

Bard College
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BARDIAN

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DR. BORING VISITS BARD

"Mechanism of Mind"
Topic of Lecture

On Wednesday night, November 1st, the students and faculty of Bard College had the privilege to hear Professor Edwin Boring, the Director of the Harvard Psychological Department, speak on the subject, "The Mechanism of the Mind." Dr. Werner Wolff introduced the speaker, who is the distinguished father of Miss Molly Boring, a Bard student. Doctor Boring is well-known in the field of psychology as a research worker. He has done much experimental work on psychology pertaining to veterans of both this war and the First World War, and his latest contribution is a work entitled "Psychology of the Armed Forces." He is also the author of "The History of Experimental Psychology."

Robot Almost Human

In his talk, Doctor Boring set forth his theory that, with certain exceptions, a robot, if properly developed, could do everything that a human being could do and with almost the same degree of skill. He advocates the idea that the human mind is a mechanism and that, as such, it can be delved into, studied, reported upon, improved, developed and, finally, translated into a different medium of expression. The mind is an amplifier, an analyzer, and, consequently, its value is determined by its capacity to respond to given stimulus.

In order to be able to study the human mind at all it is necessary that the student be able to reach it, to discover its workings and make up, for it is impossible to learn about it until some occurrence gives away the person involved or else it is possible to tease and cajole the person into talking about himself. For an example of this, consider a color-blind person. It often happened, centuries ago, that a person would live from birth to death and never knew, or, at least never let the world know that he was color-blind. It was not until he made a mistake that the world would realize his failing. Doctor Boring gave the example of a color-blind person who expressed the desire that flags on a golf course should not be of a color so similar to that of the golf course itself. The two vivid, and very opposite, colors were, then, to that person almost indistinguishable. So, if it is not for a mistake, or a desire to express oneself to the world, specific cases requiring psychological research and treatment would often go unattended.

Capacity to React

If it is in any way possible to translate human expression into the terms of animal behavior it is

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The Council Members meet in Aspinwall. Left to right, front row: Ann Taylor, Christine Frerichs, Dave Spodick, Mrs. Genzmer, Dr. Obreshkove, Sally Martin, Chairman Dick Gaynor, and Pat Volk. Standing: Charles Toth, Dana Blanchard, Charles McKenna, Mr. Hayes and Roger Hecht.

Warden's Hall Sponsors Weekend

"AUTUMN NOCTURNE"
THEME OF DANCE

Musical Gems Orchestra Hired

The second big weekend dance to be held since the arrival of women students at Bard will be held Friday, Saturday and Sunday, November 16th, 17th, 18th, sponsored by the girls of Warden's Hall. Students who were here when the Potter boys gave their weekend last year will remember the frolic and are anticipating this coming weekend.

Chairman of the Weekend, Nancy Levin has organized special committees who will attend to: food for the cocktail party as well as for the banquet; liquor; decorations; entertainment; housing of dates; program arrangements; poster and publicity; and the Sunday tea.

The orchestra, hired under the direction of Sallie Martin, is the same one which played at the Potter Weekend. The Musical Gems, as they call themselves, are a group of high school and college men, non-professional, who have proven themselves to be versatile entertainers.

Program Set

Friday night, the show committee has cooked up a series of skits in which twenty students are participating under the direction of Janice Weitz, chairman. Saturday afternoon there will be a cocktail party and Sunday afternoon a tea.

"Autumn Nocturne" is the theme of the dance, the decoration committee decided. Appropriate scenery will fill Commons to carry out the autumnal feeling. Against a deep blue background, pumpkins and other harvest designs will be lit up by a moon and twinkling stars.

Many of the women students have "applied" to the guest committee for blind dates; others are expecting "imports" as they were so aptly named; still others are going with the men students. The girls are planning to double up where necessary in order to house the women guests.

As a pre-Thanksgiving fiesta, the weekend promises to be a most successful one. It will be the first peace-time dance and most of the women will wear formals, which will no doubt lend an even more celebrating aspect. On with the weekend! let joy be unconfined!

*Attend Convocation! Voice
Your Opinion! Practice Democracy For The Future!*

New Council Meets, Gaynor Chairman

The Community Council this year retains comparatively many of the elements of the previous Council while also handling a set of new faces. Re-elected were Chris Frerichs, Dick Gaynor, and Dave Spodick for the students, Mr. Hayes for the faculty, and Charles Toth and Charlie McKenna for Albee and South Hoffman dormitories, respectively. The newcomers include Dana Blanchard, who was a member of the old Steering Committee, Roger Hecht, Dr. Obreshkove, and Mrs. Genzmer, who served on the Council last summer. Mrs. Genzmer's election as a write-in candidate parallels that of Mr. Hayes last year. Student Community Representatives, in general, were elected by heavy votes, with incumbents favored. It can now be revealed

that Dr. Obreshkove was swept into office on a vote unparalleled in the history of the College.

