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GADFLY

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T H E G A D F L Y P A P E R S

A weekly journal of comment, criticism, and satire concerning the activities of the Bard College Community

Vol. I. No. 4 March 17, 1966

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The most important part of my motion, which I forgot to bring out..."
Tony Marzani

LIVINGSTON ASKS FOR ACTION ON SIX-POINT PROGRAM AND STUDENT MARKERS

CLUB CONSTITUTIONS DISCUSSED

Community Council Monday night approved two motions by Chairman Craig Livingston calling for investigation and action by Council, the Administration, and the Educational Policies Committee on the problems of the six-point program and student markers of non-objective material.

Livingston said that, "the six-point program has been a disaster. Council and E.P.C. have the responsibility to sound out student opinion on this matter." His motion called for the creation of a committee to work with E.P.C. in setting up the machinery for polling student opinion. A complementary motion by Councilman William Lensing, professor of philosophy, further asked the committee to confer with the Faculty Senate on that group's proposals concerning the six-point program.

Council selected Tony Marzani, chairman of E.P.C., to serve on the committee, along with Mr. Livingston and Richard Ransohoff.

Chairman Livingston's motion concerning the role of student markers was worded as follows: "Council is deeply disturbed by the fact that students are playing an increasingly large role in the marking of examinations and papers. The dangers of such a policy are numerous and obvious. Plainly such a tendency is a manifestation of the fact that the faculty work load is far too great. We believe that the administration and the faculty should immediately consider this problem and take whatever steps are necessary to remedy it."

He added that, "Council should take an interest in educational problems since this, is, theoretically, an educational institution."

President Kline, who was present at the meeting, stated that the administration considered student marking of non-objective material "very undesirable,"but added that "We appreciate the mobilization and registering of faculty and student opinion on these matters, but these problems are very complex and cannot be solved by Council resolutions."

Councilman Andrew Krieger felt that the proper course of action would be to direct E.P.C. to investigate specific cases, he felt Council should take a stand and engender discussion.

Councilman Lensing commented that, while he wasn't trying to defend the faculty, grading papers was "a fine educational experience, employing initiative and a high degree of responsibility."

Councilman Marzani moved the adoption of a model club constitution submitted by Councilman Harvey Fleetwood as the sample to be used by Council. Councilman Krieger amended the motion to state that a club sonsists of two or more members whose activities take place on the Bard campus over a period of at least one semester, and that Council suggest that any club applying for funds submit a constitution. If they have none, Council is to suggest the use of Councilman Fleetwood's model.

After considerable discussion, Council moved to postpone discussion of the motion until a committee consisting of Councilmen Krieger, Marzani, and Fleetwood and Council Secretary Devorah Tarrow work out the precise wording of the constitution and the motion to approve it.

In action postponed from last week, Council voted to grant $100 to the Varsity Club. Councilman Malcolm McCune, chairman of the Budget Committee, said, "I've changed my mind. I think the Varsity Club is sort of a good idea nad worth a try."

Jeffrey Rochlis, president of the club, pointed out that he had made up a list of proposed changes in the club's constitution but when he submitted them to the members, they were rejected.

Councilman Lensing said that the hoped the motion concerning club constitutions would not end discussion on his proposals about Council procedures. Councilmen Livingston and Krieger said that such problems had to be dealt with specifically as they arose, but Livingston agreed with Mr. Lensing that Council policies should be more explicit.

Council approved a motion to have Chairman Livingston appoint two of its members to discuss with Aaron Fessler, the school librarian, ways of spending the $3,000 gift which Council made to the library last year.

A motion to allot ten dollars towards the purchase of a basketball to be left out in the gym at all times was passed. The ball will be known as the Tony Marzani Memorial Basketball. Another motion by Councilman Marzani, to appropriate $12.35 to cover the cost of meals consumed during lunch-time meetings of the Due Process Study Group, was also approved.

Councilman William Bernstein moved to have all Council meetings tape recorded in order to aid the secretary in the preparation of more accurate and complete minutes. He said that many members of the community had complained to him about the inaccuracy and incompleteness of the minutes posted in Hegeman, but his motion was defeated.

Jeff Mortimer

EDITORIALS

The futility of Community Council becomes incresingly evident as the semester wears on. It is not surprising that, after the various campus organizations have placed their hot little hands on their assigned quota of Convocation pelf, student interest in Council activities drops off to the point of nonexistence. The students can hardly be blamed. Aside from granting money to clubs, committees, and one-man bands a la Jeff Schwartz, what does Council do that really concerns them?

