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THE DIAL

Volume 1, No. 11

Milwaukee-Downer College

May 14, 1964

17 Angry Women, or Another Flop

By Lee Dodds, Assistant Editor

If only 17 out of 130 of the DIAL questionnaires were returned, the responses which we received were at least fascinating and worth mentioning. (I think that it would be useless to put down any statistics because in the light of the number of responses with which I will be dealing, the results would be meaningless.)

Perhaps the number of returned sheets indicate that Downer girls must not only mistrust the members of the DIAL staff (re: handwriting analysis), but they refuse to become a part of the great and glorious statistical studies which appear to be prevalent on campuses everywhere. It seems to be the trend to discover where one's college stands on the moral and political issues and then tag that particular institution as liberal or conservative or what have you.

Of all of the questions asked, the civil rights question had the least responses. Very often, the blank was left unmarked because the student didn't know enough about the bill. It is distressing to discover that with so much attention given to civil rights on this campus, either in attachment or criticism, not much is known about the legal aspects. How do people know what they are praising or criticizing?

Fourteen out of the 17 who answered the questions on sex and marriage neither condoned nor had experienced premarital sex relations. There seems to have been a certain faction which saw fit to answer these questions.

The best answers were given on the questions about Downer's assets and set-backs. Several said that Downer's assets and set-backs were derived from the same source: its size. Small classes and good intellectual stimulation were good points which were offset by a narrow curriculum and a gossipy and too limited student body. One perceptive, although critical, answer should be included. It indicates, if nothing else, the fear which many Downerites have about entering a new institution next year:

"As a small, second rate college, it (Downer) permits the mediocre personality to entertain the illusion that she is better than mediocre and has the advantage of encouraging, indeed en-

Lawrence Week-end Number II

By Barbara Allen

Each year students, faculty, alumni and administrators of Lawrence College leave the campus for a weekend of discussion thought, and amusement in the out-of-doors. This year 59 students, one alumna, 23 faculty and administrators, and four cooks travelled to Gardner Dam Boy Scout Camp for seminars which centered around the theme "B-/C+." Downerites Lee Dodds and the writer were invited to participate.

We arrived at the Appleton campus in the rain, and after a brief wait drove to the camp in a private car. After settling into the cabins the entire assembly heard the keynote speech made by Mr. Roelafs of the Department of History. The address was entitled "The Morphological Fundamentalism of Liberal Education and the Lawrence Problem." It was both edifying and succinct, and provided an excellent frame of reference for the discussion that followed.

Saturday was devoted to discussion of four different topics. Groups were arranged so that one was with different personnel for each discussion. The topics included the definition of the liberal arts education, the philosophy and goals of such training, and the specific problems of all kinds that are encountered on the Lawrence campus; the fourth discussion was entitled "Open End" and one was free to present any topic he chose for discussion. A rapport was apparent as students and faculty participated freely in the sessions.

Evening entertainment consisted of a short skit followed by dancing and socializing at remote "nightspots." Free periods during the day were filled with volleyball and kickball games, walks in the woods, and just chatting.

The Downer women who attended are delighted with the results of the weekend. The air seemed to be cleared on many points of tension or vagueness. Students from Lawrence became much more than mere statistics of unknown description; they became people with qualities of courtesy and intelligence.

Dr. Tarr's frank talk at the general session on Sunday morning presented some of the concrete plans for Lawrence University, though he emphasized the fact that there are few specific things that have been charted for the future. One innovation is the summer session, to begin on a limited scale in 1965. Perhaps curricular changes will eventually precipitate building a new dormitory specifically designed for both living and seminar activity. The future of Lawrence University appears bright; the most pressing problem is where to house 175 extra women next year!

Perhaps the problems of the college were not solved in three days, but a remark made by one of the faculty seems to place this fact in its proper significance. She remarked, "You don't want to face problems and come up with answers—that's regurgitating. You should examine problems and come up with more problems." And maybe learn a little on the way.

Commencement Plans Underway

By Jean Shepard

The seniors will be pleased to note that plans for Commencement weekend are well under way. On Friday and Saturday, June 5 and 6, a number of events have been scheduled for the Alumnae Reunion, the most noteworthy of these being the Alumnae Reception honoring President and Mrs. Johnson. This is a reversal of past custom when Dr. Johnson has hosted the Alumnae at a reception.

On Sunday, June 7, that much-anti-cipated breakfast will be held as usual in the Hawthornden, to be followed by Baccalaureate in Merrill. The Baccalaureate speaker will be the Reverend William F. Edge, of the Plymouth Congregational church. Commencement exercises will be held at 3:00 p.m. in the auditorium, where Mr. T. L. Tolan Jr.,

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THE DIAL

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Book Review

BREAD AND WINE by Ignazio Silone

By Cathy Grant

Bread and Wine was first published in 1936, and though banned from Italy by Mussolini, was issued elsewhere in Europe, and became one of the most significant novels to come out of contemporary Europe. Silone deals with the effect of the totalitarian regime upon the people in a peasant region far away from Rome and the devastating poverty of body and spirit of both city and village. Pietro Spina is a young revolutionary who is a fugitive from all but his boyhood priest, with whom, strangely enough, he can meet on several levels of agreement. Pietro goes into hiding as a priest in a remote mountain village. There he becomes fully aware of the pulsebeat that is never quite extinguished; it is the pulse of the eternal rhythm of sowing and reaping which goes on despite ideology or political power. It yields the bread and wine with which men sustain themselves and renew their strength for the encounter with forces which would strip them of their autonomy in the seasonal rhythm.