Conversation with Council members indicates that the consensus favors a Council "with its sleeves rolled up." This attitude seems to be in response to widespread Community sentiment favoring a "working" Council.

New Office Created

At the first impromptu meeting of the Council on October 30, discussion was lively and business was expeditiously handled by Dick Gaynor, the new chairman of the Council. Other officers elected for Council and Convocation include: Dave Spodick, Moderator of Convocation, Ann Taylor, Secretary of Council, Dana Blanchard, Assistant Secretary, and Roger Hecht, Treasurer. The new office of Assistant Secretary was specially created in order to lighten the responsibilities of the position. Voting on Secretary and Assistant was given more than usual attention by Council, the members fully realizing the implications of the job.

The Council began work by appointing members to standing committees, Chairman Gaynor stating that the job must be completed by the next meeting.

Players Choose Broadway Hit

"Skin of Our Teeth"
To Be Presented

The Drama department is rehearsing Thornton Wilder's **The Skin of Our Teeth** in preparation for their performance December 13, 14, and 15. This play is written in a style similar to the author's **Our Town**. The acts take place in Excelsior, New Jersey and Atlantic City, New Jersey. This is definite, but the time of the action continually switches from the age of glaciers to the present. The characters "break character" to speak to the audience, and as in **Our Town**, the play is a "play within a play," with a stage manager in the cast. Act I presents the beginning of the world mixed with glaciers, dinosaurs, the discovery of the alphabet, and the wheel. The Second Act seems quite up to date until the flood comes, and the animals board the boat "two by two." The third and last Act portrays the end of the war—any war.

Projection Method Used

The opening of the Acts is done with projections as in a movie, the last projection of "news" fading into the stage scene from which the action proceeds. The Announcer gives the audience the setting of the scenes. Other important players are as follows: Sabina—at times the Antrobus' maid, sometimes a bathing beauty, and once the wife of Mr. Antrobus; Mr. Antrobus—a modern father of a typical family, an inventor, and in

the period of the earth's beginning, Adam. Mrs. Antrobus plays his counterpart, a modern mother, the wife of an inventor, the president's wife, and last but not least, the part of Eve. The Antrobus' children, are Gladys and Henry. Gladys is almost always the well behaved daughter in the presence of her father, whereas Henry is a bad son continuously, being Cain in the Bible times and exemplifying all evil in the end. Mr. Fitzpatrick is a typical, ruffled stage manager. The Fortune Teller, who figures prominently in the second Act, directs the action of the act while portraying her part as the busybody who can tell anyone the future, but not the past.

The play is well written, amusing on the surface, but with a serious underlying theme—the everlasting cycle of human destiny.

Design Students Active

Miss Vida Ginsberg is directing the production with Christine Frerichs as her Regisseur, and Susan Moore as her Assistant Stage Manager. Mr. Paul Morrison is designing the set and costumes. The design students who are executing the set and costumes are: Samuel Barreto, Bobbie Sue Blanchard, Beverly Pruzan, Pat Hellmann, and Irene Zimmerman.

BARD RESUMES FIELD PERIOD! FUROR OF CONTROVERSY REFLECTED IN VOTE

Seniors May Use Period For Projects

At a meeting, on November 6, the faculty of Bard College voted to resume the Winter Field and Reading Period, extending from December 22, 1945 to February 3, 1946. The fall term will end on December 21 and the spring term will begin on February 4.

Although the actual figures have not been revealed, it is known that the vote on the Field Period was quite close, reflecting the belief of some faculty members that the new freshmen and returning veterans are not ready for it. In making its decision, the faculty was guided by the fact that student voting in three divisions showed a majority in favor of the Field Period, while at the fourth divisional meeting, where no vote was taken, sentiments expressed were mainly favorable. The faculty emphasized that the Winter Field Period is a fundamental part of the Bard program, and that its readoption is part of Bard's attempt to return to this program as soon as possible, now that the need for acceleration has ended.

Faculty members have made it clear that each individual program for the Field Period will be discussed thoroughly, in an attempt to aid those to whom the adjustment may be difficult. It has been suggested that some returning veterans may prefer to use the time for reading, rather than working. This would be quite appropriate, since the Bard catalog states that the Field Period may be devoted to reading, writing or concert-going as well as more laborious employment.

Those seniors who were to have graduated in January may receive their diplomas in December, if their senior projects have been accepted. Otherwise, they may spend the Field Period finishing them.

