Shor Voices O.K. On Social Ruling

Dr. Shor, psychological counselor for Bard College, was recently interviewed on the current question of Dean Casady’s freshman orientation program. We were especially concerned with two aspects of this question, (1) whether we feel, concern the campus at large, and (2) whether the need for subjecting women to a different, and more restricted program than men.

In brief, Dr. Shor believes that the development of an orientation program needs to be beyond the present setup. He points out that his experience to date would allow him to comment on the Casady Plan in particular. I shall give, in essence, Dr. Shor’s explanation of his position on the orientation program.

The freshman comes to college, any college, with many hopes, ideals and fantasies for his wonderful big step toward becoming an adult. At the same time, however, the young man or woman is aware of the burden of life. The college, however, does not take his experience to date. In order to provide him with the security of equality, he must have the freedom for men.

The long run social freedom will always imply a different freedom for the different sexes, largely because they have different emotional requirements. Men do not want the same thing, emotionally or psychologically, as women. The social freedom of the two sexes is different at the same time.

This is not to say that women must be restricted in a reactionary sense: a return to an old fashioned lock–up gym, etc., etc., but it does mean that their orientation program must differ from the orientation program for men. Further, Dr. Shor believes that, in general, young women today are more confused than men, and consequently are less susceptible to sexual shock than are the men. Women are beginning to seek for a new kind of fulfillment in living, but this new fulfillment has the potentiality of achieving for women essentially different roles than the men’s. Young women (and their parents), however, are not fully prepared by their tradition to know

Cassidy Explains Freshman Rule

(To the following are excerpts from the Dean’s prompt report, with some emprunonymous interpolations, as made to Convocation on Friday, March 10, 1950)

When I came to Bard last July, I expected to be permitted to begin my new duties by playing the part of an observer. I intended to devote my first year primarily to observing how the academic administration, faculty, and social organizations of the College function and to familiarizing myself with individuals’ attributes. As a result, you all know, I not only had to begin immediately to make decisions as a Dean; I also had to undertake many of the duties of the President as well. As a newcomer, and unexpectedly responsible to the Trustees for finding solutions to current problems on the campus, I immediately began to feel frustrated by the inadequacy of the customary means of communication, either for securing or disseminating necessary information. Chief Justice Holmes once said, “A house that takes the place of the old, com­fortable, sheltered ways of life must be thrown overboard, and these result some conflict between being responsible and not being responsible. Added to

A House Divided Cannot Stand Lincoln

I should like to thank the editors of the Bardian for affording me this chance to present my views on the current question of the Dean’s recent action on Freshman Dorms.

Like most of you, I was shocked and hurt to see our community government in the personnel of the faculty, with­out any conflict between being responsible and not being responsible.

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Community Gov’t Dead—Segal

At the convocation meeting on Friday, March 2, Mr. Cassidy held the title of Community action in the College. I would like to thank the editors of the Bardian for affording me this chance to present my views on the current question of the Dean’s recent action on Freshman Dorms.

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Continued On Page 4
"H" Bomb vs YOU

Bard Forum: Red, Trotskyist Liberal Agree On Civil Liberties

One of the most pressing problems of our time, "Is the Hydrogen-bomb man's undoing?", came under formal discussion Thursday. At a joint meeting of the Natural Science, Saint Stephens Society, and Social Science Club members, a vast audience heard a scientific, moral, and social review by speakers from these fields.

President Fuller, former professor of chemistry and member of the Manhattan District (A-bomb project) panel, opened the panel discussion with a well qualified talk on the mechanics of nuclear reactions. A description of subatomic particles and the principles of the fission type reaction (characteristic of the original A-bomb) culminated with the principles of the new fusion type H-bomb. The relation of equivalence of mass and energy as well as the famous Einstein equation E=m^2 was one of the most understandable and rigorous explanations of the physical condition of an H-bomb.

The findings of Nuclear Radiation Biology, which deals with the effects of nuclear radiation on the human organism, were presented by Bill Smith. A well-known expert, Smith opened his field under Dr. H. S. Martland, one of the originators and leading men in this science. The profound and shocking reactions of the body to air, water, and food, the induction of pathological developments yet unknown, were the first part of his discussion. Counterbalancing applications of atomic energy such as the use of the crucial elements in metallurgy, and engineering were recognized. Bill closed with an optimism that the most important consequences of the release of atomic energy as one set of directions not as yet predictable.

