Exchange of the Week
Council Meeting [Budgets]

Coming Next Week at Council
Three cheers for the Varsity Club

Comments on Due Process System

Budget Committee Meeting

Dissenting Vote
Andrew Krieger
EXCHANGE OF THE WEEK

LIVINGSTON: "I don't recognize a point of order."
KRIEGER: "You have to."
LIVINGSTON: "Oh, you're right."

COUNCIL MEETING

Community Council Monday night approved a motion by Councilman William Lensing, professor of philosophy, to examine at the next meeting of Council, "and as many meetings thereafter as necessary," the ways and means whereby a club obtains money from Council and achieves official recognition. The motion also calls for an examination of the possibilities of clarifying and writing down some of the "unwritten laws" of Council.

Mr. Lensing's motion came at the end of a four-hour plus session of Council, the longest in history, at which budgets for thirty organizations were debated. During the meeting, Mr. Lensing frequently questioned the advisability of granting funds to a club that had no constitution and hence could not be required to admit any member of the community.

Councilman Harvey Fleetwood agreed to draw up a bill concerning the organization of clubs for discussion this Monday night.

Mr. Lensing further objected to what he termed the "harassment" of several of the organizations that requested funds, as referred specifically to the Varsity Club, which was denied funds because the constitution that it submitted to Council stipulated that active membership was limited to varsity athletes, the Eddings Ball Conservative Society, and the Speakers' Committee.

The representatives of the Varsity Club, Jeffrey Rechlis and George Jento, were asked to come back next week after considering the addition of a clause to their constitution that would open membership to anyone in the community. Their budget request was tabled.

Mr. Raphael was elected to the Due Process Study Group to replace Tom Noonan. Mr. Noonan, who had represented the Educational Policies Committee, has been dismissed from that organization for non-attendance at meetings. Miss Raphael is the new representative from E. P. C.

A motion by Councilman Marzani to reduce the salary of the secretary of House Presidents' Committee from $100 per semester to $50 on the grounds that she doesn't do enough work was defeated. The Council budget for salary and expenses of $725 was passed.

A motion by Councilman McCune to allot $271 to SUCU aroused considerable discussion. Don Reiter, president of the organization, explained that he hadn't decided yet what SUCU stood for, although Seymour's culturally underprivileged Marsh was a possibility. He added that while he didn't expect to lose money, he felt that "the draft should be cut out of the open so everyone can take a position against it."

Councilman Krieger stated that he felt it was "deplorable" that the budget had been approved by a standing committee of Council, but he was ruled out of order by Chairman Livingston.

The motion to approve the budget was defeated by a vote of 3-1, with four abstentions and one not voting.

Several council members objected to a following $35 to the Speakers' Committee. Chairman Livingston wanted to know if the group had had an open meeting. Jeffrey Schwartz replied, "I am the Speakers' Committee." When asked why the Speakers' Committee was showing a movie, he replied, "I didn't think the members of the community would mind having the greatest movie ever made shown on campus."

Councilman Fleetwood said the Community should be grateful to Mr. Schwartz for bringing worthwhile events to SUCU.

The budget was approved.
SEMINAR AWARDS

In the past semester, members of the Bard Community have been active in many fields of endeavor. It is fitting to recognize their accomplishments by giving awards to a few of the most outstanding of these. Therefore, the editors of the Gadfly Papers are proud to present the following awards:

The Old Bard Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to further the ideals of the Old Bard: to Jan HoCune and Mark Hellit for their stirring defense of the Elections Committee and its time-honored practices.

The Good Fellowship Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to encourage fellow feeling within the various institutions in the Bard Community: to Tony Nasrani and Peter Lee who unselfishly put aside their doubts as to the validity of the Council elections in order not to create dissent within Council.

The Clean Air Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to make Bard a more fragrant place to live and study: to B&D for digging up the Bard sewer system in the middle of the semester.

The Roughing It Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to encourage people to live without modern conveniences: to the Power Companies of New York State for giving us the rare opportunity to spend an evening without electricity.

The Epicure Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to increase the delights of dining at Bard: to the dining commons for inventing the Monte Carlo Sandwich: we never thought that so many good tasting things could be put together to such a strange result.

The Florinex Award, to the person or persons who have done the most to increase the sale of Florinex at Bard: to the many people who spilled so much beer on the gym floor at the informals.

The Half a Loaf is Better Than None Award, to the person or persons who have done the most in starting something and never quite finishing it: to Matt Fertlestein of the Folklore Society for planning a good concert and a hoop and then not publicizing them.

The Special Award for Self and Industriousness, to the person or persons who have worked the hardest at what they set out to do: to Dick Naylor, business manager of the Bard Observer, who sold so many ads that editor Harvey Fleetwood didn’t have any room left in which to print the news.

