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BAKER LETTER

Staff

Muckrakers

Martin Langeveld
Bob Scanlan

Top sheet

David Covert

Sacco & Vanzetti

Bill Lauber
Harvey Lapan
James Marshall

Machinist

Paul Zilber

King of the Universe

Paul Pilke

Slinger

Barry Weiss

Socrates

Alan Marks

Lover

Bart Noyes

Singmeister

Don Uhl

Albert Einstein

Jerry Jackson

Emanating from the dismal depths of the Desolation of Smaug, Baker House 603, 362 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, as the official organ of the United Confederation of Mothers Against Evil, better known as the Frumious Snatchabander Ass. Down with evil.

We need more typists, damn it. Sign up sheet in the lobby. There is also a signup sheet for electric typewriters. Mimeo stencils have to be typed on electric typewriters. If you are willing to lend us yours once in a while, please sign up.

Don't forget the Forshcon Coffeehouse, to be held in that evil place, the Master's Suite Lounge, Saturday evening after T^uch show, Entertainment by Stern and Sköles, it is rumored, Topsheet, A variety of coffeehouse-type drinks blah, blah, blah ---- see Pilke for details. signupsheetinthelobby.

LOVE IS GREEN

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SOCIAL COMMITTEE SQUEAKS

Due to the unheard of success of last Friday's Master Suite Party, Social Committee has survived another week, and asks your consideration of the following news leaks:

This Saturday, FroshCom will present a coffeehouse, with Bib Stein (unbelievable!) and Steve Skiles (incredible!!) providing the excellent entertainment. There will be two shows: one at 9:45p.m., following the LSC film, and one at 11:00 p.m., immediately after Tech. Both Bob and Steve have performed for the House before, and both were quite well received. It's a good time, one you and your date will enjoy, so plan on being there. Doors will be open at 9:30 p.m.

In the crystal ball - save March 18 on your calendar...and in the misty distant future, look for an "out of season" Mixer on April 7, and a House Party the following week. More next week ---.

Adelstern

JOCK'S CORNER

The Baker House Hockey team finished its season Monday night. The Bruins led NRSA throughout the first period and generally outplayed the A league team. But NRSA came alive and scored 4 unanswered goals. Final score 4-1. Only the fine goal-tending of Rick Gresten and the all around play of Gary Garvis and Tommy Icase during the third period kept the score down.

However, we placed between 6th and 8th in the Institute - an improvement over last year.

All kinds of rosters are due in the next weeks - don't forget.

The Baker Bruins finished 7th in the institute in I.M. Hockey playoffs. Rick Treston, Winger turned goalie, performed well in the nets, but the Bruins could not muster enough scoring to top NRSA. Softball rosters come down Wednesday, Volley ball rosters come down Tuesday (14th) nite, and squash rosters come down as soon as a sufficient number of people sign up; the squash roster is currently overdue. Within a few days, anyone signing athletic equipment out from the desk will be required to turn in his MIT student activities card. The house basketball still has not been returned.

Barry Gaiman	130
Maris Sulcs	342
Bill Saur	647

PINBALL POINTERS

News of the Week in Review - Sandberg and Mitchell strike again; winning score goes up, then down; Steve Sydoriak sets new one ball record; Steve Slutsky wins a game; Henry Coyne defeats Jay Zager in head-to-head play before a crowd of 20; Zager and Egendorf excite the fans with a tremendous display of split-flipper competition. Picagli pours \$10.00 into the machine (its his poker winnings). Quote of the Week; Chester Sandberg - "I don't know how to make the machine any harder."

Last Thursday, in a surprise move, Chester Sandberg found a way to make the machine harder. Previously, games had been given for scores of 2800, 3300, 4100, 4500, 4900, 5200, 5400, and 5600, but the Mercenaries (S&M) decided to raise the score needed to 3300, then 4500, and finally 5600. The pinball players of the house were outraged. Led by Alan "Kid" Gottlieb, the most exciting player in the house, a huge protest began and within minutes, a petition of new non-players led by the "Kid" was posted on the wall next to the machine. Within hours the score was lowered, not to the original 28,33,37 but to 29,35,46, a semi-outrage. Were it not for the pinballer's owner, Andy Egendorf, this situation might still be unremedied, but Uncle Andy secretly restored the scores to 29,33,38. A compromise has been established.

