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War and more at the first Forum
by Tom Hickerson

The Student Forum sought an appropriate response to the Gulf War, as well as considering campus business in its first meeting of the semester on Tuesday, February 5. Lowering the flag to half mast for the duration of the Gulf crisis and urging congressmen to debate the legality of the war in the Gulf were suggested actions. Other resolutions discussed by over 60 students in Albee Scott were mandatory attendance of all committee members to forum meetings and a request for a traffic light installation.

Planning Committee head David Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30, and began the meeting with the committee reports. During the reports, it was learned that Student Life Committee head Joshua Kaufman will be resigning to turn his energy in other directions. The laundry fund and the "Dilbert" fund are still available for clubs to use this semester, said Miller.

Gavin Mikulski, student observer to faculty meetings, reported on President Leon Botstein's announcement that expenditures will be cut 10% because of the recession. Two of the nine million dollars required for the library renovations has been raised, and the purchase of the town of Annandale will be complete in sixty days, according to Mikulski.

After the committee reports, the meeting focused its attention on the four resolutions being considered.

The first resolution, originally introduced November 19, 1990, called for all elected officials of the Bard College Student Organization to be present at all future Forum meetings. This would provide students access to any and all committee members. "Asking people to show up at four meetings a semester is not too much. [You could] make a difference," said David Rolf. The resolution was passed unanimously.

The second resolution was to send a letter to the town of Red Hook requesting a traffic light at the intersection of 9G and Kelley Avenue. It stated, "In the past 5 years, approximately 22 accidents of varying severity have occurred at that intersection. The presentation by Lisa continued on page 11

An audience member speaks at Monday's Town Meeting

Town Meeting on the Gulf war:
Many questions, few answers
by Jason Van Driessche

There were almost as many viewpoints as there were people at Monday night's Town Meeting on the war in the Gulf. But though opinions on the root causes of the war and the conduct of the war varied, almost all the participants were linked by one common thread: a desire to end the conflict as rapidly and as painlessly as possible.

How to achieve this end was the most pressing question of the evening, but very few of the participants addressed this problem unequivocally. However, the extent to which any given participant addressed the question of how to end the war was determined in large part by that individual's viewpoint, for some viewpoints are not entirely compatible with an immediate solution. The hawkers, the theorists, and the realists, for example, were divided very roughly into three general camps: the hawks, the theorists, and the realists.

The hawks are not very well represented at Bard, but their position and their solution were unequivocal. Scott Licamelle, a student member of the second panel, characterized the invasion of Kuwait as a non-violent act of international law "which cannot stand." He, like everyone, wished the war could have been avoided, but felt that "this war has been the choice of Saddam Hussein." If Hussein had complied with the United Nations resolutions calling for complete and unconditional Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait, Licamelle asserted, the war never would have been necessary.

Licamelle's views were echoed by Jim Trainer, a junior and a sergeant in the United States Army National Guard. Trainer feels there is a "fifty-fifty chance" he will soon be called up, and if he is not the war does continued on page 2

Dear Mr. President:
Gulf War distracts from domestic problems
by Todd S. Defren

Dear Mr. President:

I do not believe that the war in the Persian Gulf is a just war. I do not believe that violence solves problems, and I fail to understand how this war could possibly solve any of the problems in the Middle East.

It seems to me that if Saddam Hussein survives this conflict, even as Baghdad is reduced to rubble, he has won a political victory, even a godlike status, in the Muslim world. Hussein would never have pulled out by the Jan. 15 deadline, because doing so would have been an admission of defeat in the face of Western threats. It would have been the equivalent of the entire Muslim faith admitting its inferiority to the West, and Muslims, being a fierce and proud and self-righteous people, would never brook (put up with) such cowardice. Merely by thumbing his nose at the U.S.-dominated United Nations, Hussein achieved his greatest victory.

It is interesting that the U.S., under President Reagan, stopped paying its dues to the United Nations, and that you also failed to make remittance, until

continued on page 11
Student auto explodes

by Tanya Panin

A red 320i 1979 BMW belonging to Bard student Anna Corey burst into flames on Annandale Road near the Stevenson Gymnasium on Friday, Feb. 2 at 6:20 p.m. According to Director of Security Bob Boyce, Corey stopped the car when she saw smoke coming from under the hood. She was subsequently rescued from the car with the help of Wil Murphy, the passenger, when it burst into flames.

Dick Griffiths, Director of the Physical Plant, was driving out of Kline Commons parking lot when he saw “smoke coming from the woods.” When he arrived at the scene, he saw flames about three feet high coming from underneath Corey’s car.

He immediately informed Security, who called the fire department, and then attempted to put out the fire with the help of Murphy and three fire extinguishers. The extinguishers came from Annandale House, Brook House and Kline Commons and were, much to Corey’s disappointments, either half empty or empty.

Security and an ambulance arrived within four to five minutes followed by local firefighters, who finally extinguished the flames, using eight fire extinguishers in total.

Corey was not injured, but Murphy suffered minor smoke inhalation and was taken to Northern Dutchess Hospital.

A tow truck arrived to tow away within 10-20 minutes after the fire was put out, Corey combusts that the tow truck arrived before the firefighters, and she was disturbed that those in charge of the tow truck asked her where she wanted the tow to go, while it burned.

No one is sure of the extent of the mechanical damage.

Anti-war group works on plans for rally

by Michael Kaufman

Only three days after the start of the semester, some 40 people gathered in Alboc Social to discuss their concerns about and plan action against Operation Desert Storm.

Most present were in favor of some kind of action, a rally or demonstration. SAIP is organizing a rally for Feb. 21 in Albany, and is trying to get a permit from the city.

There was also interest in starting a support group for students who have friends or relatives involved in the Middle East.

Students were concerned about both peace and the troops. They want a cause broad enough to draw a large crowd, yet specific enough that it will still have a clear purpose.

From a different approach, the idea of wearing blue ribbons was suggested as a counterpart to the yellow ribbons worn by those who support the troops. More in sync with the mood of the meeting, a participant suggested the idea of wearing both colors of ribbons interwoven as a way to show support for both the troops and the cause of peace.

“It’s not that I don’t support the troops — troops are boys used by their government,” said Andrew Yoon, a first year student.

The Friday night meeting was organized by Students Against Interventionist Policy (SAIP).

SAIP was started last semester, long before the war began. One of many such groups around the nation, SAIP is committed to putting an end to interventionist policy and the military action that often results from the implementation of such policy. SAIP “focuses on action not discussion, though there’s a place for that,” said Daphne Grab, one of the SAIP organizers.

A meeting was also scheduled for yesterday by those in support of the war. Students Mobilized Against Saddam Hussein (SMASH) plan to make its view known as an alternative to SAIP’s.

EMS program to begin soon

by Tom Hickerson

After a semester’s worth of intensive training and classes, ten Bard students are now Certified First Responders. These ten students will make up most of the new EMS service here at Bard, which is scheduled to begin soon.

Andy Molloy, director of the EMS program, described the new CFR’s as “outstanding.” These ten people are now qualified to give “care and treatment and stabilize a victim until an ambulance arrives.”

“It’s a good skill to have,” Molloy said. “It’s far, far advanced from first aid and it’s the first step to becoming a medical technician or paramedic.”

The class last semester covered everything from fractures and burns to bleeding control and how to deliver a baby. In addition, the class was unusually intense because, instead of taking the normal 10 to 12 weeks to complete the course, the Bard CFR’s took six weekends, Saturdays and Sundays, working as long as eight hours a day to complete the course before the end of the semester.

Currently the EMS program is waiting for two things. First, the arrival of its equipment, which includes cervical collars, splints, oxygen equipment, and two “trauma bags” (first-aid kits). Second, the group needs the approval of Vice President Dimitri Papadimitriou, whose okay is necessary because of liability considerations.

“We could begin, but without our equipment, it would make training useless,” said Molloy. Molloy expects to be able to start around check-cloth service by the end of the month.

When the program does get started, it will be similar to the program active last year—the base of communications will be in the Security Office, with cars and drivers from Bard Security transporting EMS to any reported incident. Molloy stressed the function of the EMS program: “It’s important to differentiate us from health services; if you come to us with a cold, we won’t be able to help you since we aren’t skilled to deal with that. We’re more the bumps, bruises, aches and pains type of people.”

