

OBSERVER

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Bard OBSERVER

The Official Publication of the Bard College Community

VOL. 3, No. 8

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

MAY 1, 1961

Negotiations Settle Regulations Questions

The social regulations question reached a final settlement last Monday when Council passed a compromise resolution of the Social Regulations Committee, which had been signed by President Kline and Dean Bourne. The signatures of the president and dean were acknowledgement of the administration's approval and support for the resolution and the existing social regulations.

The resolution was the result of a frantic week of meetings and political maneuvering by both the administration and Steve Bernbach and Alan Skvirsky, chairmen respectively of the Social Regulations Committee and the House Presidents' Committee.

At the beginning of the week President Kline indicated that he still felt that the last two hours might be dangerous in spite of the results of the evaluation and should be removed.

He, Mrs. Bourne and Milton Medary, chairman of Council, felt that the majority of the student body would back such an administrative action even though it would occur outside the framework of community government.

However, student endorsements as a vote of confidence for an H.P.C. motion which condemned such action and expressed doubts as to the possibility of effective enforcement of such a reduction in social hours indicated otherwise. The position of the H.P.C. was endorsed by 238 of the 275 students who were on campus at that time.

In addition, 40 letters from students, supporting the evaluation and the existing regulations, were received by the president.

The resulting negotiations produced the following Social Regulations Committee resolution:

The Social Regulations Committee, after negotiations with the Administration, recommends that social hours be from 1 p.m. until curfew. Assuming that the student body continues to be responsible to the plan, the Administration will support the plan of social regulations on the aforementioned basis; and the Administration expects to maintain the plan for those students now attending Bard.

In addition, before any social regulations are changed, the Administration will consult with a duly elected body of students, and the opinions of the groups involved will be given weight in the formation of the policy.

The guarantees concerning changes in the existing regulations are felt by most students to be a major factor in both removing the tensions which have surrounded the social regulations question and in renewing faith in community government.

Orientation Plans Being Formulated

Preliminary plans have been made for the formation of the Orientation Committee to meet next fall's entering class. Bob Marrow was appointed by Community Council to head the committee. He and Steve Snyder, a member of the steering committee, met with Mrs. Bourne, Mrs. Crane and Dr. Kline to make tentative plans.

The Orientation Committee will consist of students chosen by council and the administration. A steering committee, consisting of two women and two men, will set up a program and present it to the rest of the committee for approval.

The orientation period will be more organized this year than in the past. As usual, on the first night, the Dean, the president, and Mr. Gummere will address the new students. Instead of one reception, there will be separate receptions for the parents and the new students. It is tentatively planned to send a reading list to all freshmen during the summer. Within the first few days, students will meet with professors in small, informal seminars to discuss these books.

Another possibility for the orientation program is a "Carnival of Clubs." This event would give the various clubs on campus an organized opportunity to present their programs to the new students.

The function of the Orientation Committee, according to Steve Snyder, is to lessen the tension caused by "freshman blues" so that the new students feel at home at Bard from the first day that they are here. An organized structure containing planned activities is very important. This can help the new students by giving them something to do to take their minds off the new situation that they will have to adjust to. At the same time, they are being introduced to various aspects of Bard—both academic and social—through these activities.

In view of this, Steve continued, those who serve on this committee must have a sincere desire to work and plan so that its purpose will be carried out to the fullest extent possible.

Committee on E. P. C. Ready To Present Tentative Plan

The special committee elected by Council to study the re-institution of the Educational Policies Committee has completed its preliminary meetings and formulated proposals for an EPC which will be presented to COAS in a joint meeting today.

The plan calls for a committee, that as a liaison between the students and faculty-administration, will discuss problems concerning specific courses as well as the overall academic policy of the College.

A text of the proposed tentative plan follows:

I. Organization

A. Elections

1. EPC will be elected each September by a combined vote of COAS and Council. COAS members will have two votes

each in this election, while Council members will have one vote each.

2. Membership—There will be separate elections for each division, with candidates chosen from separate sign-up sheets.

3. Two students from each division will be elected, and one from council. There will be nine members on this committee.

B. The committee will elect its own officers.

C. Only students who have completed a full year at Bard will be eligible for election to EPC.

II. Functions

A. EPC will hold open monthly meetings. EPC will cause a mail box to be placed

in the post office for suggestions.

