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Apathy at Bard
by Fred Feldman

The other day one of the girls on the School bus told me that she was in charge of the music for one of her teachers. She said that this teacher was having a lot of trouble with her students, especially in the matter of marks, that he had not written any comments on the criteria sheets, and that his classes were poorly run. I asked her what she had done about this problem.

"My teacher," she said, "isn't interested in her students. I call it apathy. It seems that Bard is presently wallowing in intellectual, social and personal apathy, but I will just throw out a bit of information and let you think about it.

"We have heard the refrain, "Bard is changing," as if it were some new word of the modern age. However, this does not necessarily indicate that it is a change or that it is for the better. It only means that we are becoming more apathetic. The intellectual lack of activity can be seen in the classes, wherever students have allowed their intellectual lack of activity to be seen. The intellectual lack of activity can be seen in the classes, wherever students have allowed their intellectual lack of activity to be seen. The intellectual lack of activity can be seen in the classes, wherever students have allowed their intellectual lack of activity to be seen.

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The Invisible Student

Three weeks ago in these columns we touched on the subject of the invisible student at Bard. Today we mean to investigate this phenomenon more fully. At Bard, the college seems to have lost many more students than it had a few years back. Again, as everyone knows, this expansion has brought students to Bard from beyond New York City. Two years ago, for example, there were eight new students from the West and the South. A year ago there were 16; this fall there were 30. Just like mice in the Big Lab...

The effects of this expansion on the life of the community have been enormous. A senior of our acquaintance related how he met another senior for the first time just the other day. "Haven't seen you around this year. New here?" "Well, actually...

Everywhere the invisible student is multiplying. It is perhaps still possible to learn every Bardian's name, but certainly not possible to learn everyone's name. Invisibility has reached its peculiar summit when things that are invisible are not Dick and Jane but Dick and Jane..."

Apathy and the Community Council Election

Council Election (Continued from Page 1) This will be the last election for this semester's Council, and the election will be held in the spring. Because Warren is resigning, the chair will be new to the post next semester. Warren held the post for one term. Last year's chair, Ralph Levine, held office for a full year, winning over Bob Marrow by 100 votes.

Ralph Levine

Dr. Michael Miller

Council Election

For the Editor:

Saturday night's formal dance was a great success. The tables were well placed, the music was interesting. After the dance, the music was subdued (the decorations were all done, of course), and everyone drifted in his best clothes and suffered endlessly while the only way the whole thing was dull.

The music was very lovely. The entertainment committee wants to do this again, importing a band at an enormous expense. Unfortunately, everyone forgets to include a clause in the contract forbidding the musicians to take tranquillizers before beginning to play. They were almost certainly hearing things four times, twelve times as I tripped over the sleeping saxophone player.

There was once a time when Bard dances were raunchy. A party of Bard students drank, cried, rid themselves of their tensions, and was disgracefully alive. But we are not sure if we have finally come of one—old age. At Saturday night's dance I could have cut the air with a knife, it was so quiet. The administration has instigated a change on campus: no doubt they were pleased with this last tea party.

George Bernard Shaw once described America as the only country ever to pass from youth to old age in one step. I had thought that was our exception. The school was more a place where people came to use their energy, to involve themselves in intellectual speculation. There was a fire, an energy, a meaningfulness in the air. The sense of collective energy found its expression in dramatic performance.

We have always assumed ourselves to be a common community, almost an organic unit. But we can, to longer communicate with ourselves, and the community we esteem must be in continuous dialogue with itself.

Take, for example, Lane Sanders'' letter in our last issue, addressed "to the community." It was the only answer to the problem of hand, the enigma of our community. Whatever, it was an eloquent appeal on behalf of the common good. Yet who has noticed any letup in the noise? Perhaps there was no community to receive Lane's letter?

Again, Community Council this semester has engaged in its traditional habit of writing letters, many of them to the community. We doubt if more than forty or so students are ever heard of these letters.

And the problem isn't publicity, either. The big juicy sign put up by EPC to push the Winter College accompanied exactly nothing. The louder you shout, the more you begin to realize that nobody is listening.

What do we need to make this a community again—more teams? school cheers? a yearbook? school colors? an alma mater? Believe it or not, the Bard community may well be compelled to resort to these within the next ten years. If you want to make a community out of 500 random students, you need symbols, and the shoddy the better.

Of course we are all here who will never permit this, but we must immediately consider alternatives. Life on this campus—but the most interesting, intolerable. How are we at Bard going to live together in peace?

Since discussion and confrontation are now necessary in this respect, the colloquium on "Apathy at Bard," which is now scheduled for December 18th is the most important event of this semester. The colloquium will proceed most fruitfully if we can get to it. But that is something none of us want to believe. We would rather believe that most students want to discuss the questions that exist as a college "welfare." We would rather believe that most students care about the community, and that the Community Council will be well attended and will prove illuminating and provocative. This much is up to you.
Letters to the Editor

I have greatly admired all of the articles that I have read, but I have not been entirely convinced of the points made. I believe that this is due to the fact that the articles are written in a very aggressive and argumentative style. I believe that this style is not effective in conveying the author's message, and that a more measured and respectful style would be more effective.