In another surprise move, Chet "Fink" Sandberg removed the multiple joker special, one of the former highlights of the game. Rumblings of revolt were heard but at press time Sandberg had not given in to the players demands. The authors of this column once again want to thank Andy Egendorf for his truly sportsmanlike attitude concerning the machine, and wish to inform the mercenaries that pinball in Baker House exists for the enjoyment of the players, not for the monetary gains reaped by the owners (this means you S&M). Many players have written us that they are outraged at the absence of their names in the initial column. Among these players are: Bob Stern, formerly a simultaneous flipper player, for a sudden and astounding display of coordination and skill in legitimately winning eight games on a dime; Pete Young, who was so outraged at being the first player to lose a game with the score of 2899 that he personally wrote me a sob story; Barry Laks, who had the first one ball; Tom Turai, who had a hot streak earlier in the week; a d Mark Grab, who although he does not play "Riverboat", wants to know why we didn't write a column when he was an avid "Frontiersman" player. ("---- you, Man")

Also in the news this week was the emergence of what is now known as the "Gottlieb Shake". Upon shooting a ball, the player immediately assumes a reclining position over the machine, and proceeds to aid the ball in its progress, by a series of delicately applied bodily movements. Closely allied with this is the "Gottlieb Smash", a procedure developed by the "Kid" to make the ball go through the center, no matter how poorly it has been shot. "Fink" Sandberg takes a dim view of the smash. To quote him "It jolts the delicate electronics of the machine" (The "Kid's" reply - "TS"). Egendorf and Zager, the true partners, claim origin to the shake, only they called it the "partnership shake".

With the opening of the First Annual Baker House Pinball Tournament, many players have been seen practicing for the split flipper competition. Henry E. Coyne has spent the past week watching the teams and he reports: "Odds-on---favorites is the Egendorf

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Zager team, which has developed an elaborate coding system used by the captain to inform the co-pilot of how to flip. The captain is the man at the right flipper, who has the added duties of shooting the ball and shaking. Close behind is the Gottlieb-Kadomiya team, recently formed but off to a fast start. The team's main asset is the Gottlieb shake and Gottlieb's superior saving ability ("nice save"). Still another entry is the team of Sydroiak and Slutsky (he really did win a game last week). Bringing up the rear is the team of Gurwitz and Freed. Their main problem, due to lack of organization, is their frequent collisions while shaking.

As advertised, this week's special feature is the art of matching. Matching is controlled by a dial in the machine, arranged in the following numerical sequence "1604952837". The dial moves every time a one registers in the score. Unfortunately, the dial sometimes skips, and it becomes relatively impossible to predict the match number. The most successful matcher in the House is none other than Mike "Match" Gurwitz, a living legend in his own time. In an exclusive "Pinball Pointers" interview, Gurwitz explained the secrets of his success. "It's really pretty simple to predict the match. The matches distribution is closely approximated by a standard Poisson distribution curve,

$$P(n) = e^{-\bar{n}} \frac{\bar{n}^n}{n!}$$

and by computing the probability of each skip it becomes easy to predict the match. The key to my success, however, is constant prayer". For any skeptics in the house, let us remind the readers that "Match" holds almost all of the matching records in the house.

Take some advice - ignore Rackoffs (you know him as you know who) Column. Plagerism should be illegal in Baker House. Next week - "The Gottlieb Philosophy on Pin ball", featuring the most exciting pinball player in the world.

SLUTSKY REALLY DID WIN A GAME

A Letter to the Editor of the Baker Letter

3/7/67

Dear Baker Letter,

In your last issue of the Baker Letter, you failed to point out that the world's greatest pin-ball jock resides in Baker House. His most memorable feat is playing the machine from 10pm Feb 28 to 3 am March 1, minus $\frac{1}{2}$ hour for fixing the machine, on a single quarter. This man is Mr. Charles L. Housman, known to the masses as Chuck.

As Mr. Housman is too modest, we feel it is our duty as his roommates to issue a challenge to any man in Baker House who is foolish enough to think he can beat the great Mr. Housman. Mr. Housman can definitely play the machine for more games and more times on a single quarter than any other Bakerite.

Sincerely

Dave Dobkin & Sheldon Friedman
(506)

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QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who played Barbella of Phil Silver's Show?
- 2) Who cut a 45 record at 33 1/3?
- 3) B.B.'s first American film was _____?
- 4) Who is Ross Bagdasarian?
- 5) Where did Jack Benny's wife work?

- 1) Harvey Lembeck
- 2) Ross Bagdasarian
- 3) AND GOD CREATED WOMEN
- 4) David "Chipmunk" Seville
- 5) Mat's Department Store.

Winner is Bob Freed of 216, with an amazing score of 5. Nice work Bob. Second place answer were too many to name.

