

Bard College
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BARDIAN

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The Bardian

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Annandale-on-Hudson, N. Y.

June 13, 1950



Why I Chose the West

Mr. Bella Belassa, former Hungarian Consul General in New York, announced his solidarity with Western Civilization at a large meeting sponsored by the Social Studies Club on June first.

Mr. Belassa who has been in the diplomatic service for over twenty years recently renounced his position, career, citizenship and property in protest over the Communist persecution of Lutheran Bishop Ordass and Cardinal Mindszenty. In view of the bitter experiences gained during the last two world wars and as victim of the present cold war, Mr. Belassa had difficulties in gathering strength and courage to start a new life. He and his fellow citizens behind the Iron Curtain had known but theoretical freedom, and the term democracy had a hollow meaning indeed. But he found freedom and democracy to be living realities in the orbit of the Western Civilization, and this assurance moved him to choose the West.

He asserted that the Marxian-Leninist communist ideology is waging a ruthless battle against Christianity and human dignity. This war had been openly declared as early as in 1848 when the Communist Manifesto made its first appearance. The present cold war is the most recent manifestation of the Communists' iron will to execute the revolutionary godless will left behind by Marx and Engel. Mr. Belassa's own personal tragedy is only too clear a proof that the forces of evil have been

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Academic Freedom Violated

Following news release was presented to the Community Council by Charlie Naef, chairman Bard SDA, on May 29, 1950:

"Probably realizing that the faculty-council ban against one of the eight high school teachers speaking at the campus would not stand public scrutiny, the four city college Presidents meeting together as the Administrative Council of the Board of Higher Education put their heads together and came up with a new ruling in force in at least one city college to preclude any person under judicial consideration from speaking on any city college campus.

"It is felt that there is an inherent violation of the 1st amendment in this ruling because of its limitation of free speech. The rule stigmatizes a person by, in effect, judging him guilty before the facts are set down. The ruling goes against all established precepts of academic freedom for students as laid down by such organizations as the National Students Association and the American Civil Liberties Union, both of whom insist that 'students have the right to hear speakers of their own choosing.' If one were to take the logic of 'judicial consideration' seriously it would mean that a person involved in a divorce action could not speak on campus and a speaker arrested for speeding on the way to a college would have to be refused admittance also. The theory behind this ruling is devoid of any understanding of academic freedom as a civil liberty. We call on the Administrative Council to reconsider this ruling and permit student and civil liberties groups to testify on it, and urge all student

groups to write to the head of the Council, Pres. Harry Gideonse, Brooklyn College, Brooklyn, New York, for such hearings. If student groups do not act, the ruling will stand."

The high school teacher under "judicial consideration" is Mrs. Zitron, one of eight high school teachers suspended by Superintendent Jansen pending hearings on charges of Communism. Whether she is a Communist or not is not the issue at stake. According to the principles of Anglo-Saxon law she is not guilty till she has been so proven. She is entitled to all her constitutional rights, including those of free speech and assembly. She was asked to speak to the Queens College YPA group which is recognized by the college administration. This group, which is communist dominated, had a constitutional right to hear her. When the administration forbade Mrs. Zitron to speak, other anti-communist groups, including the Student Council, demanded to hear her, insisting that academic freedom be respected. But the administration and the Board of Higher Education chose to stand by their flagrant violation of civil liberties.

Student Councils throughout New York State have been urged to ask Pres. Harry Gideonse, who heads the Administrative Council of the Board of Higher Education, for a fair hearing on the "judicial consideration ruling." If this should not produce satisfactory results, legal action has been contemplated.

The Bard SDA hopes that the Community Council will not fail in bringing its views on academic freedom to the attention of Pres. Gideonse. C.R.N.

of implementing the program for the next year are the only feasible choices we could make.