While the ten new students make up the bulk of the EMS program, Molloy is also helped by assistant director and EMT Matt Becker, and David Ames, a paramedic. The ten new students are David Carrara, Phouc Huynh, Alison Reisk, Amy Fenwick, Matt Kregor, George Pelletier, Jim Trainor, Keighie Sherrard, Jason Van Drieseke, and Nasasie Stewart.

Molloy feels confident that the money he is requesting from Papadimitriou’s special fund will come through because the government will give start-up equipment and certifications that will be “one-time, one-shot fees.”

“We’ve been working very closely with the administration to make the program professional and as disciplined an organization as possible,” he said.

Town Meeting

continued from page 1

not end soon, he will volunteer to fight.

Trainor agreed with most of those present that the war in the Gulf is an unnecessary and unfortunate one. "Bush acted hastily," he said. "But right now, that’s a moot point." This is where he differs from the majority, for Trainor believes the best way to end the war is for the United States to "throw the full measure of its force against Saddam Hussein," even if this means 300,000 Iraqi casualties.

Trainor is willing to go to such lengths for onrason: "As someone who may die over there, I want it to end quickly." Trainor knows what he is doing, and he is deadly serious. "My job is to kill," he said matter-of-factly. "I know how to do it. I am capable of it." But he put much greater emphasis on the ends than on the means: "What is important is that this be the last conflict in the Middle East."

Most of the panelists and audience members fell into the terrorist camp, arguing over what would have happened if a different course of action had been taken and discussing the possible consequences of such actions in the aftermath of the war. They provided an analysis of the causes of the war and its possible consequences, but tended to avoid recommending any particular immediate course of action.

Kamran Anwar, a senior native to Pakistan, who has lived in Saudi Arabia for several years, provided an Eastern perspective on the causes of the war. Anwar believes a diplomatic solution was doomed to failure because the United States made it clear that if Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait and refused to leave, he would be attacked.

Because he was presented with such a hard and fast ultimatum, said Anwar, Hussein could not back down without compromising his honor and that of his country. Since Arabs are raised to place honor above almost all else, backing down was unthinkable, said Anwar.
Students make January intercession count

by Kristan Hutchison

From corporate Manhattan to small-town Wyoming, 14 Bard students spent January break working hard, for free. They gave up vacation time and money making opportunities to explore new worlds through January internships.

“I wanted to do something where I’m using my mind and it is hard to get a job that pays you to use your mind. I decided it was more important to learn this,” said Beverly Bailey, who interned with the American Jewish Committee.

Students like Bailes prompted Harriet Schwartz to create the January Internship Program, now in its first year. “I had been doing a lot of thinking about the January field period and that a lot of students just go home and get a job. Though that is okay, a lot of students want something more,” said Schwartz.

Cooperating with the Bard Parent’s Counsel and the Board of Alumni Career Development Committee, Schwartz identified parents and some alumni willing to sponsor Bard internships for three weeks in January. Usually it is difficult to arrange an internship for only a month, said Schwartz, because businesses feel the training time is futile unless followed by several months work.

“Bard parents and alumni understand the field period and are more willing to have a one month intern,” said Schwartz.

In the board room

Though the internships were very short, most lasted three weeks, the sponsors made an effort to show the interns everything about the business. Sarah Davis sat in on group therapy and diagnostic staff sessions, led classes on stress management, researched alcohol abuse, and did some clerical work at the Washbase Mental Hospital Services in Wyoming. “I tried to give her a feel for the flow of a mental health agency,” said June Read, Washbase Executive Director and supervisor to Davis.

Far away in a fast-paced publishing house, Lavinia Yocom was also sitting in on meetings. “It worked mechanistically,” said Yocom of the private education due to federal aid meeting, “everyone addressed their topic. You state a point and when Charles Scribner nods, your point is over.”

Yocom read manuscripts and gave her response like the regular editors. “Barbara [Gorz, editor] would say, ‘I want your verdict on this,’ ” Yocom explained. She said that they rejected the books she didn’t like.

Some interns had less guidance. “You can’t expect people to stop what they’re doing and try to include you when they’re very busy,” said Rebecca Weiss, intern at Vignyr Theatre. “You have to just pick up what you can from people talking.”

The interns enjoyed the company of their co-workers. “They were like characters out of a play. Everyone had really defined character,” said Yocom. “Everyone treated me nicely, even though I was a college student. I tried to be of help to me.”

New York, New York

Part of the experience for most interns was living in a new place, since the internships were far from home. Schwartz set up housing with Bard parents or alumni for interns who could not arrange to stay with a friend or relative. “Because Bard has always been a fairly small school, it is more like a family,” said Schwartz. “If we were at a school with 10,000 students it would be a little more difficult to arrange housing.”

Nine of the interns worked in New York City. “I wanted to see what it would be like to spend a limited time in New York,” said Weiss. “One of the things I found out was that I don’t want to go back next summer.”

While in New York, Yocom took advantage of the opera and many cultural opportunities. “Living in New York gave me a rich experience, but at the same time it really cut into my ability to write the way I usually do,” said Yocom.

Bailes discovered that Manhattan was better than she had feared. “I thought I was going to hate it,” said Bailes, “but the people were really cool and it was nice being there as opposed to here. It was a city and things were going on all the time.”

Going to a town of about 6,000 people in Wyoming, Davis had a very different experience. “Everyone knew who I was and what I was doing before I got there. They were expecting me.”

Ready for the real world

Part of the reason for an internship is to discover whether one enjoys a particular field. “I want to explore the full realm of possibilities before I make my decision about my future,” said Yocom. She wants to intern with a newspaper next so she can compare the experiences.

“You hope the intern comes back saying, ‘this is what I want to do’ or you hope they realize that it isn’t the career they want,” said Schwartz.

Even though it is very short, the January internship program provides some experience and contacts. “I’m trying to get an idea of the things I want. You can’t just graduate with a B.A. and no experience and expect to get a job.”

The only glitch in the first January Internship Program was students who were matched with a sponsor and then decided not to do the program. Schwartz began with a list of 10 parent sponsors. Overwhelming response from students, with 40 signed up for internships, forced her to recruit a total of about 30 parent and alumni sponsors. In the end, only 14 students actually interned.

“A parent gets excited about hosting a student and then the student backs out and the parent gets frustrated,” said Schwartz, “and maybe it will be more difficult to get them to sponsor again.”

Schwartz plans to continue the internship program next January. She is currently helping several students from the January program to arrange summer internships.

A brief history of people of color at Bard

by Greg Giacco

Bard has made a tradition of being known as a progressive college since Bard’s origins in 1860. In the spirit of Black History Month, a short history of racial integration at Bard has been prepared.

Stephan’s was originally founded by Episcopalian ministers at the beginning of the Civil War, and many of the original founders were Abolitionists. While they were sympathetic to people of color at the time, it was almost impossible to find one with the right qualifications who wanted to join the Episcopalian ministry, due to their poor social and economic status in the Civil War and post-Civil War period.

However, one student was found in the 1880’s. Very little is known about Matthew McDiuff, the first person of color to graduate at Bard. He was born in South Carolina to slave parents, as nearly every white was before the Civil War. From these beginnings, Matthew McDiuff went on to become a bishop in the Episcopal church. He started a parish in Florida which will be celebrating his centennial anniversary next year.

According to Alex McKnight, the assistant director of the HEO program at Bard, there was only one non-student of color attending Bard until the 1940s and 50s. It is difficult to say exactly how many there were because the admissions office began to keep records on the race of students over 10 years ago in order to respond to questions.

After World War II it became easier for people of color to afford a college education due to federal aid to veterans. Correspondingly, there was a small surge in black enrollment at Bard. According to McKnight, the total number of black students was still never greater than six or seven. One must also remember, however, that Bard was a much smaller college at that time.

Bard was very active during the civil rights movement. During that time, Bard hired its first person of color as faculty. This included Ralph Ellison, author of Invisible Man, who taught here for four years during the sixties. Bard also awarded an honorary degree to Martin Luther King Jr. during that time.

The advent of the civil rights movement encouraged people of color to attend college. New York State started pilot programs to enable disadvantaged and minority students to attend public institutions in 1967. The state followed up the public program with a similar program for private universities. Bard was one of the first private institutions to try a pilot program in 1970-71. It was regularly funded by HEO under Larry Curtis the following year.

