

THE GADFLY PAPERS

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

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Craig Livingston said that "the canons of responsible journalism" were what the editor thought they were...'

--The Bard Observer
ed. note.--and keep your powder dry.

DUE PROCESS COMMITTEE SENDS DRAFT OF REPORT TO COUNCIL; TREASURER'S REPORT-"OUR BALANCE IS ZERO."

Monday night Councilman Fleetwood presented a draft of the report from the Due Process committee. Mr. Fleetwood assured the Council that it was not, however, a final draft of that report but rather a "trial balloon."

Mr. Mellett said that he questioned the phrase concerning the inaccessibility of a student's record except for "compelling reasons". He wondered what constituted "compelling reasons".

Mr. Bernstein asked the Dean what the Administration thought of the draft.

The Dean said that he would not say whether the document was good or bad until the final draft was drawn up; and that it would not be final until it went before the trustees.

Mr. Mellett wondered why the trustees had to decide on the report and why the faculty and Administration could not pass upon Due Process without the approval of the trustees.

The Dean said that discipline had been delegated to the Administration and that the new document implies a new group responsible for dismissal and suspension. Whether the board would want to delegate authority from the Administration to the faculty is "debatable."

Treasurer McCune reported that \$300 of unused club budgets had been returned to him. "Our balance is approximately zero", he said, "we have allotted all we have, nothing is un-committed." He promised to submit a complete report next week, showing exactly where the bank account now stands and how much the clubs have spent.

Mr. Mellett moved that the secretary of Council send letters to all club chairmen, demanding financial reports of all funds committed and those not committed. Council would honor only the budgets of those clubs who submitted such reports.

Mr. Kreiger offered an amendment to the effect Council be made aware of club surpluses as soon as they arise.

The amendment was accepted.

Mr. Mellett further amended his motion so that only those clubs who had submitted constitutions would be recognized.

The motion passed 4-3-0.

Councilman Marzani asked the Dean to give the Administration's reasons for not keeping the gym open late at night.

The Dean said that Mr. Patrick had been plagued by vandalism, and that since the main reason for coming to the gym at night was to play pool, the pool table was to be moved out of the gym. The Dean also announced that there was an \$80,000 renovation planned for the gym, beginning this summer. The down-stairs area will be primarily affected by the renovation. The hand-ball courts are to be repaired the showers made workable, and several new ping-pong and pool tables are going to be installed.

The Dean said that he had a proctor's report for the 8th of May at 3:30 AM concerning the "BRAC mobile". He wanted to know what the "BRAC-mobile" was doing driving around campus at that hour in the morning.

Mr. Livingston said that he didn't know.

Mr. Mellett moved that BRAC give a full report of their use of the bus at the next meeting of Council. The motion passed 5-1-0.

Mr. Marzani moved that the keeper of the keys bring his books to Council next week for examination. The motion passed.

Councilman Bernstein moved to allot \$150 to WXBC, the proposed Bard radio station. WXBC wanted \$35 to join the Inter-collegiate Broadcasting System, and \$115 to hire a consulting engineer.

Mr. McCune wanted to know if the station had its license yet.

Mr. Pomerance, speaking for WXBC, said that the consulting engineer would find the frequency for the station and inform the staff if a radio station is feasible.

Mr. Bernstein complimented Mr. Pomerance and the others of WXBC.

for a well thought-out plan, "which", he said, "is more than can be said for the other attempts at starting a station."

Mr. Hellett asked if it were possible to put it off.

Mr. Pomerance said "yes" but he added that further delay meant that WXBC would have to postpone its broadcasting that much more....

Mr. Marzani amended the motion to read that the \$150 would be given precedence once the money started returning to Council.

Mr. Livingston asked the purpose of the radio station.