Signed,

Dean Casady

POLICY AS ANNOUNCED:

1. As in the past, a series of orientation meetings will be held during the first weeks of the semester to introduce all freshmen to the academic organization of the college, the functions of community government, and the regulations pertaining to social life. Throughout the academic year, additional series of orientation meetings and special discussion groups for freshmen will also continue to be held. These additional series will have a four-fold objective: (a) to enable the new college student to anticipate more exactly what he should and should not expect to learn by electing any field of concentration; (b) to acquaint him with the matter and methods studied in specific courses of different divisions; (c) to increase every student's awareness of his individual responsibilities as a member of a democratic community; (d) to add to his knowledge of the principles of mental and social hygiene.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Section 1. The announced series of orientation meetings and special discussion groups will be scheduled weekly at 4 p. m., on Wednesdays, except when there is a meeting of Convocation. On such days the meetings will probably be held at 10.30 a. m.

a. The conduct and content of this series will primarily be the responsibility of Miss Kiernan, who will plan and schedule weekly meetings with the advice and help of the faculty and the members of the Committee on "The Freshman Year as Orientation."

POLICY AS ANNOUNCED:

2. Certain dormitories will be reserved for freshmen. In each of these provision is to be made for a resident counselor, who is intended also to be a member of the teaching faculty. Each resident counselor, in addition to providing guidance upon request, will assist the freshmen in organizing themselves effectively and in assuming responsibility for directing their own social affairs.

IMPLEMENTATION:

Section 2. The dormitories reserved for freshmen women, next year, 1950-51, will be Potter-McVickar, where Miss Kiernan will be resident counselor.

(a) The suites in these dormitories will be reserved for 5 or 6 older students, who have volunteered to help the freshmen set up their house government and to prepare to assume responsibility for directing their own social affairs. The dormitories reserved for freshmen men will be Kap House and Gray Cottage, where Dr. Brown will be resident counselor.

(b) If room permits, it is hoped that several older students will also volunteer to reside in these dormitories and serve as sources of information and advice to new students.

Section 3. (revised to read) Between specific hours all freshmen women will be required to be within the walls of their own dormitories unless they have special permission to stay off campus overnight. These hours have been set from 11.30 p. m. to 6 a. m. except on Friday and Saturday nights. On Friday and Saturday nights the closing hours will be 2 a. m. except on special occasions. When dances or other college functions are officially scheduled to terminate at an hour later than 1 a. m. the closing hour for freshmen women may be extended until one hour (1 hour) after the scheduled ending of the event. (This original plan may be modified after the first semester at the suggestion of the Freshmen, the discretion of the Counselors, and with the advice of the Orientation Committee.) Permission for freshmen women to leave the campus for a week end or to stay overnight will be granted only to the extent approved by their parents.

ADDENDUM:

1. The Committee on "The Freshman (Continued on Page 3)

Oil on The Acropolis

The following is the crux of an article published last fall in the independent French review *Les Temps Modernes* led by Jean-Paul Sartre. This strongly anti-communist publication is favorably known in France for its objectivity, for which reason its interpretation of the Greek problem, which is still so sharp, appears to me deserving to be known by Americans. It is for this reason that I have translated it for printing in the BARDIAN.

Olga Andreyew

"It is a very generally accepted opinion that the English experience proves that socialism is possible without revolution. Without denying English achievement *Les Temps Modernes* thinks that the performed planification is not socialism. When looked on through its action in the world, the *Travaillism* appears as a new form of the old *English Imperialism*."

Jean-Paul Sartre

The American intervention in Greece always remained very mysterious. Until March 1947, the date on which the Truman doctrine was proclaimed thereby deciding US action in Greece, the US displayed no interest in that country. According to Yalta agreements, Greece was in the "English zone of influence." Americans were aware of England's mo-

tivations and blamed Mr. Churchill's policy in Greece. "How can England do such things?", said Roosevelt to his son Elliott (E. Roosevelt in *As He Saw It*). And, all of a sudden, on March 17, 1947, President Truman was telling the world that the US had decided to take England's position in Greece. What were the reasons of this sharp modification in American policy?