The first graduate of the HEO program was Steven Gerald who went on to work at the University of Texas at Austin. Bard’s HEO program has enabled many more minority students to attend Bard. The average enrollment has been between 25-35 people of color per year with the high water mark being up around 50, according to McKnight. Currently, the HEO program is caught in the budget crunch that affects the state of New York. So, while Bard has nearly doubled its size since 1972, the proportion of people of color here will remain comparable to the 16% composition of the freshman class as of May 10.

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Ethan Bloch speaks on tension in Israel

by Greg Ciaccio

Ethan Bloch, head of the math department at Bard, recently returned from Israel on Jan. 6. He was educated there and has visited Israel nearly every year since 1974. This is what he had to say about the current situation in the Gulf and how it affects Israel.

"The mood is terrible," Bloch exclaimed. However, he also believes that the real problem is the "vastly escalating violence between the Israelis and the Palestinians. In my opinion, the Israeli government is mainly at fault, although the Gulf Crisis has greatly exacerbated the problem. Another really big issue is the Soviet Jewish immigration...it is comparable to if 12 million people arrived in the United States in one year...and they just don't know what to do with them. The Gulf Crisis is the least of Israel's worries, and I say this as someone very concerned about Israel."

Bloch has many close ties in Israel. Some of his family members still live there, including his father in a suburb of Tel Aviv. "When I hear on the news that there are bombs over the Tel Aviv area I never know if they hit where his father lived. Although, I did get a call from him a few nights ago and everything is fine."

Bloch's cousin seemed to be taking the whole thing rather well. When he chose a room to seal, he made sure there was a television in it so that he wouldn't be bored. "He sits in a sealed room with gas masks, watches a little TV, takes a little food in there. He's trying to be a little nonchalant about it." This reflects the attitudes of many Israelis. "Israelis have been through a lot...and they are very determined to show the outside world that they are cool and they can handle it," Bloch explained. "I left, that was nine days before Jan. 15...nobody had sealed rooms yet...It did affect Israeli-Palestinian relations, but people were not panicking, nobody was hoarding food, nobody sealed any windows when I was there. People were getting gas masks...but they were told that there would be at least four hours...notice ahead of time to get a gas mask which they would then distribute for us. That's bogus, as we now know, there is more like two minutes warning."

Israelis are able to remain level-headed because they are used to occupying a hot seat in the Middle East. "Iraq has threatened Israel before the invasion of Kuwait...Israelis have a fairly good confidence in their army."

However, Israelis are upset at the possibility of chemical weapons being used against them. "The gas is manufactured in Germany," Bloch explained, "and people do feel unnerved about this." Ethan also explained that the 1973 war, which he was in Israel for, was "not near as scary as it is now, even though there was a real war going on." This is largely due to the threat of chemical weapons affecting the civilian population of Israel.

Israelis have also been very understanding about not being asked to retaliate. According to Bloch's cousin, they realize that retaliation could upset the political balance of the coalition. "I'm certain there are those clanning for Israel to respond," Bloch said. "It would be disastrous if Israel attacked at this point...I also think that if there is an attack which really does kill hundreds of people, Israel is going to retaliate no matter what America says."

Features

For my Valentine: food and clothes

by Kristan Hutchison

Toting a garbage-sized bag of bagels and several loaves of bread, Bard students visit a Red Hook, shelter several times a month. The Food Drive, which will also sponsor a Valentine's Day Clothing Drive, is a new branch of the Community Outreach Group, C.O.G.

As of spring semester Kline has allowed students to take leftover food to the Community Action Agency in Red Hook, which serves Tivoli and Rhinebeck as well. Stephanie Dopsop and Mary Anne Levy arranged for food donations that are still edible, but could spoil quickly, such as braids and fruits. The need for food has intensified recently, as the state went into recession. "They usually got food from mostly older, single mothers, and working poor—whenever the food comes in. "Our clients are thrilled," she said. "It really helped their food budgets." Dopsop and Levy will also collect clothing on Feb. 14 for the Community Action Agency. Labeled boxes in Kline and the Coffee Shop will await donations of any articles of clothing. "It is cold in New York and we just think that there are a lot of children or even adults who are not properly dressed," said Dopsop.

The clients can use spring clothes soon too, said Lowen. "It is used clothing to the donors, but it is new to the clients," said Lowen. The Community Action Agency can accept anything, except for furniture because it takes up too much space. Students volunteers are also needed to revive the General Equivalency Degree program, which is in jeopardy due to a lack of volunteers. Several volunteers are needed to watch the children of five clients so they can take the class. "They would really like to get their high school diplomas so they can get out and get a job," said Lowen.
Amnesty International
by John G. Healey
Executive Director
Amnesty International USA

Clear facts. Black and white. Unambiguous choice. These are the terms President Bush used in the letter he sent to over 450 college and university newspapers last week. The subject was Iraq's occupation of Kuwait. The object was to prepare young people for military confrontation in the Persian Gulf.
The letter cited Amnesty International's recent report on Iraq as evidence to support the administration's position. Perhaps presidential advisors know that Amnesty volunteers and groups are now active on more than 2,600 campuses in this country, I hope the administration will soon learn that Amnesty members and other student activists cannot be misled by opportunistic manipulation of the international human rights movement.
Amnesty published its report on the Iraq Government's gross human rights violations for one purpose: to advance the protection of human rights. By publicizing such abuses, the movement generates public pressure and international protest. Governments over the years have channeled particular portions of Amnesty's findings into their political agendas, and government authorities undoubtedly will continue to do so in the future. But the United States public should not tolerate selective indignation by its own government. We can teach our political leaders that people's human rights are not convenient issues for rhetorical arsenal.
When taken at face value, President Bush's condemnation of torture and political killings by Iraqi authorities appears laudable. Violations of basic human rights should arouse indignation and inspire action to stop them. The matter becomes less "clear" and "unambiguously," however, in the light of two questions: Why did our President remain mute on the subject of the Iraq Government's pattern of severe human rights abuses prior to August 1990? Why does he remain mute about abuses committed by other governments, our so-called coalition partners in the region?
Iraqi soldiers behavior in Kuwait does not constitute a sudden shift to the brutal side. Iraqi civilians have suffered such cruel and degrading treatment by government personnel for more than a decade, as detailed in numerous Amnesty International reports. There was no presidential indignation, for example, in 1989, when Amnesty released its findings about the torture of Iraqi children. And just a few weeks before the invasion of Kuwait, the Bush Administration refused to condemn that Iraq had engaged in a consistent pattern of gross human rights violations.
If United States policies before August 1990 had reflected concern about the Iraqi Government's human rights record, our country might not be digging in for war today. Tomorrow's tensions in the region may well be mapped by the human rights records of our long-term "friends" such as the Saudi Arabian Government and, more recently, "friends" such as the Syrian Government. We've heard little from the United States Government in recent years about the appalling tactics of repression used in Saudi Arabia and Syria.
Torture is reportedly a common practice in Saudi Arabia, and political detainees have been jailed there for prolonged periods without charge or trial. Syrian prisoners are routinely tortured. A majority of the thousands of political prisoners held in Syria have been denied their right to a trial.
Relentless and ruthless abuses by the Iraqi Government continue. More than 5,000 Iraqis have been executed during the last three years. "Incommunicado detention and torture are routine in Morocco, and that country's government persists in responding to "disappearances" with secrecy and silence. Our government fails to act with determination against the torture suffered by tens of thousands of prisoners held in Turkish jails.
The Egyptian Government has subjected many thousands of political prisoners to detention without charge or trial. The torture of political prisoners, especially supporters of Islamic groups opposing the government, is reportedly common in Egypt. In the Israeli Occupied Territories, thousands of Palestinians have been detained without charge or trial. Many of the detainees committed the "offense" of peacefully exercising their rights to free expression and association. Israeli troops, often engaging in excessive use of force, have killed hundreds of Palestinian civilians.
President Bush's selective indignation over Iraq's abuses in Kuwait undermines the notion of "human decency" he touted in his lecture to campus newspapers. All people in all countries are entitled to human rights protection; international humanitarian standards rest upon this principle. The standards are unequivocally practical, because human rights protection establishes a foundation for just, peaceful, stable order. Exploiting human rights to justify violent confrontation is itself indecent.
Amnesty International takes no position on the territorial disputes now raging in the Persian Gulf. But we do support international coalition building to prevent all egregious human rights violations from conducting business as usual. If President Bush is sincere about "despots wanting peace" and if he wishes to remove ambiguity from his invocation of "moral obligation" then let him be consistent in his concern for human rights.
M.L.K./Bard Institute for Nonviolent Social Change

Since last semester the attention of Bard students has obviously been focused on the continuing assaults on Bard students and the Gulf War. In order to address these problems and other long term issues we are expecting a lot of club activity this semester.
The M.L.K./Bard Institute for Nonviolent Social Change has been working on plans for a two day seminar open to all students and faculty. This not only a chance to put down our senior projects for a few blessed days but also a strategy building resource to meet our country's needs and goals. Until the seminar we wish to work directly with your organization in any needed capacity. Our first meeting is Monday seven p.m. Albee Social. Please come and make your concerns known.