B. By means of the mailbox and at open monthly meetings, EPC will accept criticism on educational matters from students.

C. The committee will seek evidence at open meetings, and at such closed meetings as it deems necessary.

1. No personal discussions will be held at open meetings.

2. All subjects of general schoolwide importance will be discussed in open meetings.

D. The committee will study the problems and submit its findings.

1. To individuals alone when individuals alone are involved.

2. To the faculty if it alone is involved.

3. To the community at large only when the problem is one that necessitates schoolwide knowledge.

E. The individual who originally brought up the problem will be informed of its outcome.

F. The committee will act as a liaison between the faculty-administration and the students.

1. It will inform students of changes in policy or practice but will not criticize such changes itself.

2. It will attempt to discover student opinion in any matter in which the faculty or administration wants to know.

The members of the committee are Bill Deitsch, Fred Feldman, Linda Garfinkle, Bob Marrow and Kathy Robinson. According to the chairman, Fred Feldman, the following are some of the questions to which EPC hopes to find answers in the next few weeks:

1. What is Bard Academic policy?

2. Why are classes becoming larger? What can be done about it?

3. Are we spending enough money on our faculty? Too much on physical improvements and advertising?

4. Can the schedule be more spread out to avoid conflicts?

5. Can freshman science students carry less than 18 credits each semester?

Play Slated For May

The Plough and the Stars by Sean O'Casey will be presented by the Drama Department for four days, May 13, 14, 15, 16 at the theater.

Dr. Leary's Victorian Lit. Class Jolted In Seminar

By Charles Haun

Dr. Paris Leary caused a small sensation in his Victorian Prose and Poetry seminar this week. He devoted the class time to a discussion of characters and situations supposedly in a novel which the class had been assigned to read, and, after the discussion gave a short test on the same material. The sensation was caused by the fact that the characters and situations discussed in class and constituting the subject matter of the test were not in the novel at all, but were pure products of Dr. Leary's own imagination. Most of the members of the seminar are said to have joined in the discussion, feigning knowledge of the fictitious material and also attempted to answer the test questions in the same manner. The explosion occurred when Dr. Leary posted a critique of the farce on the Hegeman Bulletin Board, exposing the abuse of his seminar to the entire community.

The directions of the ensuing student reactions depended, for the most part, on whether or not the particular student reacting was a member of the Victorian Prose and Poetry seminar. Those who were seemed to feel that Dr. Leary's method was "effective and humorous, but unjust." The injustice, they felt, lay in the amount of reading material assigned, which they considered "Too abundant for assimilation in the one week time allotted to them for its

completion," and in the fact that "a class member was singled out to aid in the scheme," implying that this particular student had "never been guilty of not completing an assignment for the class, which seems unlikely."

Students not enrolled in the class felt that this little expose endangered the very life of the seminar system.

No matter how we feel about the manner in which Dr. Leary exposed the abuse of the seminar system, and regardless of who we consider to be responsible for this abuse, we recognize that this exposition is a service to the college. Lip-service is often given to the seminar system, and in the minds of many it has become enshrined. Thoughtless praise and deification of any institution are sure signs of its degeneration, and, in the case of the seminar system, may in themselves constitute the instruments of destruction. Dr. Leary has revealed a critical situation; a situation which calls for united action on the part of every member of the community who is at all interested in the survival of the college; for the death of the seminar system would surely mean the death of Bard College.

The purpose and the possibilities of the seminar system must be carefully reconsidered by each of us. Each of us must fully realize its advantages and under what conditions it can function properly. And above all, student and teacher must work together.

(Continued on Page 2)

EDITORIALS

Student Unity

The final settlement of the social regulations question stands as one of the finest examples of student unity and student-administration cooperation that has occurred at Bard in many years. If not for the active functioning of the two student committees, the social regulations committee and the house presidents' committee, and of community council, the student body would have had to bow to an administrative decree concerning the last two social hours.

However, the student unity which formed behind the leadership of the three organizations enabled the administration to negotiate for a final amicable solution to the problem.

