

The Drew Acorn



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BROTHERS COLLEGE, MADISON, NEW JERSEY

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New Faculty In Fall Term



James M. Boyd

Madison - The Reverend James M. Boyd, Jr. of Livingston, and Dr. Purnell H. Benson of Gwynedd Valley, Pennsylvania, will join the liberal arts faculty of Drew University this year. Boyd has been named assistant professor of religion and director of the undergraduate religious life program. Benson will be assistant professor of sociology.

President Holloway also announced the following faculty promotions effective for the 1953-54 academic year. Dr. Ralph R. Johnson, professor of speech and dramatics; Dr. Arthur P. Whitney, professor of church history; Alfred B. Hass, associate professor of practical theology; Dr. John M. Schabacker, associate professor of German; and Mrs. Elizabeth P. Korn, assistant professor of art.

Boyd has been pastor of the Livingston Methodist Church since 1949. He served previously in the pastorate of the Newfoundland Methodist Church. He holds the Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Divinity degrees from Drew and is currently a candidate for the Doctor of Philosophy degree. The University granted him a \$1000 fellowship in 1950 and a \$2000 award this year for study abroad which he plans to do in 1954-55.

He was ordained a deacon in the Newark Annual Conference of the Methodist Church in 1950 and an elder in 1952.

Benson holds the Bachelor of Arts

Many Show Appreciation For Two New Dormitories

Many were the favorable comments on the New Dormitory for Men, located to the rear of the campus. In spite of the trek of many anxious freshmen and their parents, the end of the rather bumpy dirt road proved to be very satisfactory for not a few fond mothers. As they trundled each small store of clothes, books, and sundry impedimenta up flights of stairs, parents could not help glancing to left and right at the well furnished and comfortable living quarters which would house their offspring for an unknown duration of time.

The lounge on the first floor is particularly worthy of note. The "lush" drapery and fine furniture seem to invite quiet and tasteful occupations and pastimes. We feverently hope that the new dorm will remain in some semblance of order and we feel quite sure that the pride of the college men will be an incentive to care for and preserve this fine addition to the campus.

We can hardly neglect the wonderful

change that has occurred in Asbury. (We are not referring to its occupancy by women.) The grand job that Mr. Maum and his staff have done over the summer in repairing various cracks, gaps, and scuffs cannot go unnoticed. They certainly deserve a vote of appreciation and commendation.

The kitchen downstairs in Asbury will soon be the location of many a happy "snack fest". It will provide many opportunities to escape from the rigors of steady grind on the books. Among the other superlative additions to the dorm is the intercom system which will eliminate the need to strain the vocal chords in calling for one's date. Already it has been put into use by some imaginative individuals who seemed to be addressing a space ship approaching Mars. These rather odd students are being tracked down for further investigation. Well, intercom and all, Asbury is now greatly appreciated, but, please men, don't lose your way some dark night and get upstairs by mistake. . . . or would it be a mistake?



Men's Dormitory

degree from Princeton University, the Master of Arts degree from Harvard University, and the Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Chicago. He has been an instructor in sociology at Temple University since 1947.

He has previously served as associate secretary of the American Friends Service Committee in Philadelphia, as assistant sociologist at the Illinois State Penitentiary in Pontiac, and as educational director of the Southern Tenant Farmers Union.

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Editor's Corner

Hi Freshmen!

It's been grand getting acquainted with the class of '57 and I hope your heads won't become too large if I tell you that you look like a grand class. Already this week you've had a chance to get to know each other; now you're just saying hello to the various upperclassmen that are converging on the campus. We hope that it won't be too long before you'll really feel at home; most of the students will tell you that it doesn't take any time at all before you're calling everyone by his first name and lounging about the quadrangle as if you owned the place.

Of course we'd like to welcome back all the upperclassmen and "How do you like the change of scenery, Comrades?" Not only do we have to become accustomed to matching furniture, new drapes and bright walls, but we must accommodate our thinking to the lecturing and thought processes of new professors.

In spite of the changes, the year is a promising one. We think that the adjusting will be painless and the rewards limitless. Many are coming back after a summer of rest. . . or at least change; and so to the books and the studies with a new vigor. Don't forget those valiant resolutions to keep up with assignments and start papers early. You'll wish you had complied with those plans come next January. Ah, but we're all going to be much too

Debate Squad Plans Schedule

In the 1953-54 season, the Debate Club will be participating in collegiate tournaments at home and away. The Club will be arguing the pros and cons of Free Trade for the United States.

