

Bard College  
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# BARDIAN

Vol. 1      No. 8      [April 1, 1949]

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The Complaint Committee of the E.P.C. has inaugurated regular office hours in which it will receive complaints and suggestions from students.

A member of the committee will be in the Community Government office (next to the Art Library) Monday to Friday, from 7:00 to 7:30 P. M.

"The purpose of the committee," as defined by Harvey Edwards, its chairman, "is to act as a liaison between students and E.P.C., which in turn is the liaison between students and faculty. Complaints of an academic nature only will be dealt with."

## six plays

The Bard Drama Department presented a series of scenes from English comedy in the theatre a few weeks ago which were directed, acted, and designed by students. To say that the presentation of these scenes was superb is of course not true and no one expects a reviewer to say this. A reviewer, who is also a student watching his fellows do their best to delight him as well as to improve themselves, must however say that these players and their plays produced an impression which was presentable and altogether entertaining.

Sitting in the audience, we could all quite easily see the defects of the performance; but for one to pick out these defects and to pick apart the acting, is to repeat what we all, including the actors themselves, know. The evening we spent in the theatre was one of the most educational evenings which we have spent at Bard, where unfortunately there are too few of them. It was educational in that we saw something of the comic side of man's life as it has been expressed through the centuries.

Our actors were not only out there pitching, they were intelligently aware of the problematical nature of the parts. There was nothing shallow about the performances, but a crude liveliness both humorous and shocking.

In *Ralph Roister Doister* we were shown what passes as the first comedy in the English language. There was horseplay and fun throughout the action of the four actors (Peter Stone, Dolores Kempner, William Walker, and Jay Smith). We laughed and applauded vigorously, but I felt, like Democritus, "a spectator of other men's fortunes and adventures" who laughed to avoid sorrow. Whether or not Udall, the author, is worth this kind of response, I cannot say; but the little scene we had from our actors was worth it, with, or in spite of the author. I risk saying that the *Ralph Roister Doister* they gave us was not only good, but better than the Udall play in a library, because for a brief moment it "lived."

My impression of *Epicene* by Ben Jonson is vague in regards to some of the facts contributing to the situation as the diction and "pep" were not always what they should have been. Yet Clinton Archer as Morose came through splendidly, not only because of his own perception, but because of a cooperation from the other actors which gave us a significant moment and, for me, sends the spectator to a library to find out more about a character who has something worth one's knowledge and attention.

The scene from *The Gentleman's Dancing Master* by Wycherly uncovered an aspect of comedy which in contrast to that in the two preceding plays stands out both vividly and painfully—the aspect of human wickedness. Of course we laughed at the idea of a prevented seduction and at the contrast between a stern Spanish father and a lax Anglified daughter; but we recognized the insinuation behind Wycherly's ironic lines and underneath the affections, the savoir-faire of his characters. In actual acting Emily Strasser as Mrs. Caution stood out forcefully though there were good moments in the dialogue and pantomime of all the characters. The awkwardness which we noticed was expected but did not impede our imaginative reconstruction of the attempt made by the players. The scene got over and the actors appeared well, if not, at this moment in their training, extraordinary.

The bargaining scene from *The Way*

continued

of the *World* by Congreve stands in a class by itself outside of the Restoration Period as an immortal expression of individual characterization and something much harder to define in Congreve which has baffled critics for the last 200 years, and this is the curious undercurrent behind the lightness and apparent superficiality of Miraball and Millamant. Millamant was engagingly done by Deborah Sussman. Her lines were clear and the gestures and movement, if over-free in spots, were also at most times well interwoven with the texture of her speech so that they appeared as a natural and complementary form of expression. Clinton Archer sustained his role of Mirabell on a level of freshness and clear gaiety with an adjustment polished enough to give the whole scene an air of credibility.