The student body might well take heed at this example of the effectiveness of a united strong voice and apply it to the other problems which now face the college. Particularly, the reinstitution of Educational Policies Committee, the future form of the Bard system, the conflict between financial considerations and the size of classes, the faculty-student ratio and the preservation of the seminar system.

It must be remembered, however, that student responsibility must be present with student unity if it is to have any influence. Just as the opinions of the students on academic matters will not be respected if not responsibly conceived and presented, no amount of unity will prevent the revocation of the present social regulations if student responsibility and good faith ends. We call upon the student body to maintain the unprecedented respect they have shown these regulations so that the controversy that has enveloped the subject of social regulations for so many years may now be forever ended.

E. P. C.

There has been no Educational Policies Committee functioning at Bard since the mass protest resignations of the members of this committee in February of last year. The resignations were ostensibly a reaction to the sudden cancellation of social privileges during the previous winter field period, but these resignations were welcomed by most members of the committee as an end to the increasing hostility and lack of cooperation being shown by the faculty toward the committee.

The special committee set up by Council a month ago to study the situation has prepared a tentative plan for a form of E.P.C. and is ready to discuss it with the faculty's Committee on Academic Standards.

As many of the senior professors at Bard will strongly attest, the E.P.C. of past years was an extremely important liaison with the students in the consideration of specific courses and academic policy, and one which is now sorely missed. However, E.P.C. has not as yet been revived because of continuing resistance from some faculty members, particularly those recently arrived.

We feel that the junior faculty members who have never seen the advantages of an effectively working E.P.C. should take into account its potential value and curtail their paranoiac resistance.

New Name

With this issue we adopt our new name and forever lay down the burden of being confused with the other Bardian which happens to be a literary magazine. The Editors look forward to many days in which not one lifetime collection of somebody's poetry is found in the "Observer" mailbox.

Ergo Ego

By David Frederickson

Alice Grossman's farewell appearance at the theatre, her senior project was, as it should be, the culmination of a varied and interesting series of performances at Bard.

"Variations on a Theme" (to the music of Robert Prince's "N. Y. Export: Opus Jazz") was a fascinating excursion into technical composition, with competent and at times brilliant use of theme and variation, canon, and harmonic forms. The performance suffered some from lack of rehearsal, but was redeemed by moments of really fine precision work by Miss Grossman, Penny Axelrod, and Ellen Kennedy; when it worked, the motifs came across with a vivid clarity.

Subtlety was the keynote of "Three Moods"; perhaps there was a bit too much subtlety. There is always the danger that a too-meditative composition will be neither dramatic nor immediate enough to hold an audience; Miss Grossman did not totally escape the danger in the third of the episodes. (In this judgement, I stand open to vigorous opposition from many of the women in the audience, who tell me that it was, indeed, both dramatic and immediate. Perhaps its failure/success was due to the fact that it was quintessentially feminine?)

"The City" was an experiment in experimentalism; the cacaphonic composition by Stan Kenton (!) provided the base for an amusing and frightening picture of mass movement and individual confusion. The best element was the recurring solid mass of not-quite-mechanical dancers, which provided a foil for Miss Grossman's gal-

Dr. Leary's

(Continued from Page 1)

ther. Let us not point fingers of guilt at one another, let us not create conflict where cooperation must exist.

BOY STUDENT: We've heard this all before.

TEACHER: Yes, yes,—people writing for the newspaper have a tendency to become didactic.

CHORUS: The seminar system is a thing of the past.

GIRL STUDENT: Oh, the modern age moves so fast.

ADMINISTRATOR: What we need is a super market of ideas.

GIRL STUDENT: Would you give green stamps?

TEACHER: Under the existing sociological conditions . . .

BOY STUDENT: It makes one aware of one's impotence.

CHORUS: The discussion of ideas, art and events is futile.

BOY STUDENT: After all, who are we?

CHORUS: Only people.

ECHO: "I am not Prince Hamlet."

GIRL STUDENT: What's the use of it all?

BOY STUDENT: Shall I grow a beard?

ECHO: "I grow old . . . I grow old . . ."

"I shall wear the bottoms of my trousers rolled."

vanized lyrical solo at the end. And in the end solo, with consummate artistry, she gathered together, crystallized, and finally discarded the thematic movements introduced in the group section.

