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GADFLY

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THE GADFLY PAPERS

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

Vol. 1. No. 12

May 19, 1966

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The reason I voted against my own motion was because..."

Bill Bernstein

COUNCIL HEARS REPORT ON POST-CURFEW USE OF COMMUNITY VEHICLE; SOME NEW RULES CREATED.

Community Council Monday night heard a report from Guy Farrell, representing the Bard Racial Action Committee, and Paul Smith, the keeper of the keys, concerning the fact that the community vehicle was spotted in use at 3:30 on the morning of May 8. As a result of the discussion of this incident, some new rules concerning use of the vehicle were passed.

Mr. Smith explained that the reason the keys had been out of his hands for a period of about five days last week was that he had an apparently mistaken conception of his role as keeper. He said that he felt his role was to see that the truck was distributed equitably, but not necessarily to keep his hands on the keys. He added that "other circumstances" had added to this misconception.

Councilman Mark Mellett wanted to know if anyone besides Mr. Smith had a key. Mr. Smith replied, "There are two sets of keys, both of which I have." Chairman Livingston added that "I know for a fact that no one else has a key."

Councilman Mellett replied that "some people know differently."

Councilman Mellett then asked Mr. Farrell what he was doing in Kingston at that time of night with the community vehicle.

Mr. Farrell explained that there was going to be a meeting on Sunday at the CORE office there and that, since it had been used for tutorials and other programs during the week, it was in something of a mess. He couldn't get away from campus until about 11:30 p.m. on Saturday. "The vehicle was used legitimately. We didn't return until late and this resulted in a curfew violation for the girl with me, which she didn't consider serious. As far as I know, there is no restriction on the times the vehicle may be used," he added.

Councilman William Bernstein moved that the time the vehicle is in use should be added to the information already recorded in the notebook, which includes the name of the organization using it, mileage at the start and finish of use, purpose, and date of use.

Two amendments were offered to the motion and accepted by Councilman Bernstein. The first, by Councilman

Anthony Marzani, required that four times be recorded in the notebook: the time the key leaves the hands of the keeper, the time the use of the vehicle begins, the time the vehicle is returned to the parking lot, and the time the keys return to the possession of the keeper.

The second amendment, by Councilman Andrew Krieger, asked that a separate book be kept by the keeper of the keys in addition to the book kept in the vehicle. This book would contain a record of the times the key leaves the keeper's possession and is returned to it, and would serve as a double-check on the book kept in the truck.

The motion passes, as amended, by a vote of 7-0-1.

Councilman Bernstein's motion that people in campus organizations other than the chairmen of those organizations be permitted to sign out the vehicle failed, 2-4-1.

A further motion by Councilman Bernstein that BRAC be asked to consolidate the number of people who use the vehicle failed for lack of a second.

Mr. Bernstein explained that the purpose of this motion was to insure that as few people as possible have access to the vehicle. In line with this, Councilman Harvey Fleetwood wanted to know if the minimum number of people possible were using the community vehicle from BRAC. Chairman Livingston said that this was the case.

Dean Hodgkinson reported that bicycles had been reclaimed at a great rate and, as far as he knew, there were none left in usable condition.

Councilman Marzani said that there were forty bicycles at the B&G barn as of last Thursday.

The Dean replied that "We've had quite a weekend as far as bicycles are concerned. Apparently, the local kids have heard that there are free bicycles available at Bard College."

Council approved an allocation of \$150 to WXBC, the proposed Bard radio station, with the stipulation that no funds will be provided

until that group submits a constitution. Councilman Krieger, speaking for WXBC, said that the constitution had been drawn up but it had not been submitted yet.

Councilman Malcolm McCune, community treasurer, reported that there was a balance of \$26 in the Convocation fund, after the WXBC allocation had been granted.

Councilman Bernstein moved that the community vehicle be used to transport students to the railroad station in Rhinecliff on Friday afternoons and pick them up on Sundays. Mr. Bernstein rejected an amendment by Councilman Mellett that a fee of one dollar be charged for the service and a driver be hired to be paid one-half of the receipts.