The scene from *The Rivals* was Mrs. Malaprop's and Judy Sherman in this role met the specifications of her part admirably. The celebrated malapropisms came over delightfully and on hearing them we felt we were greeting old friends. It wasn't a graveyard performance however, and the complications between Captain Absolute and Lydia Languish tightened our interest as well as participation in the business of intrigue. Al Haulenbeek gave his best performance thus far this year in the role of Captain Absolute. He seemed to have accomplished the necessary submergence of himself into another character. Joyce Cohen supported the other actors beautifully and we regretted that we did not have time to watch her more carefully to discover her range of response and dexterity in contrast.

The first scene from *Lady Windemere's Fan* was very impressively done by the entire cast. Peter Stone as Lord Darlington was not altogether "wicked" in the Wilde sense, but he was sufficiently clear in the general outlines of his character to give us an adequate view of its nature. The difficulty is not just Peter's as Wilde's astounding unconventional men who toss off epigrams as others toss off clothes demands a type of character that is rarely met with either on or off the stage. Both Martha Becker as Lady Windemere and Corrine Sherman as Lady Agatha acted their parts in a workman-like manner. They deserve our congratulations for lending a hand to the others, which they did commendably. The scene was Olga Chureck's. All of the supporting characters realized this and did their best to give her the opportunity of making her role the star-performance of the evening.

Olga has mastered most of the rudiments of good acting as she amply revealed in her characterization of the Dutchess de Bur. The facial expression, vocal intonation, and gesture were all admirably there, working and enlarging every line that she said. As a performance, hers is the one which we will remember the longest.

The plays themselves cannot be dismissed easily because they constitute some of the greatest expressions of comedy the English language offers. In my review of *Mary of Scotland* I lamented, perhaps unjustly, the choice of a play; but I wish to end this review thanking the Drama Department, directors and actors, for a job bravely and beautifully done. Certainly after our introductory survey of comedy as an art form, we are all in part prepared for *The Old Bachelor* and we await its coming with eagerness and satisfaction.

# the bardian

Vol. 1, No. 8

PART II\*

\*ERRATA: Change No. 3 in part one to read No. 8.

## letter to the bardian

Office of the President

March 30, 1949

The Editorial, written by Fred Segal, and published in the March 28, 1949, issue of The Bardian does not seem to me to present a very clear picture of the sequence of events about which Mr. Segal is so concerned. I am glad to accept your invitation to comment on this Editorial since I believe your readers—both on and off campus—will welcome a complete summary of the facts, including some which have transpired since Mr. Segal wrote his editorial.

1. February 28. At the regular meeting of the Community Council Mr. Travis Houser expressed his opinion that as a student he had a right to know now what teachers would be at Bard in 1949-50. He had asked Dr. Reis and Dr. Koenig if they would be teaching here next year and had received the answer "No Comment." He asked me to make a statement as president. I replied that the faculty had requested the president and all others concerned with appointments to keep such matters confidential until an individual member of the faculty chose to make a statement about his plans. I stated further that I would not violate this confidence by making any statements about the plans of any member of the faculty until he or she was ready to make a statement. Dean Garrett pointed out that any faculty member has the right of privacy when asked about his plans and need not answer questions about them unless he chooses to do so. Council requested its Chairman, Mr. Robert MacAlister, to discuss the question of announcing faculty appointments with the president.

2. March 2. The Editor of The Bardian wrote his editorial on "The Koenig-Reis rumor" for Vol. I, No. 6, which was distributed on March 14.

3. March 2. Mr. MacAlister conferred with me as requested by Council. I gave him the memorandum adopted by the faculty. I stated again that I would not violate the confidence requested by the faculty of all concerned in matters of appointment.

4. March 7. At the regular meeting of Council Mr. MacAlister reported the results of his conference with me and announced that he would post the Faculty Memorandum. He also stated that a letter would be written jointly by the Chairman of Council and of the Student Committee on Educational Policy to Messrs. Fuller, Koenig, and Reis requesting a public statement about the plans of the latter two men for next year.

