

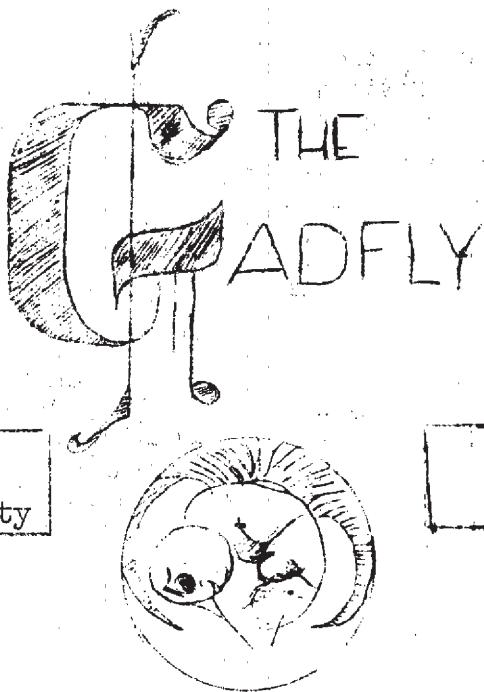
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GADFLY

Vol. 2 No. 4 October 6, 1966

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The most widely read
publication of the
Bard College Community

The Journal of
the New Middle

Vol. 2, No. 4

October 6, 1966

IN THIS WEEK'S GADFLY:

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We are going to try to pub-
lish a weekly 4 page paper
as often as we can."

-- Harvey Fleetwood

* * * * *

that because he was planning to come out
weekly, the President had told him that the
Administration was willing to cover the
costs over the Council grant.

Mr. George Hayward, representing the
Administration, asked Mr. Fleetwood how
many papers he had published last year and
how much did it cost? Mr. Fleetwood said
he wasn't sure, 7 or 8 issues. Mr. McCune
said that he had bills for 7 issues costing
\$130 each; plus two secretarial fees, and
one photography bill; bring the entire a-
mount to \$920. Mr. McCune then asked Mr.

Fleetwood how much he was planning to spend
this semester. Mr. Fleetwood said that he was
counting on more than 7 issues. Mr. McCune
said that according to his figures 12 issues
would cost \$1,500 to \$1,600. "It appears to
me," Mr. McCune said, "that Council would be
paying 3/4 of the Observer's bills. He won-
dered if the Administration would be interest-
ed in splitting the cost.

Mr. Hayward said that he questioned this
attitude generally. He wanted to know how Mr.
Fleetwood could walk into Council and request
money while all the time not being sure of his
figures. Mr. Fleetwood said that each issue
costs a different amount. That last year he
had submitted a budget that called for \$150 an
issue, and it turned out that it didn't cost
that much per issue.

Mr. McCune asked how much it would cost
per issue when the Observer started coming out
weekly, and how many issues did he expect to
print? Mr. Fleetwood said that they were plan-
ning to come out every week for as long as
they could. He was planning more than seven
issues.

Mr. Randolph asked Mr. Fleetwood if, when
he had spoken to the President, did he have a
budget worked out? Mr. Fleetwood said that he
hadn't, but that he could not predict the bud-
get because he was not entirely sure of his ad-
vertising revenues.

Mr. McCune moved to postpone the issue un-
til he could find out the exact cost and Mr.
Fleetwood could present more complete figures.

DISCUSSION POSTPONED ON SDS DRAFT
BOARD LETTER AND OBSERVER BUDGET:
COUNCIL RECOMMENDS STUDENT I.D.'S
WITH PICTURES.

Bruce Lieberman, representing SDS and
other interested students, brought Council up-
to-date on SDS's activities concerning the
Draft issue. Mr. Lieberman explained the new
which requires the Registrar to fill in the
scholastic rating of all male students. This
would be done unless the student specifically
requested that his standing not be sent in.

SDS's proposal was that this section be
left blank with the following remark placed at
the bottom of form SS109. "It is the policy of
Bard College not to submit a student's ranking
unless otherwise requested." This was not a-
greed to by the Administration at a meeting
held last Wednesday.

Mr. Lieberman then presented a letter
which he hoped would be attached to SS109. The
letter explained that because of Bard's small
size and academic arrangement (i.e., moderation)
it is difficult to arrive at a fair system of
ranking the students.

Because the Dean was not present, Council
voted to postpone further discussion until next
week.

Harvey Fleetwood, editor of the Bard Ob-
server, requested the same budget which the Ob-
server received last year (\$1,178). He said

P. S. I have not intended this letter to be a personal attack. However, since you three editors seem to stick so hard together, it's difficult to avoid the tone.

Dear Miss Boldt,

As they say in the big - bad City:

"It's what's happenin', Baby!"

JAF -ed.

