer said. At the beginning of the spring semester, GUSTO organized a rally on January 18th that 200 people attended the first day and over 600 people attended the second day. GUSTO also transported 60 Northwestern students and six buses of people altogether to the Washington D.C. march of January 26th.

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

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

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

Dywer commented on the coverage of the Washington march, "For the most part, demonstrations have been mostly ignored or the cameras have been at the end where the speakers are." But as small a coverage as the rallies and demonstrations are getting, the word is still getting out. "There is a real struggle for the hearts and minds of the American people," said Stant. "Our side is taking the principal side."

Stant also pointed out that opinion polls, which have recently favored the war, often exclude the poor, those continued on page 7.

Bard to host "town meeting" debate on war

by Jason Van Driessche

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

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

And major it is. The meeting will consist of three parts, each with a group of moderators. The first segment will run from 4:30 to 5:45, and will be moderated by James Chace, Joel Kovel, Mark Lyttle, Karen Greenberg, and possibly Richard Gordon. The meeting will then adjourn until 6:30 for dinner, after which it will reconvene with a student panel. Though the members of this panel had not yet been selected as of press time, Levine indicated that they would probably be students involved in organizing the panel discussions on the crisis in the Gulf that were held last semester.

The group will break at 8:00, and will reconvene at 9:30 for another faculty panel featuring Professors Sanib Barah, Carol Nackenoff, Otto Pianko, and Gemnady Shiladzev.

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

Resources for persons of all opinions

To write your policy makers:

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

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

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

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

For information on peace movements or conscientious objector status:

Daughters Peace and Justice Center
473-4212

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Box 271
Nyack, NY 10960
614-356-4601

National Interreligious Service Board for C.O.'s (NIBISCO)
Box 358
Mt. Vernon, VA 22121
(202) 453-4501

War Resisters League
59 Lafayette St.
New York, NY 10012
(212) 228-0450

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

College Anti-war Groups:
National Network of Campuses Against the War
P.O. Box 8740
Chicago, IL 60680-0740

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

Nancy Dacanay
Get U.S. Troops Out (GUSTO) Northwestern
(312) 274-0105

Nick DeCenya
Committee Against U.S. Intervention in the Middle East
University of Chicago
(312) 324-3514

For more information on supporting Kuwait:

Solidarity International for Kuwait
1612 K Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20006
(202) 224-4626

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

Meet at Fair Street Church, 209 Fair Street in uptown Kingston
Contact: Pam Wheelock 356-4747

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

Navy and on-board Marines
Any service person
Operation Desert Storm
PO Box 20966-0006

Army, Air Force and land-based Marines
Any Service Person
Operation Desert Storm
APO New York 96840-0006

The military asks that mail be limited to first-class mail and audio cassettes. If you wish to send mail to a specific military person, use the ship or unit address.

To enlist in a branch of armed services:

Air Force Recruiting Station
454-5985

Army Recruiting Station
452-0255

Marine Recruiting Station
452-1960

Navy Recruiting Station
454-1990

39 South Broadway
Red Hook, NY 12571
(914) 755-6232

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The Red Hook

9 Mill Street, Rhinebeck
876-27-49
Kuwaiti student flies fighter for country and family

by Kristian Hutchison

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

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

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

"I said, 'What's happened?'

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

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

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

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

-Karim, Kuwaiti student

Last call home

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

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

A change in flight plans

For two years Karim has been studying to be a pilot on American airfields. Originally he was going to work for Kuwait Airlines. Now he is going back to the Middle East to fly fighter planes for the Kuwait army.

"Already my friends, they left and they are heading to the Middle East. I also am heading very soon. I am just waiting to get the ticket from the embassy," said Karim. "People, they volunteer, between six and seven thousand. They are heading for the Saudi desert. Probably they came from America and they are training." Karim will join the Kuwaiti army on the border to Saudi Arabia. "I will go to Saudi Arabia, because you can't get in Kuwait. There are many forces there. I will try to get as close as I can to the border between Saudi Arabia and Kuwait," he said. His first wish is to go to the village where his family lives, three hours from the border, and see if they are alive.

Like all Kuwaiti men, Karim has been through military training. Two years of training are required to graduate from high school and another two and a half years of service are mandated after graduation. "They trained us how to use weapons, any kind of weapons, to protect my country," he said.

Raised for revenge

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

"This is my country, the country I was born in, and I have to protect my family because they are still inside Kuwait when there are 5,000 tanks fighting. They are trying to survive but there is no food, no medicine and no medical supplies, nothing. There is no choice. I have to go and fight, at least to get inside Kuwait to see my family."

