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COUNCIL AUTHORIZES $400 FOR LITERARY MAGAZINE; OBSERVER GETS EXTRA $160.
COUNCIL VOTES TO DISENTITLE HPC RESOLUTION ON SEX FOR SCAM'S CURfew.

Mr. McCune reported that Council Monday night that its budget, after one or two clubs had returned part of their appropriations, stood at $610. $830 was immediately assigned to the Observer.

The Dean said that the Administration decided to help pay half of the expenses of the literary magazine proposed several weeks ago by Mr. Coover. He also said that if Council earmarked $600 at the end of the semester from its expected surplus, the magazine could be introduced over the fall period.

Councilwoman Zeldt asked if the minority list followed any particular order, because the Bard Social Action Committee was unsure at the present moment whether it would sponsor a winter fiel

project? If B.R.A.C. should decide to hold its project, it would have to come back to Council and request more funds before the end of the semester. Councilman Trumpner moved that $1,000 be authorized before the end of the semester for the literary magazine. Councilwoman Zeldt said that she thought that Council should consider all requests at the end of the semester at the same time.

The Dean said that Council had just granted and extra $830 to the Observer with no objection about holding off until the end of the semester for curfew.

The vote was 3-3-2. Chairman Kligman cast the deciding vote, in favor. The motion passed 3-3-2.

The Dean asked whether the position taken by last semester's Council on social regulations, (changes in social regulations were to follow particular stages--1. extension of curfew one hour, 2. abolition of curfew for upper college women, 3. abolition of all curfew), or the House President's proposal endorsed by this semester's Council, expressed the true position of Council and the community.

Mrs. Zeldt said that the council and the student body changes curfew to semester, and that the current proposal represented the opinion of the present student body.

Councilman Trumpner moved that Council recommend to the Board that they consider the former council proposal and the present proposal as alternative proposals.

Mrs. Zeldt amended the motion to read: "consider the proposals as alternatives. Council does not consider them necessarily mutually exclusive."

Councilman Trumpner suggested that Council make it plain that it thought the second proposal was the best method to implement change.

The motion failed 2-3-1.

Mr. Zeldt then moved that Council send a message along with the two proposals stating, in effect, that it was Council's opinion, after much discussion both in council, H.P.C., and in the community, that the N.P.C.
propose was the most practicable and
that Council Fools that this is the
most sensible.

The motion passed 5-0-0.

Councillor Tromper first moved and
then withdrew a motion calling on the
Entertainment Committee to partially
or completely in any event of
entertainment to be held at the Red
Balloon.

Iclone Rosen

A SHORT EDITORIAL

Being Dean of a school such as
Ende, where such activity takes the
shape of interminable committee meet-
ings, means membership on those com-
mittees and running to their meetings.
I can only assume that is what function
Dean Hodgkinson was fulfilling
Monday night when he left those social
at the beginning of an import-
ant discussion, (about the possible
confusion of the Board of trustees
over the apparent contradiction of
two Council statements concerning social
regulations)

Having prior commitments is com-
pletely understandable, however, after
introducing an important issue at
Council, it might have been more in
order for the Dean to say that he had
to leave at such-and-such a time.
This way, if Council thought that it
would still be discussing the issue,
all debate might have been postponed
until the Dean could be present at
the entire session, rather than car-
rying on discussion minus the Admin-
istration's representative.

Iclone Rosen

All seniors are hereby reminded to
hand in their senior dues to Scott
Kuss, class treasurer. Do it quickly,
the seniors' fund is getting
impatient.

The Creative Corner

A Second-hand Letter to the Editor:

Dear David,

Hell! ya know, I really miss you,
ole pal! (Knows that to a finicky kid
brother, I don't rip the letter up -
I take it back). What am I doing & how
do I like this joint? Toh-toh-toh luv,
not so fast! Like I said I'm in a
massed-up mood-sorta laying on my desk
staring at my two 5-gallon decanters-
which is 1/2 full (both) of milk, n'
my two crystal, silver-plated, 1000-oz
(ya remember anyhow) mugs for my chicks
and as a sorts general storm warning
to the general visitor that I'm a
busy man besides being pretty gen-
erally on the minds of the female
population. You'd get a hang outa
looking at some of these sap's faces
when they take a look at my drinking
supplies-sorts stewstruck at the Keg
Baroom J: and all jinked out just
'cause I was thinking about my last
morning at home n' just thinking of
the food makes me homesick as hell.
Recall setting there at the breakfast
table with the sun filling up the
place, pouring bay run over our shred-
ded wheat, Non slipping a jugger of
goddamn whiskey on us, screaming 'It's
good for ya!', thereby wrecking that
glass of perfectly good O.K breakfast
brandy. Dad grinning like a monster
over his cup of steaming hot vodka-
who we got back later at (ya remember
this?) by snitchin' a bottle of coke
and orange juice each-he still hide the
milk?) and losing the hell out in
the woods. Think Ill have some milk
now matter of fact-wish you're me
now, ya Jealousy? honestly, though,
the vamps here are not so aggravating,
for the college seems to feel that
now we are somewhat older, we may be
trusted upon the score of our intake of
milk, and, what is more, has pro-
vided us with easy access to the
form of several large milk machi-
nes! You see now that it is im-
perative that you come up for parents'
day, for not only will you have an
opportunity to become wall papered
here, but will be provided secretly
by myself with enough for several
days oblivion spent at home. It per-
plexes me no end, though, how little
attention my fellow scholars pay to
this incredible libelarity. They care
not, but go (I believe I'll have an-
other-I wish you were here), but gambol
about at animated beer parties, of all
inconceivabilities. Verily, I do as
naturally partake of the notion of
flowers do of sunshine, that the sprites
conceal a revel fed by milk behind a
froads of berry jollity, for when I
have viewed then after, their depor-
tment became much akin to mine when
I have been lifted to the very heavens
upon the magic carpet ecstasy of
Grade A milk. Oh, no, it is not that
how too terribly put out at the later
system; it is surely that at times I
warily wish that mother's hand had
disposed itself upon my food. But
I love my direction and drift weary
at sea while I forget to speak of
that increased me so in remembering me
of our mutual mother, my dear brother.
(Shall I? Oh yes, shall I shall
indeed fill my dainty muglet once
again and raise it to my trembling lips
for the remainder of this decanter
is destined to satisfy the shouts of my
jubilant tavern :) Oh I Tra la my
sweeting: while I am thus happy, the
pains of that brutal scene cannot de-
our me i, and I shall relate it to
hee thus: methinks I did in butterfly
slight porch myself, as did my gentle
arling porch herself upon my knee, up-
na the rail arm of chair devant the
movie screen that scary eve, and as
my lap perch her, so on my hand
arched my bottled joy. But, lo, when
did she my shipwreck if she would sip
no, she did inquire if I did perude
jost before her ears, for if I did,
he drums best not with the narchers' top.
To which foolishness I fanfared
in fashion unly-like that may the
spectators lacked an ear that did per
aside the simplest rhythm, wherewith I
ade grand flourishing with my bottle.
Is upon the one who ridden with envy
my lion's air, did grasp my flank
and cloak my dear self with its contents
nd pull that self-same self from their
bile piercing him with mocking words,
not commend me that I fled and told,
or that was lema's advice to her little
me when he was two, my partial heart
's braised.
Adieu, our mother's blazing lamb
and tiny cere-

John
(Majorie Iomkins)

????????????????????????????????

LETTERS TO THE EDITORS

To the editors of the Godly:
The pass/fail grading system (1)
ofers too little incentive to those
students who would seek to do more
than just get by, and (2) complicates
application to graduate school (unless
"regular" letter grades are also given
and kept on private record in the
registrar's office -- and then what's
the point?).
A solution to the first difficulty
is in the use of an "honors" program,
such that, in effect, there are three
grades.
The second problem might be solved
by the actual giving of three letter
grades: "A" for honors, "B-" for pass,
and "P" for fail -- "B+" rather than,
say, "C" or "C+", because: (1) it im
plies (we would claim: accurately) that
the Bard standard for minimum work is
higher than that of the average school,
and (2) a "B+" is an honorable grade,
perfectly acceptable for such things
as graduate school and job applications.
Certain changes, not all to the
advantage of students, would almost
automatically take place in the teach-
ing program. Work which previously
passed with "C's" and "B's" would now
have to be given "F's". That is, the
standards for passing in each course
would have to be raised to the level
of "B-" work, and students could ex-
pect a lot more "P's" to be given.
Without the more subtle grading levels
now available to them, teachers would
be forced to draw a firmer line be-
tween what, yes, passes and what, no,
does not: a few slips in the course of
a semester and a good student could
find himself failing out without rev-
only. The workloads of a class might
not increase, but the standards of
acceptability certainly would.
The population of Bard would prob-
ably be affected: more students would
flunk out faster. This cullimg out
of weaker or less disciplined students
would tend to raise the level and re-
duce the size of classes, allowing
(at least after the first year) for
more of those small seminars which
now seem to be disappearing. Many
more students than is now the case
would have to plan on staying for
more than four years before graduating, to make up for courses
failed. Moderation (which is a pass/
fail system largely) would probably
become less significant.
As for "A's", each teacher would
have to decide what was the appropri-
ate "honors" standard for his given
courses. In some cases (e.g., senior
projects), extra work would not really
be feasible, and "A's" would be given
for excellence alone. In most cases,
however, teachers would discover by
midterm which students who seemed capa-
cible of an honors program and would
offer them the choice of taking a "B-
" or doing extra work for a possible "A.
"Midterm criteria sheets, then, would
(1) tell students how they stood with
regard to the pass/fail dividing line,
and (2) reward first-half excellence
by offering the opportunity to under-
take an honors program (i.e., to try
for an "A").
The honors/pass/fail system with
"B-" as the standard for passing would
probably neither increase nor decrease pressure on students and faculty.
The steady "B" student would continue
to be just that. The "A" students would
generally have to work harder for their
"A's", but would be more certain of
achieving them. Competent students
would be encouraged to cross disciplines,
confident of their own ability to earn
"B-" and disinterested for the most
part in honors outside their own field,"C"
(or at least "C+")s would feel more pressure, but if their work
was consistent enough, it would prob-
ably pass (it would probably make hard-
or working students out of most of them).
Borderline students would be far more
likely to fail than before. Teachers
would be relieved from all the subtile-
ties of the present grading system and
would probably find it easier to arrive
at clearly defined minimal standards
of acceptability. But, lamento-
meaning quality of the pass/fail decision
introduces its own kind of pressures:
what about, for example, that student
who has worked hard, done all the read-
The grading system, as opposed to the present one (which, while perhaps subtler, seems to be less realistic and, in fact, to verge on gaming and cheating), has not been enumerated by others--that the purpose have here been merely to provide solutions to problems raised by the pass/fail idea and to suggest certain possible consequences were it accepted here.

