

# THE BEACON

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## S. D. A. Meeting Discusses Two Important Questions

At a meeting of the S.D.A. held last Friday night, there was discussion as to whether S.D.A. should become non-partisan. Dr. Kilpatrick on his recent visit to the college, was in favor of S.D.A. becoming a non-partisan group, organized along Political Economy lines. The members present at the meeting felt, however, that they are gaining more from the affiliation which they now have with A.D.A. than they could by becoming a non-partisan group. No vote was held due to the lack of members present at the meeting.

Other points discussed were concerned with 1) joining with Political Economy Seminars for occasional meetings, 2) using Political Economy papers as a means of bringing out discussion. The question of the choice of speakers in forthcoming meetings was brought up. John Smith of the Hudson Shore Labor School and Mr. Freeland of the Friends Service Commission were considered as possible speakers.

At present S.D.A. is engaged in making posters for the Vermont Forums, collecting books for overseas students and raising money for the promotion of the Labor Extension Bill.

## Community Chest Drive Successful

The total amount collected in the Community Chest Drive on October 28, was \$999.77. An additional \$130 will be contributed by the Recreation Council. Therefore, the goal of \$1000 which was set, will be exceeded by more than a hundred dollars.

Approximately 93% of the community contributed in all. Booth and Kilpatrick were 100% represented. The houses which went over their individual quotas were Bingham, Franklin, Booth, Kilpatrick, Leigh and Welling.

A clothing drive began on October 29. The clothing that is collected during this drive will be sent to the United Friends Organization.

The Community Chest will start a campaign to collect CARE packages in the very near future. During this drive, students will be able to make up individual packages for Europe.

## Dance Weekend Held; Proves Big Success

The semi-annual dance weekend sponsored by the Recreation Council was a great success. On Friday night, there were individual parties on campus. The party at Dewey House, where beer, cider and doughnuts were served, stressed the Hallowe'en motive. The living room was decorated with witches, brooms and pumpkins. A few hayrides were organized by small groups. After dinner, the movie "Million Dollar Legs" was shown in the theatre.

### Saturday Night Entertainment

Saturday night was the main feature of the weekend. Evening festivities started with a dinner served in the college dining rooms. The formal dance started at 10:30 and lasted until 2:30. An estimated one hundred couples were present.

### Hollywood Theme

The theme was a Hollywood premiere. As the guests entered "Gruesome's Chinese Theatre", they were met by pictures of eight foot maidens in bathing suits. Ingrid Bergman, Laurel and Hardy, Bob Hope, Lauren Bacall, and Mortimer Snerd were some of the celebrities caricatured on the walls. Ciro's and other Hollywood night clubs lent their names to the glamorous atmosphere. Bright stars adorned the walls and the ceiling of the pit. In the student lounge were the footprints of Tyrone Power, Shirley Temple's curls, Betty Grable's profile, a life-size cartoon of Bing Crosby's horse, and many others.

### Decorations Committee

The Decorations Committee was headed by Petrie Manning and Joanne Brandenburger. The following students were on the committee and should be commended for their work: Nancy Craig, Mary Ernestine Hunter, Suzanne Mosher, Marie Maxon, Ann Chatfield, Janet Roosevelt, Hilda Chilko, Rosemarie Lawrence, Jonne Hutton, Martha Holt, Sheila O'Sullivan, Ann Landis, Katharine Kingsford, Nancy Smith,

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## NSA Meeting at Mt. Holyoke

On October 26, the National Student Association held a group meeting at Mt. Holyoke. By unanimous vote in the last session of a two-day conference, student representatives from more than thirty New England colleges and universities adopted a constitution for the Northern New England Region of the NSA.

The constitution declares that the group "shall specifically refrain from becoming involved in partisan political affairs or sectarian religious considerations." However, it takes a stand in opposition to any political doctrine which would stifle free and democratic education in the United States.

Under the constitution "the purpose of the NNER shall be to unite the students of northern New England in forwarding the purposes of the NSA; to provide an organization through which the programs and commission work of the NSA can be carried out on a regional level; and to promote greater interchange of ideas and activities among the students of northern New England."

### Local Autonomy

Article 2 gives each student body in the regional organization "local autonomy to adopt in whole or in part" the regional program, but prohibits, "when acting in the name of the NSA,"

## Anais Nin Visits Bennington



Anais Nin

## Store Board Sponsors Anais Nin

Miss Anais Nin, author of the book, *Children of the Albatross*, which was published on November 3 by E. P. Dutton, will speak at Bennington College today, November 6th. This afternoon the store board is sponsoring an autograph tea which will take place at four P. M. The entire community is cordially invited to attend. At the tea, Miss Nin will be glad to autograph copies of her latest book. The first editions of some of her books have been placed on exhibit. These contain prints from copper plates done by her husband, Ian Hugo. Among the books are, *Winter of Artifice*, *Under the Glass Bell*, *This Hunger*, and *House of Incest*.

contravening the policy of either regional or national association.

Delegates to the regional assembly meetings, to be held at least three times a year, and to the national student congress, are to be chosen by campus-wide elections.

The constitution also provides for regional executive committee meetings every two months to prepare programs for the assembly and to make interim policy decisions. It sets up regional commissions "to coordinate activities of campus groups working on NSA programs."

Ratification of the constitution will be by a two-thirds vote of member student bodies, to be called for at the time of ratification of the national constitution adopted at the September congress in Madison, Wisconsin.

