

## "Hi-Ho, Come to the Hootenanny

On Friday night, May 27, the college will be treated to a genuine Hootenanny, given by The Weavers, Pete Seeger, and Paul Bain. (For the benefit of the uneducated, a Hootenanny is a kind of singing jam-session. It will take place in the Carriage Barn at 8:00 p.m. No admission will be charged.

### The Weavers

The Weavers, a new singing quartet which has excited great interest in local musical circles, is composed of four soloists who are well known in the field of American folk music: Lee Hays, a former Arkansas preacher, who works professionally as a song and short story writer, holds down the bass, and furnishes new material; Pete Seeger, famous

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## Burke Attends Conference

On April 8th, 9th, and 10th Kenneth Burke attended the Western Round Table on Modern Art held at the California School of Fine Arts in San Francisco. The four meetings, under the directorship of Douglas MacAgy were concerned with 1) motives of the artist, 2) the relation between art and criticism, 3) art and museums, and 4) general discussion of the preceding three meetings. The participants were Marcel Ducamp, Mark Tobey, Frank Lloyd Wright, and Darius Milhand representing the artists, George Boas, moderator and historian of culture, George Bateson, anthropology, Robert Goldwater, critic and historian of art, Alfred Frankenstein, local art critic, Andrew G. Ritchie, representing the museums and Kenneth Burke who dealt with the motives of the artist in general. The discussions were recorded and eventually will be used in a national broadcast. Mr. Burke reports that he had a wonderful time, enjoyed his trip immensely and found the discussions extremely interesting. Last week Mr. Burke attended a meeting of the New England Branch of the College English Association in Amherst. The subject of this meeting was the teaching of English Literature, and methods of teaching. Among the speakers were Rene Wellek, co-author with Austin Warren of a recently published book on the theory of literature, who spoke on the history of literature, and Carl Shapiro who read a dialogue on dramatic criticism. Mr. Burke spoke on the theory of symbolic action, a section of the course he gives here on Principles of Literary Criticism.

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## Wilmoth Osborne Student Loan Fund

Memorial to Bennington College Physician

The Wilmoth Osborne Student Fund was established in the fall of 1940 as a memorial to Dr. Wilmoth Osborne, the first resident physician at Bennington College. Dr. Osborne came to Bennington in 1932 and served as resident physician and psychiatrist for five and one-half years.

She taught no regular classes, but gave individual instruction on psychology and she was a permanent member of the Student Personnel Committees, and her enthusiastic belief in individualized education of the whole person was one of the determining forces in the creation of Bennington's program. She had an extensive background in physical education, having been instructor in physical education in Reed College, Assistant Medical Director of the University of Oregon and a Fellow in Psychiatry at Yale University.

In the words of Robert D. Leigh, Bennington's first president, Dr. Osborne "planned, instituted and directed the unified health service, covering the whole health field — preventive and remedial—internally integrated and related organically to the whole educational program." Dr. Osborne left Bennington to practice psychoanalysis in New York for two years before her death in 1940.

### Loans Made from Fund

The Wilmoth Osborne Fund now amounts to \$1781.50 and represents gifts from ninety-one donors in amounts ranging from \$1 to \$250. Since the Fund's establishment in 1940 loans totaling \$3,510 have been made to eigh-



Dr. Wilmoth Osborne

teen students. Loans outstanding at this time amount to \$1,000; there is now \$781.50 available for additional loans. The terms of the loans are generous; no student is charged interest until after she graduates, when the rate is set at 3% on unpaid balances. Borrowers are given five years after leaving college to make repayment.

Some loans were used to finance winter or summer projects, but for the most part the loans are used to enable students to remain in college or to graduate. Donations for this Fund are handled by Miss Myra Jones, Comptroller.

## The Character of the Judicial Procedure Committee

As a result of the community's votes, a Judicial Procedure Committee composed of Nancy Lindau, Willie Eaton, Bill Darrid, and Mr. Brockway has been formed and has held one meeting. This important group will not have the powers to rule or enact any changes, but will try to look squarely at the policies and principles of the Judicial Committee in order to give it sound suggestions.

### Points of Possible Investigation

This Committee will meet with the Judicial Committee to compare this year's policies with last year's in respect to the thorough reviewing of cases before they go to the President for final decision. Mr. Smith's statement at the next to last Community Meeting will be read over to see if present policy has been such. This action definitely does not imply lack of thorough investigation in the recent case of expulsion, but hopes to find spots of needed improvement and clarification.

