

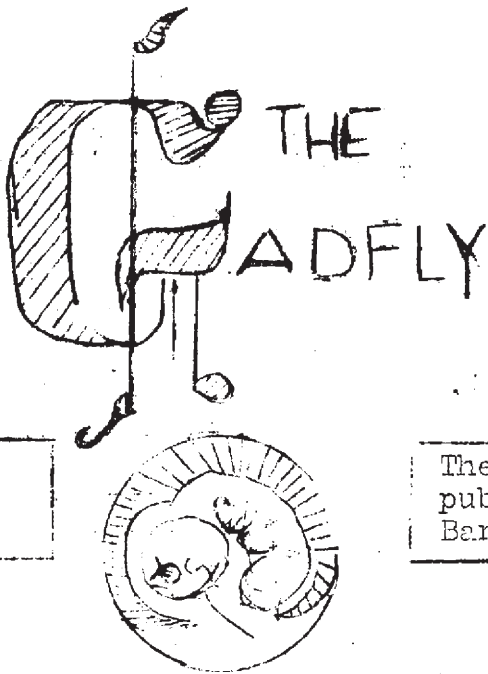
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GADFLY

Vol. 2 No. 7 October 27, 1966

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The Journal of
the New Middle

The most widely read
publication of the
Bard College Community

Vol. II, No. 7

October 27, 1966

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QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"The line forms to the right"--
Chairman Krieger, referring to Council's
policy of priority rating for return-
ing funds.

discussion before proposals were drawn
up.

Council then moved to a vote
on the H.P.C. resolution itself, which
had been postponed from last week.
The Dean said that the Board of
Trustees had an open mind concerning
the extension of the regulations, but
would want to know if students were
taking the existing regulations seriously.
He added that he wished Council would
also consider the motion brought up
at H.P.C. that would open women's soc-
ial rooms.

Councilwoman Alison Raphael
moved an amendment to the H.P.C. pro-
posal. The amendment called for Council
to recommend to the Administration and
Board of Trustees the abolition of all
curfews for all women students and the
acknowledgment of intervisitation as
school policy.

Mr. Edmonds asked if the motion
had been brought up at H.P.C. Council-
woman Boldt, chairman of H.P.C., said
that it had not. Mr. Edmonds then
stated that by voting in favor of the
amendment Miss Boldt, (who had said
that she was in favor of Miss Raphael's
amendment), would "reduce the chances
of the H.P.C. motion to nil."

Miss Boldt called for a roll-
call vote on Miss Raphael's amendment.
The voting went as follows:

YES	NO	ABSTENTION
Boldt	Edmonds	Hodgkinson
Raphael	McCune	Ransohoff
Tremper		Randolph

Chairman Kreiger voted "No" to
create a tie and defeat the motion.

3-3-3.

Miss Boldt called for a roll-
call vote on the H.P.C. proposal:

COUNCIL ACCEPTS H.P.C. PROPOSAL. LITERATURE CLUB MAGAZINE WITHDRAWN FOR LACK OF FUNDS.

Community Moderator Robert Ed-
monds reported to Council Monday
night. He discussed the open meeting
of last Thursday evening which was
called to debate House Presidents
Committee's new resolution concerning
senior women's curfew. Mr. Edmonds
reported that 124 people showed up
Thursday night; an informal poll
showed that 60 were in favor of the
proposal, nine were opposed and four
abstained. Mr. Edmonds said that
discussion centered around questioning
the timing of H.P.C.'s proposal in
view of all the intervisitation vio-
lations which have been handed out
recently. The proposal was also crit-
icized on the grounds that the com-
munity had not been brought into the

YES
BOLDT
Edmonds
Raphael
McCune
Randolph
Ransohoff
Tremper

NO

ABSTENTION
Hodgkinson

LINDA BOLDT'S REPLY TO
DAN GRADY ON THE ISSUE OF:
WOMEN'S CURFEW RELAXATION

I feel that it is my obligation as chairman of H.P.C. to comment on Mr. Grady's letter of last week since there are a number of inaccuracies in his statement:

1. "These proposals would have the present curfew limits extended one hour, and certain curfew privileges extended to senior women."