The enemy is Israel

Though he will defend his country against Iraq, Karim feels that it is wrong for Arabs to be fighting Arabs.

"The enemy is not Iraq, Iraq is not Iran. Still my enemy is Israel. I know now that we have a bad leader with Saddam Hussein, but the enemy is still Israel," he said. "We are 20 Arab countries, big nations with more than a 100 million people. All that is missing is the technology. If we had the technology, I swear, Israel would disappear."

The military machine

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

Karim doesn't buy it. "They [the Iraqis] have oil more than Kuwait. If you go to the university and open a book and look how much oil they have you will see. But these people in Kuwait, they are just building weapons and hurting people, not helping people. They have more than 5,000 tanks. They have aircraft. Do you know how much they cost? I don't feel sorry for the Iraqis being poor."

Look at the Kuwaitis, they are doing well and where does all their money go?

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

Stranded in a strange land

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

After two months, the Kuwaiti Embassy began to support Kuwaiti students in the United States. "It is very important that the Kuwaiti people left the money outside. I swear to God that if we had left the money inside, or if we were a poor people, we would not survive."
Hendrix and black rock: Taking back what was already his


by Mark Delsing

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

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

Crostontown Traffic is not merely a Hammer of the Gods about Jimi Hendrix. Rather, it is Charles Shaar Murray’s study of the music which influenced Hendrix and that of those who were influenced by him. By extension then, it serves as a reminder as to who should be recorded and when, and perhaps how to bash riffs.

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

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

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

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

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

Crostontown Traffic appealed to me initially as a rock historian and an avid fan (read worshipper) of Jimi’s work. After reading it, however, I came to just this very close to understand standing him as an inheritor of black musical traditions and as a major figure in a larger black musical community. In fact, the portions of the book which bear directly upon Jimi’s life are relatively few. Instead, Murray does focus on a few central figures in black music which gave Hendrix the building blocks he needed to create his castles made of sand. I’ve seen more material about the near-mythic Robert Johnson and Charlie Christian in one volume in my entire life. The extensive discography provided is enough to keep me going to NRM every weekend for the next decade.

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

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

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

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Poem of the Week

The Fool He Was
by Joanna Händes

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

by Jason Van Driessche

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

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

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

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

Now that we're at war

by Kristan Hutchison

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

In the face of almost certain American military action, and in light of our government leaders' difficulty in adequately defining and explaining in clear apolitical terms our nation's motives and the intentions behind our policy in the Gulf, they deserve high marks as members of Bard's faculty for their initiative to participate, and their effort to interact directly with the student body on this major national issue by lending their individual expertise and personal concern, thereby actively sharing in an already on-going dialogue here on campus. Given the seriousness of these issues - the ambiguous nature of our leader's actions, the imminent real threat of gross international sacrifice - and the direct and indirect consequences their actions might bring to many, many lives, this gesture of interaction with the student body is gratefully acknowledged.

James Mockovský

Bush is right, Hussein is another Hitler

Dear Editor,

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

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

All Kuwaitis injured in defending their country are barred from being treated in hospitals, but instead, only Iraqi soldiers are being treated there.

Kuwaiti missionaries exec- cuted because they refused to resume teaching at Kuwait University.

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

All sorts of items are being taken or stolen from the nation of Kuwait, including everything from all kinds of Kuwaiti military equipment and ammunition and all furniture and equipment at local schools to street lamps in the highways, telephone extensions and concrete bricks that form the sidewalks for pedestrians.

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

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

Sincerely,
Tom Hickerson

Polish democracy faced power politics

Dear Editor,

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

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

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

It's ridiculous. He came (Mr. Tyllniski) and made clear that our nation is totally stumped. This is our Polish democracy. It turns out that these were usually young teenagers, as well as wealthy people, who supported Stav. Mazowsze off, but it's not only that people didn't want to vote for him. Some of them couldn't. The reason was great with the potential of voting. Some of them were on lists in their home places, some others in the places of their temporary stay. Most students supported Mazowsze, but for some of us it turned out impossible to vote simply because of these lists. We weren't properly informed where we could vote and later on that Sunday it was impossible to get home. (I, for example, have to travel 7 hours. Some people must travel even more.)

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

Thanks for the Bard Observer,
Yours,
Beata Baczyńska

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

February 1, 1991
The Bard Observer

Secession continued from page 4

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

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

"This proposal was submitted last Thursday (Nov. 30). The lack of publicity for the proposal has nothing to do with the proposers," said Gillian Huebner, who co-sponsored the resolution with Renee Cramer, Bard first-year. According to the publicized meeting, the forum meeting was not advertised. "The forum debate was very heated and that is what is needed," said Cramer in the Middle East, said Jacko. "The Middle East." "I think the vote is probably representative of student feeling on the gulf crisis."

