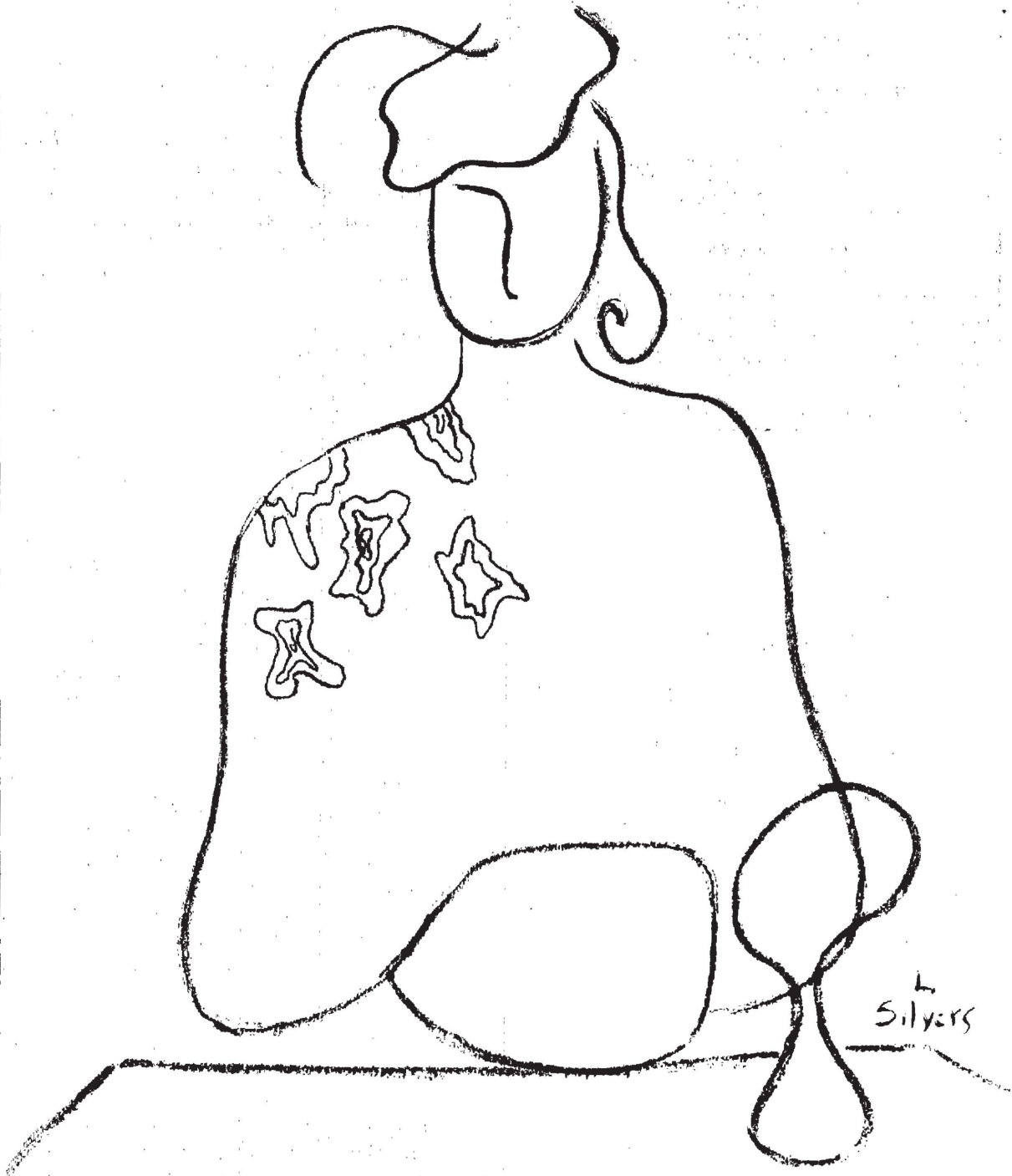


THE BARDIAN



May 30, 1947

THE BARDIAN

Official publication of the students of
Bard College, Annandale-on-Hudson.

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420 Madison Avenue — New York 17, N.Y.

Vol. 1, No. 7 Friday, May 30, 1947

THE BARDIAN

announces that
next year's editors
are to be:

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**A CONTENT-ANALYSIS REPORT
ON THE EDITORIALS APPEARING
IN THE BARDIAN FROM
JANUARY 1944 to JANUARY 1947**

(NOTE: Content Analysis is a systematic, objective, quantitative method of testing hypotheses about differences in the content of any communications; spoken, written or filmed. One may compare the same publication or radio program or film series over a period of time in order to establish a trend; or one may compare how the various media of communication (radio, press) dealt with one topic; or one may compare (within one medium) the treatment of one or more topics by several publications or several radio commentators.)

