

Sure Cure For The Blues

We confess that the weeks and months of assiduous nurturing and caring for this child which was dropped in our lap have given us a real affection for it and a concern about its future. We speak of **The Blues**, and we hasten to add that we are much more preoccupied with its adulthood than we are with its semi-attractive adolescence.

At present there are many criticisms which could be leveled at **The Blues** with full justification. It carries too little real news. Too much of the copy is padding and fill-in. Many articles bear marks of superficial reporting and hasty preparation. There are too few solid features, written by the same people issue after issue, to give the reader the feeling of unification and continuity which he needs. On the other hand, too much of the material is prepared and re-written by the same small staff, and as a result it lacks variety and versatility. We are as fully aware of these criticisms as anyone; in fact we have good reason to be better acquainted with them because we live with them week after week. We now turn to the problem of how these things may be corrected.

First, it is time for the Queens student body to become aware of the fact that **The Blues** is its paper. Every student has the same responsibility to **The Blues** that she has to student government, S. C. A., or to any other activity. It is true that not every individual has the ability or the time to be an active member of the editorial or business staffs, but she can at least give news tips to reporters and editors; she can look ahead and withhold announcements, thus giving **The Blues** a chance to "break" real news. An example of what we mean is afforded by the student who asked **The Blues** to run a story for a certain student organization and then gave the story to a chapel assembly the day before **The Blues** appeared. If a majority of students are unwilling to accept these responsibilities we think that they should seriously think about the desirability of continuing to have a college paper.

Secondly, too few students show any interest in working on the paper. To be effective **The Blues** should have an editorial staff consisting of four to six junior editors, twelve to fifteen sophomore reporters and feature writers, and twenty to twenty-five freshmen who are learning "the business." Unless there is a backlog of personnel and material the quality of the product will suffer. Excellence is inevitably the result of selectivity. The same principle holds for the business administration of the paper.

In the third place, too many people who do occasionally accept an assignment take it as a personal favor to the editor who asks them to do it. This is in no way a criticism of the faithful few who form the backbone of the staff and without whom the editor would die a speedy journalistic death. The plain fact is that far too often students think of **The Blues** as the editors' problem and not their own. Not only is it difficult to find reporters, but many who write articles write them as an unwelcome chore to be discharged as quickly as possible. Copy, like the Koran, is scribbled on sticks and stones and camel bones. It is frequently both illegible and ungrammatical. Not only this, but the article has scratched the surface of the news only. The real story, or what would be the story, has been left untapped and unexplored. We know that these failures are not deliberate; they are the result of inadequate training and experience and of a lack of genuine interest.

Group interest in and demand for a paper or anything else is merely the sum total of individual desire. If **The Blues** is worth the time and cost required to publish it, it is worth the contribution of every student to its being and welfare. The valid test of the paper's continued existence depends on the ability of a large number of students to say to themselves, "I not only think that Queens should have a paper; I am also eager to work on it and have a part in producing it." Students who merely want some one else to do a job do not really want it done.

All the cures for **The Blues** may be included in one, namely the resolution of the majority to participate, work, think, and give even a minimum of time toward its publication.

As if in anticipation of this editorial the contributors to this issue of **The Blues** have been unusually prompt and efficient in their assignments. As we go to press we can say to those who have helped that never before has copy been as well prepared and required as little editing and re-writing as it has in this number. We commend and thank everyone who has had a part in it.

Barter Theatre Plays Moliere

Moliere's famous comedy "The Imaginary Invalid" was presented recently to an audience of Charlotte theater-goers by the Barter Theatre of Virginia. The play, an adaptation of the French original, was skillfully played by the Barter troupe although overacted in some instances.

The plot concerns the self-centered desire of the "imaginary invalid" to marry his daughter, Angelique, to a doctor so that medical advice will always be available for his imaginary ills. The maid, Toinette, in sympathy with Angelique and her lover Cleante, thwarts this plan with the aid of Angelique's uncle, Berolde.

