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The Gadfly is a weekly
Journal of comment, criticism
and satire on the activities
of the Bard College Community.
BOX 81, Bard College

COUNCIL AUTHORIZED $400 FOR LIT
MAGAZINE; OBSERVER OATS EXTRA $160.
COUNCIL REJECTS POSITION BEYOND H.P.C.
PROPOSITION ON REN FOR WOMEN'S CORPS.

Mr. McCune reported that Council
Monday night that its budget, after one or
more clubs had returned part of their
appropriations, stood at $810. $300 was
immediately assigned to the Observer.

The Dean said that the Administra-
tion decided to help pay half of the
expenses of the Literary magazine proposed
several weeks ago by Mr. Coover. He also
said that if Council earmarked $400 at
the end of the semester from its expected
surplus, the magazine could go into
publication over field period.

Councilwoman Daphne asked if the
majority list followed any particular or-
der, because the Bard Social Action
Committee was unsure at the present moment
whether it would sponsor a winter field
project. If B.R.A.C. should decide
to hold its project, it would have to
come back to Council and request more
funds before the end of the semester.

Councillor Trommer moved that $400
be authorized before the end of the
semester for the literary magazine.

Councillor Goldst said that she
thought that Council should consider
all requests at the end of the sem-
erm at the same time.

The Dean said that Council had just
granted and extra $160 to the Observer
with no objection about holding off
until the end of the semester.

The vote was 3-1-2. Chairman Krugor
cast the deciding vote, in favor.

The motion passed 3-1-2.

The Dean asked Council whether the
position taken by last semester's
Councillor on social regulations, (changes
in social regulations were to follow
particular stages)--1. extension of cur-
few one hour, 2. abolition of curfew
for upper college women, 3. abolition
of all curfew), or the House President's
Proposal endorsed by this semester's
Council, expressed the true position
of Council and the community.

Mr. Goldst said that the Council
and the student body changes semester to
semester, and that the current proposal
represented the opinion of the present
student body.

Councillor Badee moved that Council
recommend to the Board that they con-
sider the former Council proposal and
the present proposal as alternative
proposals.

Mrs. Goldst rescinded the motion to
pass--"consider the proposals as alter-
natives. Council does not consider them
necessarily mutually exclusive."

Councillor McLeod suggested that
Council make it plain that it thought
the second proposal was the best method
to implement changes.

The motion failed 2-3-1.

Ms. Goldst then moved that Council
send a message along with the two
proposals stating, in effect, that it
was Council's opinion, after much dis-
cussion both in Council, H.P.C., and
in the community, that the H.P.C.
The motion passed 5-0-0.

Councilman Trumper first moved and then withdrew a motion calling on the Entertainment Committee to partially or completely defray the cost of entertainment to be held at the Red Balloon.

Irons Rosen

A STORY ADAPTED

Being Dean of a school such as Bard, whose such activity takes the shape of interminable committee meetings, means membership on those committees and running to their meetings. I can only assure that is what functions on Hodgkinson was fulfilling, Monday night which he left Club Social at the beginning of an important discussion, (about the possible confusion of the Board of trustees over the apparent contradiction of two Council statements concerning social regulations).

Having prior commitments is completely understandable, however, after introducing an important issue at Council, it might have been more in order for the Dean to say that he had to leave at such-and-such a time. This way, if Council thought that it would still be discussing the issue, all debate might have been postponed until the Dean could be present at the entire session, rather than carrying on discussion minus the Administration's representative.

Irons Rosen

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REMEMBER!!!

All seniors are hereby reminded to hand in their senior dues to Scott Russ, class treasurer. Do it quickly, the Bears Hand committee is getting impatient.

