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GADFLY

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Page 1	Here We Are Again and Other Pleasantries
Page 2	Council Meets in Sottery Hall. Concessions Granted. Brac Requests Extra \$115 for Summer Project Ilene Rosen
Page 3	We're Being Taken for a Ride [Student Housing, B&G] Brac's Back Jeffrey T. Mortimer Registration and Bard Ilene Rosen

THE GADFLY PAPERS

The Journal of the New Middle

Vol. II, No. 1

September 15, 1966

HERE WE ARE AGAIN, AND OTHER PLEASANTRIES

To those of you who are new at Bard, or have been away for a while, permit us to introduce ourselves. We are a weekly (God willing) journal of opinion, satire, and miscellany concerning the Bard community. We were in operation, if that is the word, for the first time last semester. Among other things, we printed weekly reports of the activities of Community Council, editorials by members of the staff (all three of them), and letters of opinion from members of the faculty and student body, as well as interviews with figures of controversy on campus.

Around the middle of last term, we began calling ourselves the "Journal of the New Middle." Like most everything else we did, this was more by accident than by design. We started out pretty far left, but as the Left moved further and further in that direction, we more or less got left behind (pun unintentional). Further, we had not intended the Gadfly to become an organ of only one kind of opinion. We had hoped to have a larger staff (boy, had we hoped to have a larger staff), and we constantly encouraged contributions from outside ourselves. Very few were forthcoming, and our little rag became something of a three-man effort. The three, by the way, are Jeff Mortimer (who is very far left by most people's standards, but something else by a few other's), Ilene Rosen (who refers to herself as a moderate liberal, whatever that is), and John Faylor (Bard's resident right-winger, and former village conservative of Allentown, Pa.).

The Gadfly cannot survive if all the work is again left on our three sets of slightly rounded shoulders. For one thing, we have senior projects to do, or at least our advisers have been making threatening noises about them. For another, we, like most of our critics, were unhappy that the Gadfly developed a certain degree of, shall we say, rigidity, towards the end of last term. In order to avoid this, we need a diversity of viewpoint and only you, our potential contributors and staff, can provide that. We need people to write, to arrange material, to type up dittos, to collate and staple, to put the whole mess in the mailboxes, etc. As we said before, we're all seniors, so the opportunities for advancement are simply staggering.

There will be a meeting of the Gadfly on Tuesday, September 20th at 7:30 P.M., in Aspinwall A. The three battle-scarred veterans will be there, armed with copies of last term's journal, to answer any questions you may have. Y'all come!.

The Editors

COUNCIL MEETS IN SOTTERY HALL. CONCESSIONS GRANTED. BRAC REQUESTS EXTRA \$115 FOR SUMMER PROJECT.

At the first meeting of Council Monday night, the Budget Committee, the Safety Committee, the Entertainment Committee, the newspaper concession, the cigarette concession, and the laundry concession were established. Dan Grady will be in charge of the laundry and linen exchange, a post he held last year. George Janto and Larry Simonds were granted the cigarette concession. Mr. Janto, speaking for himself and Mr. Simonds, said that the prices would be the same as last year (40¢ per pack) and would be sold at the same time (12-1:15 P.M. and 5-6:15 P.M. in Dining Commons). Mr. Janto was in possession of this concession last year. Alex Zedicoff was granted the newspaper concession. He said that his prices for the New York Times would be 10¢ daily and 45¢ for the Sunday paper. Mr. Zedicoff drew a round of applause when he promised to make door-to-door delivery of the daily, as well as Sunday Times.

The Budget committee, which consists of four members plus the Council treasurer, (Malcolm McCune) was chosen Monday night. Besides Mr. McCune, the committee members now include: Jeff Rochlis, Don Moore, John Goodman, and Dev Tarrow. Tenure is for one year.

The Safety Committee, which consists of four members and a Council representative, now stands with Jeff Rochlis, Doug Kabat, Don Michaels, and Alex Boulton. The Council representative is Robert Edmonds. Tenure is for one semester.

Entertainment Committee was accepted as it appeared on the sign-up list. Jim Fine, Judy Metzner, Allen Carpenter, Dery Dyer, Ward Feurt, Don Michaels, Steven Miller, Dick Rudin, Garry Brateman, George Janto, Wilhelmina Martin, Jon Wyner, Justin Sabiti, Stephen Josephs, Regan O'Connell, Charles Johnson, Sherrie Rubin, Ann Bernstein, George Britton, Barbara Slovinsky.

