

St. John's Collegian

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Mr. Buchanan's Lecture

An analysis of the art of dialectic involves an interpretation of the entire scope of intellectual processes. The various avenues of approach direct attention to significantly different aspects of this totality which is the dialectical universe. Mr. Buchanan, with customarily exasperating inclusiveness, encompassed, in a sense, this totality.

The first avenue is a discussion of dialectic as an art in terms of its ends. We properly discuss ends as being either proximate or distant. The most distant end of the dialectical process is the beatific vision, in which God exists as the perfect object of proportionate knowledge. In secular terms, this can be said to be the discovery of the good life—the proper systematization of goods. We can restate this as being the achievement of a single will. Or the distant end of dialectic may be spoken of as putting together one's life by an odyssey in which the intelligible world is experienced and understood. This could be interpreted as a statement of the doctrine of salvation. Another formulation of the distant end, or perhaps a restatement of what has gone before, is that it is to find out what things are, and to find out what things are is to know the truth, for "the truth is a statement that what is is."

The proximate end of dialectic is the production of insights alone. The proximate end of dialectic is neither to produce beliefs, nor conclusions, nor propositions, for these products are proper to less noble processes.

Dialectic *qua* producer, achieves the unity of the intellect and that which is intellectually intuited; in Mr. Buchanan's language, "when the being of a thing and the intellect become one, you have an insight." Insights so generated reinterpret and make more known that which has been previously intellected, and also produce many more insights. Thus it is that one act of the intellect producing an insight establishes the habit of intellecting.

A more distant end of dialectic, achieved by the production of insights, is the understanding of principles, and the understanding of principles is the only dialectical product of insights. Insights into mathematics reveal the nature of the principle of necessity in virtue of which the science exists. The existence and the nature of things are discovered through insights.

Some of the consequences of dialectic have now become more apparent. One of these is the power to entertain ideas; because insights continually multiply, knowledge of principles is always increasing, and so it is important that ideas not be held possessively, but, rather, entertained. Dialectic also produces aesthetic detachment and a proper religious exercise.

The second avenue is a discussion of dialectic as an art in terms of its means. Dialectic, as being the totality of the liberal arts as a process, requires an inquiry into the operational aspects of the trivium and quadrivium. The literal level of dialectic is exposed by the syntactical pattern of words as the elements of the art of grammar. In such a pattern parts of speech become "dialects." However, dialects have metaphorical patterns which are not primarily grammatical, and the problem of rhetoric is to translate one dialect into another. This is accomplished by the use of analogies which are the elements of rhetoric. Ideas are the elements of logic.

Buchanian dialectic illuminates the quadrivium by trivial analogies. Thus arithmetic and geometry are the mathematical dialects, for they are the grammar of numbers and figures. Since music is the application of the quadrivium grammar, music may be properly analogized as the rhetoric of the quadrivium. And astronomy, being the general form abstracted from the grammar and rhetoric of mathematics, assumes the logical analogue.

The third avenue of approach is the analysis of the signification of words. Dialectic has existence in itself, for sig-

nification exists apart from the human intelligence. The *logos* is a formula of the significant reference of words by impositions; while the *dialogos*—that is, seeing through the *logos*—is a formula of the significant reference of the intentionality of words. The first and second intentions, respectively, are ways of speaking about downward and upward dialectic, or the inside and outside of Plato's cave.

Mr. Buchanan explained the seminar, our fourth avenue in an approach to the understanding of dialectic, in terms of an analogy in which the *logos* (sun) brings about the growth of understanding from facts (seeds) placed in the *seminarium* (seed-bed). As the sun bakes out the impurities from the seeds, so the *logos* purges the opinion of the *seminarium*.

The lecturer neglected to point out on this occasion that the dialectical process is the peeling of an onion.

The mutual existence of one thing in another and the interrelations of all things are the discoveries of dialecticians. The lecture itself afforded ample and alarming evidence of this discovery on the part of the lecturer.

Mr. Buchanan ended with the remark that all of world history is subject to dialectic, and that the books are a part of a great conversation. The seminar is a microcosm of the dialectical universe.

VERNE SCHWAB and
CHARLES NELSON

Troll

There will be a troll in McDowell 23 on Tuesday evening at eight o'clock. Its topic, *Little Girls and the Use They Can Be Put To*, may be of interest to some. A discovery of Mr. Hokinson's, it came up out of the cement some days ago; but we must welcome the addition of a new member to our waning community. Anyway, on Tuesday evening *mints that bite* will be served during an exceedingly informal question period.

