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BARDIAN

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The Bardian



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VOL. II—No. 9

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The Bardian

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EDITORIAL

IT WON'T BE ANY FUN

Idealism is, for the most part, discouraged today. This is because men realize that problems are their own, and whatever be in the sky is unconcerned; also, science and transportation have made us all brothers, even if we don't act that way.

Men, realizing that problems rest on their shoulders, grow weary of the burden and do not feel equal to supporting it. They feel weak, which individually most of them are, and they either don't trust collective effort or else they don't think it will work.

Another thing is that History has **taught us lessons**; wars have always been and therefore always will be. What most people don't realize is that the attitude toward war is not as consistent as the fact that wars have always been. When men fought hand to hand, war was a sport and a profession. When gunpowder was invented, most sportsmen dropped out, but a few less-sporting souls remained. When bombs were invented, all the sport was gone. No one in his right mind thinks of war as anything but a dirty shame.

Pessimism seems to be the fad right now; it's more **scientific**. The most common gesture these days is a shrug of the shoulders. "Well, what can you do? Those Russians . . ." And nothing is done.

Yes, those Russians. They're a problem, aren't they? You might call them a Challenge, for which Mr. Toynbee expects some Response. But the Response from most quarters is very, very feeble. And the energetic Response is covered with cobwebs, and the methods used are not much older than Adam.

Let's look at this thing. Would we be "sissies" if we decided there was a more gentle way of settling things than by the use of arms? **Sissies?** Have you ever had the feeling that the **easiest** way to settle an argument was by punching the guy in the nose? You wanted to talk but you knew if you did you'd burst out crying and prove yourself a baby? So you hit him. If you'd had any real guts, you'd have talked to him, man to man.

No, we wouldn't be sissies. We'd be men. It's hard to be a man, but sometimes it's worth it. There have been real men, and most of them have fought wars. That doesn't mean they'd do it today, unless there was **no** other way.

We think of the Russians as spiritually backward and economically poor. We don't know whether to pity or fear them, or both. In fact, we don't know much about them. All we know is that they're ambitious. There are things they want, and they're getting them.

We're pretty sure of one thing: the Russian student doesn't have the opportunity to **expand** that we have in America. To expand is meant to grow and learn and become tolerant. He just doesn't have access to the **material** we have. If knowledge brings strength, the odds are in our favor. But where is this strength, this Insight. . . ?

We're playing along. We're not being big. A lot of the men who run this country can't be big, because they don't know what it means. But a college student should know. He's at least familiar, through study, with bigness.

So the problem rests on your shoulders, student. If it rests on anybody's shoulders, it rests on yours. If you can't handle it, no one can.

A lot of us take the next war for granted. If it is inevitable, then we can at least amuse ourselves by working against it, can't we? But maybe it's not inevitable.

Some people don't give a damn about the next war, at least not now. They, of course, have never been in one. Maybe, underneath, they think it will be exciting, or a chance to get away from mores, or maybe they **don't care about their lives**. If for one moment you can entertain the thought of war, you'd better look into yourself, brother. I don't think you're living right. . . .

The odds against Idealism are pretty strong. Most people pride themselves on being **realists**. This is a word which sometimes denotes lack of imagination. Mostly, realists are little people who are chained to **facts** and haven't broadened out into the world of theories and ideals.

Idealism isn't dreaming. It isn't resignation or shoulder shrugging or love of money or escapism. It's more than duty and more than knowledge and more than pride. It's everything **intelligent** in the world. And it takes guts.

TRACY THOMPSON

THE FIGHT FOR PEACE

by Thomas H. Masson - Margo H. Neumann

Delegates to the Second International Student Conference under the chairmanship of James N. Roseneau proved by the manner in which they conducted their panels the possibility of basic compatibility among the many peoples of the world. Conclusion from members of the political panel, presented by Mr. Anthony Garvin, was that present world-wide insecurity is attributable to the ideological struggle between the United States and Russia, and the failure of the United Nations to create a sound peace.

Dr. Adolph Sturmthal, speaking for the Economic panel, pointed out that his panel recommended the extension of American Aid to all parts of the world, not only those countries through which Russia is expected to drive. The panel was undecided whether the Aid program could be best administered by the United States or the United Nations.