Another point to be questioned is the nominating procedure—whether it is the most reliable and effective possible, since good representation in such a body is a necessity.

### Don't Forget Your Part in This Problem

This Committee can surely accomplish a great deal on its own in union with the Judicial Committee, but the only way for its results to be real and to express what the community wants is for the community to maintain a lively interest in developments. This committee arose because of the general interest (plus confusion), and must be carried through on that same undiminished en-

## Mrs. Cooke to Leave After Seven Years

Mrs. Cooke is planning to leave Bennington at the end of this term after having been college dietician for seven years during which time she has considered it "a great privilege to work at Bennington."

Mrs. Cooke's immediate plans are very definite. She will first go to New York to cover all the newest and best shows on Broadway and will then retire to Lake Ontario to recover from the city's hectic life. At the end of this summer, Mrs. Cooke will drive out to California where she is planning to spend a year of complete rest and relaxation. After that her plans are indefinite.

On the way out to the coast she will stop and visit former President Jones in Fayetteville, Arkansas. Included among her plans is the completion of a novel which she started four years ago and put aside till this winter when she began to write again. All Mrs. Cooke will say about her novel is that it's a love story.

Contrary to campus rumor Jimmy Raleigh has not been appointed to fill the position left vacant by Mrs. Cooke's resignation. Three or four people are being considered for the job, but as yet none of them has been definitely chosen.

## Bennington and the National Student Association

What can the National Student Association do for Bennington? What is it trying to accomplish and where does our college fit into these aims? Is our support proportional to benefits we can receive? These are probably some of the questions you have asked yourself at some time, and they were the ones I had hoped to have answered when I attended the N. S. A. sponsored Student Government Clinic May 7th, and the NSA Regional Conference May 14th.

The Student Government Clinic was made up of representatives from any New England colleges who wish to send delegates to participate in the workshops. At these workshops, electoral procedures, judiciary systems, constitutions and various other problems of student govt. were compared and discussed. As a result of these discussions, I came to the conclusion that Bennington might have fewer problems than it realizes. The problems, however, are of slightly different order from those of the other schools, since, for example, our Judicial Committee is not primarily concerned with establishing democratic penalties for coming in five minutes late as compared to coming in fifteen minutes late; but has advanced beyond that in responsibility and purpose.

The electoral procedures workshop presented some interesting suggestions, and from these I passed on to the Executive Committee and variations which I felt might stimulate constructive discussions on campus, such as the preferential voting system of the Univ. of Conn. or the "interview to determine interest" system used at Smith.

### N. S. A. Regional Conference

The following week I attended the Regional Convention of the N. S. A. where I got a better picture of overall functions of the organization. Many activities are being carried on by the more centrally located schools, especially in the Greater Boston area. By combining resources, they have carried out

(Continued on page 2)

## Work Begins on New Freshman Handbook

This term, the entering student's handbook will be revised by the Executive Committee with the help of Miss Boynton and all other campus committees.

The plan is to take the old printed student handbooks, circle the best explanation of each specific activity and then ask the people in charge of that activity to revise the section and make any necessary additions.

The community will be asked to write sections of the handbook such as an explanation of campus dress. Then these individual writeups will be edited by the Executive Committee. House chairmen and all committees will be asked for suggestions.

The handbook will include a section on student government, floor plans of the entire college and the standards and rules of Bennington College. Instead of an incoming student receiving a series of instructions, etc.; everything will be contained in this one book.

Although the student handbook will not be printed until this summer, at the end of this term each house chairman will receive a mimeographed copy. This is so she will be able to inform the students now in her house of the information that incoming students will receive.

Any suggestions from the community should be given either to a House Chairman or to a member of the Executive Committee.

enthusiasm which also rises above the initial problem and starts concerning itself with what affects every other single person on our little hill.

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**Should Bennington Become Co-ed?**

The Problem arises:  
 Dungarees vs. Skirts

"Bennington would be perfect if it were co-ed" is a suggestion sometimes heard around campus, but there are many pros and cons to the matter. The BARDIAN, the Bard College paper, gives us something to think about in the article reprinted below. This unhappy plea would be heard also on the Bennington campus if half of us suddenly were men.

