

T H E G A D F L Y P A P E R S

A weekly journal of comment, criticism, and satire
concerning the activities of the Bard College Community

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"That's the way we've always done it."

Mac McCune

WHY THE GADFLY ?

Democracy is not a passive act. You can't sit back and let it happen, because it won't. A functioning democracy requires the active participation of all the people involved in it, or else power will slip from the hands of the people, who were intended to hold it, into the hands of a small group who will use it for their own ends, rather than for the good of all.

The Bard Community is in danger of losing its democratic system. For too long we have sat back and let a few govern for us, trusting that they would do so in our best interest. The events of the past semester have shown that our trust was naive. It is time for the community as a whole to regain its control of community government before that control is lost forever.

But how are we to assert that control? We cannot, like the Greeks, assemble in the morning to debate policy and action. We have neither the time or the need for that. What we can do is to make ourselves an interested and informed electorate that will make its wishes known and will hold its elected representatives responsible for their actions.

No journal, of course, can create an informed and interested member of the community. It can, however, aid any person who wishes to become so. It is for this reason that we are bringing out the Gadfly Papers.

Edited by Ilene Rosen and Matt Perlstein, the Gadfly will be distributed weekly, to all the members of the Bard Community. It will contain news of the week's council meeting and comment, criticism, and satire on all phases of the community's government and activities. It is not our aim to present only one point of view or to support one particular program or policy, but rather to present many ideas, and to give a fair hearing for the many diverse points of view that exist on the Bard campus. Our only criteria for choosing articles is that they be well written, of interest to the community, and signed by their author.

The Editors

TOWARDS BETTER COUNCIL MINUTES

The Community Council minutes are of great importance, not only to council, but to the Community. They are the record, not merely of the witticisms of the members of council, but of its proceedings, its votes, and its resolutions; the official record. Therefore, it is of great importance to council and the Community that these records be kept as fully and as accurately as possible. This is the job of the council secretary.

It is therefore important that the best possible secretary be chosen. One who can reduce the notes of the meeting into a complete, accurate, and readable record. But in order to do this, the secretary must first be able to take these notes. The speed with which council proceeds makes it, if not necessary, at least desirable to have a secretary who can take shorthand. I do not know if there are persons on this campus who have this skill, but if there are, I urge them to apply for the post of Secretary of Council. And if such persons do apply, I urge council to consider their applications very seriously.

Matt Perlstein

SEMESTER AWARDS

In the past semester, members of the Bard Community have been active in many fields of endeavor. We feel it only fitting to recognize their accomplishments by giving awards to a few of the most outstanding of these. Therefore, the editors of the Gadfly Papers are proud to present the following awards:

The Old Bard Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to further the ideals of the old Bard: to Mac McCune and Mark Mellet for their stirring defense of the Elections Committee and its time-honored practices.

The Good Fellowship Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to encourage fellow feeling within the various institutions in the Bard Community: to Tony Marzani and Peter Lee who unselfishly put aside their doubts as to the validity of the Council elections in order not to create dissent within Council.

The Clean Air Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to make Bard a more fragrant place to live and study: to B&G for digging up the Bard sewer system in the middle of the semester.

The Roughing It Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to encourage people to live without modern conveniences: to the Power Companies of New York State for giving us the rare opportunity to spend an evening without electricity.

The Epicure Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to increase the delights of dining at Bard: to the dining commons for inventing the Monte Carlo Sandwich: we never thought that so many good tasting things could be put together to such a strange result.

~~The Floorwax Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to increase the sale of floorwax at Bard: to the many people who spilled so much beer on the gym floor at the informals.~~

The half a Loaf is Better Than None Award, to the person or persons who have done the most in starting something and never quite finishing it: to Matt Perlstein of the Folklore Society for planning a good concert and a hoot and then not publicizing them.

The Special Award for Zeal and Industriousness, to the person or persons who have worked the hardest at what they set out to do: to Dick Naylor, business manager of the Bard Observer, who sold so many ads that editor Harvey Fleetwood didn't have any room left in which to print the news.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A new show moved into Albee Social on Dec. 13, 1965 at 7:15. Actually, it wasn't a new show at all, but a revival of that old favorite "Community Council", otherwise known as the "funniest show on campus". Now, this show has a guaranteed run of four months each semester and no amount of panning from the critics will dislodge it. This long running bit at least changes its cast of characters occasionally, making for a new, if not different, show each semester. This year was no exception. The old cast continues with Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Livingston, Mr. McCune, Mr. Mellet, and Mr. Kreiger. The new additions are Messrs Marzani, Lee, and Friedman.

All in all, Monday night proved to be a rousing good show. It was preceded by a great deal of mixed publicity. In the week before its premiere performance, there was much discussion as to various irregularities discovered during the elections for the Dhairmanship (otherwise known as the lead) Two hundred, twenty one, Bardians felt disturbed enough to sign a petition calling for the elections to be re-held. In the confusion before opening night, the cast of the "Community Council" issued several statements which only served to becloud the situation further with charges and countercharges. The pre-show publicity brought out the audience in force. About twenty five people, a very large group in this case, had their interest tickled to the extent that

they left their finals at home and came to see the first performance. They were not to be disappointed. The actors got so carried away with their improvisations that the show ran over its usual hour and forty five minutes playing time, and ran instead for almost three hours including intermission.

