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BARD WEEK

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BARD WEEK

VOL. I

May 9, 1949

No. 4

First Panel Debates Purpose of Bard

Amid a hubbub of ideas, the first of four panels on Bard education was brought to a close last Tuesday evening in Bard Hall. The specific topic under discussion was the Individual and Society. However, due to the audience's tremendous reaction to a moving speech by Mr. Weiss, the issue became focused on the relation of the Bard Community to the outside world, and on what kind of student Bard should strive to turn out.

In Mr. Weiss' opinion the primary purpose of a college should be to offer the student a four year period in which he is free from the more practical activities and can pursue the good, the true, and the beautiful. Mr. Weiss also feels that it is essential for the student to incorporate the deep heritage of the past into himself, to become himself through isolated contemplation as well as through active participation in the world. Such pure experience would be in utter opposition to the current practical

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Alumni to Hit Campus Next Weekend

Whooping it up on campus next week end, members of the Bard-St. Stephens alumni will highlight their annual reunion with a clam bake, a ball game, a dance, and plenty of beer.

According to present plans, the events of the week end will proceed as follows:

Friday, May 13 - Registration from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m.; movies of past alumni activities at 8:00 in Kapp House.

Saturday, May 14 - Students take on the alumni in baseball from 9:00 to 12:00; the firemen show off their equipment at 2:30 on the athletic field; the 78th annual business meeting takes place at 3:30 in Kapp House.

The clam bake will be held on the athletic field from 5:00 to 8:00. The clam bake is open to all members of the Community. (There will be a negligible charge of \$4.00 per person, however) A special performance of "The Old Batchelor" at 8:30 and an alumni-student dance at 10:30 will be the last activities of the day.

Sunday, May 15 - The Rev. John Heuss Jr. (Class of 1929) will conduct services in the chapel at noon, provided a sufficient number of visitors are in fit condition to attend.

After Sunday dinner, the alumni return to their homes; the college returns to normal.

As a gesture of hospitality, the administration has instructed the famous Cuisine Bard to serve the alumni free of charge.

* Bard Week *

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Editorial

For the next two or three years we are going to be spending the bulk of our time in academic pursuits. This can either be a tedious experience filled with the pettiness of inept behavior and personal ambitions or it can truly be a great challenge brought forward by people whose primary concern is imbuing youth with the spirit of academic inquiry.

We, the younger students, naturally look to the upperclassmen, the faculty and the members of the Administration to demonstrate to us that the ideals of a progressive school can be fulfilled. It must be noted that in a small community, personality and the conduct of individuals is very meaningful to us, the younger members of the college family.

What has the community turned its attention toward in the past two months? It has concerned itself with the problem of the dismissal of two faculty members. We do not protest the partisanship in such matters but we do protest the completely immature, tawdry and uninspired manner in which the issues have been handled. We also protest the distraction it has produced in our attempts to find the challenge of academic inquiry. We protest to:

- 1) The Community Council and especially its chairman for his bungling, by not immediately channeling the whole affair into the hands of the Student's Educational Policies Committee
- 2) A lethargic, uninspired Educational Policies Comm. for squirming out of any positive action by a non-committal 'hands off' policy.
- 3) The tight little willful group of upperclassmen who use the democratic devices of this community to give the impression that all the students live in the reflected glory of their faculty.
- 4) The faculty members for not discouraging their overzealous group of followers.
- 5) The Administration for being unaware and apparently unconcerned about the feeling of the students in this matter. It is the duty of the Administration to preserve and maintain harmony at this institution. It has failed in fulfilling this responsibility.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

(Editor's Note: The views expressed in published letters are not necessarily those of the Bard Week). This letter was received from Robert MacAlister:

Dear G.I.:

How is everything at Old John's place. We are really giving the majority the works. Your instructions are just the thing to disrupt the campus and we are following them carefully. Of course, we consult with our advisor before putting your plans into action, but he almost always approves of them.