* * * * *
INTEROFFICE MEMO
* * * * *

To Ilene Rosen, Editor, The Gadfly:

One of the great virtues of The Gadfly is the fact that not only are present practices criticized but workable alternatives are presented. The last two issues have dealt with such problems: the first in terms of the problem of faculty members on sabbatical leave, the second, the problem of improving the registration procedure.

Mr. Mortimer's article entitled "The Case of the Vanishing Faculty" raises in a very perceptive fashion most of the problems of a sabbatical system in a small college where every faculty member counts. (However, he is totally wrong in saying that the courses in language and literature are diminished because they take fewer pages than was true in the past. The real reason for this is that course descriptions are now offered in the catalogue so that the course list gives only the hours and the location of each class.)

Also to state that Messrs. Hocht, Weiss, Kelly and Sourian are not here this fall should be followed by an acknowledgement of the existence of additions to the literature division in the form of Mrs. Wilson, Mrs. Sleeper, Mr. Coover, Jill Hoffman, as well as the return of Guy Ducornet, and the increase in time fraction of one of the language faculty. Therefore, the situation is not quite as bleak as Mr. Mortimer suggests.

The root of sabbatical implies seven and most colleges have a seven-year sabbatical leave eligibility period. Our plan calls for five years or ten semesters; while this may seem a short time to the students, the teaching at Bard is an intense, somewhat debilitating experience and such a policy makes good sense academically from the faculty point of view. The current situation is, therefore, a compromise between the two desires of having the faculty member present all the time to give the most to the students and a desire to have him away for refreshment and to pursue his own academic research (without which, whether he publishes results or not, no good teacher can remain a good

teacher.)

On the matter of the registration procedure, as mentioned in the previous week's Gadfly, it was our feeling that registration went better this fall than in previous years. Several plans are currently being considered whereby the registration for the spring semester would be handled even more effectively and perhaps in less time for all concerned. Such plans will take into account the position raised in the article concerning seniors being "frozen" out of courses when it is their last chance to take them. We hope to have a proposal on this matter in workable shape in the next several weeks, which will match the suggestions in your recent article.

I hope that you will continue your policy of offering constructive alternatives which is, after all, the best policy of constructive criticism.

Harold L. Hodgkinson, Dean

* * * * *

I appreciate the fact that the Dean saw fit to reply to the two articles in the recent issues of the Gadfly. I think, however, that he misunderstood much of the point of my article and that there may be an error in his statements.

As far as I can recall, course descriptions were never included in the course list except for new courses, which is the same procedure that was followed this semester. Hence, the fact that less than two pages were devoted to offerings in literature is significant. Second, there were a total of seventeen courses offered in literature. I think it a reasonable assumption that 340 students (a bit more than half of the student body) will take at least one literature course. This immediately puts twenty students in each course. Since sophomores, juniors, and seniors may well have taken at least one of the courses offered already, this further increases the average, theoretical number of students in each course, and further limits the range of alternatives available to upper classmen.

The Dean also refers in his letter to the Languages and Literature division as a whole. I was referring specifically to the number of courses offered in literature, since it is unlikely that, for example, a junior or senior would take a language course unless he had done previous work in that language or was planning on specialized work later. I notice that of the faculty members the Dean mentions, only Mr. Coover and Miss Hoffman teach courses in literature and, between them, offer a total of three courses, which hardly makes up for the loss of four faculty members.

The major point of my article was the fact that sabbatical leaves, leaves of absence, etc., are often granted to several faculty members in the same division or department, or closely related departments, simultaneously, thereby causing serious upheavals in the programs of certain students majoring in those departments. My suggest-

tion was that, in addition to assigning sabbaticals simply on a time schedule basis, that some thought be given to arranging them so that one group of students, or faculty members, not be left in an academic bind.

Jeffrey T. Mortimer.

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END THE BICKERING OVER BRAC

The bickering over BRAC's role in society and the funds it receives from Council has gone on long enough. It is time the dispute was settled and energies directed toward some of Bard's many other problems. There is a possible solution to the problem, but before stating it I would like to take a swipe at the venerable old organization myself.

The common practice of BRAC is to answer the criticisms leveled against it by such fact-filled utterances as "total distortion," "personal bias," etc., etc. Their whole defense seems to rely upon their grand and glorious programs which thus entitles them to a position beyond refute. And perhaps their programs would be grand and glorious if they were succeeding, which is definitely not the case. My knowledge here is based upon my attendance of a BRAC meeting near the end of last semester. The topic for discussion was the history of BRAC's accomplishments in Kingston.

