

NEWSLETTER #13

February 1976

1976

- (1) Coming up, a debate about BR and religion (2). Report on the 4th Annual Meeting(4). Bob Davis visits England (8). The 3rd annual BRS session at APA (philosophy) (19). The BRS will award Travel Grants (20). Recollections of Beacon Hill (23). A decision on BRS aims (51). The index is at the end (56). An asterisk in the left column indicates a request or an offer to lend.
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COMING EVENTS

- (2) Debate: BR and religion. The debate will be between KATE TAIT and Madalyn Murray O'Hair, and will be the highlight of the 2nd BRS Psychology Symposium, for the benefit of psychologists attending the American Psychological Association meeting in San Francisco, in late August.

We're not sure that "debate" is precisely the right word. In any case, the two ladies will present opposing points of view about BR's attitude towards religion. Kate takes the position that her father was essentially a religions man, with personal reasons for rejecting organized religion. Dr. O'Hair, on the other hand, believes that BR's outlook was scientific and that he was therefor unable to accept the "illusions dished up by our primitive anthropomorphic tendencies", not to mention the fact that all religions claim to be true and that therefor not more than one can be.

It was Dr. O'Hair who brought the lawsuit that stopped prayers in U.S. public schools.

HERB LANSDELL is making all arrangements. BRS members will be welcome. We'll let you know the date, time and place

We don't think you'll want to miss this event, if it's at all possible for you to get there.

- (3) 2 BR movies. BOB DAVIS will be showing the movies, "BR discusses philosophy" and "BR discussess Happiness" sometime during the weekend of April 29-30. This is the weekend that the American Humanist Association meets, in Los Angeles. Bob will show the films either at the AHA meeting or at his home. He will notify members in the Southern California area about arrangements. Members from outside the area who may attend should notify Bob. (7025 W. Franklin #86, Hollywood, Ca. 90068. 213-874-5568)
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4TH ANNUAL MEETING

- (4) The 4th Annual Meeting of the BRS was held the weekend of February 4-5-6, 1977, at the Westwood Holiday Inn (Los Angeles).

The February 4th (Friday evening) session was a Directors Meeting (but open to all members). Present were AMY BLOCK, PETER CRANFORD, BOB DAVIS, LEE EISLER, JOE NEILANDS, JACK PITT, and STEVE REINHARDT. The meeting lasted long into the night, and produced a number of decisions:

- . The statement as to BRS aims will be kept simple (51).
- . Next year's meeting will be at the Russell Archives, in Canada, and probably not in winter -- perhaps during spring recess or in summer.
- . Jack Pitt's proposal for BRS Fellowship Travel Grants was approved (20).
- . \$300 was appropriated from BRS funds for the purchase of BR films, as a result of Don Jackanicz's proposal (47).
- . Kate Tait, the BRS's first Treasurer -- and as most of you of course know, BR's daughter by his 2nd marriage, to Dora Black -- was made an honorary member.

February 5th (Saturday) was the big day. There was a morning session, an afternoon session, and a banquet in the evening. Present some or all of the time were IRVIN ASHKENAZY, AMY BLOCK, PETER CRANFORD, BOB DAVIS, LEE EISLER, MARTIN GARSTENS, CHARLES GREEN, TOM HORNE, JIM & RITA HAUN, HENRY (& Rosemary) KARUS, AL KRAVIG, ELGIN MADEO, STEVE MARAGIDES, JOE NEILANDS, JACK PITT, STEVE REINHARDT, HARRY RUJA, JOHN TOBIN and BILL YOUNG, as well as a number of guests.

The meeting-room contained posters of BR, and on tables were many books by or about BR, most of them from Bob Davis's own library.

The meeting opened with the film, "BR discusses philosophy." (The newly acquired film, "BR discusses happiness," did not arrive in time. No doubt we will see it at next year's meeting, at the Russell Archives.)

Then came words of welcome from BRS Founder, PETER CRANFORD, followed by BOB DAVIS's report on his trip to England (8). JACK PITT told about the new BRS Fellowship Travel Grants (20), LEE EISLER spoke about the cost of acquiring a new member (12) and read DON JACKANICZ's report on the BRS Library. MARTIN GARSTENS found that trying to arrive at an Applied Philosophy was not easy (11). HARRY RUJA told about the trials and satisfactions of collecting BR's columns written for the Hearst newspapers (published under the title Mortals and Others).

However, nothing's perfect, and neither were we. We recklessly promised what we could not deliver. We had a Red Hackle Hour without Red Hackle. Anyone who was lured to the meeting by the promise of Red Hackle has a genuine grievance. We will try to make up for it next year.

Highlight of the entire weekend was the presence of Will and Ariel Durant at the banquet Saturday evening. Though we would have been entirely content merely with their presence, they spontaneously and voluntarily told charming anecdotes about some of their experiences with BR. She told about the time she and BR went to a Greenwich Village nightclub, where BR was so charmed by the attention paid him by the professional ladies of the establishment that they stayed until closing time. He told a delightful story of how BR had it in mind to try to interest Ariel in amorous activities, but was thwarted by the unusual fact that the car's driver was Ariel's brother, who refused to drive where BR wanted to be driven but drove Ariel home instead. Our only regret is that there were no tape recorders at the banquet, to preserve the Durant stories.

All BRS business was completed on Saturday, and therefore there was no formal BRS meeting on Sunday (February 6th).

Our meetings get better and better. This was the best one yet. We salute Bob Davis, for keeping it moving, keeping it organized, and keeping it interesting all the way.