Last season the Debate Club accepted invitations to tournaments at Brooklyn College, William and Mary College, Pittsburgh University and Kings College and met Swarthmore, Temple, Lehigh, New York University, Newark, Rutgers, Princeton, Dartmouth, Penn State, University of Florida, Lafayette, Pacific University and many others. A similar schedule is planned for this season.

The activities are under the supervision of Doctor Ralph R. Johnson, who has encouraged student planning as an incentive to student interest. New officers will be elected early in the season.

Because of its expanded program the Debate Club offers opportunities to inexperienced debaters who are invited to the first meeting. We hope many of you will decide to become active members.

Attention, Writers Present And Future

So you have some ideas you think might look good on paper. Wonderful, we'll be glad to consider these brain children of yours and we'll probably go so far as to print them if you give us a chance. The ACORN is always suffering under the growing pains of changing staffs, but there is no reason why writers should be limited to the listed staff. Anyone who wishes to air his views on existing conditions - physical, philosophical, or "poetical" may place his offerings in the ACORN mail box and it will be welcome as prospective copy. So - although spare time is at a minimum, please feel free to enter your services to the ACORN - YOUR school paper.

The Editors

Drew Foresters Welcome Frosh

Under the able direction of Dr. Ralph R. Johnson, or "Papa" as he is better known by many students, the Foresters our dramatic organization, has become one of Drew's outstanding groups on campus and off. The Foresters, in connection with the drama department of the college, each fall present their major production, usually a classic.

In past years, the Foresters have presented such plays as: "The Importance of Being Earnest", "Julius Caesar", "Macbeth", "Hamlet", and, last year, "She Stoops to Conquer". Each fall seventy to a hundred "clods" as Papa fondly calls them, work with each other as actors, stage hands, make-up "artists" and rout-a-bouts in general to produce a drama worthy of note.

In connection with the Foresters is the national dramatic fraternity Alpha Psi Omega. To become a member of this group a person must have attained a certain number of credits through work performed in dramatics while at Drew.

This year the Foresters hope to be able to again present one of the Shakespearean plays and although the final decision has not been made, several are under consideration.

The Foresters welcome the class of '57 to Drew and invite all who have an interest in dramatics or any part of play production to come to the Green Room, the dramatic department's headquarters.

Worthy Senior Advises Frosh

Having just been a victim of the latest Hollywood offensive in the war against television, I have returned to my studies secure in the knowledge that I can skip a lot of "3-D" movies without missing anything. There is no question now that movies are worse than ever. It is at least comforting to see that now they state the grade of the movie on the theater marquee.

This last adventure in Hollywood mediocrity has pushed me over the edge, and I have decided to join many frustrated professors and pseudo-intellectuals in talking up a genuine old-fashioned "back to the books" movement on campus.

In any discourse on a learned matter, it is perhaps well to start by defining a few basic terms. First, by "book" I mean the customary ordered collection of printed pages, bound in any of a variety of forms. I do not mean the kind of "book" that takes bets on horse races, nor do I mean the kind prefixed by comic, pocket, hand, or any number of other modifying words. A "book" in my understanding of the word has the aforesaid physical characteristics combined with literary achievement of a level somewhat above that of Mickey Spillane.

"Reading" is a term that is exceedingly difficult to define accurately. Few students at Drew really read. Perhaps it is best to say that "reading," as I am attempting to use the word, precludes a mental process, either immediate or delayed, which we shall call "thought."

"Thought," or "thinking" is a process that involves a certain degree of concentration on the part of the individual. Basically, thought involves a comparison of previously held ideas with newly discovered facts, or with the ideas of someone who disagrees with you. While much of the class work at Drew allows little room for thought, most courses, if taken seriously, provide the student with an opportunity to learn mental discipline, which facilitates thought.

Thought then, stems from certain causative factors; an event of emotional significance, a discussion or "bull session," or the reading of a book. Undoubtedly the most reliable food for thought lies within the covers of books. It is, therefore, surprising that so few people take advantage of the thought incentives that they happen upon daily in preparing their class work. This is in part caused by the fact that thought as I have defined it is not an easy process. It involves the use of bodily faculties equal to many forms of physical exercise.