The conclusion of the cultural discussions, presented by Mr. Heinz Bertlesmann, was that basic understanding and sympathy between the nations of the world could be reached through education.

The opening night of the convention saw Senator Ralph E. Flanders, (R) Vermont, present an outline of the Senate plan for the re-organization of the United Nations. The two other principal speakers were heard on Saturday. Mr. Elliot Roosevelt declared that the world was being led again to war through misunderstanding between the United States and Russia. He said that these two powers were equally to blame, and that their nationalistic, selfish aims were the basic causes.

"The actions of the United States in Greece are equally questionable with those of Russia in Czechoslovakia," he said, adding "the communist press in Greece is banned."

He continued by saying that nationalist Greek guerrillas are being cold-bloodedly murdered.

Roosevelt further recommended that funds being used for armament purposes be transferred for use in educational exchange between professors and students of all nations.

During the evening, Mrs. Howard Richardson presented the audience with a picture of United Nations sub-committees. Things were wound up by an International Ball, which showed again the compatibility of young people with widely varying backgrounds.

Some of the arguments presented at the various panels were unique, especially on the 'Political Front'.

Discussing the United Nations, the German delegate remarked that in his opinion the United Nations had been "still-born".

"My belief in U. N.," he remarked, "is caput. To have accord and a working agreement in a world governing body there must be a consensus on fundamental issues. The west and the east are diametrically opposed and it is obvious that the United Nations cannot function without a veto. It is unlikely that we could be successful without Russia

and on top of all this, the U. N. is basically opposed to power politics."

The Philippines' delegate contended that the U. N. was founded on the ideal of sovereignty among nations and that the veto power must remain since it is 'the expression of sovereignty'.

One of the other delegates here interposed that there should be proportional representation in the United Nations.

One of the most pertinent points brought into the open during the session was raised by the Czechoslovakian representative. He maintained that the major reason for Czechoslovakian submission to Russia was that Russia could, if she wanted, sweep through Europe in a matter of hours.

"Is it not better that we be friendly with Russia in case of an occupation, than oppose her and face a possible blood bath? We know that the United States would not punish us for doing so."

During the afternoon the Palestine question was discussed and the Lebanese delegate claimed that in order to secure partition, three postponements of the vote had been necessary, during which time the United States had lobbied among other nations. The Palestine delegate asked if there was anything unusual about a lobby.

"I don't think it is ethical," replied the Lebanese delegate. With this the question was dropped.

The United States was accused by the delegates of creating suspicion because of her refusal to divulge the atom secret. It was recommended, that, since this could not be kept secret for long, an International Atomic Research Bureau be set up.

Economics Discussed

Aside from the major points covering the Marshall Plan, the question was introduced as to whether the United States was obligated to give aid to Europe. One of the delegates asserted that while Europe's economic resources had been devastated by the war, the United States had prospered. This remark was answered from the audience by Miss Ruth Gillard. She said that the present inflationary trend here was not a direct result of the war and in any case was more damaging than constructive. She added that U. S. natural resources and manpower had suffered greatly from the strain of war. A Bard student said at this point:

"While European means of production had been almost totally destroyed, ours have not been touched."

The main point of the Cultural discussion was that Europe will turn automatically to the first nation offering food and help in the struggle for recovery. Also that the small nations of Europe who had been formerly antagonistic, were now co-operating more closely because they realized that all humanity has suffered together and that they were more or less in the same boat.

The success of the week-end was emphasized through the spirit of Maurice Snowden's remarks on behalf of the delegates. The British representative expressed his firm conviction that the troubles of the world may have been too soon cast upon the

shoulders of youth—but that the youth of the Bard community as well as the delegates had experienced a great show of democracy in effect.

The Bard college community extends through the **Bardian** its sincere gratitude for the efforts of James Roseneau and his assistants, as well as to the more than forty delegates who attended the convention.

Ed. Note—The following opinion does not necessarily reflect the attitude of the editors of the **BARDIAN**. It is here printed to stimulate thought on a vital subject concerning Bard, and will be challenged in the next issue by Richard Amero.

