

Bard College
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BARD WEEK

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BARD WEEK

VOL. I

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CHAIRMAN OF E.P.C. LISTS ACHIEVEMENTS OF COMMITTEE DURING SPRING SEMESTER

I was very pleased when the editors of Bard Week asked me to submit an article stating what E.P.C. had accomplished this term. I feel that since our activities receive much less publicity than those of Council, that the community is at times unaware of our work. I hope that the students and faculty will feel free to offer any suggestions to E.P.C. or to come to any of our open meetings.

At the beginning of the term we helped in the orientation of the students who entered in February.

At the time when the Reis-Koenig affair was first brought to the attention of the community, it was decided that Council and E.P.C. write a joint letter to those professors and to Dr. Fuller asking for more than a "no comment" statement. This was done, and we received a letter from Dr. Fuller which explained his position in the matter. This answer was subsequently posted on the Council bulletin board. Soon after the Council-E.P.C. letter was sent, the notice from Dr. Reis appeared on the Administration board announcing his resignation.

Students for the first time have served as members of the Admissions Committee. Upon two different occasions this semester, Robert Marvin has reported on the work of the Admissions Committee to us.

Another first was the establishment of E.P.C. office hours. This had never been tried before. We found it very successful to have regular hours when E.P.C. members can be found in the Community Government Office so that the student body will have ample opportunity to bring complaints or suggestions to the attention of E.P.C.

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'SENIOR BALL' TO TAKE PLACE IN GYM, JUNE 17

The annual senior formal will be held, Friday, June 17 in the gymnasium. The dance will begin at 9:30 and end at 2:30 the next morning. Vodka punch will be served.

In Memorium

Ethan Stavitsky

These lips are mute, these eyes are dry;
But in my breast and in my brain,
Awake the pangs that pass not by,
The thought that never shall sleep again.

Byron

(Editors' Note: Mr. Clair Leonard has contributed the fifth article in this series written by members of the faculty.)

CONCERNING ATTITUDES AND STANDARDS
by Clair Leonard

I have a rather private feeling (or at least it was private until I decided to write about it in these paragraphs) that although life is no doubt a very serious thing, it can be, and frequently is, taken much too seriously. And to my mind this "serious" attitude toward life becomes strikingly evident in many of the unfortunate things we say or do. Perhaps it is more to what we feel, think, and say that I am now referring, because what we do is likely to be the inevitable outcome of these other expressions, when it is too late to do otherwise. I am largely concerned, as I ponder our difficulties, with our misuse and misunderstanding of words, but I prefer to think for a moment about our attitudes that are behind these words.

There are very few of us who have escaped experiencing some kind of disappointment in life, from the minor kind with its temporary ephemeral hurt to the kind of disappointment that plays a major part in the formation of our whole personality. And I think
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<u>*BARD WEEK*</u>	<u>EDITORIAL: Taking Stock of Ourselves</u>
<u>Editorial Board:</u> John Deimel Jud Levin Danny Newman Barb Wheatland	Yes, we've made mistakes. We've failed to cover several important issues and events on campus; our reporting at times has been inaccurate. We've been sloppy and uncertain. Sloppy because we are new to this work and have not had the facilities to turn out a polished job; uncertain because we've found it hard to know what this campus needs—that is what tone or mood we should try to set.
<u>Staff:</u> Whitney Bolton Jack Collins Janet Hooper Bill Lewit Elliot Lindsley Scott Peyton Nina Ransohoff Barb Schenberg Dave Schwab	We are less uncertain now. The theatrics, immaturity, poor manners, anger, and bitterness of the past few months, which came to a head last week in the educational panel on administration, has made us certain that a tone of calm discussion, self-searching, and objectivity must be established here. We hope that the BARD WEEK can help set such a tone, retaining its right to criticize, but always with alternatives in mind and in a mood of friendliness, not vindictiveness. We thus have three major aims: 1. To cover the important events on campus, selecting for full coverage those events we consider to be most important to the community. (We shall not attempt to cover every little happening, but rather the events that people have only vaguely heard about and should therefore be brought into actual contact with. We feel that so much here is ruined and made sick by rumor and distortion that this coverage perhaps can prevent such situations. Our goal will always be to appear weekly.) 2. To provide an outlet for all student and faculty expression on campus. (We do not and will not have a definite editorial policy except that of printing any editorial material, submitted by members of BARD WEEK, that we feel embodies mature thinking or constructive suggestion. We welcome all letters and comments from all groups regardless of viewpoint, if these letters can add to the healthy and objective atmosphere of the campus.) 3. To try to print many of the poems, stories, critical papers that are written at Bard. (We do not want to be a little magazine, yet part of the job of a publication at Bard is to provide a formal outlet for creative work. If possible we shall try to print, by the block print method, drawings or designs of the art students.) 4. To continue our feature department. (This department includes interviews, news-feature stories, and humor articles.) These are our aims, then--objective coverage, political expression, creative expression, and feature writing. We feel that these aims, as well as our sincere efforts, this term, merit the continuation of BARD WEEK. The future, the life, of the college depends not only on establishing educational objectives, but also on creating a calm tone and a working atmosphere. Our paper can be a useful agent in achieving this kind of Bard.

