

Bard College
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OBSERVER

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Bard OBSERVER

The Official Publication of the Bard College Community

VOL. 5, No. 3

ANNANDALE-ON-HUDSON, N. Y.

OCTOBER 29, 1962

Study of Classics Urged In Student Academic Plan

Bard got a taste of a totally different academic program in a discussion at Kappa House Thursday evening, October 19. Billed as a "Symposium on Directions of Education at Bard," the evening was actually a presentation by a small group of students of a new plan for the college.

The long and heated discussion which followed the exposition of the plan was almost exclusively critical of the ideas presented. The group, however, headed by Geoffrey Magnus, remains undaunted and is working on additional plans for the Bard education.

Geoffrey began to speak and described the present low state of education at Bard. He stated that the Community needed to consider seriously the direction of Bard education, since at present there is none.

After declaring that the group's purpose was not to change the Bard education but to extend it, Geoffrey yielded to Fortune, who read the outline of the group's proposal. Fortune said later that he had not participated in the committee's work but had been asked a day before to read the statement.

The plan called for an eight-week freshman orientation program, beginning in July and consisting of intensive study of "the crucial works of our Western traditions." The eight-week program would spend much time on an introduction to the Greek language, but the greater emphasis would lie on the study in depth of the Bible, Hesiod, Homer, Plato, Aristotle, and others, culminating in the development of the calculus. This program would be continued in the field period along the same lines.

The student would thus be given a solid foundation in the ancient world; he would then be able, the group hopes, to view the modern age from an entirely different vantage point.

At this point the floor was opened for discussion. Mr. Weiss observed that perhaps the group was placing far too

great a burden on students, since it was adding a great deal to the college program without removing anything.

"You would have to have students that perhaps don't exist anywhere," he said. "You're expecting too much; the student just out of high school has neither the intellectual equipment nor the discipline to cope with such a huge amount of material."

Mr. Kelly noted that the suggested program is precisely the one which Harvard, Oxford, Cambridge, and other major schools have been gradually abandoning for the past fifty years.

Moreover, he said, this plan proposes to reverse the pattern of learning. Learning is inductive—the student is led out of himself and into new areas of thought, which he discovers at his own speed. The students' proposal, said Mr. Kelly, would make the learning process deductive; that is, it would start from an arbitrary point far back in time and lead toward the student. This approach is bound to fail.

The discussion lasted well over three hours, with one pause for refreshments. The overwhelming consensus of opinion was that the plan had not future at all, but the group of students is still developing new proposals to add to those presented.

Trustees Elect 3 New Members

Friday, October 19, at the Bard Trustees meeting, William T. Brunot '28 and Martin Stone '35 were elected to the Board for full terms expiring in 1965, and Mrs. Charlene Obstfeld Newburg '49 was elected to fill the unexpired term of James M. Pines '46 who resigned to become a regional administrator in the Peace Corps. Mrs. Newburg, under the alumni constitution serves until the regular alumni trustee election next May.

William Brunot was President of the Virginia Hospital Service Association (Blue Cross) in 1958-1959, and has been Controller of Reynolds Metals Company since 1944.

Martin Stone is a winner of two Peabody awards for radio and television programming. He is presently associated with Robert Moses in directing New York World's Fair, and with Whitney Communications Corp.

Charlene Newburg, in 1949, did a Research assignment for the Social Affairs Council of the United Nations. In 1961 she served as Co-Chairman, Judicial Item, League of Women Voters of New Rochelle, and is currently a Troop Leader, Girl Scouts of America.

The Board also voted to proceed with efforts aimed at organizing a group of colleges of the mid-Hudson region, and took action for Bard's membership in such a group, when constituted.

Group Asks For New Radio Station

by David Johnson

Considerable interest has been shown here recently in efforts to revive Bard's defunct radio station WXBC.

The station reached the high point of its intermittent activity at the beginning of this decade before going into a slump and finally going off the air. It was broadcast from Kappa House, making use of the telephone lines, and could be received by a good AM set. According to the October 17, 1960, issue of *The Bardian*, it at one time was on the air twenty hours a week "with a wide range of entertainment, from interviews with members of the Bard College administration to a weekly rock 'n roll show."

Public Relations Group Starts Work On Image

At its first meeting of the year, Community Council created a temporary student committee on Public Relations. Its purpose is to investigate the school's public relations practices and, when necessary, to aid the administration in any phase of public relations work.