Craig Livingston can make fine high-sounding motions about the six-point program and student markers, but, as President Kline pointed out, these problems aren't solved by Council resolutions. One wonders what, if anything, is solved by Council resolutions.

Professor Lensing recently suggested that Council take a long, hard look at its policies and procedures. Would it be asking too much for Council to do the same about its powers? The student body might be a bit more interested in its Council if it knew precisely what it can and can not do, and how it is implementing the powers that it does have for the benefit of the Community. It is a pathetic commentary on Council's usefulness that the only time students seem to be aware of its existence is when it does something they don't like, and then it is invariable too late to change things.

For the last several years at least, there has been constant and often tiresome chatter about student apathy towards community government. Could it be that we have been laying the blame on the wrong doorstep all this time?

Jeffrey Mortimer

Epictetus teaches us, "When you are about to take in hand some action bethink you what it is that you are about to do." Community Council would do well to heed these words of the Roman Stoic; indeed, "the students of the 60's" would do well to recognize their meaningfulness. Some inexplicable passion demands that our generation discern relationships between students and the academy in terms of the "rights" of the former body and the "responsibilities" of the latter. Only with pronounced irritation then do I criticize the impetuous fancies of our Community Council.

Amidst the procedural obfuscations and the trivial bickerings of Monday night's meeting, motions were made and passed without proper debate as to their applicability,

plausibility, and possible effectiveness.

Harvey Fleetwood's motion to adopt a "model" constitution for college clubs showed a lack of conceptual practicality. One would assume that the motion attempted to eliminate what Mr. Lensing had recognized as procedural loop-holes in Council's allocation of funds to such clubs. Yet little attempt was made by Mr. Fleetwood to assess the applicability of his proposal in the context of Mr. Lensing's remarks.

But most importantly, the action by the Council to accept Mr. Livingston's motion calling for the establishment of a tri-lateral committee to deal with the question of the Six-Point Program and student graders demands closer attention. Jeffrey Schwartz adequately pointed out to Mr. Livingston that his motion as stated was clearly illogical. When Mr. Livingston tried to articulate an alternative to the Six-Point Program, admitting that his notions were "vague," one was compelled to question his general evaluation of the problem at hand--the very evaluation which prompted his motion. Yet the motion was passed.

If we, as "students of the 60's" are not to be considered children, nor the administration parents, then responsible, orderly parliamentary discussion must emerge from what has been in the past weeks the puerile fancies of vague, untenable propositions. "No great thing is brought to excellence suddenly," said Epictete, "not even a bunch of grapes or a fig." In the future, it would do Council well to consider a motion as to its applicability, plausibility, and possible effectiveness.

John A. Faylor

COMMENT ON THE COUNCIL MEETING PROCEEDINGS

At last week's Council meeting I made a motion that Council minutes should be taped to be used for reference by the Council secretary when she is preparing the final draft of the minutes. I did this as not only my own idea but in compliance with the wishes of several of my constituency who have told me that in past semesters they were often unable to make sense of the minutes as posted because the main point of what a given speaker was trying to say was lost in the secretary's attempt to summarize a long statement. I have noticed myself that entire statements of Councilmen are often omitted because the secretary has not had enough time to write them down. This is understandable, and no fault of the secretary, since even with shorthand it is impossible to write as fast as a speaker speaks.

For this reason I moved that the minutes be taped so that the secretary could merely check on any statements which didn't make sense as based on her notes (if she found a need to) and so that she would be sure that nothing was omitted from the final draft of the minutes. Since the minutes are the only way in which the Council can maintain contact with the Community I think that it is absolutely essential that the minutes be accurate. It would certainly not be a lot of trouble to set up a tape recorder at Council meetings and would not be expensive since the tape could be erased and used again after the secretary had referred to it. Since the Bard Community likes precedents, I might add that many organizations do this and we have ourselves taped lectures which have taken place on campus.

Unfortunately, the motion was greeted with hysterical laughter so that I wasn't able to complete my explanation.[1] As a result it faile 1-8-0 with most of the Council members not even knowing what they were voting against. (Incidentally, I think Council has contriubuted money to ventures which have been far less worthwhile.) I am honored that Mr. Mellett thinks me worthy enough to move that the tape recorder be named "The Bill Bernstein Memorial Tape Recorder" but perhaps if he hadn't been reading a comic book during the meeting he might have been able to understand the main point of the motion which he obviously did not. Mr. McCune should pay more attention to Council meetings also even though I respect his opinion that comic books are more interestin and informative than Council meetings anyway. I think that it even more deplorable to be reading comic books in the presence of the President--at a meeting which he considered important enough to attend. Reading a comic book at a Council meeting is hardly being a responsible

representative of the Community whose interests we are elected to represent.

