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The BATES STUDENT

(Founded in 1873)



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Hymn Number 75

The true 75th anniversary of Bates College was celebrated during this past week in the most appropriate place on campus — the Chapel. For three-quarters of a century the Chapel, either in the Little Theatre or in the newer Chapel which we now have, was one of the outstanding characteristics of this college's daily routine, but, and here we must be blunt, the Chapel today is nothing . . . it does not even resemble a vague Assembly.

The idea of dropping compulsory Chapel entirely from our everyday curricula has been born more than once in the minds of the undergraduates, but this is not the solution to the problem of the decaying Chapel. The undergraduates themselves sincerely want the Chapel service, and demonstrate their approval of the service whenever a TRUE Chapel period is conducted. The reverent silence with which the few real Chapels of this year were received by the student body proves the sincerity of the undergraduate in wanting a Chapel service.

The undergraduates themselves, it has been said, have been the cause for the decay of the Chapel service. That this charge falls far short of the truth is revealed in two facts: first, as has been mentioned above, the eds and coeds of today will sit silently and reverently through a REAL Chapel service; second, petitions to do away with certain elements which have led to the decay of the Chapel service (such elements as whispering, excessive coughing, scraping of feet, etc.) have been drawn up and circulated by the undergraduates themselves. It is our contention, then, that the fault for the fall of the Chapel service lies elsewhere.

To begin with, undergraduates cannot help accepting as a joke that which is presented to them as a joke. We are taught in Public Speaking never to go back and repeat part of our speeches in order to correct a mistake unless that mistake will affect the rest of the speech, yet this corrective repetition has too often turned a Chapel service into a burlesque. We are taught to speak clearly, and distinctly, and to talk to the BACK row of the assembly. Half of the Faculty and the Administration must have flunked Public Speaking.

The Chapel service is a loose Assembly, and an imperfect Chapel. The question arises, then, "Why not change the affair into an outright Assembly, held in the Chapel?" That question arouses more thought than might be suspected. For one thing, it is very difficult for a group of undergraduates to offer a prayer, listen to a speech full of wise-cracks and jokes, and then sing a hymn all in the SAME spirit and all within TWENTY minutes. A sermon in the middle of a burlesque detracts both from the enjoyment of the humor and the appreciation of the devotion aroused. Then, in view of some recent Chapel services, it can be said that the Chapel in our curricula is fast assuming the character of an Assembly.

Then too, the Chapel is becoming an Assembly in other ways. Whenever a topic of an "Assembly" nature has to be presented to the undergraduates in a short time, the Chapel service is curtailed — hymns or prayers are omitted — and the topic is brought up for discussion. Thus, whether it is realized or not, the Assembly service is breaking into the Chapel service. This cannot be denied. Therefore, since the Chapel service is being cut down by the Assembly service in a slipshod manner, why not do the cutting down in a systematic manner — a manner which will offer better and more expedient service to the college as a whole! The building we know of as the Chapel could be used for Chapel services three times a week and for Assembly service three times a week. Neither service would detract from, or interfere with the other. Assemblies

Social Symphonies

Miss Schaeffer, Miss Baker, and Miss Johnson chaperoned the "farmerettes" and their "farmers" at the Chase House cabin party held at Thorneag Thursday night. The protestors, Dode Pampel '40 and Hazel Turner '40 were in charge.

A birthday party in honor of Dolly Milliken was held Saturday night at the Union with the following freshmen present: Lib Stafford, Ann Temple, Fran Cooper, Dotty Matlack, Helen Mason, Bet Avery, and Chris Williamson.

The basketball game Saturday night attracted many alumni, among whom were: Betty Stevens (the queen of the '37 Winter Carnival) escorted by Dick DuWors '39; Larry Butler '37, Priscilla Jones '38, Bob Crocker '38, Pappy Alexander '38, Ruth Hamlin '38, Ruth Preble '38, Don Partridge '38, Biz Packard '38, Tony Kishon '37, and Nick Pellicani '37 who incidentally refereed the freshman-Kents Hill game.