**jeans and the jane**

"In the year 1944, Bard College became co-educational. The arrival of the girls brought with them a new concept of education that was to drive the drabness and harshness out of the stern and cold life behind our ivied stone walls. The blessed spirit of women was to soothe and polish the rough life and rigid attitudes of our male students; to change them from rowdy and prudish males into compatible and adjusted members of a complete bi-sexual society. The savagery of adolescence as well as the assumption of male superiority and bigness was to be toned down. Life at the college was at last squaring with the fundamental realities of Adam and Eve.

Alas, such may have been the idea behind our progressive educators as they sat in their masculine smoke-beclouded tobacco-stained dens forecasting the future; but the arrival of the females proved a sad disillusionment.

Ask yourself, have the females lightened our burdens and given us adequate insights as well as added zest and enjoyment of the sexual dichotomy of the human race? Have they bestowed softness, delicacy, and even modesty upon our lives? Unfortunately no, for the females arrived in pants and jackets. They lounged as men; they smoked as men; they even swore as men.

It is time once more to plea with our unruly opposite sex; to ask them to behave as they should and maintain the necessary cooperative balance between themselves and us. Perhaps it is extreme and nostalgic to say "no jeans," but can't we request skirts at least long enough to remind ourselves that there is a difference. When we think of Sally, Ruth, or Priscilla, must our mental image always wear the same clothes as Peter, John, or Philip. Come on girls, give us a chance. Make us gentlemen and we will make you ladies.

R. Amero"

So, before saying again, if you ever did, "Bennington would be perfect if—" think of what you'd have to give up. Is it worth it?

We interviewed Mr. Belitt for half an hour at the end of which time he said, "This is not for publication."

**Bennington and the National Student Association**

(Continued from page 1)

such projects as a joint Human Relations Conference, and are planning a joint music festival and an Intercollegiate Dance. For such projects as these, the green hills of Vermont are definitely no substitutes for the "crowded conditions" of about seven neighboring colleges.

However, a project is being undertaken by N. S. A. chapters throughout the country called the Purchase Card System, whereby students attending colleges which belong to the N. S. A. can get substantial discounts in stores located in strategic cities. This project will be perfected by next term. (Just in time for our next Non-Resident Term).

The Harvard chapter is investigating the possibility of compiling for high school seniors all information in scholarships available to secondary school students, and are planning to investigate the possibilities of a similar compilation of fellowships and graduate opportunities available to college seniors.

At this meeting, the delegates of the region also gave their approval to the issuing of a statement of support to be used by several students from Boston University who were testifying at the Massachusetts legislature in favor of the establishment of a Fair Educational Practices Commission.

These, plus the foreign travel opportunities (of which all but the Mexican travel tour are closed by now) were some of the activities which I felt would be of interest to us as members of the N. S. A.

There is a definite place for us as contributors to the expanding of student's role in education on other campuses and for contributing to the intangible element of remaining in communication with the colleges of the nation, not merely for immediate returns, but to maintain a student bond made real by common problems and aims.

I hope, in the coming year and especially at the national convention, to be able to evaluate and report to the college more accurately the importance of the National Student Association to all of us as students, but particularly to us as students of Bennington College.

The Beacon welcomes letters containing criticism, suggestions, or opinion. Address c/o R.S.V.P. and place in Box 104.

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To the Editor:

It has been called to our attention that two members of the faculty have defaulted their leading position in the Ping Pong tournament, thus forcing the remaining players to begin the tournament again.

May 19

Dear Editor,

The poem about Danny Fager in today's Beacon was wonderful, but who wrote it?

A. Nonny Mouse

Ed. Note: In answer to the queries of Miss Mouse and many others, the poem "Eulogy to D. F." which appeared in the May 19 issue of the Beacon was written by Dusty Hutton.

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### "Hi-Ho, Come to the Hootenanny"

(Continued from page 1)

5-string banjo recording artist provides unique folk song arrangements, unusual tenor harmonies, and accompaniments on banjo, guitar, and 16th Century recorder; Fred Hellerman, who recently recorded outstanding children's songs of his own composition for Cub Records and Young People's Record Club, backs the group with guitar and sings melody; Ronnie Gilbert, the only female member of the group, is well known for her fine singing performances at New York Hootenannies and concerts. Either Miss Gilbert or Laura Duncan well-known folk singer, will appear with the Weavers on Friday night.