To ever understand international policy in the modern world one has to figure out what is the English policy. This is rather paradoxical, for the common opinion is that, internationally speaking, Great Britain is on its decline, and that the first roles belong now to the US and the USSR. And yet the tension between these two countries, which is the dominant feature of the present situation is largely a result of English policy.

In fact England's position remains unchanged in the matter of politics. If she grows weak in some section of the world, as in Egypt or Palestine for example, she finds compensation elsewhere: in the Italian colonies or Transjordan. After the last war England's main anxiety was over the possible breaking up of her Empire. She was frightened with the idea of facing Russia alone in the sections of the world where their in-

terests were antagonistic. *The Economist* wrote in October 1945, "Some legitimate English interests will always be preserved and eventually fought for. No concession could ever be made in the matter of domination of the Indian Ocean, or in the Mediterranean Sea, which leads to it." So if English policy leaves somewhere an apparent "emptiness" it is not by mere chance. This is a result of sophisticated operations, in the very situation where their intervention is a necessity for Great Britain. If the USA follows this policy, it is to prevent Russians from getting into the remaining emptiness.

The mere fact that Russia won the last war makes her the first enemy of England. All the energy of this latter country is to make the next struggle occur between Russia and the U.S. instead of Russia and England. The interests of the Empire demand it. The first speech of Mr. Churchill in August 1945 was already going in this direction. But it is only at Fulton, Missouri (March 6, 1946) that Mr. Churchill gave a program of anti Russian policy, and spoke of military alliance between England and the U.S.

But at this time the world tension was Anglo-Russian. The policy of the U.S. (Continued on Page 2)

Text Of Social Ruling Presented to Council Last Night

Bardian

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He who molds public sentiment goes deeper than he who enacts statutes or pronounces decisions. —Abraham Lincoln

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Hooper Speaks On Pensions

On Thursday evening, May 25, the Social Studies Club presented a lecture by Mr. John Hooper, President of the Lincoln Savings Bank of Brooklyn. Mr. Hooper, whose daughter is Janet Hooper, was the first of what we hope will be a series of parent speakers. The topic of Mr. Hooper's talk was "Pensions from Industry's Point of View."

In his address he traced the history of the pensions from its conception, when grateful monarchs rewarded their loyal subjects with a grant of land, up through the later pre-World War II period when industries offered them as inducements to desirable young men. However, even as late as the outbreak of the last war less than 10% of industrial workers were covered and Unions actively fought against them because they preferred an outright wage increase. The high tax rate on corporate profits during and since the war have provided the needed incentive to make their adoption widespread.

As far as present day pensions are concerned, Mr. Hooper said that "Industry does not view with alarm the adoption of Pension Plans." On the contrary, industry feels that anything which contributes to the worker's well-being and sense of security is worthwhile. However, according to the speaker, industry definitely feels that pensions must be considered a legitimate business expense and like other business costs must be paid for by the consumer.

Mr. Hooper expressed his preference for government handling of the pensions. This, he explained, would be the only practicable way because of the tremendous sums of money involved and because of the difficulties in transferring pension credits from one industry to another when the worker wished to change positions.

Mr. Hooper stressed the advantages of non-contributory rather than contributory pensions because, he explained, when workers are forced to contribute there is a tendency to demand higher wages to compensate for the immediate loss in income. The speaker also pointed out that under the non-contributory plan there would be no legal claim on funds paid before the final date of retirement. This fact alone would lower final out-

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Editorial:

Academic Freedom?

No such Animal in N. Y. City

Academic Freedom, a rather prized possession of Bard and some other institutions, has been recently discarded by the Board of Education in New York City.

Two flagrant violations of the principles stated by the American Civil Liberties Union has topped off the B of E's policy of witch hunting, including their assumption that an individual is guilty until proven innocent.

Today the spotlight falls on the Board of Higher Education which has adopted the same techniques on a college level.