This afternoon, November 6, at a tea given by the Store Board, Bennington will be introduced to Anais Nin and her new book, "Children of The Albatross". Formerly Miss Nin has foiled commercially-minded publishers in a singular manner. A significant surrealist writer, she believes that in order to write sincerely an author must not depend on writing for his living. She has practiced what she preached. In 1942, publishers and critics alike approved her novel "Winter Of Artifice" but declared it uncommercial, with the result that Anais Nin proceeded to buy a printing press and to learn how to print. At the rate of a few pages a day she turned out 500 copies of her book. The sale of approximately 400 of these more than covered the cost of her adventure. She repeated this successful method in 1944 with "Under a Glass Bell". Although she was handicapped by lack of publicity, the book was reviewed by several magazines such as "The Nation", which admired the lyrical qualities in her writing. The novel was an attempt to escape the suffering of the modern world through phantasy. In general, Miss Nin's writing is characterized by a surrealistic juxtaposition of images. This gives her books the mystic qualities that bother commercial publishers. Refuting the charges that her work is not universal, Miss Nin points out that all kinds of people read and comment intelligently on her book.

### Has Led Varied Career

Anais Nin was born in Paris and has never lost touch with the European frame of reference. Her singular dexterity and flexibility will be revealed

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The Beacon welcomes contributions from members of the community. The editors reserve the right to edit all manuscripts accepted.

### Un-American Activities

The motion picture investigation of Hollywood Communists, instigated by the House Committee on Un-American Activities, under the chairmanship of Representative J. Parnell Thomas of New Jersey, has been temporarily terminated for an indefinite period of time. The tremendous amount of discussion stimulated by this procedure is undoubtedly only a small foretaste of the commotion which will be witnessed if, and when the focus changes from the motion picture industry to a more specific education field: the investigation of school and college teachers.

The underlying idea and overall purpose of the investigation have not borne the brunt of unfavorable criticism; few people possess a thorough enough grounding in law to contest, even in their own minds, the legal validity of the investigation under the Constitution. And few people would object to a straightforward inquiry into the extent and effectiveness of Communist activity in this country.

Rather, the objection results from the methods used in the recent hearings that have aroused the storm of protest. Far from clarifying the issue of Communism, the proceedings have revealed a complete lack of effort—or willingness—on the part of the committee, to define Communism or to set up any concrete criteria for the judging of the alleged Communists. This vagueness is apt to give the very justified impression that the committee is dedicated to the extremely popular pastime of "red-baiting" rather than an honest, and constructive investigation in the true sense of the word.

One of the questions put to several Hollywood writers and directors during the recent hearings asked the witnesses if they didn't think that the movie industry should produce specifically anti-Communist movies. If the investigation is extended to the teaching profession—which is certainly as influential as the motion picture medium—we wonder if the Committee will go so far as to suggest that schools initiate courses for the sole purpose of disseminating anti-Communist propaganda.

If the Committee attempted to win a great many anti-Communist friends by making the nation aware of Communist activities, it has failed. The main result has been that of arousing people to purely emotional reaction on the one hand, and to sober, critical thought on the other. The uselessness of the former is obvious, but the constructive potentialities of the latter are encouraging—a real clarification and definition of the concept of Communism, leading to the development of the proper method of congressional investigation of any issue whatsoever. If such should be the final outcome of the hearings, the investigation will have come to a worthy end.

### Functions of Faculty Committees

A thorough overhauling of the old Faculty Committees has taken place this term. There are five existing faculty committees: The Faculty EPC, the Faculty Committee, the College Entertainment Committee; the Junior and Senior Division Committees.

#### The Faculty EPC

The Faculty E.P.C. consists of Miss Shelley, Mr. Feeley, Mr. Coburn, Mr. Boepple, Dr. Chassell, Mrs. Leslie and Dr. Burkhardt as chairman. In the beginning of the term the functions of the existing Advisory Committee were extended to include consideration of Educational Policy. Its name was thus changed to the Faculty Educational Policies Committee. The functions of this present committee are to advise the President on faculty appointments and make recommendations, including curriculum changes, to the faculty at large. At their last meeting basic studies were discussed.

#### Faculty Com. Recently Established

The Faculty Committee has been elected recently. Its members are Mr. Bales, Drama-Dance; Mr. Kunitz, Literature; Miss Marshall, Political Economy and Social Science; Mr. Wohnus, Science; Mrs. Moselsio, Visual Arts; and Mr. Finckel, Music. This present Faculty Committee is successor to the old Faculty E.P.C. Its functions are to propose items for the agenda of faculty meetings and to act as a clearing house for faculty-initiated ideas or proposals. The committee will serve as a link between faculty and administration. Because of its representative nature it will be able to discuss problems arising in any academic field. The committee was elected by having the faculty of each major division nominate two rep-

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### Report on Co-op Store

The Bennington Cooperative Store has a "Board of Directors", much as any business has. It is composed of two students from each of the first three classes and two faculty-staff-employee members, who meet every Thursday noon in the North Suites dining room with Mary Walsh, store manager, and Miss Jones, the Treasurer of the College, member ex-officio of the Store Board, to decide the policies of the Store.

#### Store Board Functions

One might wonder what all the business is about. It often concerns matters of management. The manager receives a letter from one Miss Brown who would like to come to the college to sell her "paintings". The letter is referred to the Board for its approval or disapproval. The Store has the only license on the campus to sell things and therefore, the Board must sanction any special "sales". Last term, for instance, it voted to have a "radio repair service" on the campus.