--Mr. Grady was not present at the H.P.C. meeting in which the sub-committee presented the proposal and H.P.C. (unanimously) endorsed it. If he had been there he would have been able to discuss the proposal more accurately. Curfew will be extended only for senior women. In addition they may stay out beyond the extended hour by simply indicating where they will be and what time they will return.

2. "H.P.C. chose to insult the intelligence of the student body by offering the possibility of greater social privileges in exchange for obedience to the rules."

--In an H.P.C. meeting (which I believe Mr. Grady also failed to attend), I stated what I felt to be the Committee's attitude on this matter. No objection was made to my statement, which I will repeat for the benefit of Mr. Grady and the community: "H.P.C. imposes stricter penalties in certain instances because it seems necessary to demonstrate to the community that we, as House Presidents, take the rules seriously."

3. "There is no guarantee that a reduction in the number of violations will impress either the Administration or the Trustees."

--The Dean specifically stated at the community meeting last Thursday that both the Administration and the Board of Trustees would be impressed by the reduction in the number of violations.

I agree with Mr. Grady that this should not be a condition for granting the women of this college greater social freedom. A twenty-year-old girl should have the right to decide when she wants to come in at night regardless of the laxity exhibited by the other members of the college in adhering to the social regulations. I have pointed out to the Dean many times that a set of social regulations which are unrealistic in terms of how we live is bound to be disregarded by a great many people. The present proposal is an effort to make the social regulations more realistic.

4. "H.P.C. proposes to beg the Trustees for more freedom, pleading that we have been good little boys and girls."

--I hope that the Board will not ask for this kind of criteria from H.P.C. or the community which it represents. We are not begging, nor are we in a

The motion passed 7-0-1.

The Literature Club had to withdraw its planned magazine due to lack of funds in Convocation. The Club had planned to publish a magazine of literary criticism twice a semester, which would be written by students either specifically for the magazine or from class production; in this way the proposed publication would not compete with the Bard Review or any of the other literary works on campus. The Faculty advisor, Mr. Robert Coover, said that the magazine would need about \$800 to publish a 24 page magazine about the size of the New York Review of Books. It was hoped eventually to apply for funds from some foundation to help defray expenses. The Club was requesting \$400 from Council to be matched by the Administration. When it became evident that Council could not come up with the money, Mr. Coover said that they would withdraw their request and come back in the first week of the spring semester.

Council voted 6-0-3 on a motion to recommend to the Administration that the birth control pamphlets, given as a class gift by last year's senior class, would be placed on tables in the infirmary contrary to the present system which has them available in the infirmary only on request.

Mr. Edmonds reported on the activities of Safety Committee. Mr. Griffiths of B&G had assured the Committee that the entrance to Ward Manor would be repaired as would the Theater road. Mr. Edmonds said that he had been informed that opening the Gatehouse to traffic would not be feasible. Mr. Edmonds added that there would be no parking behind the Gym from now on. The Faculty lot, south of the trees and next to Cottery Hall, would be open to student parking from 6 PM to curfew. New parking lots will also be built at the Manor House and Robbins House. Mr. Edmonds announced that the Bard bus was making runs into Rhinecliff in time to catch the night train on Fridays and was meeting the trains Sunday afternoon. He moved that drivers be hired at \$1.75. The motion passed 8-0-0.

Council moved 7-0-1 to consider the purchase of a sound system once some money was returned to Convocation.

Ilene Rosen

position to demand. With reasoned arguments based on a clear picture of the present situation, we hope to convince them that this is a useful and necessary change in the social regulations.

5. "We also disagree with the attempt to gradually extend curfew by starting with the senior women. Why not a meaningful classification rather than an arbitrary one?"

--Again, this is a point clearly explained at several H.P.C. meetings. The Administration feels that, in the interests of security, a small number of girls should first try this new system. Whether the administration will agree to extend these new privileges to Juniors is still an open question. It has always been the hope of H.P.C. that curfew would be abolished for the entire upper college.