The Reverend Fuessle spoke of the spiritual considerations in the production and use of the new weapon. He read a statement from the Council of Church People stating their intension to save the world to bring their deadlock to an end and begin positive steps to insure peace of the world.

The problem of the bomb in relation to society was given by Miss Ruth Gilliard, Assistant Professor of Sociology, and one of the organizers of UNICEF. Miss Gilliard opened the belief that we will have international cooperation only when we find out more about human relations and the aims of individual and groups.

When this knowledge is gained, Miss Gillard continued, we shall be able to control or sublimiate destructive tendencies; until then, it is impossible to bridge the gap with a firm hand of strength and work within the organization of international control.

Bill Cameron gave a brief historical review of the United States' position since the start of the atomic age. He said that the world belongs to the U.S. for developing such an absolute weapon and its resiling uncertainties. The world, he said, is full of suspicion that must not be dispelled through misconceptions of which nations of people can be affected through propaganda, exchange of mail, and a general lowering of the barriers to travel.

In audience discussion that followed, Dr. Wells expressed the belief that the world peace could be attained only through a conscious opposition to the guilt that everyone has of being responsible for the B- and H-bomb. He argued that the members of the congregation personified the meeting in a joint letter to Congressmen urging them to act for peace in this emergency.

A new president is to be chosen in a very short time. What kind of a man is he? We are in-timate with education, possess outstanding qualities of personality, and be a capable administrator. His ideas must be fresh and adventurous, his mind re-ceptive to the needs and suggestions of the community. He must be sympa-thetic with Bard's basic philosophy and the educational policies outlined in the catalogue.

We are hopefully on the verge of a permanent solution to the atomic crisis we have been having an economic crisis for years. This college has faced financial situations before. It has al-ways pulled through successfully. For the past few years, however, the educat-ional process has been mediocre. There has been a lack of education for stagnation and decadence. Because it lacks both institution and tradition, Bard must constantly be in flux, never ending the search for improvement. Without nationalization, the B- and H-bomb will be moreover. Every teacher must possess educational enthusiasm, ambition and ability. Each must excite experiential education among us. Mr. Lavin, you said, that Convictions would care to speak. Dave Evinger, a former student of the Bard Forum, returned a brief resume of the successful infiltration of communists into American life and the excessive oppression of the same. The Commodore's articles on some other legislation to avoid this evil.

Salem

He and his foot (do not stairs)!

And his betrayed to his crutch, hands unshade, all the laiding undone,

All the color of him ashen, Sat.

Box of many colors, all wound, Showered, is on the concrete And I passed.

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as satisfactorily as possible under the new circumstances. We also hope that the Board, which would become a joint student-faculty administration committee to implement this program, the situation would be improved.

You will remember that in my motion of last Monday night, in which I proposed that the Admissions Office be opened on Tuesday night, it was obviously contradicted that statement. Therefore I am happy for this opportunity to explain and admit mistake of my own. I realized before even talking to the Dean, that it was impossible from a practical point of view for the admission to withdraw their plan, since it had been publicly proclaimed and women students had been accepted on that basis.

In other words, we are confronted with a "fait accompli." Whether we like it or not, a definite statement of policy has been made and publicized.

Indeed the Dean has acknowledged this mistake and expressed his regret, as well as promised to refer such questions in the future to the Community Government. We may look forward to hearing from him on that basis.

To say that Community Government is dead because one issue was not submitted for approval, seems on that basis.

The understanding which Brandon, Frank, and I reached on Tuesday night obviously contradicts that statement. Therefore I am happy for this opportunity for the year of 1951-52 be submitted to the Community Government, let me urge you to make every effort to help, the efforts of this committee coincided with my own analysis of the program, for I assumed it to be a determined effort to gain the funds which our college needs to survive. It is my honest opinion that Bard is still exceptional and excellent enough to attract liberal, money. How­ever, no one will invest in a house divided.

What I have said should not be construed as allowing no place for street disagreement; for differences of opinion are the signs of a living democracy.

Finally, let me vigorously urge that early in November I also drafted the contents of a statement of this experimental change in educational policy and announcement were to stimulate Admissions for next year; the President, as a matter of fact, had been asked for, earlier than the normal time for the Admissions Office, to explain and admit a mistake of my own. I realized therefore it is no longer worth proving.