Mr. Pomerance said that the station would serve many purposes:

1. it would increase the cultural resources of Bard.
2. it would serve as a liason with the surrounding community.
3. it would be a cultural resource for the rest of the community.
4. it could be used as a lab for radio broadcasting.
5. it would be entertaining and instructional.
6. it would have a range of 5-7 miles and would reach Pivoli and Red Hook.

Mr. Livingston asked if the frequency was to be FM.

Mr. Pomerance said yes, but that on campus, each dorm would have an FM-AM oscillator that would beam the FM signals into AM receivers.

Mr. Fessler, faculty advisor to the radio station, said that there was no educational FM stations between Albany and New York; that this was a wide open field. Perhaps in a few years we would be able to expand. He said that after sun-down the local radio stations go off the air. "This is an invaluable opportunity to fill a vacuum," he added.

The Dean amended the motion to read that it was not binding on future Councils

The motion passed 8-0-0.

Mr. Livingston stepped down from the Chair. Community-moderator Bernstein assumed chairmanship of the meeting.

Mr. Livingston (from the floor) moved that second priority for an allotment of \$650 be given to BRAC for its summer work project.

Mr. Marzani said that he would vote against the motion. He thought that it should be put off until the end of the semester, when Council would have a clearer idea of how much money would be left.

John Faylor, a member of the Community, asked Mr. Livingston if BRAC was changing its mind after donating some of its budget for the purchase of the "BRAC-mobile".

Mr. Livingston said that BRAC had donated its money to keep Council from going into hock, on condition that when money was available it would

go to BRAC.

Mr. Hellett said that he was drawing the line against deficit spending, allocating money before it has returned to Council.

Mr. Livingston offered to withdraw his motion.

Mr. Marzani objected.

The motion failed 0-6-1.

Mr. Livingston returned to the Chair.

Mr. Livingston asked the Administration to issue a statement defining the professional relationship between doctors, nurses, and the students.

The Dean said that he preferred to hear the dissatisfaction with the present policy.

Mr. Livingston said that he knew of students who were not going to Dr. Velasco, the school physician, about V.D., narcotics, or birth control information, because they were not sure of their position. He asked if Dr. Velasco were under the same responsibility as other physicians, and if Dr. Velasco were legally not allowed to disclose personal conversation between himself and his patients.

The Dean said that the doctor was not allowed to prescribe birth control pills, or dispense information to minors without the consent of the parents. The confidentiality of statements was left to the interpretation of the individual.

Mr. Hellett asked if these statements applied to Dr. Jarrod as well.

The Dean said that they did.

Mr. Hellett said that Dr. Velasco was not prescribing contraceptives for people who were not minors.

The Dean said that the doctor was delighted to prescribe contraceptives or birth control pills to non-minors or to those with consent from the parents.

Mr. Hellett questioned the popularity of Dr. Velasco. He said that he has yet to hear from anyone who liked Dr. Velasco.

Mr. Marzani asked the Administration if it might be possible to take the bicycles stored behind the truck barn and donate them to the children of Kingston.

Mr. Friedman pointed out that many of the bikes were not in usable condition, and that someone would have to sort out the usable bikes from those that were not.

Mr. Fleetwood wanted to know if the children wanted the bikes. He also asked Council to wait a week because someone approached him for a bike concession.

Mr. Marzani asked if the Administration had any use for the bikes.

The Dean said that he didn't, and that any idea for their disposal would be brought up at the faculty

meeting.

Mr. Bernstein asked how the bikes would be distributed.

Mr. Livingston said that he didn't know.

A motion requesting that the faculty consider donating the bicycles passed 5-0-2.

Mr. Mellett moved that Council allot \$5 for the temporary secretary of HPC.

Mr. Bernstein said that Council has no money.

Mr. McCune said, "We have approximately zero money."

Mr. Fleetwood amended the motion to read that if there were no money, Miss Bloch would take it out of her own salary.

The amendment passed 5-1-1

The motion passed 7-0-0.

Ilene Rosen
Jeffrey Mortimer

EDITORIALS

WHAT EVERY GOOD HOUSEWIFE SHOULD KNOW.