5. March 9. The letter mentioned above was written. It was received on March 10 in the President's office.

6. March 14. Mr. MacAlister reported at the regular meeting of Council that he had received no answers to his letter of March 9. I stated that I was the one addressed to me as soon as I could get at the mail which had accumulated on my desk. I stated further that my answer would put in writing what I had already stated orally—that I would not violate a confidence by making statements about any faculty member until he or she chose to make a statement. The Chairman of the Student E.P.C. said he had an oral statement from Dr. Reis that he had no objection to the Administration making any statement. I replied that such an oral statement at second hand did no release me from my obligations to refrain from making a public statement. A faculty representative on Council pointed out that when any member of the faculty is ready to have the Administration release statements about his plans all he needs to do is step into the office and tell the president what the faculty member wants released.

7. March 14. Volume I, No. 6, of The Bardian appeared with the editorial on "The Koenig-Reis rumor" requesting some further statement from Messrs. Koenig and Reis and me.

8. March 16. At a regular meeting the Faculty reaffirmed its request that all matters concerning faculty appointments be considered as confidential.

9. March 17. I wrote a letter to the Editor of The Bardian explaining in some detail why the Faculty wants matters of appointment kept confidential. Although the Editor has informed me that he received my letter on March 18 which was too late for publication in the issue that appeared on March 28, I hope it will be published in the next issue to acquaint Bardian readers with the details they need to know.

10. March 21. At a regular meeting of Council I answered the letter from the Chairman of Council and the Student E.P.C. orally, citing the reasons for the Faculty request that all matters of appointment be kept confidential. This oral answer contained the same information as that included in my letter of March 17 to the Editor of The Bardian. I stated further that I would put my oral report in writing as soon as possible.

11. March 28. I wrote the Chairman of Council and of the Student E.P.C. a full reply to their letter.

I trust that the publication of my letter, together with my letter to the Editor, dated March 17, will clarify the issue of public statements concerning faculty appointments. I appreciate your giving me this opportunity to assist in this clarification.

Sincerely yours,  
Edward C. Fuller

## letter to the bardian

MARCH 30th, 1949

I will agree with Richard Amero's contention in the last issue of the Bardian that the magazine fund raising drive has failed to date. However, he is wrong in contending that its failure is due to a negative response on the part of the College. For the most part Bardians have had neither a negative or positive response to the drive, or if they have had either they have based it on a very hazy notion of just how they were raising funds for what. In other words the average Bardian went off on the Field Period with a very confused notion of what a 'Rec' Hall was, and possibly an even

## buck passing

Before I really start this article on buck passing, sometimes known as "passing the buck," I would like to state that in the article, all references to persons living or dead or to any actual occurrence is purely coincidental. The author also takes full responsibility for anything said between the lines.

On the night of March 31st, at or about 2:32 A. M., I heard a low girlish moan in the Warden's social room. I know the exact time as I looked at my sundial with a flashlight.) This occurrence naturally disturbed my deep moral upbringing, and I read my Bible for the rest of the night.

The following morning, after reading the Cumulative Community Laws, and the Student Hand-Book, I approached my house president who was busily wire-tapping. I expressed my deep concern over the infringement of a COMMUNITY LAW, but he consoled me and said, "This really is not my business, why don't you take it to your advisor?"

With difficulty I found my advisor, who was just leaving by train to see "Kiss Me Kate" in New York. He quickly referred to his handy indexed edition of the Kinsey Report and suggested that I take my problem to the ADMINISTRATION.

I did not quite know who to see on the ADMINISTRATION so I polled a few of my friends; the consensus of opinion was, "Go see Uncle Paul." This I did. My wire-tappers caught him saying that he was right behind me.

Since I wanted someone to be in front of me for a change I wandered over to see "Ormie," who also assured me that he was right behind me, but it wasn't quite, well—

So I "Walk In Without Knocking" to see "Smiling Ed." He was deeply concerned and suggested that the COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE'S was just the place to take my problem, and that he was right behind me. I was going to say something more but he completely disappeared into his tobacco humidor and my wire-tappers couldn't get their equipment in there, so I left.