This first ruling of B of E is an attempt to "preclude any person under judicial consideration from speaking on any city college campus." This particular edict is contrary to all established precepts expressed by NSA and the American Civil Liberties Union. (the details are presented in the SDA press release on page 1.)

The four sages who concocted this resolution are the presidents of the New York City Colleges. The top man on this council is President Harry Gideonse of Brooklyn College.

The destructive aspects of this concept (i.e., you are considered guilty until proven innocent) cannot be underestimated. If the ruling stands it sets a precedent for what might be termed academic slavery. Teachers and students will be subject to the whims of small group of men protected by an invulnerable, autocratic shell of "legality."

The importance of this action is not limited to the Empire State but may spread and germinate throughout the nation if left unchecked. Remember, academic freedom is on shaky ground today!

"The second violation also includes Harry Gideonse in the cast. To quote from the SDA release:

"The recent action by the administration at Brooklyn College is another example of how academic freedom may be

destroyed through fear and hysteria. The action there dates back to the college newspaper, "Vanguard" printing the story of President Gideonse's rejection of the History Department's choice for chairman, Jesse Clarkson, who headed the department for twelve years. (The Gideonse-Clarkson feud is one of personalities—not ideologies). The paper learned of this action unofficially and checked with the administration's publicity department for confirmation. The story was confirmed but the paper was asked to hold off printing until the matter was brought before the B.H.E. so as not to place the President in an awkward position beforehand. Since the B.H.E. meeting was not to take place for three weeks the editors felt called upon to print the news immediately. The faculty adviser of the paper had also warned them against printing the story. About ten day later the faculty adviser resigned ostensibly in protest over "Vanguard" members violating a by-law which the editors had asked to be waived, and which stated that the editorship is only open to those persons who can serve for a year. This resignation resulted in the automatic suspension of "Vanguard."

SDA feels that the suspension violates the basic right of independence for any student organization. The statement of principles of academic freedom of the American Civil Liberties Union directly answers this point: "... nor should student groups be forbidden to function because no faculty member will consent to serve as their adviser."

The ten day refusal by the faculty members of the Faculty Committee on Publications to permit any other faculty member to serve as an adviser is, we charge, a calculated attempt at intimidation. The reappointment of the original adviser on the condition that Vanguard not publish its two remaining issues this term does not, of course, solve any of the questions raised.)

We further condemn the administra-

tion's attempt to impose censorship on Vanguard in the form of maintaining that the faculty adviser is to have final say on the contents of the newspaper. We assert with the editors of "Vanguard," that an adviser advises, not dictates.

The harsh disciplinary measures of suspension (one week for the editor, three days for execs and probation for the remaining 50 staff members) with this action to be made a part of the students permanent record is, we charge, a violation of the Board of Higher Education's by-laws which call for disciplinary measures as an education function. The suspensions are based on the printing of Draugnav (Vanguard backwards), which was distributed off campus out of private non-student funds. The administration maintains that the spirit of the suspension was violated since the Vanguard office typewriters were used. Actually, the editors expected to print Vanguard, not realizing other faculty advisers would be prevented from serving, therefore the news was gathered for Vanguard and switched to Draugnav only at the last minute. Incidentally, many faculty members commend Draugnav for its objectivity and absence of malice.

The harshness of the suspension will serve to stigmatize the future of all of the individuals involved. Because of this, and because of the very serious violations of academic freedom involved, we urge all groups to join us in supporting the editor, Arthur Lack, in his appeal of the suspensions."

Again, this is not limited to the "Vanguard." Let's not have to publish a "Naidrab." The plight of the Vanguard deserves our unqualified support.

Finally, the New York City B of E in its concern over subversives in the school system, and its use of Moscow purge techniques, is only adding fuel to Red torches by justifying their gripes.