THE LITTLE COMMUNITY AND HOW IT GREW—A TRAGEDY

It was late in the evening when F. arrived. The trees were deep in snow. The community hill was hidden, veiled in mist and darkness, nor was there even a glimmer of light to show a college-community was there. Around the college community was a dark wood; indeed the denseness of the wood, crowding in its immensity the remaining twilight, seemed a part of the community.

F. was puzzled. How could he pass through the wood? How could he find someone to direct him to the powers in charge? F. was tired; he wanted to rest before entering the community. He groped about the ground until, finally, just as his strength began to fade, he sighted an uncertain youth whom, he was sure, must live together with the others in the dark wood.

F. called to the youth. "Tell me, friend, can you take me into the community?" The youth smiled. "Oh, no." He was embarrassed. "Perhaps we can go tomorrow. It's rather hard to find one's way at this time. You see," he added, "the only time there is any light is during a few daytime hours when the classes are held. When the classes end, the light goes: so it might be safer if we spent the night here." He held out his hand. "I'm Hugh . . . You'll like it here."

So they passed the night in the silence of the wood and in the morning during the classroom hours, they entered the college community.

It was early in the morning but Hugh informed F. that the directors of incoming applicants would be busy. F. would see them later. Now and then a fine car rolled past loaded with students going away for student conferences (to better spread the name of the college community and in so doing raise money) or on vacations, or for good. Five men stood, handkerchiefs in hand, and waved goodbye to the students. Hugh introduced F. to the men who were, as F. was told, the directors of the non-academic, "Boost-for-and-raise-for-the-community" committee.

"Hello," said one of them. "Glad to meet you." Their manner was genial and F. felt that their smiles indicated they were all part of the community, and on an equal, neighborly footing, even tho' these men were Administrative men.

"I had a dream last night," one of them said. "It was a lovely dream. I was strolling in a fair garden, in the beds of which grew countless white and yellowed press clippings gleaming nicely in the sun. And I plucked some here and some there and laboriously transplanted them into new beds, while the nightingales' sweetest songs gladdened my old heart."

They smiled with embarrassment and walked away.

"Wait a minute," Hugh said, "I'll call a member of the Off-campus Relatives of Veterans' Group, who, I might add, are members of the community. By the way, having set foot on this campus," he said to F., "you too are a member of the community." He beckoned to a rather friendly student. "Jack," he said, "would you show us around?"

Jack was confused as to the function of his group, but he brought F. and Hugh to the various groupings for discussion which took place. There was an impressive castle-like building. F. asked Jack what it was used for.

"This is where Things are Accomplished and Integrated. Here is where the college community is maintained." Across the street, F. noticed a gathering on student policy, and Jack, seeing his interest, said: "Would you like to listen?"

And so, F., Hugh, Jack and the others took part in the dimly lit discussion.

Two students, locked in heated discussion, walked by; one of whom said to the other, "I won't associate with Theodore anymore, he's a lout. Yesterday he called a teacher, 'Mister.'"

When they had disappeared into the bright building, Jack said: "I suppose he's right. Theodore is a lout. First thing you know, we'll be going to teachers for advice and help; and you know what book learning leads to!"

Later in the day, as a gloom that was both heavy and omnipresent spread over the darkening community, F. asked Jack, "All these buildings for maintenance are fine, but what about the teachers?"

"Oh," Jack said with embarrassment. "We rarely see or talk with them since they are always leaving. It's hard to remember so many new faces."

"But why is that?" F. asked.

Jack blushed furiously: "I once asked a teacher why he was leaving. He said something about salaries and not having a window to throw it out of."

Many men carrying rakes to keep the buildings neat, passed by; the three boys walked back to the building of Maintenance. Typewriters could be heard rushing off new inter-office memos; lawnmowers were being oiled for spring. A thin, underfed teacher, leading a thin dog, passed by the large building, but the gloom and darkness was so heavy, that none of the boys saw him. And finally, as the last class ended, complete darkness blanketed the college community.

BOB CORREGAN FRED SEGAL

A HOUSE MOTHER?