A recent major job of the Board, as you may know, has had to do with getting people to pay their bills. It has had to supplement the black list with other persuasions because, in going over the finances, which it does once a term with the manager, it found that the Store did not have enough money to cover operating expenses; that is, enough money to pay its own bills, to pay its employees, or to purchase more merchandise.

The Board gives the manager the "go ahead" signal on raising or lowering prices on certain articles. One of its functions is to prescribe salary raises or "cuts" as the situation may demand or warrant. At the end of each year, the Board must decide upon the amount of money to be paid back to the Store members in the form of rebates.

Other than financial policies, the business, in the spring term, concerns itself with getting new store members. A letter is formulated to be sent to

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c/o R. S. V. P.

Letter Box

### Answer to the Letter on the Bus Schedule

Last year the Monument Bus Company agreed to take over the college transportation. They sent out a questionnaire to find out what times the Community wanted buses and planned their schedule accordingly. Gradually they were forced to take certain buses off the schedule because they were not used. Most of the buses do not have enough passengers to operate profitably. If the College would really use the buses, the company would be glad to put on buses at any time that are requested.

Ed.

October 26, 1947

Dear Editor:

We feel that the amount of discussion going on about Cocteau's "Blood of a Poet" is out of proportion to the actual merits of the movie. We agree generally with the interpretation given of the movie in the last issue of the Beacon and also that the use of symbolism in the medium is valid. However, we feel that the initial artistic conception of the film is questionable.

The picture, in its essence, is a two dimensional, stylized and imposed design on an ideational experience. There is practically no three-dimensional concern (e. i., character movement in time and space) with the artist involved or with the images. The artist himself was a symbol of a universal artist and the images themselves (upon which the picture was dependent) were largely traditional symbols or were dependent on associative shock for their meaning. They did little to prove the validity of his personality and problems, or give him a plausible dimension. In other words, Cocteau has related two abstract conceptions (the artist and his symbolism) but has given them no context in which they might become meaningful. Analogy: attempting to embroider several related patterns into a non-existent piece of cloth.

Regarding the symbolism in general, should it be, as it is in this movie, largely a superimposed definition, a traditionally accepted, equational restatement of the artist's raw material? If the interpretation of the raw material is organic to the actual experience that the artist wishes to deal with, we believe that he will not predominantly equate that experience to the traditional symbols. (Some examples of the traditional symbols were the mirror for auto-eroticism, the cards for a sense of fate, snow for sterility, rooms for choices.) If a child sees his dog killed by a car, would he be apt to associate death with the traditional black-robed "Grim Reaper", or with a four-wheeled machine? It would undoubtedly be the latter. A symbolic interpretation of any experience is individually arrived at and the symbolism, because of the very nature of perception is seldom capable of crystallization into unmodified traditional forms. Therefore, it would seem that the imposition of inorganic symbolism upon material would be a false equation of the experience.

An attempt is made, as in all surrealism, to subject the spectator directly to shocking

### Louis Lyons Speaks on "Your Newspapers"

On Thursday evening, October 30th, Louis M. Lyons spoke on "Your Newspapers". Mr. Lyons is curator of the Nieman Fellowships at Harvard University, an institution to further the education of journalists. He himself has been a newspaperman most of his life.

#### Newspapers as Reflection of Country

Newspapers, said Mr. Lyons, reflect the color and the "constitutional fabric" of a country. In the formation days of the Bill of Rights, newspapers were unrestricted and owned by the chief writer. However, industrial changes and expansion have shifted ownership to big business, and the journalist has become subordinate. The resulting policies have shown that the newspaper capitalist should have more than the average business man's ability—he should feel his responsibility for leaving unblocked channels of ideas.

#### Influence Exerted by Advertising

Advertising contracts which force the newspaper to guarantee a certain circulation are apt to cause a conservative policy, since none of the many groups reached by the newspaper must be offended. The same delicacy is used by newspapers formerly of a certain political party who would now try to circulate among all parties. The newsman's big question is how far he

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images. But due to the exceptionally abstract character of this movie, the spectator does not, considering the film as a whole, get inside of and experience the rhythms and the order of a consistently developed discovered truth, but rather, is subjected to a series of abstracted pictures of experiences—an intellectual jigsaw puzzle.

We think that this movie is adventuresome and appreciate that aspect of it. But at the same time we feel that this type of adventure is still in the infant stages, and has not grown up yet to a work of art.

Eleanor Carlson Cohen  
Joan Megnin

Editor's Note—Unfortunately the humor article was misplaced and landed in the editorial columns. It was intended as humor and not criticism, negative or constructive.

October 23

To the Editors:

Week by week we have noticed a distinctly negative attitude being built up in the editorials and criticisms of the Beacon. Outstanding in this last issue was the article concerning Saturday night movies.

If the article referred to the town movies, it was so ambiguous it lost its intended humor; but if it referred to the college movies it was completely meaningless.

We feel the efforts of Mr. Ben Belitt and the Recreation Council in procuring films this year have been extremely successful in that the movies are not only enjoyable but also interesting and unusual.

Would it be possible for more articles to be written which are constructively critical instead of pointlessly sarcastic?