CONCERNING ATTITUDES AND STANDARDS (continued from page two)

it is within the confines of compact college communities like ours where this devastating kind of disappointment, so ruinous to personal happiness, is the most perceptible. We have been idealists, by our very nature, and with an idealist anything short of perfection can breed cynicism, bitterness, and even some of the most distressing of personal animosities.

Most of us recognize our disappointments, even as we with a perfect sense of righteousness blame somebody else for their cause. Our reasoning compels us, as a matter of consequence, to trace our shortcomings and our failures to the influence of our disappointments, and in fact some of us devote a great deal of thought to making these connections. What we fight against is a confession, especially an open one, of our shortcomings and failures: we take great pains to hide these, sometimes with considerable skill and grace, but at other times in most awkward and unattractive ways. Demonstrations of the latter sort are sometimes packed with emotion, and can have, according to the power of the individual practicing them, a most dangerous and far-reaching effect. I am convinced, moreover, that the effects of such demonstrations are no less dangerous to the individual practicing them than to those against whom they are directed.

One frequently hears such aphorisms as: an undertaker is a disappointed surgeon; a piano-tuner is a disappointed pianist; a critic is a disappointed creative artist; etc. I myself prefer not to agree with such patronizing sentiments, holding as I do that each of these "substitute" professions has considerable dignity of its own. Certainly, too, there must be a great deal more satisfaction in being a good piano-tuner than in being a poor pianist.

Our ideas of standards and our ideas of happiness have a direct bearing on each other. Our consciousness of having failed, or even (without completely failing) of not having attained the perfection which we had once upon a time dreamed for ourselves, is bound up with our compulsion of not losing face. Our failures and shortcomings are curiously bound up with society, and with the competition which it requires us to participate in, — or at least so we think. But since our disappointments, to which we trace our shortcomings are not the concern of society and since by the rules of society we feel compelled to save face, our only way out seems to be to go to the most astounding lengths to apply the most arbitrary standards in our judgment of the accomplishments and conduct of others! I am thinking of the most extreme cases amongst us as I make this observation, for it goes without saying that all of us are forced in all circumstances of our lives to pass judgment at one time or another, as an aid to others as well as ourselves in making choices. As to the flexibility of the standards which we apply in making our fairest judgments, I know no other guide than our own consciences.

Those who suffer from disappointment can find one tried and true balm for their sense of inferiority: the great "safety-valve" known as the sense of humor. It is what Hitler lacked and the German nation as a whole lacked; it is what aggressive nations and nations who "can't afford to lose face" lack; it is what many competitors in the competition of the business and professional world lack, both as corporations and individuals; and it is the regrettable lack in the practice of much professional or even non-professional sport. It is what members of many racial minorities have to a remarkable degree, as they have learned its importance to their mental well-being. It is what many of the smaller nations of the world have learned to adopt and practice, like Sweden who gave up conquest a century ago, and like Italy, since the war, abandoning her dreams of empire.