Advisers have already reported several Field Period plans, worked out in conferences, and students seem to be cooperating in the preparation of suitable programs. Although there has been a great deal of student sentiment against having the Field Period this year, the divisional votes seem to indicate that those in favor of it, the majority, kept quiet, while the others objected. The vote results were surprising, but may be taken as an expression of student desires to speed the transition from wartime Bard to the Bard of the present, post-war era.

Divisions Prepare Coming Programs

Beginning on Monday, November the fifth, the art department will sponsor an exhibit of watercolors by merchant seamen. The works were lent by the Maritime Union of America in cooperation with the Seamen's Service Organization. This is the first outside exhibit of the art department this year, although there have been two showings of work done by students this summer and early this term. The music department will also present a choir recital. This will be given on the eleventh of November in connection with the Chapel service. The department has already presented one informal workshop program by the music students, and plans to have one other program of some kind before Christmas.

The science division has only one meeting planned right now, although they have tentative arrangements for later in the term. On November the eighth, the Science Club will present Dr. Paul Garrett lecturing on atomic energy. The Language and Literature division, which recently sponsored a talk by Mr. Christian A. Zabriskie, has nothing ready for the immediate future.

The Bardian

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Friday, Nov. 9, 1945

Winter Field Period

WEDNESDAY NIGHT, October 31, the five divisions met to discuss the proposition of a field period this year despite the fact that the calendar has already been arranged. The discussion was not concerned with having a field period or not, since one of the noteworthy points in the Bard system of education is to spend part of one's time every year engaged in some work usually related to one's major. The general feeling seemed to be in favor of such a period this year, although many practical and serious objections were raised. Naturally many students were alarmed to face the prospect of doing actual work off campus, for which in many instances they would not receive pay. It seemed that the major arguments against it were concerned with the difficulty of securing living space away from home in these times as well as with financial difficulties.

Speaking to one of the divisions, Mr. Genzmer brought up several important points. In many cases before, when the field period was not as successful as it might have been, the fundamental failure was due to a lack of imagination and precise planning. Primarily, the best field period work is done away from the environs of home. The field period is not a time for extended vacation and play; it is to be devoted to serious work and research as well as reading.

Unlike college this time must be spent in concentrated, continuous work on a single subject. It is akin to a larger edition of a term paper; furthermore, it is a dress rehearsal for life after college. During this time the student may avail himself of the opportunity of travel, extensive reading and writing, and also of the chance to meet people engaged in work similar to that which the student is anxious to participate in.

Since the college itself helps the student secure work with an organization, there is no time wasted searching for a job, nor preparing detailed references. For that time therefore, the student can throw himself into the work and become acquainted with the people and the opportunities with which he will have to deal after college. The field period is then a TMC or MC on a more concentrated basis.

By beginning this year students will have more time to become acquainted with the field period; they can make decisions about future work and will be ready for it next year. As far as telescoping work in individual courses, no instructor is going to deliberately press upon the students more work than is required; with the shortening of this term by one or two weeks, the work will not be noticeably different nor will the students suffer to any great extent.

J. R.

PANEL-BOARD DISCUSSION

LAST SPRING we seemed to get off to an excellent start when Dr. Felix Hirsch arranged a discussion on the Yalta Conference. This discussion, participated in by both faculty and students, was held in the Theatre, well attended by the community. When the discussion was over there were groups scattered about the campus talking over the international implications of the accords made at Yalta by the Big Three. Politics and coffee was the order of the evening in the store.

It would be highly beneficial to both students and the community at large if more of these discussions were held during the remainder of this

semester. There is certainly a wealth of material to choose from—the world is far from the stage of perfection. But we're trying—and Bard has its share of responsibility. The nationalist movements in the Far East; the May-Johnson Bill on control of atomic power; the London Conference, with past and forthcoming; the Polish situation; Russian unilateralism; the Palestine Question. These are just a few to mention off-hand.

The Social Studies Division should take the initiative soon and plan out some sort of program. The panel-board should not be limited, however, to the social studies department only. Members from the other division should be called upon to partake in the discussions. Perhaps this might tend, also, to do away with certain ideas which are prevalent among some students. Only lately was a student, a 'Lit. major, overheard making this sort of comment: "I must have quiet. We people have much creative thinking to do. You who study history have only a lot of facts to memorize—dates and events of a long dead past." This fallacy of thinking must be corrected—but quick. C. W. T.

—o—

FIVE MINUTES, PLEASE!