The committee's basic principle is that Bard is an educational institution affiliated with a religious institution, and that it thus has a double responsibility to present itself in an appropriate and dignified manner.

Since the Committee believes it is the student's obligation to aid the administration in all phases of public relations, it has set into action a definite program. The Committee is writing new divisional pamphlets in conjunction with divisional heads and students in each division.

At the October 22, 1962 meeting of the Community Council, Lane Sarasohn reported about the possibility of reactivating the station and presented a tentative budget. He said that many students were quite interested in the idea and suggested that a petition be posted asking students who were interested in working on the station to sign up. Mr. Sarasohn felt that \$70 would be sufficient for setting up and repairing the existing transmitting equipment owned by the school, with an additional \$180 for operating expenses.

Bruce Gordon, a qualified radio and television repairman and engineer, and who is licensed by the F. C. C., was called upon by Mr. Sarasohn to examine the school's transmitter with the end in mind of restoring it to operating order. This equipment is presently housed at Blithewood, having been dismantled and carted there from its former location at Kappa House. Mr. Gordon reported to the Council that the restoration of the station would involve approximately 50 to 100 hours of careful work.

Mr. Sarasohn said that there were certain problems to be overcome, among them the proper choice of a location from which to broadcast, the restoration of needed equipment, and a sufficiently large staff of people ready and willing to give their time. The former station had to suspend its operations, Mr. Sarasohn said, because of insufficient interest on the part of staff and listeners, because the station had no place to move when Kappa House was converted to a girls' dormitory.

The Community Council, after deliberating Mr. Sarasohn's motion to give the station tentative recognition pending its posting a sign-up sheet and forming a constitution, voted to table the motion until its next meeting.

Artist in Mime To Perform Here

Lionel Shepard, a well-known mime, will perform at Bard on Monday, November 5, at 8:30 in the Dance Studio.

Mr. Shepard will appear with his partner, a guitar player. The performance will last about an hour, to be followed by a session of questions from the audience.

Committee Foresees Expanded College

At a meeting on October 19, the Joint Long-Range Planning Committee gave chief attention to the statement of the objectives of the College and to the developing character of the College as an educational institution.

The statement on Bard's objectives, which is still under editorial development by the sub-committee, takes note of the integral place of diversity in the basic character of Bard. The College's tradition includes both religious conviction and freethinking; its educational ideals encourage

both independent study and close faculty guidance of the student, both the objective truth arrived at through research, and evaluative and imaginative research. As one member phrased it: "Ambivalence is part of us; we embrace at once both what ought to be, and what is."

The Committee is increasingly recognizing that conflict and dissent are very much part of Bard's distinctive character, that much of the essential value of the College comes from this source, and that inconsistency and tension with-

in the institution are not to be worried over, for it is at the point of confrontation that true learning takes place.

In the area of the emerging shape of the College, the Committee took note of the fact that development of a plan for Bard's becoming a college of 500 students has since 1959 been cited in the catalog as one of the achievements of President Case's administration. The concept is therefore not very new. Taking a long view, the Committee noted that Tewksbury Hall increased the College's capacity by 90 students in 1959, Schuyler House by 35 in 1962; and that a corresponding enlargement of academic facilities has been achieved by the completion of Sottery Hall and the new psychology laboratories in Tewksbury, together with the projected expansion of the Library and the new Art Center for which the money is already subscribed.

The Committee anticipated the acquisition by the College of additional student housing with a capacity of 135 within the next year or two. This will probably necessitate further expansion of the Library, the construction of entirely new central dining and cooking facilities, and the construction of a new science or classroom building.

EPC Works on Moderation, Greek

The Educational Policy Committee has proposed the addition of Greek to the language curriculum at Bard.

Many students have indicated a desire to take a Greek course here. EPC has posted a sign-up sheet to find out how much interest really exists, since there must be some guarantee of sufficient enrollment before the new course can be undertaken.

The division of Language and Literature has long been concerned about the lack of classics courses in the curriculum, according to Theodore Weiss, chairman of the division, but

there have always been matters more pressing or easier to begin, such as the Russian course. But the division would be more than happy to work out a program for the study of Greek at Bard if sufficient student interest is demonstrated.

EPC has suggested that the program might best begin a winter college consisting of an intensive beginning Greek course. The program would then continue in the regular semester. If a winter college cannot be obtained, the program would begin next September.

