Max Lerner, political scientist and warpper columnist, strongly supported
women's dismissal of MacArthur in an
dress at Bard College last week.

The second annual conference of
the world is an important event for
students and foreign delegates.

He stated that there are two major
difficulties involved in the present
condition: 1) What should we do in
Asia? This is a problem of policy.
2) This is a fact, not a problem and there can be two
points of view on the constitutional ques-
tion. In a revolution in every
Civilization, is not by the military.

Every Man Must Take Sel.

Dr. Robinson has notified us that the
parsen for the college catalogue is
underway. Any suggestions as to sten-
doctor or improvement of present
blatant will be welcomed.

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will enable the college to establish the
Alumnae Fairbanks Scholar.

President Case urges all male students
take the selective service test which will
be administered in the dormitories.

Note: Men cannot be deferred.

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General Mac’s homecoming seems to have been a signal for a growing concern over our foreign policy. One of the most respected of American Republicans. He is also one of the lowest, most critical and most parochial spokesmen against the Truman policy.

In a free-swinging speech in the United States Chamber of Commerce on May 1, Taft advocated a triad of MacArthur’s plans. That means the bombing of Communist bases in Manchuria, blockade of China, and the use of Chinese Nationalist troops in Korea.

In the very same speech crying for an aggressive foreign policy, Taft asserted that the cost of maintaining an armed force of 3,500,000 men will eventually be sui­cided for the American people and called for a reduction of the armed forces by half a million. He also advised cutting the mobilization budget by twenty billion dollars. “Apparently Senator Taft hasn’t realized that a war requires lots and money to be successful.”

Taft’s insight into foreign affairs has always been wrong, as the following excerpts from his various speeches will show. In 1939 Taft said that America had pursued a policy of neutrality for a 150 year period and that it had always been successful in staying out of war. (HISTORIAN TAFT HAS OBVIOUSLY FORGOTTEN ABOUT THE MINOR WARS OF 1812, 1846, 1898 AND 1918.)

The misinterpretation of world trends can be found in Taft’s statements, in 1939, that “There is no future for the world, which threatens to overwhelm Europe and France, and march on to attack the United States.” (“MacKenny” had been published long ago; second world war started only seven months later.)

In January 1941 Taft blandly declared: “It is simply fantastic to suppose that there is any danger of an attack on the United States by Japan . . . .” Also in 1941, Taft stated: “There is much less danger to this country from Hitler today than there was the year before.” (NO COMPLAINT.)

War seems to be an obvious thing to Taft; it’s something he reads about in books. His ideological approach to war can be seen in his statement that “The way to keep out of war is to remain neutral.” (Sure. You can remain neutral with the gypsy gang. But don’t you want war.)

Misinterpretation of world affairs is a Taft trademark. Another is his as­sumption of ability to contradict his own opinions. In 1944, asking for a league of nations, Taft declared that the United States and its allies would join an organization of sovereign nations, with power to employ force to prevent military aggression. Yet Truman said of the six senators who voted against America’s entrance into the United Nations. “(MAYBE YOU COULD SPARE TIME TO RE-READ YOUR OLD SPEECHES, SENATOR.)”

Mr. Republican doesn’t believe in following his party’s platform, even though he is acknowledged to be its leading spokesman and a proponent of its policies. After saying in 1944 that “The Republican platform clearly implies that the main reliance will be on the national forces called into action by the league.” Senator Taft, on January 5, added that Taft “had no authority whatever to commit American troops without congressional approval.” “The President”; continued Taft, “simply usurped authority, in violation of the laws of the Constitution.”

When the President asked me to thank you for your aid in our military effort, Mr. Taft, as a presidential aspirant for the Republican nomination in 1944, Taft de­crded Truman for his “soft policy toward communism.” He believed in an ad­ministration which “undergoes regulation and spending.” Therefore, Taft concluded that we should wage an all-out aggressive war in Korea, show our strength and power to the Communists and for all. But to do this, he advises huge reductions in our military establishment and “reorganized the armed forces so that we have only one general in Germany and ten in Korea.” He expects to maintain a decisive stand against Russian Communism without enough men and arms, without spending money for the prosecution of a war, which he urges in his negative, contradictory way, has yet to be explained.