**Pete Seeger**

"Pete Seeger . . . is . . . telling wistfully of incredible events in places like Texas and Tennessee. His repertoire is so extensive that I've never heard him repeat a number in all the times I've heard him."

New Yorker, April '48

"Pete Seeger has a fresh, contagious enjoyment of his work that even the most resistant audience must find flattering. He sings Smoky Mountain Ballads in the matter-of-fact monotone that best sets off their bloody and violent lyrics."

New Yorker, December '46

"Pete Seeger is tall, slim and slightly dynamic."

Robert Dana, N. Y. World Telegram

Pete Seeger was born in New York of an old musical family, but never intended to sing professionally. In 1935 he attended a folk festival in Asheville, N. C. and was captivated by a wealth of music he had never known about before. "It was a case of love at first sight," Pete says of the long necked, 5-string banjo, which he has since become famous for playing.

Getting out of school in '38, Pete found the depression still on in full force, and jobs scarce, so he took his banjo and started travelling. By thumbing rides and grabbing freight trains, he covered most of the 48 states. Everywhere he went he learned new songs, and picked up new ways of playing his instrument, till now his repertoire numbers hundreds of ballads, blues, courtship songs, lullabies, hymns and spirituals, dance tunes, marching tunes, and work songs of many occupations. "It would take me from now till breakfast to sing them all," he says.

The 5-string banjo he plays is a rather unique instrument. Originally brought over in somewhat simpler form

### Bridgeport Students Work and Study

Another college institutes non-resident term system.

The University of Bridgeport will introduce a cooperative work-study program with the 1949-50 academic year. The program takes five years. It is similar to the Antioch College plan where two students are paired on every job. One works while the other studies.

Here the student gets two years of practical work experience as well as his regular college education. The program also helps the student earn part of his college expenses.

from Africa by the Negro slaves, it was soon fantastically popular. One hundred years ago it could be found in every farmhouse, and in every covered wagon going West, and was the fiddle's best accompaniment at countless country dances. Dying out at the same time ragtime came in, it is nevertheless still played by the old farmer, and is especially popular in the Appalachian mountains.

Pete has sung for every imaginable type of audience, from churches to taverns, from street corners to Town Hall and Carnegie Hall, from nursery school, college students, to soldiers in the Pacific, where he spent much of his three and a half years of Army life. He has sung for picket lines as well as radio stations and is famous for his recording "Talking Union" as well as for albums of folk music such as "Sod Buster Ballads", "Deep Sea Chanties" and "America's Favorite Songs."

**Paul Bain**

Paul Bain, noted folk singer, is a Scottish Canadian, now an American citizen. He sings the songs of some twenty countries in their original tongues and dialects, and has worked at New York University, doing research in foreign folk songs for the Library of Congress.

He has appeared on coast-to-coast radio shows on all networks, including the Henry Morgan and Paul Whiteman shows. He was the singing lead on Broadway in the Experimental Theatre production of "The Great Campaign" by Aaron Sundgaard, and has done extensive concert work throughout the country.

**Community Invited**

We hope the entire community will turn out for what we believe will be one of the most exciting events that has happened at Bennington in a long time.

Joan du Brow

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**Mr. Fowlie Describes Attitudes of French People**

Mr. Wallace Fowlie returned to Bennington this semester after an absence of nine years. He was in the literature department from 1935 to 1940. From 1941 to 1946 he taught at Yale, and in 1946 he accepted a position at the University of Chicago. Still an official member of the faculty at that university, he was awarded a Guggenheim Fellowship, and has taken a year's leave of absence in order to work on his project concerning the French poet Mallarme. He recently spent eight months in France documenting himself on the life and works of Mallarme. At Bennington Mr. Fowlie teaches drama forms one day a week.

Mr. Fowlie left France shortly before the war broke out in 1939. When asked to describe some of the changes which he noticed in the people, he remarked that he found surprisingly few differences in the older people, that they still maintained their intellectually reserved attitudes about art, politics, and the state of France at the present.

He did, however, remark on a noticeable change in the thoughts and attitudes of the younger generation of France's people. They are deeply hurt by the now secondary importance of France. In conversation they refer constantly to the Seventeenth century when France lead Europe artistically, musically, intellectually. Their attitude toward their country is one of deep humiliation. Because they feel that there is no future for them in France, they talk of leaving the country for Canada, South America, French colonies or the United States.