The Creative Corner

A Second-hand Letter to the Editor:
Dear David-

Hill ya know, I really miss you ole pal! (How that ole kid brother i don't rip the letter up- I take it back). What am I doing & how do I like this joint? Tch-tch-tch luv, not so fast! I like I said I'm in a messed-up mood-sorta laying on my desk staring at my two 5-gallon decanters which is 3/4 full (both) of milk, n' my two crystal, silver-plated, 1000 oz (ya remember anyhow) mugs for my chicks end as a sorte general storm warning to the general visitor that I'm a busy man besides being pretty generally on the minds of Bard's female population. You'd get a hang outa looking at some of these sap's faces when they take a look at my drinking supplies-sorts mesmerized at using He- dson's & I'm all juked out just 'cause I was thinking about my last morning at home n' just thinking of the food makes me homesick as hell. Recall setting there at the breakfast table with the sun filling up the place, pouring bay run over our shredded wheat, him slipping a jugger of goddamn whiskey on us, screamin' "It's good for ya!" thereby wrecking that glass of perfectly good O.K. breakfast brandy, Dad grumbling like a monster over his cup of steaming hot vodka who we got back later at (ya remember this?) by snitchin' a bottle of coke and orange juice each-n-he still hide the milk?) and sitting there in the woods. Think I'll have some milk now-sarter of fact-wish you're me now, r. Jealous? Honestly, though, the viands here are not so aggravating, for the college seems to be so that now we are somewhat older, we may be trusted upon the score of our intake of milk, and, what is more, has provided us with easy access to it in the form of several large milk machines! You see now that it is imperative that you come up for parents' day, for not only will you have an opportunity to become wall papered here, but will be provided secretly by myself with enough for several days oblivion spent at home. It perplexes me no end, though, how little attention my fellow scholars pay to this incredible liberality. They care not, but no (I believe I'll have another-I wish you were here), but gambol about at animated beer parties, of all inconcievibilities. Verily, I do as naturally partake of the notion of flowers do of sunshine, that the spirits conceal a revel fed by milk behind a facade of berry jollity, nor when I have viewed them after, their deport- ment become much akin to mine when I have been lifted to the very heavens upon the magic carpet ecstasy of Grade A milk. Oh, no, it is not that how too perfectly put out at the latter system; it is merely that at times, I warmly wish that mother's hand had disperted itself upon my food. But I lose my direction and drift wearily to sea while I forget to reveal to what incensed me so in remembering me o. our mutual mother, my dear brother. (Shall I? Oh yes, I shall! I shall indeed fill my cinty muglet once again and raise it to my trembling lips for the remainder of this decanter is destined to satisfy the shouts of my jubilant tummy :) Oh I Tra la my sweeting: while I am thus happy, the pains of that brutal scene cannot de-
our me, and I shall relate it to
bee thus: rethinks I did in butterfly
slight perch myself, as did my gentle
arling perch herself upon my knee, up-
un the frail arm of chair devante the
oerv screen that scarce ovo, and as
my lap perch she, so on my hand
arched my bottled joy. But, lo, when
did ask my chimpunk if she would sip
no, she did inquire if I did parade
jew before her ears, for if I did,
drums beat not with the marchers' step.
To which foolishness I fanfared a
fan. uery-like that mhpay the
pectators lacked an ear that did per-
sive the simplest rhythm, wherewith I
add grand flourishings with my bottle
is upon the one who ridden with envy
t my lion's air, did grasp my flank
nd cloak my dear self with its contents
nd pull that selfsame self from chair
ile piercing him with mocking words.
o not condemn me that I find and told,
or that was Ismaha advice to her little
me when he was two, my petaled heart
z bruised.
Adieu, our mother's bleating lamb
nd tiny care-
John
(Majorie Jenkins)

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

To the Editors of the Godfly:

The pass/fail grading system (1)
offers too little incentive to those
students who would seek to do more
than just get by, and (2) complicates
application to graduate school (unless
"regular" letter grades are also given
and kept on private record in the
registrar's office -- and then what's
the point?).

A solution to the first difficulty
is the use of an "honors" program,
such that, in effect, there are three
grades.

The second problem might be solved
by the actual giving of these three
grades: "A" for honors, "B-" for pass,
and "F" for fail -- "B-" rather than,
say, "C" or "C-", because:(1) it im-
plies (we would claim: accurately) that
the Bard standard for minimum work is
higher than that of the average school,
and (2) a "B-" is an honorable grade,
perfectly acceptable for such things
as graduate school and job applications.

Certain changes, not all to the
advantage of students, would almost
automatically take place in the teach-
ing program. Work which previously
passed with "C" and "D" would now
have to be given "F"s. That is, the
standards for passing in each course
would have to be raised to the level
of "B-" work, and students could ex-
pect a lot more "F"s to be given.
Without the more subtle grading levels
now available to them, teachers would
be forced to draw a firmer line be-
tween what, yes, passes and what, no,
does not: a few slips in the course
of a semester and a good student could
find himself failing and without re-
medy. The workload of a class might
not increase, but the standards of
acceptability certainly would.

The population of Bard would prob-
ably be affected: more students would
flunk out faster. This culling out
m of weaker or less disciplined students
would tend to raise the level and re-
duce the size of classes, allowing
(at least after the first year) for
more of those small seminars which
now seem to be disappearing. Many
more students than non the case
would have upon plan before graduat-
ing, to make up for courses
failed. Moderation (which is a pass/ fail
system largely) would probably
become less significant.