THE COMMITTEE ON COMMITTEE'S had never met but I found a man that was reputed to be the head of it and he suggested that THE BOARD was the place to take my problem. Since the buck passing was becoming a habitual ritual I now wear blinders, ear plugs, and a gag; and am not bothered anymore.

Hoby Pardee

## congratulations

My enthusiasm for the student performance of MIND IN THE SHADOW was too great to be ignored. I decided to write my first "letter to the editor."

I was privileged to sit in the studio as the broadcast was made, part of a small studio audience that by its very presence probably made the actors ten times more nervous. For that we apologize, but certainly no one among the listeners could dream that any actor's hand shook as he read his part. It was the smoothest, most capable performance by student actors that I have ever seen.

Chick Stekette is to be commended for his fine direction. His off-stage arm manipulations behind the plate glass reminded us of Toscanini conducting a Wagnerian opera but the results were just as satisfying. Every actor picked up his cue on the dot . . . even if he happened to be in the middle of a sneeze or halfway between the puffing-in and exhaling of a cigarette. Don Lasser's narrator was believable and moving and every part was played with real feeling and concentration. When you can be moved by a play even when the actors are in work clothes and a telephone conversation is simply an acoustical trick (done with a cone shaped black cup) then surely the job has been done well.

I do hope we can have a repeat performance soon. Congratulations.

Muriel DeGre



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Iris Lipskar (circulation)

## jeans and the jane

In the year 1944, Bard College became co-educational. The arrival of the girls brought with it the problem of open house which still remains a problem. The girls also brought with them a new concept of education that was to drive the drabness and the harshness out of the stern and cold life behind our ivied stone walls. The blessed spirit of women was to soothe and polish the rough life and rigid attitudes of our male students; to change them from rowdy and prudish males into compatible and adjusted members of a complete bi-sexual society. The savagery of adolescence as well as the assumption of male superiority and bigness was to be toned down. Life at the college was at last squaring with the fundamental realities of Adam and Eve.

Alas, such may have been the ideas behind our progressive educators as they sat in their masculine smoke-beclouded tobacco-stained dens forecasting the future; but the arrival of the females proved a sad disillusionment.

Ask yourself, have the females lightened our burdens and given us adequate insights as well as added zest and enjoyment of the sexual dichotomy of the human race? Have they bestowed softness, delicacy, and even modesty upon our lives? Unfortunately no, for the females arrived in pants and jackets. They lounged as men; they smoked as men; they even swore as men.

It is time once more to plead with our unruly opposite sex; to ask them to behave as they should and maintain the necessary cooperative balance between themselves and us. Perhaps it is extreme and nostalgic to say "no jeans," but can't we request skirts at least long enough to remind ourselves that there is a difference. When we think of Sally, Ruth, or Priscilla, must our mental image always wear the same clothes as Peter, John, or Philip. Come on girls, give us a chance. Make us gentlemen and we will make you ladies.

R. Amero

## letter to the bardian

Last Sunday a special meeting of the following bodies: the Educational Policies Committee, Council, Policies and Personnel Committee was called by Doctor Fuller at which the problems of "open house" and our student government were discussed. Bob MacAlister in the course of the March 18 Student Council session, stated that he came away from this meeting with a new feeling of hope. I too, must say that I was duly impressed by the above-mentioned meeting.

Some of the more basic weaknesses of our Student Government were clearly pointed out and I surmised by the general tenor of the conversation that having seen the light, so to speak, as a body, we were all going to do our best to correct the existing weaknesses. However, since the event of the Student Council session, I have come to feel that the meeting of last Sunday might as well have never occurred. For it seems that we have derived little or no benefit from it. What went in one ear on Sunday appears to have left rather rapidly by the other ear Monday.