Sincerely, Marcia Hecker and David O'Reilly Phone: 758-3211 or 758-1695

Bard Black Students Organization

Historically, February has been designated as a time when society specifically focuses on the contributions of African-Americans to this country. However, February should not solely focus on the time when the many contributions of African-Americans are acknowledged. The many great contributions of African-Americans must weight the twenty eight days in February.
The Bard Black Student Organization and the Latin American Student Organization in conjunction with the Dean of Students have planned an enlighting schedule of events for the Bard Community. In celebration of Black History Month there will be a host of speakers and a film festival with panel discussions afterwards weekly. Likewise the week of February 16, will be dedicated to the assassination of Malcolm X. A more detailed schedule of events will be available. These event have been planned so it is inclusive of the entire Bard community. We ask that everyone join us in the recognition of Black History Month.

Students Against Sexual Harassment

Students Against Sexual Harassment will meet Monday, Feb. 11 at 8:00 pm in Albee Social.
The agenda will cover the following topics: 1) Recent assault of female student 2) Rape Crisis Center currently being developed 3) Student counselling on sexuality/phone hotline 4) Development of Gender Studies Program equal focus on masculinity/gender roles 5) Workshops for this semester - Self-defense, sexuality and relationships.

SPANDEX'S RETURN

(part the eleventh)

by ZZYX

As they approached, blunt instruments in hand, I tried to think my way out of this situation. It was pretty obvious (proof will be left to the reader) that they were either my friends, mad over some money I owed them, or demons. Assuming that they were my friends gets me nowhere, so assume that they are demons. If they are, then everything they say is suspect. Including the idea that I could be cut off from SPANDEX. I blew my Goldfish Whistle® (while a dog whistle makes a noise that only can be heard at high frequencies, my Goldfish Whistle® makes a noise that can only be heard underwater). There was a huge explosion, and I found myself alone in a field (or was it a ring) with the ZZYXobile, the sound of a plane overhead caused me to look up. The plane had just finished its skywriting mission, and "SPANDEX HELPS THOSE WHO HELP THEMSELVES" was written in the air. Was this a compliment or a warning? Thinking about it would keep me busy on my ride. Another thing I was curious about was if that really was TOTOA who talked to me. (What do you think? The Bard Observer wants to know. Submit your essays [one page, typed, or less] on: Was TOTOA that I Encountered? The best essay will win a very small CASH PRIZE, and - who knows - might even get printed. Members of the Observer staff not eligible to win (unless they write something REALLY good). Decision of the judge [me] is final.)

I was tired after my long day, so I started to set the ZZYXobile's control. However, I remembered how easily it was overcome, so I began looking for a place where I could lay my head. Say, Mister, can you tell me... oh, sorry I finally found a rest stop in the middle of Nebraska. I leaned my seat back and fell asleep.
I woke up to the sound of tanks. The design on them was a swastika with a fish with a long white beard in the middle. That could mean only one thing. SPANDEX THE OLDISH had finally managed to escape from his dimension. He was out to capture this one, and only I could stop him.

TO BE CONTINUED —

FIGHT APATHY! VOLUNTEER

COG CAMPUS OUTREACH GROUP
LITERACY PROGRAM
PRISON TUTORING
COLUMBIA COUNTY YOUTH PROJECT
ANIMAL SHELTER
FOOD DRIVE
BATTERED WOMEN'S SERVICES
RED HOOK HIGH SCHOOL TUTORING
VOLUNTEER WORK AT NORTHERN DUTCHESS HOSPITAL
BEFRIEND MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS
CONTACT HARRIET SCHWARTZ IN THE CAREER DEVELOPMENT OFFICE 758-7539

A page of unedited observations from guest writers
by David Draper and Matthew J. Lee

With this inaugural overview, Draper and Lee begin a movie review column that will be a regular feature of The Bard Observer’s Arts and Entertainment section. As Lee puts it, “My colleague, David Draper, and I will review every movie each week and also explore movie trends and news. We are not professional critics, so it’s very likely we’ll develop one. We will, however, give an honest appraisal of the movies we review.”

Oh, the weather outside is frightful... which is why this is a good time to see the latest crop of Hollywood’s winter releases if you haven’t already. As the new year opens and the Oscar deadline looms ominously, you can still catch them before their run in the big theaters ends, or as they open at the Locum. For our first column, we have chosen four of those movies:

*Dances With Wolves,* "Hamlet," "Edward Scissorhands," and "Kindergarten Cop." (You will never see review "Home Alone"!)

DANCES WITH WOLVES

**Matt:** "Dances With Wolves" was the epic of the winter. A little background to the movies shows that Kevin Costner was given a lot of slack about its production. Producers nicknamed it "Kevin’s Gate," paying homage to the overgrown "Heaven’s Gate," which bombed at the box office. Costner had previously bombed with "Revenge" the year before, and nobody was really sure what kind of draw (or draw back) he would be. He had always been interested in Native Americans, and he wanted to pay tribute to them. Most in Hollywood thought it wouldn’t work. "Dances With Wolves" proved everybody wrong. Costner now has the Hollywood drawer which most stars only dream of (currently he is directing and starring in "Prince of Thieves," a Robin Hood movie due out this summer).

"Dances With Wolves" is a cinematographic masterpiece. With its sweeping views of the prairies to the open sky to the stampeding buffalo, Costner gives us a portrayal of the West unlike any we have seen before. It is a beautiful movie to watch. The pictures make the screen look even bigger than it is.

Costner is a very creditable actor, and he plays his character with the utmost realism. The Sioux are played by actual Sioux Indians, and they speak the actual Sioux language.

The story is also well done. The basic premise concerns an ex-Union soldier, Lieutenant John Dunbar who leaves the Civil War to serve at a remote post at the edge of the frontier. He comes into contact with a tribe of Sioux and is eventually accepted into their tribe. Paradoxically, the movie is at its best when there is no plot. It is most enjoyable when we just sit back and watch how the Sioux interact with the white man, and vice versa. Dunbar is shown as a man who understands the concerns of the Sioux and actually wants to know about and live among them. One wonders what the West would have been like had there been more Dunbars and fewer Custers. The plot does not play a major role until the end, when we see other white men attempting to destroy Costner’s and the Sioux’s way of life.

All in all, this is one of the most awe-inspiring pictoral movies I have seen in a long time. Sit back and enjoy the views.

Dare: Whatever you do, don’t wait to see "Dances With Wolves" on videotape. Even letterboxing will not ruin this sweeping masterpiece.

**Hamlet**

by Mel Gibson, stars in disbelieve at the ghost of his dead father, the late King of Denmark.

**Matt:** I would like to start out by saying that I am not a big Shakespeare fan, and I suppose that shows my unsophistication or some deep-rooted psychological problem, but that’s the way I am.

I have very mixed feelings about this movie. The cast assembled did a decent job. Glenn Close was superb as Hamlet’s mother Gertrude, and the only problem with Mel Gibson’s Hamlet was that Gibson tended to overtact a bit, almost as if he was trying to prove something (which he was). The cinematography was wonderful, although it sometimes seemed a little claustrophobic; it had a few too many tight shots. I enjoyed the music (although the background music you hear in the commercial only comes in at the end of the movie) and the action sequences were well photographed and directed, but I just cannot recommend this movie.