Susan Jones  
Phyllis Meili  
Susan Van Clute  
Candy de Vries  
Sally Mason  
Barbara Corey  
Joanne Brandenburger  
Edie Dulles  
Packy Cooke  
Mary Alice Jones

### Lit Seminar on Eliot's "The Waste Land"

The first Lit Seminar, held in the Franklin living room on Wednesday, October 8, attracted many students, faculty members and guests to hear a reading and discussion of "The Waste Land" by Francis Fergusson. "The Waste Land" was written by T. S. Eliot in 1922 and based upon the theme of the drought season.

Mr. Fergusson first noted that the title of the work, and much of the plan of the poem, had been suggested by a book on the Grail legend, "From Ritual to Romance" by Jessie L. Weston. The first part of "The Waste Land", entitled "The Burial of the Dead" refers to the ancient ritual performed after the change of seasons. Mr. Fergusson read through the first part with understanding and familiarity, pausing to comment upon the references and translate the German phrases used by Mr. Eliot.

#### Theme of "The Waste Land"

The theme running through the entire poem is that of the intellectual and spiritual drought as signified by various abstract impressions. The second section, "A Game of Chess", describes a decadent and rococo interior and makes allusions to "Belladonna", the lady of Eliot's "Portrait of a Lady". Mr. Fergusson explained the numerous classical references that are so typical of Eliot, but often confusing to the average reader. Under this skillful interpretation, the poem acquired continuity and reality.

"The Waste Land" consists of five parts, the last three being "The Fire Sermon", "Death by Water", and "What the Thunder Said". Mr. Fergusson's method was similar throughout his reading. He discussed the myths and legends referred to, translated any foreign phrases that had been employed, and suggested the significance of any erudite passages.

His reading and interpretation was sensitive and engrossing. To the many interested in the work of Eliot, but perhaps bewildered by much of it, this seminar proved both enjoyable and enlightening.

## Review of "Allegro", Broadway Musical

"Allegro" is something new in song and dance productions. It does not revert to the cliché formulas for musicals: lavish sets, chorus lines, and big jokes. In comparison, it is more of a musical drama, and is elaborate in a different way.

In two acts, the play covers thirty-five years in the life of a doctor: birth and early years in a country town; college; a glamorous big-town practice; and finally, the realization that the simple, honest country life is best.

The story is a pat, worn-out little moral, but in spite of its soap-opera tendencies, it is treated in a surprisingly delicate and original manner. Agnes DeMille (choreography) and Richard Rodgers (songs) handled their jobs well, considering the plot with which they had to work.

The story pattern is old, but the story-telling technique is new. In each scene, the chorus is one of the principle characters. A group of men and women stand in a block on one side of the stage. Their function is to warn, examine, or analyse the on-stage characters, and also to act as a bridge to the audience, explaining various situations. The chorus, reminiscent of a Greek drama device, is extremely effective, and is handled properly, never exaggerated. It would have been very easy to over-emphasize the importance of the group, thereby making it stand out to poor advantage, a burden rather than an asset.

The dancing is excellent in most parts and adds a great deal to "Allegro". However, at times Miss DeMille gets too tangled up in symbolism and drama and in a vague attempt to stick to the story, gets rather lost. But her conception is interesting even where it is not entirely coherent. At times, such as in the childhood experience number, which is done quite well, the continuity of the story is left completely to the dancers.

The songs, especially "So Far" are all quite good, although in spots their presentation, rather than the songs themselves, create the effect.

The sets are simple, and pliable—in that there is one major prop in each scene; a large screen that projects specific incidents which correlate with the story. For example, when the chorus is explaining the hero's first steps, the shadow of a small child trying to stand is projected on the screen. The other props are simple, and usually merely suggestive outlines. However, the effect is pleasing and imaginative rather than flimsy.

Considering other musical shows on Broadway today, "Allegro" is artistically outstanding, and on the whole, thoroughly enjoyable.

H. F.

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## Impressions on Bennington

by a wandering impressionist

(Note to the Editor: This paper was voluntarily suggested and written by one who has been limited by only a few days' association with Bennington.)

Impressions of any place after an uncritical 5-day sojourn do not form the stuff of profound analysis and if, in their recording here, I have missed the "inner soul" of Bennington, may I say at first blush that I never entertained the presumption that I could find it, and would eye askance anyone's declaration that he had.

Now since it is a fairly honored theory that the antics of an ant cannot be understood without some knowledge of anthoid, it would equally appear that a Bennington girl is incomprehensible unless one might know why she came to be in and of Bennington. It will, doubtless, be immediately contested that there is a single answer to this, since one of the school's most loudly voiced and cherished held convictions is that each individual must maintain and assert, at all possible costs, her own personality, her own specialized technique of thinking, and her own mode of expression.

### Escape from Conformity

And though on the surface it would so appear, yet the abiding impression I garnered was that the reason of one was the reason of all: a desire to escape from the rigidity of the neolithic notion of education that the student must fit the school, and a desire to realize oneself in connection with whatever is "progressive". You will allow me the fond and easy indulgence of generalization, since I promise it is not lost on me that there were other reasons for coming, e. g. disdain for a marking system which judges only achievement and not effort; disciplinary systems whose inflexible laws embrace one more stiflingly than the family circle; and archaic belief that knowledge must be imposed from without rather than springing from within. All of these, and many others, will be seen to fall in as subheadings to the original desire.

Bennington, thus viewed as that system of non-system which places primary emphasis and responsibility on the student, that insists that each one express herself individually through her own thought, that abhors uniformity in actions and despises unreasoned conformity to or adoration of tradition—Bennington thus, what impression does it cast on the bewildered onlooker?