As for "A's", each teacher would
have to decide what was the appropri-
te "honors" standard for his given
classes. In some cases (e.g., senior
projects), extra work would not really
be feasible, and "A's" would be given
for excellence alone. In most cases,
however, teachers would discover by
midterm those students who stood capa-
ble of an honors program and would
offer them the choice of taking a "B-
" or doing extra work for a possible "A.
Midterm criteria sheets, then, would
(1) tell students how they stood with
regard to the pass/fail dividing line,
and (2) reward first-half excellence
by offering the opportunity to under-
take an honors program (i.e., to try
for an "A")

The honors/pass/fail system with
"B-", as the standard for passing would
probably neither increase nor decrease
pressure on students and faculty. The
steady "B" student would continue to
be just that. The "A" students would
generally have to work harder for their
"A's", but would be more certain of
achieving them. Consistent students
would be encouraged to cross disciplines.
confident of their own ability to earn
\"A\" and disinterested for the most
part in honors outside their own field.
Or (or at least "C"s) students might
feel more pressure, but if their work
was consistent enough, it would prob-
ably pass (it would probably make hard-
or working students out of most of them.
Borderline students would be far more
likely to fail than before. Teachers
would be relieved from all the subtil-
ties of the present grading system and
would probably find it easier to arrive
at clearly defined minimal standards
of acceptability. The relative qual-
ing of the pass/fail decision introduces its own kind of pressures:
what about, for example, that student
who has worked hard, done all the read-
log, turned in all the papers, shown no improvement, yet who has failed to accomplish any real "B" work? A possible answer: to give him no grade at all — nor credit either, of course — such that the student has nothing to show for his semester's work but has no "F" on his record either.

The advantages of such a system, as opposed to the present one (which, while perhaps subtler, seems to be less realistic and, in fact, to verge on gamesplaying), have been enumerated by others. The purpose here has been merely to provide solutions to problems raised by the pass/fail idea and to suggest certain possible consequences were it accepted here.

Respectfully,
Robert Coover

THE GRADEING SYSTEM: A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Presumably the objections to the present conventional grading system at Bard center about the specious type of incentive it tends to create. Students argue idealistically that scholarship should direct itself not toward the procurement of "A's" and "B's", but "knowledge for its own sake." Others will argue against the discrimination in grading — that it tends to elevate one student above another on the basis of arbitrarily chosen standards.

Unquestionably, student incentive should emerge as the primary consideration in any discussion about grading systems. The pass/fail system cannot maintain student incentive. Verification of academic achievement cannot play its important role if all a student has to show after a semester's work is a "P". At the same time, how can the pass/fail system encourage the "slow-starter" (of which there are very) in his collegiate experience if what he would normally produce as "C" work in another institution qualifies as an "F" here. (God knows, we have enough people flunking out of Bard College!). Perhaps then the pass/fail system becomes more covertly discriminatory than we had originally supposed.

If an alternative proposal lies in the honors/pass/fail system, as Mr. Coover suggests, then the student is placed to ask if this plan would in fact eliminate the disadvantages which make the present system so objectionable. That is, if "A's", "B's", and "C's" are intellectual methods of stimulating incentive, and if indeed they do cause untoward stresses and strains, then not an honors/pass/fail system only increase pressures upon the "B" or "C" student just "to make it through under the wire; and the average "B" student to knock down that "big - fat 'A'". Hence, we just might find ourselves in the ironic situation of having encouraged "grade hounds" in their pursuit of the big prize rather than having stimulated the "earnest learner" in his quest for knowledge.

The conventional system at Bard may indeed have its disadvantages; it may be unrealistic. But a more advantageous or more realistic alternative has yet to be conceived. This is not to say that we should not keep trying, but it does suggest that we give careful consideration, as Mr. Coover has done, to proposals which have such far-reaching effects.

John A. Faylor

THE RESULTS OF THE BARD POLITICAL UNIONS "MCC" ELECTION HELD YESTERDAY

NEW YORK

For Governor:
Wilson Rockwell 84 (Rep.)
Frank O'Connor 7 (Dem.)
F.D. Roosevelt Jr. 20 (Lib.)
Paul Adams 8 (Con.)
Abstained 9

For Congress (28th District):
Joseph Knowl 40 (Dem.)
Hamilton Fish 27 (Rep.)
Eric Lindbloom 31 (Ind.)
Abstained 20

CALIFORNIA

For Governor:
Pat Brown 66 (Dem.)
Ronald Reagan 19 (Rep.)
Abstained 21

PENNSYLVANIA

For Governor:
Raymond Shafer 27 (Rep.)
Milton Shapp 14 (Dem.)
Abstained 45

OREGON

For Senator:
Mark Hatfield 56 (Rep.)
Robert Duncan 21 (Dem.)
Abstained 28

MASSACHUSETTS

For Senator:
Edward Brooke 56 (Rep.)
Endicott Peabody 23 (Dem.)
Abstained 23

ILLINOIS

For Senator:
Paul Douglas 37 (Dem.)
Charles Percy 44 (Rep.)
Abstained 28

Thirteen students said they were Conservative, twenty-eight said they were moderate, and thirty that they were Liberal.