As I stated before, I am no fan of Shakespeare. This movie did not change my mind at all. I just do not like a movie where I have to concentrate on what the characters are saying instead of what is actually going on. By spending too much time thinking "What did they say?" I feel that I have missed out on what the movie was all about. I know that Shakespeare is considered a master and I know that he didn’t write his plays in the same manner of English which we use today, but I still have problems comprehending, exactly, being is saying. If you enjoy Shakespeare, by all means go out and see "Hamlet," but I, for one, would rather not.

Dare: Like "Dances With Wolves," Hamlet is best seen on the big screen. Director Franco Zeffirelli has taken the classically stagebound "Hamlet" and turned it into a dynamic piece of filmmaking, cutting from one locale to another in rapid-fire succession, without losing the majesty of the windsweped countryside and forbidding castle used in the filming. Gibson is terrific as Hamlet, infusing the brooding Dane with vitality, while maintaining a fever-pitch intensity. This film is a more playful look at Hamlet, and a more sympathetic interpretation of Gertrude than other productions have presented in the past. Purists be warned, however: Zeffirelli plays fast and loose with the events of the play, changing locales, trimming scenes, and shortening events left off stage originally.

EDWARD SCISSORHANDS

**Matt:** Where "Dances With Wolves" was a movie of the acceptance of an outsider, "Edward Scissorhands" shows us that outsiders don’t always fit in. The initial premise, developed by director Tim Burton, is that of a scientist who wanted to create a boy, and died in an early stage of the boy’s development. Edward was left with scissors for hands, alone until the Avon lady (played by the always neurotic Diane Wiest) calls on him one day and brings him home to live with her in a suburb that defines description. It is a suburb from hell in which every house is the same style and is painted in one solid pastel color. Every husband goes to work at the same time and comes home at the same time. Every wife gossips while her husband is at work but still has mealtime ready by dinntertime.

The movie does a good job showing Edward (played by Johnny Depp) trying to fit in. He is quite shy and, with his handscap, cannot accomplish a great deal of ordinary tasks (like the manipulation of cutlery). He is, however, an excellent barber and bakery worker, and in an all human gesture, falls in love with Woes’s daughter Kim (played by Depp’s real-life sweetheart, Winona Ryder) but can’t bring himself to tell her.

I enjoyed the movie, but came away from it wanting a little more story. I felt that we hadn’t been told how Edward was able to survive or what actually happened.

Dares: "Dances" and "Hamlet" belong on the big screen; "Edward Scissorhands," on the other...股东 would play well on TV — the traditional home of the suburb Tim Burton mocks. Unlike Steven Spielberg, Burton shows no love for the land of the middle class, reducing the men to mindless automatons in golf pants, housewives to sallow, screeching nightmares in pastel, and kids to mean-spirited thugs, all of whom rally against poor Edward. It is the quintessential Tim Burton character, the sad, misunderstood soul whose quirky view of reality only brings conflict with the outside world. The movie is a fable, and like fables has a wondrous magic about it, accentuated by Burton’s bizarre visuals and Danny Elfman’s haunting soundtrack.

KINDERGARTEN COP

**Matt:** The premise of "Kindergarten Cop" involves Arnold Schwarzenegger as a policeman going undercover as a kindergarten teacher to find the wife and child of a drug dealer to testify against him in court. My first reaction on hearing this plot synopsis was "Yeah, right!" However, after seeing the movie, I have changed my mind. Though certainly not without its problems, "Kindergarten Cop" is an enjoyable, likable movie. It’s hard to resist the charm of the movie while watching Arnold march his group of kindergarteners across the school playground chanting "Reading, writing, arithmetic. Too much homework makes us sick." or seeing him being scolded by a much shorter and much older female principal.

The supporting cast did a commendable job. Penelope Ann Miller looked a bit too young for her role as a single mother and Arnold’s love interest, but she is an actress to watch for as she gets older. The children were cute and endearing, though some of them got on my nerves after a while.

Ivan Reitman did what Variety deemed the “impossible” in directing the movie, combining the tough yet humorous moments through the film.
Sturges seeks to protect free expression

by Kristan Hutchison

Federal Bureau of Investigation officials entered the home of a San Francisco photographer without a warrant on April 25 and stayed there and a half hours. They returned with a warrant and took his life's work: photographs, negatives, file cabinets, cameras, address books...

Sounds like a George Orwell novel, but it's the tale Jack Sturges told a full auditorium of his own experience ten months ago. About 175 Bard students spent Saturday evening in the Olin Auditorium listening to Sturges, whose FBI is investigating on suspicion of child pornography.

Sturges does take many photographs of nude children and women. All friends of his in the naturist communities on the Atlantic Coast of France or communities in Northern California. "For me, children are innocence personified and they are beautiful. They are free to be themselves," said Sturges.

Photography becomes pornography when it takes respect away from the subject, said Sturges. He maintains a strong respect for his subjects and a humility as their photographer. His photographs are of people in their normal activities, uncloaked.

Sturges only photographs people he knows who have given him written permission to take their picture. He does not use general releases, but returns to the subject for specific permission each time he wants to use a photograph. "That leaves the power where it should be, in the hands of the subject," he said.

The FBI agents who visited Sturges were callous to his photographic ethics, he said. According to Sturges' description, his work had been turned over to the police by a photo lab worker after Sturges' assistant, Jim Sennett, had to switch processing labs because the usual one was full.

Sennett was arrested by the police and held without an attorney for three days. Bail was set at $5,000 and the investigators threatened him to make him tell who shot the film.

That led the FBI and San Francisco Police to Sturges' door on April 25, 1990. "They began to throw questions at me faster than I could handle," said Sturges. He told them his name and address, the only information he was required to give them, and then went inside to call a lawyer.

Though they did not have a warrant,

"Fancy" seems the wrong word for it...

by Mary Best

Bird feet on a swell of rock are mother's feet on this perch, thirteen-year-old. Though likely not exactly thirteen, she seemed an arduous, gawky, young girl of bird-like intensity in Jack Sturges' print "Misty Dawn, Alysa, and Christiana, Northern California 1987.

Sturges showed his prints to a group of over twenty students who remained around the stage of the Olin Auditorium long after his discussion and slide presentation Saturday night. Work prints that he called unrepresentative are what he managed to make from those negatives that the FBI has returned. Some important prints are missing, Sturges said.

It is not a very evolved or fancy vision, disclaiming the self-described "good photographer." He attributes superiority to Sally Mann's recent photographs of her own children. "Fancy" seems the wrong word, but sufficient to communicate Sturges' humility, his ordinary guy-ness, an image of himself he seemed interested in presenting in his defense.

He might have referred to photographs by Nicholas Nixon as well as Mann. A head thrown back, hanging on to the support of a missing window pane in another print of Misty Dawn, Alysa, and Christiana made in 1988 brings to mind a Nixon print of a summer-time boy. "Covington, Kentucky 1982." A head resting back in sprawled out, round-bellied contentment in Nixon's photograph is similar to the head of the arduous, gawky, young girl of bird-like intensity in Jack Sturges' print "Misty Dawn, Alysa, and Christiana, Northern California 1987.

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Sports Commentary by Jody Aap

On Saturday morning I helped at the Special Olympics Basketball Tournament held at the Stevenson Gymnasium. To use a cliché, I got more than I bargained for.

Almost 150 athletes from two dozen organizations participated in an event that lasted only a couple of hours. The athletes had four events to do; dribbling, rebounding, shooting, and wall passing. For each event the athlete had 30 seconds to repeat the process as many times as possible.

No last second shots in a tense and silent gymnasium, only a group of athletes performing tests of skill that so many of us seem simple, with much more emphasis on doing than winning. As a matter of fact, no one was deemed the winner, no one the loser, well at least not among the athletes present. The events were for competing against oneself and not the others.

I was worried that going would depress me, that it would make me sad that they are unable to do things that I can do easily. The day did depress me, because even with their difficulties they had an attitude that defied my own approach to sports.

As an athlete that plays for competitive teams, I realized that most of my teammates and I are able to do things like score a goal or dunk a basketball or serve a tennis ball or run a five-minute mile. However, when we do these things, we are missing an attitude that was readily visible on Saturday. When I say we’re missing something, it’s not just that most of us play simply to win. We don’t just simply try to win for the sake of our victory, we play to beat the other team, as well as to impress our parents, the fans, the coach, whatever. We aren’t just playing, we’re trying to win, trying to better our best record, or maybe simply trying not to lose.

