

# 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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## EXCHANGE OF THE WEEK

Councilman Friedman: "I move to allocate \$40.00 for the purchase of 'Official Community Council' sweat shirts."

Councilman Mellett: "I think this is one of the most constructive things we've done in a long time."

## COMMITTEE TO STUDY PURCHASE OF A BARD-MOBILE

Councilman Harvey Fleetwood got things underway at Council's "Red Balloon" Meeting last Monday night. After hearing a report by Chairman Livingston regarding the costs of five different VW microbuses--ranging from between \$2.400 and \$300.00, Mr. Fleetwood moved that \$2,000.00 be allocated to BRAC for the purchase of a vehicle.

After Councilman Friedman seconded the motion, discussion centered about adequate Community funds--Treasurer Mac McCune reporting that Council had only \$1,200.00 remaining in the Convocation treasury. When asked to amend his motion, Councilman Fleetwood declined on the grounds that financing could be arranged to pay the balance.

Councilman Shute, while approving of BRAC's request, asked to see "prices on paper." "I'll vote against any proposal unless I see figures; this is a large amount of money and should be handled more accurately. Give me something on paper."

Insurance matters were discussed, however undecidedly, as were the possibilities of borrowing a truck from B&G--all of which James Fine said he had looked into and from which he was sufficiently dissuaded.

It was at this point that Councilman Shute questioned the fairness of allocating "all this money to one aspect of the community interest." Chairman Livingston, having given up the chair to Moderator Bernstein, stated that BRAC "needs transportation now," and did not want to undergo postponement. Mr. Livingston declared that he too felt \$2000.00 was too much, feeling that a lesser allocation was in order. Mr. Boynton, representing the Dean, said that he had been instructed to vote "no" on the whole project as it stood of Councils March 21st meeting.

Councilman Fleetwood then amended his motion to call for the creation of a committee of three to consider matters of insurance, sphere of use etc.--while maintaining the body of his motion to allot \$2000.00. Discussion now centered about whether Council wanted to "overextend itself" by purchasing a cheaper vehicle thus risking repair costs. The Question was called and the amendment failed 3-4-0.

The Question was called on Councilman Fleetwood's original motion; it failed 1-7-1.

Chairman Livingston moved to allocate \$1,000.00 "for a community vehicle"--insurance problems, sphere of use, etc. to be determined by a committee of three. Motion failed 2-7-0.

Finally, Councilman McCune moved to establish a committee of three to look over the whole matter: to consider prices, insurance rates, and sphere of use, etc. The committee would "report back as soon as it is ready." Motion passed 7-0-1.

Under New Business, Councilman Friedman moved to allot \$40.00 to Community Council for the purchase of "official Community Council Sweatshirts." Councilman Mellett seconded the motion, stating that "it was a really constructive thing--one of the most we've done in a long time." Councilman Krieger stated that "Council members don't sweat--they stand around and make silly motions." Motion passed; secret ballot.



Dan Gordon appealed to Council for action against the high prices and poor quality of sandwiches. He cited the fact that meat is now sliced by the Red Balloon, thus lowering the cost of meat, and that loafed bread has now replace sesame rolls. Keith Smith, the sandwichman, replied that sandwich prices were lowered and that he was doing all he could to make the best possible sandwiches. He denied that he was making an exorbitant profit, stating that as of next week he would return to bigger and better sesame rolls. Councilman Fleetwood suggested that all such problems should be handled by the Institutional Committee.

Councilman Marzani, reporting on behalf of the Due Process Study Group, announced that Mr. Lensing had resigned from that Group. Councilman Marzani gave no reason for Mr. Lensing's action.

Councilman Marzani, on behalf of EPC, requested that the EPC secretary receive an additional \$50.00 for her increased chores. Motion passed 8-1-0.

Councilman McCune asked Council for \$75.00 for the showing of two Charlie Chaplin movies. Discussion centered about the legality of showing these films; Mr. Chaplin holds sole rights to his films. The movies would be shown after Spring vacation. Councilman Bernstein's amendment to reduce the allocation to \$60.00 failed. The motion passed 4-3-2.

Chairman Livingston asked Ilene Rosen, Chairman of the Entertainment Committee, why Saturday night's dance turned out to be such "a disaster." Miss Rosen stated that The Cellar Stairs, the combo originally committed to her, backed out at the last minute; they assured her that the Ginger Men would play even though a few problems would arise concerning the previous engagements of some of the members. Mr. Livingston said that a record player should have been obtained.

Council turned down a request by Mac McCune to compensate the Gingermen for the theft of one of their instruments.

The meeting ended after Councilman Bernstein pleaded with Council for "a little seriousness at meetings."

