Campus Comment, May 14, 1936

Bridgewater State Teachers College

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**Students’ Group Elect Officers**

The Students’ Group, under the direction of Mrs. Mallory, recently held elections for next year. Those who were elected are as follows: Miss Rand, president; Miss Pease, vice-president; and Miss Taylor, secretary-treasurer. The chosen officers will be installed at the annual meeting, which is to be held on May 19.

**Juniors to Sponsor Olympics on Campus**

The Olympics, brought to Bridgewater by B1 of the junior class, will be held on the afternoon of May 27, on the lower campus. Every girl in the college has been assigned to one of eight countries, according to class and "valiant and white" classification. The countries are Japan, England, France, United States, Argentina, Italy, and Norway. Each of these countries is entering its most skillful players and its championship teams in order to win fame as the leading country in the world. Championship teams in baseball and volleyball have been entered from all countries and enthusiastic in tennis, quoit, tennis, archery, and golf are expected to uphold the honor of their own countries.

For those who object to these more vigorous activities, badminton, hand tennis, shuffleboard, hand tennis (Olympics, continued on page 4)

**Rollio Walter Brown to be here May 29.**

"Do We Want Creative Minds in America?" is to be the subject when the Lecture Fund Committee will present Rollio Walter Brown, a pioneer in behalf of the creative spirit in American education and American life.

Mr. Brown was born in the hills of southwestern Ohio. He received his formal education in the Middle West and in New England; but, in the novel he is now writing, he takes for his setting the region in which he was born. Some of his books are "The Firemen," "Toward Romance," "The Hillbilly, Dean Briggs," "Lonely Americans," "The Creative Spirit," and "How the French Boy Learns to Write." Before he turned to the writing of biography and fiction his volume on literary tradition in French education had already been accepted as authoritative in its field.

Rollio Walter Brown has lectured before audiences at the leading colleges and universities in this country. Bridgewater is fortunate in having so distinguished a speaker.

**Debate Features Topics of Day Club**

An interesting debate was held at a recent meeting of the Topics of the Day Club. Several members gave substantial arguments, pro and con, on the subject, "That the Constitution is an adequate form of government for the American people." The rebuttal was in the form of a general discussion.

Some of the outstanding arguments are these: that government is adequate which conforms with maintenance of life, liberty, and property, and has elements that will make adjustment to changing conditions possible. The Constitution of the United States conforms with these principles through the organization of its departments, the Bill of Rights, Court System, its flexibility of language, implied power clause, and system of amendments.

Certain members advocated scraping the Constitution and making a new one, incorporating into the body of it those amendments which have become laws. "The Constitution is becoming a document of amendments," stated Mr. Medveza.

Because of shortness of time, the meeting ended with the general discussion.

Several members of Campus Community staff were present to attend a conference at the Fitchburg college where subjects pertaining to school journalism will be discussed.
CAMPUS COMMENT

State Teachers College

Bridgewater Massachusetts

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Campus Pacifists

In the United States, student sentiment contributes greatly to public opinion—and American students want peace. In a recent contest on the subject of neutrality, it was revealed that the majority of students favored more international cooperation and also advocated the entry of the United States into the League of Nations.

While the judges felt that the contestants had a rather clear insight into present day conditions, still they said, “The students of today are not as far ahead of their elders as we might wish them to be.” This is probably quite a blow to our ego, but we may take it as a challenge, also.

During the past few months such organizations as the Veterans of Future Wars have caused much comment. They have been severely criticised as cowardly and unpatriotic, and perhaps of the students have gone a little too far.

Regardless of diversity and immaturity of ideas, present student opinion is the future popular opinion in embryo. This pacifist tendency is significant for America, and for the world (for this country is far behind in student pacifist movement) and its effects, we hope, will be far reaching and permanent.

Achievement

With the rapid approach of the close of school, we look back with varying degrees of satisfaction on the past year, and in so doing may measure our growth and achievement.

It is quite possible that just now there are many, who feeling the lure of the out-of-doors, find it difficult to apply themselves to study. If this indifference is only a temporary matter, there is no cause for alarm; but is it possible that this laziness and lack of intellectual effort is a permanent matter to a large number of students?

Several weeks ago, we sat listening to the Lowell Madrigal Singers. Their work clearly showed to a remarkable degree, initiative and concentrated effort. Are we showing enough of this view of the fact that the rest of the class did poorly and he himself will probably be rewarded with an A anyway. Thus he never knows where he stands. It seems so weak for teachers to let students make their own standard. Surely the instructor knows how much he expects a class to get from a course, and if no one attains this, there must be something wrong and adjustments made. Here the curve has its use as a gauge. Moreover it is quite possible that in a small elective class all students may be doing work of a C grade or better—ridiculous to assume that some one of the group must get a B whether the group consist of 10 or 50 pupils.