The course would have to be given for credit; the main obstacle in the previous attempt to establish a Greek course was that the course was given without credit.

Two weeks ago EPC distributed through the mails a description of the student-run moderation proposal and an exposition of the reasons behind the proposal.

The main reason given for the idea was that the moderation was failing seriously in its purpose of examining the student's work carefully before admitting him to the upper college. (Continued on Page 4)

EDITORIAL

Does anybody remember the Folk-Sing? There was a certain unique method of organization that reminds one of last Saturday's Satire Night. In both functions the Entertainment Committee fulfilled its main purpose of presenting beer and loud noises to the Community. In both cases the less important problem of originating and organizing material for more formal "entertainment" was delegated to a group of students. Again in both cases, there really was no group, only a scattering of students whose names the Entertainment Committee knew.

We have looked into the matter somewhat more fully than most of those who simply went to get their appointed quarts; we have discovered nothing more than a chaotic series of people telling other people who told other people . . . Fortune Ryan has told us that the last thing he wants to do is to put on a program for the Entertainment Committee; if at any time he said he would be willing, it was because the committee so clearly wanted him to say so. In the first place, Manus Pinkwater had asked him to participate in the satire, and Fortune couldn't say no to Manus.

Eventually, for many reasons, the group never got together seriously, everybody else wandered off, and there was Fortune, holding the bag. "But Fortune was the leader of the group!" We wonder why not a single member of Entertainment Committee evinced any interest in joining the "group"; we sense a kind of patronizing attitude, a feeling of "Leave that stuff to those creative people. We'll bring the beer, they'll bring the ideas." The ideas weren't there, the people weren't in the mood. It's not quite as easy as putting up decorations.

The moral is clear: just as we do not assign articles to people who aren't there, so the Entertainment Committee should not delegate an evening to a group which does not exist. Moreover, just as the editor of the newspaper is himself responsible for every word in the paper, so the Entertainment Committee is directly responsible for every evening which they planned in their budget. The analogy goes a long way: the editor and the Committee must follow every step of the process; neither can afford to be satisfied with vague affirmatives or noncommittal responses. Both have to see the work itself in preparation before they can turn to other aspects of the matter. And if worst comes to worst, then at least let the keg be tapped immediately, so that the event will soon be over.

Bardians vs. Facts

by Wally Loza

"The attitudes, the phrases . . . have a peculiar museum mustiness about them." If used to describe Bard, these words of A. M. Rosenthal would constitute an understatement, but that wasn't his intention. He used them in yesterday's New York Times to describe the situation in Taiwan.

In Taiwan, "Slogans and appeals are everywhere—on billboards and beer bottles, match boxes and monuments, carved into the very hills—and the Government tries to persuade the world that the hour is at hand," says Rosenthal.

At Bard there are no monuments, no billboards. Our capitalists are too concerned with advertising to place the slogans and appeals on the beer bottles and match boxes.

Bard exhibits one outstanding characteristic that Chiang's island home lacks—an air of liberalism, an opportunity for free expression.

So sacred is the individual's right to express his opinion at Bard that he needn't be bound by mere fact. Early last week when the crisis in Cuba erupted, countless Bardians moved to the fore to defend their right to self-expression by hurriedly writing petitions and fixing their signatures to them. Only a few staunch defenders of the Bard variety of liberalism heard Kennedy's speech or had any factual knowledge of the situation before they attached their signatures to leftist, rightist or middle-ground petitions. This didn't bother them.

The following day, after listening to speeches by the American, Cuban and Russian ambassadors to the United Nations, I walked into the coffee shop and found no less than six conversations about the speeches. I asked about a dozen participants in these conversations if they had heard a single word of any of the speeches. They all indicated they hadn't. Yet this didn't bother them.

Some persons were irate because Community Council, in their manner of thinking, refused to exercise its right to self-expression at last week's meeting. The person who brought Council news of Kennedy's speech deserves commendation. He was probably the only one in the room who possessed a basis for discussion of the matter. Council therefore deserves praise for not considering the issue.

Someone has requested that Council place restrictions upon the posting of petitions. This is not a proper solution to the problem. If students want to express their opinions through petitions, all well and good. The issue is one that can't be resolved through legislative action. The whole student body must affirm that discussion which excludes fact has no place in an academic community. Perhaps Council should clarify the meaning of the college motto, "I give you the crown of life." We must answer the question, Is the crown of life wisdom or bull?

