

1969-01-14

JAN 14
1969

BARF BEEF

Let the bugle blow
the death of America
rides in on the smog.
Rush to the locks
God writhes in his Bonds
Deliver us from our curse,
for we must end
on the road to that
mystery where courage,
death, and the dream of
love give promise of sleep.

-norman mailer

you die for your country, suppose,
not that I wish it for you. But
I say: let my country die for
me. Up to the present it
has done so. I don't want
it to die. Damn death. Long
live life.

-james joyce.

m.l.

BAKER LETTER

Editor: Mike Toon
Typists: Hirz, Repic, Uchno, Langeveld
Serfs: Peterson, Bauer
Artists: Covert, Arthur

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A LETTER TO THE EDITOR (includes 1 dirty word)

Last week's B.L. was certainly exciting with the letters by Heskell and Bazz (who is evidently too chicken-hearted to reveal his name).

Heskell's article was quite bitter and rightly so. Attendance at Social Committee meetings isn't what it should be. While average attendance at major parties has been over 100 Bakerites, average participation has been probably about 50, with less than half that number doing most of the work. I must admit that I have been guilty of not putting in enough time although the five hours I spent on helping to buy favors and setting up is alone the time spent by the average party-goer. Let's face it - it is unfair to expect a few people to spend the entire week before a party to spend all of their time on the party. This includes the Social Chairman.

Now I would like to examine BAZZ's article. First of all, every statement in the article is opinion, not fact as Mr. BAZZ implies. This article is intended to give a different opinion. First of all, Bazz says that the Baker has made blunders but fails to explain what they are. The only big failure of Social Committee this year has been the Freshman Orientation disasters. We tried something new, and it didn't work. I hope that next year we will not emphasize mixers so much during Frosh Orientation and I am sure that next year's VP and Social Chairman will remember this year's problems. As far as parties go, we have had two great parties and one excellent wine and cheese party. I think that every one involved in planning and executing these parties deserves a lot of credit including Heskell.

BAZZ's other criticism was that Heskell delegated too much authority to other people and did not help decorate on Friday night (Horrors!). Of course Heskell's friends helped to carry out a great deal of the work. What is wrong with that? It is not the chairman's responsibility to personally decide how many blue balls go on the big tree and that they are put on every third branch. It is the Chairman's responsibility to decide how much will be spent on decorations and to be sure that someone who is competent is supervising the decoration. Although Heskell did not decorate Friday night, he did stop by to be sure that the decorating was being done. I think that missing the decorating for one night before one party is no great sin for a Social Chairman.

As for Bazz's negative comparison with John Rudy and Rich Adelstein, I think these were in poor taste and poorly unsubstantiated. I have to admire John Rudy's financial watchfulness, but BAZZ evidently doesn't realize that we don't have to be so tight any more. As for Rock, as far as I can determine, Social Committee has run last year pretty much as it has been this year. I served as Treasurer during part of Rock's term, and he was certainly no more organized than Heskell; he sometimes had no idea of decoration expenses for a party and I usually had to get the information a week after the party from other people.

In short I feel that our past three years have been very good socially (I have managed to get good fix-ups most of the time) and that the Social Chairmen have all tried hard, each in their own way. I agree with BAZZ when he says we need more participation, but I think he is full of shit when he says Heskell has done a poor job. By the way, BAZZ, I am not afraid to sign my letters; why are you?

Burt Barnow
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BAZZ #3

Remember the Christmas spirit? It was wrapped up along with the Christmas tree ornament and stashed away in the attic the day after New Year's to be dragged down again next December and be talked about and praised and discussed and again ignored.

Except to be pulled down one more time in between for special exhibition in this column, briefly only, for the purpose of making the suggestion that the entire problem with the "Christmas spirit" is not that we don't know what it is, that we've made it into a seasonal commercial phenomenon, or that we've forgotten whose birthday it is; no, the problem is simply that all we ever do is talk about Christmas spirit and write slogans to put into Christmas cards and song - to actually practice the spirit of Christmas (to just go out and do the things we talk about) is much easier (and is therefore forgotten), but much rarer.

X X X

Christmas vacation in Baker House - one should have the experience at least once during his four years here in order to appreciate the place a little better when everyone else is here. When everyone is gone one realizes that there is then something lacking - something in the atmosphere that is missing. It is the evidence of life that when it is present here does not manifest itself but becomes conspicuous by its absence during vacation periods: the everyday sounds and smells, coughs, stereos, toilets flushing - to come across the bridge at 9 PM and see about 5 windows lit - to work desk for two hours and get one phone call and two people asking for change.

In their absence, one realizes the difference people make.

A New BAZZ Feature:

THE JOY WAGON: Baker House Politics

For a change it seems there are actually some issues before the House that merit the attention of the average "housecom-doesn't-concern-me" man. A few of these will come to a head at the next housecom meeting (WEDNESDAY 10 PM IN THE DINING HALL).