Let the curve take its place as a gauge in marking a whole set of standard tests for a complete class where divisions will not be cut up and evaluated with different standards. But for separate divisions—away with the curve with its fluctuating standard without a goal that creates a lackadaisical attitude (for the average student will only do as much as a teacher expects of him), a feeling of injustice, and that marks him not on what he knows but on what someone else does or does not know?

—N. G. B.

Boston

Smoke-stained city
On man-made earth
Supporting grotesque buildings
Stretching skysward
But sinking into unknown pits!

Fish mongers’ City
Flower and fruit venders, too—
Home of business man and politician
Seat of culture

Athen’s of America
Salt-sea scented Boston!

Yes, you have a North End
And a South End
And a Beacon Hill—
Crime and justice
Abroad in your streets
And yet you have a reputation
Known the world over.
Remembered mostly on Saturday
Mother of baked beans!

—Lillian Cleary, ’37.

Alma Mutters:

The commuters are rushing the season at the “Nip” . . . A group of “Wood’s” more hilarious freshmen had their first glimpse of Plymouth Rock when, with Miss Pope, Miss Graves, and box lunches, they enjoyed there, an eventful afternoon . . . Miss Nye distinguishes two members of the faculty having the same cognomen by referring to one as Miss “History” Smith . . . From the alumni—Johnny Bates was re-elected with a raise. Things are looking up, eh “Hat” ? And Olive Smith and Gene Higgins are celebrating Gene’s appointment to a position with an announcement of their engagement . . . “Bet” Norton, Wood’s punny punster, is anxious to dispose of her title to the lowest bidder . . . Did Peg Cassela ever go in a dancing contest? by way of hinting. Collegiate life becomes, as usual, more interesting for a certain few in the spring—with Jean Smith and Gordon (oh, the freshmen that come in the fall, tra la!) holding hands, Bill Nolan and Kay Flaherty being seen around together (but Bill looks as though he’s being “Pitch-ed” out), and Polly Hull and Tom Warren uhhuhuhu hither and yon . . . Our nomination for the campus’ cutest couple—Ruth Maurer and Bill McGhee.
Desolation

The dead tree stands alone.

Grim and dark 'gainst the shadowed sky

Its twisted branches, raised on high

Appearing a Gorgon to the passer-by.

The dead tree stands alone.

No wandering herd will stop to browse

Beneath its bent and scraggly boughs.

The neighboring earth has felt no ploughs.

The dead tree stands alone.

The whitling wind, with wallowing sound,

Flicks through its leafless branches, 'round

Its battered trunk, like baying hound.

The dead tree stands alone.

Its broken form, it seems to me

Is raised to heaven, as though to see

If beauty, lost could not recaptured be.

Gordon F. Parsons, '37

Miss Moffitt Gives Opinion on Play Production
By Virginia Lucey

Undoubtedly you may have seen or heard about our sophomores' theatrical activities of late. The crude of the matter is this: the sophomores have been co-operating with the students of Play Productions, a senior elective course given by Miss Adelise Moffit.

Having set her desk in order, this charming and unassuming lady, "set us in" on the why and the wherefore of the recent dramatic energy. "Play productions, an active course of five months, offers students an opportunity to study the technicalities of play production. This experience proved to be an asset of utmost value to students in their later professional activities."

"The first semester program enables students to acquire the theory of play production as well as training in written and pantomimic expression. The second semester program puts the techniques of the first to actual use. Sophomore students, junior high, and training school pupils are coached in one-act plays and story dramatizations."

"The audiences desired at these plays are those composed of regular play production and of any persons interested in the technicalities of production regardless of the acting. Unsympathetic audiences are a nuisance."

She assured us that this year's audiences have been most sympathetic and greatly appreciated. "It's a turn of a yellow pencil, and the play production difficulties, yet to be solved, were summed up.

"Of these, the most discouraging to the students is the lack of stage scenery and properties. One's imagination has its limits. Next in order is the difficulty in arranging the spare time of the seniors and the sophomores to coincide harmoniously for rehearsals."

"This year all is said and done: The senior coaches derive initial value from actual coaching experience and the sophomores enjoy their part also. For the latter, the actual productions are not infrequently benefited from some talented "finds."

Miss Moffit can look in retrospect on her supervision of the plays with great pride in tested achievement.