College Meeting This Week

Mr. Buchanan last night continued his exposition of the military situation on the home front. The latest development is a joint statement concerning pre-medical students by the secretaries of War and Navy. It involves the following announcements of considerable importance: Pre-medical students not enlisted in any of the reserves and drafted before the end of the first term beginning in 1943 (which means June 30th for St. John's) will be placed on inactive duty and remain in school until that date. They will then be given active duty status and a select number of them will receive medical education at the expense of the government. So competition will probably be keen, although it is not yet known just how the selection will be made, or even to what degree the Army will consider St. John's students as enlisted in a pre-medical course. Mr. Buchanan pointed out, however, that on the whole the attitude of medical schools has been favorable in that respect.

Another thing the government offers us at no cost is a double feature movie show to be presented next Wednesday in the gymnasium. One picture is about first aid, another, *Prelude to War*, is a documentary film (propaganda) made up of shots of scenes leading to our entry into the war.

The meeting concluded with an appeal by Mr. Nabokov in behalf of our musical organizations. He informed us tactfully that the citizens of Annapolis have been very regular in attendance at orchestra rehearsals. The one member of the student body who has also taken part has had a hard time convincing them that we are not really as apathetic about this chance to practice music and enjoy it as we seem to be. To be or not to be is at the moment the question for the chorus. If it can be answered positively, orchestra and chorus will give a joint concert on one of the last two Sundays of January. At present there is an urgent need for cellos, horns, trumpets, oboes and, most of all, high-pitched voices. Here is another argument for those who have always wanted to see co-education at St. John's.

P. W.

Arts

On Sunday, January tenth, the local movie-houses all begin their programs and then, around Wednesday, suddenly shift so that the same films end up in different places. It's much too complicated to really keep up with. Even the management gets confused. However, this is the line-up at the start.

The best bet of all is *Once Upon A Honeymoon* at the Republic. Ginger Rogers and Cary Grant meet—there are a lot of amusing cracks about love, and marriage, and the Nazis, and some first-rate suspense. Don't misunderstand, this is not a great film, (after all, Noel Coward didn't direct it); by ordinary standards it isn't very good. It has a war-time plot with a new twist, and it is entertaining.

Walter Wanger had a lot of technicolor film and some horses around a couple of months ago so he produced *Arabian Nights*. Somehow or other Jon Hall and Sabu (elephant boy) got mixed up in it. Any resemblance between this film and the stories of the same name is intentional but remote. What with the O. P. A. and its rationing, we don't know how Mr. Wanger got all that stuff for his costumes. It's a very active film.

Last and least is Red Skelton, irrepressible—damn it!—in *Whistling In Dixie*. This is all about murders and how our hero solves them. Ann Rutherford assists and is very brave about it all. All we have to say is that M.G.M. dood it again and we can't figure out why.

All we know about *This Little Hand* now concluding a Washington run at the National is that when it reaches Broadway it will be called *Nine Girls*, that Barbara Bel Geddes is in the cast, and that it was directed by Reginald Denham. Mr. Wilfrid Pettitt, the author, calls his play a "thriller". It is currently playing at popular prices.

Next week at the National the Boston Comic Opera Company present a week of Gilbert and Sullivan repertoire. Then intend to present practically everything that Gilb., etc., ever wrote. See your local paper.

Via the underground system we have learned that Ford's Theatre has

been condemned by the Baltimore Film Department. If this is true, it will create havoc with the presentation of stage plays in that city. At present there is no other theatre available.

College Meeting Last Week

Announcements made in last week's college meeting were as follows:

(1.) Those of the students in the enlisted army reserve, unassigned, who are taking pre-medical or pre-dental courses will continue their studies until graduation at least. The St. John's curriculum fulfills the requirements of a pre-med course.

(2.) The medical aptitude test announced on the bulletin board should only be taken by students about to be admitted to medical school, i. e. seniors.

(3.) The college is making plans for continuance next year. The ultimate decisions will be taken by the Board of Visitors and Governors which meets on the eleventh. The new plan calls for summer terms, making reduction of the whole course to three years possible. It is also intended to change language tutorials in such a manner that Greek will be studied for four terms, instead of three as at present, but that from then on close study of philosophic texts in English is prevalent.