THE five minute intermission is a noble institution. It was originally conceived for the purpose of providing a respite during two-hour class sessions. As such, there was reason to assume that the proposal would be favorably greeted by both faculty and students. It was. For the first two terms after its inception, the intermission served its purpose well. Class discussions remained vigorous for the full two hours, avoiding that "when is it going to end" feeling which inevitably arises after an uninterrupted two hour discussion. When the intermission was lengthened, this happened occasionally, classes continued beyond the two-hour mark, until the instructor felt that the class work had been adequately covered in discussion. If a discussion continued through the usual intermission time, the intermission was simply omitted, with little hard feeling on the part of anybody.

This happy condition does not seem to have continued into the new term. Along with the frequent tests, required meetings and other unfortunate concomitants of this year, we seem to have regressed into an era of clock-watching. The five minute intermission has become a goal, a fortress which the students attack and the faculty defends. When a teacher utters the first "I suppose it's time to have a little recess," the class knows it has gained the victory. In return, the teacher conditions the defeat with a warning that the recess is for only five (count 'em) minutes. The respite degenerates from a pleasant intermission into an interval for the consolidation of forces. Woe to the teacher who tries to skip the intermission! He is interrupted in the middle of his sentence with "It's half past" or "Shouldn't we take time out?" This is preferable to the other situation that often occurs. Trying to pass the buck, the faculty member discouragingly enquires "Does anybody want to take an intermission?" This disturbs a class no end. Finally, with "I guess we do," the class rises and sort of fades away.

The intermission difficulties can be solved by a little thought on everybody's part. When its purpose is recognized there is no reason for faculty members to begrudge the time-out, or for students to make five minutes a half-hour. However, the fact that such a situation even arises is a bad sign. It is an indication that classes are not as they should be. Just who is bored and who is antagonistic, whether among students or faculty, is unimportant. The thing to remember is that Bard isn't a high school. The bells don't ring and the teachers can dismiss their classes at will. Dissatisfaction may be expressed in words, rather than by uncooperative attitudes. Being aware of this, Bardians, students and faculty alike, should air their grievance, instead of waging undeclared war over trivialities. Since classes are where much of the time 'till January will be spent, they might just as well be the best possible ones.

J. P.

Needle Squeaks

By PETE MONATH

It reaches this columnist's ears that King Louis Armstrong is preparing to go to Hollywood to point his once-golden horn heavenward in another B picture. It's too bad when one of the greatest jazz men of all time, certainly the greatest trumpeter, has to go into the movies to make money. But jazz has little place for sentiment, and the truth of the matter is that King Louis has been dead musically for seven years. His last records show this. His drive and power still remain, but his lip and some of his technique are, pardon me, shot to hell.

Department on Coming Discs

That remarkable group of jazz men, the Kansas City Seven, are about to get together for another series of four records, eight sides in all, under the leadership of "Prince Charming." This "Prince Charming," in case you don't know, is in reality Count Basie, but since the Kansas City Seven records for Key-note, and Basie is under contract for Columbia, he uses an alias. Of course, Columbia also knows who "Prince Charming" is, but legally everything is honkey-dory, just the same. . . . Commodore, per usual, will soon be coming out with more Dixieland Jazz records. Again featuring, per usual, Russell, Wetling, Brunis, Schroeder and head man and git strummer Eddie Condon. . . . One of the finest, most relaxed groups of jazz men ever to record will soon be coming out with more discs. I am talking of Joe Marsella and his Delta Four. This ensemble consists of Marsella himself on clary, Bill Coleman on horn, alto man Pete Brown and Carman Mastran on git. The last named is, in my opinion, the best git man around, and Pete Brown has few peers on alto.

Odds and Ends from Here and There

Benny Goodman's sextet has broken up, so Benny is on the road with his band alone. The band is mediocre, but with Benny on clary, and Trummy Young on trombone, it is enough. Benny especially. A little about the sextet: Skinman Mory Field and git player Jack O'Brien are still with Benny. Teddy Wilson is recording, and drifting from session to session (he may be at "Three Deuces" soon). Red Norvo has gone back to drinking parties and jam sessions. Slam Stewart has joined Earle Gardner, Don Byas and Dizzy Gallespie at "Three Deuces" . . .

Coleman Hawkins at Onyx Club . . . Rumor has it that Art Tatum is not as blind as he makes out to be. I don't know where this talk got started, but I do know it is completely untrue. . . . James P. Johnson, one of the great keyboard men jazz has ever known, gave an amazing concert about two weeks ago at Town Hall. He may be old but he sure is good. . . . "Little Jazz" (Roy Eldridge) is back in town after an unsuccessful attempt to start a name band out on the west coast. What he will do is unknown at this point, although some recordings for Key-note are in order. . . . Flash! Hot Record Society, bankrupt and out of business for six years, is back at it again. Supported by Milt Gabler's (owner of Commodore Music Shop and the man behind the Dixieland jam sessions at Jimmy Ryans') money, its reprints and new records will soon be rolling off the presses. In closing, I wish to recommend the following places for jazz lovers who will be in "The Big City" sometime in the future: "The Three Deuces," "The Spotlight Club," "The Onyx Club"; and don't miss the Sunday night jam sessions at Lincoln square.