A Book Review

SPARKENBROKE
Charles Morgan
By Quentin Lalonde

Piers Temnel (later Lord Sparken­broke), locked in the tomb of his ancestors by his half-brother, undergoes an obstinate and exasperatingly painful process of psychological rebirth. The experience is meant to be only incidental. However, in a novel of this kind, the originality of the novel lies in the fact that this process makes all the more unfortunate is that, though nearly always well handled, it is by no means a good story. It leans too far on the side of optical romance of the popular variety. In some parts, indeed, were it not for the poetic beauty of the language used, the story would appear ridiculous.

The novel as a whole is not as well handled... as was, The Fountain. Morgan, forced to choose between losing the force of his novel by missing the actual portrayal of the episode in the tomb and creating a false break between the first and second part of the novel, chose the latter evil, and the result is not only a definite loss of attention between the years of Sparkenbroke's youth and his maturity, but a slow beginning which in itself does much harm to the novel.

Handwork Class Presents Puppets

One of the most interesting chapel programs of the year was given Tuesday morning, May 12, in the form of a puppet show. Miss Inga E. Burton, sponsor of the more handwork class presented part of the play "Peter Pan" by Sir James Barrie.

The characters, Nan and Captain Blood, were made and manipulated by Dorothy Perkins, Wendy by Margaret Carlson, Peter Pan by Beatrice Barton, Tinkerbelle and the Crocodile by Dorothy Dennison, John by Eileen Crenery, and Michael by Kathleen Kelly and operated by Mary Gausted. The other members of the class helped to make the stage and stage setting, under Miss Nye's direction.

The stage appeared extremely attractive, though as Violet Kunds announced when she introduced the sketch, the whole project was made mostly from scraps.

There was a miniature stage in the back of which was a raised platform where the operators manipulated the puppets. After a warm reception by the College members, the play was presented again for the training school children.

Even the philosophy of the novel has not the full-bodied quality which distinguished The Fountain. For the most part, Mr. Morgan's preoccupation with death is neither interesting nor significant; only the sides concerning life are really valuable.

No review of Sparkenbroke would be complete without special mention of Mr. Morgan's exquisite use of the English language. It is a quality which does much to redeem the novel. Those who read novels solely for the romantic elements which they contain. With Sparkenbroke, however, the author, with his Monroe talent, has produced a novel which is not only a success in itself, but serious readers, remembering the promise of The Fountain will be disappointed.

Where to go in Boston

GAUGUIN
Bostonians, recently made art-conscious by the Van Gogh exhibit, are now crowding the Fogg Art Museum in Cambridge to see the hundred or so oils and prints of Paul Gauguin, his friend. To add to the interest, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts has recently purchased one of his most striking pictures. The artist is thought to be partly of Indian blood, a fact which may account for the decorative and symbolic qualities found in much of his work. Although his color theory is said to be the same as Van Gogh's, his canvases are more soothing and restful. The exhibit, open to the public, is expected to remain in Cambridge through May 21.

POPS
And POPS is here again! Beginning May 6, it continues through June, showing preview programs of great interest to music lovers. POPS is a form of concert which originated in Boston, offering the best of all kinds of music at a nominal sum; and for those who enjoy providing tables where refreshments may be eaten during the concert. Arthur Fiedler is one of Boston's own conductors: a young man of great promise and achievement; violinist in the Boston Symphony Orchestra, and originator and conductor of this annual Esplanade concerts which are given every summer, free of charge, on the esplanade by the Charles River.

TOBACCO ROAD
You still have a chance to see the much discussed "Tobacco Road"—it plays for about another week before it goes on the road again after a successful run at the Plymouth Theatre in Boston. The play is a typical modern treatment, and, we understand, a rather accurate picture of the life in the South. The play is worth seeing, if only for the make-up and performance of a splendid cast. The acting of Henry Hull as Jeeter Lester is outstanding. We do not claim that the play was up to expectations, and, did well, what it set out to do.

HARVARD GLEE CLUB
Here's your chance to hear the Harvard Glee Club in a free concert in the Harvard Yard, steps of Widener Library, weather permitting, on Tuesday evening, May 19, at 7 P. M. They're worth hearing; ask Miss Rand!

SAINT JOAN
And now for a glimpse into the future—do not miss Katherine Cornell in Saint Joan which comes to Boston, May 25, for one week only, after a great success in New York.

Mr. Huffington: What are naval stores?

Mr. Stearns: What garden plant is closely related to Joseph's Coat?

Dumb Answer: Bachelor Buttons.

Gail Cosgrove's new shirt has come to our attention. Is it more sympathy at thirty-five cents?
W. A. A. Banquet
To Follow Olympics

Each year W. A. A. holds a banquet, and this year it is to be held on May 27, the evening of the Olympics, in the dining hall, with Phyllis Coley as general chairman.

