

QUEENS BLUES

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Blues States Policy

We believe that it is time to state exactly what we think a college newspaper should do and how it should attempt to do it. It is not our intention here to prolong discussion on specific articles and policies that may or may not be controversial. It is rather to explain what the position of the **Blues** has been, what it is, and what we should like it to be.

The first and most obvious function of a newspaper is to print news. By **news** we mean information about past events unknown to the majority of students, and also information about future events. To us **news** means telling facts to people who do not know them otherwise. **News** is not a printed recital of stale happenings already familiar to the majority of readers. **News** in the limited sense in which we have used the word is hard to get and restricted in quantity, especially on a campus the size of ours and in a city with two watchful daily papers. Like a far larger and more brilliant contemporary, we shall continue to try to print all the **news** that's fit to print!

A college newspaper also has other functions. One is to encourage student activities, support student government, and stimulate student thought and opinion on local and national issues. This function may be effected by several different means: the programs and work of groups and agencies may be reviewed; editorials may endorse or criticize various attitudes and opinions or even programs themselves; light humor and satire may be employed to call attention to matters often too grave and serious in themselves to be taken seriously.

Much has been written and said about the need and service of a free press in a democratic society. Some months ago Dr. Blakely spoke before a local civic group and emphasized the incalculable benefits derived from a free press in the United States. Milton's greatest prose tract, **Areopagitica**, was a passionate defence of the free press in England. We believe that a college, particularly a college with student government, needs and gets the same benefits from a college paper that is both active and critical (in the good sense of the word). When any student body becomes unable to see its own shortcomings, incapable of laughing at its own minor absurdities, incapable of distinguishing between minor issues and major ones, unwilling to accept criticism of any kind from within itself—then we seriously question the desirability of its having a college paper at all.

There has been much public and private discussion on the campus regarding an article in the last issue of the **Blues**. We were frankly surprised that any individual took it literally or seriously. The incidents and actions described in the article (which was not on the front page, where news items are traditionally placed) were so trivial in nature and so far-fetched in imagination that we find it difficult to think that any student could honestly regard it as more than a good-natured take-off. We honestly regret that the article was misunderstood, but we make no apologies for it.

We repeat that we are sorry that some readers misinterpreted the content and spirit of the article. After careful and objective consideration, however, we still believe that articles of this type have a justifiable place in a college paper which seeks to play a meaningful place in campus life. It is true that humor and satire may often be misconstrued; this is a fate that has happened to the foremost satirists in literature. At the same time we feel that it should be no more necessary to label articles of this type with warnings like "The reader is advised not to take the following seriously," or "The article below is intended for good-natured satire," than it is to advise faculty and students that skits in Stunt Night are intended as genial take-offs and nothing else.

Possibly we are wrong; we do not claim infallibility. Until we have more proof to the contrary, however, we somehow feel that our position is one which will be endorsed by the majority of campus opinion. Our minds are open.

Proclamation Of The Boar's Head

Much of the happiness which attaches to our lives is connected with tradition. The re-enactment of the pageantry of festival days can bring color to our lives, and lift the spirit to a "state of hallowed and elevated enjoyment."

In merrie old England, in wild and picturesque days, abundant with feudal hospitalities and baronial castles, Christmas was a period of delightful and gay excitement. Presents of good cheer on every hand, evergreens betokening peace and gladness in home and church, the sound of mummings with their rude minstrelsy, and above all, the warm grasp of friendships, made the season supreme and benevolent. Foods, too, there were in heavy abundance—capons, hens, turkeys, geese, with plums and spice, pies and cakes, foaming tankards of ale which banished all melancholy.

At great houses in Medieval England, it was customary to begin the Christmas feasting by the solemn ceremony of bringing in the boar's head as the initial dish. The smoking head was garlanded with rosemary and laurel, a lemon placed between its grinning chops, and the master-cook, preceded by musicians, followed by huntsmen with boar-spears, brought in the great platter and placed it at the head of the table. The custom goes back to pre-Christmas days and connects itself with the Druids who killed a boar at the winter Solstice and offered its head in sacrifice to Freya, the goddess of peace and plenty.

Queen Victoria retained the ancient custom, and at her Christmas dinner at Windsor was performed the ceremony of the Boar's Head.

In many of the Schools and Universities of England, the Boar's Head is still retained as the great dish of the Christmas banquet. Queen's College, Oxford, is especially famous for its retention of the ancient ceremonial. There, a stately procession of Provost and fellows is preceded by Singers who chant the "Caput apri defero" the Latin refrain being joined in by the entire company.