However, petitions passed around the cafeteria on Dec. 7 gave a different count. Secession still had the majority, with 78 students signing their approval of the resolution to 41 against. But more students, 80 in all, signed a petition saying they dis- agreed with the procedure by which the resolution was adopted.

Past forums have barely had the student needed for a quorum. "God forbid if this makes them stand up and come to the meetings," said Michael Kaufman, a first year stu- dent. Several students hope the secession will become a symbol of the importance of the forum and the need to attend.

Debate continued all day in the cafeteria and culminated in a open minded discussion at dinner, which was covered by a local television station. As moments, the debate became abusive, as audience members throw food at a student attempting to speak. Several of the discussion centered on the utility of the symbolic secession as a form of protest. "Nordly, I get disgusted by symbolic actions," said Fiona Lawerence, a junior, "but this one has potential for getting things done."

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

Several of the discussion centered on the feeling that it felt implied disagree- ment with the entire spectrum of rights and responsibilities implicit in American citizenship. "Membership in the Union comprises a lot more than just the United States policy in the Middle East," said Driesse, a sophomore. "It centers a number of rights and privileges that we have as Americans, that are symbolically rejected as well with a symbolic secession."

The sponsors consider secession to be a confirmation of the rights given through the American Constitution. "We are really only seeking from the unconstitutionality of the position in the Middle East," said Huebner. "We hope to repel our allegiance to the U.S. tomorrow with more strength and conviction and knowledge of what our flag is and what it is doing."
Music of the Russian Avant-Garde:
A recital will be held on February 1 at 8:00 PM in the Olin Auditorium. Pianist Sera Rothenberg will play works of Lourié, Mosolov and Roslavets. Free of charge.

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

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

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

Peer Counselor Selection:
On Monday and Tuesday, February 4 and 5 at 7:30 PM, Dean of Students Shelley Morgan will hold an informative meeting for those interested in becoming peer counselors next year. The meeting will be held in one of the Kline Committee Rooms.

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

Bard College/Community Chorus:
The chorus is always open to all members of the community. Rehearsals of Bach’s motet “Jesu, Meine Freude” and his Cantata No. 4, entitled “Christ lag in Todesbanden,” begin Thursday, February 7 at 7:00 p.m. in Bard Hall. Students may obtain 1 credit. Vocal scores are available prior to 5:00 p.m. on Feb. 7 at the first rehearsal in the bookstore. No audition is necessary. If you think you’d enjoy singing, come!

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

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

Movies:
These films are shown in the Student Center at 7:30 PM and 9:00 PM. The first showing is always no-smoking.

February 7: In The Heat of the Night
February 14: Lean on Me

Calendar of Events

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<tr>
<th>Saturday 2</th>
<th>Sunday 3</th>
<th>Monday 4</th>
<th>Tuesday 5</th>
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<td>Morning</td>
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<td>Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, &amp; Rhinebeck</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>4:30 PM to 10:00 PM</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>5:00 PM</td>
<td>6:00-7:00 PM</td>
<td>4:25 PM, 7:25 PM, &amp; 8:45 PM</td>
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<td>4:55 — 10:30 PM Trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>“Town Meeting” on the Persian Gulf war Olin Auditorium</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Spanish Table Kline Commons</td>
<td>Bard van to Rhinecliff train station</td>
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<td>10:00 PM DJ dance</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Environmental Club Committee Room</td>
<td>7:00 PM</td>
<td>Kline Commons</td>
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<td>Old Gym</td>
<td>7:15, 8:30, &amp; 9:00 PM Van meets trains at Rhinecliff station</td>
<td>7:30 PM</td>
<td>Observer News staff meeting</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>French Table Committee Room</td>
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<td>7:45 PM Van meets train at Poughkeepsie train station</td>
<td>6:00 PM</td>
<td>Observer News staff meeting</td>
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<td>Al-Anon Aspinwall 302</td>
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<td>French Table Committee Room</td>
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<td>Christian Meeting Bard Chapel Basement</td>
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<td>Women’s Center Meeting</td>
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<td>Observer Features/Arts staff meeting</td>
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<td>Scottish Country Dancing Manor House</td>
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Please let us know about changes and additions in club meeting times!

Deadline for all calendar submissions for the issue covering February 16 through February 22 due in the Dean of Student's office.