COMMUNITY COUNCIL

A new show moved into Albee Social on Dec. 13, 1965 at 7:15. Actually, it wasn’t a new show at all, but a revival of that old favorite "Community Council", otherwise known as the "funniest show on campus". Now, this show has a guaranteed run of four months each semester and no amount of panning from the critics will dislodge it. This long running hit is at least changes its cast of characters occasionally, making for a new, if not different, show each semester. This year was no exception. The old cast continues with Mr. Bernstein, Mr. Livingston, Mr. HoCune, Mr. Hellit, and Mr. Kreiger. The new additions are Nasrani, Nasrani, Lee, and Friedman. All in all, Monday night proved to be a rousing good show. It was preceded by a great deal of mixed publicity. In the week before its premiere performance, there was much discussion as to various irregularities discovered during the elections for the Chairmanship (otherwise known as the lead). Two hundred, twenty-one, Bardians felt disturbed enough to sign a petition calling for the elections to be re-held. In the confusion before opening night, the cast of the "Community Council" issued several statements which only served to escalate the situation further with charges and countercharges. The pre-show publicity brought out the audience in force. About twenty-five people, a very large group in this case, had their interest tickled to the extent that
they left their finals at home and came to see the first performance. They were not to be disappointed. The actors got so carried away with their improvisations that the show ran over its usual hour and forty-five minutes' playing time, and ran instead for almost three hours including intermission.

The central issue of Monday night's marathon was the problem of the irregularities during the previous election. The 221-name petition was presented to the council and was set aside as representing perhaps, only "fifty interested people" the rest just signing because they liked to see their name in print... Council voted, and passed a resolution stating that, although they may have been irregularities, the election was still valid and that further elections would only serve to disrupt the workings of council.

It was during this first act that the characters began to reveal themselves to the audience. Craig Livingston put on a strong performance as the beleaguered new council chairman. It must be stated here that he handled a potentially explosive role in a most impressive manner.

Unfortunately the same cannot be said for his colleagues. The older members of the cast with one exception, gave their usual boring performances. Mr. Hellst and Mr. McCune played the staunch defenders of "Old Bard" whatever that may be. Their attitude was one of "so what?" and "who cares?" Mr. Bernstein's presentation lacked clarity and confused the audience not nearly as much as I suspect, Mr. Bernstein was.

The biggest relief was supplied by the Rover Boys, Mr. Lee and Mr. Harzani. Their funniest scene was when they nominated one another for one of the sub-committee chairmanships.

The surprise of the evening came from Mr. Kreiger, who has decided to retract his role; until this point he has played a supporting part. Staying in the background and out of trouble, Monday night, for one reason or another, he stepped forward and gave a strong performance in defense of the petitioners. It was one of the most dramatic moments of the entire evening.

Most of the rest of the night was taken up with the distribution of the chairmanships of some of the standing committees of Council.

One of the best parts was saved for last, when, as during the Republican Convention, almost everybody had gone home. Council passed a set of stringent rules to regulate future elections. These were then mimeographed and passed out to the Community by the administration, so no further comment is needed. This can be said for the entire performance, although it is doubtful that you will leave Albee socializing any of the songs, the next four months promise to be all the more exciting for the presence of "Community Council."

Ilene Rosen

PROSPECTS FOR THE NEW COUNCIL

The Council for Spring 1966 met for the first time during the last week of last semester. Unlike most councils in the past, it was faced with a serious problem at its first meeting: a petition signed by over two hundred members of the community, calling for the reholding of the elections for chairman of council because of irregularities in the voting procedure.

Council's reaction to the petition was, after an hour's debate, to pass a resolution stating that, while the election was conducted in an irregular manner, they were quite sure that the irregularities had not affected the outcome. Tony Harzani, the sponsor of this resolution, told this writer that the reason he had introduced it was because he felt that it was important for Council members to stick together.

The new Council has shown a great deal of good fellowship toward each other and respect for the sacred institution of Council, but, by its out-of-hand rejection of the petition, very little of either good fellowship or respect toward the members of the Community.

The reason which Peter Lee gave for Council's not taking the petition more seriously was that "around here a person will sign just about anything! Have any of the members of Council thought of the logical corollary to this rather popular statement: that "around here a person will vote for just about anybody"?"

Matt Forlstein
A budget of $780 for the Bard Review was approved, with Dean Hodgkinson abstaining. He said that Bard had never censored student publications and never would as long as he was part of the administration, but that certain items in the last Bard Review were "in bad taste." He added that in the future students should use a little more discretion in deciding what would be included in publications that were circulated with the official sanction of the college.