Martin Johnson, Associate Editor

Zimmerman Plays

On Sunday, May 28th, Janet Zimmerman gave a piano recital in Bard Hall. The program represented four major periods in music: Baroque, Classical, Romantic and Modern. The concert was Miss Zimmerman's Senior Project and consisted of Bach, Beethoven, Franck and Prokofiev.

The Toccata in E minor by Bach was played with impressive ability. Miss Zimmerman combined restraint with the latent power and severity of the work. It was musical, subtle and expressed a sensitivity usually not heard by pianists of Miss Zimmerman's experience.

Sonata op. 81A by Beethoven, drew heavily upon the interpretive powers of the executant. The opening adagio and the closing movement were particularly well done. The third movement, called "The Return" was played with the freshness and the enthusiasm that the title implies.

One of the most enjoyable parts of the program was Caesar Franck's Symphonic Variations. Miss Zimmerman seemed relaxed and confident in this work. The piece is musical and highly romantic. It was played with brilliance and emotion. Mr. Paul Nordoff, Miss Zimmerman's teacher, played the orchestral transcription for piano. The rapport between the two pianists was good. The audience reaction to the Franck, as reflected in the applause, was striking. The powerful emotional effect of this piece climaxed the program.

The fourth part of the recital was the Sonata No. c by Prokofiev. Technically it was Miss Zimmerman's best work.

The program was thought by many to be one of the best musical presentations the Bard community has heard. Miss Zimmerman displayed a technical ability and a musical sensitivity heard seldom by young pianists.

Andreyew

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into the only completely English oil was still to follow the idea of Roosevelt, that the great powers should stay united after their victory. Congress was at first rather hostile to a project which would deeply involve Americans in the English policy, in sections of the world traditionally strange to them.

It is in Iran that we find the origin of American intervention in Greece. It is there that England performed her first operation in order to arouse the U.S. against Russia. The Iranian question was, at the beginning, an Anglo-Russian disagreement. The Americans were then indifferent to what was happening to Iranian oil. In 1946, a serious disagreement was solved by the UN Security Council when it succeeded in getting Russian armies out of the Azerbaijan. In spite of a strong English pressure, the U.S. remained neutral, and the question was regulated through diplomacy. This attitude of the U.S. explains the following English move. Iran had oil and the American trusts could be involved there if Washington itself was refractory. Negotiations started between English and American oil companies. An agreement was reached on December 26, 1945, which appeared to the world as a complete failure on England's part.

The Anglo-Iranian Co. agreed to sell an important part of its production for a period of twenty years to Standard Oil of New Jersey and to Socony Vacuum. The situation was indeed very favorable to the oil interests of the U.S. in Iran.

The New York Herald Tribune, Jan. 1947: "With the new agreement, the American oil interests have suddenly increased their part in the middle east." The American oil trusts, which were already involved in the English concessions in Arabia, got through this way

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Montgomery Explains the Madrigal

I was talking with Bea Montgomery recently about the Madrigal Group in general, and about the madrigal as a musical form in particular, when it struck me that what she had to say would make an interesting article to accompany Mr. Nordoff's review. In describing the nature of the madrigal Bea used a number of technical musical terms which she defined for me which I, in turn, shall do for you.

In defining precisely the nature of the madrigal she said that, "It is a secular song which may be sung with accompaniment although it is usually sung a cappella (without accompaniment). Madrigals were quite the vogue in Italy and England during the latter half of (Continued on Page 3)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

We would like to extend our sincere apologies for this error and thank Dr. Hirsch for his kind correction.

The Editors

June 8, 1950

To the Editor of The Bardian

Dear Sir:

I appreciate the report you published in the June 3rd issue of The Bardian on the speech which I made before the St. Stephen's Society recently. Unfortunately an error slipped in which I would wish to see corrected.

The "belief that the Church would rather see Germany under Communist domination than permanently divided" and the statement that "The Church is a fifth occupying power" does not represent my opinion at all, but was merely an utterance of Pastor Martin Niemöller which I quoted in my speech. In this case, as in so many others, I disagree completely with Niemöller's line of thought.