6. "These considerations lead us to suggest that if curfew is to be abolished, it should be abolished in fact, eliminating the need for rules and penalties".

--H.P.C. did not ask for this ideal method at abolishing curfew because we have known from the outset that it would be unacceptable to the Administration. The later feel that in their capacity as in locus parentis they should continue to exercise some control of the students, even if this is just a requirement to state where one can be reached.

H.P.C. recognizes that the proposed regulations are more complicated and stricter than the present system. However, the necessity of enforcing them will be infrequent since very few senior women get enough violations to be put on social probation, for instance. This will definitely be the case if senior women have no set curfew, thus eliminating the probability of receiving a curfew violation. And, as Mr. Grady says, "The privilege should be worth the burden of adhering to a system".

I hope that this letter has served to clarify the many misunderstandings that have arisen about our proposal to abolish curfew for senior women.

Linda Boldt
Chairman of House Presidents
Committee

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The Mt. Everest Award goes to Robert Judd and Peter Minichiello for climbing over twenty issues of the Gadfly, because "it was there."

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"Peter", who played Virgil to Marc-Albert Levin of "Un Printemps a' New York" fame (Gadfly, Oct. 20), writes to us: "I have finally decided that it is almost a necessity that we have more than a rudimentary knowledge of a foreign language (English -ed.) before attempting to interview people in that language, as Marc has done, and translating the interview into an essay."

PEMIES FROM HEAVEN or HAS ANYONE SEEN A MONEY TREE LATELY??

The mighty budget has struck out----again. It certainly looked for a while there that we just might get through the rest of the semester without making a detour into the poor-house, but that was idle dreaming. The warning flags went up last week when Mr. McCune announced that Council had something like \$100 in the coffers. It became painfully evident this week, when Council had to vote down (or postpone--same thing), several very promising proposals, that we are, to put it bluntly, broke.

One of the more unfortunate victims of Council's queer sort of buy-now-pay-later policy was the Literature Club's proposed magazine. The new publication was to be set up along the lines of the New York Review of Books. In it were to be all sorts of literary criticism, works done in and out of class. I even heard the interesting possibility of film criticism.

Anyway, this bright-eyed proposal had to be withdrawn when it became clear (which was almost immediately) to Mr. Coover and his associates that Council was in a financial bind. Council offered to put the \$400 request into a file which they call "top priority request allotment". The magazine would have had good company; the Observer is already up there for the first \$160 which is returned, so is the proposed sound system (also a very reasonable idea). Mr. Coover wisely chose to withdraw the entire proposal and practice what they used to do in Brooklyn, "wait 'til next year."

Unfortunately, or fortunately as the case may be, Council itself cannot be blamed for this financial drought. Most of the budgets were submitted before-hand and the budget committee did a ruthless hatchet job on all budgets, none excepting. What then is the reason for this chronic crisis which we seem to go through mid way every semester? Possibly we should recognize the existence of an increased number of extra-curricular clubs which have sprouted up in the last couple of years. Attempts at solving the old complaint of "nothing to do on the weekends" has resulted in all sorts of exotic and not-so-exotic interest groups, all of which come to Council for financing. Also the cost of living has gone up and it simply costs more for the established clubs and committees to continue to serve the community.

Perhaps we should start thinking about the unthinkable? Perhaps it is now time to consider a raise in the Convocation Funds. We're paying \$25 a semester now, maybe we should consider \$35 or even \$50. One thing is for certain, Council cannot continue to take the temporary holding action

which it is taking at the present. One chilling reminder, we broke even last semester.

Ilene Rosen

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#### IN DEFENSE OF THE GADFLY

Needless to say, I am pleased that my favorite weekly campus publication was the subject of a feature article in the other weekly campus publication. I am, however, somewhat saddened by what appears to be an extremely faulty analysis.