Fran Glidden '42, Priscilla Simpson '42, and Jerrie Moulton '41 blossomed forth with three Maine fellows. A "just acting foolish" house party was organized by the Hacker House freshmen after the game. The "foolish" ones: Ruthie Nuckley, Glad Bickmore, Barb White, Lib Stafford, Bubbles Moss, Pat Bradbury and Marion Loveland.

Barbara Place '42 spent the week end at her home in Swampscott. Grace Halliwell '40 visited at the home of John Woodbury '39 in Portland.



Ski Club's first project—a ski trip to Dr. Leonard's farm—was postponed because of lack of snow, but the project substituted in its place proved very successful. Saturday afternoon was spent by six members, Professor Walmsley and Miss Fahrenholz, on the ice of Lake Auburn.

The interdomitory basketball tournament is being organized by Barbara Rowell '40. The games are to be played off in a ladder tournament beginning the first week of exams. A list of hours available for practice has been posted in Rand, offering opportunity for the various dorms to sign for practice hours which will enable them to concentrate on teamwork and general technique. By signing up for the hours desired the teams will be

assured of a free gym in which to work out. As the gym will be in use at night during exams it is advisable to get in preliminary work-outs this week. Spectators are invited to drop in at 4:30 for the games in Rand gym.

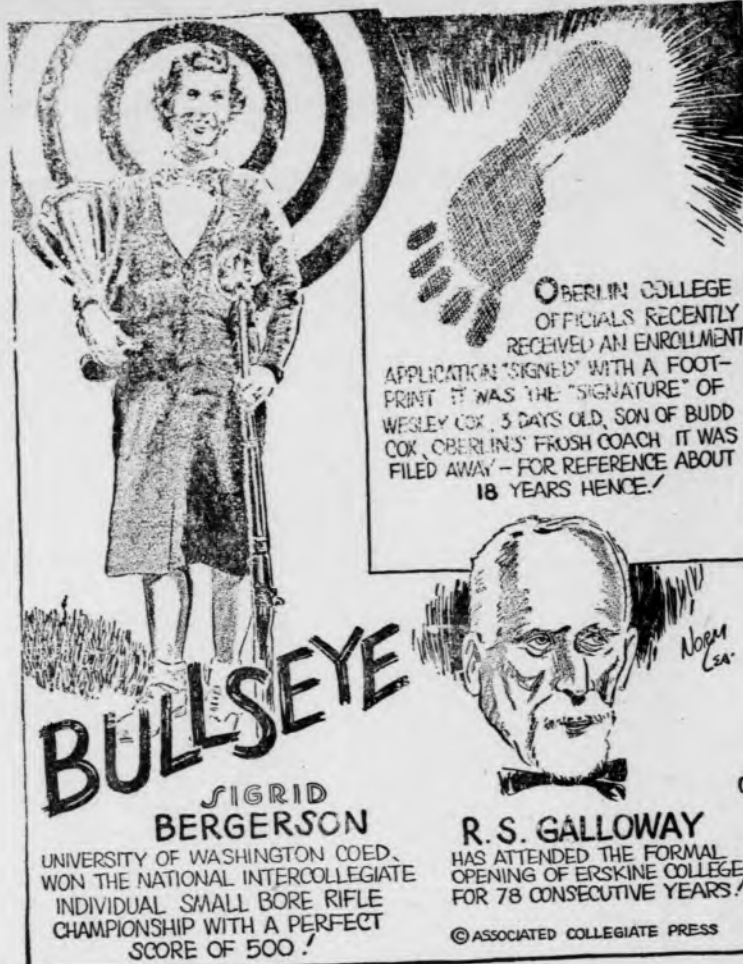
Assemblies would be held only when required, and an announcement at each Assembly would tell the undergraduates whether or not there would be an Assembly the next scheduled time. Speakers at the Assemblies could make the worst puns on record, joke, tell tall stories, and make their usual mistakes, but, inasmuch as there would be no Chapel exercise on those days, neither their speeches nor the Chapel exercises would suffer.

