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the Bard College

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**NO COUNCIL THIS WEEK - NO QUORUM WAS
PRESENT WEDNESDAY NIGHT**

DISSENSION IN THE BANKS

I don't pretend to agree with, or be collectively responsible for, anything and everything that appears in any given issue of the Gadfly. I had nothing at all to do with the issue of two weeks ago (#6), since I was occupied with work (yes, I'm a student here myself) and missed the editorial meeting. Hence, I feel justified in commenting adversely on two of the items we printed.

First of all, I am a bit puzzled by Tom Taylor's editorial entitled "Issues and Discussion at Bard: A Gadfly Proposal". After speaking with a characteristic rhetorical flourish, Mr. Taylor flounders badly. If I didn't know better, I would accuse him of writing a filler, since he says so little at such great length.

As far as I can gather, his contention is that before the advisability of having "pass-fail" courses at Bard is discussed, there should be some groundwork laid. Specifically, there should be discussion concerning the adequacy of the present system and the appropriateness of a "pass-fail" system to the Bard educational program.

Fine and dandy. It seems implicit in any consideration of the "pass-fail" system that such questions would arise. Although I often disagree with S.D.S. and/or the Observer, I don't question their intelligence. My complaint with Mr. Taylor is that he is making assumptions about the course of discussion before discussion has even begun. Further, he is calling for a consideration of factors and questions which we have every reason to believe would have taken place even if he had said nothing. If he really is "eager to contribute to these discussions" but reluctant because "at present no sufficient perspectives for the formation of opinion have been established" why didn't he try to form some perspectives? Why didn't he try to answer some of the questions he raised? Granted that the raising of questions in itself is a valuable service; when he raises questions about which he fears there will be no discussion, he should take the initiative

and venture some answers of his own.

My second adverse comment is in regard to "Beer and Tonsic Juice" by Nora Marsh and Neil Jonsson. They conclude their pleasant little foray into the world of the unknown with the following: "If you're still hung up about endowments, ask yourself: would you rather go to a rich college or a good one?" This is, I am sure, a question to stir the blood of campaigners for academic abolition. But, to quote Louis Simpson, as mere mortals we are doomed "Not to walk in the painted sunshine/ To a summer house, / But to live in the tragic world forever." In the tragic world, "good" and "rich" are not mutually exclusive categories with regard to colleges. It could be reasonably argued that, if anything, "poverty stricken" and "good" are mutually exclusive. Unless your ideal college is located someplace other than the frozen wastelands of upstate New York, you'll need buildings. They cost money. You'll also need to maintain those buildings. This also costs money. You'll need to hire, and keep, noble and idealistic professors who are willing to sit around waiting for a student to come to them. Professors also cost money. You might even go so far as to buy books for your library (you are going to have a library, aren't you?), and hire a public-relations firm to help convince respectable, middle-class parents to spend their kid's money on what, from a parental point of view, might not look like such a utopia. Did I say middle-class parents? Since you're going to do without endowments, you'd really have to limit your student body to the offspring of parents who could afford the \$13,000 or \$15,000 a year this would cost them. Remember those twenty-four-hour-a-day facilities.

I would like to close with this week's meditation. It costs about \$100 a semester to print the Gadfly. It costs about \$1,000 (give or take a few hundred) a semester to keep the Observer afloat. \$100 a semester works out to about fifteen cents for each person who re-

...the Geddy. So even if you think we're
...the Observer,
...you could find it in your heart to give
...the Geddy.

February 7, 1971

NOT AT ALL

Three cheers for the bookstore! Once
...Mrs. Matthews and her perceptive staff
...to the air of beleaguered, overworked,
...servants. They have realized that it is not
...by literary treasures alone that an individual
...can find relaxation; we need a little fresh air.

...books, but local literary works, art, books
...and more books (usually in paperback editions)
...to be associated with reminders of enter-
...taining and stimulating reading experiences.
...in various parts, such works as Some With
the Wind, H. Rider Haggard's She, and Allan
Poetry's Advice on Gamsel, among 100 other
...titles which made up the "Treasury of Treasures".

...works such as The
Davidson, Samuel's Kennedy and T.H.
White's Man of the President 1954, the
...collection includes Agatha Christie,
his Dirty Dozen, Alfie, and Little Big Man.
...not exactly countless prose, they've a
...and fun to read on a rainy Saturday after-
...noon, than, say, the Bible.

Miss Rosen

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(dated Oct. 10)

To the Editors of the Geddy:

It is a pleasure to be able to report
...of one of the recommendations
...jointly by Miss Jane Jordan and Mr.
...presented in the letter which appeared in
...your Sept. 29th issue has been accepted and
...implemented. I refer to their suggestion
...for the library to be opened early on Sundays.
...of which obstacle to this idea in the past
...has been lack of space, but rather our apparent
...inability to find students who would be able
...to take the necessary responsibility. This
...obstacle has happily and suddenly vanished,
...and henceforward the library will be open from
...10:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. on Sundays.

There is no quarrel either with their
...suggestion that the vital library on the
...first, fourth and sixth levels of the library
...be suitably blessed or equipped for being
...carried, hopefully this can be accomplished
...where a fine selection.

Unfortunately however, I must disagree
...in their recommendation that the
...library telephones be made more accessible to
...students. It should be obvious that the phone
...is first priority to enable the staff to
...conduct library business. All other users
...must remain subordinate. In these terms, it
...could be just as appropriate to have the phone
...at least in the Finance Office, the Admissions
...Office or any other office of campus. Were it
...removed, it could not be long before both

the telephone and the limited space behind
...the circulation desk would be monopolized
...by students and the poor library staff be
...placed in the, to put it mildly, anomalous
...position of having to beg permission to go
...to the phone.

This does not mean, however, that
...students may not or should not still partici-
...pate in inter-campus calls in emergencies.
...I am certain that if this privilege is not
...allowed, the staff would find it in its duty
...to cooperate.

Despite this caveat, let me thank
...both the letter-writers for their construc-
...tive suggestions and to congratulate you for
...breaking the death of this idea the Geddy.

Sincerely,

Aaron I. Fessler, Director
of the Library

(Continued with our letter-late-than-never
...policy, the editors apologize for long delay
...in the appearance of Mr. Fessler's letter
...due to space considerations.)

ENCLOSURE

Would you believe... a dance in the
...Oyn Saturday night at 9:00 p.m.??
...Would you believe... a beer...
...soda, cheese, and a BMD??
...Would you believe the Entertainment
...Committee is sponsoring the whole affair??

Classified Section

...agony... side to New York
...or similar points in discussion. Please
...get in touch with Frank Hobbs, box 225,
...Albee '6.

THE GEDDY

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