It was precisely and emphatically stressed by a number of people present at the meeting that one of the most important factors facilitating the effectiveness of student government was the support of its laws by a majority of the members of this community. Mr. MacAlister went so far as to suggest the drafting of a petition on the question of "open house" in its broadest sense. He hoped thus to obtain a sort of vote of confidence from the students in their governmental organ (the council) and also to make evident to all, the nature of public opinion concerning this question.

It was felt that the house presidents of today are not secure in their position, and hesitate to take action for fear of disapproval and thereby alienation by the community, and that this petition, if signed by enough students, would alleviate the situation by showing these elected representatives that they are not alone.

Almost everyone at the Sunday meeting as well as at the Council meeting voiced their approval of this suggested course of action and importance of obtaining the consent and approval of the "governed", at least upon this issue.

Yet when a motion was proposed in council which, in effect, would have left almost everything but the length of the open house period



letters to the editors

(continued)

to the discretion of the individual house president, a great many, although not a majority of the council members voted in the affirmative. I, as a house-president, do not feel justified to act as the moral conscience of the entire dorm, nor do I wish to be set up as a moral dictator. Let us suppose that this motion, the general tenor of which was that all doors should remain open during the designated open house hours except in those cases wherein an individual had obtained the consent of the house president to do otherwise, had been passed: Suppose I, upon being asked by one of my members if she could keep her door closed (with reasons of course), decided that she could not, where upon I was told, "that's just too bad; I'm going to do it anyway." "What possible argument could I give her but that I felt her reason did not warrant a closed door? I could not say to her, "Now look here, when you came to Bard you knew that we had a democratic form of government, which means that these regulations which I am enforcing are as much yours as they are mine. Even if you as an individual do not approve of this particular law, the majority does, and therefore you too, as a member of this community, must abide by it." I could not say to her that I have the greater part of the student body behind me in this particular course of action (which, in I therefore feel justified in taking it. The only thing that I would have would be the lovely empty package of the power of discretion which I would have to fill with my own very personal and arbitrary discretion.

We expressed the desire to circulate a petition to assure house presidents that the college is backing them on the enforcement of the laws made by the community. But at the same time we consider passing a law which in its very nature makes its co-existence with the first impossible. I can well visualize what would take place if a member from house A and a member from house B began to compare notes and found that the divergences of rules concerning open and closed doors in the two houses was most flagrant.

A number of years ago, as I understand it, the open house regulations were left entirely up to the individual house. This state of affairs was a failure. What now makes people think that if you leave these regulations more or less up to one person, (which, in my opinion, is a hundred times worse than the former) everything will be fine? I think this shows not only lack of insight, but a failure to make use of previous experience.

To make matters worse this entire problem was discussed at length at the Sunday meeting. If our memories be so feeble that we cannot remember our lesson from one day to the next, then let us suspend all such meetings. For to begin each new one exactly in the same place as the previous one, seems a superfluous waste of time. However I hope and feel that this situation can be remedied, and that in the future when measures are voted upon, we will consider them carefully, in the light of past history.

Hansi Blumenfeld

(continued)

less clearer notion of how funds were to be raised. With all due respects for the sincere efforts of those who prepared the original campaign, it was a failure because time did not permit a thorough organization of the program.

After the Field Period I was asked to take over the drive. Up to that time I had had nothing to do with the Un-American "Rec Hallers", and my notion of a "Rec" Hall did not go much further than the words, cinder bricks. Like everyone else I really had no idea of what we were supposed to be working for.

Thus, the Fund Raising Committee instead of trying to push the campaign the first thing this semester has firstly tried to decide what sort of a building we feel should be constructed and secondly to transmit these ideas to the drawing board with the aid of an architect.

Very shortly we hope to present blueprints, artists' conceptions and estimated costs to Council or Convocation as directed. If approval is forthcoming for the objective, we will have ready an organized and detailed program by which we believe the money can be raised.

Obviously whatever sort of building we propose, and whatever sort of method we utilize to raise the desired funds, there may be objections on either counts. However, it would seem wise for those interested in the project to pursue the objective in view, for the money raised to-date has been pledged to that end.