Letters To The Editor.

Dear Editors:

A student approached me the other day and asked me to send a letter to the editors. Strangely enough it was not her attractiveness or pleading that made me consider her proposition but I figured that this would be a good chance to practice my writing and also to exercise a few of my vague and inconsequential opinions. So here goes, sirs; I'll try not to hang my ideas on more than four hundred words.

I am an ex-soldier, a returnee, or ex-warrior from the wars or what have you. I attended Bard in 1940 to 1942 and returned with intentions of finishing up where I left off. To any old Bard grad, I can rightfully and truthfully say that Bard has changed. Whether the change is for the better is a matter for discussion: Believe me, there's plenty of talk about how successful it is.

But just to clarify myself before I go any further, I am referring of course to the coed set-up now in full swing as part of the college system. There are problems involved that demand your opinion one way or the other.

For instance, quite a few girls have approached me and asked bluntly, "How do you like the college with girls?" or "Is it true that Bard would have closed if not for the girls?" To the first question I always answer with the thought that I believed the change was quite unique if not a bit revolutionary. To the second, I generally refer her to our Bursar or possibly President Gray, who could enlighten her.

The old question of whether women students are a distraction to the serious, studious student here at Bard can be answered simply enough: are you sure it isn't the other way around? I've spoken to a number of the girls and judging from their conversation and the dark rings under their eyes they are determined burners of the midnight oil. Of course, they probably don't work during the day. Take it for what it's worth.

Bardian Editors Revise Format

From now on the editors of the Bardian have chosen to revert to the format which was used several years ago; that is, the Bardian will be a newspaper devoted to campus events and those relative to community interest. It has been planned to issue the Bardian once every two weeks provided that there is sufficient material as well as interest forthcoming from the community. The staff has been enlarged and so far there have been gratifying results. Students as well as faculty members are urged to comment upon the initiation of a newspaper and to make suggestions in letters to the editors.

Students who are anxious to bring matters to the attention of the rest of the college, want ads included, are welcome to use The Bardian as their clarion horn.

One of the students asked me the other day if I would look into the better-movies situation. Do we have to sit through a scratchy, uninteresting, third-rate old-time film? I believe there is a committee whose job it is to get the best they are able in the way of films. Armed services had priority once over films to entertain troops, which didn't give much pick and choose. Now things are different, so why can't students enjoy better films?

It's quite true that you get out of something what you put into it. If that is true, all the so-called revolutionary changes and new problems arising from co-education can be shouldered quite comfortably and the business of education can go on with John and Helen Coed working together as a team for the betterment of themselves, Bard College, and for the world they will enter when they leave.

Sincerely,
PAUL MUNSON.

One Lively Art: The Ballet

By SALLIE WILENSKY

The fall season of the Ballet Theatre is now drawing to a close, after several weeks of brilliant and competent performances out of an extremely varied repertoire. This organization is characterized, in contrast to the other company, the Ballet Russe, by a more contemporary and universal spirit. It presents ballets of more diversified and general interest, combining elements of the classical and technical school with those of national and modern dancing. In this way, the audience can achieve greater understanding of the movements at least emotionally, while not necessarily fathoming the technical aspects of the art, a vital feature of real appreciation some years ago.

The average audience is now able to actually enjoy what it sees instead of being required to analyze and criticize a somewhat limited art, a fact which has occasioned the ballet's heightened popularity. The ballet can be concerned with murder, psychological matter, sailors, or cowboys and no longer be confined to mythical monsters and princesses, yet still retain its individuality of expression. The scope of that expression is enlarged, however, by this addition of more realistic material with correspondingly liberated movement.

Stiff Form Banished

The classical ballet tales of ethereal spirits, such as "Giselle" and "Swanlake," are enormously popular, but primarily with those who are romantically and sentimentally inclined, or else suffering from "Balletomania." Thus, it is the fresh and invigorating spirit of ballets like "Rodeo" and "Fancy Free," and the depth and power of "Undertow" and "Pillar of Fire" which have attracted the general public. Whether gay and amusing, or tense and passionate, they are freed of stiff forms and methods while yet employing them. In telling a story dramatically as well as with expressive movement, they demand a greater response from the spectators and thus seize their interest.