I am not entirely sure what, exactly, the criticism of the Gadfly is. Is it that we don't have an identity, or that our identity is unsatisfactory to Mr. Judd and Mr. Minichiello, or that we don't have the identity that we said we were going to have, or what?

The only identity the Gadfly has ever claimed for itself is that of a forum of student opinion. Hopefully, that opinion would in fact be diversified. We fell short of the mark in our first semester of publication because of a dearth of outside contributions. Messrs. Judd and Minichiello were good enough to quote the statement of the editors to that effect in our first issue this term. Unfortunately, like most of the quotes in their article, this one was lifted entirely out of context. I did say "we had not intended the Gadfly to become an organ of only one kind of opinion." But I did not go on to say that we intended to remain such a journal. I did say that "we had hoped to have a larger staff..., and we constantly encouraged contributions from outside ourselves," and that "...we need a diversity of viewpoint..."

Mr. Judd and Mr. Minichiello say that the Gadfly has not lived up to its promise to print satire except in one instance. I would like to remind them of the various "adventures into the future" of last term, as well as numerous other instances, some admittedly less successful than others.

A sort of statistical analysis is attempted, in order to prove that the Gadfly used few outside contributions ("...only 24 letters up to Vol. II, No. 4"). I suggest that a more valid kind of analysis would be to determine the average number of outside contributions per issue during last semester, and compare that with the average number for this term. I think such an analysis would show conclusively that the Gadfly is beginning to succeed in its goal of becoming a forum for student opinion. For example, we have printed eighteen outside contributions in six issues, an average of three per issue (and this includes the first issue which was, out of necessity, writ-

ten almost entirely by the editors). We have, in fact, received so many outside contributions that we have been hard-pressed to print all of them.

Messrs. Judd and Minichiello repeatedly refer to the "editorial voice" of the Gadfly, its "editorial statements" and "editorial replies". I think they should be aware of the fact that, except in extremely rare instances such as appeals for funds, no article is ever signed "The Editors". Contributions are printed that are signed by one or another of the editors, but these represent their personal opinions, not the opinion of the Gadfly. In decisions to print material, articles by an editor or a member of the staff receive no more and no less consideration than articles and letters from other members of the community.

Among the so-called "random" quotes listed in the article, are excerpts (torn completely out of context) from statements by Mr. Taylor, Miss Rosen, Rik Souder, and myself. None of these represent the opinion of the Gadfly, because such an opinion does not exist.

Finally, we are told that "...the capacity to act constructively... has been employed decreasingly since its [the Gadfly's] inception." Perhaps Messrs. Judd and Minichiello's definition of "constructive" differs vastly from mine, but considerable evidence could be marshalled that would show the Gadfly to be one of the most constructive publications on campus (this is an opinion shared by the Dean, Mr. Fessler, and various members of the student body. Vide letters in this and recent issues of the Gadfly).

For example, the Gadfly was, for a long time, the only campus publication to print a weekly report of Council meetings. A proposal published in the Gadfly to open the library earlier on Sundays was adopted. A proposal published in the Gadfly to revise registration procedures led to a lessening of problems at that event. A comment on the conditions of student housing led to Administration action. A comment on Bard's sabbatical policy led to a clarification by the Dean of that policy. The medium of the Gadfly has been used to articulate student discussion on such issues as the funding of Council, the activities of B.R.A.C., the proposed abolition of senior women's curfew, the potentialities of the community vehicle, and informing the senior class of its responsibilities, rights, etc. In the last issue, there appears a constructive suggestion from Mr. Taylor concerning the bases for discussion of a "pass-fail" grading system at Bard.

In conclusion, gentlemen, the Gadfly is not, and does not intend to be, image-conscious. It hopes, for the umpteenth time, to be a forum for com-



munity opinion and, by implication, "...a critical but ultimately constructive force in the affairs of the community." Perhaps it is immodest of me to say it, but in terms of the function we hope to fulfill, we have very little to regret and, perhaps, much of which we can be proud.