The whole incident of the treatment of my motion received is indicative of something far more important and significant--that Council is rarely serious about anything. I am quite disturbed that when a Council member makes any kind of a serious motion, the rest of Council laughs and makes a joke of it without even the courtesy of listening to the merits of that motion. I fail to see the necessity of Mr. Mellett's remark at the Budget Meeting of Council (3/7/66) which was along these lines--that "council members must joke around in order to stay awake." And I criticize not Mr. Mellett exclusively, but the rest of Council also who carried out the spirit of his comment to the letter. Humor to a certain point is fine, but the Council passed that point a long time ago. Considering that Council is the supreme body in the community government it seems a shame that its members consider it such a "joke." I dread to think what condition our nation would be in if the United States Congress treated its business the way the business of our Council is treated.

In conclusion, I am calling for a change of attitude--one that is badly needed. If Council and Council subcommittees (such as the Budget Committee and the SCUM budget) would start treating their business a little more seriously, perhaps they could begin to make some worthwhile accomplishments.[2] Perhaps then, Council could also begin to command the respect of the Community which it does not at present have and which it must have before it can be considered a meaningful spokesman for the Community.

Bill Bernstein

[1] Incidentally, Council did not even bother to consult the secretary in order to discover her feelings on the matter.

[2] Then maybe Council will see a need for accurate minutes.

BILL BERNSTEIN VS. ROBERT'S RULES OF ORDER

Mr. Bill Bernstein's management of the chair during last night's Council meeting was nothing short of catastrophic. Blandly ignoring the most basic of Robert's Rules of Order, Mr. Bernstein calmly allowed discussion on a subject after the question had been called. It is true that in times past, the intricacies of the Rules have been used to stifle debate on some controversial issue at Council; however, it cannot be denied that these rules also facilitate the smooth functioning of an otherwise unwieldy meeting.

Mr. Bernstein based much of his last semester's campaign on the arbitrary use of Robert's Rules; and promised the electorate that, if elected, he would not let himself be bound by the contingencies of the Rules. Unfortunately, this theory which looks so fine on paper does not function in practice. His admittance of further discussion after the calling of the question only helped to add obscurity to an already confused issued. When Mr. Marzani tried to instruct Mr. Bernstein as to correct procedure, Mr. Bernstein made it clear to all present that he was in command and would brrok no resistence from the floor.

It is my fervent hope that we do not see Mr. Bernstein ascend to the chair very often this semester.

Ilene Rosen

WHAT TO DO DURING A BORING COUNCIL MEETING, ESPECIALLY IF YOU'RE A COUNCIL-MEMBER AND HAVE TO BE THERE, DEPT.

Always alert to new fads, the Gadfly is happy to announce the initiation of a chic, new way of avoiding boredom during Council meetings. Long tedious meetings have always been a strain on the sensative Council member. Tender muscles cramp up and backs get cricks in them. The usual alertness and mental clarity are dulled.

Happily, two of our more inventive members have come up with a solution to this problem. Mr. Mellett and Mr. McCune have established the precedent of reading comic books during the Council sessions. Surely members of the Community only can

envy as they watch their elected representatives while away the long hours while the less ingenious numbers struggle with the routine business of legislating for the Community. Surely such representatives as Mrs. Sugatt and R. Kline, who do not attend Council regularly cannot understand the need for the relaxation they found in comic book.

This new trend opens other avenues for escape from boredom. Perhaps the next thing will be the appointment of a moniter to pass around coloring books and crayons.

Ilene Rosen

MORE ON DUE PROCESS

To: Editors, the Gadfly Papers
From: Prof. Koblitz

The March 9 issue quoted the Dean as fearing that under due process the student "files might have to be more accessible." The Dean's interest in protecting these files from outside use is, of course, commendable. The A.A.U.P. Statement on The Academic Freedom of Students, similar to the A.C.L.U. statement, both of which are being considered as the basis for student due process at Bard, states in II. Student Records: "Data from disciplinary and counseling files should not be available to unauthorized persons on campus or to any person off campus except for the most compelling reasons." With the adoption of student due process procedures, protection of students would be much firmer, not weaker. It must be clear that is why NSA and AAUP and ACLU have drawn up such recommendations. In regard to President Kline's concern about the time commitment to a due process review committee, it should be stressed that the proposals provide for appeal procedure. In the first instance, disciplinary cases would be handled as at present. The Faculty provisions for academic due process also have a place for such a committee. It has never had to meet at Bard. First there must be an action that is or seems to be unjust; then an appeal to the Committee. The opportunity for an appeal is vital. It may never be necessary to seize the opportunity.