One of the uses of content analysis, namely as a method of proving accusations of bias in the presentation of news is gaining in popularity. It is and will be increasingly used by the various interest groups as a new weapon in the old conflicts. It is, therefore, important for a responsible citizen to understand this method in order to be able to appraise independently the validity of arguments, accusations and defenses, just as it is important for him to understand the method of taking public opinion polls in order to be able to interpret the results critically.*)

The purpose of this particular content analysis was to discover, over a period of three years, the trends in the

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* MISS E. HOFBERG

A CONTENT-ANALYSIS REPORT

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editorial comment with regard to the following;

- (1) *Issue*, as to whether it was of community interest or special interest.
- (2) *Groups* referred to in connection with the issue (students, faculty, or administration).
- (3) The passive or active attitude which the editorial took concerning the issue.

These three aspects of the editorials may be used as indices of "community spirit". The main hypothesis was that "community spirit" changed considerably from 1944 to date and that, specifically, four distinct stages can be distinguished;

First from January 1944 to March 1944; the ASTP

Second from August 1944 to December 1945; predominantly girl-students

Three from January 1946 to October 1946; post-war up to Dr. Grey's resignation and

Four from October 20, 1946; Dr. Fuller's presidency.

If our hypothesis was true, then the indices or "community spirit" would vary from one stage to another. Specifically the ratio of community issues in the total number of issues raised; the ratio of references to the whole Bard community in the total number of references; and the ratio of active proposals in the total number of issues discussed

would vary from one stage to another. The content analysis of the editorials was used to prove this hypotheses.

A Qualitative analysis of the differences between the four periods reveals the following:

Stage 1 - The seeming discrepancy in the ASTP stage between the large proportion of community issues and the complete lack of editorials referring to Bard as a whole is explained by the fact that the meaning of "community issues" is different in this stage as compared to the other three. It means "broad" political issues of interest to members of the community as citizens rather than issues concerning the Bard community as such. Problems concerning the soldiers, such as the soldier's vote bill, the ASTP, the foreign policy, college credit for the soldiers, etc., were obviously of interest to all members of the community, yet, the student-soldiers approached these issues from the point of view of their interest as soldiers, not as Bard students. The soldiers were vitally interested in these issues, which is indicated by the very high percentage of active statements made in these editorials.

Stage 2 - From this period on, by community issues were issues of specific interest to Bard as a whole, as opposed to issues

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A CONTENT-ANALYSIS REPORT

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of interest to some groups on campus. Unlike the period in which the Bardian was under the editorship of the ASTP, some of these editorials referred to Bard as a whole, but nevertheless, the greatest percent still referred to specific groups. A drastic decline in the active attitude toward these issues may also be seen. Only a little more than one third of these editorials contained active proposals.

Some of the typical editorials of this period concerned the Bardian, physical education the Red Cross, other college newspapers, progressive teachers, committees, the store, War Bond drives, cleanliness on campus, fraternities, criteria sheets, and the winter field periods.

Stage 3 - During the third period (Co-ed) a slight increase may be seen in the percentage of editorials concerning community issues as opposed to special interest. These editorials referred to Bard as a whole. There was also a drastic increase in the active attitude of the editorials during this period.

What is the meaning of these trends? What were the community issues discussed and what was the nature of the more active attitudes expressed? The greatest percent of editorials, which appeared in the Bardian when the school was dominated by girls, were of interest to special groups, but when the student body became almost equally divided between men and women, the editorials became more of a community interest. It appears that Bard was becoming a com-

munity rather than a number of small individual groups. These editorials discussed standards at Bard, open houses in the dormitories, our flag, adult living, racial discrimination, the President's address to the school, convocation, and the special committee. They offered more suggestions and were more forceful than those of the second period and here again we can see that the Bardian wished to improve the school as a whole and not a few individual groups. They were also quite forceful in criticizing the administration at this time.

Stage 4 - In the last period, there can be seen a sharp increase in editorials concerning community interest. Also, of all periods in this content analysis, this period showed the greatest percent of "community interest" editorials referring to Bard as a whole. However, there is a sudden drop in the proportion of active attitudes expressed.

More than ever before the Bardian was concerned with issues of importance to Bard as a whole. A few of the typical editorials of this period concerned citizenship at Bard, the strength of the community, interest of the students concerning various activities on campus, and the material progress of Bard. During the third period, the Bardian was in opposition to the administrative policy governing the student body and there we see that the editorials were more active than they were during the last period. In the last period we find that the Bardian seems to be affected by the change in the administration and their policy, its editorials becoming less active as compared with the third period.