Jeffrey T. Mortimer

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### UTOPIA? REALLY

- Reply to "Beer and Tomato Juice" -

One of the dictionary definitions of Utopia is, "an impractical scheme for social improvement," and how well it applies to a Bardian Utopia. A Utopia would not only be impractical, but would also breed boredom, the lack of ambition, complacency, and good old fashion laziness.

Contrary to the thoughts expressed in "Beer and Tomato Juice" in last week's Gadfly, I have not found the administration to be paranoid. Neither have I been told "to do, but not be seen, to talk and not to be heard." In fact, I have found the opposite to be true. If classes were to be eliminated, where would we find the stimulation, challenge, and incentive (not to mention knowledge)? Perhaps in more use of pot and in more meaningless, imitation love?

Coupled with all this advocated freedom must go responsibility. Yes, "we keep getting this shit about endowment thrown at us," yet we fail to realize that we ourselves have been superfluously endowed with knowledge, etc., and there are few exceptions among us. However, despite that fact, I do not think that we "Bardian Hippies", at least not most of us, have enough personal responsibility to exist in a "Bardian Utopia".

If this "middle of the road college" is afraid "to commit itself to an extreme," then I am glad to be a scared Bardian. You have not heard perhaps of "discrete" moderation and moderate discretion? Extremism eventually creates chaos.

If we cannot be practical, let us at least be realistic. Educational institutions (or are they now all called whore houses) do have a definite purpose. Are we all so self-sufficient as to require no guidance? Is our intellectual proficiency such that classes in a college should be eliminated? Sure, if the boys in Vietnam are responsible enough to fight and die, we are responsible too. But the trouble is, they are forced to take on complete responsibility before most of them are ready for it, and that is the fault of our country. Until we can use what responsibility and freedom we already have to some benefit, let's not ask for more. We will get it soon enough.

Connie Harding

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The GADFLY is a weekly journal of comment, criticism and satire of the activities of the Bard College Community. Letters and general correspondence should be addressed to Box 81, Campus mail.

### UPON READING

### "BEER AND TOMATO JUICE"

After reading the article in the Gadfly I found myself in a quandry - was this a satire or was this actually a serious commentary? Unfortunately it was written in all earnestness and my reaction then was - How can you be so blind?

It is wonderful to dream of a Utopia and to dwell within the realm of abstracts. However one can not deny the practical reality of the world in which we live. You speak of a Bardian Utopia. A fine idea, yes, I cannot deny that, however, prerequisite for this must be mature students capable of living in and running through such a society. Come now, let's be frank - that does not exist or in the realm outside of our own narrow bounds to any great degree.

You speak of "trite social conventions such as curfew and intervisitation violations," "free determination of individual conduct," and "If you're still hung up about endowments, ask yourself: Would you rather go to a rich college or a good one?" Children, may I say that if we don't receive some good endowments at Bard we will not have much of a college, good, bad, rich poor, or otherwise. The administration position may be shocking and disturbing but the fact is that they are walking a thin line - wanting a liberal attitude at Bard and placing responsibilities upon students, and desperately pleading for endowments. The administration is caught between students and those living outside of the Bard community. It can rest in neither camp due to its peculiar position.

This is not the advocacy of the downfall of the Bard system. I advocate the re-examination of the Bard society at all levels. Hopefully, it will lead to a more rewarding, stimulating, and knowledgeable life at Bard. We must realize that we do not live within a closed environment consisting of Bard College. We are a part of this world, like it or not. Once we realize this, then and only then can we initiate our ideas, withdrawing from the realities offers no solution for we would then merely exist.

Admit to the totality of life, admit the reality of it. Know the facts, all of them, though many will deflate your balloons of idealism. Come to a realization of the entirety of the situation. This does not mean a blind acceptance of all existing doctrines and practices. It means a knowledge of all the factors contributing to a given situation and - what are the rules of the game? Noble Crusaders - you parade out on a football field ready to play a game of marbles, though your game may be admirable and your hearts pure, you will, in a popular term, be "creamed" - you don't stand a chance. Please wake up - realize our potentials, our limits.

and the boundaries in which we must work.

