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# Cat Tracks

Bates Outing Club

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# Cat Tracks

of the Bates Outing Club

Issue 2. March, 1961

Editor: Julie Gillispie

## WHO STOLE THE SLEIGH?

Picture snow drifting lazily down on a peaceful Vermont countryside with moon and stars the sole inhabitants of the lonely scene. NOW picture 40 00'ers, two dogs, friends, and a baby all crammed into Lee Larson's house for a four day rumble with mighty Ca-moo-wa's shattering the quiet. Such was the contrast - the story goes - when the clan reassembled complete with breakable resolutions for the annual frolic much to the dismay of the poor staid Vermonters. Fun? - it was great! which was no surprise with loyal alumni like Jan Baker, Dave Nelson, Irish, Big Cress, Tom Vohr, Jody Perley, Max, and Doc to liven the group.

Things went their usual devious way until New Year's Eve when things really went off the track. I.P., the unofficial chaperone, was host when all resolutions went down the drain...bottoms up! As the night progressed, all were quite gay until the cock curped and it was off again to the snowfields leaving four little green people behind - Grey, Little Cress, Lev Graffam, and John Meyn. Undaunted and determined to prove their fitness, these four had one big snowball fight and one fantastic sleigh ride. In fact, this ride was so amazing that a repeat just had to be arranged when the others returned. The whole group set off with blind faith - Jan with sugar for the horse and I.P. busily figuring out the weight distribution problem - and a "sleigh ride" was had by all. That is all except Jody and Sancho who saw through the biggest hoax of the year. Little Cress can tell you all about it.

Since the purpose of the gathering was to ski - so 'twas rumored - some of that was squeezed in too. With excellent snow conditions and several areas to choose from. "Suicide Six" was carefully considered before the saner ones trooped off to the Dartmouth Skiway. No accidents this time unless you consider the case of the sophisticated city gal ( Big Cress ) who skied hick style 'til she finally found her stretch pants between two beds stretching ... so she said.

Bates being rather sticky about certain things ( like no cut days ), everyone finally straggled off to more ordinary pleasures hoping to end and begin the next new year in the same wild fashion thanks to Lee's hospitality.

## "FOLK FANTASIA"

"Folk fantasia" whirled away all memories of exhausting finals in a week end of activities. On the first night, Laurie Sunderland was crowned queen just as snow began to fall lending dramatic effect to the ceremony and a promise of good weather for the queen's reign. Following this a square dance in the gym gave everyone a chance to let loose and shake the floor. The climax of the dance was the Calypso singing of Ronnie Gill. Ronnie received good response in spite of difficulty with his guitar which froze and dropped three octaves on the cold ride up north. Then it was off on a hayride complete with many bundled people, real hay, and no chaperoned. Sound good? It was! The night ended gloriously with a tremendous bonfire on the shores of the puddle and showers of sparks rained down on the people.

On Friday morn the sun came up as usual, but not the people. Due to "fatigue" the snow sculptures slumped as evidenced by the appearance of two rather questionable piles of snow. But spirits were again high by afternoon when a good crowd rolled out of bed for the talent show. An unfortunate accident had canceled out the faculty skit, but Professor Tagliabue's version of a Japanese dance together with several groups singing provided ample entertainment.

Right after this, Jackie Washington captivated the large crowd with his folksinging and easy manner. The day was rounded out with dancing to Mike Peters' Jazz Band from Boston- in and around.

Saturday morning, Page Hall won the dorm decorations contest with their theme - Mardi Gras. The weather and ice held for the hockey game which was a real success for the first time. The game was close and fast until the goalie was injured. After Brad Garcelon had been shanghaied from the stands as replacement, the game went on to a J.B. win.

That afternoon, Chase Hall was jammed for the main attraction of the weekend - The Folk Festival. Cisco Huston started out with cowboy ballads collected during his wanderings in this country and Mexico. Joan Baez followed him with folksongs received by almost overwhelming response. Joan's singing and personality easily won the audience which finally broke up when she sang "Little Darling", a juke box favorite. Then the new Lost City Ramblers came on with their lively version of old-time folk music played to a disappearing mike.

In the evening, the exhausted committee had just put the final touches on the decorations when the first couple walked into a dream world of lavenders, blues, pinks, and whites with waterfalls, fountain, and band creating the illusion of a beautiful fantasy—Crystal Cascades.

Trips to Sugarloaf and Mt. Abrams on Sunday absorbed any left-over energy as people skied, skated, and broke four toboggans on the final day of carnival.

Thanks and a week of undisturbed sleep are deserved by the directors - Whitey and Jan - for their many headaches, hectic days, and months of preparation which materialized into an excellent carnival.

## CARNIVAL EVALUATION

The campus comments on carnival by those who attended were very favorable. Others hearing about it said they wished they too had gone, but they didn't go—so many didn't go. This lack of par-

ticipation on the part of the large majority of students and the more serious problems the carnival directors faced prompted a meeting to discuss these complications which the council must face every year in trying to put on a successful carnival.

