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“Merchant of Venice” Shows Mixed Cast Of Unusual Ability

The “Merchant of Venice”, to be given by the Dramatic Club on May 15, in the auditorium, promises to be a great success.

In addition to the many underclassmen who are to take part, we find those seniors who have been known to Dramatic Club audiences for three years of fine acting. We see Elsa Johnson, whom we remember in “As You Like It” and “The Youngest”, now playing the lead as Perris; Ruth Davis, who took part in “Big Hearted Herbert”, and in “The Taming of the Shrew”, cast for Nerissa; Barbara Schmals, from “The Harder They Fall” and “Third Floor Back” and “The Littlest Shepherd”, now to play Jessica; and talented Ann Surinski and Natalie Dean both taking part.

Many finds from the underclassmen were made, so that with this promising cast, the play should more than hold its own among the fine plays of the past which Miss Moffitt has directed.

Farr -- Baptiste Ode Announced Winner

Words for the class ode, submitted by Carol Farr, and the music by Hermann Baptiste, were announced as winning the contest held recently by the senior class, for the purpose of choosing the best ode to be used on graduation day. The ode will be sung after the Ivy March, and is one of the customary events of that day.

Rita Cushing acted as chairman of a committee of four who were the judges in the contest. They were assisted by Miss Lovett and Miss Rand of the faculty.

Students Tell of Recent Trips

On a trip to Washington during the April vacation, Mr. Clarence Blair, of the senior class, caught a glimpse of President Roosevelt as he rode in state through Mt. Vernon, accompanying the representatives of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Other students of the college also went to the Capital that week. They included All Pure, of the junior class; and Francis Jagello, George Johnston, George Rappaport, and John Smith of the sophomore class. They enjoyed many tours about the city, seeing well-known places. One particularly interesting trip was to the Catacombs, of the St. Sophia’s Cathedral in Istanbul.

The “whispering gallery”, mechanical exhibits at the Smithsonian Institute, and the mint appealed particularly to the seniors; and Miss Pure enjoyed the gowns of the presidents’ wives, which are exhibited at the Smithsonian Institute.

Distinguished Author Secured As Final Lecture Fund Speaker

Rollo 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 Rollo 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 Firemaillers,” “Toward Romance,” “The Hillkirk, 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 he had written a volume on literary tradition in French education that had already been accepted as authoritative in its field.

Rollo 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, “Resolved, That the Constitution is an adequate form of government for the American people.”

The rebuttal was given 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 adjustments 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. Medvetz.

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

Several members of Campus Community staff will spend tomorrow at 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 criticized as cowardly and unpatriotic, and perhaps the serious aspect of the original plan should be lost in the inevitable tide of college hilarity.

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 a remarkable degree, initiative and concentrated effort. Are we showing enough of this same spirit in supporting our activities, or are a few working over-time in order to get things accomplished? Don't we need to think more along the lines of responsibility and achievement; and do something?

This edition of Campus Comment has been issued by the staff of 1936-37, under the capable direction of Miss Marie von Bergen, incoming executive editor. We feel it an extremely well done piece of work. If this be an example of what next year's staff can do, we, this year's staff, can assure you of a finer and better paper. Congratulations and commendations to you, staff of 1936-37! Best of luck and success to you! Keep up the good work!

—Staff of 1935-36.

To the editor:

It was welcome news to hear some of our instructors announce that they were no longer going to use the normal curve in marking, a system that at times, particularly in small classes, seemed anything but normal. Since some of the faculty are acknowledging its deficiencies, perhaps I dare present a view of it as it has irked students. You have all had its evils expounded after a test when the poor E student thinks himself a victim of circumstances and the C student discovers that there was a range of but two points to the B group. Yet these outward signs are the least of its evils.

It discourages effort and lets everyone slide into smug mediocrity. Instead of a standard and goal being set as a challenge to which the students can strive, the student realizes he makes his own goal; and that goal never becomes very high when the ambitious student is frowned upon for raising the level and automatically sending the other ranks down. Thus all come to cooperate in bovine apathy with the result, that in many cases the classes are all doing about the same work and marks run very close. This leads to an even greater calamity for now "the world must be changed for now" the world must be changed to fit the system," and instead of all of these students getting their languidly won C, a curve of such close range is made out that there is much dissatisfaction. After finishing such a test for which he realizes he has prepared but half enough information, he wonders whether he should set himself to the task of mastering this material or whether to be oblivious to it in 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 an E 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 skyward
But sinking into unknown pits!