THIS WEEKS QUESTIONS:

- 1) From where did the traditional and unofficial motto of the U.S. Postal Service come? What is it?
- 2) Is there any significance to the setting of 8:18 on dummy clocks? if so what is it?
- 3) What does the "O" of "A.W.O.L." stand for?
- 4) What was the name of the kid who wanted his MAYPO?
- 5) Why is there air?

Answers written to Box 5380 All answers in by 9:00 am Tuesday in case of ties a drawing will be made. Prize is 10 pinball games on the machine of your choice.

SLUTSKY REALLY DID WIN A GAME

Take Your Baker Letter and Throw It Away

In my opinion the Baker Letter has degenerated into the most useless publication with which I am familiar. Frankly, I consider it trash.

Why do I wish to air my views in a piece of journalistic excrement? I feel something can and should be done, by the tools of Baker. Firstly, though, I wish it to be clear that I do not hold the BL Editors at fault, but throw the blame upon those Bakerites who have something to say and do not contribute.

Typically, when I receive the Letter I skim through it as follows: I don't read those articles signed by the Social Chairmen, Athletic Chairmen, or the Editors. From past experience I know these do not interest me. However, after executing the above I find myself on the last page - having read nothing and only having picked up the Letter five seconds previously. The Letter then promptly gets 'filed'. I admit that sometimes there is connective filler between what I don't read, but usually (ignoring the contradiction), I don't read that either.

What can be done? Who can do it? No single writer or small group of persons can possibly produce material of sufficient appeal to satisfy even a moderate proportion of the varied and sophisticated interests of the Baker population. This can only be accomplished by a moderate proportion of the Baker population itself, the tools, and the word tool is used as a compliment, of high distinction.

Personally, I would enjoy seeing the letter turned into a forum for the intellectuals in Baker, the culturally oriented Bakerites, the academists and philosophers - if enough people take such a project to heart, the "Chairmen" might even be pushed back to their pole in the lobby where they belong.

It is the tools who find no interest whatever in the Letter and it is up to them to put it there.

What can YOU contribute? How about a humanity paper of which you are proud, an interesting problem you were assigned in 18.241 (or an original variation thereon); how about a report from YAF or Radicals for Capitalism that would be capable of stimulating thought and discussion among the BL readers; how about intelligent commentary upon world affairs and controversies of interest such as legalized abortion, student deferrment, Mr. Powell's exclusion, or necessary economic alterations that you feel are needed. Bakerites in the course of a week do enough writing for their course work and extracurricular activities to fill a dozen Letters. I would enjoy seeing physics majors copy over one of their original for an old problem and submit it, I would like to see EE's contribute any interesting results they obtained in 6.72, it would be interesting to see if one does get anything out of 21.812 and all this without a tremendous amount of work on the part of any individual.

One may counter with the argument, "I do converse and participate in intellectual discussions with the people who count, either at lunch or in class, etc." However, I feel this is not in fact true. There is in all probability someone in Baker who is on your level and would be interested in your ideas. He may be a Freshman and you a Senior, and your paths have never crossed, but he might just teach you and all of us something. The Baker Letter could provide the vehicle for this interaction, if taken seriously.

One can see what the BL provides when it is supported by the Chairmen can the tools do any better? I feel now is a good a time as any to find out. I am offering this challenge and sincerely hope YOU will respond.

If you already have an interesting paper or problem, five minutes is all you need take. Other wise, find a hour each month and produce something that will be of interest to yourself and the tools of Baker.

I'Let the ruling class tremble at a tool revolution. The tools have nothing to lose. They have a world to win. Tools of all floors, unite! Phrase this as you will, but I hope the people who have read this far into my letter (i.e. those to whom the idea is appealing) will take this concept to heart.

I have enclosed a paper of mine in the hopes that I may further this cause. If you don't like it, I challenge you to do better, and otherwise I still challenge you to do better. Whether it be a refutation of general relativity, a proof of the four color theorem, or an article on the futility of religion - whether it be a Xerox copy of a past past paper or a carbon copy of a problem a current problem set- I hope Baker tools will act and contribute to the new Baker Letter.

Stephen L. Weinberg
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I read this and think it's a good idea

(if that makes any difference)

Sheeman

A COMMENT ON THROWING YOUR B*L AWAY

Although tinged with the aura of a Messianic force rushing to save the last literary shreds of our "journalistic excrement", I find several points of Mr. Weinberg's letter well worth considering. It must be remembered however what the basic purpose and limitations of the Baker Letter are.