* * *

Arthur Tress' film, which closed the program, introduced quite a different note. The skill of Miss Grossman and Midge Bacon was clearly demonstrated in their improvisations; but whatever artistry there was—and whatever lack of continuity and dramatic effect—was due to Mr. Tress' work. Much of the photography was superb; his skill cannot be denied. Most of the editing was pointed and relevant, but sometimes ragged and technically disturbing. The theme of the two rival sisters, playing dominant and subservient roles, is unfortunately trite, overworked, and unenlightening; the film was saved from being a crashing bore—and completely saved, at that—by the undeniable technical skill and intrinsic interest of all concerned, and not by projection of any particularly new or clear insight.

But as an experiment in film making, I cannot but cheer it. This is an interesting and creative use of a demanding medium, and more work in future projects will be much appreciated.

From the Antioch Record

April 7, 1961—

Social Regulations

After ten weeks of debate, memos, letters and campus-wide discussions, last quarter's Comcil approved a resolution temporarily curtailing open hall hours. The change will not become official until passed by this quarter's Council. . . . The open hall issue was raised by President Dixon in an assembly speech second week. At that time the president declared that "we have achieved a utopian unrealism in standards of community living."

Claiming that it was "impossible to combat" an alleged adverse public image, Dixon announced that our standards remarkably offend the propriety of the broader community" and should be carefully reconsidered.

Freshmen Dorms?

The College Hawk, Rockhurst, cited in Antioch Record.

On mixed halls: "The advantages would be numerous. Freshmen would then be in contact with students experienced in what to expect from college and what the college expects from them."

"They would be exposed to a new, higher level of thinking. They would have someone on which to pattern themselves. An elimination of childishness would necessarily follow, either from good will, shame or fear."

Letters to The Editor

Manhood

To the Editors of the Bardian:

A letter from Albee.

It is not that we in Albee do not get aesthetic gratification from the color "pink". Pink is certainly one of God's colors. Without the color pink, the Saturday Evening Post would be in grave straits indeed. It is merely that we have been taught that pink is a little girl's color. Boys' booties are blue and girls' are pink, everyone knows that.

One would think that the walls on the second floor of Albee could have been painted black, blue, brown or some other masculine color. If we had to have pink, couldn't it have been a subtle pink; a pink that at least would foster the illusion that we are living in a boys' dormitory?

It is with great dismay we observe that to add insult to injury the first floor is being painted a shocking yellow. We in Albee are proud of our manhood. We would not want the outside world to think that there was something suspicious about it. Bard's reputation, "its public image", is at stake! We humbly request the administration to acknowledge our maleness and give us our "blue booties" back.

May Day

The Bard Community is to experience a gala May Day celebration even grander than the one last year when six unknown Bard "virgins" danced around a soggy Maypole before the rest of the Community had dragged itself to breakfast. The Community is urged to participate in this gala to institute a tradition for succeeding generations at Bard. The existing custom at Bard, the Boar's Head Dinner, is the only hand-me-down from St. Stephens. It is appalling that we must revert to pagan festivals to build traditions for succeeding Bardians. Moreover, May Day has become one of the primary holidays for the godless world behind the Iron Curtain. Must we partake in a heathen feasting ceremony, and an ancient fertility rite which is a holiday of the proletarian revolt to give future Bardians a more meaningful Community? If the administration is to worry about public image, should it not stamp out pagan festivals and Communist holidays? Has not Bard suffered enough for its godlessness and its red hue?

Traditions have customarily had spontaneous roots. They have been built up in response to popular demand and are part of the character of the institution. Since Bard has had a short and stormy history as a liberal institution, it has not had the opportunity to develop its own traditions; perhaps the character of such an institution is traditionless. If Bard is to have traditions with meaning, they should be allowed their spontaneous origins.

Sincerely,

STEPHEN M. CAHN

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THE BARD OBSERVER, the official publication of the Bard College Community, is issued every two weeks during the Fall and Spring Semesters.