Fish mongers’ City
Flower and fruit vendors, 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
Abreast in your streets
And yet you have a reputation
Known the world over.
Remembered mostly on Saturday night
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... 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 uh-huh-huhing hitter and yon... Our nomination for the campus’ cutest couple—Ruth Maurer and Bill McGhee.
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 crux 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 Moffitt.

Having set her desk in order, this charming and unassuming lady, "let us in" on the why and the wherefore of her 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 visual and pantomimic expression. The second semester program puts the theoretical training into actual practice. 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 students in 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.

"Your 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."

After all is said and done: The senior coaches derive initial value from actual coaching experience and the sophomores enjoy their part also. Not infrequently benefits from some talented "finds." Miss Moffitt can look in retrospect on her supervision of the plays with great pride in tested achievement.

A Book Review

SPARKENBROKE

Charles Morgan

By Quentin LaBelle

Piers Tenniel (later Lord Sparkenbroke), locked in the tomb of his ancestors by his half-brother, undergoes a slow beginning. Capitalistic, expansionist, Piers profoundly influences the remainder of his thirty-six years of life. In later years his every act is performed for the purpose of reaching a spiritual fulfillment comparable with that first ecstasy in the presence of death, and he looks forward to his own successor as the Small and greatest follower of all, the complete mergence of self. Only in two other acts can he even partially accomplish this mergence - in love and in poetry.

With this as his framework, Charles Morgan, classical scholar, once more pursues the subject of philosophy, this time in his newest novel, Sparkenbroke. Presumably, the story is meant to be only incidental. However, it is a novel which assumes proper proportions, and is allowed to override the philosophic content which is plainly the main purpose of the novel. What makes this fact 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 romantic elements 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 well handled, as was The Fountain. Morgan, forced to choose between losing the force of his prose by attempting the actual portrayal of the episode in the tomb and creating alease 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

Preseats Puppets

One of the most interesting chapels of the year was given Tuesday morning, May 12, in the form of a puppet show. Miss Ina W. Mills' handwork class presented part of the play "Peter Pan" by Sir James Matthew Barrie, as a summer project. Miss Perkins, Wendy by Margaret Cecil, and Barrie by Eileen. A rather accurate picture of the life and history of Peter Pan was given, and the whole project was made mostly from scraps.

There was a miniature stage in the form of concert which originated in the College Yard, steps of Widener Library, weather permitting, on Tuesday evening, May 19, at 7 P.M. 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 many famous Espanade 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" - if 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 modern interpretation, and we understand, a rather accurate picture of the life in the South. The play is worth seeing on its own merits, and as a performance of a splendid cast. The acting of Henry Hull as Jester Lettus is outstanding. We do not claim that the play was unique, or simply did, 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 Randi!

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?

Dumb Answer: Bachelor Buttons.

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

Dumb Answer: Bachelor Buttons.

Gail Cosby's new shirt has come to our attention. Is it more sympathy at thirty-five cents?
SPORT NOTES

By Bill Nolan

May we introduce the two new members of the Sports Department? "Bob" Perry, whose story of the basketball game 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. Huffman 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 set-up 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 106)

...even in 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 this 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.

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 3 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 the blame cannot by no means be laid to Nickerson and Whitcomb, B. T. C's pitchers, for they received very little support in the field from their teammates, although "Viney" Kierman 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 had a "buddy" who competes with her in all the sports.

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

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Soccer Schedule for 1936

*Sept 20—Dean Academy

Oct. 10—Mass. Inst. Technolgy

Oct 14—New Bedford Textile

*Oct. 17—Taber Academy

Oct. 24—Am. Inter. College, Springfield

Oct. 30—Dartmouth College

Nov. 7—Pitchburg Teachers College

Nov. 11—Harvard J. V. * Home games.

DANCE

Sponsored by

MEN'S GLEE CLUB

WEN DEAN'S ORCHESTRA

Dancing 9 to 12 Friday, May 22