Miss Alison Raphael, Council member and member of BRAC requested \$115 from Council to pay expenses incurred during the summer project. The sum was broken down in the following manner: \$30 for the rent of an

office maintained in Kingston, and \$85 for telephone bills. Councilwoman Linda Boldt explained that the office rent had originally been \$40 a month and was then reduced to \$30 a month. The \$40 which BRAC received in June specifically for rent over the summer proved to be too little. The motion passed and BRAC received its money.

Mr. Harvey Fleetwood asked about the Community vehicle. He wanted to know who was in possession of the keys at the moment. Mr. Krieger, Council chairman, said that at the moment he was holding the keys. Councilman Dan Grady moved that the chairman of Safety Committee provide two sets of keys for the vehicle and be responsible for the upkeep and maintenance of the vehicle. The motion passed 8-1-1.

Under old business, John Goodman, chairman of the Orientation Committee, requested \$123 to pay for the Saturday night mixer. He said that the committee had overspent its budget for that affair. The request was granted.

Mr. McCune asked that budgets for all committees and clubs be submitted to him by Thursday noon.

Your Council representatives are:

Andrew Krieger-chairman
Malcolm McCune-treasurer
Linda Boldt
Alison Raphael
Steven Tremper
Robert Edmonds
Richard Ranschoff
Dan Grady
Dean Hodgkinson
Mr. William Lensing
Miss Thurley Randolph

Ilene Rosen

WE'RE BEING TAKEN FOR A RIDE

I assume that every student has seen the two little pieces of paper that were left to greet them in their sumptuous rooms on their return from freedom. One of the papers was quite amusing; it was from the office of the Dean. Under the impressive title of "Provisions for Student Housing" were found such deceiving statements as "the college puts forth substantial effort and expense to see that they provide a congenial living situation and an atmosphere for serious and concentrated academic work" and "every dormitory room is checked to be sure that it is turned over to its student occupant or occupants in good condition." Strangely enough, the college has never expended any "substantial effort and expense" on any room I have occupied. Was the author of these false phrases ever been inside a Bard dormitory room or were these statements taken from a similar circular dated 1906 rather than 1966. The dormitories certainly were not always this way since there is a story of a Bard graduate who upon his return to his college after an extended absence wept when he saw his old room -- he wept not from nostalgia but because of the filth he saw.

The bulletin also informs us that check lists are kept on the condition of the rooms and that fines are imposed for the repair of damages. I can personally vouch for the existence of fines, but not the repairs. Since someone has paid for the damages, why haven't there been repairs? In every room I have occupied I have returned from vacations to find them either in the same condition as I had left them or a little dirtier.

We certainly pay enough to go to Bard, so the least the college can do is to provide presentable CLEAN living quarters, especially when we pay for damages other than "normal wear and tear." I would not be surprised that if the Board of Health visited our beloved Bard, and assuming that strange forces did not blur their vision, they would have a field day giving out violations.

All this brings to mind a question: what is B&G for? Outside of cutting the grass and the nerve shattering job of watching the electric, water, and temperature gauges, what do they really do? True, they sweep the dirt down the hallways and occasionally stare at the bathrooms, but do they fix broken windows? I was in one room for two semesters and for all

their damage lists I never saw them fix mine. Do they fix falling ceilings? No, again. Do they paint our filthy rooms? Let's not be ridiculous. Do they repair the outside of the buildings? They don't have to, no one can see through the ivy. The buildings look fine from the outside, but inside are rotting out.

It is the responsibility of the school to provide the student body with clean rooms and sanitary baths. It is clearly understood that the fees we pay for our room include the normal upkeep of same. Since we are made to pay for inordinate damages there is no excuse on the part of the administration for negligence of repairs. Furthermore, a student should be compensated when he takes it upon himself to properly repair damages of previous occupants of his living quarters since the school has already been paid for the repairs through its system of fines. In conclusion, the student body and council should put all necessary pressure upon the administration to compel them to assume their responsibility.

Philip H. Likes

BRAC'S BACK

Yes, friends, your favorite campus activist group, the Bard Racial Action Committee, is back for a new season. Actually, they never really left, since most of the original cast was over in Kingston during the summer, fighting the good fight.