John Faylor

#### EDITORIALS

##### THE "RED BALLOON" MEETING AND PNEUMATIC IMPALANCES

It would be quite difficult to criticize constructively the proceedings of last Monday's Community Council Meeting. In a past editorial, this editor advised that motions be considered according to their applicability, plausibility, and possible effectiveness. Difficult it would be therefore to find even a measure of this stratagem in the motion of Councilman Fleetwood to allocate \$2000.00 to BRAC.

Mr. Fleetwood was obviously ignorant of the amount of money in the Community's treasury, as the minutes will reveal, and his suggestion that the balance of the cost be financed by the College (one must presume this is what he meant) was lacking in plausibility. It is quite a serious matter when Council, dependent upon convocation fees, wills to endebt itself.

Perhaps then it was the bouyant atmosphere of the Red Balloon which accounts for this idiocy. Yet, the business about sweat shirts can be taken only as a direct insult to the community, and the petition which appeared on Hegemen's bulletin board on Tuesday attests to Community outrage. What Community Council neglects to consider is the possibility of students refusing to pay convocation fees next year--and one must admit that they would be justified in doing so merely on the grounds of this outrage.

Moreover, Council's tendency to create committees, like the Due Process Study Group, then never adequately delineating the task or the restrictions under which they should operate is necessarily irresponsible. Why did Alison Raphael at Council two weeks ago have to ask the Chairman what the Due Process committee "was constituted to do?" Again, why did Council set up a committee to investigate the purchase of a vehicle, never stipulating when its report was due? I don't believe members of the committee were even appointed.

How then is one to begin to criticize constructively? Might we begin by asking that Council meetings be returned to Albee Social were they have always been so that normal attendance might once again be restored. Then too, we would agree with Mr. Bernstein that "without seriousness meetings are a waste of time."

John A. Faylor

TO "NAME WITHHELD"

It must be indeed satisfying for Harvey Fleetwood, editor of the Observer, to see his prophecy that "the Gadfly will stir things up on campus" fulfilled so soon. We are, of course, referring to the letter to the editor in the most recent issue of the Observer concerning our humble publication. We do not intend to become embroiled in an endless debate with an adversary who does not choose to reveal his identity, but we do feel that a re-statement of the raison d'etre of the Gadfly will serve as a satisfactory rejoinder to "name withheld."

"...The Gadfly will be distributed weekly, to all 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."

We hope this will lay to rest the fiction that The Gadfly is "the product of a closed mind."

The Editors

SWEATSHIRTS

Hey Group! Remember we promised to keep you all informed as to what those crazy boys over in Albee Social are up to? Remember two weeks ago it was comic books to beat the boredom? Well folks, this week it's something new. Council is going to have their very own, personalized sweatshirts. They're going to say "Member of Community Council" on them and they're going to belong to the boys to wear forever and ever. It's really getting very clubby over there. First special reading material and now special insignia. I wonder what will be next. Funny hats and secret handshakes maybe?

Ilene Rosen

THE INTENTIONS OF COUNCIL

Since the beginning of the semester, many people, here at Bard, have been wondering at the seemingly irresponsible actions of the Community Council. It seems hard to believe that the Community elected, as its representatives, people who show so little regard for the interests of the students here at Bard. It is difficult to understand how the members of Council, once elected, can take their jobs so lightly.

But really, there is no need to doubt our representatives. There is a simple explanation for their actions. This is that they are men of good will who have grown so tired of the way that councils were mismanaged in the past, a lesson that the members of the Bard Community had not yet learned, that they decided to give us an object lesson to show us how bad things could get if irresponsible people were elected.

Council is to be congratulated in its effort. Its members could not have done a better job if they had actually been the irresponsible persons that they have set out to imitate.

Matt Perlstein

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To: Gadfly Papers  
From: Kitty Rauscher, Institutional Com. Rep.  
Re: Laundry Facilities

Dirty Clothes and inconvenience: these two terms are used again and again whenever Bard's laundry facilities are discussed.



It has been common knowledge for quite some time now that the school lacks adequate devices for the washing and drying of clothes. One can hardly expect three washers and two dryers in Tewksbury and two washers and dryers in Robbins House to serve a student population which is approaching the 600 mark-- especially when about 1/2 of these machines are in proper working order at any one time.

At the beginning of this term these conditions became unbearable. Two weekends in a row I walked from Blithewood to Tewksbury with armsful of dirty clothes and linen--only to find in operating condition no more than one washer and one dryer, which same was stuffed with an hour's drying time of dimes. Another student reported to me that at one time four people were waiting to use one washer.