Notice

The Cotillion Board reminds its members for the last time that all membership-cards to the Cotillion Club must be paid for *in full* as you enter into the "fun an' stuff" at the Winter Cotillion this Saturday night, or no later than 2 a. m. Sunday. Of course, you may pay any Board Member* before the dance.

The advantages of retaining the validity of the C. C. Cards (in other words: paying up) will be more obvious in light of the Board's rearrangement of their schedule in order to include more "week-end let-ups" from the Great Books" before spring vacation.

*Senior advisor: Scott Abbott, President E. B. Cochran, *ordinary members*: Thad Prout, Chris Hovde, Frank Marshall, Gene Thornton, John Mack and D. K. Furbush.

Philology: Semantics and Phonetics

Mr. Barr, on Friday evening, brought to our attention some of the delights and rewards of phonetics. Words, said Mr. Barr, are signate matter, presented to the intellect through the senses of sight and hearing. Theoretically there is no necessity that these be the senses concerned; in practice they are, and of the two hearing is primary. That is to say that written characters were probably significant originally of the spoken word and not directly of the idea.

For centuries men speculated on the possibility of a science of phonetics, which would give, for instance, the laws by which Latin words were transformed into French. As a rule the issue of such speculation, until around the nineteenth century, was either in wanton and inaccurate etymologizing or in the skeptical conclusion that the development and transformation of language was arbitrary and unruly. It is only in recent years that the phonetician, armed with portable recording devices and fearing God, has become scientifically respectable.

It is now possible to systematize with a measure of assurance the transformations by which French, for instance, derives from its parent Latin. The utility of this knowledge for the student of French is obvious. The Latin *patrem* become *pere* in French. Hence *matrem* and *fratrem* give *mere* and *frere* and so on. The rub is that early French is chiefly the child of vulgar Latin, which differed from the literary Latin with which we are familiar, and of which we have only fragmentary records. Thus *ville*, *city*, does not come from *urbs* but from the low Latin word *villa*. A number of examples rendered this point clear.

Further, those words which were common to both low and high Latin are likely to have two very different descendants, as for instance *mobile* was taken over into French by the people in the thirteenth century as *meuble*—furniture—and again by sixteenth century French Latinists as *mobile*—movable.

Other languages, of course, notably German, have contributed words and terminations to French, and the tongue

is further complicated by misguided pedantries and by such eccentricities as the multiple exchange—viz. *facon* to *le fashion*. Of all these Mr. Barr gave copious and where possible amusing examples.

In spite of them, the student may be relatively sure of certain phonetic shifts and to that extent can predict one language from a knowledge of the other. It is, for instance, a working rule that the tonic accent of a word persists, that a short vowel immediately preceding the accent is dropped, and that a consonant between two vowels disappears. Various explanations have been offered for these mechanical modifications. Anatomical structures peculiar to the French, possibly because of climatic conditions, may be responsible. The lecturer did not pursue the question in any detail.

Philology, of which phonetics is a branch, means, etymologically, the love of words. It is in some ways a dangerous passion, confessed Mr. Barr; it interferes occasionally with the processes of the intellect. But at the same time it must be remarked that words, unlike bottle-tops and stamps, refer very directly to ideas. They are in a high degree the imprint of the intellect on matter and are therefore a proper object of love. Robinson Crusoe, on his island, was excited by the discovery of a footprint—the mark upon matter of the human body. The philologist, an islander in a different and universal sense, may be excused for being excited by the mark upon matter of the human mind, which is the image of God, said Mr. Barr.

R. A.

Faculty and Alumni Notes

On January 11 the fate of St. Johns College in 1943-4 will be planned by the Board of Visitors and Governors.

Next week Mr. Barr is going over to Delaware, where Mr. Humber has been working with his Declaration. He will speak to a high school, Kiwanis Club, and Century Club.

Tuesday Mr. Buchanan talked on Monasteries to a group of Baltimore ministers at the Interchurch Club.

There is a growing list of promi-

nent Naval, Army, and Marine officers who have also played a part in the development of St. Johns. The Capital tells of one of these, Col. "Snooks" Harrison, who was a member of the St. John's Philomathean Literary Society. Others listed are Admiral Halsey, Major Gen. Hartle, Brig. Gen. Sheetz and McBride, Maj. Gen. Chaney and Brerton, Col. Houston, and Lieut. Col. Ridgely and Col. Knighton and Freney of the Marine Corps.

