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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. 13

May 27, 1966

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The community vehicle is finally going to be used for a community service."

Bill Bernstein

COMMUNITY VEHICLE TO BE USED FOR TRANSPORTING STUDENTS TO RHINECLIFF RAILROAD STATION; ORGANIZATIONS TO BE BILLED FOR ITS USE

Community Council Monday night, in its shortest meeting since last semester (thirty minutes), voted to use the community vehicle to transport students to and from Rhinecliff station on Friday afternoons and Sunday evenings, respectively. The bus will make one trip each day, and there will be no charge for the service.

A driver to take the vehicle back and forth to Rhinecliff will be selected by the keeper of the keys.

Mr. Boynton, representing the administration, suggested that Interstate Commerce Commission regulations concerning the transporting of passengers on a scheduled basis be investigated before the motion be passed, but Councilman William Bernstein said that as far as he knew there was no need to obtain a franchise from the I.C.C. unless a fee was charged.

Council also requested Treasurer Malcolm McCune to bill those organizations which had been using the community vehicle, at the rate of ten cents a mile.

Councilman Harvey Fleetwood distributed to Council copies of the final report of the Due Process Committee. "This is our estimate of what the document should be," he said. "I assume Council can revise it." A motion by Councilman Anthony Marzani to postpone consideration of the report until next week was passed since there were only six Council members present.

Treasurer McCune reported a balance in the Treasury of \$226. The History Club had informed him that it will not be spending \$200 that was allocated to it.

Council approved the constitutions of the Psychology Club and the Jazz Club, since those organizations have added provisions for amending their constitutions.

COUNCIL PRIMARY

The following are the results of the primary balloting for next semester's Community Council. The first nine names listed will run for the six vacancies on Council this coming Tuesday, May 31.

1. Dan Grady.....	117
2. Dick Ransohoff.....	109
3. Robert C. Edmonds.....	106
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21. Guy Farrell.....	50
22. Dev Tarrow.....	49
23. Keith Smith.....	48
24. George Janto.....	48
25. Nancy Lovallo.....	46
26. Chevy Chase.....	42
27. Graham Gibson.....	42
28. Henry Brooks.....	40
29. Jim Eaton.....	38
30. James Fine.....	34
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32. John Kornhauser.....	28
33. Francis Fleetwood.....	24
34. Jonathan Wyner.....	24
35. Mark Muray.....	21
36. Peter Peltz.....	20
37. Charles Perkel.....	20
38. Don Michaels.....	16
39. Harold Stessel.....	15

Jeffrey T. Mortimer

Jeffrey T. Mortimer

Don't forget to vote for the
six new Council representatives
on May 31, in the coffee shop.

The Editors.

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS:

I do not know the details of the New Paltz affair, and therefore cannot treat it specifically. But it does seem to reflect the naivete of values that characterizes today's "New Left."

The basic proposition underlying much of this type of action is: "If the administration does something I do not like, rather than accept the decision, protest it by allowable means, or leave the institution, I shall try to change it by any means I deem desirable. I shall determine the ends of this institution and I shall decide what means will best implement them." This frame of mind ignores the voluntary contract implied in attending a college. The student who attends a college agrees to submit to the authority of the college's administration, even if it acts stupidly or unfairly. Any college that is poorly administered will eventually damage itself. Even if civil disobedience were justifiable against a government, it is certainly unjustified against an institution whose services are definitely a privilege, not a right. No one has the right to come into my house and insist that I serve him.

Sociologically speaking, an institution is a means for embodying collective values. Private individuals and other institutions, notably churches and governments, establish colleges to further certain of their values. The administration is entrusted with utilizing the college to advance these values. The "New Left" proclaims that no one has the right to impose values on them (as if there were no compulsion in a voluntary contract) and then censures anyone who does not follow their misty values. They cry for FREEDOM for themselves and refuse to "allow" a state-owned school to administer a voluntary federal examination. So they violate a voluntary contract and still hope to receive its benefit.

We do not deny that there may be means to communicate their vision of the way an institution should promote its values. Here is an example of how it can be done -- the Bernstein affair.

When Dr. Bernstein of the Yale Philosophy department was refused tenure, many students feared that this expressed a trend toward a publish or perish system that imperiled undergraduate teaching.

So they maintained a twenty-four hour vigil outside President Brewster's house (he was in Bermuda), the Yale Daily News debated and polemicized for over a week, professors discussed the issues in class; the Political Union in an open meeting opposed the administration's policy by a vote of about three hundred to one. Dr. Bernstein still did not get his tenure, but the case received national publicity, the students formulated and communicated their views, various faculty study committees have been established, and a major revision of Yale's teaching system may result. If the students had "sat-in" to demand a role in granting tenure to the faculty, they probably would have attained nothing but probation. By showing that they respected themselves, they gained the respect of the administration and the faculty for their views.

The use of the word, "Respect", may shock some, baffle others. But how can a man whose views obviously contradict each other respect himself? Who believes in democracy imposed by a small unrepresentative minority, who believes in freedom without realistic safeguards for its exercise, who believes that his subjective values should be universally enforced, who believes that whatever exists is his by right of his own existence, who believes in winning the game, but not playing by the rules, without which there is no game?

Frank Dobbs

Dear Gentlemen:

I thought the statement which the Gadfly attributed to me in last week's issue ("The reason I voted against my own motion was because . . .") was very funny. In fact the funniest part about it was that it was not my motion but Craig Livingston's which he asked me to make for him so that he would not have to leave the chair. Actually, the reason I consented to make the motion was a poor one and why I would consequently vote against it. But this is not why I submitted this explanation to the Gadfly. It is rather because someone came over to me after reading the "Quote of the week" last week and asked me if I wanted to be Dwight Eisenhower's speechwriter. This, needless to say, was more of an insult than I could bear.

Bill Bernstein