Both as a member of Institutional Committee and as an irate citizen of the Bard Community, I made complaints to the Dean and later to Richard Griffiths of B&G. Believe it or not, I have some good news to report. As of last count the machines in Tewksbury are all working. Also Mr. Griffiths stated that---this I can hardly believe---by the end of this term laundry machines will be installed in both McVickar and Blithewood basements. Construction is already underway on these two projects.

I also asked Mr. Griffiths what can be done when a machine breaks down. He said that repair work is done by the Hotpoint Co. in Poughkeepsie, but that if a student wishes to make a complaint he should call the B&G office, because the Hotpoint Co. will not service complaints made by students.

#### CAUTION - CHILDREN AT PLAY

Could it be that an upcoming confrontation before Council forced our friendly and shrewd sandwich man to make a radical change in his fee structure? Could it be that our friendly and shrewd sandwich man wanted to portray an innocent and community-minded role to Community Council and gallery? Could it be that Mr. Smith (our friendly and shrewd sandwich man) saw fit to shroud the truth with a curtain of hastily concocted facts and figures to cover his dereliction of duty? I answer a profound yes to all these questions!

Mr. Smith's noble contention of charging no more than sixty cents for any sandwich is pure bunk. He may well have altered his fee scale, but I maintain this was to forestall any questions of his integrity at Council, in front of all the members of Council (save a few) who are either acting dumb or not acting at all, but just are dumb. For just the night before Mr. Smith was charging sixty-five cents for the sandwiches he maintains cost only sixty cents. His ability to fanagle statistics should be complimented. He managed to obscure an obvious truth--that Council mistakenly voted a lucrative concession and a position of trust to one incapable of holding such stature. Mr. Smith's plaint aht he works hard for his money bears no witness in the quality of his merchandise, his dependability or in the truth of his statements. Can we in good faith offer responsibility to an individual who carries aberrations of the obvious truth to our governing body? If Mr. Smith cannot be trusted to relay the truth to fellow members of the Community, he cannot be trusted as a concessionaire and his privilege should be withdrawn!

It seems we cannot win with our friend the shrewd sandwich man. Along with the noble decrease in the price of his goods has come the expected decrease in the quality of those goods. Maybe we will not win, but neither shall we lose. It is a simple matter of putting the will of the community to work. Such a protest will be effective no matter who Mr. Smith's friends are!

So goes another episode in the unending saga of the lame (or is it lambrained?) Council which spends its time listening to lies without repudiating them. It almost seems that Council condones this irresponsible activity just by the way it conducts its own affairs! But then again, what can we expect from a group of children who are more concerned with games than with governing?

I hope the members of the Council won't be too disappointed when they find themselves "marked men" and spectacles before

their constituents, as they parade in their official Council Sweatshirts. If I behaved as they, I would be ashamed to put one on!

Glenn N. Pomerance

EXCERPT FROM THE GADFLY PAPERS: MARCH 1986

Bard has come a long way since, in the middle sixties, the community first realized, in the words of, then chairman of council, Craig Livingston, "No longer are students considered children." From this simple beginning the student rights movement has grown and prospered until today, when we can truly say that every student has the right to run the college at which he gets his education.

It has been a long and arduous process. At every step the students were opposed by many parents, faculty, and even some misinformed students. The entire history of this movement is far too long to recount here, but it would be in order to touch upon some of its high points. The first step was, of course, the setting up of a due process committee which gave the students their first voice in administrative policies. The second was when the students decided to due away with the six point program, a source of suffering to many students.

With these two precedents behind them, the students set to the serious task of gaining their rightful place in the college. New programs and policies followed hot and fast: a student committee to pass on the relative merits of applicants for teaching positions, a student library committee which has been responsible for obtaining, for Bard, the nation's finest collection of Marvel comics, which is unmatched, even by the libraries of Yale and Harvard, a system by which any student who feels that he knows more about a course than the professor, can teach the course instead, student auditors for the business office, a requirement that all appointments to the Board of Trustees be ratified by the Student Body at a mass meeting, student tenure, and many more.

But the task is far from finished. Again we are facing a major crisis in the drive for student rights. This week, Community Council debates the important issue: Can a lower college student run for Dean?

Matt Perlstein

The Gadfly editorial staff wishes to thank all those members of the Community, Administration, and Faculty who believe with us that it is necessary to have another organ of opinion on this campus, and supported this belief as generously as they did. Our costs have more than adequately been met.

The Editors

Editors: John Faylor (objective reporting and arrogant editorials)  
Ilene Rosen (chancellor of the exchequer and vitriol  
continuity)  
Jeffrey T. Mortimer (ace reporter and head scapegoat)

Fashion Consultant: Wilhelmina Martin

Comic Relief: Lorraine Smith

Spy Espionage: Linda Potter

Founding Father and Editor Emeritus: Matthew Perlstein