Generally speaking, the younger generation feels it has no right to be refined artistically and culturally until France has built up a more stable economic and political security. Yet there seems to be a definite belief that France cannot be built up to its pre-war status.

The people realize that France needs aid, and the feeling that their struggles would be in vain is increased by the belief that America will eventually take over the country as it has the majority of their industry. American finances are the supporting factor of most of the industries of France.

France's hope for survival as an independent country lies in her young. It is discouraging but understandable to see the depressed and cynical attitudes of these people.



**Wanted**

Would like to swap records with other collectors. Am interested in both vocal and instrumental music. Also, if anyone would like to exchange albums on a loan basis, I would guarantee handling his or her records with care. Cynthia Lee

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**Report from Faculty EPC**

**Function and Composition of Committee**

The Faculty EPC was originally set up as an Advisory Committee whose function it was to advise the president and Board of Trustees on reappointment of faculty. This function still remains to the Committee as well as that of advising on educational policy. This Committee is elected by the faculty from the faculty at large for a term of three years. Elections are staggered so that two members go off each year. The members of the present Committee are Miss Marshall, Miss Shelly, Mr. Bellitt, Mr. Boepple, Mr. Brockway, and Mr. Feely. Miss Bowman acts as secretary to the Committee, and President Burkhardt as chairman. Miss Shelly's term and Mr. Brockway's term expire this year.

**Committee's Work This Term: Student Evaluation Program**

Early in the Spring Term Mr. Kunitz, then chairman of the Faculty Committee, and Patsi Birsh, then chairman of the Student EPC, met with the Committee to discuss the mid-term evaluations. It was decided to continue the program on an experimental basis.

**Counselling and Tutorials**

The problem of counselling is perennial with the Committee. It is especially difficult this term because of the contemplated increase in the number of students next year. The problem lies in the "allocation" of the veteran faculty members to freshmen, to whom they can be of particular assistance in orientation. Since these faculty members of long standing are usually heavily obligated to old students, the Committee has approved a plan whereby an old student might spend an hour discussing the problem of study and counselling with a new student in the place of spending the hour with her counselor. Such a plan would allow the new student to counsel with an experienced counselor, give the counselor more freedom and afford the old student a wider understanding of the counselling system. Next

year Mrs. DeGray plans to teach only one class in order to have more time for a larger number of counselees, and Mr. Smith plans to spend one day more per week at Bennington for the same reason.

The faculty of each division has set up criteria for tutorials in their fields in order to avoid the repetition in tutorials of what is dealt with in organized courses. There will be a broader presentation of the tutoring system in the next College Bulletin.

**Granting of MA Degree at Bennington**

Reports from all fields as to the feasibility of granting the MA degree at Bennington were made to the committee. After the Committee report to the Board of Trustees on this matter the Board felt that the Literature Division and the Visual Arts Division were qualified to give the MA.

**Changes in Curriculum Next Term**

By June 6 the list of courses to be offered next term will be printed. There will be a new basic course in Social Science, divided into four or five sections, and taught by Mrs. DeGray, Mr. Salvatori and Mr. Hanks. There will be two new courses in Visual Arts; Mr. Dorner will offer instead of History of Renaissance Art, a course in Art and Science; and Mr. Shapiro will offer a new studio course.

**Lecture on Recreation As Medicine**

Last Thursday afternoon Miss Choate, recreation instructor at the Brattleboro Retreat, spoke in Canfield about her work. At this Institution there are about 700 patients with varying forms and degrees of mental illness. Although the ages of the 300 with whom she works run from 16-80, and the actual process of how recreation helps or how much cannot be analyzed, she feels it is a real curative tool.

**Extent of Recreation**

Fields such as music, art, dance, and athletics are carried on in these groups of about 45, while the occupational therapists conduct classes for individual recreational care. The purpose is to relax the patients before operations, shock treatments, etc., or to take their minds off themselves and their physical disabilities by a new interest.

**Qualifications**

Miss Choate had received training in only music and art when she first started handling such groups in Army hospitals. Therefore, it would seem that being a capable leader and active, sympathetic person are the main requirement for someone going into this comparatively unexplored field.

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