Paradox. New conventions. New traditions. New conformities.

Everyone, be he saint or sinner, leaves the imprint of his thought or personality where he sleeps, eats, drinks or frolics, in short, wherever and howsoever he has relation to what is outside of him. Actions are formalized attitudes and, when they are frozen into fact, they are testimonials to personality.

So what have we in the living facts of Bennington?

### Double Purpose of Decorations

(1) An adoring and reverent hand in home economics. The rooms (which one can see without the icy and eternally suspicious stare of the house-detection-matron) though inventive, are stylized creations. Everything serves at least two purposes: the spinning of window shades reveals the revived rhymes of some respected, or not so well respected poet,—or else they play the rolling canvas to the artistic distinction of the dweller's hand. Beds are elaborately cushioned Cleopatra couches, upholstered with a personal touch. Every room bears somewhere its set of candles cozily established in old domestic whiskey bottles (I saw no imported brands — significant of economy or a burning faith in American products?) which serve as reminders of some fond,

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## JESSIE WOOD

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## Fairdale Farms: Successful Experiment in Cooperative Management

Bennington College's only source of milk, the Fairdale Farms, is located on the West Road three miles outside of Bennington proper. On the right is one large barn and two bottling plants and on the left is the Dairy Bar, a restaurant and appealing market for Fairdale products.

### Sanitation a Prime Concern

About one hundred and seventy purebred, healthy and carefully watched Ayrshire cows are kept at the dairy. Their milk is supplemented with milk brought in from local farmers to fill the large orders. Every precaution is taken to keep these cows healthy and to predetermine any illness. A careful record of each cow is kept up daily by the dairy veterinarian and the slightest decline in health or production is carefully noted and checked immediately.

Sanitation is one of the keywords at Fairdale, and is strictly observed. The bottling plants are immaculate. The large aluminum vats and sterilizers are washed twice a day, after each milking. All milk is marked with the day on which it was produced and must be delivered within twenty-four hours afterwards.

The two bottling plants are necessary because certified milk (Fairdale's top product) and grades A and B must be bottled separately according to the local Medical Milk Commissions. Certified milk is richer in cream content and is as near sterile as milk can be. It is recommended chiefly for babies and hospitals.

### Bennington Gets All Dairy Products From Fairdale

Bennington College has always bought all its milk from Fairdale Farms. We now get on the average of one hundred and sixty quarts of grade A milk, fifteen quarts of cream and sixty half pint bottles of chocolate milk per day. On occasion we also get forty pounds of cottage cheese.

### Organization at Fairdale

On May first, 1946, the employees bought and incorporated Fairdale Farms, then known as Fillmore Farms. The corporation is now owned by forty stockholders, all former and present employees at Fairdale. They meet only once a year, but elect from the entire group a board of seven directors that meets monthly. So far, the system has been highly successful. Employees holding stock in a concern naturally work more efficiently and rapidly.

Another successful business venture owned and operated by Fairdale is the attractive dairy bar across the street. This is a combination soda fountain, restaurant and market for Fairdale's various dairy products, such as: chocolate milk, milk, cottage cheese and ice cream. Their prices are reasonable and their food good, but their specialties, naturally, are the delicious drinks made from their own milk.

Robert Holden, president and general manager of Fairdale, started working there about twenty years ago doing odd-jobs. He exemplifies Fairdale's policy of reward for length and merit of service. He explains Fairdale's success by his statement, "Our progress during the past year has been due to many factors. Customers, being able to obtain highest quality products at lowest possible prices, increased their purchases. Producers continued their confidence in our ability to provide a better market for their products. Employees, in return for increased wages, worked more efficiently and produced a profit which increased the value of the stockholder's investment."

### Wanted

Experienced typist for  
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## Anais Nin Visits Bennington

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by a list of the various phases of her career. Besides writing, her interests include modeling, Spanish dancing, psychoanalysis.

### Sixty-Volume Journal

Perhaps Anais Nin's greatest ticket to renown is her journal which consists of more than sixty volumes. It is the direct result of a profound upheaval which occurred in the eleventh year of her life. Her father, whom she adored, deserted the family, which then sailed from Paris to New York. On the trip Miss Nin started a diary in an attempt to retain a kind of communication with her father. Henry Miller, a personal friend and disciple of Miss Nin, writes that these beginnings of the diary were approached with childlike but artistic insight. He believes that the journal when published will be comparable to "St. Augustine's Confessions".

### Journal to be Converted Into Novel

Anais Nin announced her intention to convert the journals into a novel depicting the thirty years between the two World Wars.

## Meet Jim Thompson

A new addition to the Drama department is Jim Thompson, who will have charge of supervising the technical aspects of the theatre. Born in Canada, Mr. Thompson moved to Minneapolis at an early age. He was graduated from the Univ. of Minnesota this summer where he majored in theatre. He has worked in connection with the stage at the University of Minnesota, Cornell, and other small theatres around the twin cities.

Although he once planned to be an Asiatic Archeologist, specializing in China, the war forced him to give up this ambition. He had to discontinue his studies during the forty-one months that he spent in the Army. Mr. Thompson has done some acting, but is primarily interested in stage design. He feels that he has learned a lot from his hobby of photography that he can apply to his theories of stage design.