Foreign Policy During the Fourth International Student Weekend the BARDIAN conducted a public opinion poll on some major foreign policy issues. Thirty foreign students representing more than a representative number of our faculty and Administration members were polled. Here are the cumulative results:

I. On the whole are you in agreement with President Truman’s foreign policy speech of April 11?

YES 109 NO 27 DON’T KNOW 19

II. Do you think President Truman acted correctly in terminating General MacArthur of his military command?

YES 124 NO 18 DON’T KNOW 8

III. Do you think Congress should express itself in favor of sending 2 million tons of wheat to India immediately?

YES 123 NO 12 DON’T KNOW 15

IV. In a crisis do you favor civilian or military control over foreign policy?

YES FOR CIVILIAN; NO FOR MILITARY:

YES 123 NO 11 DON’T KNOW 18

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WASHINGTON

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Barbara Melnick

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William Lewis

John Reuben Kennedy

Carolyn Herz

Contributors

May Minnigerode, Jr.

Eunice O’Brien, Jr.

Peter Whitmore

Andrew Ashlund

Robert Sellars

Robert Amsterdam

Arnold Lundy

Whitney Bolton

James Levin

Rita Williams

To what extent are you concerned about foreign policy?

YES 109 NO 27 DON’T KNOW 19

Dear Mr. Johnson:

May I take this opportunity to ex­tend to you and the members of your staff my congratulations on Issue 4 of the BARDIAN. It is great.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Faye J. Carman, Chairman

Board of Trustees of Bard College

(Editors’ note: Thank you to the German. Your word of commenda­tion leaves us with new incentive to strive for even better issues in the future.)

Letters to the Editor

April 32, 1951

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

NO

NO

NO

NO

NO

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Ted Weiss Widely Hailed on Publication of The Catch; Readers Find Moment of Oblivion in Selected Poems

By ANDREW ASHLUND

Although the editors of Mr. Weiss' The Catch, the book's publishers, have labeled the poems "selected poems," this fact in no way prepares us for the uncertainty that we are forced to acknowledge the reality of the situation, that the "moment" is the wheel as the wheel must, "as the season..."

In the first of Mr. Weiss' Later Poems, "A Commonwealth," he has dealt with a theme which might very well be "The There" for the majority of Western poets—namely Christ. The title is ambiguous in that, for the first sixteen lines, Mr. Weiss seems to be talking about the poems that will more that re-tell a theme so old as Christian civilization. But within these sixteen lines the third stanza of the poem becomes a place of the earth, and of the blood. In the next stanza a picture of Christ is drawn as being more mortal and susceptible to the pride, just and pain of this world than our myths have shown us. By its conclusion "The Commonwealth" has narrowed to assert the nature in its theme in terms of our most eternal symbols; but the garden had its malt as well. For the shepherds, far inland, blood words, they tricked into a snare their cattle sucked for salt. "The Commonwealth," then, has taken on a multiplicity of meanings; from the common sentiment to the common (i.e. universal) ground in which Christ's beliefs still flourish.

Through the accruement of judgments and insights shown in the Early Poems and of the Later Poems, "Shades of Caesar" becomes the most comprehensive attempt to depict and, perhaps, to solve the dilemmas of our times. Mr. Weiss has returned, as have all poets of our time, to the past; but, it seems, for a unique purpose. From allusions to the fall of Rome to the sleep of the world, Mr. Weiss once sees a disillusionment that all of us see in one form or another.

(When I consider that Alexander at my age had conquered so many nations and I have done nothing memorable, have I not just cause to weep?)

Yet, however much of our decay the poem shows us, it is not shaped in the vein of despair's pattern. In view, ultimately, is one of a civilization which has narrowed to assert, "Shades of Caesar," because of its length and scope, also gives us an opportunity to prove or disprove certain facts about Mr. Weiss' form observed in the shorter poems. Two devices seem to appear consistently in the whole of "The Catch"; the parenthesis (if it can be called a device) the inclusion of more than one idea or emotion in a single sentence. Indeed, the latter device includes the use of the parenthesis, for both devices are, apparently, intended to strengthen and intensify the unity of each poem. Little need be said here about the movement in our times toward sense rather than sound rhythms, but that many of Mr. Weiss' poems tend to appeal most strongly to the eye.