I should like to emphasize that these quotations of what has seemed to me obvious are offered as an explanation for my decision to announce publicly the" inertia of the Organizational Committee of The Freshman Year as Orientation." I am making this report in hope of dispelling mis­

This is certainly much work to be done in this field, and excellent enough to attract liberal. money. How­ever, no one will invest in a house divided.

I pointed out the necessity of taking constructive action, so what are we waiting for?

USiren of what I have said seemed to me obvious are offered as an explanation for my decision to announce publicly the renewal of Congress had before it a bill that would permit Bard to become a coeducational institution. It was arrived at during the Field Period, when the absence from the campus of most faculty members and students made it impossible to follow other com­munity procedures of consultation or formal action.

In the autumn, when the President became ill and the primary responsibility for the continuing suc­cess of the Bard program had temporarily been stopped, the need to stimulate wider understanding and appreciation of what Bard can uniquely offer to students became obvious. In a communal effort to help, the Student Educational Policies Committee undertook to investigate how this end could be achieved. The efforts of this committee coincided with my own analysis of the program, for I assumed it to be primarily a matter of Educational Policy, which in turn would affect all Admissions and Public Relations. Success would, in my opinion, require securing more adequate dormitory facilities and strengthening our orientation program for prospective students. Accordingly, I began asking others to suggest ways and means. Various possibilities were discussed informally at a meeting of E.P.C., and also with the Faculty Policy Committee. Also at a Faculty meeting I pointed out the necessity of taking constructive actions in the near future and reported on a number of possibilities that had been recommended by many secondary school officials, parents, alumni and trustees.

Reaching a decision concerning what actions should be taken was, however, complicated by the fact that Congress had before it a bill that would permit Bard to secure the funds necessary to build a new dormitory. Before June 15th, when joint session of Congress was to adjourn, I was uncertain that the administration affianced their willingness to do so, but they would be encouraged if it would be the finest pro­gress in public opinion for the world in Bard to announce that since the new freshman orientation program is in operation it is not the question of hypocrisy that bothers me as much as the idea of being used dishonestly by some segments of our college who are more interested in what we look like from the outside, rather than how clean we are within. No crisis at Bard is extreme enough to dictate a policy which is undemocratic, and then ask us, the "Community," to help in the face-saving. We would be the tool of the administration.

If we continue as a body called "Community Government," we are living a lie.
There has been a controversy on the Community Government by the students to participate in the formulation and administration of the standards and regulations UNDER WHICH THEY LIVE. Students, faculty, administrative staff and other residents of the campus form the legislative body, the Convocation of Bard College. An elected Community Council, made up of representatives of all these groups, is EMPowered TO GUIDE AND CONTROL ALL SOCIAL ACTIVITIES and to take action tending to promote the general welfare. This is a clear delegation of authority and has always been subject to administrative revocation. The following statements in the Newsletter of Feb. 1960 constitute in my mind, the fourth revocation. In an article by Dean Stanley, entitled "New Program at Bard," the following pertinent statements appear.

Ceremonial authorities will be re-served for Freshmen — and — Between specific hours all freshmen women will be required to be within the walls of their own dormitories.

I must remind readers that no exception is being taken to this program.

Rather, I wish to show the contradiction which exists.

The difference between the Catalogue of 1950-51 and the Feb. '50 Newsletter cannot be denied. One grants full control of SOCIAL conditions to the Community Government. The other, under the signature of an administrative officer clearly restricts the actions of the Government. In another sense, one segment of the community (the administrative officer) exercise its rights to regulate another segment of the community. I am now forced to question the truth of the catalogue statement on Community Government's position as the group which controls SOCIAL conditions.

I maintain that we know our sphere of competence and that the Freshman Program has set down a policy which makes Community Government helpless in a large part of its stated objective.

Under this ruling the community could not propose the two following hypothetical statements for legislation.

All freshmen shall live in rooms with sophomores and juniors in order to facilitate their integration into the community.

Or there shall be no hours specified for students to return to dorms at any time, since the Bard System is designed to develop maturity, and such regimentation would tend to retard an adult outlook.

The above could, before this term, have been considered by the community. They certainly come within the sphere of the SOCIAL life of the community. At this time neither could be considered as legislation. They are in opposition to the previous Newsletter. I now am forced to question the truth of our current statements in the Newsletter of Feb. 1960. I now am forced to consider the Newsletter of Feb. 1960 as a document cut from a catalogue.