Before action on the motion was taken, the meeting was adjourned by a vote of 4-3.

Jeffrey T. Mortimer

MORE ON CRITERIA SHEETS

There has been some discussion on campus about the article I wrote last week concerning the shortcomings of the criteria sheet system. I am not about to embark on a holy crusade to preserve the concept of the criteria sheet in all its pristine glory, but I do feel as if I should report here some of the comments I heard and make one more suggestion.

I received a note in campus mail from one faculty member saying that the reason criteria sheets are late in getting out is not Bard's bureaucratic machinery but the fact that professors are often late in turning them in. Another faculty member explained to me that the reason for this is often instructors wait as long as possible for a student to do something or write something that they can comment upon. My answer to this would be that the function of the mid-term sheets is to let the student know where he stands in the course, and it pretty much defeats their purpose to put off filling them out until the student does something. If he's not doing something, tell him about it. Again, this is what the sheets are for.

The same faculty member also asked me how many students make use of the criteria sheets, anyway. Assuming that the students got them on time to do something about them, would they? I replied that one of the chief complaints about the present system was that the students didn't have a chance to do anything, which would seem to imply that they would if they could. Speaking personally, I often make use of the sheets and I think a

great number of students do.

At any rate, discussion had been started. In order not to let this problem pass off into the limbo of chronic complaints that no one tries to solve, why not have the Educational Policies Committee take up the situation, in order to facilitate and formalize some of the ideas that are being bandied about? Concrete and workable suggestions from a group that had made a serious effort to come up with them, might have a chance of being put into practice.

Jeffrey T. Mortimer

IMPROVEMENT OF THE WEEK

Two week's ago, although it didn't get any mention here or in the Observer, B&G under the urging of institutional committee, installed a washing machine and dryer in the basement of McVicker. This benevolent gesture is marred only by the absence of any drainage system in said basement. If the machines should overflow, as they have a tendency to do at times, the water level rises until the floor resembles Coney Island at ebb tide.

This week another improvement has gone unheralded. So, in order to make amends for past slips in our reportorial duty, we are proud to be the first to inform you. If you should walk out through the back door of dining commons, you will find that you no longer have to scramble down the hill to get to the parking lot or Sottery. Somebody has thoughtfully installed a stairway. Unfortunately, the stairway has, very unthoughtfully, slipped off the ledge on which it has been resting.

It now offers an excellent opportunity for community participation, in rescue attempts, when some unsuspecting person tries to use it, slips, and gets his leg caught in the process.

Ilene Rosen

PERSONAL QUERIES

WHEN the BRAC-mobilo finally breaks down, will it be turned into a planter???

Has Darryll F. Zanuck used the D.U.'s for the "blitz" scene in "The Battle of the Bulge"???

BURNING ISSUES AT BARD DEPARTMENT

This survey is being sponsored by F.F.A. (Finer Food for All) at Bard. It has been sent to all students, members of the faculty and administration. The purpose of this survey is to determine the attitudes held by the Bard Community on two current and vital issues: Dining Commons and nutritive values.

In order for this survey to be meaningful it is imperative that each recipient fill out the entire form in a conscientious and independent manner and promptly deposit it in a convenient waste basket no later than Sunday, May 22.

The information gathered from this survey will not be used as a policy statement of the college. In fact, it will probably not be used at all, but the results will be made available to the Bard Community as soon as possible.

Your name is not needed, but a recent stomach X-ray would be helpful in evaluating the results of this survey.

F. F. A.

Provide the following information:

Student? Yes ____ No ____

Vegetarian ____ Meat-eater ____ Neither ____ Both ____ None of the above ____

List, as completely as possible, the occasions upon which you have suffered from food poisoning since you have been at Bard: _____

Check ONE:

____ I support the Slater policy in Dining Commons.

____ I do not support the Slater policy in Dining Commons; it is Tasteless

____ I do not support the Slater policy in Dining Commons: it is non-nutritive

____ I am fasting, and hence have no opinion

Check those of the following statements which approximately reflect your opinions:

I THINK WE SHOULD

____ maintain our present policy toward Dining Commons

____ use low-yield fruits and vegetables

____ spill things on non-food targets in Dining Commons

____ other (specify) -- _____

____ cease eating in Dining Commons

____ implement the enclave tactic, eat-in and wait

____ continue eating and call for negotiations

____ negotiate with the CU (Consumers Union)

____ halt all eating and call for negotiations

____ withdraw all food purchasers and permit the dog pounds to determine their own future.

____ other (specify) -- _____

Answer TRUE or FALSE to the following statements. If you DO NOT KNOW the answer to a particular statement, mark the space "O".