Another of his pastimes is collecting folk ballads, both recorded and those that he picks up by ear. He has an extensive record collection which he regrets he has not brought to Bennington. Some of his favorites are Scarlatti, Bach and Corelli. When asked his opinion concerning the curriculum of Bennington as compared to that of other schools he has attended, he stated that he liked the combination of different arts with the theatre at Bennington. (For example, dance, music and visual arts.)

Last spring at Minnesota, Mr. Thompson worked on the production of Robert Penn Warren's book, "All the Kings Men". Contrary to popular opinion, the character of Willie Stark was not drawn from the life of Huey Long, according to Mr. Warren.

Mr. Thompson has started an informal class in stage craft and lighting. This class is open to all students who are interested in the technique.

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**Presser's Art Exhibited**

The exhibition of paintings now on display in the east and west wings of the second floor of Commons will be shown through November 13th. The show represents a selection of smaller pictures by Josef Presser. Many of his large oils are to be found in The Metropolitan Museum of Art, The Whitney Museum, and others.

Mr. Presser studied first at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts School and thereafter for four years in Europe. He is now on the staff of both the Brooklyn Museum Art School and the New York University School of Art.

The artist's brilliant colors and variety of media, as tempera, gouache and ink, are used to best advantage. Color outlined in a Roualt-like manner, produce effects which are sometimes pure fantasy but often a pictorial contrast of fantasy and reality. In some of his paintings, Presser achieves a mood of sadness which stands out predominantly despite the glamour of color. One feels the influence of Daumier. However, he is not avoking humor with his portrayal of man, but a sense of the dramatic. In "Inner Harbor" and "Ferry Ship" he is more concerned with the structural quality than with being purely representational.

Presser's work represents contrast of color and space relationship. His paintings show strength and imagination.

**Alumnae Album**

The following letter is from a former Bennington student, describing her position as the Chairman of the Buffalo Junior League Education Committee:

The purpose of a Junior League Education Committee (and I quote from the Handbook published by the Association of the Junior Leagues of America) is "to plan and coordinate the education program of the League so that members may have the knowledge and training necessary for effective community service and citizenship."

The personnel of this Committee within this particular League is composed of twelve members including automatically the Provisional Chairman (who is responsible for an intensive volunteer training course for new members); the Legislative Chairman; the Arts Chairman; the Placement Chairman; and the Vice-President who acts in an advisory capacity. This committee is larger than most maintained in other Leagues because of the desire of the Placement Chairman to put as many Active Members as possible on the various committees working within the League.

Our activities center around planning an Educational Program to be presented at the six large League meetings to which all the membership is invited during the course of each year. "The continued education of each member is its goal, and this is achieved by developing the interest of the members in thoughtful, interesting and stimulating ways. A major responsibility of the Education Committee, therefore, is to discover and encourage the chief interests within the League."

We have embarked on a rather pretentious program relating to "Government", but since it will be clearly seen that such a title is hardly a drawing card to a group of women composed mostly of young housewives whose time away from home is naturally a quest for relaxation and a little fun, we have tried to temper the more serious aspect with a lighter vein.

To explain myself a little more fully, a large League meeting was held within this past week on the techniques of League legislative action on local and state levels. This was a difficult and involved topic, at best, to explain to the League Membership; partly because it is a very new issue within the League; and, too, so few of the Membership have had anything to do with it. However, a group within the Education Committee, known as Entertainment Ltd., produced a skit written by the Legislative Chairman in which the things not to do in taking Legislative action were well pointed up. The topic behind the action was centered in the new hemline, a ridiculous subject which went to some extremes, but which effected with marked success the lighter side to a more serious subject.

It is hoped before the year is out that the Buffalo Junior League will be

**For and About Alumnae**

Ellen Harteveltdt of New York has become engaged. Mr. and Mrs. Henry H. Harteveltdt, parents of the prospective bride, made known her engagement to Mr. Leonard B. Edelman of Baton Rouge, La. Ellen is an alumna of the Dalton School in New York and, after leaving Bennington, graduated from the Tobe-Coburn School of Fashion. Mr. Edelman is an alumnus of Louisiana State University and also graduated from Harvard, where he pursued his interest in aerodynamics. He received a Master's degree in aeronautics from the California Institute of Technology.

Jane Stewart, at present a sophomore at Bennington, has become engaged to Mr. John D. Young of Brookline, Mass. This was announced formally by her parents, Dr. and Mrs. George Stewart of Dublin, N. H. Before attending Bennington, Jane graduated from Milton Academy and the Brearley School in New York and studied for a while at Greenwich Academy. Mr. Young, her fiance, was graduated from Phillips Exeter Academy and at present is attending Harvard College after serving three years in the Army.

better cognizant of local, federal, and even world government.

It is, also, the Education Chairman's job to aid and abet any small study groups within the League (i. e. current event series, music and art appreciation, etc.). However, Buffalo is an exceedingly civic minded city, and there are already numerous established groups of this nature. So, instead of creating our own groups, it has seemed best to steer a group or an individual to the Albright Gallery, the Science Museum, or Kleinhans Music Hall where their interests will be met a great deal more extensively than through the Education Committee of the League which operates on limited finances.

This job of mine is fascinating and absorbing, and whether the League is being broadened educationally or not remains to be seen. Suffice it to say, that the Education Chairman is.