We consider each moment a win or a loss, and more than just within ourselves. We can’t just look at each successive step as being just as important as the last, yet not any more important to throw the whole process out of whack.

We take perfection far too seriously. Even when we do right, that feeling is lost as soon as we screw up again. Somehow doing it is pointless unless we do it right; each loss ruins all previous victories. College sports are supposed to allow the individual to experience the feeling of sports, team unity, a little fitness and well-being. That’s not what the boys at UNLV are really doing. Nobody is particularly interested in cheering the others on. Nobody can honestly say that they would be satisfied if they performed at only 50%, that’s not how we’re taught to play. Anything less than 100% is a waste of time.

The saying, “It’s not whether you win or lose, it’s how you play the game,” may be true, but the attitude on Saturday transcended even that.

The athletes were not there to impress anybody, and most importantly, not even themselves. They were there to give 100% to do a process, and regardless of the process, they were going to do it as well as possible, and that’s all. No regrets, no records, only the accomplishment of having completed the last 30 second test. They were there for that satisfaction and the satisfaction of sharing the feeling with everyone else who felt it too.

I doubt that anyone would be able to convince the athletes that I worked with on Saturday that this isn’t what athletics is all about. Don’t even try to tell me that they don’t understand the satisfaction of winning.

They don’t need to, they understand doing for the sake of doing, and most of them couldn’t have been happier and more excited if they had just won the Superbowl. And none felt any worse than they did when they began, a little more tired, but that rarely is worse.

The Art of the Turnover by Matt Phillips and Jody Aap

If it’s possible, they do it. An errant pass into the opposition’s hands. A full court pass that lands twenty feet out of bounds, taking five steps before putting the ball on the floor. The ways are diverse, but there is no doubt that the Bard Blazers can turn the ball over with the best of them.

One week ago it seemed as if the Blazers were changing a tradition of ugly basketball. They won four in a row led by senior co-captains Noah "Magic" Samton and "Vanilla" Price Mason. They had several people in double figures and were playing as a team, something unheard of in recent Bard basketball history.

However, they were brought back to their old ways by the New York Polytech Bluejays, a team they beat on the road earlier this season, and the Atlantic Union Flames, who gave the Blazers no chance from the opening tip. In the two games of their home tournament, the Blazers gave up an astounding 59 turnovers, that’s three more turnovers than field goals.

Things were not all bad, Price Mason scored his 1,100th collegiate point on Saturday, while on Sunday Steve Moyer scored his very 12. Noah Samton made all-tournament team with 35 points and 27 rebounds while playing through all 80 minutes of Bard’s elimination at the hands of Amherst.

Anyway, on this coming Thursday the Blazers have a chance to solidify their butterfingers and melt their stones bands against Centenary at home. Be there at 7:30 p.m. while they throw away last weekend and turn over a new leaf.

Men’s squash defeated by Army by Jody Aap

The Blazer squash team, in its inaugural season at varsity level, dropped their record to 0-2 after a serious, but predicted, loss to Army 9-0.

Army unquestionably had experience on their side, upping their record to 0-1, in a match that could only be called one-sided, with Matt Phillips as the only Blazer who took a game from his opponent.

However, the young Bard team did better than the score indicated; seven Bard players scored at least 10 points in at least one of the games. “They were all competitive and close matches,” Bard Coach Dan Paris said. “We played a tough squad with more experience.”

The pressure of winning the last few points of a game is usually too much for the less-experienced players, and Bard doesn’t have the experience. By the end of the season the players will feel less intimidated and more clutch points will be won by Bard. There is only one way up.

Matches are composed of nine players from each team paired against the player with the same team and称号 from the other school. Matches consist of best of five games to fifteen points.

The Blazers look forward to a match on Friday at Stevens’ Tech, who although experienced, are not quite the caliber of Army.

Intramural Update

The Department of Recreation and Athletics is opening up the Spring semester with Intramural men and women’s basketball and mens and womens indoor soccer. For those interested in participating, team rosters are due in the Department’s office by Friday, February 8.

The leagues will begin during the week of February 12 with the playoffs planned for the week of March 18.

For further information, or assistance with team placement, please contact Kris Hall at the Intramural Department, extension 530.
Sturges censored
censored from page 7
rant, the officers followed Sturges inside. "We are protecting evidence and protecting you from harming yourself," was the excuse they gave, said Sturges. When his lawyer ar-
ived, they had to converse in Russian in the bathroom, with the water running, for privacy. "At the time it wasn't funny at all, it was right out of
George Orwell," he said.

The officers left after three and a half hours, only to return with a warrant. They took all his photo-
graphs, negatives, cameras, even film belonging to a friend and the novel Lolita.
"At the end of that seven hours I expected to be arrested. I had my toothbrush in my back pocket," said
Sturges.

Since then the FBI has spent sev-
eral million dollars to expand the
investigation across the nation and
into France, according to Sturges. They contacted all Sturges friends and the people he photographed. Under a reciprocal
agreement with the American police, the French po-
tice were obligated to assist. They raided several publishing houses in
search of his photographs and ques-
tioned 46 families.

Sturges feels that the FBI emotion-
ally damaged many of the young girls they questioned about his case. In
the process of trying to investigate

Sturges as a photographer
continued from page 7

was explained by Sturges in terms of responsi-
bility and sympathy with his subjects. He did not want to in-
clude anyone in his photographs who did not specifically agree to be in them.

Sturges' critical appraisal of his own
work and method in relation to con-
temporaries, occurring as it does af-
ter the moment of intuitive response in
which the photographs were taken, seems to be self-censored by his ex-
perience with the FBI. Similarly self-
censored are the photographs he
made during this summer of legal
battles. Sturges brought attention
to his caution with nudity as he showed
a print of a towel-draped girl, draped
with a towel he asked her to wear.

Sensibility and critical appraisal
both seem confined after an investi-
gation he described as Orwellian.
Sturges opened his process of adjust-
ing to that violation to the Bard audi-
ence as he showed and commented on his work.

Scissorhands and Arnold, oh my!
continued from page 6
guy Arnold with the one he directed in "Twins" and the action with the comedy. In doing so, he may have
created an even bigger box office draw. "Kindergarten Cop" per-
formed adequately at the box office, but there were two major problems
which prevented huge box office receipts: parents who thought the film was too violent for their children, and "Home Alone." I agree that for
many kids, there may have been too much violence. However, for me, the
violence was woven in at the right places to create a thoroughly enjoy-
able comedy movie.

Dane: In a way, "Kindergarten Cop" covers much of the same ground
as "Edward Scissorhands," again, a potentially destructive alien is
brought into suburbia, but Reitman's Astoria, Oregon is presented as para-
dise, not purgatory. The movie is an
odd mix, as it runs the risk of alienat-
ing those who want to see the cute
cute kid movie with its violence, and
annoying those out for body counts
by focusing on the cute kids. Arnold
tries his darnest to act, but I got the
feeling that more people were laugh-
ing at his pronunciation of "bool-
mah" than the humor in the line it-
selves. While it's nowhere near a
cut out with our other three movies this
week, "Kindergarten Cop" is the sort of
movie that people who liked the kind
of movies will like... or something to
that effect.

Success at CBS
continued from page 3

When I wasn't I wouldn't want to
work here all my life.

CBS would like to keep Horowitz,
said Jere Ann Ritchey, her boss. "She's the only intern who has ever ascended to a windowed office at CBS," said Ritchey. Horowitz's hard work has
paid the way for future interns from
Bard. Ritchey is willing to take on
more Bard interns for the summer, as
long as they will receive credit from
the college.

In the past month Horowitz has had an inside view of the much de-
igated media coverage of the Gulf War. A protest against all three net-
works staged Jan. 10 accused the
media of only partial wall coverage.
"Even though I agree that the net-
works don't show the essence of what
is happening, it is not really their
fault. It is the Pentagon and military
censoring," said Horowitz. "It's not
like we have tons of footage we are not willing to show."

Before CBS, Horowitz was News
Editor for The Bard Observer. Televi-
sion is more technical and involves
little writing, she said. "It is much
less in depth," said Horowitz. "The
whole evening news transcript is
better than The Observer."

