

THE NEWS

Curriculum Questionnaire

The report of the Bryn Mawr students' curriculum committee is admirably thorough. It encompasses all areas of academic life and is a credibly accurate rendering of student opinion.

Many of its recommendations, especially those calling for increased academic flexibility, are long overdue. They are an important step toward the goal of trusting students to manage their own academic affairs.

Other conclusions are, however, disappointingly conservative. It is depressing to think that intelligent college students still feel the need for a complex system of divisional requirements to assure a full and well-rounded education. If students do not trust themselves to arrange their own educational programs, then the basis upon which we demand flexibility from faculty and administration is indeed weak.

Perhaps the major fault of the report, however, is that it fails to look beyond Bryn Mawr, to examine situations at other schools, or other models of education. As President Wofford so aptly put it, the report's aim should not have been to chip away at the present curriculum, but to make a fresh start at examining what the curriculum should be. Surveys of student opinion are helpful in setting general limits and priorities; but, in the end, student opinion as assessed by a one-shot survey is too parochial a guideline to use in evaluating the curriculum.

The function of the survey and report should have been to look beyond Bryn Mawr, to note positive trends in education, and to force the College to look outward. Specific proposals for academic reform can only be founded upon a sound theoretical base, and that is what the committee has failed to establish.

Navy Recruiter

For the first time in the memory of most people now at Haverford, a representative of the armed forces is coming to the campus. The pretense that he is the personal guest of a student, and therefore will officially not be using College property for the purposes of recruiting, will not make the reality of his presence any less disturbing.

It is clear that the vast majority of the Haverford community is strongly opposed to the visit of a representative of the armed forces for the purpose of finding students to join his organization. The disapproval of the community is strong enough, in fact, to justify the opinion that that disapproval may take some outward form.

In spite of this Dean Lyons has invoked the two-year-old policy of the College, which justifies recruiting in the name of individual students' convenience. There seems to be no very convincing reason why six students should be able to command a recruiter's appearance on campus when one or two cannot; the decision of what constitutes a "sufficient number" is made, totally arbitrarily, by Lyons. What is more important, this indefensible policy takes no account at all of the fact that the aversion felt by the community to the role this Navy man plays infinitely outweighs the personal inconvenience a trip into Philadelphia would cause these six students.

The decision to invite the Navy recruiter on campus was, in short, arbitrary, insensitive, and annoying. If the six students really are interested in participating in the work of the Navy, they should take some account of the aversion of the other members of the community to that work, and see the recruiter off campus.

Guide for the Perplexed

All Weekend:

"The Out-of-Towners," Ardmore, MI 2-2000.

"M*A*S*H," Suburban, MI 2-4747.

"The Angel Levine," Eric, Wynnewood, MI 9-5252.

"Borsalino," Bryn Mawr Theatre, LA 5-2662.

"Odetta, Ezra Mohawk at the Main Point, LA 5-3375.

Friday, Oct. 9

William Doering, Harvard University, "Thermal Rearrangements," William Pyle Phillips Fund Chemistry Lecture.

Erdman Coffee Hour, 3-5 p.m.

Baha'i information session, 8 p.m., BMC Common Room.

de Pasquale String Quartet and Sylvia Glickman, 8:30 p.m., Roberts. Free for students.

Monday, Oct. 12

G.R. Elton, Cambridge University, "Tudor Despotism and the Rule of Law," 4:30 p.m., Stokes.

Danilo Dolci, the Sicilian Ghandi, "To Resist and to Build," conclusion of Nonviolence Symposium, 8 p.m., Founders.

Alfred Swan:



By John Davison

One September, about 1945, Alfred Swan came to the first meeting of his Music History class. "I have decided," he announced to the class, "that this year I will teach composition rather than Music History. This means that you have come to the class under false pretenses, and anybody is welcome to leave." The students were fascinated. Nobody left. The course was a success, and thus entered into the curriculum, by the back door as it were, Haverford's first Music Theory course.

This was characteristic of Alfred Swan. He was always doing the unexpected, and always with style and assurance. One kept learning amazing things about him. He seemed, in class, the classic absent-minded professor, frequently putting the tone-arm of the record player down at the wrong place in the record and scratching it in the effort to right his error; but then one learned that he had efficiently run a camp for nine hundred children evacuated from the Russian battle-front in World War I. When the Revolution came, he had arranged to have these children shifted, by stages, all around the world and safely back to Russia when the fighting and famine were over. (Most of them are still alive, and greeted him affectionately when he returned to Russia recently.)

The above incidents may serve to show in some small way what kind of a man Alfred Swan was. His background was complex - an English family, growing up in Czarist Russia; education at Oxford, and an early fascination with the pacifist ideals of Tolstoy - all these were in his make-up.

His formal studies were of languages and law. Music was, at first, only a side interest, a hobby.

First Music at Colleges

After being uprooted from Russia by the Revolution, however, Swan eventually, in the twenties, chose music as his life work and America as his home. He had started to compose, and he was writing books about Scriabin and about modern music. He became acquainted with Thomas Smetana and

Haverford.

In a time when American colleges face a serious threat to their continued existence, Bryn Mawr needs a strong and forceful leader as president, for his work over the next several years may well decide whether or not there is ever a sixth inauguration.