The Bard Racial Action Committee's budget was approved after Chairman Livingston, head of the organization, promised to submit a summary of BRAC's activities and accomplishments to next week's Council meeting.

The Gadfly Papers withdrew its request for $75.

Other budgets were as follows:

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$14,615 $12,340 $12,807

Jeffrey Mortimer

COMING NEXT WEEK AT COUNCIL:

BRAC requests a car—Is the War on Poverty really the Dodge rebellion?

THREE OTHERS FOR THE VARIETY CLUB!!!

The budget request of the Varsity Club elicited an almost Pavlovian response in the members of Community Council. It appears the word "varsity" evokes visions of the old days at Bard when traditional prejudices and selective organizations spelled anything but the "free and open, egalitarian" society of today's Bard College. Craig Livingston demonstrated this notion when he balked "this whole business of Varsity Clubs reeks of southern Connecticut country clubs."

The Dean sensed the reason for Council's jitters and asked Jeff Rochlis whether he might change the title of the club to the "Bard Athletic Society." Mr. Rochlis answered that he would. With that, the issue was put off until next week.

It is unfortunate that Council should react with this prejudice. They remind one of those corn-belt "Yahoos" who placed more faith in the word than they did in its meaning. The fact is that the Varsity Club could produce a constitution— which Mr. Lensing's inquiries revealed could not be done by other organizations who did receive funds. The question of exclusive membership has really no foundation. Athletic activity is by nature competitive, and based on interest and ability. Hence to deny them their budget on the grounds of selectivity would not only be meaningless, but would deny them their livelihood, a far greater injustice.

This valuable segment of the community deserves their share of community assistance, and a new brand of "psychopathic "Yahooism" should not prevent them from getting it.

John Paylor.
Justin Sabite:

"Justin approves of the movement towards a due process committee because of the extra responsibility it will vest in the student body. He appreciates the implication that the students are mature enough to handle such matters. He does feel that if a board is established with a provision for student members, they must be carefully chosen, perhaps by Community Council with faculty approval."

Interview with Craig Livingston

Q. Do you feel that Bard needs a due process committee? If so, what form do you think it should take, if not, why not?

A. I feel that a due process committee is desirable at Bard, because the students of the 50's are coming to think of themselves and to be recognized, as citizens, and I think that students as citizens should have the same protection as other citizens. Due process is simply our judicial system applied in the academy.

In the past, the philosophy of guiding students has been in locos parentis. In the last five years, the students have been asserting their rights in colleges. No longer are students considered children, nor the administration, the parent. Rather the student has become part of an academic society, and as such, is entitled to certain rights inherent with these rights are certain responsibilities.

Let me emphasize that the due process board would not always administer decisions. The board is simply an agency to which a student may appeal.

Furthermore, the due process policy is certainly not anti-administrative. The dean himself has been most co-operative. He feels that the due process committee is not an easy thing to work but, and that it must be worked out carefully. I agree.

I have no comment on the form the due process committee should take. That, I think, is up to the study group.

Appendix, let me say that these views are merely my personal opinions and should be taken as such."

Dr. Kline on Due Process

Q. What do you feel about Due Process?

A. "It is inevitable. This is a movement which is sweeping the country, and at this point is the "top cause" for college students."

Q. Do you feel that Due Process can be effective here at Bard i.e. are students responsible enough to handle this?

A. "Yes. I think it can be effective, as we have many intelligent and responsible students who will show a real interest and will find this committee worthy of their time and energies."

Q. Do you foresee any problems in regard to a committee such as this in the future?

A. It seems to me that the problem will be the sustaining commitment of time. As I said, this is the "top cause" of college students right now, but in a few months and in forthcoming years interest will not be as high and for this reason the committee may become ineffective. When this happens the responsibility will fall on the administration again."

Q. Do you feel that most Bard students want this committee to be instituted?

A. "Publicly, students are showing a high degree of interest, but privately I think many endorse this plan because it is "the thing to do" not because they really believe in it. I know from speaking with various students, that some members of the community would rather that the administration handle expulsion problems, both for the protection of individuals, and for the preservation of a feeling of student unity."

Peter Minnichello

To quote Mathew Perlstein on the subject of a due process committee: "A few reflections on the subject are in order."

More than just a few.

Let's start with the social regulations. In 1961, the Board of Trustees, the President, and a student committee created the regulations, after a survey of colleges. These regulations were similar to the ones we have now, with one.
striking exception: visiting hours in the men's dorms ended at 8:00 p.m. on Sunday through Thursday, not midnight. On October 27, 1961, Community Council voted approval of this system. This 8:00 p.m. end-of-visiting-hours is the rule on the books.