Since last Monday, the Cuban situation has changed drastically, but little change has occurred at Bard. As a liberal, I hope it will soon.

should have been on the stage entertaining. Unfortunately for the rest of the Community, they either decided not to appear or were not informed to be present by their manager. Possibly, Council would like to speak with this group about the expenditure made on the night in question.

JACK KENNEDY
Chairman of
Entertainment Committee

Observer

THE BARD OBSERVER, the official publication of the Bard College Community, is issued every two weeks during the Fall and Spring Semesters.

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ERGO EO

At a recent meeting in Kappa House, a group of students presented a plan whose purpose was the improvement of education at Bard. It seemed to me that this topic should come under the jurisdiction of ERGO, the recognized body that deals with such issues. When I asked the spokesman of this group of students why he had refused to bring his plans to ERGO, he told me that he had thought of doing just that. Then he had reconsidered and decided that his ideas were too "far out" to waste the time of a committee of the school.

I didn't think that his ideas, if really concerned with improving our system of education, could actually be so unreasonable. He didn't seem to be a stupid boy. So, like many others, I went to Kappa House to hear him speak.

Bard, according to these students, lacks a frame of reference within which we all can understand each other. So they ashamedly proposed what they called a crazy plan, always emphasizing that they must have been nutty idealists to have thought of it.

This student saw the basic problem at Bard to be the multiplicity of unresolvable perspectives so evident here, but he also insisted upon his right to his own private and admittedly ridiculous point of view. Thus he exemplifies his

own complaint. He should have reconsidered both his plan and his presentation, for, according to his own remarks, "way outness" or the lack of means for intellectual communication is the cause of Bard's troubles. He is a good example of the type of student whose good mind is lost to the community because he insists upon isolating himself. His plan might not have been so useless if he had considered the conditions and needs of the rest of the school. Furthermore, its presentation might have been taken more seriously if he had not initially alienated the whole audience.

Maybe we want to preserve our own uniqueness, but never to the extent at which we isolate ourselves from each other. When we become so engrossed in our individuality, it becomes like a disease in the community. The symptoms at Bard have been noted many times—apathy, lack of respect for traditional forms, lack of consideration for each other, morbid introspection, etc. The condition in which this disease flourishes is the condition of excessive tolerance for selfishness. Every time we let someone excuse his stupidity of selfishness by saying he is "way out", we are letting someone weaken the bond that might be making us a strong college.

—FRED FELDMAN

Weiss's Gunsight Published

On October 24 Theodore Weiss's third book of poetry, *Gunsight*, was published by the New York University Press. The book is comprised of one long poem which has as its subject the fantasies that enter the mind of a wounded soldier under surgery.

One of the extraordinary characteristics of *Gunsight* is the degree to which it moves freely and directly, yet without once exceeding the limits of the form, that of an unconscious meditation. Mr. Weiss employs an unusual device to this end—the use of three different type faces in the text. The variations in the print, he says, "help the reader to recognize the interruption of voices. The poem is one voice, a mosaic of many voices."

Two of the type faces indicate the voice of the protagonist. Of these, the lines in small bold-face type, in the first person, evidence the sensitivity of a deep wound, slowly healing in the spirit. The lines in regular type are also the soldier's voice, but they almost always use the second person, to emphasize the removal of this voice, that it is, examining its speaker. All the figures that summon themselves before him out of his past are presented in italic type.

With this much balance and contrast of tone, *Gunsight* yokes together a violent multiplicity of images and moments from the life of the protagonist. The hunt, the lover, the school scenes of cruelty, the battle, and the final confrontation of each of the several figures—each scene, each image adds momentum to the poem's complex movement.

At the end, one sees that in the long ordeal of dialogue the protagonist has come to terms with the darkness in him:

Some things—the crag, the granite sea, the slug,
this mouth that grinds incessantly in you—
cannot be turned into the human. All
that we can do is try, while we are men,
to meet them humanly.

The wounded man opens his eyes to the approaching day outside; "the world . . . once more begins."

Ten copies of *Gunsight* arrived in the bookstore last week and were sold out within a few hours; additional copies are being ordered. Mr. Weiss will give a reading of the poem at 8:00 next Sunday night at the Galerie Mouche in Stattsburg.