One of the five new ballets presented by the Ballet Theatre is the vivid and slightly satiric "On Stage." It is the work of a new choreographer, Michael Kidd, whose talent and originality are displayed, not only in utilizing new movements and dramatic elements, but in a fresh use of classic forms. The work concerns a backstage rehearsal of a ballet, made obvious by its title "The Captive Princess and Her Hero," and the efforts of a humorous and Chaplinesque stagehand to help a nervous, pathetic young girl to gain admittance to the company.

In the same light vein of some of the other ballets cited, it pokes fun at classical perfection and has a general comic atmosphere while being simultaneously dramatic. "On Stage" is more comprehensive in scope than other ballets, since it goes outside the field in using speech and such ordinary activities as smoking, as well as creative body movement. This does not weaken the product as its dancing and choreography are excellent. They are coordinated properly and are sufficiently balanced to these other actions. The speech never interferes.

Classicism Spoofed

The choreography is well-conceived and planned. It does not allow the ballet to run unleashed and so drag, as might be a natural tendency in such a work. There are just enough of artful touches of subtle or overt comedy included to make the ballet all the more delightful and individual. The separate dances, such as the battle dance and the pas de deux of the stagehand and young girl, princess and hero, are especially well designed and exciting to behold.

Among the other new ballets of the season are "Firebird," notable only for its too startling and conspicuous, yet beautiful sets, "Gift of the Magi," and "Interplay." Of these, "Interplay" is the only one which can definitely be recommended as a generally integrated and thoughtful work, in which the choreography shows some development on the part of the creator of "Fancy Free."

Hold On To Traditions

By JEANNE ROSENBERG

There has always been much discussion on the so-called lack of tradition at Bard. Many would be amazed to discover that tucked here and there are several revered customs which up to this time have been faithfully and joyfully carried out.

Between Warden's Hall and Hegeman is a flagstone walk; true, the flagstones are set dangerously and not conductively for high-heeled and nocturnal strolling. But this walk commemorates a most important factor: the continuance of Bard as a college.

In 1933 the Board of Trustees voted to close the college because of a forty thousand dollar deficit. Loyal students and faculty members raised the sum in a valiant effort to support the school and its ideals. When the success of the venture was definite and it was possible to plan once again for future days, a huge bonfire was built on the lawn, where the walk is now laid.

After the bonfire it was decided to venerate the spot and lay flagstones in a circle at that point. Observers will notice that the circular section is not in the middle of the walk but is nearer Hegeman.

Boar's Head Dinner

For many, many years, Oxford has given the traditional Boar's Head dinner before Christmas. Thrust on two long spear-like spits was a huge boar's head, tusks and all. This was carried by the two youngest faculty members who paraded through the dining hall, while the rest of the university sang and toasted.

This custom caught at Bard and for a long time the Boar's Head dinner was eagerly awaited before each Christmas vacation. Mr. Harvey Fite will be remembered as the jester who pranced around Commons in mediaeval dress and clowning and cavorted much as a true Shakespearean jester. The cooks and assistants would then appear and receive their gifts from the rest of the students and faculty. After dinner, a play, such as was given in mediaeval times, without benefit of sets, etc., would be presented on a raised platform. Throughout the evening the spirit of fun and jest would hold forth, but underlying the clowning was a true sense of dignity and upholding of rare old traditions. In the play the faculty was generally the scapegoat and alumni will remember with glee the many take-offs on pet professors. It was a thrilling, colorful performance and one which would be well received if revived.

Freshmen Bury Books

No one at Bard feels the clammy fingers of compulsory education. There are those, however, who remember well the many courses which were firmly required, and the hallelujah feeling when such courses were over and done with at the end of the term.

Strangely enough, many courses

were required at Bard at one time, one being compulsory algebra. When the sweat and toil of examinations were over for freshmen who had to slave through the year on x plus y and similar other brain-racking problems, the joyful ones literally buried their books. In a hallowed ceremony they would sneak off, usually in the dead of night, praying that the sophomores would not discover them. Into a compactly built little coffin would go a copy of the dratted book, together with a bottle of wine for future use. In a mock funeral procession, with much weeping and simulated sorrow, the freshmen would bury the coffin. If the sophomores discovered the hiding place, the ceremony would have to be repeated.

Before graduation, three years later, the once-downtrodden freshmen, now uplifted seniors, would uproot the casket. On a funeral pyre would go the moldy algebra book, and by the light of the flames, the seniors would drink their wine, now three years better!

It is traditions such as these that make a college; no matter whether it be progressive or strictly disciplined education, common enjoyments mold and blend students together. Customs such as those once performed by Bardians give students something to look forward to during their college years as well as something to remember after graduation. Yearbooks and college songs are read and sung for years after. Is Bard so disunited that its students cannot revive and/or initiate more traditions?