A local legend explains the ceremony at Oxford. Some 500 years ago, an Oxford student, deeply bent upon his volume of Aristotle, was wandering near Shotover Hill when he was attacked by a wild boar. By way of defense, he shoved his book down the animal's throat and choked the beast to death. And so, the festival is perpetuated at Oxford.

Bearing, as we do, the honored name of Queens College, we are presenting for your enjoyment this evening, our own tradition of the Boar's Head procession. We trust our efforts will prove acceptable to such of you as can enter heartily into the doors of the past.

P.H.C. And S.C.A.

(Continued from page 1)
 ing for one man for a year.
 Realizing the need and that a little will do so much, the sponsoring groups have asked students to join them by contributing toward the silver offering in chapel on Wednesday, December 14th.

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Crandall Leads Discussion Group Each Monday

Each Monday afternoon at 4:30 the Reverend Mr. Robert Crandall, rector of St. Peter's Episcopal Church, in Charlotte, comes out to Queens to have an informal discussion with the girls interested in learning more about the Episcopal service. These get-togethers are held in the Hut or in the south parlor of Burwell. In the first meeting he discussed the breaking up of the first churches into different denominations. Finally he will explain the ritual of the Episcopal Church.

These meetings are not for Episcopal girls only. They are for everyone who is interested in finding out more about the Episcopal beliefs and rites. This is an excellent opportunity for any girl to ask Mr. Crandall any questions that she wants answered about this particular faith.

Networks Plan For Christmas

All major radio networks in the nation have scheduled special and appropriate programs for the holiday season. Some of these have been regular features for many years; others are local or occasional in nature.

ABC has already announced several attractions, among which the following deserve special mention:

- December 24 (Saturday)
 9:00 p.m.—Christmas Tree Dressing Time
- 10:00 p.m.—Dickens's Christmas Carol with Lionel Barrymore
- December 25 (Sunday)
 12:00 a.m.—Excerpts from The Messiah
- 6:15 a.m.—Christmas Carol with Barrymore
- 2:30 p.m.—Nativity
- 4:30 p.m.—Christmas Carol with Ronald Colman
- 7:00 p.m.—The Littlest Angel

CBS has not as yet completed its Christmas program, but attractions already scheduled for Christmas Day are:

- 7:00 p.m.—Jack Benny
- 7:30 p.m.—Amos 'n Andy
- 10:00 p.m.—Contented Hour.
- NBC arrangements are also incomplete at present, but the following items deserve mention:
- Beginning Saturday, December 10
 3:00 p.m.—Shine Smith's Christmas Party
- 5:00 p.m.—Jimmy Durante's Christmas Party for Crippled Children.

NBC has also set aside the hour from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Christmas Day for a special program, but details of this have not been announced.

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Play Receives Much Applause

Years Ago, Ruth Gordon's autobiographical comedy, was presented by the Queens College Players last Thursday and Friday evenings in Ninniss Auditorium. Each performance was attended by an appreciative and enthusiastic audience.

The play relates the trials and tribulations Miss Gordon experienced in persuading her father to let her become an actress. The story goes back nostalgically to 1912, to the town of Wollaston, Massachusetts, where Ruth Gordon Jones is a stage-struck high-school girl, surreptitiously writing to actresses and singing and dancing to the music of **The Pink Lady**. Her father, an old seaman currently employed by the Mellon's Food Company, grumbles and growls at his family's extravagance and at Ruth's unwillingness to become a physical culture teacher. Ruth's persistence, with her mother's sympathetic assistance, however, eventually wins Mr. Jones over so that he even offers to pawn his valuable spyglass to help defray expenses of her first weeks in New York. And so, after affectionate admonitions from her mother and a rather cold farewell to her boy friend from Harvard, the final curtain goes down on an elated Ruth ready to ride the parlor cars to adventure and success.

Although the play is really uneventful, there are many relationships, sacrifices, separations, and a touch of romance to lend charm and humor to it. Its unpretentious and sentimental portrayal of the respectable family life of the Joneses and its period detail make it an appealing comedy, especially to those of the vintage of middy blouses and high top shoes.

The Queens production was carefully detailed and well cast, the characterization as a whole being very good. The role of the heroine was convincingly played by Virginia Easter. Franklin Davis and Wanda Oxner as Mr. and Mrs. Jones did real credit to long and difficult parts first played on Broadway by Fredric March and Florence Eldridge.

In the minor roles Raymond Casner as Mr. Sparrow was outstanding. Thomas Samond looked and acted the part of the young man from Harvard. Barbara Hamby and Colleen Lynn as two giggling school girls were also good, as was Louise Peterson as the physical culture teacher and Jimmie Hancock as the Y.M.C.A. physical director.

The play was directed by Miss Helen Strickland.

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