In an atmosphere of deepest gloom the entire assemblage, if my memory serves me right, admitted universal failure. Their proposals had failed, and failed miserably. The Arts and Crafts program had degenerated to the point where it served only as a source of free handicraft materials for the occasional child who, having found nothing better to do, wandered in off the street for free paper to scribble on. Not only did the children come when the whim moved them, but they made a mess of things and were often unmanageable -- and no discipline was attempted, this not being BRAC's role in Kingston. The other programs, for reasons I do not remember, were similar fiascos. But these are minor projects when compared to the extremely important task of community organizing. Here again they met with failure...the people just didn't want to be organized. There was one bright spot in the long and expensive career of BRAC which was brought up and which would be unfair to conveniently forget now. It concerns an apartment building which through the efforts of BRAC was put in good repair, a building which will be shortly torn down as part of Urban Renewal in Kingston. In fact, the whole area in which BRAC is working will go under the bulldozer, which makes all their efforts seem a little futile. The community they have sought to organize will be scattered; the buildings they repair will be destroyed; and the poor and unemployed whom they seek to "introduce to the intellectual world" -- and God knows they need skills more than to be made intellectuals -- will be beyond their reach.

So what really is BRAC but a means without an end. What is it all for if in the end there can only be failure? For what sane reason did BRAC decide to tackle the problems of a city the size of Kingston? Quite nat-

urally, the larger the problem the more of a tempting challenge to such dedicated people. But, did they purposely pick a project of such size that they knew it could not succeed? As the situation now stands, the only result can be that BRAC will eventually consume itself and all of the convocation money which will still be insufficient for its needs. If the ultimate failure looms in the end through Urban Renewal or the ineffectiveness of BRAC's programs, why are we throwing good money after bad, supporting a sinking ship?

BRAC is too small to be effective; we already know it does not have enough money, and if the meeting I attended last semester will serve as an example I can prove they have not the membership they claim. The dedicated group at that meeting was very small and the members present complained about the substantial number that were neither present nor active in the organization. When narrowed down to the ACTIVE members, I find it hard to believe that they are now "one of the largest organizations on campus." It is beyond reason why BRAC has not tried, if indeed they have not, to branch out into other nearby colleges seeking members and funds and take part of their tremendous burden off the student body of Bard.

Before going on to my suggestion I would like to briefly comment on what I hope was a misinterpretation on the part of the Editors in the last issue of the "Gadfly". The point in question has to do with a statement by Miss Raphael that BRAC is "attempting to create a racial consciousness among the Negro youth in Kingston." This is one of the most frightening statements I have yet seen in a campus publication, for it was "racial consciousness" which resulted in the Watts bonfire and the present chants of both "Black" and "White Power". This kind of activity has no place in a democracy, since such ideas can only foster its destruction.

Negro youths should be organized as Americans, not Negroes; Americans who want their full rights as such. Because "racial consciousness is only one step from racism, I can only hope that Miss Raphael's statement was merely a misinterpretation."

Now, after wishing for BRAC's demise, I will state my suggestion which could insure their survival without the criticisms of skeptics such as I. My proposal is that BRAC's financial support be based on purely voluntary means. The support of sacred cows, especially one as controversial as BRAC, should be the decision of individuals.

Here then is a proposal which could eliminate the railroading system which siphons our money into BRAC's coffers. Council could compute what percentage of the convocation fund BRAC now receives (which would be a constant number) and by student voting each semester determine the percentage of students willing to have part of their convocation fee go to BRAC. The percentage of willing students would represent the percentage of the constant number which BRAC would receive. I believe even BRAC should find this acceptable since "most of the Bard Community generally supports BRAC."

Philip Likes

IMPRESSIONISTIC
HOOT

or

ELLIS ISLAND REVISITED

Although the Beer Hoot nearly destroyed itself on account of radical internal inconsistencies, i.e. folk music vs. Ward Manor vs. beer, the tension eased when our M.C. quipped over the waves, "Well, oh, it's a nice place, so don't screw it up!" Thus were launched these comments

"What do you think of the party?"

* * * * *

"I think it's pretty good entertaining for a start"

-- Jonathan Wyner

"Seeing how it was all my idea, I think it worked out pretty well. The Manor still seems to be in one piece (10:00 PM). But I wish we could get rid of the parasites who come up here every week-end."

-- James Fine

"I think it turned out really well (10:00 PM). Except there are really too many outside people here."

-- Don Michaels

"Too crowded, noisy, rather uninteresting, not enough space, good beer, rarely good playing; there should have been more to eat."

-- Tom Lyons

"Um, well, when I first came in . . . No! you really wouldn't be interested. You see I'm really something of a subjectivist"

-- Name Withheld

"I just love the people here. It's an ebullient, effervescent group."

-- Andy Krieger

"I thought that they ran out of beer!"

-- Peter Brown

"Get enough for your room?"

-- Name-(s) Withheld

"No, I didn't hear a thing."

-- Kip Eggert

"Drastic, cut it! This smells of Bolshoi infantile psychoses. It's like one of those pictures one sees, I mean the peasants running over everyone!"