I wish you could have been at Convocation the other day. Only about twenty of the majority turned up, so when our tight little block of about thirty turned up, I knew we had the deal sewed up, since we have been slinging so much bull they are fed up and refuse to participate in Convocation any more.

However, there remains a pitiful vociferous opposition to us. You should have heard those poor, misguided fools arguing against sending a delegation of students of appeal to the Trustees' unanimous decision to accept Dr. Reis' resignation.

I am really hard put to see why they cannot see the truth. But we will not worry about those who do not realize that progressivism is chaos.

Well, that's all for now. In closing let me say that we will bombard the Trustees with so many delegations that they will never want to see any students again. Keep those instructions coming.

Your pals,
The Enlightened

We recommend that the faculty allow the Administration to look at the results of the recent research questionnaires on the two faculty members in question. These results should be made public with the consent of the two faculty members.

It is time that the E.P.C. came down from Olympic heights and set up adequate machinery for making an accurate appraisal of student opinion of faculty members to the Administration.

We also recommend that the Administration reconsider its decision in light of an accurate representation of student opinion.

This affair has left an unfortunate impression on our minds and cast a stench on the integrity of the college. We are on the verge of doubting the good will of our more mature elders.

Health Monaco
Queers Queers

In view of the approaching hay-fever season, and in cooperation with state and federal authorities, many Bard caballeros sacrificed their mustaches last week.

Foremost in the growing trend was the suggestion made in a certain senior project that the current fad for pink-eye is only a psychological defense mechanism on the part of those naturally unable to grow whiskers. Since the clicking of undergraduates' scissors has altered the complexion of Bard cancus (many externally-caused rashes among the co-eds have cleared up), this reporter has gone to the roots of the situation to plumb the motives behind it. The roots include Saul Ellenbogen, Don Gellert, Austin Sholes, Jud Levin, Jerry Fox and your reporter.

Among the first to capitulate was a newcomer to the furry clan, D. Gellert, whose whiskers had bloomed in the Spring, tra-la. Said Gellert, found lathing his nose to a point in the industrial design shop: "Aw, I jist wanted tuh see whut folks 'ud say. I foun' out." He returned to the educated lathe.

In contrast to Mr. Gellert, we find Messrs. Fox, Levin, and Sholes, who were influenced by public opinion. The final bastion, or last line of offense, Saul Ellenbogen, admitted in a confidential interview that he "just couldn't go on alone paying lip service to a lost cause."

Thus ended an era of fuzzy enlightenment at Bard. Care to try a racoon coat?

Whitney Bolton

On Cultural Crisis:

Amid the thunder of last Friday evening, in the hot, heavy air of the Gym, Dr. Meyer Schapiro and Dr. Paul Tillich spoke to the college on the problem of the Cultural Crisis of Our Time. Dr. Schapiro spoke of the specific historical reasons for the unintelligibility of modern art, while Dr. Tillich surveyed the political, social and economic factors creating our present spiritual plight.

With tremendous rapidity and clarity, Schapiro said that by 1820, with the growth of a free, non-institutional, critical culture, political individualism and free enterprise, the artist had become estranged from his society. The artist turned from the portrayal of myths and events to the expression of his dream world. Modern art, said he, must therefore be seen as an attempt to actualize his individual sensations (by the artist) as a challenge to mechanical, stereotyped mass culture.

All present were impressed by his tremendous breadth of knowledge and his concision.

Dr. Tillich showed how modern society is dominated by alienation, of man from his good, of man from man, of man from himself. Man, he said, was given the power to make himself, but instead has let himself be overcome by his material, or rational creations. Particularly, he spoke of the revolts we have made against this self-loss, but found that they all are doomed. But the very strength of Dr. Tillich himself seemed to offer hope.

The meeting ended with the thunder still in the background, but with the air clear.