Energy Marks Myers' Recital

J. S. Bach—Partia No. 4
Beethoven—Sonata in E flat, op. 27, No. 1
Ben Weber—Episodes for Piano, op. 28a
Schubert—Two Impromptus:
F minor, op. 142, No. 1
E flat, op. 90, No. 2
Schumann—Etudes Symphoniques

As Gordon Myers approached the piano in Bard Hall he exhibited marks of great energy and impatience. Both these qualities were in evidence throughout his recital, which, to this listener, was a notable success. Obviously anxious to get on with the music, Mr. Myers would start to play immediately upon sitting down, and his breaks between movements were remarkably short, all of which lent to his playing an air of precipitation, a tension released only by his absolute concentration (and consequently, ours) on the matter at hand, that quite magical communication of his feelings about a few haphazard ink-marks on a piece of lined paper.

From the outset, a relentless individualism characterized his performance, a high content of personality, which could have been (and was, in some quarters) mistaken for idiosyncrasy. The Bach Partita showed an admirable disregard for detail, a tendency to blur phrases, and a bit too much propulsiveness, which appeared in some uneven *crescendi*. Unlike Noel Lee's Bach, this was an essentially romantic conception, but unquestionably musical. His affinity for music of the romantic persuasion made the Beethoven, and especially the Schubert, real which he brought a big but controlled tone and an equally high points, on a program to large conception. With an un-

compromisingly unpleasant, if well-made, Weber, the Schumann war-horse (which, like that of the Greeks, proved in this representation to contain some surprises), and a definitively short encore (The Brahms Intermezzo in B flat), Mr. Myers convinced at least one auditor of his ability to handle intelligently works of any period. We can only hope, in view of future successes, that he will come to temper a certain impression of haste, which might lose him potential friends among those who are influenced (God knows why) by a performer's visual aspect.

T.E.B.

Spivak Working On Large Murals

Mr. Max Spivak, assistant professor of art, is now completing two architectural murals. The first, for the United Parcel Service, is a blocklong facade for their new terminal building at 43rd Street and 11th Avenue in New York City. Composed of one inch square and triangular tiles, its soft orange theme will depict various aspects of packaging. The architects, Abbott and Merkt, have planned this against an uninterrupted background of larger ochre tiles.

The other, for Warner Lambert pharmaceuticals, is in Morris Plains, New Jersey. Its theme of research in motion is carried out in Venetian glass mosaics and stainless steel insertions, set in relief on precast concrete. Walter Kidde is the constructor.

Mr. Spivak has also completed murals for Charles Pfeiser, Johnson and Johnson, another for Warner Lambert, and many others.

Law Schools to Demand Tests of Writing Skills

Princeton, N. J., April 14—In the future, prospective law students will need to pay more attention to the development of their writing skill and their knowledge of this country's cultural background.

Beginning next November, the Law School Admission Test, now required by 86 of the nation's law schools, will include separate tests of writing ability and general background. This announcement was made today by the executive committee of the Law School Admission Test Policy Committee at the Conference of Western Law Schools, meeting at Stanford University, Palo Alto, California.

The 80-minute writing ability test is designed to measure the student's command of grammar and diction as well as his ability to recognize verbose or unclear writing. It will test his skill in organizing ideas and require him to demonstrate his competence by re-writing and editing prose passages. The main purpose of the test of general background is to measure the student's awareness of the intellectual and cultural context in which the law functions.

Alumnus Named Biology Prof.

President Kline has announced that Dr. Henry Kritzler will join the faculty next semester as associate professor of biology.

Dr. Kritzler, who is a graduate of Bard '38, is currently at the Florida State University Marine Laboratory, engaged in ecological research and will teach a graduate course there in physiological ecology this summer. He earned his M.S. and Ph.D. in zoology at the

State University of Iowa.

The new professor has held a variety of jobs, including positions at Duke University Marine Laboratory and at Marineland. He was a research associate and assistant professor of biology at the College of Charleston in South Carolina and for the last two years resident director of the Lerner Marine Laboratory, Bimini, Bahamas.

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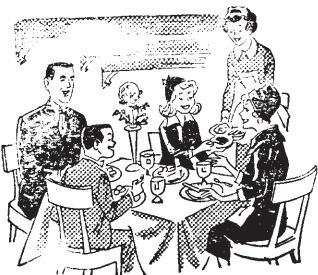
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Softball Team Optimistic About Current Season

by De Kault

The Bard softball team is getting ready for what they hope to be a successful season. The team was disappointed last Friday when a game scheduled with Orange County Community College was canceled when the Orange team failed to attend.