Too many speakers on the Faculty have nothing to say as Chapel speakers, but would be humorous as Assembly speakers. The hardest task in public speaking is trying to say something when one hasn't anything to say — this change, then, would even help better the conditions of Faculty members. Certain Faculty members would request to be Chapel speakers, other would request to be Assembly speakers, and each professor would be assigned a day on which to speak even as is now done. The reduction of Chapel services to three a week should intensify the benefits of Chapel, too widely scattered and too "lost in the rush" in the present mode of conduction.

That this problem has been appreciated by the undergraduates is evident in the action being initiated by the Student Council and Student Government, who sincerely are seeking a way in which to make both the Chapel and the Assembly more effective.

We have tried herein to arouse approval of this undergraduate action — approval from the students, the Faculty, and the Administration. The biggest argument in favor of the attempted action of the Council is this—that whether or not anyone will admit it, the Chapel is now a slipshod mixture of Chapel and Assembly, with neither service being conducted as efficiently as one alone would be. The divorce of the two, and the designation of certain days to be devoted to either of them in turn would add to the benefits that both services have to offer the college as a whole.

Campus Camera . . . by Lea



In The Debating Room

By Eric Lindell '40

Preparations for the next league debate which is to be held on campus Feb. 14, are already started. Frank Coffin '40, lawyer, and Donald Curtis '39, witness, will defend the negative of the pump-priming question, while Bucknell will uphold the affirmative. Bates leads the league at the present time, having defeated Bowdoin and M. I. T.

St. Patrick's College of Ottawa is planning a trip through Maine for a series of debates during the last week of February, and has asked Bates to debate them.

The freshman practice debates being over, arrangements are now being made for freshmen to debate Dartmouth, New Hampshire, and some of the high schools.

Try-outs for the annual prize debates for freshmen and sophomores will be held Feb. 16. Any member of these two classes is eligible. Candidates must present a three-minute speech on some controversial subject and be prepared to answer one question on the speech. These try-outs will also be the last opportunity to try out for the freshman or varsity squads.

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Letter To The Editor

To the Editor of the STUDENT:

Last Wednesday morning we had a chapel service which awoke some of the student body out of its customary slumbering indifference for an hour or so and caused considerable comment and sarcasm. The strange thing about it is that the leader, who was the President, planned a worship service and prepared a talk designed to make his hearers more Christian by increasing their sensitivity to human suffering. The President explicitly stated his purpose, and quoted a graphic account of torture and suffering to get his point across to the audience.

The thing that caused comment was the quotation from the Manchester Guardian, which is controlled by Lord Beaverbrook (whom some compare to Mr. Hearst); and that the quotation concerned treatment of prisoners of the German government. The account, as the President himself will admit, should have been somewhat discredited by the audience; but even so, it certainly did depict torture to an almost unbelievable degree. So much so that some thought it to be the product of a biased propagandist against Germany.

Now, the German government, officially at least, is a friend of the American government; and there was in the audience a visitor from Germany. In view of these facts a few of us wondered if this quotation was the most useful one to use. As a matter of fact, the account nullified its purpose because the audience thought it was an attack on Germany.

The reaction of the student body was interesting. Some whispered to their neighbor, "Propaganda". Others with an expression of disgust attempted to ignore the speech, and even one immature adolescent committed the distinctive (and questionable) act of walking out on the President.

This reaction was certainly unfortunate because we do not need to become more sensitive to the suffering of those around us. It is too bad the President did not choose a quotation from the New York Times of Aug. 23, 1938, which tells about the intentional roasting to death of four convicts in the Philadelphia County Jail; or that he didn't choose to tell of the plight of fugitives from the dust bowl in the West, or the racial discrimination against the Southern negro, or the sufferings of those derelicts of society who sleep out on Boston Common, or the prison conditions in our own South, or even the conditions existing in some of our insane asylums here in the Northeast. The writer feels certain that if the President had chosen any one of these, and made a comment upon it, the purpose of his talk would not have been obscured by its content.

Let us have more of these worship services in Chapel. An increasing number of them may decrease the indifference of the student body toward the practical application of Christian truths and principles.

(The name of the author of the above will be supplied on request.—Ed.)

FROM THE NEWS

(The STUDENT has for the past few weeks and will in the future carry out a policy of "guest writers" for this column so that any and all desiring to express a view of current world affairs may do so.—Ed.)