Respectfully,
Robert Coover

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THE GRADING SYSTEM:
A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Presumably the objections to the present conventional grading system or Bard center about the specious type of incentive it tends to create. Students argue idealistically that scholarship should direct itself not toward the procurement of "A's" and "B's," but "knowledge for its own sake." Others will argue against the discriminatory nature of the present unbalanced grading--that it tends to elevate one student above another on the basis of arbitrarily chosen standards.

Unquestionably, student incentive should emerge as the primary consideration in any discussion about grading systems. The pass/fail system cannot sustain student incentive. Verification of academic achievement cannot play its important role if all a student has to show after a semester's work is a "P." At the same time, however, the pass/fail system encourages the "Gulliver-four" (of which there are any) in his collegiate experience if he would normally produce as "C" work in another institution qualifies as an "F" here. (God knows, we have enough people flunking out of Bard College!). Perhaps then the pass/fail system becomes more covertly discriminatory than we had originally supposed.

If an alternative proposal lies in an honors/pass/fail system, as Mr. Coover suggests, then the student is forced to ask if this plan would in fact eliminate the disadvantages which make the present system so objectionable. That is, if "A's", "B's", and "C's" are intellectual measures of stimulating incentive, and if indeed they do cause untoward stresses and strains, then would not an honors/pass/fail system only increase pressures upon the "D" or "F" student just "to make it through under the wire," and the average "B" student to knock down that "E - fat'um"?

Hence, we just might find ourselves in the ironic situation of having encouraged "grade hounds" in their pursuit of the big prize rather than having stimulated the "smart learner" in his quest for knowledge.

The conventional system at Bard may indeed have its disadvantages; it may be unrealistic. But a more advantageous or more realistic alternative has yet to be conceived. This is not to say that we should not keep trying, but it does suggest that we give careful consideration, as Mr. Coover has done, to proposals which have such far-reaching effects.

John A. Paylor

THE RESULTS OF THE BARD POLITICAL UNIONS "MOCK" ELECTION HELD YESTERDAY

NEW YORK
For Governor:
Helson Rockefeller 84 (Rep.)
Frank O'Connor 7 (Dem.)
P.D. Roosevelt Jr. 20 (Lib.)
Paul Adams 6 (Con.)
Abstained 9

For Congress (26th District):
Joseph Ruslack 40 (Dem.)
Hamilton Fish 27 (Rep.)
Abstained 20

CALIFORNIA
For Governor:
Fat Brown 66 (Dem.)
Ronald Reagan 19 (Rep.)
Abstained 21

PENNSYLVANIA
For Governor:
Raymond Shaffer 27 (Rep.)
Hilton Shapp 14 (Dem.)
Abstained 45

OREGON
For Senator:
Mark Hatfield 96 (Rep.)
Robert Duncan 21 (Dem.)
Abstained 28

MASSACHUSETTS
For Senator:
Edward Brooke 56 (Rep.)
Endicott Peabody 23 (Dem.)
Abstained 23

ILLINOIS
For Senator:
Paul Douglas 37 (Dem.)
Charles Forey 44 (Rep.)
Abstained 28

Thirteen students said they were Conservative. Twenty-sieht said they were moderate, and thirty that they were Liberal.