



The Journal of
the New Middle

The most widely read
publication of the
Bard College Community



Vol. III No. 3

March 18, 1967

CONTENTS

Council Report.....Page 1
(Kathi Matthews)

Letter to the editors..Page 2
(Alan Koehler)

Field Period.....Page 3
(Jane Graham)

The Ever Widening 'Class' Gap
.....Page 3
(Ilene Rosen)

STAFF * BOX

EDITORS.....John Faylor
Jeffrey Mortimer
Ilene Rosen

Asst. Editor..Stuart Green

Contributing members
..Jane Graham
Robert Mergen
Marcia Rich
Marjorie Tompkins
Kathi Matthews

COUNCIL ELECTS "TOTAL PROGRAM"
COMMITTEE"; HEARS REPORT FROM EPC;
GRANTS \$710 TO THE RED BALLOON.

The first item on the agenda was the Total Program Committee. Some of the suggested functions of this committee were to determine why Bard is losing so many of its students in the freshmen and sophomore years, to examine freshmen and sophomore courses, and to examine and possibly revise social regulations. Councilwoman Linda Boldt amended the motion to read that the committee be composed of three students, two Council members and several faculty members. Councilman Harvey Fleetwood made an amendment that no meeting be closed unless so voted by two-thirds of the committee. The motion and the amendments passed 5-1-0.

It was also disclosed that

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"I'm not against thinking-
it's a very fine thing to do."

--George Janto

Administration is considering having a freshmen dorm (at least for girls), a six-week orientation program which would take place during the semester, more conferences with advisors during the freshmen year, and spreading out classes for freshmen and, possibly, sophomores over a four day period, to avoid the bunching together to classes during one or two days of the week.

Taking up the bulk of the meeting were speeches made by the fourteen students who had signed up for the Total Program Committee. Three members of the community were elected. They were: Jane Hill, Robert Judd, and Mark Favus.

Miss Hill, a first semester senior, said that she wants more individual freedom. "Rules are a negative force", she said. She wants more student communication with the faculty and Administration, more students involved in long-range planning, and suggested that President Kline give a monthly speech on administrative policy with a question and answer period following.

Mr. Judd, a second semester junior, stated that he wished for a re-evaluation of the 6-Point Program, is in favor of several courses on a pass-fail basis, and re-evaluation of the freshmen choice of a trail major. He also raised the question, "are group major conferences more effective than the individual major conferences?"

Mr. Favus, a second semester junior, stated that Bard was somewhat of a Utopia compared to the "multiversity" he previously had attended, but that it should remain a small and experimental college. He also stated that the admissions policy should be re-evaluated (I am quite ill-disposed toward the present freshmen class"), and that "moderation are too lax", ("Some people

are in the upper college who shouldn't be in the upper college"). Mr. Favus is in favor of Due Process and liberalization of the social regulations. He stated that he was against liberalizing the college's policy on narcotics because the administration is in a position where it cannot legally change this policy and he noted that the rules against drugs "do not stop anyone from doing what they're going to do anyway."

There was to be an election of two Council members to the committee. However, as only two Council members were nominated, they were chosen by acclamation. They were: Linda Boldt and Jeff Levy.

Next on the agenda was a report from the chairman of Educational Policies Committee. Bruce Lieberman stated that EPC's two projects now under consideration were: 1) faculty evaluation, and 2) re-evaluation of moderation. He said that there will be more open meetings in order to establish a firmer liason between EPC and the community. There will be an open meeting of EPC next Wednesday, March 22. Mr. Lieberman also stated that there is an opening in the Social Studies division in EPC, and that an election will be held Friday to fill this vacancy. (Ed. note - since Monday's Council meeting two new vacancies have appeared on EPC. One in the AMDD division and one in Lang. and Lit.)

A motion to allot \$500 to the Red Balloon, which had been postponed from last week, was then discussed. Linda Boldt made an amendment that an additional \$210 be allotted. She said that the total (\$710) would be broken down into: \$170 salary for each of the three managers, and a \$200 loan, which is to be paid back at the end of the semester. The amendment passed 5-0-0, and the motion passed 4-0-1.

Harvey Fleetwood was appointed to fill the Council seat on the Constitutional committee, left vacant by Jeff Levy, who resigned from the Committee. There was no objection to Mr. Fleetwood's appointment, as he was the only nominee.

Elections were then held for Elections Committee. The two community members who will serve this semester are: George Janto and Michael Wood. The two Council members who volunteered to serve were Linda Boldt and Bob Edmonds. Mr. Edmonds volunteered "with great regrets" in the face of a dearth of other volunteers.

A motion was made to postpone discussion of the Radio Club's budget because of Mr. Fessler's absence. The motion passed 4-0-1.

The last item on the agenda was a motion made by Linda Boldt to allot "a measley \$60" to the Psychology

Club. Council Chairman Bob Edmonds pointed out that Council only had \$533 left in the treasury, and that Council treasurer Mac McCune felt that at least \$1200 should be kept in reserve. Miss Boldt then pointed out that the \$60 was needed for a speaker who was already scheduled for next week. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Kathi Matthews

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

Freshmen unite! Sophomores unite! Throw off the rule of the Upper College controlled Council. Assert yourselves and let it be known that this college does have, along with juniors and seniors, a lower college comprised of students that give a damn!