"One thing about the Observer is
that I was actually writing the news,
covering the news," said Horowitz.
"I got to see my name in print. Now I
am doing very behind the scenes stuff." CBS is also more conservative
than the Observer and has no forum
for viewer commentary, she said.

A senior in her final semester,
Horowitz is completing her project
in the city, a study of the underclass
in the United States and policy alter-
natives to help them. She works on it in
spare moments, weekends, lunch
hours, and dinner breaks.

To complete her credits for gradu-
ation, Horowitz is also taking a tutori-
also taking a tutorial with James Chase on media cov-
ve the Gulf War. Next fall she plans to go to graduate school in
Public Policy.

Horowitz found out about the CBS
Internship through Career Develop-
ment Officer Harvey Schwartz's Janu-
ary Internship Program. She was
hired during the interview.
Observations

Fighting fire with what?

by Kristan Hutchison

Don't light any fires at Bard. The entire campus could go up in flames while Security tries extinguisher after extinguisher for one that works.

When a car exploded on campus last week, all three fire extinguishers brought from nearby buildings were either partially or completely empty. Local firefighters had to put out the fire.

The extinguishers should have been full. Maintenance instructions are written on the sides of fire extinguishers: "Inspect monthly or at more frequent intervals... Recharge immediately after any use. Partial discharge may cause extinguisher to have a leak."

If the extinguishers really were checked within the last month, why were they already depleted? Any time a fire extinguisher is used to put out a fire, Security should know about it and recharge the device. Have they done that?

Is this an issue of irresponsibility? Sometimes people play with fire extinguishers, invading buildings and attacking other students with them. Water fights are lots of fun. Unfortunately, then the extinguishers are left empty when they are really needed.

Fire extinguishers are meant to be on hand and ready to use so small blazes can be put out before they turn into bonfires. Last semester two students put out trash can fires with an extinguisher. Flames flickered across the ceiling and left a black scar. If the extinguisher had been empty, the ceiling could have caught and turned the dorm into a furnace while waiting for firefighters to respond.

If the fire extinguishers are not properly maintained, I wonder also about the state of the fire alarms and hoses. I want to be warned of a fire in my dorm while I can still doze out. At Bard, I fear my only recourse in the face of flames will be my fiddle.

Town Meeting

article continued from page 2

Most of the members of the final panel, composed of professors Richard Gordon, Osko Pfanze, Sanijh Baranah, Carol Nackenoff, and Ethan Bloch, also focused on the causes and possible consequences of the war. Bloch, an active member of the peace movement, delivered a blistering criticism of the movement's tactics in positions to date. "It is not correct to say that the U.S. is the sole source of evil in the Middle East," he said. "There are other bad guys too."

This focus on the actions of the United States is but one symptom, said Bloch, of a peace movement that has relied too heavily on simplistic slogans and unworkable solutions.

The contingent of doves at the Town Meeting was substantial as well. They professed that violence can never be a legitimate means to achieve any end.

They found their principal spokesman in Josh Phillips, a conscientious objector, draft counselor, and member of the student panel. The position of the conscientious objector is simple, Phillips said: "We will not fight. We will not kill."

He turned to address the audience directly. "I would like to pose this question to everyone in this room. Would you kill?" He then suggested that unless each member of the audience who supported the use of force in the Gulf could, without hesitation, answer yes, every one of them should reexamine their position on the war.

Perhaps the more direct criticism of allied military action came from Danielle Woerner, Director of Public Relations and a member of the audience during the second panel. "Violence begets nothing but violence," she said. "It takes a great deal of strength to resist answering violence with violence."

Edward Stolomb, a student and a member of the audience, focused on what he saw as the pointlessness of the conflict. He took sharp issue with Trainor's assertion that the war would stabilize the region and prevent future conflict in the region. "We've already heard of a war to end all wars," he said. "That was the First World War." Stolomb was adamant that "the way to defend against aggression is to defend, not to attack."

Moderator James Chace's closing comments for the evening took a middle ground, spreading both the blame for the conflict and the burden of its consequences among all those present. "This war seems to be one of the most unnecessary wars I can imagine," he said. "None of us can escape responsibility for what has happened."

He then raised a question that had seemed to hang heavy on the minds of all the participants throughout the evening: "What will be the consequences of a victory for the United States of America?" Chace believes the greatest danger of such a victory is that it may "give the United States as an overwhelming sense of its own power," which will lead the United States to believe it can serve as the world policeman on a permanent basis. If such is the case, said Chace, "the United States will slowly but surely shed the attributes of a great power."
Letters

What’s ethnicity got to do with it?

To the Editor,

"As an Arab, Karim was raised with a belief in defending and re-
engaging his country and people. ["Kuwaiti Student Flies Fight-
er.""] Observer, Feb. 1. We in the U.S., regardless of ethnicity, are al-
so raised to defend and avenge our country and people. Not only are we
raised so by our families, but by the incessant influence of the various
media to which we are exposed. Consider among other things Holly-
wood movies you have seen, books and periodicals you have read, and
also politicians and teachers you have listened to. So what does ethnicity
have to do with violence and venge-
gence?

-Kurt Anderson

Secession move ill-conceived, irresponsible

Dear Editor,

I felt the need to bring to the atten-
tion of the student body, particularly to members of the student Forum,
the detrimental consequence of Bard's secession event.

That Bard's symbolic secession has induced debate and discussion cannot
be denied. This is perhaps the single positive aspect of the situation. De-
bate and discussion, while benefi-
cial to the current student body, however, cannot alleviate the dam-
age that the secession has caused.

The lowering of the U.S. flag on December 7, 1990 proclaimed to the
world a position allegedly represen-
tative of Bard College and of "stu-
dent feeling on the Gulf Crisis." A
decision of such magnitude must never
be made without the attention of the
entire student body. While ideally
the Forum speaks for student opin-
ion, realistically it must be acknowl-
ledged that every student cannot att-
tend every meeting. Classes, study
obligations or job schedules cannot
be guaranteed to coincide with the
Forum schedule. A campus-wide
vote, circulated through campus mail,
should, at the very least, have been
attended.

I have described the secession as fundamentally damaging. Indeed,
the effects of the action were further reaching than its organizers are per-
haps even aware. The event unexpectedly followed me to Germany, to
plague my holiday. A report of the secession appeared in the December
10, 1990 edition of the armed forces newspaper, The Star and Stripes. Thenew
paper is distributed to soldiers in
the Persian Gulf. My brother is
currently deployed in Saudi Arabia.
He read the report and derived a
negative message, which he made
clear to me in a letter. Not only is Bard
College as an institution against me
and his compatriots personally, but
also, his sister, a student of Bard
College. I cannot discuss with my
brother the true meaning of the se-
cession and who it really represented.
I cannot even be sure that my letter of
explanation has reached him. The
damage is irreparable.

The intent of the secession was perhaps altogether noble—a state-
ment of peace, a stand against war. But
dear friends and students, no matter how clear you might make your
position, any act against the U.S.
in the Gulf, particularly after the
war has begun, will be taken as an act against the soldiers deployed
there. Soldiers will fight and may well die, while we students comforta-
ably continue our lives in the secure
world of academe. Lowering the flag
or parading the streets won't bring
anyone home now. I respect the collective voice that the Bard Forum deigned to express. Next
time the Forum claims to speak for me, without my consent, I hope the
Forum will take pause to ponder the
consequences for which the Forum
will be held responsible.

Sincerely,
Christina Wilson

Respect

Do you care?

Dear Editor,

It has occurred to me that The Ob-
server no longer seems to serve and
represent the interests of the Bard
community: this newspaper lacks both a sense of humor and a rational
capacity to gauge just what it is that
tudents really care to see in print. I
admire your professionalism and seri-
ous attitude, but I feel that there
comes a point when enough is
enough. To think that there is enough
hard news on campus to fill two
two pages each week is somewhat of an
overestimation. It is true, however,
that The Observer does have a policy
of printing almost anything which is
submitted, and if the student body is
unwilling to submit anything, then, I
guess, that is their own fault. None-
thless, in the beginning of The Ob-
server's "new regime," your new
concern for professionalism was a
vast improvement: over what had come
before, but now, I feel, this professionalism has turned this newspaper
into more of a Journalistic
exercise in adhering to guidelines rules and an excuse for reword-
stuffing than an actual reflection of the
Bard community's interests. You are a "mass medium" which seems
quite in presenting itself to the
"masses." This paper isn’t for you,
it’s for them. Listen up, lighten up.