Recently, Dr. Fuller held a meeting with the members of South Hall to discuss the question of a freshman dormitory and an advisor to student women. Dr. Fuller said that there has been some pressure from the parents of prospective students and from the secondary schools for a more gradual transition from close supervision to the freedom to live as adults that is part of the Bard program. It has been suggested that perhaps a freshman dormitory, with an advisor to all student women who lived in the dormitory but who did not act as a house mother would be a solution.

The opinion expressed by those at the meeting was that an advisor for women would fill a definite need. However, in order to make her work effective she would have to be carefully chosen, and given every opportunity to inspire the confidence of all students. It was felt that if the advisor lived in a dormitory she would not gain the confidence as readily as she would if she were not connected with a specific group.

Also, it was felt that a very important part of the Bard program is the lack of class distinction, and the opportunity to live with older students, a situation that would be endangered if a freshman dormitory were created. However, one reason that might necessitate faculty members' residence in dormitories is lack of living space.

This is an important problem, as it will affect a vital part of the Bard program, one that many think of as a most valuable asset of the college. We hope that this problem will be thoroughly discussed by all members of the community, and that any suggestions on the matter will be brought to Dr. Fuller's attention.

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SPORTS SLANTS

by HENRY A. FROTHINGHAM

Having written one article and not having caused any great upheavals in the administration, it appears that I am a permanent successor to the late Al Hecht. I shall try my best to fill his shoes, fully realizing the tremendous task that faces me and the fact that most people on this campus would much rather read about indoor sports.

With spring really here at last, the Bard athletes have moved out of doors. Softball, tennis and golf are now the stimuli for sore arms, backs, etc, and the intramural sports. A track and field day is being planned for later in the term. At the time of this writing, Fairbairn-Seymour is at the top of the intramural standings, and South Hoffman is bringing up the rear, depriving the hearty men of Kap House of that honor and distinction.

One can't help but wonder whether the figures seen running up and down the Annandale Road, nocturnally, are Hardy Koch's Fugitives from the Penn Relays or Dr. Fuller's Trail Blazers.

There has been a new sport introduced on the Bard campus. Those "gentlemen" on the green with the nasty looking sticks and small ball have been playing lacrosse. The whole thing seems to be for the benefit of Fred Segal and Danny Cappel who are trying so hard to bolster their superegos. The sport would cost about \$800 to set up and rumor has it that if the present interest in it does not wane, we may live to see intra-collegiate lacrosse at Bard.

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"INTERLUDE"

By Arthur W. De Baum, Jr.

10:30—

They wanted to call it "coffee shoppe." Suddenly doors heave open from the outside, and the paper napkins scattered on the black tables flutter with finality onto the floor. The vacuum fills and the orders for coffee fly over the counter and out into the kitchen. Meek, nice ladies say "and what's yours? They fill the order and return the correct change. Check that clock over the door. It's always right. Don't be late. Look around—it's mail time, its classbreak time. But quickly. Where shall I sit? Gregory stands quietly in the middle of the floor with his cup of coffee balanced spillingly in his fingers. Ah, there's a seat.

* * *

10:35—

"Stassen takes Wisconsin like Dewey took Manila. It says so."

"What are the headlines?"

"Those are the headlines. But you don't seem very impressed."

"What do you mean? Why should I be impressed?"

"It's a pretty important indication of a primary popularity, don't you think? The Republican slate's not a sure thing yet, you know. Are you voting this year or years?"

"Think I will. During vacation. My first time."

"First time? What state?"

"Maine."

"Maine! Then you'd better try getting used to not wearing that 'vote-for-Wallace' button you guys are wearing or they won't even let you get near a voting booth up there."

* * *

10:40—

There's Barbara Jenkins. She's late again. Barbara has a mournful face. She always has a mournful face. But wait—she's opening a long envelope. Very slowly and hopefully and nervously. Something flutters to the floor. She stoops to pick it up. Now she has it. Yes, it's a check. Probably from Daddy. She looks at the check. She still has a very mournful expression on her face.

* * *

"What's yours?"

"I'll have a bun."

"Bun?"

"Yes, if you please."

"How many?"

"One, just one."

"Two buns, please."

"Two for yourself, or one more besides his?"

"One more besides his, please."

"And I'd like a cup of tea, please. With sugar."

"Two teas, please, with sugar."