-- Steve Kushner

"Party ? ? ? ?"

-- Alan Baldwin

"The one upstairs is better."

-- Carolyn Ford

"Oh! the parquette."

-- Bob Kirk

AMEN. SIXTUS BECKMESSER

SMOKING: A HEARTBREAKINGLY
BEAUTIFUL HABIT

(Cont. from last week)

The first problem of this art form is that of removing a cigarette from the pack, or two, if you smoke two at a time. An important step is preparing the cigarette for removal. This seems to be most effectively done in the middle of an intense discussion -- by humping one's back, setting one's lips in the grim importance of it all, and, after tearing the pack out of a pocket with great effort, savagely pounding it on the table until one is fairly sure that everyone in the room is deaf, and his cigarettes are ready to take out. The fault is that of cheap modern technology, which designs the packs so that they make more and more noise the softer you pound them. Often this activity proceeds with such enthusiasm from an obscure corner during a lecture that half the audience swivels around irritably to silence the poor artist. If they knew the reason for his pounding, they would rush to thank and congratulate him rather than rudely interrupt while he is trying to call to their attention an important point being introduced in the lecture by making a warning sound. Or, unspectacular as he is, perhaps he is disturbed because he feels he has become too much the focus of attention, and, sensitive and self-conscious, is trying to transfer all the notice to his pack of cigarettes in hope that the sight of it will remind his admirers to pay closer attention to what is being said. And this is nothing; if the building suddenly crumpled and fell in, and the audience had been inattentive enough to notice it, it would still only prove that it had ignored the entire class. There is infinite grace and a kind of archaic strength in the art of smoking; yet much of it is passed over or labeled enviously "a swinger's rebellion." The discontent intellectual, slumped and entwining his chair while blowing a blast of perfume in his neighbor's face and the impressive speaker who, while his opponent is beating him in an argument, dramatically extinguishes the cigarette he just lit beneath the speaker's nose to generously give emphasis to what his opponent is saying, are both victims of misunderstanding in the cigarette world. This is smoking's sublime tragedy. If smoking has not made these who smoke great, then why are people different?

Majorie Tomkins

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The Grossness of the Week Award goes to that young chap who last Saturday in the Coffee Shop was seen lifting off the top of the orange juice machine, surreptitiously inserting a straw, and filling his gut with the

continued

EDUCATIONAL POLICIES COMMITTEE
REPORT

At Wednesday night's Educational Policies Committee meeting, Jeff Rochlis announced that he had received 112 returns on the questionnaire concerning a proposed revision of class hours. 82 of the returns were in favor of such a change, and 30 were opposed to it. He also stated that any student not replying to the questionnaire by Monday would be considered as either unconcerned or having no preference.

Also discussed were matters affecting the academic community on the whole that merit EPC attention and action. These included freshman conferences, moderation procedures, faculty evaluations of student work, and senior projects.

A vote was taken as to whether EPC should concern itself with the possibility of a Bard professor receiving a Defense Department grant for material research. The motion was defeated 4 - 0 with 3 abstentions.

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NOTICE ! ! !

Slowly but unsurely the Gadfly is becoming an (augh!) institution at Bard. Unlike other Bard institutions, it hopes to become solvent.

When the Gadfly held an open editorial meeting the second week of the semester, the response was overwhelming. Nine people joined us . . . they literally jammed into Aspinwall A.

We hope that the response to our appeal for funds will be even more overwhelming (this, by the way, is an appeal for funds). One thing is certain -- the financial response from you, or intrepid audience, must be greater than it was last semester. We wound up with a debt last year and this term, due mainly to a tremendous increase in reader enthusiasm, and due partly to a larger student body, we are printing more copies than ever before.

In conclusion, dear friends, let us admonish you to articulate your support for the existence of an organ of dissent on campus.

In a word . . . GIVE (please)

Contributions should be mailed to Box 81, Campus Mail.

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TO REPEAT: Box 81, Campus Mail
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Since the Gadfly is a weekly, regular (we come out every Thursday morning) publication, the editors have considered providing the student body with another service.

Starting next week, the Gadfly will accept notices regarding rides to and from New York City, or any other destination. Notice should be given to us (Box 81, Campus Mail) no later than Wednesday morning and should include all pertinent information. We will then print it for the next day's publication, thus saving you considerable duress and aggravation.

Notice of other items -- sale of books, furniture, animals -- will also be accepted. In short, we will print a sort of "Classified" section.

The Editors

Our thanks to John MacDonald for being Sixtus Beckmesser at the Beer Hoot.

NEXT WEEK IN THE GADFLY: A translation from Lettres-français wherein a European gives his impressions of Bard.

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| <u>THE GADFLY</u> | |
| EDITORS: | Ilene Rosen
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