We hope that Harris Wofford will be this kind of leader, and we wish him well in the hard and serious work which lies ahead.

Navy Recruiter II

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Last week's editorial protesting the visit of a Navy recruiter to the Haverford campus aroused a good deal of opposition. The reaction made it apparent that we erred factually when we referred to a "vast majority of the Haverford community" in opposition to the visit.

The NEWS maintains its position against the Navy recruiter, or any military recruiter, coming on campus. We believe that a man whose function is to persuade people to join the armed forces among whose purpose in turn is to kill other humans, is in violent opposition to the Haverford tradition and spirit and has no place here.

Our opposition is to the recruiter's function, not to the mere fact that he is a military man. Thus, we would welcome the visit of a man from the armed forces to discuss, say, the difference between his philosophical position and our own. Our commitment to academic freedom is absolute. But there is a crucial distinction between discussing and recruiting.

Although we would seek to dissuade him, we would not attempt to prevent anyone from seeing a Navy recruiter. The cost and inconvenience of transportation into Philadelphia for students who want to see recruiters are slight. And if a recruiter is indeed the personal guest of a student, there is no reason he should not come on campus.

We do object strongly, however, to the dean of students or any other official of the college acting as a liaison between the Navy and its prospects, and then pretending that it was after all a personal invitation that brought the recruiter. And we continue to think such an invitation inappropriate in a community dedicated to the application of reason, not violence, to problems.

Viewpoint:

Elections Can Never Solve Today's Important Problems

By Fred Ovsiew and Bob Schwartz

People are powerful. Yet in this society we live in the midst of decisions about our lives in which we don't participate. We can grow, can learn, can create and find our humanity. Yet this cannot happen unless we take responsibility for the course of our lives.

Too often what appears in an individual's life as a personal problem is in fact a social problem. Privately dodging the draft also avoids our lack of power to change the grip the military has on the whole society. The family that has to scrimp to make ends meet all too often blames its lack of adequate education or fort-

whose main allegiance after election is to the state and the preservation of its institutions will be responsible and responsive to the electorate. It is based on the theory that a man in Washington has the right to direct the destinies of people who are unaware that their destinies have been taken over. It is, ultimately, an abdication of the individual life-building process, a belief that fundamental relationships can be changed by a word from above. It is a refusal of responsibility.

But can't we develop power by electoral means? Power for a community is not gained by giving it away to an individual. Representation may sometime be

Cross-Country 1st. Derek and some of his kins, Fairmount Park, 1 p.m.

Derek, and the Dominoes, Electric factory, LOVE-222

Lee Michaels, Swarthmore, 8:30

Thursday, October 22

Film Series, "I'm All Right, Jack," 7:15 and 9:45 p.m. Bio Lecture Room
Faculty Research Talks, Robert Mortimer, Stokes, 8 p.m.

Letters to the Editor

Recruiter I

To the Editor:

The logic of your October 9th editorial "Navy Recruiter," quite escapes me.

I think of myself as a pacific person -- have committed some years of active physical struggle for life against death. I respond with more warmth to the calls of the Peace Corps and Vista than to the call of the armed services.

But I cannot for a moment for such reasons sympathize with your rageful appeal to the tyranny of a majority over the free thought of a few -- least of all in a community deeply committed, as ours is, to freedom of thought and conscience.

Prof. John A. Lester, Jr.

Recruiter II

To the Editor:

In short, last Friday's NEWS editorial on the Navy recruiter was "arbitrary, insensitive, and annoying": arbitrary because The NEWS presumes to delegate itself the authority to decide what individuals are permitted to be guests of other students; insensitive because the NEWS apparently has little concern for the feelings of the students who have invited this Navy recruiter to the campus as their personal guest; and annoying because the NEWS should be principled enough to recognize the right of all citizens to communicate their views, however, fascistic or revolutionary those views might be.

I, for one, do not believe that students should be excluded from seeing or hearing anyone they wish to see or hear. Military recruiters, however distasteful their mis-

sion may be to many of us, do have a right to visit this campus if, AND ONLY IF, they meet, as the Gager committee reported, "the expressed needs and interests of individual students." The NEWS is correct in denouncing the "sufficient number" fallacy. Obviously, the desire of every student is sufficient for that student (not the College) to invite to this campus as his guest a member of the John Birch Society, the Communist Party, Resistance or the Military Establishment.

The NEWS' editorial mind is muddled if it seriously believes that this Navy recruiter is coming to seek out "students to join his organization." He won't have to seek out anyone, for those who wish to see him will go to him instead. The rest of us, who have no particular desire to further the military machine, will pass the day without fearing an advertising pitch from this visitor. The issue then is clear: any member of this college community should be perfectly free to invite any other person to this campus without being subjected to arbitrary, insensitive and annoying restrictions devised by the College or the NEWS.

John Delano

Recruiter III

To the Editor:

I am responding to the editorial in last Friday's NEWS concerning the Navy recruiter's visit to the campus. I feel compelled to express my opposition to the view of the editors who stated: "the six students really are interested in participating in the work of the Navy they should take some account of the aversion of the other members of the community to that work, and see the recruiter off campus." This statement and its ramifications are repugnant and

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