The portrayal of a gullible hypochondriac was Moliere's means of satirizing the doctors and medical profession of his day, and his sly ridicule of physicians and hypochondria gives many laughs, including the array of medicines and lists of peculiar diseases of the invalid and the visit of the two quack doctors, Diafoisus, a most pedantic "pere" and foolish "fils". The comedy ends with a burlesque ceremony conferring (in "kitchen Latin" and nonsense syllables) a medical degree upon the imaginary invalid himself who has decided to become a doctor, since as Moliere puts it, "diseases would not dare attack the sacred person of a physician."

Frederick Warriner made the most of his role as the imaginary invalid with clever gestures, amusing facial expressions and versatile use of voice. The audience laughed repeatedly at his graceful capering around the stage in his pink "nightie" and cap. In fact the use of color in the costumes was most skillful and artistic. Pink, yellow, and blue with an occasional dash of red blended into pleasing and delightful setting.

An interesting thing about this last play of Moliere's is that the author, playing the part of the imaginary invalid (Moliere was both playwright and actor) was fatally stricken during the performance of the play and died shortly afterward.

It was Moliere's disillusionment as a result of the inability of doctor's to cure his own disease that caused his constant ridicule of the medical profession. He believed that "Most men die of the remedies for their ills and not of the diseases themselves" and that "only the robust who have the strength to stand the remedies of doctors should seek their advice."

And so, in his famous classic, the great French genius holds up to ridicule the foibles of mankind, and in doing so has amused audiences through the centuries.



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- Your Roving Reporter -

Carolyn Fraser, managing-editor of the **Blues**, approached your roving reporter with the suggestion that the question for this issue of the **Blues** be—"Do you think the United States should use armed force to defend Formosa?" Upon questioning several students and faculty members, I realized that most people have only a vague idea of the situation in Formosa, an even vaguer idea of its location, and almost no idea as to why the United States should be interested at all. So, I concluded that the most logical thing to do would be to give a bird's-eye view of the situation surrounding this island.

In the first place, where is Formosa? Formosa lies off the coast of the Chinese province of Fuchien, south-west of Okinawa, and south-east of Shanghai. It is 235 miles long, from 70 to 90 miles wide, and has an area of 13,890 square miles. Formosa's economy, formerly buttressed by Oolong tea and a world monopoly of camphor, has collapsed because its old trade ties with Japan were cut and its new ones with China were choked by civil war. With a population of only 6,000,000 it is overcrowded by an influx of 1,000,000 refugees from the continent.

The subject for nation-wide controversy has been whether the United States should fortify Formosa against attacks and possession by the Chinese Communists. President Truman settled this question when he made this statement: "The United States has no desire to obtain special rights or privileges or to establish military bases on Formosa at this time. (It) will not pursue a course which will lead to involvement in the civil conflict in China and will not provide military aid or advice to Chinese forces on Formosa." But, concluded the President, the U. S. will "continue the present ECA program of economic assistance of which \$100 million is yet unspent."

This statement created two fac-

tions; one group was for saving Formosa. This group said that Formosa lies hundreds of miles near the mainland than the advanced American bases on Okinawa and the Philippines. In the event of war with Communist world, American possession of the island would facilitate a naval blockade of China and air raids against the Chinese mainland. From Formosa could be launched hit-and-run landings on the Chinese coast. Besides, it is less vulnerable to typhoons than Okinawa.

Those who advocate abandoning the island retort that not even the Joint Chiefs of Staff consider Formosa vital. They believe the island valueless to Chinese Communists. In American hands Formosa would be valuable but not essential.

Formosa's best hope for survival lies in keeping the Communists from crossing the 100 mile Formosa strait. Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has used the air force in defense of certain Chinese cities.

So, America is again concerned vitally in world problems. The defense of this small island is a matter causing much debate in Washington and throughout the world. While Communism spreads throughout an entire nation, we debate the issue of Formosa.

Radio Program

(Continued from Page One)

Miss Helen Strickland, was the first program. The cast was selected by tryouts of Queens students who were interested in being on the radio. The next program, by Raymond Casner, is entitled "The Spirit of Kings Mountain" and this will be followed by "The First Church of Charlotte" written by Betty Norris.

If anyone is interested in writing a radio script or trying out for the casts, see Miss Strickland.

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