Jean W. Crafts

(Mrs. Donald A. Crafts)

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**Impressions on Bennington**

(Continued from page 3)

nocturnal lingering in the hazy but charming past. When illuminated, they do not give as much light as Mr. Watt's vulgar invention—which only proves that Watt was a philistine and knew not the intimate enchantment and dark truth of a flickering and inconstant flame.

But candles or bulbs, there is still enough light to see another Bennington characteristic: walls spotted with courageous tableaux. Since these things were merely introduced to me with the end of a finger with such enquiry as: "What do you think of that?" and was almost never accompanied by supplementary information as to whether or not that same finger had perpetrated the piece or filched it from a book, I always found answers awkward. It is my profound conviction that I shall never be able to penetrate a Bennington heart until I am on more intimate terms with "space", "color", "line" and "composition of curve"—mystical words entrenched in their souls and apt to flow, when the conversation takes a bad turn, like molasses from their lips.

Contrasted to this imaginative and foreboding business of getting the most out of everything is the usual manner of answering telephone calls. A ring on the system is generally a signal for everyone to get excited in their rooms and a particular mission for someone to start screaming at the top of her lungs for Janie, Bobby or Ophelia.

**Limitations in Dress**

(2) Clothing and cosmetics. Ideas on education have not penetrated this field too far. One can't do much experimental work here as styles are created beyond these hills and not on them. Tight-fitting sweaters and blue-jeans give snugness to personality, or skirts hanging over trousers lend a sense of liberation and litheness to movement. But this is a jurisdictional tendency, for Bennington women are seldom seen in public houses perpetuating the same notions. They are painted sleek, chic and devouring, like all the rest of the women in urban areas. If their hair is long, it is pulled behind and strapped together by a ribbon or metallic clip. If short, it just hangs in hopes of becoming longer. Sometimes a long strip of silk encircles the head and drops coyly over the right shoulder.

(3) Dining room behavior: Some knit and dream wistfully about whom they're knitting for, others carry big and scholarly tomes, or what is unexpected, newspapers, and can barely leave them alone to eat; still others speak with ample animation on anything and make their eyes carry half the burden of conversation. The waitresses get 50c a meal to find out the working-girls' mentality. It is, moreover, fairly common that when one speaks to a neighbor, the sound resembles a lion's roar—which I suppose is one way of gaining authority and distinction in articulation. Besides that, everybody slams doors—not demurely.

**Basically Shy and Lost**

(4) General psychology. This depends almost exclusively on the first premise of the school: to think for oneself. I think the general interpretation of this is to think on oneself and express one's findings on walls, shades and on the outside air; to ferret out and re-examine all of the influences that determine one's daily life, whether physiological, sociological or psychological. Stemming from this is the credo with a halo: that everything is "Subjective"—that truth is the individual expression of one's personality; that life or art holds no laws but those evolved by, through and in "me" day by day. Because of the flux inherent in following and rejecting ideas, there is almost universal uncertainty in what one thinks or believes in and that has bred a shyness—no matter how bold or open or ingenuous they make themselves appear. Basically they are shy, and a bit lost.

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**Dance Weekend Held; Big Success**

(Continued from page 1)

Frances Wells, and Joyce Berger. Mrs. Shapiro gave a great deal of help and advice to the committee.

**Music and Refreshments**

Steve Anthony's eight-piece orchestra provided the music and kept many dance-enthusiasts on the floor until the very last. Punch was served. After the dance a number of couples went to the Merry-Go-Round, which remained open for the occasion.

**Dance Committee**

The Dance Committee was chosen and headed by the members of the Recreation Council: Nancy Hellweg, Felicia Warburg, and Catherine Bangs. The girls on the committee were: Kathryn Ballantyne, Petrie Manning, Joanne Brandenburger, Phyllis Sidenberg, Jennifer Brown, Wilhelmina Eaton, Marion Marsh, Mary Fox Hellweg, Barbara Bowles, and Marcia Black.

murmurs that parade through their minds and hasten their hearts and that, they think, is found by overturning and dismantling the past, by picking and pruning the notions of the ancients or near-ancients and re-orientating them in terms of this present day and this present, evolving, curious me. They want the strange and the uncommon, life slanted through half-closed misty eyes peering out dimly on a world essentially not to be known, sometimes barely to be felt. Bennington wants the momentary, pulsing experiment of living in a highly stylized and personal way, in short, living and thinking as an experience, as an experiment.

And in this they are collective. In this they are traditional. And in this they are conforming. But this is never what is important. What does count is that in education they are in advance of their days and in themselves quite noble and doubly real.

Or so it seems to me.

**Inquiring Reporter**

There has been a good deal of discussion as to whether or not Community Meetings are effective. As the new government will conduct a large part of its business in these meetings, we thought it important to ask: Do you think that Community Meetings function the way they should?

**Sue Sern, sophomore**—Very few members of the community have made an effort to cooperate with the student government or with each other. I do not feel that the example set by several members of the faculty is a constructive influence worth being followed by the students. I feel that the community should make an effort to cooperate with, and not criticize, the community council.

**Sally Whitely, junior**—There is not enough parliamentary procedure, and more important, questions that are brought up are often not considered when on the floor.

**Ellen St. Sure, freshman**—People who have something to say are not always listened to because so many people get up to say things only to hear themselves talk.

**Miss Marshall, faculty**—There should be more parliamentary procedure and more order on the students' part as well as the chairman's.

**Ann Thoron, sophomore**—Community meetings do not function completely as they should but they are better than the first ones of last year. Perhaps the students do not understand parliamentary procedure, and maybe there is lack of respect for the procedure. There should be an effort made to keep people on the subject that is being discussed.