Norm Ross, Dean Boyce, Miss Schaeffer, Dean Varney, Bob Viles (Stu-C), and Bill Smith (C.N.) met with the council. Due to the size and nature of the problem, the gathering was a chance to air opinions openly rather than to try and plan next year's carnival. The three main issues were the difficulties with the administration in planning and scheduling events, the lack of student interest, and what changes might be made for next year. When the first issue was brought up, both administration and council began to see more clearly the reasons and obstacles involved, but no solution was reached. In discussing the lack of participation, possible reasons suggested were fatigue, the widespread apathy, and the whole stifling social structure at Bates. In suggesting changes for next year, the ideas proposed were having carnival after the beginning of second semester to attract more people, and distributing responsibility for the events among the various campus organizations with O.C. in charge of the outdoor activities. It was also suggested that carnival be dropped completely. Then if students want it back, they can show their interest by taking an active concern; but if they don't care either way, why bother to put on carnival at all?

After the meeting, some felt nothing had been accomplished. Others felt we had made known our ideas and started the right people thinking. We had also heard more definite statements on what the administration and faculty think of our policy. This issue will be discussed again and quite possibly will result in some definite changes in carnival next year.

### SKI TRIPS

This season O.C. has arranged four ski trips plus two over carnival. In order to provide variety, Mount Abram, Saddleback, and Sunday River were included along with the usual trips to Sugarloaf. Good snow conditions and student interest have combined to make these trips successful, and there have been no casualties or lost people to date. If the snow remains, there will be another trip this week end sponsored by Hickories, and one on April 9.

### HICKORIES HOLIDAY

"Hickories Holiday" begins Friday night, March 7, with several short ski films.

On Saturday evening, "Ski Trails" will take over Chase Hall providing music by La Chance's band for dancing, and the Merimanders will sing at intermission. A ski trip to Sugarloaf on Sunday will round out the week end. Rumor has it that these events are sure to be good, so go if you possibly can.

### ELECTIONS

This year elections were held on February 22 and March 1. Carl Ketchum was selected to fill the opening on the Hikes and trips directorship. Scott Bradley was chosen from five others

for the Junior opening. Scott's interest in O.C. has remained strong since freshman year as seen by his frequent appearances on hikes, work trips, and ski trips. He has also helped out in the equipment room and in the work on carnival. We gladly welcome him to council.

From thirteen freshmen men and twenty-three women, twelve were chosen for council. During the discussion period, we soon discovered that the majority of these candidates were qualified which made voting difficult. Since there obviously was not room for all of them, the council hopes that those not elected will not lose their interest in O.C. and will continue to participate in the activities.

The newly-elected council members are Cliff Baker, John Bart, Paul Ketchum, Al Pethick, Lee Pollock, Scott Wilkins, Elinor Brainerd, Nancy Conway, Linda Corkum, Eunice Janson, Linda Rolfe, and Margaret Ziegler. Welcome!

#### COMMENTS FROM ABROAD

The following is a reprint from a letter Fred Zeigler sent to the council.

"I was a bit disappointed in the reprint from the IOCA NEWS-LETTER entitled "Europe Next Summer," which advertized a tourist trip and a quest for international understanding.

"Let us analyze anti-Americanism and classify its causes ( quiet Pixie ). Fortunately it is rarely strong and very seldom reaches a personal level. A prime cause of anti-American sentiment is the material and military superiority of our country. This is jealousy in a sense and is very difficult to cope with. The fact that our country is superior ( albeit in insignificant respects ) is unalterable. The only thing that can be done here is for the government to try not to take unfair advantage of smaller countries, and for it to try to educate the tourists not to be such spendthrifts. A second major cause of anti-Americanism is tourism. Tourists are never liked, no matter where they come from. For some reason, a foreigner, especially a recent arrival, likes to talk about his country. He says, "We do it this way.." and so on, and the native interprets this as meaning that that is the best way, so to speak. The fact that Americans arrive in tremendous hoards and are subject to a very favourable exchange rate makes them the most hated of all. The characteristic loudness and sloppiness of Americans adds insult to injury.

Now what motivates a would-be tourist? Usually it is the desire to educate himself, but in fact, one gets such a warped idea of a country upon spending a few weeks or even a summer there that his education is bound to be sadly incomplete. It is said that one can only hope to know a country after living in it for at least 2 or 3 years. A second and all too common motive of a tourist is to be able to say that he has been there and there ( one-up-man-ship ).

"Fortunately there are several ways in which one may get to travel and to improve international relations at the same time. Your president and some of the other members of the council proved this last summer by working with various groups in Europe. I am sure that these O.C.ers are satisfied in that they got to see a sizable chunk of real estate plus making friends with the natives and thereby improving mutual understanding. A second way to achieve this two-fold goal is to become a student in a foreign university. I am finding this a particularly satisfying and enlightening sort of experience. Undoubtedly the most effective way of cutting down on anti-Americanism is to encourage Europeans to travel in the States. They invariably enjoy themselves and find that we are not the money wasting, immoral, and pompous people that they thought we were.