We must learn to accept ourselves, with all our shortcomings, because out of this attitude can develop a true and natural growth toward concrete tangible ideals within the reach of us all. There will be amongst us, as in all communities, those few whose achievements can be measured in terms of absolute standards, whom the rest of us hold in the highest esteem, and who, because they are really great, practice their talents magnanimously, and not with scorn for their inferiors. It is to those few (very few indeed), the select, the chosen, to whom the path toward greatness seems to be indicated by destiny, and who with appropriate humility accept that role and all its complicated attendant responsibilities, even as the rest of us accept the varying limitations of our own minor roles with equally calm assurance and pride.

'TONIGHT AT 8:30' REVIEWED:

by Hargo Neumann

In view of the well-known deficiencies of the Drama Department, the production of 'Tonight at 8:30' was exceptionally good. It represented part of the Senior Project work of Susan Moore in acting, Richard Sherman in original music and lyrics, Dolores Kempner in Acting, and Martha Becker in acting and costume execution.

The production as a whole lacked the rapidity and sparkle of Noel Coward works. The actors did, at times, attain this quality, as in the scene between Jay Smith and Judy Sherman in 'Shadow Play', and in William Pitkin's scene in 'We Were Dancing'.

Sue Moore, who chose this production for her Senior Project did an admirable job on an extremely difficult task. She carried four completely separate leads, and had to change character and mood between each short play. With the exception of 'We Were Dancing', in which she misinterpreted a sophisticated and mature character as a sweet and silly one, she was excellent. In 'Still Life', where it was necessary to change from moods and feelings of great happiness to agony and frustration, she lived up to the highest of expectations. Her song and dance routines with Bob Smith in 'Red Peppers' were authentic and fast moving if not inspired.

Dick Sherman's words and music defy criticism. They are magnificent. Such love songs as 'Above the Stars' and 'It Was Not Something New', and such novelties as 'I'm Easy to Please', and 'Things That People Call Risque', are not merely exceptional as Senior Project work, they are equal to and above many of the most popular show music of our time.

The execution of these songs by Sue Moore, Jack MacAdie, Bill Pitkin, Joel Fields, Bob Smith and Ellen Kraus, in most cases, did them justice. Sue Moore and Jack MacAdie sang with especially pleasing sensitivity.

Dolores Kempner, in two comedy roles, was her usual riotous self, bringing out not only the coarse but the subtle humor in her characterizations. Martha Becker, in one comedy role, was adequately amusing. Outstanding among the supporting performances was Olga Churek, who, as usual, gained a real appreciation of the weight of her lines and portrayal, and conveyed her impressions to the audience with facility.

Ted Flicker, in two fine roles, played them 'for all they were worth,' which in this case was a great deal. This was certainly his most emphatic work and probably his best performance thus far at school. Rip Archer was more than capable as the irritated theater manager. His lines moved nicely. The remainder of the cast, as well as the sets and lighting, were reasonably good.

Perhaps the most glaring single error in this production was in the blocking of 'We Were Dancing'. Many effective lines were lost because of awkward positions and untimely movements. On the other hand, the direction of 'Shadow Play' by Al Haulenbeck was beautifully done.

The Departments of Music and Drama are to be congratulated on this production. Directed and acted by students with supervision by the instructors, it was far above many previous offerings.

SUMMER BUILDERS

With convertibles opening like canvas Jack-in-the-Pulpits in blossom, Bardians the campus over have been assured that "summer is acumen in." While the first reaction to this cryptic phrase may be, "There does an alien go to register?", the second is sure to be a perusal of want-ads for a summer job. We present below a survey of positions secured by ambitious Bardians in search of (or, sometimes, in lieu of) summer work.