____ Our presence in Dining Commons is a breach of the Pure Food and Drug Act of 1906.

____ Slater's activities in Dining Commons are a breach of the United States Constitution.

____ Dogcatchers have no legal right to be in Dining Commons (in a culinary capacity)

____ The Slater system is run by communists who are trying to weaken our resistance capability by slowly poisoning us.

Answer with a plus mark (+) before those statements with which you agree and with a minus sign (-) before those with which you disagree.

- _____ The Slater system has a poor knowledge of food and cannot decide what form is best for us. It is therefore our duty to steer them away from instant vegetables and cheap meat products.
- _____ We are eating in Dining Commons solely for our own interest.
- _____ Our eating in Dining Commons is a moral issue
- _____ Our eating in Dining Commons is a health issue.
- _____ Big Business plays a large role in determining what we eat.
- _____ The food we eat in Dining Commons adheres to the basic culinary principles such as those stated in Jarvis's Folk Medicine.
- _____ Better fed than dead

ANSWER THE FOLLOWING, CHECKING ONE OF THE SPACES AS AN ANSWER FOR EACH QUESTION. ANSWERS SHOULD BE MADE ON THE BASIS OF YOUR OPINION.

In Dining Commons, I would say that I usually stand in the line that is:

- _____ Left of center
- _____ Right of center
- _____ Go in the back way
- _____ No opinion, I am fasting

In my opinion, the majority of the Bard Community uses the line that is

- _____ Left of center
- _____ Right of center
- _____ Goes in the back way
- _____ None of the above, they're all fasting.

Jeffrey T. Mortimer
Ilene Rosen

THE BARD POLITICAL UNION

Q. What distinguishes Oxford, Cambridge, Yale, and Bard from ordinary Colleges?

A. A Political Union.

The fourth Political Union in the civilized world is now being founded at Bard to promote discussion of political and civic issues. It will differ from other political organizations on campus by its non-partisan nature and its opportunity for intellectual confrontation. It is based in principle upon the British parliamentary system and works in the following way:

A debate topic is selected, and each party of the Union discusses it in caucus and takes a stand. Then debaters from the different parties present the issues and rebut their opponents. Finally the Union as a whole votes on the topic. The final vote indicates no ultimate judgement, and it seems unlikely that any panaceas will be discovered. But the students (and hopefully some faculty) involved will have learned more about the ways they and other people think about issues and will have achieved, through ample opportunity for discussion and debate, greater knowledge of the effective ways to communicate their ideas.

Debating is, of course, not the only function of the Union. It will undoubtedly bring guest speakers -- analysts, politicians, educators -- to campus, some to participate in the debates. Other possible activities include newsletters, programs over WXBC, courses in parliamentary

procedure, participation in inter-collegiate organizations such as the NMGA, and anything remotely connected with politics or political philosophy. The only activities the Bard Political Union cannot sponsor are those connected with partisan politics. This is prohibited by the Constitution.

Two parties are forming at present -- a moderate Constitutional Union Party and a left of center Liberal Party. For more information, see Frank Dobbs or Steve Kushner.

FAD and SSK

Letters to the Editors:

Perhaps it is time to take a second or two to pause . . . and consider a problem which is ticking off a number of Bardians. The problem at hand - which is getting out of hand - is more aggravating than alarming. It seems that in-different clocks in the library, coffee shop, lunch room, etc. differ from the synchronization of the bells and from each other. These are the times that try men's minds and occasionally make them late for class. If B & G won't do it, maybe the masked marvel near Gotham City will!

Stuart Green