Judging from Council's present financial predicament, I wonder if a good course in solid home economics might not be in order? Treasurer McCune announced that our bank balance stands at approximately "zero" as of this moment; there is, in fact, about \$12,000 in the account, but his money has been previously allotted to the various clubs on campus and should remain in their jurisdiction until either the money becomes available for return to the Council account, or until the end of the semester.

This lack of funds has put a serious crimp in the activities of Council. Monday night the Council members were faced with the unhappy decision of committing anticipated monies to two organizations or refusing the funds outright. The two organizations were BRAC and WXBC. WXBC received its request for \$150 while BRAC's request for \$650 was postponed until the end of the semester, when Council would be sure of its financial standing.

Traditionally there has always been money left unspent by the end of the semester; and, unfortunately, allotting this money prior to its return is the only way in which Council will be able to limp through the rest of the semester. But it is disconcerting to listen to Council discuss the priority of requests for this money. Imagine for a moment, oh horrendous thought, what if Council overcommits itself? what will happen if not enough money is returned to meet all the commitments made by Council over the

semester? Will the future Council be faced with a shortage of money in much the same manner as the present one was?

In short, I charge Council with a reckless fiscal policy. Long on idealism, but, perhaps, short on practical sense, Council has rushed headlong into schemes which have done nothing but cost it money, and purchases which will be continual drains on the public funds.

I do not even know whether there is any way to correct this situation. (Perhaps it has solved itself. With no money Council will have to, at least, slow down its spending.) We can only bear up as best we can and try, in the future, to avoid making the same mistakes.

Ilene Rosen

PERSONAL SERIES

WILL the unknown bicycle concessioner reveal himself???

WHAT is the mystery behind the phantom BRAC-mobile???

DOES Council have a friend at Chase Manhattan???

HAS anyone seen the door-handle from the BRAC-mobile???

IS Mr. Toomey in cahoots with the Selective Service???

WILL the photocopier create a coin-shortage in the Hudson Valley?

IS it true that Slater System is hiring chicken-watchers for the summer???

DID the blonde come along with the Dennison photocopiers???
(if so, you're hiding something from us, Mr. Fessler.)

IS it true that Guy (Happy New Year) Lombardo, with brother Carmen as head vocalist, have agreed to play for the Spring Formal???

HUDSON RIVER BACKWASH

It appears the Red Balloon will bail out the Entertainment Committee this weekend. "Balloon A-Go-Go" coming up this Saturday night looks as though it will be a lot of fun. Everyone will go home to bed, their bellies full of beer and hot dogs, asking why the entertainment Committee could not have come up with a similar idea. James Fine and Steve Tremper and the whole crew of the Balloon will have saved the day.

So what did happen to the Entertainment Committee? Here it is going on the last quarter of the semester with nothing to show for their effort (and \$2,587.00) but a "Beer-Blast . . . Bust!" at which time everyone peeled the wax off their paper cups for lack of something to do. Some even complained that the beer tasted like "Hudson backwash."

Perhaps then our money is entertaining someone else. Maybe the Committee has bought TV's for the Hottentots on the assumption that they'd come to Bard and put on a show. Perhaps the money is being spent on a "Good Humor" truck -- vehicles being the focus of community interest this semester. Oh yes! Can't forget . . . a good deal of the money will go for the year-end "formal" blow-out under the Blithwood moon. Free sandwiches and all you can drink (and its all drunk too!!); dogs run around Blithwood terrace having the time of their lives; and someone invariably falls into Blithwood fountain.

"Can't wait!" you say? Well to ease the anticipation why not try the Red Balloon this Saturday, and who knows? . . . maybe

the beer will come from the Saw-kill, it being a sudsier stream.