Unhappily, B.R.A.C. still has many of the same problems it always did. Most notably, money. They just can't seem to keep track of it. We all know how embarrassing it must have been for Miss Alison Raphael, newly-minted member of Council and B.R.A.C.-er extraordinaire, to come before Council at the very first meeting of the semester and have to say, "Well, there's this phone bill, and the rent, and...golly...I just don't know where it all goes to." She may not know where it goes to (except in a general sense, reshaping the world and all), but we would like to remind her where it comes from. Us. You and me. 25 (Twenty-Five dollars) per semester, extracted from each and every one of us to go into the kitty known as Convocation. From there, it is dished out to various campus organizations for their semester's activities. Outside of various more or less official organizations such as the Observer and Entertainment Committee, B.R.A.C. invariably walks off with a plurality,

if not a majority, of the \$15,000 prize money.

In a way, one must admire B.R.A.C.'s cleverness. In the first place, as former Council and B.R.A.C. Chairman Craig Livingston once said, "No one is against civil rights in 1966." He was right. We're not. But we are, perhaps, against dogmatism and the outstretched palm, or gimme, school of organizational finance. There was a time when B.R.A.C. raised its money by posting a few people in Dining Commons and soliciting funds from students and faculty. I am quite sure that a number of Gadfly-ers would be more than happy to contribute in this way. I know I would be. I know I did. But it rankles to have money taken from your pocket and given to an organization that usually responds with a "we don't really know what happened to it" or "you see, our expenses were a little more and, gee, we thought we had enough, but, shucks, we'll need a little more and, uh, an advance maybe, and, uh, well..." If B.R.A.C. knew it had a certain amount of money with which to work, period, and had to stay within its limits, I feel sure it could. But when all it has to do is come to Uncle Council and say, "Please, sir, may I have some more?" it undoubtedly loses a little incentive to watch where the money goes, although it must be difficult to be careful of petty details when one is constantly preoccupied with Higher Things.

In the past, B.R.A.C. was relieved of such troubles, since Council invariably said, "You need money? Sure, sure thing, fine. Could we talk you into taking a little more?" B.R.A.C., you see, had handed Council a brush and a bucket and let it paint itself into a corner. So much money had been invested in the salvation of Kingston, so many Good Things had been started, that it would have been a heartless act indeed to say "no" to a li'l ole request for money.

Things were a bit different Monday night at Council. The Dean and Mr. Lensing, professor of philosophy, had the audacity to ask why the money was needed and where it was being spent. The Dean pointed out that B.R.A.C.'s budget for office expenses during the summer were one-half of his budget for operating his office during an entire semester.

With disarming charm, Miss Raphael said, "I didn't realize there was going to be a problem." But maybe there is. Maybe the student body, and even Council, is getting tired of footing the bill for B.R.A.C.'s bad bookkeeping. Maybe, since B.R.A.C. doesn't deign to spend its money on the Bard campus, we

will at last find out what it's being spent on in Kingston.

It's a new semester, sweetheart.

Jeffrey T. Mortimer

REGISTRATION AND BARD

Saturday's formal registration procedure was a vast improvement over the methods employed in the past. For those of you who were fortunate enough to miss this biennial massacre, the herds would begin to collect in front of the gym about an hour before the doors were opened. When the doors were finally opened, there was a mass rush which usually ended with people crammed up against the walls. Only a few were able to squeeze into the gym itself at any one time. This year, we bruised and scarred veterans of such campaigns were gratified to see the institution of the split-line system, where two lines were formed according to last names. This method eliminated the necessity of scraping up the remains of some poor unfortunate who had the ill-luck to get trampled into the ground.

Now that this first step has been taken, perhaps it is time to consider further means of simplifying registration. Saturday saw over 600 students registering. The effect of the increase in the sheer numbers of students was felt by returning students when they were informed at preliminary registration that they were already locked out many of their courses. By Saturday the locked-up list was incredibly long.

How can we avoid the huge numbers of closed-out classes? Are not juniors and seniors entitled to a few fringe benefits as far as registration is concerned? Why can't the course lists be drawn up in June or July and preliminary registration for juniors and seniors could take place through the mails? This way upper classmen, who usually do not have to confer with professors for admittance to classes would avoid the distinct unpleasantness of being locked out.

There are some professors who do not decide until the last week in August what courses they will teach in September. It is not the intent of this author to force such persons into hurried decisions as to what courses to teach. There will always be some courses which will get filled up rapidly. Such classes which do not appear on the preliminary course might be used as alternatives.

Ilene Rosen