It is gratifying to note that, although the sustenance of a sentence may make up several stanzas, there is not infringement upon our logic in "The Catch"; accounts, descriptions and occasionally asides are included in the single sentence. A simple definition of the sentence (A complete thought) may give us a much clearer understanding of the poet's language.

Although it has been suggested that it would be best to keep biographical and poetological considerations separate in attempting to fully understand a poet's work, I am sure that not even Eliot would condone the practice of first attempting to draw one's own conclusions on a subject and then referring to a poet who has written on that subject. This practice will, intentionally or not, be followed by some readers of "The Catch" for many of Mr. Weiss' references are very close to us, here at Bard. Perhaps some of the readers of "The Catch" will leave the poems with an awareness of three experiences and perceptions which have been presented to us; that awareness is, ultimately, the highest tribute one can pay a poet.

OKUDA FINDS BARD "Worthwhile"

"Students are not taking as much opportunity of their professors as they could," said Mr. Kenji Okuda, newly-appointed professor in economics to the faculty of the Social Science Division of Bard College. Mr. Okuda replaces Dr. George Rosen, assistant professor of economics who resigned in December to take a position with the Department of State in Washington, D. C.

"But the whole, Mr. Okuda finds the Bard educational program novel and "extremely worthwhile" to him personally. He considers it fascinating in its possibilities. Asked what he thinks about Bard's venture in community government, he found it premature to render any final judgment, realising that Bard is aiming for the "most sophisticated form of democratic self-government."

A graduate of Oberlin College, Mr. Okuda received his B.A. degree in economics from Harvard University where he is now completing the requirements for his Ph.D. degree. He has taught at Marshall College, Lancaster, Pa. and during the past two years has been visiting assistant professor of economics at the University of Puerto Rico.

He is writing his Ph.D. thesis on the "Industrial Development of Puerto Rico." Mr. Okuda has been highly impressed by Puerto Rico's government program to increase the standard of living of their people. The government is to be commended for its "willingness to take advice from economists and other social scientists." Puerto Rico has become the "most comprehensive playground for the social scientists." Mr. Okuda considers Louis Munro, the popularly-elected Governor of Puerto Rico, "one of the greatest statesmen of our time," who enjoys the complete confidence of his people and foreign governments alike. Mr. Okuda attempted to assassinate President Truman has no popular following at all and represents only a small, fanatically emotional, nationalistic minority which has no counterpart in every country.

Mr. Okuda is particularly interested in studying the pattern evolving from the interplay between a culture and its economy. Its transition. The Point initiated Project 4 programs must be based on similar lines in the Channel Islands and in the Channel Islands. The Point 4 programs undertaken by the US should be worked main­ly with people in the social services and education with no political strings attached whatsoever. Now most of the funds go for technical improvements. Taking a long-range point of view, how­ever, "most of these programs should be inverted. Most of the energy and funds should be set aside for basic education, health improvements and basic agricultural reforms, in order to pres­pare the backward people for demo­cracy."

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alliances with the democratic countries throughout the world to work with the United Nations.

We are confronted with four failurces: 1) We can fighl our way to peace. The armament race must stop unless we are to engage in a World War. It is crucial that we put a limit to armaments and attempt to end the cold war, otherwise we face tragedy in terms of our economic, social and civil liberties.

The second failurce: We can buy our way into peace. Lerner was for the Marshall Plan and the Point Four program, but he said that we should get over the Marshall Plan with gratitude. Our reaction to India's request for financial aid made us believe we wish to buy political allegiance as the price for our humanitarian assistance without recognizing that in a world split into two large camps, a "third force" is invaluable as a mediatiu agent.

The third failurce: We can have alliances with reactionary forces, for examplu, France in Spain, Adenauer in Germany, and the OIL locals in the Arab states. In these cases we lose more than we gain because of alliances. Confronting the movements and the liberals who remember what these groups have represented and done.

The fourth failurce: We can build walls against ideas from outside our country or by hunting ideas inside.

In the opinion of the Kenya student, Geninions are not necessarily dangerous ideas, and all countries, no matter how far one is, is committed to the political problems.

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