By William H. Sutherland '40

It is surprising how concerned the country has become within the last three weeks about, "National Defense". President Roosevelt has recommended in his budget and special defense messages an expenditure of one billion three hundred million dollars during this fiscal year of 1940—the largest peace time measure ever proposed.

Army Asks \$450,000,000

Last week the army presented several bills to the Congressional military and naval affairs committees. These bills were ones which the war department considered necessary in order to carry out the President's proposed four hundred and fifty million dollar army expansion. They included such measures as increasing the army air force to 6,000 serviceable planes, increase of air corps personnel, giving industry "educational orders" for military products that would prepare the country for large scale production in wartime, etc.

Expert Pooh-Poohs Danger of Air Attack

Now for the real bogey man. Air attack! Italy has NO airplane carriers. Germany has two under construction. Furthermore without fleet protection, an aircraft carrier is like an egg shell to destroyers and cruisers. Let's not forget also that the cruising range of modern bombing planes with a full load is 800 miles. We are just a little over 2500 miles from this big potential threat.

Colonel Palmer's article does not consider the Pacific, but after General Itagali's statement to the Diet to prepare themselves for a long war, it does seem unlikely that Japan will pull up stakes immediately and head for the U. S. There is also the minor matter of Russia which Japan would have to consider.

Will Navy Fortify Guam?

Although the naval men will not officially explain their program until this week, there have been many heated arguments over a minor but important section of their plans—the fortification of Guam. Some state officials declare that the Japanese government will consider this a hostile act—in fact, several Japanese newspapers have already come out with such a statement. The necessity of such action is indeed debatable.

An interesting little side proposal in our program of national defense is one made by Chairman May of the House Military committee. Chairman May suggests that military training be made mandatory for the three hundred thousand enrollees of the C.C.C. If this proposal goes through, the "civilian" conservation corps will be a fine reservoir of trained fighting material.

The Cry For Adequate Defense

And so we make rapid strides toward the establishment of that ethereal vagary, "adequate national defense". What is meant by adequate? Defense against whom?

In an article entitled, "Palmer Discounts Nation's War Fear", Colonel Frederick Palmer analyzes the question of national defense. According to his article, national defense means first the security of the integral soil of the United States; then the Caribbean Sea; the Panama Canal; Hawaii, Alaska, the Philippines, and finally the Monroe doctrine. There are a great many people in the United States who would not include as much as he does in the policy of national defense, as, for instance, the Philippine Islands.

However, let's consider with him what nations, if any, would attack us on the Atlantic side. Great Britain? France? Hardly! From a selfish or from an idealistic viewpoint, the incentive for those countries to fight us is nil. Germany? She would first have to consider Europe. On her left right stands France. On her left ready to fight the minute she starts for the Ukraine is Russia with a standing army of 1,800,000 men and 8 million reserves.

Inquiring Reporter

(The editorial of last Wednesday in the STUDENT calling for a reading period before exams, stirred up a good deal of feeling on campus and resulted in a petition being drawn up and asking for just that. Though the petition failed, the STUDENT, in line with its policy, felt that its columns should be a medium of student expression on this question. Ed.)

The question, "How valuable would a reading period before mid-year exams be to you?" was asked the following representative group:

Either have a reading period or change the exam schedules so they won't come too close together.—Del Witty '40.

Even if we can't have a reading, let's have the library open seven days a week, even if it would cost an extra \$6.32.—Jasper Balano '40.

It would be wonderful.—Barbara McGee '42.

I could catch up on the week and half I missed when I had my appendix dix out.—Ralph Child '40.

No value.—Ed Stanley '39.

Could I use it! I signed the petition.—Jim Walsh '41.

Or else have the library open Sunday, if only for a place to study.—Janet McLean '41.

People rest before extractions.—Leighton Dingley '39.

You guess! I have my three tons removed the first two days.—Gil McLean '39.

Personally, I'd rather have the time for review, to find out what are supposed to know.—Elaine Hildreth '42.

As for those engaged in athletics (Continued on Page Four)