John Faylor

A CRITERIA SHEET OF CRITERIA SHEETS

Well, the great day is fast appraaching. The last day of the term? No, the day mid-term criteria sheets come out, which is practically the same thing. It is indeed one of the miracles of the Bard bureaucracy that those little documents which are supposed to help the student improve his performance over the second half of the semester are not given to him until he has about four weeks left in which, perhaps, to undo the damage of the preceding twelve.

In theory, the criteria sheet is a personal letter from the instructor to the student. In it, the instructor pats him on the back where possible and hits him in the head when necessary; and, in general, tries to guide the student to a fuller realization of his potentialities. That's the theory, and it is to the everlasting credit of some professors that they make a determined effort to put the theory into practice. There are, however, professors who either don't or can't, although whether this is due to some innate aversion to filling out the damn things or to a realization that they probably won't be able to do much good anyway, I would hesitate to say.

Among the professors who try to make good use of the "crit" sheets are those who, in their hast to get their helpful comments down on paper, fail to heed some of the ele-

mentary rules of good penmanship. As a result, the student, hoping to avoid the embarrassing situation that commenting on the professor's handwriting might give rise to, loses the benefit of his instructor's penetrating observations. Or, even if the instructor is kind enough to type his remarks, the "personal letter" to the student usually arrives in the form of what appears to be a third or fourth carbon and is often just as illegible as if it were handwritten.

While realizing the obvious difficulties inherent in trying to write out individual comments for all the students in a required course of upwards of a hundred students, I fail to understand why some professors leave "crit" sheets virtually bare even in seminars. If this is due to classes being too large or the load on faculty members being too great, then something should be done to correct the situation. Either that, or we should revert to giving report cards, since a "crit" sheet that simply says "good work" or "why don't you try harder?" is of no more help than a simple letter or number grade would be.

It seems that the shortcomings of "crit" sheets, as they are presently used, is directly related to problems that Bard, as a self-styled experimental school, is facing. You cannot have a student body of six hundred-plus and "seminars" of twenty-five or thirty students and reasonably expect teachers to write a personal letter of comment to each of their charges. I personally think "crit" sheets are a vital part of the sort of education one gets at Bard, but

I also think ^{that as} they are presently handled they are often no better than a letter grade with a number that is explained by a key at the bottom of a card.

Fully realizing that in order to have "crit" sheets employed to their full potential there must be a serious re-evaluation of the Bard system and their place in it, I would still like to offer a few modest suggestions for their improvement until such a re-evaluation takes place: request teachers to type them; give the first copy to the student, for whose use it is ideally intended; ask teachers, if it is at all possible, to do more than simply give a grade and a one or two-line banality, with the obvious exception of large, lecture-style courses; and try to speed up the bureaucratic machinery to the point where students get the "crit" sheets in time to act upon them.

As for that re-evaluation of the educational process at Bard and the role of "crit" sheets therein, E.P.C. and Council this semester have shown themselves more willing than in the past to tackle problems of substantial significance to the Community. Why not this?

Jeffrey T. Mortimer

WXBC RIDES AGAIN ! ! !

Does anybody remember the old WXBC? It used to broadcast out of the Gym and on a windy day it could be heard in the Coffee Shop.

WXBC has been revived and this time it looks like it might make a go of it. Glenn Pomerance, Bruce Atwood, Andy Krieger, and Robert Rivlin appear to be better organized than the previous WXBC's

were. Instead of approaching Council for financing, station manager Pomerance is attempting to raise the \$8,000 needed to open the station, from foundations and industrial sources. The \$150.00 received at Monday's meeting will go for membership in the InterCollegiate Broadcasting System, and the hiring of consulting engineer. When asked what purpose the radio station would serve, Mr. Pomerance described the "cultural vacuum" that existed in this area, stating that WXBC would be the only educational FM station between Albany and New York. The station would be a cultural resource for the Bard community and might encourage interest in broadcasting techniques among students.

The Gadfly applauds the addition of WXBC to Bard's "cultural vacuum!"

The Editors