The team's captain, Ralph Levine, says he thinks the team will do fairly well against the local town team which are composed of men who practice together year after year.

The main hope of the team hangs on the right arm of their new pitcher, Mark Bernstein. Mark is the first fast ball pitcher Bard has had in many years and it is hoped that he can control the ball consistently. Mark will be spelled by Richard Greener. Don Avirom is the catcher.

Bob Knight will play first for Bard. It is hoped that Bob's bat will aid the team considerably. Mike Goth will play second for Bard. In practice games this season, Mike hit the ball with far more authority than he had last season. Alan Skvirsky, at short, and Ralph Levine, at third, are also veterans of last season's games.

Bob Epstein, the team's left fielder, and Bob Marrow, in center, played in the infield last year, Epstein at short and Marrow behind the plate. It is hoped that this year they can help to solve Bard's outfield problems. Last season, Bob Marrow was the team's leading slugger.

For right field and short field, the team can call upon a promising crop of new players: Lane Sarazon, Marc Lipsius, Lew Millenbach, and Lenny Leokum.

Bard Bows Twice To Orange Team

The Bard tennis team dropped its first two matches of the season to the Orange County Community College team. A match scheduled for last Saturday with Union College was postponed because of rain.

Although the matches were lost by scores of 7-0 and 7-1, improvement was seen in the Bard team's second appearance, particularly, according to Coach Charles Patrick, in the number of games won. The sole win in the season's second match was obtained by Arnold Mellk, who beat Dave Millikan 6-1, 6-1.

Others results are as follows:

Singles

Socher vs. Rendon 2-6, 7-5, 2-6.
Medary vs. Benedict 2-6, 1-6.
Klein vs. Writer 7-5, 3-6, 0-6.
Nisenon vs. Moore 1-6, 2-6.
Lynes vs. Crowley 1-6, 0-6.

Doubles

Mellk and Klein vs. Benedict and Rendon 3-6, 0-6.
Socher and Medary vs. Millikan and Writer 4-6, 6-3, 5-7.

Fun, Fun, Fun For May Day

by Charlotte Hinkelbottom

The May Pole, a tradition at Bard for some years, will appear on the Hegeman lawn again today. A May Day Celebration (entirely un-political) has been planned by various elves and spirits to recognize this significant day, which usually marks the true arrival of spring.

Festivities planned are, at 4:30, dancing on the lawn by the children's dance classes of Judith Jacobs, followed by readings of pastoral poetry by the Professors Goodheart, Wanning, and Weiss; at 5:30, an all-campus picnic supper served from the gym, with faculty and especially faculty children invited; and, after supper, folk singing begun by a group of faculty children under the direction of Mrs. Charles Patrick. All these events will take place on the Hegeman lawn. A singing recital at 8:30 in Bard Hall, by someone will carry out the spirit of the day, although it is not directly connected with the May Day program.

The possibility of rain necessitated arrangements for all of the program to be given in the gym, but good weather will allow everything to take place on the lawn as planned.

Classes In Folk Dance Offered Twice Weekly

Folk dance workshops have begun again. They are open to anyone who is interested in learning folk dancing. Participants receive gym credit. The workshops are usually held Tuesday, 8:00 to 9:00 p.m., and Saturdays, 3:00 to 5:00 in the gym. Since three hours are available, students who wish to may take all their gym credits in folk dancing.

At the beginning of the program, basic steps and simple dances were taught, but as the program progresses more complicated dances will also be taught. Among the dances that have been done are: Mayim, Hineh Ma Tov, Bo

Dodi (Israeli), the Russian Two-Step, Mehol Ovadia (Arabic), and Road to the Isles (Scottish).

The classes are taught primarily by Susan Gorman and Eve Odiorne, but anyone who knows any dances is invited to come and teach. Some records have already been bought for the classes by the Physical Education Department, and the amount of interest and participation in the classes will determine the amount of further support the Department will give. If interest is sufficient, could become a permanent part of the physical education program.

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