At the banquet various awards are made, the 4S award being the most important. This is given to a few selected senior girls who possess the 4S qualities of sportsmanship, scholarship, stability, and service. They must also have earned seven hundred fifty points in activity at the end of the fourth year, and must have at least a B rating in scholarship. It is a great distinction to receive this award, representing, as it does, achievement in all fields.

Miss Katherine Cronin, Miss Deckev's predecessor, organizer of W. A. A., is to be one of the speakers at the banquet, and it is hoped that some of the members of the first executive board will also address Dr. San and former presidents of W. A. A. are also scheduled to speak. Alice Halloran, present president of W. A. A., is to be toastmistress.

Assumption Wins Over Bridgewater

After only one organized practice, the Bridgewater varsity baseball team travelled to Assumption College, at Worcester, last Wednesday, and there met defeat at the hands of their ball club by a score of 18-7.

Although handicapped by lack of practice, Bridgewater showed plenty of pep and fight. They opened the 1st inning by scoring a run, and then came from behind to tie the score at four all in the second inning. But from this point on, Assumption took the lead and was never headed. Although Assumption ran up a total of eighteen runs, all of which can be laid to Nickerson and Whitcomb, B. T. C.'s pitchers, for they received very little support in the field from their teammates, although "Vinny" Kiernan played a spectacular game in center field.

Students to Attend Play Day at Salem

Saturday, May 16, forty-eight students are planning to attend the annual Women's Play Day to be held this year at Salem Teachers College.

The group will compete with other colleges in tennis, badminton, archery, ping-pong, clock golf, bowling, and quiz tennis.

The morning will be taken up with competition between mixed college groups, and in the afternoon the students will represent their respective colleges in the various sports. Each student attending will have a "buddy" who competes with her in all the sports.

The delegates from Bridgewater are looking forward to renewing the acquaintances they made when Salem visited Bridgewater last year.

SPORT NOTES
By Bill Nolan

May we introduce the two new members of the Sports Department? "Bob" Perry, whose story of the Varsity magazine and apology for the Assumption mess appear in this issue; and "Charlie" Shaw, who will probably take care of tennis and track for the rest of the season.

"Mal" Nash wants to know on what day the Wednesday baseball games will be played this year; for as you probably know, he hates these Wednesdays which come in the middle of the week.

Mr. Huffington has used the desk set presented him by the basketball lettermen; but, authorities who have made daily inspection of his "romantic eyelashes" have seen no sign of the mascara.

The soccer department of the Bridgewater Touring Collegians was victorious in the semi-finals, and will play off for the Cup on May 17.

Orchids to Manager "Jimmy" Horton for the good soccer setup for next fall—note the Dartmouth Varsity sign-up.

The basketball department of the Touring Collegians ended Bridgewater's basketball season with a bang by winning the Brockton Enterprise Tournament. Nice work, boys!

OLYMPICS—

(Continued from page one)—even jump rope and jackstone playing are provided.

The featured event of the afternoon is to be the pentathlon. A series of five events all of which the contestants must enter, was included in the ancient Olympics. This year it is being revived for the Olympics in Germany as well as those in Bridgewater. Each country is allowed two entrants in each event. Points will be given to the country of the winner as well as an individual prize to the winner.

To conclude this day of athletics, W. A. A. will hold its annual banquet at which there are to be the usual awards, cheers and speeches.

B. T. C. Victorious Over Harvard J. V.

Displaying a complete reversal of form from the Assumption slaughter, Bridgewater's sluggers nine defeated the Harvard Jayvees, 16-5, at Soldiers Field, Cambridge, on May 2.

The game started off poorly for B. T. C. when Harvard took a 4-0 lead as the result of an error, a couple of free tickets to first, and two safe ones. Yet in the third inning, in hammering out several hits, taking advantage of a couple of errors, and in general playing heads-up baseball, B. T. C. forged into the lead 5-4. From then on, Bridgewater could not be held; they added one run in the 5th, four more in the 6th, five in the 7th, and counted once more in the 8th. With all the regulars except Whitcomb and Bowles out of the line-up, Harvard did manage to push across three runs in the 7th, and two more in the 8th. However, Whitcomb surprised the rally successfully and the Bridgewater team emerged victorious for the first time this season.

Joe Murphy should be commended for good playing, both with the stick and in the field.

To follow Olympics

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Soccer Schedule for 1936

*Sept 20—Dean Academy
Oct 14—New Bedford Textile
*Oct. 17—Tabor Academy
Oct. 24—Am. Inter. College, Springfield
Oct. 30—Dartmouth College
Nov. 7—Pitchburg Teachers College
Nov. 11—Harvard J. V. * Home games.

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