The central issue of Monday night's marathon was the problem of the irregularities during the previous election. The 221- name petition was presented to the council and was set aside as representing perhaps, only "fifty interested people" the rest just signing because they liked to see their name in print. Council voted, and passed a resolution stating that, although there may have been irregularities, the election was still valid and that further elections would only serve to disrupt the workings of council.

It was during this first act that the characters began to reveal themselves to the audience. Craig Livingston put on a strong performance as the beleaguered new Council chairman. It must be stated here that he handled a potentially explosive role in a most impressive manner. Unfortunately the same cannot be said for his colleagues. The older members of the cast with one exception, gave their usual boring performances. Mr. Mellet and Mr. McCune played the staunch defenders of "old Bard" whatever that may be. Their attitude was one of "so what?" and "who cares?". Mr. Bernstein's presentation lacked clarity and confused the audience not nearly as much as, I suspect, Mr. Bernstein was.

The comedy relief was supplied by the Rover Boys, Mr. Lee and Mr. Marzani. Their funniest scene was when they nominated one another for one of the sub-committee chairmanships.

The surprise of the evening came from Mr. Kreiger, who has decided to reinterret his role; until this point he has played a supporting part. Staying in the background and out of trouble. Monday night, for one reason or another, he stepped forward and gave a strong performance in defense of the petitioners. It was one of the most dramatic moments of the entire evening.

Much of the rest of the night was taken up with the distribution of the chairmanships of some of the standing committees of Council.

One of the best parts was saved for last, when, as during the Republican Convention, almost everybody had gone home. Council passed a set of stringent rules to regulate future elections. These were then mimeographed and passed out to the Community by the administration, so no further comment is needed.

This can be said for the entire performance, although it is doubtful that you will leave Albee social humming any of the songs, the next four months promise to be all the more exciting for the presence of "Community Council."

Ilene Rosen

PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW COUNCIL

The Council for Spring 1965 met for the first time during the last week of last semester. Unlike most councils in the past, it was faced with a serious problem at its first meeting; a petition signed by over two hundred members of the community, calling for the reholding of the elections for chairman of council because of irregularities in the voting procedure.

Council's reaction to the petition was, after an hour's debate, to pass a resolution stating that, while the election was conducted in an irregular manner, they were quite sure that the irregularities had not affected the outcome. Tony Marzani, the sponsor of this resolution, told this writer that the reason he had introduced it was because he felt that it was important for Council members to stick together. The new Council has shown a great deal of good fellowship toward each other and respect for the sacred institution of Council, but, by its out of hand rejection of the petition, very little of either good fellowship or respect toward the members of the Community.

The reason which Peter Lee gave for Council's not taking the petition more seriously was that "around here a person will sign just about anything!" Have any of the members of Council thought of the logical corollary to this rather popular statement: that "around here a person will vote for just about anybody"?

Matt Ferlstein

BETTER LECTURES

In his campaign for Council, this past semester, Harvey Fleetwood brought up a point that I am sorry to see he did not elaborate in an Observer editorial or elsewhere. He said that there were too many concerts and lectures at Bard. At first this statement struck many of his listeners as a rather strange thing to say, but there is a great deal of truth to it. There are many organizations at Bard which are active in bringing speakers and performers to Bard. There are however only about 650 people in the Bard Community. Since all of these have many things to do besides attend concerts and lectures, this limits the potential audience for these activities during the year. With this in mind, it logically follows that numerous events during the year, especially during finals would be poorly attended.

The simplest thing to do in this situation would be to reduce the number of concerts and lectures held. But, as Mr. Fleetwood pointed out, since we have the money available, why not, at the same time spend more on each event. This would mean a higher calibre of speakers and performers. We might have concerts by Judy Collins, Ravi Shankar, or the Julliard String Quartet. We might have lectures by Arthur Schlessinger or Saul Bellow. The possibilities are endless.

Mr Fleetwood's point is well worth thinking about.

Matthew Perlstein

IN CONCLUSION

You have seen but a small fraction of what the Gadfly is capable. The rest depends, in a large part on you the members of the Bard Community. The Gadfly cannot exist without help. We will need \$70 to meet the cost of mimeographing for the semester. We will need typists to help prepare the stencils each week. And above all we will need material. ~~We do not pretend to know, let alone represent, the diversity of opinion on this campus.~~ All that we can hope to do is to provide a forum in which the authors of this opinion can express themselves. For this reason, we invite all those who have something to say on the affairs of the Community to contribute to the Gadfly Papers in the coming weeks and months. Our only requirements are that contributions be well written, of interest to the Community, and signed by the author. The Gadfly is your forum. Use it well.

The Editors

Contributions of all kinds may be made to the editors c/o the Gadfly, Box 506, Campus Mail.