Robert Koblitz

Interview with Don Baier

Don thinks that a due process committee is basically a good and sound idea. He feels that students have a right to know who is accusing them, of what they are being accused, and of all pertinent evidence in the matter. He stated his feeling that a due process inquiry should not be automatic, but voluntary, something the individual accused requests for himself.

As to the actual structure of the committee, he thought that representation should be divided equally among students, faculty, and administration. Student representatives should be chosen from Community Council and House Presidents' Committee, these being, in Don's opinion probably the two most responsible official student organizations on campus.

Linda Potter

From John MacDonald

"Bard is a liberal college. Yet in this one respect we have been left far behind." This pun, unintentional I presume, appeared in the editorial "Untrivial Due Process" of the Bard Observer (3/8/66) and perhaps can serve to clarify some issues involved in the proposed due process system.

The discussion of due process was initiated not in consideration of the necessity for such a system at Bard, but because of its desirability in the abstract. Indeed we have been slow, we have been left far behind, in adopting or even recognizing a universal solution advocated by the friends of the "new student." Many of those who view administrative authority as intrinsically evil and student authority as naturally good, have gone no further than to respond favorably to the system of due process without considering its consequences or implications.

Craig Livingson's statements in past issues of the Gadfly Papers, typify the kind of support which due process has aroused.

Mr. Livingston's comments on the due process system as printed in the Gadfly (3/9/66) are indeed revealing. When asked whether he thought a due process committee was needed at Bard he answered: "I feel that a due process committee is desirable at Bard, because the students of the 60'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...In the last five years, the students have been asserting their rights in colleges. No longer are students considered children..." Certainly the fact or non-fact that because "students of the 60's are coming to think of themselves as citizens" has nothing to do with the proposed adoption of a due process system. There is simply no perceptible causal relationship between the stated desirability and the reason given for it. Again, Mr. Livingston's opinion that students are no longer considered children, nor the administration the parent has no bearing on the due process question. He states that, "...rather the student has become part of an academic society." I have been of the opinion that university students were always considered part of what may be called an academic society. And if Mr. Livingston's appraisal of the students' new standing is valid, what bearing does this new found status have in determining the merits of due process at Bard.

What is needed in this debate over due process is a delineation of the need for such a systme and a careful study of the consequences and implications of the adoption of such a system. The discussion must be concerned not with the abstract glories of student rights and university responsibilities but with the practical necessity for a due process system at Bard.

John H. MacDonald

FORTHCOMING PURCHASE OF COPIER BY LIBRARY

The Director of the Bard College Library, Mr. Aaron L. Fessler, today revealed the imminent installation of a Dennison electrostatic "Copier Machine 09-300" in the athenaeum. Mr. Fessler hesitated to indicate the prospective date of its installation for two reasons. He felt that Machine 09-300 must be protected from the descent on it by masses of excited students, anxious to acquaint themselves with its services. The calamity that might ensue, Mr. Fessler maintained could best be averted by communicating knowledge of its existence through word of mouth. In this way there would be a more gradual encounter of the student boyd with 09-300. Information as to its exact location in the library is being withheld for similar reasons. In addition, the director wishes to avoid the unpleasant possiblity of having to turn away a congregation of angry students on the anticipated day of revelation should 09-300's installation be delayed.

The machine has many appealing characteristics. Among other things, it is economical: the supplies required to operate the Copier "add up to a cost per copy of slightly more than 2 1/2 ¢. It is quick to deliver and prints fast--7 clean completely dry prints per minute."

Those persons who wish to record their own or another's written words for posterity on the Copier will be relieved to know that its copies "will not yellow, fade, darken, or otherwise deteriorate with time. Dennison copies stay white." Persons who wish to copy keepsakes (of no grater than 8 1/2" x 11" in lateral dimension), artifacts, memorablia and objects d'art may do so, as 09-300 copies three-dimensional objects.

The machine, which costs $2,450.00 (f.o.b. nearest warehouse") will be rented for approximately $80.00 per month; the payments will go to its ultimate purchase.

Mr. Fessler expects that the cost to the user of 10¢ a copy will eventually make the machine pay for itself.

Alfred Pleasanton