I would appreciate your correcting this misunderstanding.

Sincerely yours,

Felix E. Hirsch

The Critic's Corner

Leonard Reviews Nordoff

On Thursday evening, May 18th, Paul Nordoff of the music faculty played a colorful and varied program of twentieth century piano music, ranging from the neoclassic and satirical styles of Debussy to the neobaroque polyphonic complexities of Hindemith. From the moment that Mr. Nordoff first sat down to play he commanded the attention and respect of his audience, which responded to his changing moods throughout the evening.

The *Hommage a Rameau* was interpreted with appropriate objectivity and restraint, its cool impressionism demanding just the kind of precision ascribed to it by Mr. Nordoff.

The dry humor of Debussy, whose work opened the program, came happily to light at the hands of Mr. Nordoff in *Hommage a S. Pickwick, Esq., P. P. M. P. C., God Save the King*, and its mock pomposity in this composition, was succeeded by the finely-spun and vivacious caprice of "*General Lavine—eccentric* deftly manipulated.

The many-faceted Ravel was heard to advantage in the three pieces from the suite, *Le Tombeau de Couperin*, and in the impressionistically liquid piece, *Ondine*. Technically, though perhaps not musically, more difficult than the Debussy pieces, the Ravel group served admirably to anticipate the stark uncompromising formality of the Hindemith Sonata. Non-virtuoso as they are in spirit, they nevertheless require the skill and the power of virtuosity, and with these gifts Mr. Nordoff ably projected them. Hindemith's contrapuntal angularity, his arbitrary, though convincing handling of tonality, and his

sharp rhythmic definitions, were all combined by Mr. Nordoff to reveal spans of phrase, section and movement, in an excitingly logical order. Local and overall climactic schemes were all brought into the clearest possible focus, with magnetic conviction.

The second half of the program gave proof of Mr. Nordoff's predilection for the art of the Iberian peninsula, not only by the presence of two Spanish composers and of two Freshmen who frequently invested their music with Spanish flavor, but also because it was evident that Mr. Nordoff played these compositions almost as if they had been his own. The rhythmic brilliance of Falla's *Dance of the Miller* contrasted strikingly with the suave and seductive complaint heard in Debussy's *The Door of the Vineyard*. Antithesis of all sorts abounded in the pieces by Mompou, on all levels of sonority and intensity. Expectancies with their satisfactions delayed at important cadential resolutions induced audible waves of understanding from the audience; and each mood, whether nostalgic, wistful, whimsical, or satiric, was sustained with ingratiating effect.

Mr. Nordoff added generously to his program by playing three encores, all of them characterized by the compelling insinuations of the Hispanic style. His apologies for the more obviously popular "appeal" of these compositions served to enhance their exciting and amusing qualities. Throughout the concert and even in the encores there was a provocative subtlety in Mr. Nordoff's performance, which implied to this reviewer that underneath the humor he wished us to be aware of something both whimsical and emotional. Claire Leonard

Social Ruling

(Continued from Page 1)

Yeas as Orientation" should continue to function next year. Its duties will be to evaluate the results being achieved by this experiment, and when deemed advisable, to recommend how the program can be improved.

2. The experiment outlined for the academic year 1950-51 is an attempt to meet immediate problems within the stated limits. It was felt that many of these problems had arisen because of the present necessity of housing freshmen separately. In the future, with adequate dormitory space, the intermingling of the freshmen with upper classmen should be looked upon as the more desirable plan, particularly in a community where few established patterns exist for the guidance of entering students. It was felt by the committee that separation of freshmen retards their full integration into the community, creates artificial barriers, limits opportunities for friendship and delays the maturing process. The projected dormitory should be designed to break down the artificial barriers of academic class.

3. The committee felt that the problem of hours for freshmen should not be met by an arbitrary structure of hours, but should be considered in connection with each individual's academic and social development. This might be worked out by the adviser and the counselor with the student.