"It is often said in England that the trouble with Americans is that they are over-paid, over-sexed, and over-here. I sincerely hope that you will think about some of the things that I have written. If you have to tour, do so by the humblest means (hosteling is best) and remember-- Don't talk about the U.S.A. and how they do it there. Try to be as quiet and polite as possible and don't ask stupid questions. "

Coming from an American who has been studying abroad for a year to date, these comments merit particular consideration in a time of unlimited danger when many Americans are just beginning to realize that their touring countrymen can seriously hinder the necessary co-operation of allied and other countries in ensuring the safety of the world. This may seem rather strong, but the possibility definitely exists, and when foreigners see our government and its people deviating from the ideals we boast of to the world, how can they trust our future promises and support our policies?

Americans traveling abroad can definitely promote mutual understanding if they choose to. Peter Achorn and Carl Ketchum can testify to the wisdom of Zig's observations as both spent last summer in Europe in ways which Zig advocates. Their observations are recorded below. ( First Pete's, then Carl's )

#### ON BEING AN ALIEN

It is rather an enlightening experience to return from a summer in Europe with the realization that people the world around are much the same; people have more similarities than differences.

A European's image of America is no more exaggerated or distorted than an American's idea of Europe. That each has a somewhat distorted view of the other is not to be denied but remedied.

A citizen from a big country where he can travel for literally thousands of miles without crossing an international border, and where he needs to speak only one language, to be understood everywhere finds it a unique experience to be an alien. Why are Americans not able to speak more than one tongue? The answer is quite obvious, The largeness and the geological position of the U.S. precludes any necessity for it. One might say this is a weakness because of our strength. Using the Netherlands as a contrasting example you see that in this country it is not necessary to go many kilometers in any direction before you are in another

country, and another language--French, German, Finnish, Swedish, English--is spoken. Knowing the language of the country is essential if you are to know its heart. Otherwise, it can only be seen and enjoyed for its superficial value, charm, and beauty.

All these comments hold equally true for Great Britain. One must know the language (there is a difference you know) to appreciate the country. Someday in the not too distant future, I hope someone begins to make the distinction between the American language and the English language. Though they are both corruptions of the same origin, they are diverging from each other daily. Surprising to many, but never-the-less true, even in England an American is an alien.

I would suggest to Americans traveling abroad that they find themselves prepared to accept gracefully the status of an alien or they may find themselves not only aliens, but also alienated from our friends abroad.

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Who has not dreamed of going to Europe, climbing a mountain in Austria, or listening to an opera under the clear Italian sky? Who could resist the temptation to drink beer under the Austrian Alps or sip a glass of wine in a Parisian cafe at twilight? Here one can see the whole world walk by in one night. The romance and beauty of Europe exist somewhere in the minds of all.

Austrian hillsides are peppered with little stacks of hay. The woods jingle with the sounds of cowbells and clear running streams; the cuckoo bird sings out. As one wanders the wooded paths, he passes small farms out of the reach of mechanization. Yet all Europe is not quaint. The cities exhibit history in living form. In this land of contrasts, one can see in a single glance the Gothic art of the middle ages and the 20<sup>th</sup> century skyscraper. Europe is a living portrait of history for all to enjoy.

But the true flavor of Europe comes through knowing and living with its people. It is surprising how easily this can be done. Going to Europe is fairly inexpensive. Scholarships and loans are offered by the Experiment in International Living among many other organizations. Europe is a wonderful and educational experience.

#### M.A.T.C.

On April 9, the Maine Appalachian Trail Club will hold its annual conference in Chase Hall. Mr Sampson, who is in charge of arrangements for the conference, is our representative on the club--Bates being responsible for fifty miles of the trail.

The program will include reports on trail-conditions, a guest speaker, slides, and some sort of exhibit by B.O.C. Beyond this basic structure, the conference will give these people a chance

to meet again and reminisce their experiences on the trail which - as Mr Sampson says - is as familiar to them as the Hathorn trail is to us. For some the Appalachian Trail provides one of the few escapes from four-walled offices, and their resulting enthusiasm is strong. These are interesting people to meet, and all alumni, council members, people, etc. are urged to attend.

#### ODDS AND ENDS

Thanks to Zig, Irish, Harp, and Getch for keeping in touch via their xmas-"tracks".

This year Nancy Levin - Box 362 - is in charge of song books.

Prices: IOCA Songfests.....\$1.50  
M.I.T. song sheets.....\$.35

Joan Laez made quite an impact during her appearance here. The local record store had to order two shipments of her records ( sold every one ), and even the local stations were playing her songs along with the usual stuff.

Ronnie Gill's agent called to thank the Bates students for the good reception he got over carnival. Ronnie particularly enjoyed singing here and would like to come again.

Do we congratulate or wave good-bye to Carl? You're right about creeping news, now even the alumni will know that you and Bev Graffam are engaged!!!!