—CHARLES HOLLANDER

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SATIRE NIGHT

Although it may have been one of the most satirical occurrences this year at Bard, the Entertainment Committee believes that the action or rather non-action taken by a group of students who accepted responsibility for writing and producing a show to be presented this past Saturday night is inexcusable.

The Satire Night which was to have been presented then was sponsored by the Committee. A group of students supposedly more adept at writing was contacted and asked to help. They asked for more time to prepare and the night was postponed from Oct. 13 (the reason for the blank night in the entertainment schedule) and placed on Oct. 27, giving them an extra two weeks.

After several checks on the progress of this group through their manager, Fortune Ryan, the last of which was Friday, Oct. 26 at 7 p.m., it was ascertained that the group would be able to present a night of satire to the Community.

The fiasco of Saturday, attended by numerous students and members of the Administration, including President and Mrs. Kline, was the result of a few students with no forewarning trying to entertain without anything more elaborate than a borrowed record player and borrowed records — a valiant attempt which couldn't possibly have succeeded.

The Committee apologizes to the Community for the irresponsibility of the group which

Cycle Club Begun

by Fred Feldman

The Bard College Motorcycle Club is now in the process of organizing itself, according to their president, Fred Feldman (A.J.S.). The purposes of the club are to improve conditions of cycling safety around school, arrange for an avenue by which information and ideas can be exchanged, and to get more fun out of motorcycles.

Recently, the necessity for such a club was dramatically demonstrated by an anonymous non-cyclist who disturbed classes by racing the engine of a member's b.k.e. The club's publicity director, Lane Sarasohn (N.S.U.), has announced that action will be taken against the offensive pedestrian.

Also hitting the headlines (and the pavement) this week is Mark Kennedy, BCMCC sport chairman, whose brand new Ducati has developed serious electrical troubles since a recent near-mishap involving a negligent motorist. Mark's angry voice has been heard lately cursing both the motorist and the Italians (who manufacture Ducatis). Hope you can untangle those burnt wires, Mark.



Right Inside Bob Donovan takes a shot at the goalie. Bard won 2-1, at Oneonta.

Other club members report that a combination of flat tires, missing mufflers, cold weather, broken legs, and lost clutch cables have temporarily put off big time action. Here's hoping you'll be back on the road by the first big snow fall, fellow riders!

Bardians Whip Oneonta, Lose to Marist, Nyack

After holding Nyack Missionary College scoreless for the first half last Saturday, the Bard soccer team let up on its defenses and dropped a 4-2 contest. The team's record slipped to one victory and three setbacks.

The game started at 2 p.m. and drew a crowd of at least thirty. The game's first goal was marked up midway through the third quarter by the visitors on a shot from twenty yards, after a fine series of passes to set up the shot.

Shortly before the period ended, Nyack netted another on a breakaway on which the center forward sidestepped Goalie Charlie Hollander's charge and tapped the ball in.

The home team had two penalty kicks in the next five minutes. The goalie stopped Jans Stockey's boot, but Ray

Hilton smashed the second penalty into the nets for the first Bard score.

The soccermen won their first game on Friday, October 12, at Oneonta State Teachers College. The score was 2-1 in a hard-fought game. The first quarter was scoreless, but midway through the second period Ray Hilton netted a goal on a fine pass from Chet Denton.

Minutes later the home team retaliated with the tying score on a cross from the left wing. The first half ended with the score 1-1.

Early in the third period Jans Stockey broke away after taking a long goalie kick and charged through the defenses to score.

The team's next game is this Saturday, away, against Rockland County Community College.

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**EPC Works**

(Continued from Page 1)

lege. EPC felt that this proposal, even though it might be difficult to accomplish, would at least cause serious discussion of a most basic problem. EPC meetings take place Tuesday nights at 10 in Aspinwall, instead of Thursday, as the calendar stated. Tomorrow night there will be further discussion of the Greek course.

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Lit Club Plans Leary, Poirer, Farrell, Pooh

Remy Hall, co-chairman of the Literature Club, announced that the club had three events definitely scheduled for the remainder of the semester.

On Tuesday, November 13, Paris Leary, Associate Professor of Literature, will read selections from his poetry. Mr. Leary and others will give a reading of Winnie the Pooh on December 4. Bernard Stambler, Professor of Literature at Juilliard, will speak the night of December 12.

In addition, the Literature Club is attempting to bring Anthony Poirer and James T. Farrell to Bard in mid-November.

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