4. The committee also felt that the services of the resident counselors should be available to all men and all women on campus and not only to members of the freshman class. This should be kept in mind when assigning rooms in the new dormitory.

5. The committee believed that it is very important that more opportunities for exchange of opinions and interests be afforded as a means of integrating our social and academic life. Informal gatherings, divisional and inter-divisional sponsored meetings, and the serving of refreshments after all academic functions might be used to achieve this end.

6. We believe that our committee should continue to function during the academic year 1950-51, and that the counselors should be added to the membership, as well as any additional members or advisers who might contribute

Hooper

(Continued from Page 2)

payments on the part of the government by 25%.

The rest of the meeting was devoted to questions from the audience. The general tenor of this discussion period seemed to be a search for security on the part of the students. Mr. Hooper explained that no plan could take the place of individual ability, willingness to work, and thrift. The Federal Government should not be looked upon as a Dutch Uncle and should limit its activity to those spheres in which private enterprise could not work effectively.

Paul Storm

Montgomery

(Continued from Page 2)

the sixteenth century. Historically the madrigal was preceded by the motet also a secular musical form though written in the vernacular whereas the madrigal is written in a Biblical or similar style. Like the madrigal the motet is polyphonic meaning that it calls for two or more voices each with an independent melody harmonising one with the other.

I asked Bea why it was that the Group did not present any motets.

"It's not that we don't like the motet," she told me, "It's just that the madrigal is freer and more vivacious in texture and it calls for more voices."

The Bard Madrigal Group was formed by Mr. Leonard in the Spring of 1948. This semester the Group has given three performances here at Bard and outside of the campus it has broadcast over WNYC in New York City, WKIP in Poughkeepsie, and will appear for the second time before the Avon Old Arms School in Avon, Connecticut on June 11. On that occasion they expect an audience approaching one thousand.

Bob Solotaire

to our better functioning.

7. In order to simplify the orientation mechanism, the volunteer Orientation Committee should be combined with the Committee for the Freshman Year as Orientation under the guidance of the latter. Under this arrangement, the committee would organize the group of volunteers each semester and work out the orientation program in accordance with the new orientation policy.

Nordoff Reviews Leonard

It is a pleasure to review the concert of the Bard Madrigal Group given at Bard Hall on Sunday evening, May 21st.

The BMG has plenty on the ball. First of all, the good fortune to be trained and conducted by Clair Leonard who has a rare gift for imparting his enthusiasm for, and his devotion to, the church repertoire. Secondly, the group has given a very successful first concert and it is everyone's hope that it will be able to replace the graduating seniors, keep together, and continue to develop its already considerable resources.

It is evident that with more experience the singers will learn to control their enthusiasm in the forte passages so that the balance, so fine in piano and mezzo-forte, is not lost. The contralto section seemed the weakest to me, and somewhat inclined to flatten the pitch. (This is not rare in contralto singing.)

The rhythm was excellent throughout, the English diction was especially good. Incidentally, the audience was expected to be very accomplished linguistically; five languages were represented on the program. May I suggest that a line or two giving the meaning of the foreign language texts, placed beneath the title of the songs, would be very helpful to listeners at future performances.

If there is any danger in concerts of this music, that danger is charm. There can be just too much charm; too many pieces that evoke gentle laughter after the final "fa la la." Perhaps more Monteverdi?

Faith Lilien, violinist, accompanied by Clair Leonard "at" the harpsichord, performed the Handel Sonata in D very beautifully. Tommy has a lovely tone and a fine feeling for phrasing. There was not a very good balance, however, as the keyboard instrument was no match for the fiddle tone. Clair Leonard played a well chosen group of solos by appropriate composers. These were very well done, and immediately enjoyed by the audience.

It is unfortunate, perhaps, that I am unable (It's undoubtedly congenital) to respond to the charms of the unfortunate harpsichord. I use the word unfortunate referring to its place in the development of the keyboard instrument.