I believe now that what we have is called a Community Government which can no longer operate under the accepted definition. I call for a clear statement from the administration (where the legal responsibility and power resides) as to what it means in an incompletely understood modern society.

Wally Kaufman

Neuman Proposes Mag.

It is both sad and strange that Bard College does not have a magazine of literary and intellectual achievement. Sad, because this is a school devoted to creative work in all fields, and because such work is in a rich abundance here, yet is generally unsettling our unhallowed Strange, because this school is founded on co-operative learning, a school that is intent on recognizing individual achievement of all kinds. Strange, also, because the idea has been continually suggested, yet no action has been taken. So it is that a practical step is taken—especially at this time. We are in a period of questioning and change, and in such a period it is essential to move in this direction.

Time, then, to bring together the now isolated and undervalued creative work of all fields, to publish for our own benefit the poems and scientific papers, the stories, literary essays, sociological and historical researches, to recognize merit where it exists and share our triumphs with each other and especially of artists from one another. A magazine, both in the special workout of its creation and as a product, is a medium of exchange, a challenge to isolation. But these are only general reasons for such a magazine. Specifically, it would serve to publicize Bard. For if the magazine were printed only for the Bard community at first, in some homes it is presented I would be strong in favor of a critical examination of its contents in order to determine the propriety of the name of the magazine, and any changes which might be necessary. Nor shall it be a mere organ of the delegated authority.

Wally Kaufman

Music at Bard Hall

George Finckel, cellist and Lionel Nowak, pianist, Tuesday, February 28 at 8:30 P.M., with the following program:

Chorale..................... Bach
Sonata for piano (1947) .. Gail Kubik
Suite in C major for cello .... Bach
Sonata for cello and piano ..... ~

The recital given by George Finckel and Lionel Nowak on Tuesday night was a great treat for Bard. They are talented players who demonstrated their talent by performing works of uncommon and strong interest.

There could hardly be any instrument more amenable to the human voice than the cello. It is an instrument with a soul; it requires the true feel; the real feeling of Mr. Finckel made his cello voice its soul. It always had a richness and depth of tone; it always sang as only a cello can sing.

Mr. Finckel played the Bach Chorals well but without unusual profundity. Mr. Nowak's Sonata was indeed a noteworthy experience. It is a work of unusual structure and exceptional value, and Mr. Finckel did not blunder into the pitfall found in most of Debussy's music. Specifically, he did not over-sentimentalize the work and allow it to go off with clarity and without superficiality. The performance of the Suite for cello by Bach was a forceful one. I demonstrated academic interpretation and serious discipline, which demands in order to be wholly effective. The Sarabande was exceptionally vivid, with its line expressing the melodic line. Mr. Finckel has shown himself to be a man of unusual intuition.

Lionel Nowak had the possibility fortunate duty of performing two works unfamiliar to the audience and written in an conventional idiom.

The first work, the Sonata for piano by G. A. P. Bach was a complete work. I cannot reach a conclusion when an opinion is based on the initial hearing, but this work seemed rather stylized and without direction. The rhythmic pattern seemed rather stylized and most of the work was quite repetitious and monotonous. Each movement began with pleasant thematic and rhythmic material but petered out because of faulty organization. The fourth movement was more satisfying than the rest of the work. It gave a certain amount of relief with its light and sensitive construction, and was harmoniously superior to the previous movements.

The real highlight of the evening was the Debussy Sonata for cello and piano. Although he plays his instruments with impressive skill and with fervor, his abilities as a composer are overwhelming. The work has its tragic, satirical and human elements, but it is at all time and in every form full of life and forceful and dynamic. Every passage was most beautifully woven into a tapestry of remarkable texture. The work is a brilliant and perfectly balanced composition; the composer is one of musical importance.

Shor-continued

and in the freedom society has allowed them for the achieving of their "fulfillment."

Dr. Shor believes that the answer to the problem of the freshman woman is to be found not in regression to an old fashioned situation, from which they would strongly rebel, but rather in some plan which could be worked out for progress, and "arrived at from the common experience of the members of the community."

"This plan must," says Dr. Shor, "set up with the express understanding that the program may be revised, and that the freshmen will be allowed to have some part in its revision."

Finally, we must expect some rebellion against a plan which in any sense is a new and different nature. Dr. Shor, however, tells us that the rebellion against the plan or the failure of the plan (here the administration) is in the way of healthy human nature, and it is through ordinary reactions with this rebellion that progress is eventually made.

Roger Cook

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