Pietro becomes aware of the deficiencies of any imposed dogma, be it Facist or Communist, which leads to a sterile and dessicated people. In a situation such as this, the land becomes the consistent truth for the people, even when it fails to feed them. It will renew itself and give forth once again.

Silone envisions, as his character Pietro Spina does, a situation where the flesh and the spirit are as inseparably joined as the Bread and Wine of

Hats Off!

For the 64th and final time that hat, left by Parson Ames, who unwittingly precipitated a tradition, was found. So ends the long line of nightie girls, Girl Scouts, Brunhildas, duck walks, sailor hats, and mud, mud, mud.

So ends the line? Let us hope so; for I would consider it a very bad move to take Hat Hunt up to the Appleton campus next year. Traditions are lauded and criticized at Downer every May. No matter how you look at it, though, Hat Hunt has been a "big deal" on this campus. It becomes more important in the light of Downer's future. Sentimentality begins to take over.

There are some things to keep in mind when considering the traditions at Milwaukee-Downer college. First of all, they are strictly Downer traditions; the hat is hunted in the woods of the Downer campus by girls who, from the very day they entered the horseshoe as

freshmen, heard the hat songs and stories about this great festivity. It is a tradition based on the concept of class rivalry in an all-girl atmosphere! It is a tradition which may have a place here, but would have no place at Lawrence. (I find it hard to picture Lawrence women running outdoors next May in blue jeans, Girl Scout uniforms and trowels to hunt for a hat near the Fox River, while the men listen to them sing, "This Is a Cold Cruel World.") Hat Hunt may be no worse than dressing up like George Washington because you are "best loved," but it has less reason for being at Lawrence.

I feel that the best thing to do with Downer's Hat is to bury it forever, a symbol of the tradition that it has always been. (You can bury razzing right along with it. After all, there is always Hell Week.)

By Lee Dodds, Assistant Editor

the title. He is, however, realistic to the point of pessimism as he portrays one man after another relinquishing his hold on the Bread and Wine of his hopes. Silone writes in the simplest terms. His book carries a beautiful message, however, and one warm in irony, sick in desperation, abounding with hope—a message that is so intimately attuned to the human situation that the characters are strikingly real.

Bread and Wine is never a polemic, although the character of Pietro Spina is autobiographical of Ignazio Silone. The novel transcends this, and perceives the fallacies in trading any rigid form of life for another, which is to Silone, only trading in one lie to live another.

17 Angry Women

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dorsing, mediocrity on a universal basis. The set-back involved in such a system is that this mediocre person (now convinced of her superiority) will eventually return to the norm only to find that it boasts an entirely different criteria and considers excellence by anything but the standard of relativity by which she is accustomed."

It gives me much pleasure at this time to announce that although there were some criticisms of the DIAL in the responses, on the whole, this year's DIAL was a success. (It had a lot of maturing to do!!)

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Ann Slanders



Dear Ann,

This problem has been bothering me for some time, so I hope you can help me. When one enters the living room or date parlor in my dormitory, the group gathered there usually gives a greeting cold enough to shake even Admiral Byrd, Immersed in cards, papers, or television, the "already established" sometimes make me feel I am there only in spirit, my material presence being completely ignored. Visitors to the dorm also comment on the apparent intense student concentration which allows no time for the acknowledgment of others, so I am not alone in my fear of these sober and silent figures. What can I do to conquer this situation? It is causing me to wear out the back stairway in my haste to escape the cold blasts of silence from the living room.

Johnston Hall Janie

Dear J.H.J.,

This problem of ostracism which you have encountered is not uncommon in an institution of this size. Frequently cliques form under such circumstances and distribute themselves in various

areas. The larger cliques dominate the larger rooms, and so on according to the power and cohesion of the group. One such group may be found in Kim; these are the unmotivated, unguided loafers. Another clique has converted the smoker for its own purposes; this is in the intellectual group, absorbed in the pursuit of Truth. The third and most obvious clique is that which dominates the living room and date-parlors. This consists not of unmotivated, unguided girls, but rather of mismotivated and misguided students. They seek culture and hope to attain it through an audio-visual medium. They hope to develop the cunning necessary to exist in the dog-eat-dog world and what better way than through cards? They aim for the educational frame of reference so that they might prove themselves intelligent conversationalists when they leave this sanctum sanctorum for polite society, so they study the Green Sheet.

Because the purposes and interests among these groups vary to such a great extent, it would be difficult, indeed impossible, for a member of the Smoker Set, let us say, to belong to the Kim Set or the Living Room Set at the same time. The seeming indifference of the Living Room group is no more severe than that of any other group in their attitude toward outsiders. It is, however, emphasized by the fact that the living room occupies such a central position in the structure of the dormitory that outsiders are more often exposed to the specific clique which has established itself in this particular location.

After consideration of these facts, I'm sure that you will acknowledge their validity and be consoled by the fact that, although all this is really for the Byrds, you do belong with one of the abounding groups. If not, and you find the situation undemocratic, why not establish your own Anti-Clique clique?

Commencement Plans

(Continued from Page 1)

vice-chairman of the College Board of Trustees, will speak.

Dean Falvey announced that, as in past years, only graduating seniors, choir members, marshals, and other students who must attend Commencement will be able to remain in the dorms for the weekend. The other students and their belongings must have vacated the premises within 24 hours after their last exam.

Starts Wednesday, May 20

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