I'm fairly sure that every composer has wished to write for the best instruments of his time. (One remembers Bach's excitement and pleasure over the Well Tempered Clavichord, which he expressed by composing forty-eight Preludes and Fugues for same.) I'm sure Bach would prefer the modern piano to the old instrument. Candle light is charming but there's nothing like a good seventy-five watt bulb for reading. I remarked to a friend that I did not think the harpsichord was here to stay, he replied, "In any case, not this one."

A toast to the Madrigal Group and its conductor (In mead?) and the writer's sincere thanks for an extremely pleasant evening of music.

Paul Nordoff

Andreyew

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company, the powerful Anglo-Iranian. It seemed a poor operation in English terms.

But this deal was not only a commercial agreement, in spite of the operations of the Foreign Office and of the State Department. 51% of the auctions of the Anglo Iranian are controlled by the English admiralty. There is also a connection between American trusts and the American navy.

It was at this time that Mr. Churchill made his Fulton speech. It was in order to stop some Russo-Iranian oil negotiations. Russia wanted some concessions in Iran before leaving the Azerbaidjan. But when a common front was realized in Iran, by the U.S. and England, Russia tried to hurt the English policy which they understood. They made several concessions to stop the world tension (Peace Conference, Paris 1946; General Assembly and Four Power Conference, New York, December 1946)

England failed to foment a true hostility between the U.S. and Russia in Iran so she decided to try again in Greece, which has such an important strategic position on the Mediterranean way to the middle east. On February 27, 1947, an unbelievable fact was made public: England revealed that she had to give up her position in Greece and asked the U.S. to take over in her stead. She was referring to her bad material situation, but at the same time she gave Austria aid amounting to ten million pounds. After having involved the American trusts in the middle east, England wanted the U.S. to hold the "Greek emptiness," an operation that Americans had to perform in order to avoid a Russian expansion in the "empty" sections.

The paradoxical aspect of the situation was that the famous "emptiness" was almost completely fictitious. England never intended to leave her Mediterranean positions. On the 14 of March 1947, the *Zuercher Zeitung* wrote: "The English armies, the English capital, the English influence is maintained in Athens."

The whole operation is obvious, and is easily explained by the complicity that England has had in the U.S., the powerful oil trusts. These trusts, scared with the idea of England leaving Greece, put pressure on the State Department, on Congress, and on public opinion. It was probably the strongest internal pressure on American government ever had to bear. According to Time Magazine when the president claimed the new policy, everybody spoke about Greece and Turkey, and in a low tone about the seas of oil in the southern sections.

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(Continued from Page 1)

successful. The speaker was unable to detect a single decisive diplomatic mistake on the part of the Russians.

Why could the East European countries not withstand Russian imperialism and Communist infiltration? Mr. Belassa pointed to the tragedy of the democratic socialist parties which believed that cooperation with communism was possible. Once the Communists had succeeded to lure the socialists into the holy matrimony of an United Front or People's Party, they weakened the socialist parties, infiltrated the government, and finally took over after having eliminated the democratic socialists. The Christian and Jewish churches recognized the peril of communism from the start, but they were helpless against the political strength of an United Front. Now they have to pay dearly for their courageous resistance to godless communism. Before the Communists took over there were 45,000 churches and 50,000 priests; now there are barely 2,000 churches and 6,000 priests left, and these numbers are still decreasing.

Russia is not intent to risk a war now. She does not underestimate the material and moral superiority of Western Civilization. Her tactics are to undermine our moral strength while she gains time to develop her material resources. In the long run shooting war or real peace is the only alternative. But real peace cannot be achieved by the way of Trygve Lie's UN missions to Moscow. A fundamental change in attitude on the side of the Communists, an abandonment of the communist program laid down in the Manifesto is the prerequisite for world peace. Though Mr. Belassa closed on a note of faint hope, he took a dim view on the Communists' willingness to reform. He has lived behind the Iron Curtain and knows it inside out.

C. R. N.

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