If you have any comments or suggestions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Letters to the Editor

I am writing to express my concerns about the recent changes in the library system. I believe that these changes are not in the best interest of the students and faculty.

Firstly, I am concerned about the proposal to replace the current library system with a new one. I believe that this change is not necessary, and that the current system is sufficient.

Secondly, I am concerned about the proposal to open the library on Sundays. I believe that this change is not necessary, and that the library should remain closed on Sundays.

I urge the administration to consider these concerns and to make changes that are in the best interest of the students and faculty.

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Professor Emeritus of History, Bard College, has once again expressed his concern for the future of education. In a recent interview, he emphasized the importance of a solid foundation for the intellectual development of students. He believes that this foundation should be based on a comprehensive curriculum that includes both classical and modern subjects.

In his opinion, a college education should not only provide students with the knowledge they need to succeed in life, but also foster a sense of commitment to the community and the world at large. He stresses that education should be a comprehensive process, involving both intellectual and extracurricular activities.

The professor is particularly concerned about the role of classical education in the modern world. He argues that even though modern education has evolved significantly, the study of classical texts remains essential for a well-rounded education. He believes that classical education can provide students with a deeper understanding of the human condition and a broader perspective on the world.

In conclusion, Professor Emeritus of History calls for a reevaluation of the educational system, arguing that it is time to prioritize the development of a solid foundation for intellectual growth and community involvement. He urges educators to consider the importance of classical education and to incorporate it into their curricula to ensure a more comprehensive and fulfilling educational experience for students.
Lit Club: Pooch Tomorrow,
Mr. Stamler Next Week

According to Renny Hall, co-chairman of the Literature Club, A. A. Milne’s “Winnie-the-Pooh” will be presented Tuesday, December 4, by Mr. Michae1e Leary and the cast. The reading of this “children’s classic” is being “brought back to life” by popular demand.

The Literature Club is presenting at least one other program this semester. Mr. Bernard Stamler, author, will be a former professor of Literature at Columbia University, and husband of Mrs. Elizabeth Stamler, director of our Literature department, will speak here on Wednesday, December 12. It is

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More on Dogs

Mr. Warren Strauss, Student Council President, Bard College

In answer to your question on dogs in the Dining Common, I would like to give you the same reply I gave the one on two other students who came to me in person with the same question.

We have given up trying! As fast as we chase the animals out, students let them in. Some even eat as muffin-tops even as they go through the service line. The only solution to this problem is mutual cooperation. The students who feel as you do and I do about barking dogs at a dinner table should let themselves be heard by the person responsible for their presence in the Dining Commons. At the time the dogs are being invited in.

Anything else I can help you with feel free to stop by. I don't have an answer for you at the time I'll surely find one. And, naturally, we're always open for reasonable suggestions.

Very Truly Yours,

ALBERT M. MADER
Stafer Yood Service

P.S. I'm glad I had time to write this before that cross letter appeared in the Campus

Editor's note: Since this letter was written, two weeks ago, there have been no dogs in Dining Commons. The Student Government, headed by Lane Sarasohn, has been chiefly responsible for alleviating the condition.

EPC Plan Draws Faculty Interest

The Educational Policy Committee's proposal for student-run moderations has generated a great deal of discussion among the faculty, according to Dean Harold L. Hodgkinson.

Few professors have taken the idea itself seriously, but many have expressed highly the putting forth of a major proposal for the Bard education. Apparently the student-run moderation, given its full statement in the editorial in the Observer, has brought about a long hard look at the moderation procedures. While there have been many direct requests of EPC concerning the matter so far called no reply.

Dean Hodgkinson told the Community Council meeting of two weeks ago that these requests demonstrated that a student group has the power of suggestion even when all other powers are denied to it. He was referring to the proposal on the part of many members of the Admissions Committee upon an immediate accomplishing their objectives.

EPC first discussed the proposal at its first meeting seven weeks ago. Chairman Fred Feldman brought up the idea, never before discussed, and signed Charles Hollander to write up something for general distribution.

Soon all students received the release in the mailboxes. However, due to a fool-up in the post office, none of the faculty received copies. Some weeks later, copies were finally sent to several faculty member. The response on the part of students was almost total silence, even when the long editorial appeared in the Observer. But the faculty reacted strongly to it—at first, pointing out the obvious obstacles to the proposal, and later, apparently, considering the deep concern which lay behind it.

Only One More Rally

The Bard College Motor Club is planning a Winter Rally to finish off the vehicular year. Dave Mouslin will take charge for the rally which Mark Kennedy and Steve Dane are arranging to be run soon. The point championship is still up for grabs and will be decided by these final two events.

In a recent interview with David Jacobowitz, BCMC Vice-President, the Observer learned that the Motor Club has taken notice of the complaints lodged by some community members about noise and confusion at starts of rallies on campus. He said that BCMC has the right to start events on campus that will retrain from crouching around faculty circle.

He also stated that he was disappointed by Council's action on the Club's seat bell program, but hoped that it would realize the need for proper safety precautions in driving. He also looked forward to a full schedule of BCMC events next semester.

Many rallies Hall is going back to England for field period. Mail should be addressed to Sunny Hall, England.