Hobart Pardee will stay in Annandale, selling (at a nominal cost) boxes of inflammable refuse for people to store in attics and basements. The purpose, revealed Chief Pardee, is two-fold: to gather revenue for the department, and to give the boys a chance to spend their lucre at interesting blazes.

More than one graduating psych major will spend his summer at hard work, trying to reduce the "psychiatrist's spread" which comes from writing long senior projects while seated beside a loaded couch. Analysis, like travel, seems to be broadening.

I hesitate to mention the last, and perhaps most exciting summer plan that was unfolded to me during my investigation. I was at a notorious local cabaret, sipping my absinthe across the table from a Bard sophomore. Shielding his twisted, evil face, the desperado confided to me: "This summer I'll start work on my senior project, a year ahead of time!" As I recoiled at the enormity of what he had said, he ran along the wall like a rat, and before I could recover, he was gone into the murky night.

Bolton

Report from E.P.C. (Cont.-Page 1)

Liason has been obtained with the Trustees and the Faculty Policy Committee. The Trustees now have a regular chairman of their Educational Policy Committee, and she has been contacted on two occasions. The Faculty Policy Committee has instructed Dr. Garrett to transmit to us those parts of their minutes which they designate for this purpose. Thus, we hope that the two committees can combine their efforts when both are concerned with the same matters. We have been invited by the Faculty Policy Committee to help in the orientation of new faculty members next fall. Although a formalized procedure has not as yet been drawn up by our committee, this will probably be done either in the next two weeks or at the first meeting of the fall semester.

Concerned over the deficiencies of the library as a place for studying, E.P.C. recieved permission to have Orient opened for such purposes, and information to this effect was publicized.

Several of our members have served on various important committees. Two students were active on the committee which revised the criteria sheet. We have been also represented on the body which is examining the structure of our community government. Our Absentee Committee has formulated a new policy for handling cuts from class. Though we have asked for more cooperation from the faculty in turning in absence notices, there have been a few chronic "repeaters" among the student body.

Council was petitioned by several members of the community to investigate the possibility of offering a course in radio next year. This matter was referred to E.P.C. which let interested members draw up and administer a questionnaire. The results were submitted to E.P.C. and were the topic of discussion between our committee and the Faculty Policy Committee. It was decided that a radio course was not feasible at this time, but a committee is being organized to study the possibilities of integrating Radio Bard into the academic spheres of the college.

E.P.C. was also disturbed at what we felt was a misinterpretation of the "What We're Up To" statement. To clarify this, two authors of the article submitted letters to us, one which was published as a supplement to the Bardian. The other will appear as part of our minutes on the Council Bulletin Board.

At a meeting earlier in the term, we investigated the Student Employment Evaluation Sheets. We heard complaints from various students and from Dr. Robinson learned the true nature of these sheets, and found to what use they were put. Our findings were reported in the minutes of that meeting.

The tabulation of the questionnaires given out to the students last term for their remarks in evaluating the teaching methods of their instructors was completed, and hours were held in the Community Government Office so that individual faculty members could obtain the results. A genuine interest was found among the faculty. If possible we would like to set up machinery to make this a regular practice.

At a special meeting we decided to send the results of the questionnaires of Mrs. Grayson, Dr. Reis, and Dr. Koenig to the Trustees, Administration, and to the Faculty Policy Committee as one more criteria to be considered in any decisions these groups might make. It was felt these results were valid, since the questionnaires were given out before any of the present difficulties arose.

A sub-committee of E.P.C. has finished its work on a questionnaire which it is hoped will become a regular part of the evaluation given to faculty members. What remains to be done now is to submit the questionnaire to the proper channels for approval or suggested changes.

These are our accomplishments this semester. Discussions of many other points were held but were not important enough to warrant mention here. Again I would like to say that I and every member of E.P.C. are ready and eager to receive comments, complaints, or suggestions from any member of the community.

Louise Tachau