Town Meeting

The need of an integrated, over-all program for the utilization of national manpower in the industrial war effort was stressed Tuesday night at the Town Hall Meeting held in McDowell Hall, St. John's College.

Speakers representing management, labor and government also agreed that the nation was not yet ready for the drafting of men and women for work on production lines.

Stringfellow Barr, president of the college, was moderator of the meeting. The speakers were Edward Salner, assistant works manager, Bartlett-Hayward Company, Baltimore; J. B. Hardman, national officer, Amalgamated Clothing Workers Union and Kenneth Douty, assistant director of manpower in Baltimore.

Salner pointed out that by and large production is stabilized with management knowing how much must be produced and the time schedules. He said the immediate problem was the replacement of men who leave the production lines of war industry to enter the armed services. His company has furnished 500 men to the armed forces and expected 1,000 more to leave.

"We have the problem of replacing these men and maintaining our schedules," he added.

He said many had been replaced by women who were working operating cranes, welding, handling machine tools, engine lathes and were employed in the assembly department. Other sources of replacement came from the colored population, and from the usually unemployed minorities. In addition, he pointed out, management technique in allocating work was a factor in meeting labor shortages.

"There is an acute need for women clerical workers," he said.

Salmer declared that the U. S. Employment Service was neither trained, staffed or financed to handle the drafting of labor. He also asserted that there had been no definite ruling on what constitutes non-essential industries.

Hardman pointed out the labor problems involved. He cited the ruling denying war contracts to Baltimore clothing workers with the idea that these workers would go into war plants. He said that many of the workers were too old for this type of work and that there were language and other difficulties.

He said the building of great factories had brought problems of inadequate housing for workers needs, lack of educational facilities and transportation difficulties.

"It is about high time that the people realize that total war requires the mobilization of the whole nation in one unified effort," he said.

Douty summed up the question of manpower as getting the right people at the right place at the right time. He said the war could not be won in piecemeal fashion but that there must be an integrated program.

He pointed out that until Dec. 5 last the Federal Manpower Commission lacked authority but that now its directives were mandatory upon the Selective Service and the local boards while recruiting had been stopped.

"Before that we would work to get welders for a plant," he continued. "Then when they were trained they would join the Navy. One can not blame the men but it created an industrial problem.

"Doing away with recruiting gives the manpower officials time to give notice to employers so that they will have time to replace men who enter the armed services or if necessary hold key men where they will be the most valuable."

Answering a question as to whether the elimination of the 40-hour week would aid the manpower problem, the speakers agreed that it would not.

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Calendar

St. John's College

Fri., Jan 8 — Sat., Jan. 16, 1919

Friday, January 8:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.
8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal
Bible Class
Formal Lecture—*Rome*
Hervey Allen

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21
Great Hall

Saturday, January 9:

8:30 A. M.
9:30 A. M.-12:00 A. M.
10:00 P. M.-2:00 A. M.

Chapel Service
Athletics
Winter Cotillion

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Iglehart Hall

Sunday, January 10:

3:00-5:00 P. M.
4:00 P. M.

Recorded Concert
The Film Club Presents: *The Italian Straw Hat.*

Humphreys Hall
Iglehart Hall

8:00 P. M.

Revolution: War and Peace. Series I, No. 14. British Education in War Time—
Lieut. Richard Miles.

Monday, January 11:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall

Tuesday, January 12:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00-6:00 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Recorded Music
Bible Class

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21

Wednesday, January 13:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
7:30 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Cotillion Board Meeting

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Paca-Carroll Soc. Room

7:30 P. M.

Theology Club Meeting

Woodward Hall

8:00 P. M.

Orchestra Rehearsal

Humphreys Hall

Thursday, January 14:

8:30 A. M.:
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00-6:00 P. M.
7:30 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Recorded Music
College Meeting

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
Great Hall

Friday, January 15:

8:30 A. M.
2:00-3:15 P. M.
5:00 P. M.
7:00-8:00 P. M.
8:00 P. M.

Chapel Service
Military Athletics
Chorus Rehearsal
Bible Class
Formal Lecture—*Virgil*
—Mark Van Doren

Great Hall
Gymnasium
Humphreys Hall
McDowell 21
Great Hall

Saturday, January 16:

8:30 A. M.
9:30 A. M.-12:00 A. M.

Chapel Service
Athletics

Great Hall
Gymnasium