Why isn't this now observed as the rule? Simply because the Dean feels that the current system works well enough not to warrant change to this 8:00 time. Dean Hodgkinson "inherited" this double standard but has seen fit not to put in force this set of regulations. That does not mean that these official regulations could not be enforced, if was thought necessary.

On to the due process committee: A great difficulty arises in determining the precise functions of such a committee. As yet, there has been no plan which is acceptable to the students, administration and faculty. And certainly the powers of such a committee must be clearly defined. The Dean asks, "What exact function would such a committee serve?" This is as yet undetermined.

Dean Hodgkinson explained his role now and in the future, if a due process committee were established. As it is now, a student's case (which may result in suspension or dismissal) may be handled by the Dean's discretion on his part. "Crime A may be told," said the Dean, "and action taken on that alone because we believe that to be the proper course. If, however, there were an operating due process committee, I would be compelled to reveal all evidence against the student-Crime B, maybe a Crime C." To be more specific, a student may be listed officially as withdrawn because the Dean's office has seen fit to use this procedure. If a due process committee were a determining factor in the action to be taken, how could the term "withdrawn" ever be used. All evidence would have to be brought forth. "A second chance" and the possibilities for it is the complex issue here.

Another situation: the registrar's office contains the necessary and confidential files on students. As it is now, those wishing to see these files (e.g., officials from the dormitory who need information about the student's academic standing, when, for instance, such a draft board official asks questions, the file is held and discretion used as to the answers given. Referring to the existence of a due process committee, the Dean said that "Conceivably this whole system might break down." These files might have to be more accessible. "Student's rights," warned the Dean, "aren't necessarily going to be served by a student due process committee."

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING

The first Budget Committee meeting of the Spring semester was a fascinating event. In addition to the presentation of regular club budgets some new clubs also submitted Budget requests. By far and away the most interesting new club is the Seymour Cultural Unmentionables of the Month. This new organization wants to be known by their initials S. U. M.

The S. U. M. budget contained six specific requests. They were: 1) 18 record albums, one for each room in Seymour (each $4.00, total $72.00); 2) 36 single year subscriptions to Marvel comic books ($1.44 each, total $43.20); 3) 25 decks of bonded playing cards ($1.00 each, total $25.00); 4) 3 sets of poker chips of $5.00 per set, $15.00 total; 5) Refreshments--6 half kegs of beer at $16.00 per keg ($96.00 total) and 6) "Organizational Expenses"--$20.00.

The request was submitted on behalf of the club by Don Baier, Richard Rondhoff and Roger Johnson. When this Budget came up for consideration by the Budget Committee Mr. Baier, who is a member of the Committee suggested that no cuts be made in this club's budget. This was agreed to by JackMcCune, the Treasurer of Convocation and the Chairman of the Budget Committee; Dan Friedman and Don Moore. The fifth member of the Committee, Andy Krieger, indicated that he did not agree that the Budget should be approved as standing. Mr. Krieger did not suggest any specific cuts, however. The Committee recommended that Council pass this Committee's budget. The vote was 4 to 1.
Informed observers believe that this is the first club of its kind to be formed on the Bard Campus. However, for this very reason the chances for approval of this Budget by the entire Community Council when they discuss this item on Monday, March 7th, appear slim.

Tony Marzani

P.S. I swear to God that such a request was made to the Budget Committee and that both the provisions of the request as well as the action of the Committee occurred just as it is written above.

(Ed. note. Mr. Marzani voted for this appropriation at Community Council).

DISSENING VOTE

As the only dissenting vote on the S.C.U.M. budget, I feel I have some obligation to make my views known to the community. My reasons for opposing this budget should be more than obvious. No doubt, there is some element of humor in the outlandish provisions. However, when an official standing committee of Council actually approved this request, the joke ceased being funny.

Unfortunately, this action by the Budget Committee was all too typical of the attitude with which the entire proceedings were conducted. Certain individuals who were not even members of the committee were allowed to roam about the meeting at will, making a general nuisance of themselves. These people also were permitted to be present during the supposedly "closed" deliberations on each budget, and were allowed to interject their own personal comments whenever they chose. When one of these enlightened souls was asked to leave the meeting he made an obscene gesture which seemed to amuse some of the members of the committee.

This same snide and flippant attitude could be detected at the Council meeting Monday night, when even Professor Lensing expressed his shock and dismay at the manner in which the budgets were handled. But for some reason Chairman Craig Livingston refused to allow discussion concerning the conduct of the Budget Committee.

In any event, it was clear that these proceedings cast doubt in the minds of a great many people. One certainly could not blame any club chairman for questioning the fairness with which his budget was treated.

Andrew Krieger