B. Slovinsky

TO THE EDITORS:

To the editors,

There has been a hell of a lot of discussion concerning "The Gadfly". People use it as a name-calling board. Someone says "The Bard Run Around Crying committee is a bunch of ninnies," backs this up with a few vague facts, a liberal dash of sarcasm and his signature (after all, who's going to know he had the guts to attack this anti-establishment establishment without his signature ...and the editors frown on unsigned letters so much that they won't print them) and drops his little time bomb in Box 81. Promptly next week one or two of the High-Ups in the Bard Run Around Crying committee prefacing their remarks with something like "Mr Hateful's comments barely deserve intellectual consideration because of the infantile manner of his damn stupid insinuations," go on (sometimes for pages) to infantilely insinuate the Mr. Hateful is a bunch of ninnies and so is the Gadfly. Of course not all of the name calling comes from beyond the pale; the editors are pretty good at throwing mudpies too.

People wind up asking themselves "What is the purpose of the Gadfly?" Some answers include: A) A couple of nuts trying to make Council look like a lot of monkeys; B) A newspaper designed to make the mighty Observer look like so much dog food; C) Another piece of mimeographed junk to litter the mailroom floor; or D) Bard's answer to the National Enquirer. Let's look at these assumptions.

First, Council tries awfully hard not to look like monkeys; when they do we just have to remind ourselves that there are a great many simian-like Bardians so what can you expect? As for point B, up until about four weeks ago, nothing could make the Observer look any worse than it was, but -- surprise, surprise -- it's really improved and Bard may find itself stuck with a really worthwhile newspaper yet. And maybe some of the little digs put into print by the members of the Gadfly had something to do with this change. As for the last two items, I'll just say that the Bard mimeo machine has a tendency to turn out a hell of a lot of garbage, and I think whoever compared the Gadfly to the National Enquirer should be ashamed of himself for reading such things.

So what is the Gadfly? Possibly

it is a political cartoon without pictures, or perhaps a letters to the editors column of Bellevue, but it does serve a few basic purposes -- it reports on the mysterious rites of Council, it gives a few children the opportunity to sound off and throw verbal butterscotch pudding at each other in the "My daddy can lick your daddy" manner, and it gets something said! Some damn good ideas come out of this little rag. It may make the maelstrom of registration a little easier to get through, it may make some of the mightier of Bard's institutions tell the rest of us what they're doing, and it might even make Bard a little better place academically. So maybe a little backbiting works. All I can say is that I think Ilene, Jack, and Jeff are doing this community a service. Good work!

Respectfully,

Gary S. Bratman

+++++  
To the editors,

A recently published letter in the Gadfly on the use of the Bard Community Vehicle was plagued by a number of problems of misinformation.

First, the Community V.W. is the property of the student body, its keys, records of its use, and responsibility for its repairs and orderly use all lie with the Keeper of the Keys the Chairman of the Safety Committee. Further, the Bard Community Vehicle has just concluded a series of test runs to the Rhinecliff station to determine need. The result: Last Sunday evening alone, eighteen students were transported back to their dormitories from the Rhinecliff station; it was favorable. Runs to and from the Rhinecliff station will leave from Sottery Hall Friday at 9:00 PM, and Sunday will leave at 6:10 and 8:00 to meet the 6:43 and 8:30 trains from New York. The suggestion to run the V.W. to the Infirmary is, as most students will realize, somewhat impractical. The vehicle already has a heavy schedule, used by the Entertainment Committee, the Dance Club, the Observer, a folk music group, as well as BRAC this week alone. The suggested proposal would necessitate a driver being constantly on call for the several various moments when students find themselves with hangovers, cramps, etc. Trips to the Infirmary will most probably in the future, therefore, still rely on friends with cars, as in the past.

Lastly, I have a question of my own. Agreed students often become confused and fail to check out the relevant points of fact in their confusion, but does not the Gadfly have a responsibility to their readers to check these facts and dispell any misunderstanding before it arises?

Sincerely,

Alexander Boulton  
Member, Safety Committee