"Two for yourself, or one more besides hers?"

"Two besides hers, please. That's two with sugar. Please?"

10:50—

"The new movie schedule is up. Monday and Tuesday: 'The Penal Colony'."

"Any good?"

"Not very."

"Not many are. What's it about?"

"You mean what's it all about?"

"What's it all about?"

"Pretty hard to say. About a penal colony mostly. Pretty weird. I couldn't follow it some of the time. Two guys discussing a torture wheel. The prisoner agreed with him most of the time—and he was on the torture rack. The warden was always bragging and making excuses for what he said he had to do."

"Sounds different, anyway. What did he do?"

"He killed the convict on the torture rack."

"Why didn't you like it?"

"It disturbed me. Somehow, I felt awfully sorry for the warden."

"Let's get back to class."

* * *

11:00—

Just empty cups left with some cold coffee spilled in the saucers. Crumpled napkins and crushed cigarettees. Doors heave again to let the horde outside. The clock strikes eleven. The meek, nice ladies slip out from behind their littered counter, hardly knowing where to start.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The basic idea of this letter has been on my mind for a long time. However, up till now I have resisted the temptation to put it on paper because I fear it will be construed as an attack on Mr. Ormsbee Robinson. It should be understood that what follows is in no way whatsoever intended to be a criticism of Mr. Robinson, but is rather to illustrate that he has been the victim of unfortunate circumstances.

I believe it is very injurious to Bard to have the same person serve as Director of Admissions and Director of Publicity. It is only natural and right in a small institution that members of the administration simultaneously handle several jobs of a different kind. BUT, by their very nature, admissions work and publicity work are opposed to one another. Their total incompatibility is a subtle one, but in the long run it may prove extremely harmful.

Even a brief analysis of the requirements of each job readily shows that one person cannot possibly do justice to both of them. The Director of Admissions must be fundamentally concerned with getting the best possible students to enter Bard College. As the level can never be high enough, this task should occupy his every working hour. He should spend many months visiting new areas and high schools; always actively seeking to raise the intellectual level of the school through the entering classes. Bard's educational standards demand a high intellectual level if the standards are to be realities.

The Director of Publicity, on the other hand, must be fundamentally concerned with publicizing the name of Bard College (admittedly the word **publicity** is used in a wider sense by Mr. Robinson's office, but the main concern has always remained one of publicizing Bard beyond the campus). This task is equally vital to the College's welfare; every

sound business requires cordial relations with the general public.

Yet, these two important jobs cannot possibly be carried out by the same person (or office). Even if it is assumed (and it should not be) that enough time can be found during the course of a year to more than adequately fill the requirements of both positions, the conflict remains. In his admissions work, the perfect Publicity Director will sacrifice good students for those who have wealthy and influential parents. Contrariwise, in his publicity work, the perfect Admissions Director will sacrifice valuable contacts for good students. This oversimplification of the conflict must necessarily be so if the same man (and office) is to do outstanding work filling both jobs, and Bard College is in no position not to have performances in these two administrative fields.

It may be argued that a compromise to this conflict can be reached without changing the structure of the present administration. This is not so; the only compromise is the good student who has wealthy and influential parents, and this compromise is distinctly absurd. Already, publicity has been carried beyond its proper place at Bard. Too many of us have apparently forgotten that good scholarship is the best publicity (and means of acquiring funds) that an educational institution can offer. If we do good work, if Bard is truly a center of learning, no one need ever worry about publicity.

At the expense of Bard's future, the infectious publicity bug is running wild among the trustees, the administration, the faculty, and the student body. It represents an attitude that must be greatly modified, and modification can never be achieved until after the Admissions Office has been totally separated from the Publicity Office.

JAMES ROSENAU

Your editorial of April 7 advises our college not to give its name to the NSA because:

"Though there may be students here who feel that no matter how right of center the NSA may go, yet (sic) they will be willing to follow all its policies, there are also students who ideologically are bound by their convictions to speak for themselves . . ."

This is quite undemocratic, as those students, "who ideologically are bound, etc." may not form the majority here. Also, what exactly does the term "right of center" mean? One invariably finds most hysteria in those who try to fight "Anti-Red hysteria."