Christopher Magee

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Office of the President

March 17, 1949

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BARDIAN

In your editorial dated March 2nd, and published in Vol. 1, No. 6, of The Bardian you requested that Dr. Koenig, Dr. Reis, and I say more than "No Comment" about the rumor you printed. This letter is written as my response to this request, and to present the facts about Faculty appointments. It is regrettable that you did not give me advance notification of your intent to publish this editorial so that my reply could have been printed in the same issue of The Bardian.

On May 20th, 1946, a resolution concerning Faculty Rank, Tenure, and Salary was approved by the Faculty. This preamble is as follows: "In order to establish a clearer understanding of the relations between the Administration and the Faculty in matters such as appointments, promotions, tenure, and salary, the Administrative Committee of the Faculty makes the following proposals. It is the intention of the Committee that these proposals will serve as a guide for the President in considering the administrative and educational problems involved in maintaining the best possible faculty for the college."

On May 27, 1947, the Faculty adopted a resolution re-organizing its Committees and assigning the duties of the Administrative Committee and the Committee on Studies to a new Policy Committee.

The Policy Committee and the members of the Faculty on continuous appointment (i.e., permanent tenure) advise the President on matters pertaining to new appointments, termination of appointments, reappointments, promotions, and salary increases. Any Faculty member who is not to be reappointed for a given academic year is so informed no later than the beginning of the Christmas Recess of the preceding academic year. Letters of reappointment for the following academic year are sent out near the beginning of the Spring semester.

The Faculty Resolution adopted on May 29th, 1946, ends with the following paragraph: "All discussion of appointment, reappointment, promotion, and salary of individuals shall be considered as confidential by all concerned and should not be disclosed to any one who is not specifically included in the established procedures." This paragraph was included in the Faculty Resolution to protect the privacy of each individual member of the Faculty. If a teacher wants to move on to another college or university for a different kind of teaching or research experience he is privileged to tell the Faculty Committee and the President this fact with the assurance that his plans will be kept in confidence until he wishes to make a public announcement of the new position he has secured. He is thus able to give Bard College early notification of his desire to leave so that a maximum amount of time can be available for finding his replacement.

If a teacher is not to be reappointed for the following academic year because Bard College feels he will do a better job in another type of college or in a university, he has the privilege of looking about for the best possible new position without being handicapped by public knowledge of his plans to leave Bard. When he has his new position he can announce this fact. If a teacher wishes to apply for a fellowship for further study to enhance his value as a teacher and scholar he can inform the Faculty Policy Committee and the president of this fact with the assurance that his plans will be kept in confidence until he secures the fellowship. If the fellowship is not granted to him, he is not subjected to embarrassment. Since he knows that his plans for further study will be held in confidence by the Faculty Policy Committee and the president he can enable us to begin looking for a replacement long before he knows whether or not he will get the award. The earlier we can start looking for new teachers the better are our chances of getting superior people.

Sometimes a teacher who is a woman decides to be married and to leave Bard. Long before she may wish to announce her engagement she can tell the Faculty Policy Committee and the president of her intentions. She knows her plans will be kept in confidence and that no announcement will be made until she chooses to make one herself.

As you can see from the above, the Faculty passed its resolution requesting that all discussions concerning appointments be kept confidential in order to protect each faculty member and to permit the College to start looking for new teachers as early as possible. This request for keeping all such discussion confidential was reaffirmed by the Faculty in its meeting on March 16, 1949. I am firmly aware that the student at Bard wants to know who will be teaching here each year. This information is automatically made available when we publish our course lists in June for preliminary registration for the fall semester. But to protect the professional career of each member of the Faculty, we cannot make a public announcement of appointments until the individual faculty member is ready to do so. I firmly believe we must protect this fundamental human right to privacy.

Sincerely yours,  
Edward C. Fuller

LATE NEWS:

a.—Have you read the funeral edition?

b.—1. International student week-end well received.

2. Where is 21st district in N. Y.

c.—Mark says: "Harold's food is better."

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