-----ARMON KAPLAN

TRIUMPH

Throughout the night, we watched the elders riot
Their grief over bodies that were once their dreams.
But the dead were burning in pyres and were not
Soldiers like us who could fight for our lives and for Ilium.

The day was shuffled with thunder and Achean spears
While many men mourned at a rock as we fought,
And the women feasted their broods on the milk of their tears,
And the scarecrow who led us mourned Hector and tried to forget

His dreams of disaster. Truce brought us a gift
That coiled through the streets with loud noise. We went down
Through miles of lascivious sleep to find what was left
When we woke to no thunder and not to a dawn.

We never expected a dawn but some great alarm
Of thunder or lightning or both, but no lightning struck
Nor was thunder thick in the sky. With no storm,
We only knew that the gods were no longer among the rocks.

The city rattled in flames with little more to be burned,
And those young boys who leaned against hope turned suddenly old
With starved faces and vicious advice as we mourned
Or slept with our women but there was no child.

That night their troops descended with lightning and knives,
And locked with our children or they would brilliantly dine
On our women who would bear children and rapture to their graves.
Their troops brought us thunder and lightning, and lightning and dawn.

Now dawn--a new scarecrow rides at the head of their troop
As their warriors march through the sun, wild with furious streaks
Of glazed golden and violent bronze, and climb down to their sleep
While we seek a different god and a different death in the rocks.

--- ROGER HECHT

MUSIC NOTES

Last May fifth, Miss Dorothy Westra of the Bard Music Department was scheduled to present a concert. However, due to the intervention of a sore throat, this event was cancelled. Dr. Paul Schwartz, in this emergency, coralled enough musical talent on campus to please an audience of invited guests as well as the Bard community. Morton Levinthal and Albert Stwertka, opened the impromptu recital with the Telemann Sonata in G Major for two violins. The work, in the traditional four movements was spiced with many difficult contrapuntal passages and much synchronization which the performers handled well and effortlessly. Although the work did sound rather choppy in spots, in all it was performed cleanly and confidently.

Two Arias from Mozart's "Le Nozze di Figaro" were sung by Martha Baker, soprano. Extreme nervousness and ill composure may have been responsible for her intonality. Her voice is, as yet, undeveloped, and therefore there was not much power or control displayed. As she sang, she gained confidence however, and gradually minimized her difficulties.

Susan Wender played the Beethoven Piano Sonata in A Flat Major. Due to the extreme technical difficulty of this work, she worked too hard at hitting the right notes at the right time, and therefore, the music was not expressed well. The last, and most difficult movement, was rather poor. The technical peak was reached in the third movement and therefore the fourth was a backwash of exhaustion.

Two Arias by Handel were sung by Raymond Howe. He sang

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MUSIC NOTES

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6)

sincerely and well. His strong baritone voice, well in tune and rich in expressive qualities was greatly appreciated by the audience.

The first movement from the G Minor Piano Concerto by Mendelssohn played by Janet Zimmerman, ended the musicale. The performance went well. Her fiery, precise technique and deep understanding of the music greatly pleased the listeners.

Robert Derick, organist, was the featured artist at the Fifth Formal Concert of the Year held in the College Chapel on May twelfth. Mr. Derick performed fluently and with understanding.

Miss Dorothy Westra, having recovered from her sore throat, and the beautiful "Meinem Hirten bleib ich treu" and "Schafe Koennen Sicher Weiden" by Bach. Miss Westra, a polished concert performer, displayed fine breath control and a rich, intense soprano voice. Her tone coloring was outstanding.

----- R. M. SHERMAN

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NOTICE
TO THE BARD COLLEGE COMMUNITY

THE BARDIAN MATERIAL HERE PRESENTED WAS TO COMPOSE THE FIRST PRINTED ISSUE. HOWEVER, DUE TO LACK OF FUNDS FROM LAST SEMESTER'S CONVOCATION, WE WERE UNABLE TO GO TO PRESS. WE ARE PRESENTING THE ISSUE TO YOU IN THIS FORM HOPING THAT WE SHALL GAIN YOUR SUPPORT IN THE FORTHCOMING CONVOCATION WHEN THE NEW BUDGET IS VOTED UPON. WE AIM TO CONTINUE THIS HIGH STANDARD OF MATERIAL AND TO PRESENT A PAPER THAT IS TRULY REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BARD COMMUNITY.

-THE BARDIAN EDITORS AND STAFF