Editorial

Community Council could have easily allocated the necessary money to The Bardian if a serious effort had been made to do so.

The role of the Budget Committee is to propose a budget to Council. Council then discusses, revises, and finally passes the budget. The Budget Committee is to carefully present its budget for the Council's inspection.

Item: It was pointed out in the Council meeting of October 7, that the Jazz Festival had run about $800.00 over their budget last year. Council had passed, in fact, a recommendation calling for the discontinuation of the jazz festival in its present form. The Budget Committee interpreted this to mean that there should be a slight change in the "form" of the jazz festival and gave the jazz festival only $100.00 less than they had asked for. Obviously, any group that exceeds its budget by such a large sum demands close scrutinization. When the jazz festival and the Budget Committee were asked to detail the proposed expenditures in Council, the total came to over $100.00 less than the proposed figure. When asked to explain this discrepancy, the Budget Committee representative replied that he did not have the budget with him! Council passed the jazz festival budget without further discussion the next week.

Item: Quickly hurrying through the Astronomy Club's budget, ($350.00-estimated membership), the Budget Committee stated that any decrease in this sum would virtually eliminate the Astronomy Club. They advised that this sum be untouched. In an ensuing discussion, it was pointed out that the funds for the Astronomy Club included $80.00 for a speaker (the Science Club has 7 other speakers) and $100.00 that would not be spent, but kept in a reserve fund. After the attacks on the Astronomy Club budget, the club's chairman hurriedly changed

This mimeographed edition of The Bardian was prompted by a discussion which took place at the Council meeting of October 13. The purpose of the issue is three-fold:

1) To protest against the apathetic factions of the community who are always ready to criticize The Bardian's quality but never willing to lift a pencil to help improve the paper.

2) To point out that if Budget Committee and Council had been more efficient, the newspaper could have been granted the money necessary for an attractive printed issue, instead of having to resort to this mimeographed form.

3) To impress upon the community the problems which face the existence of a newspaper at Bard.

As long as we have a newspaper at Bard, we must reconcile ourselves to the fact that both the institution and the student body will be judged in part by the quality of such a paper. It would therefore seem to be in the best interest of all of us to contribute to the best of our capabilities. It seems strange that in our college where large amounts of money are found and spent for a great variety of non-essential items, no hesitation should be felt to suggest that the paper appear in mimeographed form. It is difficult not to feel that in the minds of some of you, this manner of presentation is all that the contents deserve.

Either students work with, rather than against, one another to produce a newspaper of all around high quality and Council appropriates the funds needed, or the student body admits that it is not equal to the task and forgets about a Bard newspaper.

We realize that the members of Budget Committee worked hard to make up the budget and do not mean to imply otherwise. Our purpose in mentioning the above "items" is to point out the money which we need could have been made available.
his plans for the allocation if his funds. His fears were groundless, however, as Council in its next meeting, passed the budget of the Astronomy Club without further discussion.

Item: In their only written report to Council, the committee incorrectly listed the amount of money some clubs had requested. The budget heading "Voluntary Reduction" evidently meant voluntarily reduced by the Budget Committee. (The Bardin asked for $500.00 and was "voluntarily reduced" to $260.00)

What did the Council members say about the cutting of the newspaper budget? One member stated that he was opposed to ALL newspapers on general principles and so felt that The Bardin, along with all others, should be abolished. Another member said that he felt the paper should be abolished because there was never any news on campus!

Must The Bardin come out mimeographed while the Jazz Festival spends $20.00 for printed programs?

This is only a typical incident. There is money to be had—if it is conscientiously appropriated.

At the last meeting of the Community Council, it became quite evident that many do not understand the problems of operating a newspaper on the Bard Campus. The charges leveled against the newspaper warrant a rebuttal and an explanation.

The institution of a newspaper has been traditional at Bard. However, in the last decade, the newspaper has not been printed regularly, largely as a result of community indifference. Last year the newspaper was reinstated under the direction of a few freshmen.

What are the problems faced by the editors and the staff of "The Bardin?" In the first place, the newspaper staff is largely composed of lower college students, who are, on the whole, inexperienced in the art of putting out a newspaper. The literature majors, who should be proficient in writing, have shown little or no interest in the newspaper, outside of criticizing it.

Secondly, the newspaper staff lacks continuity. This is largely the result of the failure of the college community to keep the newspaper going during the last decade. The continuous functioning of the newspaper would make it possible to have an experienced staff of editors and senior reporters.

Thirdly, the college newspaper is constantly having financial difficulties. The printing of a newspaper is expensive. The Bardin does not receive enough money from the community to sustain it on a regular basis. The editors originally planned to publish four issues this semester at the cost of approximately $500.00. However, only $260.00 was received from Council, less than what each receives. This sum just barely covers the cost of two issues. The staff is burdened with the job of soliciting large amounts of advertising to cover the deficit, advertising which is difficult to get in this area. No other student organization, with the possible exception of the Fire Department, has to solicit money from outside sources in order to finance its activities.

It should be realized that the newspaper is just as much an organization as is the Astronomy Club or WNYC. The charge of some people that The Bardin is put out for the benefit of its editors is ridiculous. The newspaper has an important, unifying role to play in the Bard Community. Must The Bardin be crippled in its operation?