I say that books are most conducive to thought because other brain stimuli do not have the advantage of solitude that comes with reading a book. Attendance at a movie or a lecture is seldom accompanied by solitude. Thus the impact of the ideas presented is usually dimmed before they are pondered over. An emotional event, while sometimes a thought stimulant, too often is accompanied by a choking but unrealized bias.

The fact that few of us "think" in my interpretation of the verb is seen by the intense concentration upon forms of entertainment that add nothing to the groundwork of ideas held by the individual. This is true of almost all spectator sports. The players, at least, have the opportunity to learn sportsmanship, cooperativeness, and even humility; all being elements of maturity in thought. The spectator seldom if ever, gains this experience vicariously. Many movies are an example of this. Card games and other "indoor sports" add little to thought, except perhaps emotional stability.

Far be it for me to talk down entertainment of any form. Entertainment soothes, relaxes, and refreshes the mind, for those of us who have a mind to be refreshed. But there is a line to be drawn somewhere. I often wonder what might have happened had I voluntarily read material in my field of concentration that had not been specifically assigned. Surprisingly few students do such a thing, of course, and the usual practice is to promote the glorious myth that he is well-informed in his field on the basis of the most cursory examination of the material covered and adoption without question of the ideas of leaders in the field.

This is poor practice, but in probably a majority of cases this procedure hinders a student through four years of college and his Comprehensive examinations. The reason for this is obvious. "Thought" cannot be legislated. It is work, and the results of the labor are slow to be realized. Concentration upon any idea must take the subject through various stages of naivety and frustration that tempt an early end to the process. Here again, books help, because they present in most cases the thought of someone else at an advanced level. If a student should read his textbooks with the idea of comprehension rather than memorization, he might find that the end results pay off. I couldn't swear to this last point.

The fact that no one else seems to spend time thinking is no excuse. After four misspent years, I can only encourage my successors to think. And thinking involves reading, so turn that T.V. set off and hit the books!

Anyone for pinochle?

C. West

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EASTERN RAILROADS

Campus Personalities Meet Bob McKee

By Bev Simonson

The president of the student body for this year, '53-'54, is one of the most amiable and unassuming individuals on campus. His friendly smile and quiet confidence were major factors influencing his popular election last spring. With the start of the new year, Bob has many plans for the student body and the college in general. This week the class of '57 has had an opportunity to see Bob in action. We can all attest to the fact that here is one president everyone may feel free to go to whether to "hash" out a problem on school policy or national politics.

A little early for Christmas but just on time as far as Drew is concerned, Bob was welcomed into the world on December 23rd, 1932. Irvington, New Jersey may well claim a noble son. Since his birth, Bob has not long forsaken the Garden State. Summer work found Bob close to the soil and enjoying it immensely as he trundled a tractor on one of the large farms which so many out-of-staters find it hard to believe exist in New Jersey.

The Barnardsville high school offered Bob an opportunity to participate in an extensive range of activities from sports (but naturally) to dramatics and music.

At college, Bob's interests still cover a wide field. He favors the choir, but he has to ration his time carefully since this popular and busy senior is one of those time-starved Zoo majors (no disrespect intended).

Bob is fairly bubbling over with ideas for more inter-college activities; he is going on with the work of last year's president, Herman Mertins, who brought Brothers in touch with the outside world by going to such organizational meetings as the National Student Association. This summer Bob attended an important organizational meeting in Ohio. The results of this experience, contacting other college presidents, will no doubt greatly benefit the school this year.

This summer - which has been a vacation void of any thoughts of school for many has been for Bob merely a chance to prepare himself for the job of being a capable and efficient president. I'm sure we all join in wishing Bob the best of luck. And we'll all be willing to lend a hand if an opportunity presents itself.

Twenty-Fifth Year Of College Sees First Alumnus' Son To Attend

We are honored to welcome the first child of an alumnus of Brothers College. It seems fitting that during the twenty-fifth year of the school the Freshman class should have for one of its members the son of a graduate of Brothers who left in the late nineteen-thirties.

Donald W. Spoffard comes to us from Merrimac, Massachusetts where he was an active and valuable student in the high school. Don's interests

range from sports to dramatics and music and he was elected president of the student organization of his school.

Don can speak with some authority on what Drew was like B.W. (before women) since he got the lowdown from one who was experienced. We are hoping that Don will be making some history of his own very soon; and that he will be able to give his Dad fine reports on the progress of Brothers College in the past decade.



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