**Linda Borden, sophomore**—I think that community meetings function quite well. The subject matter of the meetings should be publicized more so that people can think about the problems and form an opinion. Parliamentary procedure should be observed.

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**Louis Lyons Speaks on "Your Newspapers"**

(Continued from page 2)

can go and still sell the paper. Cleavages in policy result between the owners and the editors.

**Other Features of Financial Problem**

Selling is also largely dependent on sensationalism in newspapers, a factor which the Chicago Commission on the press has criticized as crowding out the facts a citizen should know in order to be a good citizen. At the same time, a paper often lacks real color because in its race for the facts it leaves out what Lyons called "the truth behind the facts." Another inhibiting feature is the syndicated service used by the newspaper financially unable to hire top columnists of its own. Because the syndicate columnist has to reach such a wide audience, he often becomes cautious, lifeless and irrelevant to the particular city in which his column appears.

Mr. Lyons would like to see freshness and innovation in the modern newspaper. He described some of the encouraging projects of the New York Herald Tribune.

The talk ended in a description of the Nieman Fellowships, their history, purpose, and some of Mr. Lyons' experiences in connection with them.



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**Report on Co-op Store**

(Continued from page 2)

freshmen, telling them of the store, how it is operated and generally acquainting them with it before they arrive on campus.

**Store Board Committees**

The Board often splits itself up into committees—in this way being better able to handle some of the business. A rummage sale committee, for instance, does all the technical work of handling the rummage sale: the publicity, arranging the articles at the sale. The committee is responsible, too, for actually selling the 'goods' which the students bring in for sale. When the 'sale' is over their job really begins for the amount of sales must tally with the goods sold, etc., and from the amount of sales each owner receives a certain percentage. The Board may have decided to give another percentage of this amount to the college scholarship fund, or, possibly, one of the current "benefits". All these amounts are figured by the committee.

Another such event on the Store Board program which is handled by a committee is the Arts and Crafts Exhibit and Sale.

**Weekly Meetings**

The weekly meetings are lively. An outsider, attending a meeting, would find the "directors" giving serious consideration to matters all the way from the size of an ice cream cone to how can the Store be of more service to the Community.

In Bennington, the College Cooperative Store differs somewhat from the traditional form of the Cooperative. According to the by-laws, the Store is licensed annually by the Board of Trustees. In case of gross mismanagement, license can be revoked and the College has the power to assume control of the Store.

In addition to these more academic divergencies, the Store conducts a number of activities, not usually associated with a Cooperative and operated primarily for the benefit of the college community. One of the most important of these is the policy of charging, which is open to both members and non-members. The high cost of labor in maintaining charge accounts and the need for ready cash to pay bills are the primary reasons that Consumer Cooperatives, in general, have a "no-charge policy". However, the College Cooperative maintains approximately 400 charge accounts, the service extremely advantageous to the students, although it creates an extra volume of difficulties for the Store staff.

Since the Store is run for and by the community, suggestions from the students regarding special services have been put into action in the past. The ordering and sale of octet albums was such a service, others are the hairdresser who come up to the college during the week, the repairing of radios, developing of film, joining the Book-of-the-Month club, and the handling of second-hand books. Last but not least is the continued attempt by the Store to engage in new activities suggested by the students in answer to questionnaires. The Cooperative Store always welcomes new ideas or criticisms.

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**Functions of Faculty Committees**

(Continued from page 2)

representatives by preferential ballot. The faculty as a whole then elected one of the pair in each field. The new Faculty Committee has not yet had time to begin functioning.

**Entertainment Com. Greets Visitors**

The College Entertainment Committee consists of Mrs. Burkhardt, Mrs. Brockway and Miss Hopkins. Its purpose is to see that official visitors of the college are cordially received; and to handle any situations that come up along the social line.

**Work Sheets Instituted**

The Junior Division Committee is composed of Mr. Feeley, Mr. Salvadori and Mr. Drucker. This Committee has charge of all Junior Division Students. They assign counsellors and adjust Junior Division Students' programs. It was the decision of this committee to have the new work sheets. They felt that this temporary measure was needed because of sketchy mid-term reports, the large number of people in some classes, and for the guidance of student personnel. The Junior Division promotes students to Senior Division.

**Senior Division Committee**

The Senior Division Committee takes over where the Junior Division leaves off. This committee reviews senior plans, confirms majors, and handles the problems of Senior Division students. If a student plans to leave college and attend another college, her transfer comes before the Senior Division Committee. The Committee gives permission for early graduation and approves all students' graduations in general. Its members are Mr. Coburn, Miss Marshall, Mr. Boepple and Miss Shelley.

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**Arts and Crafts Exhibit**

On November 11, there will be a faculty-staff arts and crafts exhibit and sale in the student lounge. The faculty and staff will show their recent work in the field of arts and crafts, including pottery and painting. In the spring, a similar exhibit and sale will be planned for the student body.

**Black List Decreased**

The Store wishes to thank the community and show its appreciation for the excellent response in paying store bills. The Black List has been about cut in half and the total amount outstanding reduced from approximately \$1300 to \$500.

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**THE BACHELOR AND THE BOBBY-SOXER**

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Friday, Saturday, November 14, 15

**DEVIL'S PLAYGROUND**

William Boyd (Holalong), Andy Clyde

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