BARD APPLAUDS 'OLD BATCHELOR'

Last week the Bard Community witnessed the finest dramatic production of the college year. The wit and elegance of Congreve's The Old Batchelor was fully developed by our student actors, while the costumes by Marty Becker, and the sets by Bill Pitkin made the play a colorful and dignified spectacle. Indeed, senior project work accounted for the largest part of the success, for besides the sets and costumes, the acting of Dolores Kempner as the bouncy, busomy wife of a doddering banker made the evening thoroughly enjoyable. Her more than ample wit, wonderful stage presence, magnificent facial expressions, coupled with a style of gesture and diction that approached a comic "grand manner" all combined to make her the dominant figure on stage. The drama department is losing a gifted and understanding actress.

Bill Pitkin's sets served as a fine backdrop for the lusty actions of the play. At first glance they appeared striking and rich, while their subtle delicacy became increasingly clear as the play progressed. Especially effective were the

(continued on next page)

'OLD BATCHELOR' (continued)

interiors; for although the street scene at first look seemed most effective, the deep mechanical perspective view proved to be irritably artificial and uncalled for.

Marty Becker's costumes added immeasurably to the richness of the play. An understanding of the specific nature of each character was shown by her tasteful choice of color: the gray of the old banker, the black against red of the vacillating batchelor, the blue-gold of the capricious lovers.

The general quality of acting was excellent. Al Haulenbeck and Olga Churek again manifested their strong talents for comic portrayal, with Clinton Archer and Peter Stone showing marked improvement, the latter through improved diction, a less evident smile, and decreased mugging. Ted Flicker and Bill Walker continued to reveal marked dramatic talents; one only wishes that in the future each will turn to a different type of role. Other supporting males played with moderation and style.

The women's roles were consistently good. Of special merit was the singing of Carol Kestenbaum, the interlude of dancing and the portrayal of the maid Lucy by Joan Dekeyser.

The Drama Department can feel greatly proud of itself.

PANEL (continued from page 1)

TOMORROW

2nd Panel

EMOTIONS,

SEX, and

EDUCATION

Moderator:

Dr. Wolff

Bard Hall

at 7:30 p.m.

concerns of the market place, that is, the commercialized world. Our modern crisis can be overcome only by a man who can change the world by his own being, Mr. Weiss concluded.

Mrs. Grayson rose to offer the first evidence of disagreement. Speaking from a more psychological viewpoint, she stated that she agreed with Mr. Weiss' one prime objective, but felt that college should not consist entirely of this search. It should help the students solve their social and emotional problems, and offer them a useful body of knowledge and a social consciousness with which to face the unavoidable "market place". The school, she added, must be a laboratory for living. Miss Gillard, speaking from the sociological viewpoint, agreed basically with Mr. Grayson, although her method of carrying this out was different.

Mr. Senior, on the other hand, took Mr. Weiss' point of view to its most extreme point. In his opinion, the search for knowledge and materialistic values are at utter odds, and Bard should cultivate values which the market place would reject entirely were it given the chance.

Many students expressed their feelings on the matter, some taking one side, some the other. Several attempted to reconcile the two theories. No one satisfactory agreement could be reached, however.

Dr. Sturmthal was then recognized, and the tone of the discussion changed. There seemed no longer to be any doubt that a change in society is needed. The split involved how the change could be brought about, and the type of person Bard should develop to create such a change. Dr. Sturmthal spoke of the need for practical reformers and revolutionaries, men who could put their theories into action. Mr. Weiss and Mr. Senior held to their position that to think was to act, and indeed, is the highest form of action. Whether the way to be is to do, or the way to do is to be, was the philosophical issue involved. All felt that it was a personal problem and were deeply stimulated by the discussions. The students and the professors left the hall still talking of the questions raised, and even carried the same questions over into the classrooms the following day. And they will indeed be continued until all have decided themselves what they desire to be and to do, and the method by which they think they will be able to reach their goal.