OLGA SCHERER

LYCEUM STARR THEATRES

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It was with enthusiasm that we noticed Richard Amero's article in *the Bardian* of April 7, 1948. However, upon reading the article our advice to Mr. Amero is to read additional material on the NSA and procure some statements that are factually correct.

In the first paragraph the author states that at the time Convocation voted to affiliate with NSA, "it was admitted that little was known about the organization." The purposes of the organization were discussed when the delegates to the Madison convention reported to the Convocation of September 24, 1947. The NSA was again discussed in the Convocation of November 10, 1947. In the mean time a copy of the Constitution and other literature outlining the purposes and objectives of the organization had been placed on the bulletin board in Hegeman. Before membership dues were forwarded to the NSA the Constitutional Committee of the Community Council examined and passed favorable judgment on the Constitution of the NSA.

In the second paragraph the author states that NSA claims to be "non-political." He goes on to say that this can be more accurately construed as non-communistic. If an organization avowedly non-political can be more accurately termed non-communistic, then an organization that is political is communistic. Ridiculous, Mr. Amero, ridiculous.

The NSA's "avowed purpose" is not "to promote international good will through the United Nations" nor is its "real purpose to follow in the wake of decisions of our State Department." The NSA is an organization of American students whose purposes and objectives are in the field of education. It delves into the realm known as politics only in so far as the solution of an educational problem is contingent upon formal political action. Although it is true that all group action can be construed as political action the objectives of such group action in so far as the NSA is concerned are educational rather than political. We quote from the preamble of the NSA Constitution: "We, the students of the United States of America, desiring to maintain academic freedom and student rights, to stimulate and improve democratic student governments, to develop better educational standards, facilities, and teaching methods, to improve student cultural, social and physical welfare . . . do hereby establish this Constitution of the United States National Student Association."

The NSA has not officially repudiated the International Union of Students, because the NSA has never been affiliated with it. Can the NSA repudiate an organization with which it never was connected? Last year at the national convention, the congress elected an interim representative to the IUS until negotiations to affiliate could be completed. If the negotiating team reported favorably, a referendum on affiliation of the NSA with the International Union of Students was to

be held on college and university campuses. On February 25, 1948, in Prague, at least one student was reported killed and several wounded when police fired on a procession of 1,500 students marching to ask President Benes not to install the new government. Two of the original founders of the NSA, Jim Smith and Bill Ellis, sent a telegram to the vice-president of the NSA in charge of international student activities declaring that the International Union of Students Secretariat did not condemn the action of the communist action committees in dissolving the Czech National Union of Students. The staff of the NSA in its official publication, *The NSA News*, stated that they believed this terminated any possible affiliation between the IUS and the NSA. Last week the executive committee accepted the resignation of the interim negotiators and upheld the statement of the staff committee that a negotiating team should not go abroad this summer. If two-thirds of the NSA congress disapprove of the decision of the executive committee, at the national convention this summer, they can override the decision of the executive committee. I am sure they will not.

The NSA is continuing its international program and is making every possible effort with the individual foreign student unions in non-political programs. Student travel, exchange and relief activities also will continue in the effort to promote international understanding and friendship between American and foreign students.

The NSA has not "skirted the negro issue very conveniently" but has been trying to break down racial discrimination by cooperating with the member schools in fighting discrimination at its source. Even before the Constitutional Convention last fall, one of the first tests which occurred and which was successful was the instance where Alabama negroes and whites met in the same room on an equal basis to discuss methods of eliminating racial segregation in their respective colleges.

The NSA purposely does not take stands on the "rights of labor, the election of political candidates, taxation, or price control" because it would split a truly American student movement wide open. Mr. Amero stated that the action taken by the NSA in regards to the IUS may not truly represent all the students at Bard. But how could a decision in support of a political candidate at the coming election be representative of the Bard Student, much less the American student. We suggest that if Mr. Amero desires a student association which is political in nature that he join the American Youth for Democracy or the Young Republicans' Club. It is our impression that we have joined a nation-wide students' movement whose objectives are educational. If our impressions of this thing are wrong we shall be glad to help foster a different course of action but we want facts Mr. Amero, please.

BRUCE DAVIES BOB HAWKES