Appreciatively,
Mark Deling
Assistant Production Manager

Letters-to-the-editor, Another View page submissions, personal, or anything else may be sent to The Bard Observer via campus mail or left in the
drop box behind the library front desk.

February 8, 1991
The Bard Observer

Forums continued from page 1

Sanger, Secretary to the Student Forum, also included a letter from Presi-
dent Botstein to the New York State
Department of Traffic Safety, calling
the intersection "unquestionably
dangerous." The resolution passed with
one opposing vote.

The third resolution, proposed by
Jason Van Driessche, called for the
lowering of the flag to half mast for the
duration of the conflict of the Middle East. In the resolution, Van
Driessche explained that flying the
flag at half mast would serve as a
daily, visual reminder that tens of
thousands of young people not too
different from you and me may some-
time give up their lives fighting for a cause
in which they believe.

During the debate, students pointed out that the gesture could be
misinterpreted. Some thought the
statement would be "too passive."
While it would provoke thought, the
resolution did not provide how speci-
fic the "duration" would be, stu-
dents said. Also, if a tragedy hap-
penned at Bard while the flag was still
to half mast, it could not be honored
in the traditional manner. The reso-
novation was defeated after the debate.

The final resolution was introduced
by the Martin Luther King, Jr. Insti-
tute for Nonviolence and called for
the approval of the student body for a
form letter to be distributed and
signed by any students registered to
vote on February 21. The letter urges
state congressmen to debate the le-
gality of the Gulf War. It also ques-
tions the constitutionality of the UN
directives. David O'Reilly of the MLK
Institute said, "This is not in opposi-
tion to the war. It is geared toward the
conflicts in the future, large or small."
The resolution was passed.

Dear Mr. President

continued from page 1

It suited your purposes. When you
needed the U.N. to justify your war,
you understand that all our back dues—
millions of dollars — were hastily
paid so that your political glad-hand-
ing could commence without fear of
repercussions. I call this hypocrisy.

How pompous and clummy and
irrelevant we must seem to the
Muslim world. We should have
waded into the Middle East with our
guns and big talk, under the pretense
of defense, and within months engaged
in a war. A war which in the Middle
East was inevitable: the turmoil there is ancient and well-documented. But is it our war? If we
are to play the role of the world's
policeman, isn't it our duty to try
to maintain the peace? I am a Jew,
sympathetic to Israel; but in the name
of peace, which I value more than religion and blood, I don't think a
commitment on the Palestinian
question should have been out of the question. It is an issue born in the
Middle East, and its flame, which grows hotter with fatal
ratcheted hatreds, should be extinguished in the Middle East, by those who
must live there. A neutral country
should have been called in to negoti-
ate peace. While Saddam Hussein
lives, while the Palestinian issue
burns, the U.S. could not be consid-
ered neutral. While America is in-
volved and this Middle Eastern con-
flict, there will not be peace. It's not
a matter of politics; it is a matter of
defense. You are not fighting the
forces of Saddam Hussein; you are
fighting against Allah. You'll lose,
Mr. President, and your failure to
realize this, your machismo and your
stiff upper lip are going to kill thou-
 sands of Americans.

You called America to your war.
You told us how Iraqi soldiers raped
Kuwaiti's women, killed their
babies... And meanwhile, in Amer-
ica, a woman is raped every ten sec-
onds. Meanwhile, America, the
world's greatest nation, has one of
the most abysmal infant mortality
statistics. Millions of people live in
the streets. New York and Philadel-
phia are bankrupt. There's an AIDS
death every ten hours. How are
you helping America? I don't think
spending billions of dollars on a frui-
tless, hopeless war is helping the U.S.
Please, bring our soldiers home, and
put their billion-dollar resources, their
time, and fighting time, into the
rebuilding of America.

Sincerely,
Todd S. Defen
DJ Dance:
Saturday, February 9, 10 PM to 2 AM, Old gym.

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

Bard College/Community Chorus:
The chorus is, as always, open to all members of the community. Rehearsals of Bach's motet "Jesu, Meine Freude" and his Cantata No. 4, entitled "Christ lag in Todesbanden," begin Thursday, February 7 at 7:30 PM in Bard Hall. Students may obtain one credit. Vocal scores are available prior to 3:00 PM on February 7 or at the first rehearsal in the bookstore. No audition is necessary. If you think you'd enjoy singing, come.

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

Yoga Courses:
An introductory Yoga course will be taught on Thursday nights 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. Classes will be taught by Ben Vronten who received his training at the Kripalu Center and has been teaching at Bard since 1985. Those interested, please contact Vronten through campus mail, Box 118. Ben will be available in Olin 204, Thursday, February 7, 6-7 PM to answer questions and for registration.

Soviet Studies Talk:
On February 13, 1991, Dr. Grigorii Dmitriev, a senior researcher at the USSR Academy of Pedagogical Sciences, will give a talk on Soviet educational reforms and democratization of the educational system during Perestroika. Dr. Dmitriev's research has been mostly concerned with comparative education in Western countries. He has also written extensively on Soviet education. His books and articles have appeared in Australia, Bulgaria, Germany, Greece, and Italy. Some of his works have been published by UNESCO. The talk will take place in the Olin Humanities Building, room 102, at 7:30 PM. The lecture will be open to Bard students and the general public. Sponsored by the Bard Soviet Studies Club and the History Department.

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

Play:
Composer Daron Hagen is to sing and play opera Shining Brow in Olin 104 at 4:00 PM.

Clothing Drive:
A clothing drive will take place on February 14. A box will be placed in Kline Commons and all new or used clothing is acceptable. The clothing will go to a shelter in Red Hook.

National Condom Week:
February 14 through 21. Celebrate!

Dances, Shows and Movies:
Films are shown in the Student Center at 7:00 PM and 9:00 PM. 7:00 PM is non-smoking. Other events are at the times listed, in the Student Center.
February 14: Lean on Me (Movie) Valentines Day Dance - 11:00 PM
February 18: Steve Key
February 21: Bird (Movie)

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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>
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| Morning
Bard van shuttle runs to Rhinecliff, Red Hook, & Rhinebeck 5:45 – 10:30 PM
Trip to Hudson Valley Mall, Kingston 7:00 PM
| 6:00 PM
Ecumenical Worship Service
Chapel 7:00 PM
Observer Features staff meeting
Aspinwall 3rd Floor 7:00 PM
Alcoholics Anonymous
Albania 302 7:10 PM
Writing Tutors
Albee Annex 103 7:15, 8:30, & 9:30 PM
Van meets trains at Rhinecliff station 7:43 PM
Van meets train at Poughkeepsie station |
| 6:00 PM
French Table Community Room
Kline Commons 6:30 PM
Environmental Club Committee Room
Kline Commons 7:00 PM
Observer Features/Arts staff meeting
Preston 127 7:00 PM
Women's Center Meeting
Student Center 7:10 PM
Writing Tutors
Albee Annex 103 |
| 5:30 PM
Continuing Yoga
Olin 204 6:00 PM
Annuity International
Kline Commons 6:00 PM
Observer News staff meeting
Kline 7:00 PM
Observer Photo staff meeting
Albee lounge |
| 5:00 PM
Spanish Table
Kline Commons 7:00 PM
Al-Anon
Albania 302 7:00 PM
Christian Meeting
Bard Chapel basement 7:00 PM
Flute Choir
Bard Chapel |
| 4:00 PM
Play
Olin 104 6:00 PM
Introductory Yoga
Olin 204 6:30 PM
BRLAGA Meeting
Albania Social Room 7:30 PM
Narcotics Anonymous
Albania 302 11:00 PM
Valentine's Day Dance
Student Center |
| 4:25 PM
Vans to Rhinecliff train station 5:00 PM
General deadline for submissions to The Bard Observer 6:30 PM
Vans to Poughkeepsie train station |
| All Day
Clothing Drive
Kline Commons |

*12:00 NOON
Deadlines for all calendar submissions for the issue covering Feb 23 through March 1 due in the Dean of Students office*