For one thing these articles by our Social Chairmen, athletic chairmen etc, which we find interest Stephen L. Weinberg so little are perhaps the Baker Letter's first reason for existence. As a medium which by force (i.e. stuffing) reaches all B*kerites it provides one of the best channels through which to let the residents of B*ker House know in an indefinite way of the random organized events which are available to them. Specific news about parties, intramural events and other house activities is of sufficient general interest to merit somewhat more than the weak communication such devices as the social pole provide.

In general, the plea for more sophisticated material which would make the B*L a source not only of current information but also of stimulating ideas has been ours from the very first. I would refer Mr. Weinberg to our first issue in which it was stated:

"To be successful, the Baker Letter needs to reflect some some of the creative and analytic qualities of the individuals of the house. I needs to capture the highly diversified interests and opinions of the various entities assembled in an environment such as this. This, of course, can only be accomplished through contributions."

Or was Mr. Weinberg already prematurely "Filing" his copy at the time of our first issue? It is also interesting to note that Mr. Weinberg's flaming manifesto is accompanied by his very first contribution in the six month period that we have managed this paper. Mr. Weinberg's letter might have been more appropriately written by us and directed at him as well as others. By suddenly springing to life himself and submitting an article I do not see that Mr. Weinberg is in a position to fervently admonish others for what he also has failed to do (and where does Sheeman fit into this?)

Aside from this rather personal point, I find the suggestions in Mr. Weinberg's letter very relevant to the weaknesses of the B*L and I thank him for his contribution, which appears in this issue. I would once again urge others to contribute such material as has been suggested.

ARTICLE WILL APPEAR NEXT ISSUE. — ed.

A rather technical problem associated with the expansion of the B*L is the need for more typists and electric typewriters. The job falls usually to one person who is forced to contribute more than his share of time - any typists and willing typewriter lenders please contact the editors in 603.

SUGGESTION ROW

If you have any worthwhile suggestions for the improvement of life in Baker call me (8-231) and I'll write up your idea for B*L. My own suggestion this week deals with the controversy over the Baker Library. It seems that there are certain elements of Baker that cannot be entrusted with a decent unguarded library. The many^a volumes that were originally there have slowly disappeared. Answer: set up a

guard system like that of Burton's library. When there is no guard merely lock the library. Lend out books, course notes, records, magazines, etc, for one week periods, 2¢ per day overdue charge. I have many years of scientific American, Saturday review, New Yorker, etc at home getting dusty, that I would be very willing to contribute to the library if I knew it wouldn't get stolen immediately. I also think it would be of great cultural benefit to Baker to have a large collection of records and tapes available. I'm sure someone in Baker who has decent equipment would be willing to volunteer the few hours necessary to record some of his music. (I have a tape recorder, but no turntable or tape or record collection).

I think the idea is workable, as I'm sure there are at least the few necessary to guard the library while tooling who would volunteer given the incentive of a really good library. I know I would.

Jon Campbell 231

Submitted by Steve Weinberg: We ought to have a bicycle auction in order to put all the left-over bicycles into good use. and clear the bike room of junk (useless unowned bikes)

Jon Campbell

MARCH 2, 1967

To the Editor of the BAKER LETTER:

In the past few months, I have watched my supply of comics dwindle to practically nothing. I wish to remind their readers that those comics are still my property and have not been left outside so that some pig could steal them. They are meant to be enjoyed by all in the House and not to be left unread for eons in the dark and dusty recesses of some selfish person's cluttered room. I am also somewhat annoyed by those who deliberately mutilate my comics (without even asking my permission!!). There is one person who even flauntingly displays part of the cover of my Detective Comics above the name on his door.

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I would like to request that people who borrow my comics read them quickly and return them immediately. I am even so unreasonable as to expect that those who find a comic disintegrating while in their possession make some attempt at repairing it. (I know the bindings leave much to be desired, but hardbound editions just don't exist.)

These 150 comic books represent a considerable financial investment. Their loss is not tax-deductible.

Sincerely,

Ted Chang (635)

QUESTION

I was thinking a while ago if anyone has stopped to consider why the Viet Cong are fighting back. It can't be for some abstract belief called Communism, the people live too basically for that. Speculation comes to the average person, usually, when his belly is full and he has a roof over his head. These people we call our enemy are only illiterate peasants who, before the war spent most of their time just fighting for a living from nature so they had no time for idle speculation and belief in abstract governments. If we rule out the reason of belief, what is left? Why are these people fighting against the "overwhelming" might of the U.S.? Couldn't it be they are just defending their homes and families from the invading enemy, from their point of view?

J. Jackson.

ATTENTION:

FIRE DRILL - Thursday 16 March at 8 p.m. by specific order of the safety office.

Jerry