At that meeting there will be a motion made on behalf of the faceless masses that hate the pinball machines that they be ~~moved~~ removed to the seventh floor cardroom or some other place away from the main public spaces of Baker House. It was decided earlier this term to allow the BFW Co. to install a second and then a third pinball machine on a trial basis, and that if this proved unsatisfactory they would be moved or removed. A group of residents now feels the trial has run long enough and that the presence of the machines, besides being a physical barrier to the dining room entrance when a crowd collects, creates a bus terminal - penny arcade atmosphere in that area which cheapens the image of the House and assails passers - through with a visual and auditory barrage that is hard to ignore and often quite disturbing.

Proponents of the pinball emporium argue that the machines bring a lot of money to the house (about \$700 last ~~year~~), but forget that these funds would not be here at all if it were not for Bisaccio & Co's quest for profit, and that the House is not in such desperate financial straits that its share of the pinball income is absolutely indispensable.

Housecom will probably reach a compromise of sorts on this issue (probably the limitation of BFW to one or two machines at the far end of the food machines).

Another issue before Housecom at this Wednesday's meeting will be a motion reimbursing the paint-committees on several floors for expenditures incurred. Some people have expressed opposition to this proposal because of its ex post facto nature ("How can you spend 60 dollars without Housecom approval and then expect to get repaid?") Most floors began at first to paint individual doorframes for a small fee and then gradually expanded their projects to include more and more areas and in doing so their original plans to finance the projects by individual contributions became unworkable. Since the Institute should logically pay for the work they are being spared, but won't, it is then only reasonable for House Committee to assume the costs - to ask the present residents to support by individual contributions the costs of House improvements that will benefit residents for at least several more years is certainly not reasonable.

On the ex post facto issue, the House Committee should remember that it would not be the first time an appropriation was made after the money was spent; and that in this case, it was not originally the intention of the paint committees to ask for House subsidy.

If either of these issues concerns you in any way, it might be worth you while to attend Wednesday's meeting and let your voice be heard.

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Those flying saucers in the halls cost 18 dollars apiece. Since we now all know how easily they break and how stupid the Institute was to put brittle things like that in, let's stop trying to destroy them and maybe the funds going into them now can go into some more useful improvements. (Like carpeting in the halls so the frisbees won't break when they fall down. And to play golf on).

X X X

Bored? Call recorded messages at any of these numbers: 868-0959, LA 3-6606, 566-0214, 491-1497, 524-3133, 536-4050, 731-2889, or 864-1034 (evenings only).

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A final note for the benefit of the bear and others: any materials contained herein may or may not be fact, fiction, opinion, prejudice, or misunderstanding, and in the great tradition of TIME and NEWSWEEK, the author disclaims the need to label each as such (or nonesuch) - these distinctions should be obvious to the discerning reader.

Next week on the joy wagon: House security, Santa's helper, scandals, and rumors.

BAZZ

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THE DAY WITH THE HANGING LIP

You are a clay pigeon
for the sport of another man's eyes.
At times he makes an antheap of your bones,
or else squeezes you into a snow-ball of spite
and nicely sticks you upon a thorn.

In fact, though, you are nothing
but a stone to be thrown at your own forehead,
and the blind edge of a knife
for your own perdition.
Only your legs are free. Otherwise
with one obedient ear you listen to a trumpet-call,
and with the other greedily take in
all of yesterday.

Thus you become much smaller
than you already are. In your mouth words are plaited
into dry knots like hair. Your hopes
fade in the vile courtyard beside
a dead sparrow struck by grape-shot
in the eye.

But no sooner does a bit of luck come your way
than you look for a broken mirror to see yourself
a hundred times over
and proclaim to the dusty grass that you are you,
are you, are you.
And it seems as if the grass believes you,
this heavy, bent June grass.

(cont')

It's right that your companion
should be the day with the hanging lip.

Slavko Jug
Contemporary Slovenian Poet

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

CAN YOU MATE??? If you answer yes enter the First Baker House Chess Tournament. The entry fee is only 50¢. There will be cash prizes for first and second places, the amount depending on number of entries. To enter, place your name and 50¢ into Box 1062. For more information contact Simon Wieczner DL 8-256.

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AGENDA FOR THE HOUSE COMMITTEE MEETING Of Wednesday, January 15, 10:00 PM Dining Hall

New Business:

1. Motion (Baher): To appropriate \$150 for a Bier Blast on Wednesday, January 22.
2. Motion (Langeveld): Whereas the three pinball machines in their present location are offensive to many Baker residents and injurious to the image of Baker House in the eyes of visitors, the House Committee adopts the following:
The owners of the pinball machines are instructed to move said machines either to:
 - 1) the 7th floor card room
 - 2) behind the kitchen near the trunk roomor that one machine be located less conspicuously in the food machine and ping-pong area,
and that these options are mutually exclusive.
3. Motion (Brown): To appropriate \$200.00 to finance completed and planned painting of public areas in the House.
Note: Exact amounts requested by each floor will be presented at the meeting, including a report on completed painting on each floor.