Dr. Boring Visits

(Continued from page 1, Col. 1)

much clearer and easier for the scholar to study it. More sense can generally be made of it. The question now arises—what would be the exact needs that robots would require to be able to develop science among themselves? One of the primary and most essential requisites is the awareness of an awareness—the capacity to react and the ability to know that you are reacting. What additional capacities, then, must a robot have to be conscious? He must respond to a stimulus and respond discriminately; he must be able to react to a relation no matter in what terms the relationship is given; he must have capacity for vicarious reaction so that if the normal and natural way to an objective is blocked then he will be able to find another way; and he must react to symbolic processes such as languages; of course, he must have the power of both remembering and forgetting—all new methods and thoughts must last long enough to be spoken and stored away for future reference or else all attempts at learning are useless.

The ability to learn is the greatest difficulty that would have to be surmounted in translating the human mind into the terms of the action of a robot. It is absolutely necessary that two events happening at the same time be associated in the mind together and that, if later, one of the two is recalled to mind, the other will be reproduced also. As an example of this the speaker pointed out "the case history" of a cat who, soon after birth, salivated when fed; as the cat progressed and his eyes opened he salivated at the sight of food; still later, as he was conditioned to recognize dinner time when a bell was rung he salivated at the sound of the bell for he knew that food was coming. This association of ideas and the ability to remember them are prime requisites.

The entire point of Professor Boring's lecture is, then, as stated before, that it is within the realm of possibility that a robot could do everything that a human could do but for the capacity of learning which would be a difficult obstacle to overcome. The robot, however, could not be expected or intended to be an equal of a human being but more of a substitute for it, second-best. This is, of course, a very controversial subject. Professor Boring's illuminating presentation of his theory on the matter is one that will cause deep thought and arouse great interest in this field.

Christmas On Bougainville, 1943

By JACK WORKMAN

Tokyo Rose broadcast wonderful news that week, early in December. . . . a wonderful surprise in that each marine should expect death before Christmas Day was over. But none were scared, none discouraged, for her talks acted in general as morale boosters. What if she did picture home scenes, dances, ice cream sundaes topped with salted nuts, or other ideas? It only served to make us desirous of terminating the war with the utmost speed . . . the war that kept us from such pleasures. Her goal, to make us homesick, to undermine morale, faith and hope, fell on deaf ears.

Battle-weary, we were trying to capture the spirit of the Christmas season but to no avail. Singing carols resulted in flat notes, discordancy. Word pictures of scenes of the holiday season were beyond our visualization. Each man was endeavoring to cheer up the other without acting like a Pollyanna. A strange undercurrent permeated the atmosphere but it was attributed to the present campaign which was well into the second month . . . no relief in view.

The group I was associated with was called the Fire Direction Center, or as we old salts called it, the FDC. Approximately twenty men were in this group, and many were essential to the successful operation of our unit. One-third of our group were officers and because of that we had extra protection, better food and lots of other little luxuries considering we were in a battle zone.

For our protection we had a hole twenty-foot square and eight-foot deep with the sides sandbagged and braced. The roof, to give protection from the air, was made of coconut logs that we had dragged about a mile from a coconut grove. Soon we had air conditioning . . . man! those islands get warm, and in a closed hole . . . ! We had a record player and a few records, a radio and a little stove to cook food late at night. Remember, the officers?

We decided to make as cheerful and bright a Christmas as we could. Orchard and Sullivan were to go to a Navy unit and from them secure all the Christmas wrapping paper sang a few carols and they rang from Christmas boxes. They were true. It was a Merry Christmas for lucky, the Navy, because their gifts us.

had been forwarded to the island while ours had to wait our return to the old base. Voight and I were to find the tree and set it up. The Captain and the Lieutenant were to make paper signs and different covers for our lights. Another swell luxury . . . remember the officers? The rest of the gang were to make trinkets and trimmings for the tree.

Voigt and I set off immediately with a jeep and started to places where, in that jungle, we were told were trees resembling balsam. Our search led us near the front lines and while we did find trees looking like balsam, we saw none that resembled our idea of a Christmas tree. After about three hours, unable to find a decent tree, we gathered branches. Back at the FDC, Voigt and I got busy with wire and pliers. We cut branches to size and wired them to a long board to see if we could get a Christmas tree.

We wired them in place; they sagged. We wired them with supporting wires. Our visualization of a Christmas tree was slowly losing shape as that thing of ours looked more and more like the inside of a radio. Then we heard that there were really good trees near the front lines bordering on the ocean. We went there and while there were such trees, they were forty to sixty feet high. I picked one that had a pretty top, chopped it down and cut off the top. We finally had a good tree. One tree I cut down landed in a swamp and was lost to us.