Now you are probably attempting to figure out what this is all about. Well, very simply it is this: The Bard community is composed of about 575 students. These students make themselves known and heard in the eyes of the administration through Community Council, which is composed of eight "civic-minded" students who walk out of Council meetings for more "important" things or don't even bother to show up at all, and of students that show secret ballots to each other during voting for members of a new committee. (names given if so requested) But to what part of the college do these few students belong? All of our present Council members, except one, are either juniors or seniors. Of course it would be impossible for freshmen to belong to Council their first semester at Bard. But what about their second or third or even fourth? I cannot say whether upper classmen would resent freshmen from joining their little clique, but even if they are not trying to prevent such an horrendous occurrence, that is exactly what is happening. A new committee came into existence Monday night for the purpose of making suggestions to Council and the Administration - suggestions that may well effect us and future freshmen. But were any freshmen elected to this committee? NO! In other words, suggestions and ideas are being tossed about by students that will be far from the Bard campus when these suggestions come into effect. Even though anyone will be able to have a voice in this new committee, the Total Program Committee, (or so they say, as usual) it is simply the principle of the entire matter.

Think back to last semester and maybe even now. Are you fully aware of exactly what Council does? (Is Council fully aware of exactly what Council does?), how they operate, what the different committees do, etc.? Does Council ever issue a handbook to newcomers inot the college explaining all these things? The answer is again NO! Sure, they post-sign up sheets

so you can join the committees. But even if you are aware of a certain committee's function, what are your chances of being elected to it?

I am not directing these statements at the present members of Council, since they are only following in the footsteps of those before. I am directing these statements to my fellow members of the lower college in hope that a realization will occur in which many freshmen and sophomores will attend Council, make their feelings known, and in some manner force the Junior-Senior Controlled Community Council to elect them on committees. Has Council considered lately the possibility of amending its constitution to allow for more members and making certain rules which would state that a certain number of its members must come from the lower college?

I would like to see in the next Council election many freshmen and sophomores running for Council seats and most important-winning! Don't forget that the majority of the students of Bard College belong to the freshmen-sophomore classes and this simple fact should be evident in Community Council. I realize the statements I have made will come under criticism and accept this readily. But Bard is changing and this change should be shared by every member of the community-a community working together for the sole purpose of seeing to it that this change is a beneficial one to both upper and lower college members.

Alan D. Koehler

#####

PUBLIC NOTICES

An open meeting of Educational Policies Committee has been called for Wednesday evening, March 22, at 6:00 P.M., in Albee Social. Under discussion will be questions of course evaluation, and plans for the evaluation of moderation procedures.

ATTENTION ALL SENIORS-particularly those who have not payed their senior dues as of yet!!! A class gift has been decided upon and we will definitely need your money...PAY UP!!!

FIELD PERIOD

Although the field period has proven to be a profitable experience for many students, there are certain steps which the administration could take to make it even more worthwhile. First, I believe, an updating

of the field period file is in order. As of last fall, they were not completely alphabetized, there were too few recent entries, and there was incomplete information about many jobs.

Secondly, the administration itself could make arrangements with industries and institutions to hire Bard students. If they would explain the field period to personal directors and ask them to co-operate with the college, I'm sure it would be easier for students to find jobs.

Third, if it is at all financially possible, Bard should employ a person to keep the field period files in order place students in jobs, and the like. It is, after all, extremely difficult for unskilled students to find jobs especially during the months of January and February.

Since the field period takes up one-sixth of a student's college career and is supposed to be an integral part of the "Bard Experience" it appears to me that the administration should make an effort to improve an already worthwhile experience

Jane Graham

#####

THE EVER WIDENING 'CLASS'

GAP

Mr. Koehler's letter and administrative statements concerning possible future plans for lower-classmen[both found elsewhere in this issue] help to point out a divisive element which has been appearing of late on several levels of Bard's existence

There has always been rumblings about a more representational system of electing Council member, but they have never been expressed as vehemently as Mr. Koehler does in his letter to the editors. Mr. Koehler charges that almost all the members of Council and Council's various program committees are from the upper college. No one will dispute the fact, it is true. Mr. Koehler also implies that if an underclassmen signs up for one of these committees, his chances of getting elected are very slim. This may be true. But what of it? It takes a while, a year at least to familiarize oneself with the manner in which things are accomplished here, and how change can reasonably be instituted.

As for altering the Constitution to allow for mandatory underclassmen representation on Council, upperclassmen were once in the lower college themselves not so long ago, and are not likely to forget what conditions were like then or be unaware of how they changed. This is not to say the upperclassmen are all-wisew. Far from it! New blood is always welcome; Mr. Koehler quite rightly urges underclassmen

men to take a greater interest in student government. However, just because there are numerically more underclassmen than anyone else on campus, does not necessarily grant them a monopoly of special insight into the problems of the college. Advancement into the upper college does not mean a loss of responsibility on the part of the student. What the upperclassmen may lack in fresh ideas and unquenchable optimism, he makes up with historical perspective and tolerance which grows out of an understanding of the complexities of campus ~~xxx~~ management.

The underlying thread of Mr. Koehler's argument is not that easily dismissed when taken in conjunction with the Administration's revelations that they are considering freshmen dorms for women, compulsory meetings with advisors, etc. The Administration, it seems, is playing with the idea of clear divisions between upper and lower classmen, by means of separate and distinct differences in course selection, class schedules, and even, living arrangements. We know why these questions arise, but we question whether or not they are necessary. We wonder whether by considering a more rigid structure of class distinction and status ~~xxx~~ the conception of Bard as an informal community is being violated.

The idea of a more structured social and academic environment has both its appeals and its drawbacks. Careful consideration should be given to the recommendations which come out of the Total Program Committees. We must consider with all seriousness where these changes are taking us.

Ilene Rosen

@@