The gang had really come through. When we got back with our tree, there were red paper letters hanging from the ceiling, spelling Merry Christmas. Ornaments, made by taking Christmas wrapping paper and putting it on C-ration cans, funnels, carbine clips, K-ration boxes, toothpaste holders and even empty bottles, were all over. One fellow even fashioned a star to grace the top of the tree. We had paper chains and plain shreds of colored paper to help cover the tree.

Our tree was a success. We spotlighted it with one light and that night we had the fellows in to give them a little remembrance and a touch of Christmas at home. We had a Merry Christmas for

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Sports Slants

By PETE MONATH

Here's the big flash of the week: Bard College will most probably have a basketball team this winter. This is really swell news for the boys, and I trust the rest of the College also. It has been pointed out that Bard is a school of 180 and only about 60 of those students are male, but with such standout players as Dick Hoddinott, Ronnie Peggannini, and Ted Yerdon, we ought to be able to field a capable team; also we won't be playing the big colleges. The main difficulties that face the team are, first of all, they have started so late that it may be very hard to find open dates on the schedules of other colleges. Secondly, they lack a coach, as no one wishes to take a job where his position depends on the length of time another man will be in the armed forces. The man in the Army is Mr. Asip, who is on a leave of absence. Until a coach can be found, Ted Yerdon has taken the job. Lastly there arises the possibility of the winter field period, which, if put into effect, will come at the time basketball is at full swing. However, with all those problems facing them, the boys still want a basketball team, and with the fight and determination they've shown so far, not only will the probably get one, but it is to be a good team. So listen Bardians, if the basketball team becomes a reality, let's really get out there and support it. Let's show the faculty, and other schools, that, small as we are, we have the stuff to win. But remember, a team can't win unless it feels it has the support of the student body behind it.

Bard College Still Unbeaten

Herewith, a report on the East's leading football game of October 24th. That was the day Bard College beat Red Hook High 12-0. Both teams played good ball throughout, but the main difference between the teams was that Red Hook had no stand-out blocker, and Bard had J. P. Carson who is definitely not the right guy to bounce off of, unless suicide is contemplated. The teams functioned smoothly on defense, but in both cases the attack was sporadic, due to the fact that the game was touch, and neither team had had an opportunity to practice for it. However Bard won so 'nuff said. Standouts on the Bard team were: the before-mentioned J. P. Carson, Dick Hoddinott, who passed for the first T.D., and caught a Carson pass for the second, and Jack Kotick who caught a pass in the right flat, midway in the second period, and tallied after a beautiful 50-yard run.

Intramurals

However, notwithstanding the football game, and the excitement over the possibilities of a basketball team, intramurals still go on. The Round-Robin bowling tournament between the Dorms continues, and as this issue went to press, South Hoffman and Potter-McVicker were in first place with two victories apiece, which is worth ten points. Albee was in third with five points, and South Hall and Warden's bringing up the rear with a rather large goose-egg. The bowling schedule for the next two weeks finds, and this is the big one folks, Potter-McVicker vs. South Hoffman. The winner will take the lead in the tournament, and South Hoffman is the heavy favorite to win. The following day the Potter-McVickerites bowl again, this time opposed by South Hall. The next week finds South Hoffman vs. Warden's in the only game scheduled. And don't forget the ping-pong tournament.

Big Games of the Weekend

As for football, here are the big games tomorrow, and the winners which my telo-photo mind just flashed to me. Army plays Notre Dame; same thing as last year. N.D. comes out of Navy game, bruised and battered, Blanchard and Davis run wild. Result—another win for the boys from West Point. Columbia vs. Pennsylvania. Sentiment screams for Columbia, but my telo-photo mind picks Penn by two touchdowns. Navy against Michigan; Fritz Chrisler's boys are mighty good this year, per usual, but Chrisler spinners and all, I'll pick the Middles. Ohio State in a breather over Pitt. Minnesota taking Indiana and Yale over Brown. By the time this article appears in

print, the big secret, whether Army will accept bowl bids, will probably be known to all.

In the play-for-pay league, it's Washington with the great Slingin' Sammy Baugh over the combined Brooklyn-Boston team. The Chicago Bears, once the terror of the league, in an upset over the Detroit Lions. Pittsburgh's Steelers should squeeze through to a close win over the Chicago Cardinals. Cleveland's Rams, the surprise of the pro-football world, to take Green Bay, and the Philadelphia Eagles over Steve Owen's New York Giants.

Well, as my roommate has gotten out his nightly supply of bananas, and is swinging himself off to sleep on his rubber tire, this column as all good things must, now comes to an end.

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